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CLIENT LIST LONDON BOOK FAIR 2016

Overview

NEW

Sam Carrington *SAVING SOPHIE*: a debut psychological thriller told from the viewpoints of a mother and her teenage daughter, a taut and vivid novel of suspense by a former prison service psychologist.

Sold to Maze/HarperCollins UK for publication in September 2016

Denzil Meyrick *THE RAT STONE SERENADE*: fourth novel in *tartan noir* Scottish crime series.

Sold to Birlinn UK for publication in April 2016

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

Rosemary Dun *THE TROUBLE WITH LOVE*: debut romantic comedy.

Sold to Little, Brown UK for publication in Sphere in June 2016

Julian Lees *THE BONE RITUAL* (formerly *A DARK CENTRE*): first novel in crime series set in contemporary Jakarta.

Sold to Little, Brown UK for publication in Constable Crime in October 2016

Helen Carey *LONDON CALLING*: new novel in the Lavender Road sequence set in the Second World War.

Sold to Headline, published February 2016

P.J. Brackston *THE CASE OF THE FICKLE MERMAID*: third novel in the witty and fantastical Detective Gretel crime series.

Sold to Pegasus USA, published January 2016

Abbie Ross *FORTUNE*: debut accessible literary novel set on the Isles of Scilly.

Sold to Doubleday UK for publication in 2018

Sandy Taylor *THE GIRLS FROM SEE SAW LANE*: A novel of friendship, love and tragedy in 1960s Brighton.

Sold to Bookouture, published December 2015

NEW

Sam Carrington

- . SAVING SOPHIE sold to Maze/HarperCollins UK for publication in September 2016
- . Proofs available June 2016

For fans of Jane Shemilt and Clare Mackintosh, a psychological thriller debut told mainly from the viewpoints of a mother and her seventeen-year-old daughter, SAVING SOPHIE is taut and vivid novel of suspense.

When Karen Finch's seventeen-year-old daughter Sophie arrives home after a night out, disastrously drunk and accompanied by police officers, no one is smiling the morning after. But, though Sophie remembers nothing about how she got into such a state, no harm seems to have been done. Twelve hours later Sophie's friend Amy has still not returned home – and then the body of a young woman is found. Karen is sure Sophie holds the key to her friend's death, wittingly or not, but Karen herself has her own demons to fight – a former probation officer who is now agoraphobic after an assault, possibly by a client, she struggles to go beyond her own door without a panic attack. As Karen becomes more and more certain that Sophie is not only involved but also in danger, she must find a way through her own crippling anxieties to stop whoever killed one young girl moving on to another – her own daughter.

Sam, who has a degree in psychology, worked in the prison service for three years and lives in the West Country where her novel is set. She is planning a second novel, WATCH YOU BURN, featuring a female forensic psychologist.

Denzil Meyrick

- . THE RAT STONE SERENADE sold to Birlinn UK for publication in April 2016
- . German rights in WHISKY FROM SMALL GLASSES, THE LAST WITNESS, TWO ONE THREE (short story) sold to HarperCollins, Germany for publication in 2017 and 2018
- . US rights in THE LAST WITNESS sold to Pegasus (published December 2015)

It's December, and the Shannon family are returning home to their cliff-top mansion near Kinloch for their annual AGM. Shannon International, one of the world's biggest private companies, has brought untold wealth and privilege to the family. However, a century ago Archibald Shannon stole the land upon which he built their home and his descendants have been cursed ever since. When heavy snow cuts off Kintyre, DCI Jim Daley and DS Brian Scott are assigned to protect their illustrious visitors. As an ancient society emerges from the blizzards, and its creation, the Rat Stone, reveals grisly secrets, ghosts of the

past come to haunt the Shannons. As the curse decrees, death is coming but for whom and from what?

‘Engaging and eventful...an unbuttoned sense of humour’ *Wall Street Journal*

Denzil Meyrick is a former policeman and whisky distillery manager and author of the previous DCI Jim Daley novels WHISKY FROM SMALL GLASSES, THE LAST WITNESS and DARK SUITS AND SAD SONGS, all published by Birlinn. Birlinn have just contracted for two further Daley novels plus a novella and short stories.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

Rosemary Dun

- . THE TROUBLE WITH LOVE sold to Little, Brown, for publication by Sphere in September 2016
- . Proofs available May 2016

THE TROUBLE WITH LOVE is a fresh and funny romantic comedy, with a plot which explores both conventional and modern dilemmas in love.

When Polly Park meets Spike, the fact that he's emigrating to Australia in six months' time is not a problem. In fact it's perfect, she thinks. She's not after commitment, she's happy with her shop, her friends, her life in Bristol, and it will be liberating to know just when and where it will end. But Polly Park doesn't bank on falling in love, or on making a certain discovery after Spike has actually gone.

Four years on, Polly is a single mum to her gorgeous daughter Rowan. With the encouragement of her friend Mel, Polly starts dating again. She meets Max, a single dad, and Polly thinks that he could be her second chance. Then, out of the blue, Spike pops up in Bristol, and what is more with a beautiful girlfriend in tow. Will Spike's return resurrect Polly's feelings for him? Can Spike forgive Polly for not letting him know that they have a child? Does love ever do what you expect?

Rosemary Dun is a stand-up comedian and poet, and teaches Creative Writing in Bristol.

Julian Lees

- . THE BONE RITUAL (formerly A DARK CENTRE) sold to Little, Brown in a two-book deal, for publication in Constable Crime in October 2016 (Little, Brown have World English rights)
- . Proofs available
- . German rights sold to Blanvalet/Random House

Taut and suspenseful, *THE BONE RITUAL* is the first in a crime series set in contemporary dark and dirty Jakarta and featuring Inspektur Ruud Pujasumarta. Ruud Pujasumarta has seen some gang-perpetrated horror crimes in his time, but the slum murder of a middle-aged woman he is called to is both horrifying and baffling. Mari Agnes Liem has not only been choked to death whilst tied to her bed, but the murderer has amputated her left hand and left a mah jong tile in her throat. And taken the hand away with him. Ruud's personal life is a disaster – the whole world seems to know that his wife has left him for another man, perhaps because his (ex) mother-in-law keeps on turning up at his office with food for him. The only bright spot on Ruud's horizon is the imminent arrival of Imke Sneijder from Amsterdam, whom he hasn't seen for fifteen years when they were both twelve year-old neighbours and friends before the Sneijders left Indonesia and moved back to Holland. Imke is travelling with her aunt, the wise-cracking, sugar-addicted world-famous artist Erica, who has been commissioned to paint President Yudhoyono's portrait. As Ruud and his department of colourful colleagues, Hamka Hamzah, Aiboy Ali, Werry Hartono, Vidi and the formidable Police Commissioner Joyo Witarsa, investigate the crime and those that follow they are led to a very dark centre indeed.

Julian Lees grew up in Hong Kong, attended Cambridge University and worked as a stockbroker in the City of London. He is the author of three novels, *A WINTER BEAUTY*, *THE FAN TAN PLAYERS* and *THE HOUSE OF TREMBLING LEAVES*. He lives in Malaysia with his wife and three children.

Helen Carey

. UK rights sold in a pre-emptive 3-book deal (plus the 3 backlist titles) to Headline, with *LONDON CALLING* published in hardback and ebook in February 2016 and the paperback scheduled for October 2016.

Helen Carey's *LONDON CALLING* is the eagerly awaited new novel in the Lavender Road sequence, set during World War II. The previous novels, *LAVENDER ROAD*, *SOME SUNNY DAY* and *ON A WING AND A PRAYER*, were published by Orion in the late 1990s then reissued by Helen in ebook, earning her a significant Twitter, blog and Facebook following and selling in substantial numbers in the US as well as the UK.

LONDON CALLING is the story of Molly Coogan, a young nurse whose desperation to escape the gloom of wartime hospital life leads her from her native London streets to a POW camp in Italy. Moving from the Flag and Garter pub in South London to the Florey laboratory in Oxford, and the discovery of Penicillin, to war-wracked Europe, this is an impressive and moving saga, wide-ranging, page-turning, warm, moving and at times funny.

'Helen's Lavender Road novels are written with a lightness of touch, an emotional integrity and an historical accuracy which has brought her respect from critics and readers alike by making this period of history accessible to large audiences worldwide'
Louis de Bernieres

Helen Carey teaches creative writing at the University of Wales and is a Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund. *ON A WING AND A PRAYER* recently won the Historical Fiction Award at the eFestival of Words.

P.J. Brackston

- . *THE CASE OF THE FICKLE MERMAID* sold to Pegasus US, published January 2016
- . *THE CASE OF THE FICKLE MERMAID* sold to Lübbe, Germany, published January 2016
- . Brazilian rights in first two Detective Gretel titles, *GRETEL AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING FROG PRINTS* and *ONCE UPON A CRIME*, sold to Bertrand

Gretel—yes, *that* Gretel—is now all grown up and working as a private investigator in 18th century Bavaria. In *THE CASE OF THE FICKLE MERMAID*, her professional interest is piqued when she begins to hear whispers of mysterious goings-on off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein: sailors are disappearing, and there are rumors of mermaids and sea creatures and all manner of slippery, sea-based happenings. Ordinarily, Gretel’s interest in sea-life does not extend beyond that which is edible, doused in butter and garlic, and already on the plate before her. However, funds are low, and the captain of the ship *Arabella* makes a tempting offer of good pay and a free cruise in return for her detective services. With a splendid new wig packed, Hans as her bodyguard on the journey north, and the promise of two weeks of fine dining and erudite company whilst sailing around the picturesque Friesian islands, what could possibly go wrong?

‘Bestseller Brackston melds folktale whimsy with a sardonic adult voice in the rollicking first of a new series set in 1776 Bavaria.’ *Publishers Weekly*

P.J. Brackston lives in the Black Mountains in Wales with her partner Simon and their two children. She is the author of *GRETEL AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING FROG PRINTS* and *ONCE UPON A CRIME*. *THE CASE OF THE FICKLE MERMAID* will be followed by *THE SORCERER’S APPENDIX*.

Abbie Ross

- . *FORTUNE* sold to Doubleday/Transworld UK, for publication in 2018
- . Finished ms expected 2017
- . TV option on *HIPPY DINNERS*, Abbie’s quirky and enchanting memoir of growing up in 1970s rural Wales, sold to Steve Coogan’s production company Baby Cow

FORTUNE, Abbie’s debut novel, is set on the Isles of Scilly, also known as the Fortunate Islands. Annie, a writer in her late thirties, goes to stay on the tiny island of St Agnes for the summer taking her reluctant ten-year-old daughter Nancy with her. In search of isolation and solitude, Annie’s like an island herself. But therein lies the rub; on an island inhabited by 74 people it turns out that it’s harder to be alone than in the city, and whether she likes it or not humanity will push its way in. From the daily wittering of

Jason de la Mere, the DJ from Fortune FM the Scilly radio station (“just call me Mr Irresistible”), to the unlikely friendship mother and daughter strike up with the selective deaf mute sixteen-year-old Josh, the locked and sealed door of their damaged former lives are challenged; and their past comes back to confront them all, like flotsam being dumped by the tide.

‘Charged with delicious quirky wit ... Irresistible.’ Rachel Joyce, author of *THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY*, on Abbie Ross’s *HIPPY DINNERS*

Abbie Ross worked as a Senior Producer of television commercials with Aardman Animation for many years, and lives in Bristol with her husband and two children. Her memoir *HIPPY DINNERS*, about a rural childhood in North Wales, was published by Doubleday in April 2014.

Sandy Taylor

. *THE GIRLS FROM SEE SAW LANE* sold to Bookouture UK (World English language rights), published December 2015

. German rights sold to HarperCollins Germany

Set in early 1960s Brighton, seventeen-year-olds Dottie and Mary have been best-friends since they were eight, growing up just around the corner from each other. Now, as they go out into the world in pursuit of life, love and happiness, the certainties and simplicities of their childhoods dissolve. *THE GIRLS FROM SEE SAW LANE* perfectly captures the pangs and heady excitement of first love, the pleasure of friendship, the pain of unintentional betrayal, and the ups and downs of family life. Charming, funny, sad, but ultimately uplifting, *THE GIRLS FROM SEE SAW LANE* is an exquisite gem of a novel about friendship, love and tragedy.

‘I absolutely loved this book and couldn’t put it down. It has all the ingredients for a perfect read: fantastic, loveable and very real characters, an emotional and compelling storyline, and a brilliant setting in time and place. It’s also touching and, in some places, very funny.’ Louise Douglas, author of the *Richard & Judy* picked *THE SECRETS BETWEEN US*, on *THE GIRLS FROM SEE SAW LANE*.

Sandy Taylor grew up in 1950s and 1960s Brighton and now lives in Somerset. *THE GIRLS FROM SEE SAW LANE*, her debut novel, will be followed by *COUNTING CHIMNEYS* in summer 2016.