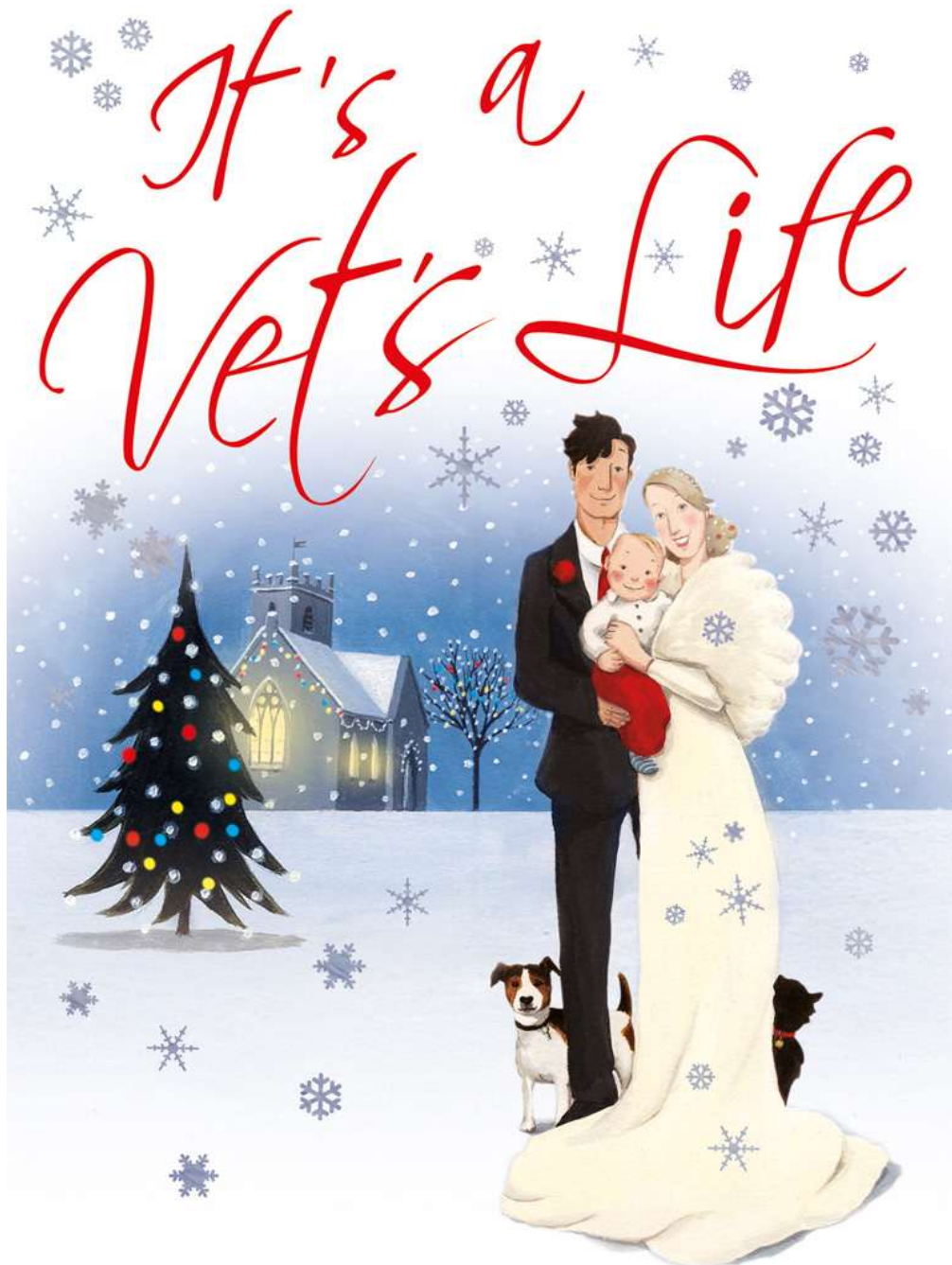


**MBA Literary Agents
Autumn 2011 Rights Guide**



CATHY WOODMAN

*Author of *Trust Me, I'm a Vet**

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Gemma Burgess

UNION STREET

UNION STREET is a warm-hearted, laugh-out-loud series of novels about a group of early-twentysomething girls living together in a brownstone in hip downtown Brooklyn, and trying to figure out life, love, and adulthood.



Each book in the series will focus on a different character in the group, as she tries to navigate the rocky, yet exhilarating, post-college terrain, and answer the question: "What do I want to do with my life? And how am I going to do it?"

The first book in the UNION STREET series is PIA'S STORY (working title):

Cut off from the 'Bank Of Mom And Dad' after a wild house party, spoilt, stylish Pia discovers she's unemployable in the post-college world. So she borrows \$10,000 from a loan shark and starts her own food truck business. She can't cook, she can barely drive, but that doesn't stop her. And before the payment is due, there are guys to date, competition to slay, friends to fight (and make up) with and that little issue of her arrest...

Gemma Burgess grew up all over the place. She has a triple degree in English Literature, History and Theatre, and a post-graduate degree in Journalism. She is the author of two novels, *The Dating Detox* and *A Girl Like You*, both acclaimed as 'edgy anti-romantic comedy', and was recently described as 'the thinking girl's chicklit author' by *NorthWest* magazine. She is currently working on several screenwriting projects and is a regular contributor to *Tatler* magazine. Gemma spent most of her 20s as an advertising copywriter. Don't hold this against her.

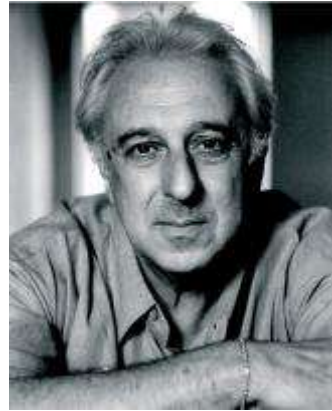
Material: Manuscript, 300 pages

Rights: MBA

Rights Sold: **Germany:** Blanvalet; **US:** St Martin's Press (Summer, 2012)

Barry Fantoni

HARRY LIPKIN



Harry Lipkin makes his living as a private investigator. The fact that he keeps his gun next to his false teeth tells you a lot because though Harry might not be the best PI, at 83 years of age, he's certainly the oldest.

Taking on the kind of cases the police just aren't interested in, his latest assignment sees him tasked with finding out who has been stealing wealthy widow, Mrs Norma Weinberger's valuables.

Set in current day Miami, in an intoxicating blend of Raymond Chandler and Woody Allen, HARRY LIPKIN is a short, sharp tale populated with the lower reaches of Florida street-life including boxers, gamblers and gang-members. Harry navigates his way through this twilight world as best he can in order to bring the case to its resolution.

Writer and cartoonist **Barry Fantoni** attended the prestigious Slade School of Fine Art and was a figure in the 1960s pop art movement, alongside such contemporaries as Sir Peter Blake and David Hockney. An accomplished jazz musician, he is also a playwright and poet. Perhaps most famous for his incredible work at the satirical magazine *Private Eye*, where he worked for 47 years, Barry was also the diary cartoonist for the Times between 1983 and 1991, and drew cartoons for the Listener and Radio Times. He also had stints as *The Times'* art critic and reviewed records for *Punch* magazine in the 1970s. He now lives and writes in France.

UK Publisher: Polygon, Jun 2012

Material: Manuscript, 221 pages

Rights: MBA

Rights Sold: US: Doubleday (Bill Thomas)

Neil Forsyth

SAN CARLOS

It's 1989 and under the searing Ibiza sun two strangers look for answers among the holiday-makers. Over seven days their lives are pulled together when dark pasts emerge from behind the island's sun-soaked beauty.



Craig Turner is a 23-year-old former right-wing extremist living under the Witness Protection Scheme. After providing the evidence to dismantle a fascist movement that threatened to swamp the north of England, he's hiding in Peterborough with a new name and a dying relationship. A holiday in Ibiza offers a brief escape. Ana is a beautiful Hungarian working in a hotel bar at night and spending her days scouring the island for the ageing German who looms large over her family's history. Together, Ana and Craig form a delicate and surprisingly tender alliance until his past catches up with them both.

Gripping and moving in equal parts, *SAN CARLOS* is an exciting new novel that packs an explosive punch.

Neil Forsyth was born in Glasgow in 1978. He is the author of five previous books including *Other People's Money*, his biography of teenage fraudster Elliot Castro which has been published in six countries and is currently being developed as a feature film. His trilogy of Bob Servant humour books have become cult favourites; likened to the absurdist comedy of Peter Cook and Spike Milligan they have been adapted by Forsyth for both Radio Four and BBC Television. His debut novel *Let Them Come Through* was highly critically acclaimed. He is working on his next book and continues to write for television and radio. He lives in London.

UK Publisher: Jonathan Cape/Random House (Beth Coates), Jun 2012

Material: Manuscript, 221 pages

Rights: MBA

Sue Gee

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

(working title)



From the acclaimed, bestselling author of *Reading in Bed*, comes the eagerly awaited new novel spanning a family's history in second half of the 20th century.

The novel begins just after the Second World War. Will Sutherland and his wife Flo return home from India to an England where neither of them feels at home. Flo is pregnant with their first child and Will has to find something to do to support his new family. A few years later they have two young children and are living on a farm in the West Country. It's in an idyllic rural setting, but farming is backbreaking, relentless work which takes a terrible toll on Will's health. And the farmhouse is primitive and lonely and for Flo, always fragile mentally, daily life is a struggle. But they are full of hope and energy and the future looks bright. If only they can keep their health and raise their children to happy, fulfilled lives.

Over the next forty years we follow the family through many changes: as the children grow up and their parents grow older. In the minutiae of their lives are reflected the huge social and economic changes of this period and the novel works on several different levels but is always, at heart as with all Sue Gee's work, a profoundly humane and deeply felt work.

Praise for Sue Gee's novels:

'Profound and lyrical, full of light and darkness... marvellous'
Shena Mackay, *Observer*

'A wonderful contemporary novel... It transforms the ordinary stuff of life into art.'
Phillipa Gregory, *The Sunday Times*

For her short stories:

Gee's skilful use of voice reveals her characters' inner states with remarkable economy, and she writes about feelings of loss with acuity.' ***Independent***

Sue Gee has written nine previous novels including *The Mysteries of Glass*, longlisted for the Orange Prize, *The Hours of the Night*, controversial winner of the Romantic Novel of the Year Award, and *Reading in Bed*, shortlisted for the Good Housekeeping Book Award and a *Daily Mail* Book Club selection. Earlier this year Salt published her short story collection, *Last Fling*, to great acclaim. She teaches creative writing and lives in London and on the Welsh borders.

UK Publisher: Headline Review, May 2012

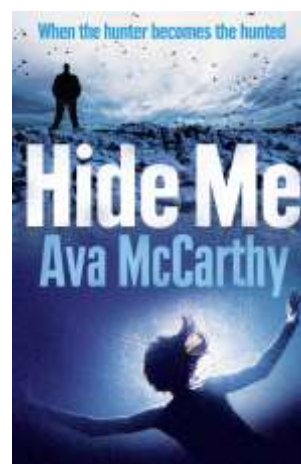
Rights: MBA (edited manuscript available end 2011)

Ava McCarthy

HIDE ME

In a game without rules, the winner takes all...

Security expert Henrietta 'Harry' Martinez has arrived in beautiful San Sebastian, birthplace of her Spanish father. But she's not here to explore her roots. She's been hired by glamorous casino boss Riva Mills to expose a scamming crew, headed by ruthless conman Franco Chavez.



When the crew's expert hacker is brutally murdered, Harry goes undercover as his replacement. As she infiltrates the dangerous criminal organization, she begins to understand that Chavez's schemes reach far beyond the casino sting.

Suddenly trapped in a deadly global underworld that encompasses international terrorism, organized crime and drug cartels, Harry learns that when you play this game, you play for your life...

Praise for Ava McCarthy:

'Gripping ... a storming thriller ... super-smart' *Irish Times*

'A heroine you can truly root for' *Daily Mail*

Ava McCarthy was born in Dublin and is a graduate of University College Dublin. She then worked as a medical physicist and computer analyst for the London Stock Exchange and more recently in the software industry. Ava McCarthy's debut thriller, **THE INSIDER**, was selected as **Book of the Month for Sainsbury's Book Club**, and her books have been translated into 12 languages worldwide. Ava now writes full time, and lives in Dublin with her husband and two children.

UK publisher: HarperCollins (Julia Wisdom), October 2011

Material: Books, 442 pages

Rights: MBA

Option Publishers: **France:** Presse de la Cité; **Germany:** Droemer

THE INSIDER – Optioned by Polaris Pictures

Clare Morrall

THE ROUNDABOUT MAN

Who is the Roundabout Man?

He doesn't look like a tramp, yet he lives on a roundabout in a caravan and survives on the leftovers from a nearby motorway service station. He calls himself Quinn, the name of a boy in a world-famous series of children's books, but he's nearer retirement than childhood.



What he hopes no one will discover is that he's the real Quinn, immortalized as a child by his mother in her entrancing tales about a little boy's adventures with his triplet sisters. It is this inheritance he has successfully run away from – until now. When Quinn's reclusive existence is invaded, he has to turn and face his past, and all the uncomfortable truths it contains about himself, his sisters, and, most of all, his mother.

The Roundabout Man is an outstanding novel by the Booker-shortlisted author of *Astonishing Splashes of Colour* and *The Man Who Disappeared*. Appealing to readers of Marina Lewycka and Catherine O'Flynn, it delivers a wittily observed slice of modern life as it plumbs the gulf between nostalgia and reality.

“Not only very readable, but very moving: a funny, and occasionally sad, account of what it feels like to be outside the norm” *The Times* on *The Language of Others*.

UK publisher: Sceptre (Carole Welch), February 2012

Material: Proofs, 330 pages

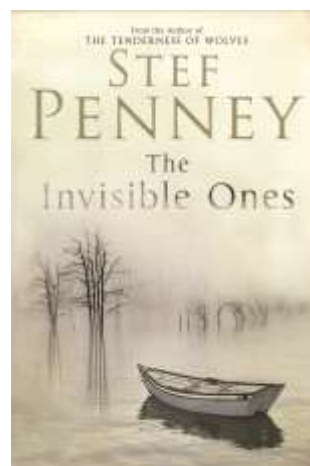
Rights: MBA

Option Publisher: Norway: Cappelen Damm

Stef Penney

THE INVISIBLE ONES

Paralysis and delirium. This is what PI Ray Lovell suffers after he writes off his car. He remembers nothing, least of all what drove him to it – Rose Janko. She had been missing for years and before the accident Ray promised her father he would find her. But her family seems reluctant to help. The Jankos, a close-knit Gypsy clan, have been plagued by tragedy. Perhaps they are cursed – or are they hiding something?



Set in the 1980s in southern England, *THE INVISIBLE ONES* is a darkly compelling mystery about superstitions, secrets and lies from a matchless storyteller.

Stef Penney's previous novel, *THE TENDERNESS OF WOLVES*, won the **Costa Book of the Year Award** and the **Theakstons Old Peculiar Crime Novel of the Year Award**.

Praise for *THE INVISIBLE ONES*:

"The Invisible Ones is a wonderfully told, intriguing mystery in a fascinating setting." *The Bookseller*

"The Invisible Ones is a book about love, deception, growing up, belonging, being an outsider and about how all our presents are haunted by our pasts. Its author is a supreme storyteller on top form" *The Times*

"Penney is a good storyteller. She unfurls various mysterious plot possibilities and unearths the insecurities that lurk in families and relationships. She imagines the Romany world carefully, avoiding cliché or judgement or anything too negative ... there are moments of transcendence here, moments where Penney's writing really excels' *Sunday Times*.

UK Publisher: Quercus (Jane Wood), September 2011

Material: Books, 350 pages

Rights: Quercus – Emma Thawley (Emma.Thawley@quercusbooks.co.uk)

Rights Sold: **North America:** Penguin/Putnam; **Netherlands:** Prometheus; **Poland:** Sonia Draga; **Italy:** Einaudi; **Brazil:** Intrinseca; **Sweden:** Bazar; **Finland:** Bazar; **France:** Belfond; **Lithuania:** Jotema; **Denmark:** Punktum; **Russia:** Inostranka; **Serbia:** Plato; **Germany:** DTV; **Bulgaria:** Enthusiast

Bethan Roberts

MY POLICEMAN



Inspired by the life of E.M. Forster and his relationship with his long-time companion Bob Buckingham and his wife. Transposed to late 1950s Brighton, MY POLICEMAN unfolds through the dual narratives of Marion and Patrick, both writing about the man at the centre of their lives. This beautifully-told, painful, tragic story is a tale of wasted years, misguided love and thwarted hope, of how at a time when the country was on the verge of change so much was still impossible. Bethan Roberts has produced an intense and exquisitely raw yet tender novel, which proves her to be one of our most exciting young writers.

Praise for Bethan Robert's previous work:

"Bethan Roberts is a fearless writer. Compelling" **Louise Welsh**

"Gorgeously written" *The Times*

Bethan Roberts was born in Oxford and grew up in nearby Abingdon. Her first novel THE POOLS was published in 2007 and won a Jerwood/Arvon Young Writers' Award. Her second novel THE GOOD PLAIN COOK, published in 2008, was serialized on **BBC Radio 4's Book at Bedtime** and was chosen as one of *Time Out's* books of the year. She also writes short stories (in 2006 she was awarded the **Olive Cook Short Story Prize** by the Society of Authors) and has had a play broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Bethan has worked as a television documentary researcher, writer and assistant producer, and has taught Creative Writing at Chichester University and Goldsmiths College, London. She lives in Brighton with her family.

THE POOLS is currently under option for film by GFF – Hans Geissendoerfer

UK Publisher: Chatto & Windus/Random House (Poppy Hampson), Feb 2012

Material: Proofs, 335 pages

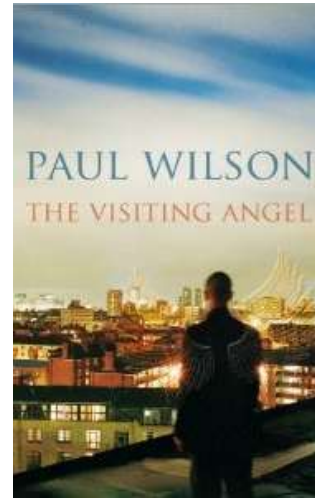
Rights: Random House - Kasia Thompson (kthompson@randomhouse.co.uk)

Paul Wilson

THE VISITING ANGEL

His brother, as a boy, was unafraid of heights... but Patrick was hardly a high-wire artist.

Patrick Shepherd has been struggling for as long as he can remember: orphaned as a young boy, as an adult he is passionately committed to rebuilding the lives of the residents of the halfway house he runs. But when he's called to talk a man named Saul down from a window-ledge, Patrick's world is shocked into new life. Saul looks just like Liam, Patrick's brother and childhood hero – who died years ago, or so he'd been told.



Dissolute, charming and uncannily perceptive, Saul claims to be an angel. He is on a mission to heal the fragile souls of a very particular group of people: Sarah, a clinic nurse trapped by grief; Tusa, an Angolan refugee who fears having her last hopes dashed if her daughter has to take HIV tests; her boyfriend, Findlay, missing since he challenged a corrupt minicab boss; and Edward, accused of murdering the lost child the whole city has been searching for.

For Patrick to understand the meaning of this visitation and get his own life back on track, he first must face his traumatic childhood in a council orphanage and the terrifying betrayal that tore the brothers apart.

Praise for Paul Wilson:

“A rare thing: a novel that is both convincing and surprising” *Sunday Telegraph*

“Wilson tells a story with flair and good humour. Could this be a Lancashire Garcia Marquez with a warm, sing-song accent?” *Literary Review*

“The equal of Graham Swift at his best... a brilliant panorama of post-war Britain” *Independent*

Paul Wilson has previously published novels with Jonathan Cape and Granta. His most recent are DO WHITE WHALES SING AT THE END OF THE WORLD?, NOAH NOAH and SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME.

UK Publisher: Tindal Street (Alan Mahar), April 2011

Material: Books, 282 pages

Rights: MBA

The second in the 20 book CHUNG KUO series

David Wingrove

DAYLIGHT ON IRON MOUNTAIN



CHANGE IS ON THE AIR: The generals of the Middle Kingdom await the decision of the emperor. The campaign to secure the border from China to Iraq has reached a strange impasse. Two blood enemies - Arabs and Jews - have united against their common cause. But with the lives of thousands at his whim, the exalted Tsao Ch'un, the Son of Heaven, cannot decide. Destroy the Middle East in one blinding flash? Or take another path?

BUT THE WAY IS UNCLEAR: In the court of Tsao Ch'un, men of power have become smiling lackeys, whose graces conceal their fear, or their ambition. A man that can be trusted absolutely is a rare thing. And so, with his family held hostage by the empire, General Jiang Lei finds himself appointed to a special task: the orchestration of the last great war against the West. The total dominion of America.

WAR APPROACHES: But life in the world of levels continues. No hint of war, or want, or discontent can infiltrate the oppressive, ordered society that replaces the world Jake Reed once knew. Since the first airships rolled over the horizon, nothing has been the same. His new life means new thinking, new customs, a new way of behaving, and with his every move scrutinized, Jake can only serve the bureaucracy of new China. But he is not the only citizen who feels discontent with the anodyne new order.

Praise for CHUNG KUO:

“Love, tragedy, joy... all human life (and death) is here” *The Times*

“Quite extraordinary... SF in the hands of an English Proust” **Brain Aldiss**

“Excellent... A well-imagined universe, well-executed characters and action that doesn't let up, this is Orwell's *1984* but on an enormous canvas packed with detail” *Toronto Globe and Mail*

David Wingrove is the Hugo-Award winning co-author (with Brain Aldiss) of TRILLION YEAR SPRESS: The History of Science Fiction. He is also the co-author of the first three MYST books – novelizations of one of the world's bestselling computer games. He lives in north London with his wife and four daughters.

UK Publisher: Corvus (Nicolas Cheetham), November 2011

Material: Books, 340 pages

Rights: Corvus – Vanessa Kerr
(vanessakerr@atlantic-books.co.uk)

VM Whitworth

THE BONE THIEF



Thrilling debut historical crime in the tradition of Ellis Peters and CJ Sansom, set in the time of Alfred the Great.

Wulfgar, born and bred for the priesthood, bookish young secretary to the Queen, is the last person anyone would expect to undertake a dangerous, undercover mission. But this is no ordinary mission. The Kingdom of Mercia feels like a very unsafe place at the moment, with its king mortally ill and its young queen childless. Her father, the great King Alfred of neighbouring Wessex has recently died and his son Edward has designs on his sister's weak kingdom.

Perhaps only a saint can save them now... and who better than the greatest of English saints, Oswald? Long dead of course, heroically in battle against the Welsh, but if his venerable bones could be snatched from a distant grave deep in enemy Viking territory and brought in triumph to Gloucester, the Mercians can be united and proud again.

Murder, conspiracy, treachery – not least in the form of his own brother – lie in wait for the unworldly Wulfgar, driven by fierce loyalty to his queen and a deep spiritual longing to restore a saint to his rightful home.

VM Whitworth studied Anglo-Saxon history at Oxford University followed by an D.Phil in York in medieval studies, where she specialised in Anglo-Saxon ways of dying. She has also worked as a tour guide and artist's model and now lives on the remote island of Orkney with her family. This is her first novel.

Publisher: Ebury (UK and Commonwealth only), Spring 2012

Material: 50 page sample

Rights: MBA

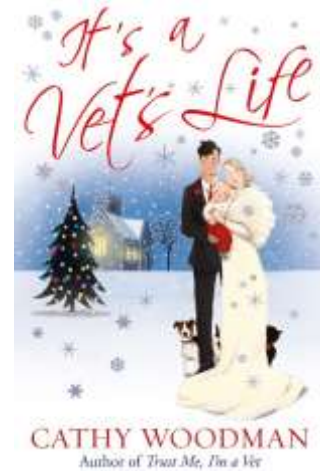
Cathy Woodman

IT'S A VET'S LIFE

Long, irregular hours; occasional risk of injury; often smelly and dirty.

Job satisfaction guaranteed.

This is the life Maz Harwood signed up to years ago when she became a vet and she has never regretted it. But Maz's good fortune doesn't stop there. She also has a beautiful baby boy, George, and she will be marrying fellow vet Alex Fox-Gifford at Christmas.



Frankly, though, life is not as rosy as it looks. Because between arranging the wedding, performing life-saving animal surgery, and taking care of George, Maz doesn't have much time left for Alex, and even if she did, he's working even harder than her so she rarely sees him. And as Alex won't do anything to make life easier, Maz has decided that she will have to take matters into her own hands.

But Maz's solution has truly terrible consequences for them all, and as the wedding approaches, Maz realises that it will take a Christmas miracle to get her and Alex to the altar.

Praise for TRUST ME, I'M A VET:

“Her style has a lightness of touch that can bring a smile, but also poignant moments that can bring a tear to the eyes.” **Writing magazine**

“An irresistible story of life, love and cupcakes”. **Katie Fforde** (on *The Sweetest Thing*)

Cathy Woodman is the author of seven previous novels, romantic sagas like *THE BOY NEXT DOOR* and *OUR HOUSE* which she wrote for Headline after winning the Harry Bowling Prize in 2002. Her recent novels include *TRUST ME, I'M A VET*, *MUST BE LOVE* and *THE SWEETEST THING*, all published by Arrow

UK publisher: Arrow Paperbacks, Random House (Gillian Holmes),

Material: Books, 400 pages

Rights: MBA

Option Publishers: **Germany:** Blanvalet; **USA:** Hyperion

Steve Boggan

FOLLOW THE MONEY: Journey to the Heart of America



What do you do if you want to get underneath the skin of a country, to understand its people and feel its heartbeat? You can follow the rest of the tourists or, like Steve Boggan, you can take the advice of Watergate reporter Bob Woodward's source Deep Throat and "Follow the Money".

Starting from the geographical dead centre of the continental USA, Boggan did just that - he set free a \$10 bill and followed it on an epic journey for 30 days and 30 nights through six states and 3,000 miles armed only with a sense of humour and a small and increasingly grubby set of clothes.

He cut crops with farmers in Kansas, pursued a repo-woman from Colorado, got wasted with a blues band in Arkansas and hung out at a quarterback's mansion in St Louis. Add to that the missionaries from Missouri, the Amish in Michigan, the banker from Chicago and the deer hunters from Detroit, and what emerges is a chaotic, affectionate and funny portrait of a modern-day America that tourists rarely see, in the tradition of Bill Bryson and Louis Theroux.

An article based on Steve's trip was published in [The Guardian](#). Steve returns to the US this autumn to make a documentary film of his trip.

Steve Boggan has been a news, features and investigative journalist for more than thirty years. A former Chief Reporter with *The Independent*, he has also written extensively for *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The London Evening Standard* and the *Daily Mail*. He lives in London.

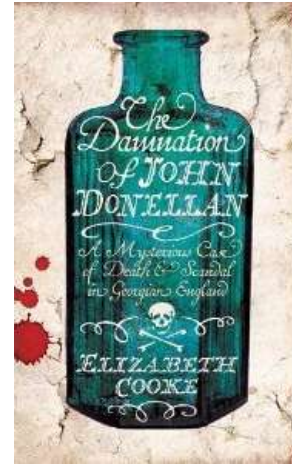
UK Publisher: Union Books, May 2012 (WEL)

Material: Proposal and opening chapters

Rights: MBA

Elizabeth Cooke

THE DAMNATION OF JOHN DONELLAN: A Mysterious Case of Death



For fans of *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher* and Wendy Moore's *Wedlock*, Elizabeth Cooke's book is set in one of the most interesting periods in English history, packed with all the ingredients of a first-rate murder mystery. A notorious court case; the gruesome execution of a possibly innocent man; a family in turmoil, each with a motive; the corrupting influence of money and last but not least, the web of aristocratic intrigue: all make for a enthralling read.

In April 1781, John Donellan was hanged for the poisoning of his 20-year-old brother-in-law, Theodosius Boughton – heir to a Baronetcy and vast Warwickshire and Northamptonshire estates. The young Theodosius was due to inherit his fortune within the year; if he died, his sister, Donellan's wife, would take it all. This was held to be Donellan's motive, but he protested his innocence to the very steps of the scaffold. The victim of a witch-hunt by the press before his trial, almost as soon as he was dead the same newspapers that had condemned him rose up to protest his innocence. But was he innocent? And if he was, who then did kill Sir Theodosius Boughton?

Praise for THE DAMNATION OF JOHN DONELLAN:

'..highly readable book... gripping stuff' *Daily Express*

'..a masterpiece of well-founded suspicions based on first-hand evidence' *The Times*

Under the name Elizabeth McGregor **Elizabeth Cooke** has been writing for over twenty years and has had ten novels published; one, *LITTLE WHITE LIES*, was televised by the BBC; another, *THE ICE CHILD*, was published in seventeen countries. This was the first of several to use an historical theme, which led to her deciding to follow her passion and write real history.

UK Publisher: Profile (Peter Carson), August 2011

US Publisher: Bloomsbury

Material: Books, 304 pages

Rights: MBA

Celia Dodd

THE EMPTY NEST:

How to survive and stay close to your adult child

The empty nest isn't just about the pain I felt when the kids left. It's the end of an era, a turning point in your life when you have to make decisions about the future and renegotiate your relationships.

For most parents, children have been the centre of life for two decades and getting used to being without them requires a massive emotional and practical adjustment. It is a time of nostalgia, perhaps regret, but also has the potential to be a positive time of change and personal growth. Surprisingly, given how many mothers in this generation often have busy and fulfilled working lives alongside being a parent, many find that they are still deeply affected by the Empty Nest, as are many fathers. Going back to a life without children - yet still being a parent - is something all members of the family need to prepare for.

Media coverage has included the *Daily Mail*, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *Best* magazine, *Woman's Own* and numerous radio and TV appearances countrywide. Celia wrote an [article](#) for *The Independent* on Empty Nest Syndrome.

Praise for THE EMPTY NEST:

“A big hug of a book. Manages to be both realistic and optimistic - and not at all patronising - at what can be a bleak and frightening time. A lifesaver, opening up all kinds of possibilities.” **Aggie MacKenzie, TV presenter**

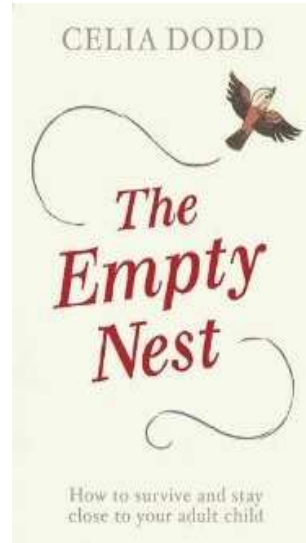
“This useful guide to what is known as ‘empty nest syndrome’ focuses on the positives and looks at how to make the most of this new and exciting chapter in the lives of both parents and children” **Choice magazine**

Celia Dodd, experienced journalist specializing in family issues and experiencing the Empty Nest herself, is the perfect guide to this exciting but daunting time. A freelance journalist contributing mainly to *The Independent* and *The Times*, her work focuses on family matters, health, education and celebrity interviews. She has written one previous book, CONVERSATIONS WITH MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS.

UK publisher: Piatkus (Anne Lawrence), July 2011

Material: Books, 256 pages

Rights: MBA

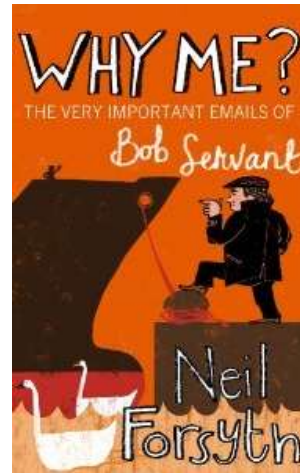


Neil Forsyth

WHY ME? – The Very Important Emails of Bob Servant

‘I have worked with Peter Cook, Spike Milligan and Harry Enfield. Bob Servant is in a class of his own’ **Barry Fantoni**, *Private Eye*

The star of the bestselling *Delete This at Your Peril* and the critically acclaimed BBC Radio 4 series *The Bob Servant Emails* is back with an all-new compilation targeting a fresh batch of email spammers – the false lenders who have stepped into the credit crunch, supposed lawyers with suggestions for Bob’s woes and fake foreign soldiers giving military guidance for his campaign against a local bowling club. They all find a man from Dundee ready to indulge them and offer a little advice of his own...



Praise for Bob Servant:

“The most important comic writer we have in Scotland today” *Scotland on Sunday*

“A very, very funny book” *Irvine Welsh*

“One of the funniest books ever compiled” *The Skinny*

UK Publisher: Birlinn, Oct 2011

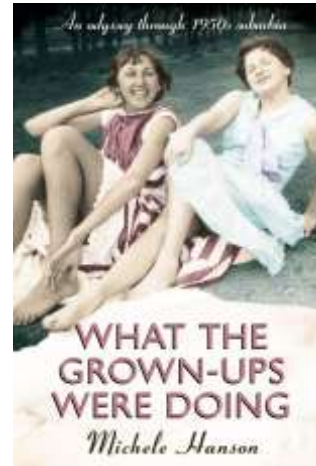
Material: Books, 208 pages

Rights: MBA

Michele Hanson

WHAT THE GROWN-UPS WERE DOING

A memoir of Hanson's childhood in 1950s suburbia, which her editor describes as 'a combination of all the best things about Nigel Slater's *Toast* and Lynn Barber's *An Education*, with its own original humour'.



Michele grew up in Ruislip in northwest London in the 1950s, in the only Jewish family in a well-to-do neighbourhood. Although she only encountered overt anti-Semitism once, on holiday in the New Forest, she knew she was different from her Christian friends - her mother constantly warned her of their strange food and nasty bathroom habits. As she entered her teens, Michele began to wonder if the differences between Jews and Christians were quite as extreme as her mother made out. Her parents seemed to be more and more dissatisfied with each other, especially when one of the neighbours announced that she was having an affair - with Michele's father. No wonder Michele rebelled when she went to art school: it was the early 60s after all and life would never be the same again.

WHAT THE GROWN UPS WERE DOING portrays a lost world, a calmer and more innocent time but one in which frustration and prejudice boiled just below the surface.

Praise for Michele Hanson:

"Michele Hanson is one of our best comic writers. Deft, delicate and always true to life". **Michael Palin**

In her famous weekly *Guardian* column, **Michele Hanson** has created a comic masterpiece of family life. Over many years she chronicled the teenage years of her daughter, TREASURE, and then the final years of her mother, LIVING WITH MOTHER: To the Very End, published by Virago, TREASURE was serialised on Radio 4 and made into a BBC cartoon series while LIVING WITH MOTHER won **Mind Book of the Year**. Michele regularly appears on radio and TV and at literary festivals. She lives in north London, these days mostly on her own with her dogs, which will be the subject of her next book also commissioned by Simon and Schuster.

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