

A P Watt
Rights List
Autumn 2008

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MAN BOOKER SHORTLISTED TITLES

Sebastian Barry THE SECRET SCRIPTURE

Nearing her one-hundredth birthday, Roseanne McNulty faces an uncertain future, as the Roscommon Regional Mental Hospital where she's spent the best part of her adult life prepares for closure. Over the weeks leading up to this upheaval, she talks often with her psychiatrist Dr Grene. This relationship, guarded but trusting after so many years, intensifies and complicates as Dr Grene mourns the death of his wife. Told through their respective journals, the story that emerges – of Roseanne's family in 1930s Sligo – is at once shocking and deeply beautiful. Refracted through the haze of memory and retelling, Roseanne's story becomes an alternative, secret history of Ireland. Exquisitely written and deeply moving, it is the story of a life blighted by terrible maltreatment and ignorance, and yet still marked by a flame of love, passion and hope. Sebastian's **A LONG LONG WAY**, was shortlisted for the Man Booker and IMPAC prizes and winner of the Kerry Group Prize for Irish Fiction.

UK: Faber; *US:* Viking; *Chinese (simplified):* People's Literature Publishing House; *Danish:* Cicero; *Dutch:* Querido; *French:* Joelle Losfeld; *German:* Steidl; *Greek:* Kastaniotis; *Hebrew:* Achuzat Bayit; *Indonesian:* Maroon; *Norwegian:* Schibsted; *Portuguese (Port only):* Bertrand; *Serbian:* Mano & Manana; *Spanish:*

Belacqua/Norma

Published; 300 pages

Linda Grant THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS

In a red brick mansion block in central London, Vivien, a sensitive, bookish girl grows up sealed off from both past and present by her timid refugee parents. Then one morning a glamorous uncle appears, dressed in a mohair suit, with a diamond watch on his wrist and a girl in a leopard-skin hat on his arm. Why is Uncle Sándor so violently unwelcome in her parents' home? This is a novel about survival – both banal and heroic – and a young woman who discovers the complications, even betrayals, that inevitably accompany the fierce desire to live. Set against the backdrop of a London from the 1950s to the present day, **THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS** is a wise and tender novel about the clothes we choose to wear, the personalities we dress ourselves in, and about how they define us all. This powerful novel from the Orange Prize-winning author is also an anatomizing of the immigrant experience, and as such is deeply resonant with the concerns of our own society.

UK: Virago; *US:* Scribner; *Czech:* Kniha Zlin; *Dutch:* Prometheus/Bert Bakker; *Greek:* Modern Times; *Portuguese:* Civilização; *Romanian:* Leda; *Spanish:* Urano
Published; 294 pages

Philip Hensher THE NORTHERN CLEMENCY

Beginning amidst the pervasive unease of the Winter of Discontent and ending with the last days of the ailing Conservative government in 1996, this is an epic portrait of an entire era, a novel concerned with the lives of ordinary people and history on the move. It charts the relationship between the Glovers and the Sellers, newly arrived from London. The day the Sellers move in there is a crisis across the road: Malcolm Glover has left home, certain his wife is having an affair. The consequences of this rupture will spread throughout the lives of both couples and their children, in particular 10 year-old Tim Glover, who never quite recovers from a moment of his mother's public cruelty and the amused taunting of 15 year-old Sandra Sellers, childhood crises that will come to a head years later. England is changing: from a land of fire and industry to a gleaming landscape of shop fronts and chain restaurants, a shift particularly marked in the North with the miners' strike of 1984, which impacts on both families. Inspired by the expansive scale and webs of relationships of the great 19th Century Russian novels, it shows Hensher to be one of our greatest chroniclers of English life.

UK: Fourth Estate; *US:* Knopf; *Romanian:* Leda

Published; 424 typescript pages

FICTION

Monica Ali IN THE KITCHEN

Gabe Lightfoot is a chef in a big London hotel, with a kitchen bedevilled by the shady backgrounds and even shadier employment legality of his workmates. The discovery of the body of a Ukrainian kitchen porter who, unbeknownst to everyone, had been living and died under mysterious circumstances in the basement, brings Gabe's problems to the forefront. Struck simultaneously by his father's illness and the crumbling relationship with his girlfriend, he finds himself bridging the chasms between his home and work life, his parents' old-fashioned ideas and modern urban multiculturalism, and his own desires. From the best-selling author of **BRICK LANE**, this is a darkly comic and immensely powerful story of a conflicted character, capturing the sweat and claustrophobia of a working kitchen and exposing deeply discordant morals surrounding immigration and multiculturalism.

UK: Transworld; *US:* Scribner

Delivery of typescript: October 2008; *Publication:* April 2009; 492 typescript pages

Geraldine Bedell THE GULF BETWEEN US

Warm, witty and surprising, **THE GULF BETWEEN US** is a deliciously written novel about disappointment, hope and surviving in a world of conflicting values. It is 2002 and America is preparing to invade Iraq. Down the coast, in the small Gulf emirate of Hawar, Annie Lester is more preoccupied with organizing her eldest son's wedding and the imminent arrival of James Hartley, a film star she knew in England twenty-five years earlier. As Annie renews her affair with James, the ordered life she has built on compromise begins to unravel. Her three almost-adult sons are working out what kind of people they want to be, and sleep with, often to chaotic and disastrous effect. Forced to confront prejudice of several kinds, Annie discovers how exposed and vulnerable she is as a Western woman tangled up in the politics of an Islamic country, even one of which she is so fond. **THE GULF BETWEEN US** is a novel of mistakes, family, politics and love.

UK: Penguin

Delivered; Publication: February 2009; 302 typescript pages

Daniel Blake SOUL MURDER

Three years after being jailed for murdering her infant babies, Hollywood superstar Mara Slinger has her conviction overturned and is released to a quiet life in her hometown of Pittsburgh. Three months later, she's dead; savagely battered and with her hands cut off. Next to her mutilated body, the killer has left a stone with what looks like π , the pi symbol, carved into it. Rookie homicide cop Franco Patrese and his veteran partner Mark Beradino are assigned to the case. They've barely started their investigations when they find another victim; Freddie Hellmore, Mara's flamboyant attorney. He too has been beaten to death; he too has a marked stone left next to him. Patrese and Beradino initially focus on Mara's original case, certain that the connection will be found there. But as the body count rises, they have to dig deeper, down into grisly underworlds of medical desecration, sexual perversion and religious fanaticism. And still they can't untangle the riddle of the stones. At every turn, Patrese finds himself compromised by the treachery of those closest to him, by his own troubled past, and by his involvement with ambitious Muslim district attorney Amberin Zerhouni. With mendacity and deceit all around him, he must clear a path through the smoke and mirrors and find his way to the final, unspeakable truth. **SOUL MURDER** is the first in the Franco Patrese series.

UK: HarperCollins

Delivery of typescript: October 2008; *Publication:* June 2009

Anthony Capella THE VARIOUS FLAVOURS OF COFFEE

Sensual, surprising and full of rich period detail, **THE VARIOUS FLAVOURS OF COFFEE** is a delicious confection from the author of **THE FOOD OF LOVE**. London, 1895. Robert Wallis, would-be poet, bohemian and impoverished dandy, accepts a commission from coffee merchant Samuel Pinker to categorise the different tastes of coffee - and encounters Pinker's free-thinking daughters, Philomenia, Ada and Emily. As romance blossoms with Emily, Robert realises that the Muse and marriage may not be incompatible after all. Sent to Abyssinia to make his fortune in the coffee trade, he becomes obsessed with a negro slave girl, Fikre. He decides to use the money he has saved to buy her from her owner - a decision that will change not only his own life, but the lives of the three Pinker sisters. **THE VARIOUS FLAVOURS OF COFFEE** is the mouth-watering story of a drink, of a journey, and of a man coming to his senses. It brings its foppish hero into a world where human beings are bought and sold, and where the price of a cup of coffee may be higher than its drinker can imagine.

UK: Little, Brown; *US:* Bantam; *Canada:* McArthur & Co; *Dutch:* Unieboek; *German:* Arche-Atrium; *Korean:* Crimson Books; *Romanian:* RAO
Publication: November 2008; 528 pages

Marika Cobbold APHRODITE'S WORKSHOP FOR RELUCTANT LOVERS

We all have moments of asking, Who am I? What am I here for? But in Marika Cobbold's new novel one particular adolescent has more reason than most to ask such questions. Eros (or The Love God as he introduces himself on more confident days) has more reasons for angst than most. Meanwhile, amongst the mortals divorce rates are rising, with inevitable consequences. Divorce lawyers like John Sterling make headlines by getting record settlements for their clients. When Rebecca Finch, bestselling romantic novelist and favourite of Aphrodite, turns her back on love both Eros and Aphrodite end up staring demotion in the face. What better way to prove the power of love - and to make fools of the disbelievers - than to make love blossom between those most reluctant lovers, Rebecca Finch and John Sterling? The stage is set for a battle between the gods of love and some distinctly disobliging mortals. Aphrodite, having entered into a wager with the other gods, seizes her chance and descends on earth as a therapist specialising in relationship guidance, and Eros gets busy with his bow and arrows.

UK: Bloomsbury; *German:* Goldmann; *Swedish:* Bonnier
Publication: February 2009; 307 pages

Martin Corrick BY CHANCE

James Watson Bolsover sits on the quay in a seaside town, waiting for the ferry to take him to the island. He looks back over an almost wholly blameless and uneventful life, to his work as a technical writer, to his marriage to Kitty, cut short by her early death. But James Watson Bolsover is not his real name, and his life is not wholly blameless. Bolsover has a secret, and his going to the island to start a new life is a consequence of that secret. Once settled there, he begins to work for a shady publisher of travel guides, and meets his odd and in some cases mad fellow guests at the Alpha Hotel. Among them is Arabella, married to Lennie, who was once a rich and successful businessman but is now wheelchair-bound and brain-damaged. An unexpected attraction flares between Bolsover and Arabella, and then Lennie suddenly dies. **BY CHANCE** is a beautiful meditation on life, loss and chance, and a haunting reminder of how a single act may rob our lives of their comfort and ease. In the words of *Publishers Weekly*, it is "an exquisitely nuanced portrait".

US: Random House
Publication: October 2008; 229 pages

Jenny Diski APOLOGY FOR THE WOMAN WRITING

Marie de Gournay was eighteen when she read, and was overwhelmed by, the essays of the French philosopher Montaigne. She had to be revived with hellebore. When she finally met Montaigne, she stabbed herself with a hairpin until the blood ran in order to show her devotion. He made her his 'adopted daughter' for the two months they knew each other. He died four years later, after which, though scorned by intellectuals, she became his editor. But she assumed rather more than this as well, and her efforts to ensure that she herself came to be cast in a good light in the essays was to lead to disastrous consequences. In her new novel Jenny Diski describes this passionate and complex relationship between 'father and daughter', writer and acolyte, author and reader. Much of their story is about absence of the people they love. In Diski's hands it becomes a fascinating morality tale, exploring the nature of authorship and originality, their sources and their consequences.

UK: Virago; US: Virago; Dutch: Atlas; Spanish: Circe
Publication: November 2008; 288 pages

Lissa Evans THEIR FINEST HOUR AND A HALF

London, 1941. Amidst the rubble and disruption, vital war-work continues as scientists, soldiers, politicians and doctors all strive to keep the hopes of a besieged nation alive. But there's other work going on, too - work that might just seem a teeny bit trivial by comparison. A bunch of people making a feature film, for instance... For the cast and crew, however, this is a very serious business. It's never been easy, getting a film made - and it's even more complicated when every draft of the script has to be approved by the Ministry of Information; when anyone, from star to tea-boy, can be called up at any moment; when travel's restricted, the studio's under fire, and the catering consists largely of spam fritters. But there's a film to be made, a British film based on a true story of bravery and self-sacrifice at Dunkirk, with a nice touch of romance and comedy thrown in. Not to mention a hundred and seventy-five extras, one dog and an American. If this is to be their finest hour, the cast and crew of *Just An Ordinary Wednesday* will have to give much more than the usual blood, toil, tears and sweat.

UK: Transworld
Delivered; Publication: February 2009; 415 pages

Patrick Gale GENTLEMAN'S RELISH

Wry and perceptive, **GENTLEMAN'S RELISH** is a new collection of short stories written by Patrick Gale over the last ten years. The title piece observes the awkward dance of a father around his enigmatic adolescent son. *Fourth of July, 1862*, written to celebrate the anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, is a compassionate portrait of Alice's elder sister, a character neglected by Lewis Carroll but imagined here in poignant detail. In *Freedom*, a rickety caravan is handed down through generations of one family, loaded down with memories and a promise of refuge. Mistaken at a book festival for her more flamboyant namesake in *Petals in a Pool*, a timid writer of English satires finds herself bewildered by a few days lived in another person's skin. Other stories take on a broad scope of subjects, tracing the loneliness and violence that can seep into ordinary people's lives.

UK: HarperCollins
Delivered; Publication: Autumn 2009; 192 typescript pages

John Haskell OUT OF MY SKIN

Los Angeles. A would-be movie reviewer, looking for romance, takes an assignment to write a magazine article about celebrity look-alikes. After getting to know a Steve Martin impersonator, the writer decides to undertake his own process of transformation and becomes not Steve Martin but a version of him - graceful, charming, at home in the world. Safe in the guise of "Steve," he begins to fall in love. And that's when "Steve" takes over. Set in the capital of illusion, this is a story of one man's journey into paradise - and his attempt to come out the other side. As in his acclaimed collection of stories **I AM NOT JACKSON POLLOCK**, Haskell weaves into this novel speculations as to what real-life actors, including Cary Grant and Charles Laughton, might have felt about their chameleon lives. Haskell once again shows himself to be a master of unease and uncertainty, delving deep under the skin of a man who isn't quite sure who he is.

US: Farrar, Straus

Delivered; Publication: February 2009; 224 pages

Mick Jackson BEARS OF ENGLAND

'There is no category of bear whose story makes for more depressing reading, and whose miserable existence heaps more shame on humanity than that which follows...' Spirit bears who haunt villagers at night; sin-eating bears who consume bread and ale, and with them the sins of the recently departed; circus bears who decide they've had enough and go their own way; even civilian bears in human disguise: these are some of the characters in Mick Jackson's strange beast of a book which explores some little known chapters in England's past. Mixing folk tale with fantasy and history with myth, the narrative that unfolds is dark, playful and filled with magical moments, as it marches ever forward towards a strange convergence. Illustrated by David Roberts, **BEARS OF ENGLAND** once again demonstrates the quirky and wayward imagination of the author of **THE UNDERGROUND MAN**.

UK: Faber

Delivered; Publication: July 2009; 137 typescript pages

Francesca Kay AN EQUAL STILLNESS

AN EQUAL STILLNESS is a novel posing as a biography of a painter, Jennet Mallow. Born in 1924, Jennet grows up in Yorkshire. In the drab post-war years she forges an early career as a painter, both inspired and constrained by her marriage to another artist, David Feaver. The competing claims of marriage and family on the one hand, and art on the other, provide one of the principal themes of this novel. After a vivid period in southern Spain, Jennet and David return to England. In the 1960s Jennet's career blossoms, and she becomes a sought-after painter, despite personal complications and indeed tragedies. With her children grown up, and David Feaver dead of alcoholism, she retires to her beloved Yorkshire for her final, yet brilliantly productive, years. Francesca Kay is a wordsmith, and her depictions of landscape and paintings, as well as feelings, are often exhilarating. She has imagined a life in the round.

UK: Weidenfeld & Nicholson

Delivered; Publication: January 2009; 229 pages

Nick Laird GLOVER'S MISTAKE

David Pinner is not content. A 35-year-old English teacher in a small private school in Marylebone, he isn't a writer or a boyfriend or a father. He isn't even a very good son. If he's not trawling pornographic websites, he's drinking with friends he doesn't really like or trying to avoid his neighbours. His new flatmate is James Glover, a barman whose life hasn't quite worked out either. And although he's a nice guy - a Christian and a small-town boy from East Anglia - he has certain fixed ideas about things. Into the lives of these two dissatisfied bachelors comes Ruth, a successful American artist who taught David when he was an undergraduate at Goldsmiths. Ruth meets Glover on David's doorstep and although she's 47 and he's 25, a relationship begins. David, as mutual friend, puts himself in the middle of it, and his interest in the couple grows obsessive, and eventually destructive. **GLOVER'S MISTAKE** is an exploration into friendship, jealousy and the mind of a modern day Iago.

UK: Fourth Estate; *US:* Viking

Delivery of typescript: October 2008; *Publication:* April 2009; 328 typescript pages

Liam McIlvanney ALL THE COLOURS IN THE TOWN

When Gerry Conway receives a phone call from Hamish Neil promising unsavoury news about Scottish Justice Minister Peter Lyons, his instinct is that this apparent scoop won't warrant space in *The Tribune*. But as Conway's curiosity grows and his leads proliferate, his investigation takes him from the West Coast of Scotland to Belfast. Increasingly uncomfortable and shocked by the past he discovers and the present world of prejudice and hatred he inhabits, Gerry Conway soon grows obsessed with the story of Lyons and all he represents. **ALL THE COLOURS IN THE TOWN** is an exceptional and compelling first novel. It tells a story of an individual and his community, and the terror that the mob can bring to everyday life.

UK: Faber; *US:* Faber

Delivery of typescript: October 2008; *Publication:* August 2009

Giles Milton ACCORDING TO ARNOLD: A STORY OF LOVE AND MUSHROOMS

On a remote island in the South Pacific, forty-two year old mushroom expert Arnold Trevelyan is recording an extraordinary testimony for his oldest friend, Peter. Happily married, happily employed and happy with his life, Arnold is persuaded by his wife Flora to take a sabbatical, and heads to Burgundy for a year in order to pursue his love of mycology. He explores an underground quarry in the hope of finding the unique *amanite caesar* mushroom; instead, he discovers Lola, the rightful (and delightful) queen of Tuva, a tiny tropical island in the South Pacific. He also uncovers a very special secret... What happens next turns his entire life upside down. Meanwhile Flora is trying to come to terms with the loss of the husband she still loves. And Peter, with a journalist acquaintance, is trying to fathom what lies behind Arnold's increasingly bizarre stories. For not everything is as it seems in this rich and wondrous tale.

UK: Macmillan; *French:* Buchet-Chastel

Delivered; *Publication:* October 2009; 238 typescript pages

Marcel Möring IN A DARK WOOD

At the end of the Second World War, Jakob Noach emerges from the hole in the ground where he has been hiding for the past three years, and cycles madly back to his home town to find that his parents and brother have perished at the hands of the Nazis. Setting himself up as a shoemaker in the Dutch town of Assen, Noach patiently expands his business until he has become the most influential entrepreneur in the city. But however wealthy he becomes, nothing can console him for the loss of his family and the tragedy of history. In June 1980, on the eve of Assen's annual TT races, a despairing Noach sets off on a journey into the depths of his soul. Guided by a shabby, supernatural pedlar calling himself the 'Jew of Assen', he descends into the smoky heart of the town, a man-made hell modelled on Dis, the city in Dante's *Inferno*. In a rich and varied explosion of styles, fantasy and philosophical speculations, Marcel Möring leads us on a voyage through the dark heart of the twentieth century, in a vivid exploration of loss and guilt. A magnificently ambitious and enthralling novel, **IN A DARK WOOD** confirms Möring's place as one of the most significant European novelists now at work.

UK: Fourth Estate; *US:* Morrow; *Dutch:* De Bezige Bij; *German:* Luchterhand
Delivered; Publication: February 2009; 403 typescript pages

Paul Murray SKIPPY DIES

Ruprecht Van Doren and his roommate, Daniel 'Skippy' Juster are probably the two biggest losers in Seabrook College for Boys. Ruprecht is an overweight genius whose hobbies include very difficult maths and the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence; Skippy is on the swimming team, but mostly likes to play Nintendo – that is, until he falls for Lori, the Frisbee-playing Siren from the girls' school next door. Nobody thinks he has a chance, especially since his rival happens to be Carl, the sinister school drug-dealer. But some losers don't know when to quit. And while Ruprecht attempts to open a portal into a parallel universe, Skippy, in the name of love, is rapidly heading towards a showdown in the form of a doughnut-eating race that only one person will survive... Hilarious and heartbreaking as a tragic South Park, with an educational programme of its own that ranges from mermaids to M-theory to the real meaning of the poems of Robert Frost, **SKIPPY DIES** captures in painful detail the humiliations and joys of being thirteen in a world that craves youth but can't stand the young.

UK: Hamish Hamilton

Delivery of typescript: November 2008; *Publication:* Autumn 2009

Tony Parsons STARTING OVER

George Bailey has been given the gift we all dream of: the chance to live his life again. After suffering a heart attack at the age of 42, George is given the heart of a 19 year old - and suddenly everything changes. He makes love to his wife all night long (instead of from midnight to about five past). He is a friend to his teenage son and daughter (no longer monitoring their every move). And suddenly he wants to change the world (as soon as he shakes off his hangover). But George Bailey discovers that being young again is not all it is cracked up to be - and what he actually wants more than anything in the universe is to have his old life back. A cross between **GROUNDHOG DAY** and a quest for enlightenment.

STARTING OVER is the story of how we grow old, how we give up the dreams of youth for something better, and how many chances we have to get it right.

UK: HarperCollins

Delivery of typescript: October 2008; *Publication:* April 2009

Jack Ross RIVER OF GRASS

The body of a young man is dragged out from a Florida swamp. Police suspect a drunken prank gone horribly wrong - but scrawled on the man's hand is a local telephone number. Who was he trying to contact just before he died, and why? Deborah Jones, investigations editor at the *Miami Herald*, has her suspicions: the number is hers, and the deceased is John Hudson, a student hacker who only days before had contacted her about top secret government files. With the police and coroner closing ranks, Deborah is left with no leads other than a hunch that John's death was not an accident. As she delves into John's mysterious, fast-moving world of technological surveillance, she discovers evidence of corruption that threatens to lead her deep into the heart of the US security and intelligence services. But whoever was responsible for John Hudson's death is watching Deborah's every move. Can she break the story and risk the consequences to herself and those closest to her? A terrifying conspiracy thriller, **RIVER OF GRASS** is the second novel to feature the sharp-witted *Miami Herald* reporter Deborah Jones.

UK: Hutchinson

Delivered; Publication: September 2009; 279 typescript pages

NON-FICTION

David Aaronovitch VOODOO HISTORIES

What 'dark forces' are at work (to quote both the Queen and Dr David Kelly) to make large numbers of educated people believe that their futures are controlled by malign, secret powers? Conspiracy theories are no longer the province of a fringe minority – they have a strong following, at least to judge by the best-sellers' lists. **VOODOO HISTORIES** will examine and question the development of the major theories that have shaped the world. Arguing that historically the consequences of such beliefs are almost always damaging, it will trace how the process of creating scapegoats to explain the sins of a bewildering world has led to social exclusion and hatred.

UK: Cape

Delivery of typescript: October 2008; Publication: May 2009

Sue Armstrong A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH: CONVERSATIONS WITH PATHOLOGISTS

Too often caricatured by the media as 'doctors of death', pathologists are medicine's key diagnosticians, on whom life itself often depends. Post mortems are in fact a very small element of what pathologists do. Primarily their job is to identify, from specimens sent to the lab from clinics and operating theatres, exactly what a patient is suffering from and what treatment he or she is likely to respond to. Pathologists are disease specialists. Some are experts in diseases of the tissues, the brain or blood, others in diseases caused by bacteria and viruses; only a small proportion are experts in forensic science. In **A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH** Sue Armstrong encounters fourteen of the most eminent pathologists in the world, who work in fields as diverse as cancer research, the identification of bones in mass graves and brain damage in deliberately shaken babies. The resulting book offers a fascinating snapshot of the practical, ethical and philosophical challenges facing contemporary medicine and powerfully conveys the excitement and drama of working at the interface of research science and practical medicine.

UK: Dundee University Press

Delivered; Publication: November 2008; 240 pages

Charles Beauclerk SHAKESPEARE'S LOST KINGDOM

SHAKESPEARE'S LOST KINGDOM is an unorthodox biography of Shakespeare that seeks to create an in-depth, psychologically penetrating portrait of Shakespeare by reconnecting the author to his works, since the writer of fiction cannot help but reveal his or her psychology. Its primary purpose is to deepen the reader's understanding of Shakespeare by freeing the author's voice, and with it his message. Taking the author's own words as its cue, the book seeks to answer the fundamental - yet taboo - questions: Why did Shakespeare write the works that he did? Where is his voice in the plays? What was his message? What was his relationship with the Queen and Court, and how did he get away with his trenchant political satires of the ruling elite? Having explored all these questions and built up a portrait of the author as he reveals himself in his own words, Charles Beauclerk offers a solution to the biggest question of all: Who was this man, and why did he conceal his true identity? The answers are as startling as they are illuminating.

US: Grove Atlantic

Delivery of typescript: October 2008; Publication: Autumn 2009

John Freely ALADDIN'S LAMP: HOW GREEK SCIENCE CAME TO EUROPE THROUGH THE ISLAMIC WORLD

In **ALADDIN'S LAMP**, John Freely brings together his deep knowledge of both science and the Islamic world to tell a fascinating and little-known story. The debt that western science and the western world generally owes to the culture of Islam is astonishing, and an awareness of it very timely now. From the thirteenth century onwards, the crucial knowledge gained by Greek scientists and philosophers was transmitted by a chain of translations through Aramaic, Persian, Arabic, Latin, and finally English and the other European languages. If not for the custodianship of the Islamic world, this knowledge would have been lost forever, a loss which would have had profound implications for the modern world. Peopled with colourful characters, **ALADDIN'S LAMP** is popular scientific history at its best.

US: Knopf; *Greek:* Oceanida

Delivery: October 2008; *Publication:* February 2009

Nadine Gordimer TELLING TIMES: WRITING AND LIVING, 1950 - 2008

Nadine Gordimer's exemplary life reflects the true spirit of the writer as moral activist, political visionary, and literary beacon. Never before has Gordimer agreed to collect her entire *oeuvre* of non-fiction, which spans over half a century, from the twilight of colonial rule in South Africa, to the long, brutal fight to overthrow South Africa's apartheid regime, to her leadership role over the last 20 years in confronting the dangers of AIDS, globalization, and ethnic violence. The range of this book is staggering, from Gordimer's first piece in *The New Yorker* in 1954, in which she autobiographically traces her emergence as a brilliant, young writer in a racist country, to her pioneering role in recognizing the greatest African and European writers of her generation - from Achebe to Soyinka - to her truly, courageous stance in supporting Nelson Mandela and other members of the ANC during their years of imprisonment. Since Nadine Gordimer will never write an autobiography, **TELLING TIMES** becomes a document of twentieth century social and political history itself, told through the voice of one of its greatest literary heroes.

UK: Bloomsbury; *US:* Norton; *Canada:* Penguin

Delivery of typescript: December 2008; *Publication:* Autumn 2009; c 800 pages

Allan Hall MONSTER

On 28 August 1984, Josef Fritzl drugged his teenage daughter with ether and imprisoned her in an underground bunker, behind eight locked doors. Over the following twenty-four years he raped and abused her, never letting her or the children she bore him out of the dark, windowless cellar. Getting to the heart of one of the most horrific cases of abuse ever recorded, Allan Hall has reconstructed a monstrous personality from new interviews with the psychologists, neighbours, colleagues and friends who knew Fritzl, as well as the insight of Fritzl's own chilling confession. The picture that emerges, and the extraordinary lengths Fritzl went to in order to conceal his activities and the dark nature of his past in Nazi Austria, is a truly heart-stopping record of a man so cruel he inflicted almost inconceivable suffering on his own children.

UK: Penguin; *Danish:* Ekstra Bladets; *Dutch:* Prometheus/Bert Bakker; *Italian:* Sperling & Kupfer; *Swedish:* Forum

Publication: November 2008; 226 pages

Dominic Lieven WAR AND PEACE: THE REALITY

WAR AND PEACE is a major new history of the Napoleonic wars from the Russian perspective, which draws on newly-accessible Russian archives. This is history at its most dramatic: a tale of hastily made pacts and broken alliances; of hubristic ambition; of huge-scale battles and patriotic myth making; of war and peace. The battlefield is peopled both by giants – such as Napoleon, Tsar Alexander I and Prince Metternich - as well as serfs and ordinary soldiers. Throughout the book Professor Lieven will develop the parallels between Napoleon and Hitler's imperial ambitions and the way in which Russia in particular chose to thwart them. He will demonstrate how the European powers eventually learned to put aside their historical differences and fight as allies. And he will argue that it was in response to the threat from Napoleon that Russia developed a clear sense of its role in the world and asserted itself as a European nation with a key part to play in the stability of the continent.

UK: Penguin; *US:* Penguin Putnam; *Italian:* Mondadori

Delivery of typescript: December 2008; *Publication:* Autumn 2009; 481 typescript pages (559 inc appendices + notes)

Giles Milton PARADISE LOST: SMYRNA 1922

On 13 September 1922 Turkish troops descended on Smyrna, the richest and most cosmopolitan city in the Ottoman Empire. They rampaged first through the Armenian quarter, and then throughout the rest of the city. They looted homes, raped women, and murdered untold thousands. Turkish soldiers were seen dousing buildings with petroleum. Soon, all but the Turkish quarter of the city was in flames and hundreds of thousands of refugees crowded the waterfront, desperate to escape. The city burned for four days; by the time the embers cooled, more than 100,000 people had been killed and millions left homeless. It is a powerful tale of destruction, heroism and survival – told with the narrative verve that has made Giles Milton a bestselling historian, of **NATHANIEL'S NUTMEG** and others. It unfolds through the memories of the survivors, many of them interviewed for the first time, and the eyewitness accounts of those who found themselves caught up in one of the greatest catastrophes of the modern age.

UK: Sceptre; *US:* Basic Books; *French:* Noir sur Blanc; *Greek:* Minoas; *Turkish:* Senocak Yayinlari

Published; 388 pages

Nicholas Ostler WITH A WORLD TO LOSE:

THE DECLINE OF ENGLISH AND THE RETURN TO BABEL

For the last four centuries the dominant world power has been English-speaking and English has become the preferred international medium for business, science and to a large extent, entertainment. Some scholars have gone so far to suggest that English has now become a basic educational tool like maths or computing. But the future of the English language may not be secure, as Nicholas Ostler argues in this provocative and fascinating book. Drawing on his encyclopaedic knowledge of the [history](#) of world languages, he analyses the political, commercial and social reasons why languages fall as inexorably as they rise. Lively, witty and often controversial, he will look at the history of the world and the future of English in a refreshingly original way.

UK: Penguin Press; *US:* Walker

Delivery of typescript: September 2009; *Publication:* Autumn 2010

Svetvana Palmer and Sarah Wallis THE SCHOOL OF KISSING AND KILLING

THE SCHOOL OF KISSING AND KILLING will for the first time tell the story of the Second World War by weaving together the diaries of teenagers growing up on opposite sides of the conflict. Written without hindsight and with disarming directness, these diaries are a unique, unselfconscious record of one of the most devastating times in history, made by its most vulnerable witnesses and unwilling participants. Yet despite war's constant presence, the diarists also write about their daily lives, first loves, school pranks - and their attitudes to the adult world. Whether fighting for survival or fighting their enemy, these are all ordinary teenagers, growing up in extraordinary times. Not all survive to see the war's end. Using a British and an American teenagers' accounts as the key narrative threads, **THE SCHOOL OF KISSING AND KILLING** follows the chronology of the war, interweaving their accounts with the diaries of other children living through the same times in war-torn Europe, and in Japan. What emerges is a picture of hope, suffering, fear, prejudice, love and hate. Throughout it will be a compelling read, with dramatic events narrated in real time by those in the thick of it. Through the voices of these young people and others who are trying to survive in an unpredictable and constantly changing world, an extraordinarily vivid and personal picture of the Second World War emerges, powerfully bringing alive the experiences of growing up in wartime.

UK: Collins

Delivery of typescript: March 2009; Publication: September 2009

Jane Robins THE MAGNIFICENT SPILSBURY AND THE CASE OF THE BRIDES IN THE BATH

One day in the summer of 1910 Bessie Constance Mundy, a plain, not very bright young woman, went for a walk in the pretty Georgian streets of Bristol. Still unmarried at twenty-five, Bessie seemed destined for spinsterhood, until a chance encounter changed everything. During her walk Bessie fell into conversation with Henry Williams, a smooth-talking Londoner who dressed like a dandy and soon declared his love for her. It was Bessie's misfortune that Williams was no Prince Charming, but rather a psychopath embarking on a career as a serial killer. She was to become the first victim of the infamous 'Brides in the Bath' murderer. His real name was George Joseph Smith and his trial at the Old Bailey in 1915 was so sensational that it knocked the First World War off the front pages of the popular press. As Smith roamed the country marrying vulnerable women, and drowning them in their baths, a handsome young doctor named Bernard Spilsbury was in London, working obsessively to establish himself as the country's leading forensic pathologist. It was his evidence that was to convict Smith, and establish Spilsbury as 'the real life Sherlock Holmes' and the father of modern forensics. **THE BRIDES IN THE BATH** uncovers the story of both men and their strange worlds, weaving together the two narratives in a work of history which is steeped in period atmosphere and reads like a detective novel.

UK: John Murray

Delivery of typescript: Summer 2009; Publication: Spring 2010; 80-100,000 words

Jon Ronson THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS

In the summer of 1983, Major General Albert Stubblebine III sat behind his desk in Arlington, Virginia, and prepared himself to walk into the next room. After summoning all his energies he stepped forward, and promptly banged his nose on the wall. General Stubblebine was in charge of a mysterious element of the US Army named The First Earth Battalion. And he genuinely believed that with the right mental preparation he could walk through walls. Thus begins Jon Ronson's hilarious investigation into American military paranoia, an investigation that introduces him to people who believe they can stop a goat's heart simply by staring at it, and others who think Uri Geller may have some helpful hints about waging modern warfare. And if you think all this is outlandish, wait until you learn about some of the things that the Bush family believe in. Shooting begins in October on a major film starring George Clooney, Kevin Spacey, Ewan McGregor and Jeff Bridges (full details on page 20).

UK: Picador; US: Simon & Schuster; Finnish: Sammakko; German: Salis; Japanese: Bungeishunju

Published; 278 pages

Graham Swift MAKING AN ELEPHANT

In his first ever work of non-fiction, the Booker Prize-winning author gives us a highly personal book: a singular and open-spirited account of a writer's life. As generous in its scope as it is acute in its observations, **MAKING AN ELEPHANT** brings together a richly varied selection of essays, portraits, poetry, and interviews, full of insights into Graham Swift's passions and motivations, and wise about the friends, family, and other writers who have mattered to him over the years. Kazuo Ishiguro advises on how to choose a guitar; Salman Rushdie arrives for Christmas under guard; Caryl Phillips shares a beer with the author at a nightclub in Toronto. There are private moments with his father and with his own younger self, as well as musings on history, memory and imagination that illuminate the work of a writer who, in his fiction, regards it as "a mark of achievement" when his own voice and presence vanish into his characters. A journey through place and time, conversations and encounters, **MAKING AN ELEPHANT** brims with charm and candour, an alertness to experience, and a true engagement with words - in short, with what it means to believe that writing and reading are an essential part of living.

UK: Picador; Canada: Random House; Dutch: De Bezige Bij

Delivered; Publication: March 2009; 309 typescript pages

Jason Webster SACRED SIERRA: A YEAR ON A SPANISH MOUNTAIN

When Jason Webster and his flamenco-dancer girlfriend Salud first set eyes on their mountain in Maestrazgo, they were filled with awe. The area was not just beautiful, it was also rich in history, having been given to the Knights Templar by King James I of Aragon as a reward for ridding the land of the Moors in the 13th century. Since then it has been a haven for heretics – Cathars, renegade Popes, dissenters of every kind – and one of the few places left in Spain where people still live close to the land, slow and seasonal. Abandoned and unloved, it was also laughably cheap. So they bought the mountain. After making one of the buildings habitable with the labour of their own hands, Jason and Salud turned to the garden. Drawing on a 12th century book of agriculture as a guide, they got to know the lie of the land. **SACRED SIERRA** is an account of their first year of planting truffle-impregnated trees and an arboretum, reintroducing indigenous species which have disappeared from the landscape, and digging deep roots into the real Spain. Jason encounters hostile hunters, ancient herbalists and discovers an even deeper love for the country, and for the enigmatic, irresistible Salud.

UK: Chatto & Windus; Spanish: Lince

Delivered; Publication: April 2009; 334 pages

CHILDREN'S

Linda Buckley-Archer TIME QUAKE

In the thrilling climax to the GIDEON trilogy, time itself is splintering. If the catastrophic consequences of time travel are now impossible to ignore, Lord Luxon only has eyes for its awesome possibilities. He has his sights set on no lesser prize than America. Abducted to 1763, Peter and Kate begin to understand that history has arrived at its tipping point. Adrift in time, Kate transforms into an oracle, able to see the future as easily as the past. While Gideon does all he can to help, he is tormented by the knowledge that The Tar Man, his nemesis, is also his own brother. As they pursue him through the dark streets of eighteenth-century London, and the time quakes begin, Peter realises that this monster may hold the fate of all of us in his hands.

UK: Simon & Schuster; US: Simon & Schuster; Danish: Host; French: Bayard; German: Ravensburger; Indonesian: Mizan Pustaka; Italian: Nord; Japanese: Softbank; Romanian: Corint; Russian: AST; Serbian: Laguna
Delivery of typescript: September 2008; Publication: June 2009

Rudyard Kipling JUST SO STORIES – introduced by Philip Pullman

Kipling's **JUST SO STORIES** is one of the most famous and best loved of all children's books, including such stories as How the Whale got his Throat, How the Camel got his Hump, How the Rhinoceros got his Skin, How the Alphabet was Made, The Cat that Walked by Himself and the Butterfly that Stamped. In an inspired combination of authors, Vintage asked Philip Pullman, author of **HIS DARK MATERIALS**, to write an introduction to their edition. The original by Kipling is now in the public domain everywhere (except Spain).

UK: Vintage
Publication: November 2008

Nick Lake THE SECRET MINISTRY OF FROST

An albino and half-Inuit, Light has never blended into the crowd. Since her father's disappearance in the Arctic, she has felt more alone than ever before. Yet as she mourns for the father who was her whole family, Light starts to notice unexpected presences all around her. Surely the crows are behaving rather oddly? What's that shadow that seems to slip out of the manor walls and walk like a human being? And can that possibly be a man with a shark's head? The inscrutable, violent and sometimes horrific beings of the North seem to believe she has a role to play, along with her tattooed butler and their new shark-headed friend. The Inuit folklore she vaguely knows comes alive all around her. Figures such as Setna, ruler of the sea, draw Light into their age-old intrigues, whether she likes it or not. Yet she scarcely realises the power of those who have chosen her for their enemy – above all, the king of cold and head of an army of floating men, the heartless and terrible Frost. This fast-paced, action-packed adventure novel takes Light to the heart of the uncompromising Arctic. Packed with strange creatures, terrible visions and gripping fight scenes, Light's story explores the instinct for revenge and the growth of friendship in even the harshest of surroundings.

UK: Simon & Schuster
Delivery: October 2008; Publication: February 2009; 205 typescript pages

Eoin McNamee RING OF FIVE

The first book in a projected trilogy, **THE RING OF FIVE** is a spy story for young adults. Danny Kerr is abducted from his family's home and taken to a mysterious place called Wilson's, an academy for young spies. Wilson's trains spies for the struggle against the Cherbs, who want to break down the barrier between their world and ours. Through an accident of birth, Danny fits the profile of the lost member of the legendary Ring of Five, a cabal of the greatest spies in history who are now working for the Cherbs. Danny is to be trained at Wilson's and then infiltrated into their world. As Danny's schooling in the black arts of spying progresses, he comes to understand what a strange place Wilson's is, rife with secrets and apparent betrayals. Are his teachers and his fellows all that they appear to be? And why do so many accidents seem to happen so perilously close to him? Is someone out to get him? Time is running out, as the Cherbs menace the school, and somehow Danny must find answers to the many questions racking his mind. He must also prepare for the greatest adventure of his young life.

UK: Quercus; US: Random House

Delivery of typescript: Autumn 2008; Publication: Spring 2010

Sensei X BLOOD NINJA: THE DARK MIST OF NIGHT

Ninjas are silent, deadly and impossibly skilled in the art of combat. Peerless assassins and spies, they pose a terrifying threat to the Japanese nobility. Yet no-one has ever seen them by day. There's a good reason for this: all ninjas are vampires. The source of their strength is also their greatest weakness - ghastly blood-sucking spirits, all but invincible in battle, they are vulnerable to one thing: sunlight. After years of research, Sensei X reveals the long-hidden secrets of ninja society and tells here for the first time the astonishing tale of their first great leader – the man who was ninja, samurai and Shogun. As the ninja code is still bound by absolute secrecy it is essential he remains anonymous... **THE DARK MIST OF NIGHT** is the first of a planned **BLOOD NINJA** trilogy. It is the story of Taro, a boy from a simple fishing village who is rescued by a ninja when his father is murdered, and who finds himself dragged deep into a bitter conflict between the rival Lords ruling Japan. What is the connection between Taro and Lord Tokugawa? What could an ancient curse put on the Emperor's house by an angry spirit possibly have to do with a fisherman's son? Where will Taro's love for Lord Oda's daughter Hana lead them both? What is the Buddha Ball, and why are men and gods alike willing to kill for it? And can a ninja and a peasant ever rule Japan?

US: Simon & Schuster Inc.

Delivery of typescript: October 2008; Publication: Spring 2010

NEWS ON FILM AND TELEVISION SALES

Sebastian Barry A LONG LONG WAY: optioned by Noel Pearson, producer of MY LEFT FOOT and DANCING AT LUGHNASA. Sebastian is writing the screenplay himself.

John Buchan THE 39 STEPS: A feature-length adaptation of this classic, starring Rupert Penry-Jones from “Spooks”, will be the centrepiece of the BBC Christmas schedule in 2008. The writer is Lizzie Mickery and the producer Lynn Horsford, who produced the BAFTA-winning BOY A).

Anthony Capella THE WEDDING OFFICER: optioned by Material Entertainment, a UK production venture formed by US studio New Line and distributors Entertainment, producers of 2007’s hit RUN FAT BOY RUN.

Joe Dunthorne SUBMARINE: optioned by Warp Films (THIS IS ENGLAND) for feature. Writer/director is Richard Ayoade (THE IT CROWD, MAN TO MAN WITH DEAN LEARNER).

Nicholas Evans THE SMOKE JUMPER: optioned by Universal Pictures for feature.

Esther Freud LOVE FALLS: Television rights have been optioned by Granada Production for ITV. The writer is Simon Burke (PERSUASION, NY-LON, and WHITE TEETH) and the executive producer is Kate Bartlett (RUBY IN THE SMOKE, CANTERBURY TALES).

Robert Graves I, CLAUDIUS: optioned by Relativity Media (CHARLIE WILSON’S WAR) with Jim Sheridan (MY LEFT FOOT, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, IN AMERICA) attached to direct and to write the screenplay with Nye Heron. Relativity CEO Ryan Kavanaugh will produce alongside Sheridan.

Matt Haig THE DEAD FATHERS CLUB: optioned for feature by Heyday Films, the production company responsible for the HARRY POTTER films. Playwright Terry Johnson will write the screenplay.

THE LAST FAMILY IN ENGLAND: Brad Pitt has optioned film rights through his company, Plan B, in conjunction with Disney (though there is no guarantee he himself will star). Taika Waititi will write and direct.

THE POSSESSION OF MR CAVE: optioned for feature by Parallel Films and Alan Moloney (BREAKFAST ON PLUTO, WAITING FOR GODOT).

Sarah Helm A LIFE IN SECRETS: optioned by BBC Films.

Mick Jackson THE UNDERGROUND MAN: optioned by Parallel Films. Mick Jackson is adapting his novel.

P B Kerr THE AKHENATEN ADVENTURE and the other books in the **CHILDREN OF THE LAMP** series have been optioned by Dreamworks for feature, with Nina Jacobson (PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN) as producer. The screenplay for the first film, by Michael Handelman and David Guion, has been delivered and Dreamworks have the film slated for release in 2010.

Philip Kerr LEVERAGE: Zeitsprung Film + TV Produktions have optioned film and TV rights.

Alex Kershaw BLOOD AND CHAMPAGNE: optioned by Irish Dreamtime (Pierce Brosnan's company). The director is Paul McGuigan (GANGSTER NUMBER ONE, LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN) and they hope to start shooting in 2008.

Elizabeth Knox THE VINTNER'S LUCK: A feature film is in production, directed by Niki Caro (WHALE RIDER, NORTH COUNTRY) and written by her with Joan Schekel. It stars Vera Famiglia (THE DEPARTED, BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS), Gaspard Ulliel (HANNIBAL RISING), Keisha Castle Hughes (WHALE RIDER, THE NATIVITY STORY) and Jeremy Renier (ATONEMENT, IN BRUGES) and it is expected to premiere in Cannes in 2009.

John Lanchester MR PHILLIPS: optioned by Carnival Films (HOTEL BABYLON) for a TV film. David Eldridge (FESTEN) will write the screenplay.

Margaret Laurence THE STONE ANGEL: The Alliance Atlantis feature film opened in Canada in May. Kari Skoglund is the director/writer and the cast includes Ellen Burstyn and Ellen Page (fresh from her triumph in JUNO).

Antonia Logue SHADOW-BOX: optioned by Michael Mailer Films for feature.

Eugene McCabe DEATH AND NIGHTINGALES: exercised by Littlebird. The script by Alan Cubitt has been delivered and Littlebird hope to start production in 2009.

Geoff Nicholson BLEEDING LONDON: optioned to producer Anne Walker-McBay's Texas Avenue Films (INFAMOUS; A SCANNER DARKLY).

THE FOOD CHAIN: optioned to Occupant Films (ALL THE BOYS LOVE MANDY LANE). To be adapted by Captain Mauzner and James Townsend (WONDERLAND, FACTORY GIRL).

FOOTSUCKER: exercised by Gaumont Films for feature.

WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAYS: Peake Productions have finished production on their feature film (to be called **PERMANENT VACATION**) which is written and directed by Scott Peake; they are waiting for a release date. The film has been shown in the Garden State Film Festival in New Jersey and is due for a Los Angeles screening soon.

John O'Farrell THE BEST A MAN CAN GET: optioned by the Kennedy-Marshall Company. John is co-writing the screenplay with Karey Kirkpatrick (CHICKEN RUN, CHARLOTTE'S WEB, THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES) who will also direct, for producer Kathleen Kennedy (JURASSIC PARK, SEABISCUIT, E.T.). Kennedy's deal is with Paramount.

MAY CONTAIN NUTS: Tiger Aspect/BBC have filmed a six-hour television series for transmission on ITV, with a release date to be confirmed. Mark Burton (MADAGASCAR) has adapted. The cast includes Shirley Henderson (BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY), Liz Berrington (SECRETS AND LIES) and Darren Boyd (GREEN WING).

Philip Pullman THE BUTTERFLY TATTOO: The feature film made by Dynamic Entertainment is finished and awaiting release. The director is Phil Hawkins and the screenplay is by Stephen Potts and the cast includes Duncan Stuart and Jessica Blake.

HIS DARK MATERIALS: After the successful world-wide release of the New Line/Scholastic Films production of the first film, THE GOLDEN COMPASS, Hossein Amini (THE WINGS OF THE DOVE) is writing the screenplay for THE SUBTLE KNIFE.

The SALLY LOCKHART Quartet: BBC Television have broadcast the first two, THE RUBY IN THE SMOKE and THE SHADOW IN THE NORTH and the screenplay is

currently being written for the third, **THE TIGER IN THE WELL**. Billie Piper stars as Sally Lockhart.

THE SCARECROW AND HIS SERVANT: optioned by Aardman (**WALLACE AND GROMIT**, **CHICKEN RUN**), for a mixed live action/animation feature. The screenplay is being written by Simon Moore (**DINOTOPIA**, **GULLIVER'S TRAVELS**).

Jon Ronson THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS: BBC Films (**THE QUEEN**) in conjunction with Ruby Films (**THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL**, **BRICK LANE**), Paul Lister (**LETTER TO BREZHNEV**) and Smoke House, the production company run by George Clooney and Grant Heslov, are scheduled to begin production in October 2008 in New Mexico. Heslov will direct, from a screenplay by Peter Straughan (**HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND ALIENATE PEOPLE**) and the film will star George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Kevin Spacey and Jeff Bridges.

THEM: optioned by Universal for Go Mike Go Inc who plan to make a feature film from parts of the work. Edgar Wright (**SHAUN OF THE DEAD** and **HOT FUZZ**) will direct and will also co-write the screenplay with Mike White, who will produce.

Kate Saunders BACHELOR BOYS: optioned by Fox 2000. Their track record in romantic comedy includes **ONE FINE DAY**, **DOWN WITH LOVE** and **IN HER SHOES**. Julie Yorn of Firm Films (**EVE'S BAYOU**, **51st STATE**) is slated to produce. Susannah Grant (**ERIN BROKOVITCH**, **IN HER SHOES**) is writing the screenplay.

Zadie Smith ON BEAUTY: optioned to Domino Pictures/Scott Rudin for feature. Rudin's production company is responsible for such films as **THE QUEEN**, **THE HOURS**, **NOTES ON A SCANDAL**, **THE WONDER BOYS**, **LEMONY SNICKERT** and **THE HOURS**. Abi Morgan (**BRICK LANE**, **SEX TRAFFIC**) will write the screenplay.

Alex Von Tunzelmann INDIAN SUMMER: optioned to Working Title.

Jason Webster DUENDE: optioned by Soho Films International. Mark Hammond will be the producer and his latest film was **L'AMOUR CACHE**. It is hoped production will start in 2008.

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