AUTHOR RIGHTS AGENCY

Frankfurt Book Fair 2014

CATALOGUE

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DUBLIN 20 Victoria rd Rathgar Dublin 6 Ireland Telephone +353 86 822 1444

DIRECTORS Svetlana Pironko Michael O'Brien COMPANY NUMBER 405549

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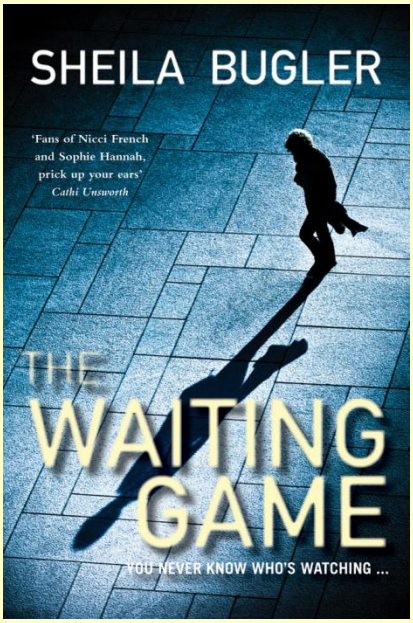
Sheila Bugler
THE WAITING GAME



Publisher: Brandon Books

Pub. date: September 2014

Format: trade paperback

Extent: 444 pages

Genre: Crime fiction

Rights held: French and Russian.

All other rights: rights@obrien.ie

After a successful debut in *Hunting Shadows* (Brandon, 2013), Detective Inspector Ellen Kelly returns in a new chilling page-turner, *The Waiting Game*.

"She sat up, ears straining to hear the footsteps over the hammering noise of her racing heart. At first, there was nothing and she thought maybe, just maybe, she was imagining it. She relaxed a fraction. Froze again. No doubt. More footsteps, quieter this time. Almost as if he knew she was awake, listening. A wooden floorboard creaked, too loud and too close. She recognised the sound. The second step on the staircase creaked like that. He was on the stairs. Coming for her."

***

"Sheila Bugler delivers a chilling psychological twister of a novel, laced with homespun horrors, a compelling central character in DI Ellen Kelly and a strong contemporary resonance. Fans of Nicci French and Sophie Hannah, prick up your ears".

—Cathi Unsworth

"Truly a tour de force. Imagine a collaboration between Ann Tuler and A.M. Homes. Yes, the novel is that good." **—Ken Bruen**

"A brilliant crime debut… akin to a narcotic but in a paper form."

—Crimesquad.com

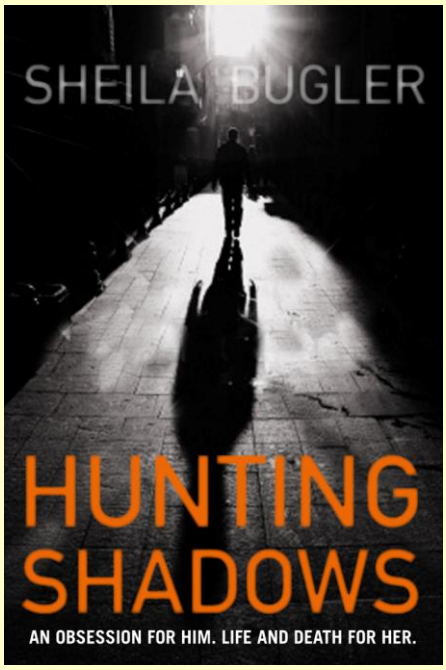
"In DS Kelly, Sheila Bugler has created a tough and complicated police officer for our times... a compulsive psychological thriller... a page-turning race to the end." ***—Hull Daily Mail***

Sheila Bugler grew up in the west of Ireland. After studying Psychology at University College Galway, she left Ireland and worked in Italy, Spain, Germany, Holland and Argentina before finally settling in London, where she lives with her family.

The third and fourth novels in the Ellen Kelly series will be coming out from Brandon Books in 2015 and 2016.

Author's website: www.sheilabugler.co.uk

HUNTING SHADOWS



Publisher: Brandon Books

Pub. date: September 2013

Format: trade paperback

Extent: 444 pages

Genre: Crime fiction

Rights held: French and Russian.

Rights sold: German (Droemer Knaur)

All other rights: rights@obrien.ie

Lee, South-East London. Jodie Hudson ten years' old, is abducted on her way to school. No witnesses, no leads.

Following a violent showdown with her husband's killer, Ellen Kelly has been forced to take time out from her job as Detective Inspector. When she is asked back to help find the missing child, she jumps at the chance to get her career back on track.

Jodie's abductor, Brian Fletcher, believes Jodie is his missing sister, Marion. It has taken him a long time to find her and he is desperate to give Marion the perfect childhood she lost.

But someone else wants Jodie too. Simon Wilson is a violent predator who has worked out where Fletcher is hiding her. If all goes to plan, he'll soon have the girl to himself.

As Ellen pursues Fletcher with a relentless determination, she is blind to the fact that Wilson is the real danger. Every step closer to Fletcher draws her closer to a fatal confrontation with Wilson, changing Ellen's life forever.

Set amongst the Irish community in Greenwich and Lewisham, *Hunting Shadows* introduces Detective Inspector Ellen Kelly.

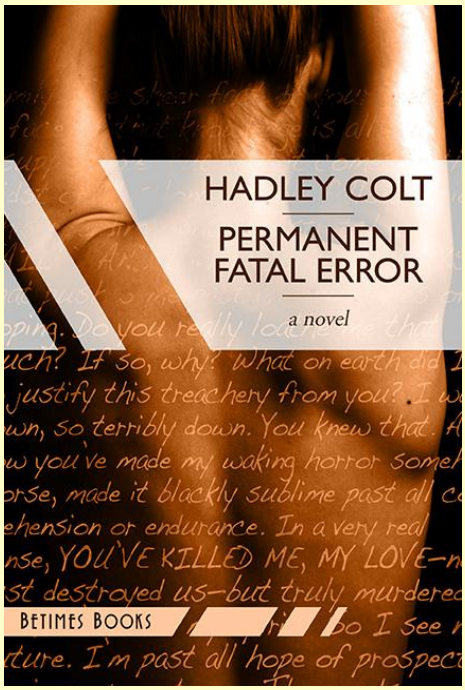
***

"Marks the entrance of a major new talent." —**Cathi Unsworth**

"A most assured debut… Ellen Kelly is a complex character which makes her so fascinating. Mark my words, we will be hearing from her again." —**Crime Fiction Lover ******

"Bugler delivers an addictive crime novel of such a high standard that I could not leave this book alone until it was finished (...) an astonishingly good debut and one that remains with you long after that last page has been turned." ***—Crimesquad.com***

Hadley Colt
PERMANENT FATAL ERROR



Publisher: Betimes Books

Pub. date: April 2014

Format: trade paperback & e-book

Extent: 362 pages

Genre: Crime fiction

Rights held: World

A long-missing novelist, a string of murders and a new brand of heroine fire *Permanent Fatal Error*, a sexy, Hitchcockian literary thriller.

Everett Hyde: Cult-writer extraordinaire, once regarded as the voice of his generation; an author in the reclusive tradition of J.D. Salinger and Thomas Pynchon but now presumed dead.

Chase Alger: Award-wining biographer specializing in studies of famous people—writers all—who've come to mysterious ends. Chase is a self-made man with his own ambiguous past.

When Chase receives an invitation from Everett Hyde's widow, a disarming offer to write her husband's sanctioned biography, sinister things begin happening around the would-be biographer.

Chase's initial replies to Mrs. Hyde's emails are swiftly returned, marked "Permanent Fatal Error." Further inquiries after Hyde are first met with stonewalls, then menacing phone calls and emailed death threats.

But the hook is set, and Chase, along with his lover, Ashley, an aspiring young novelist, agrees to be taken under extreme security to the remote estate of the mysterious author's equally reclusive daughter, Shelby Hyde…

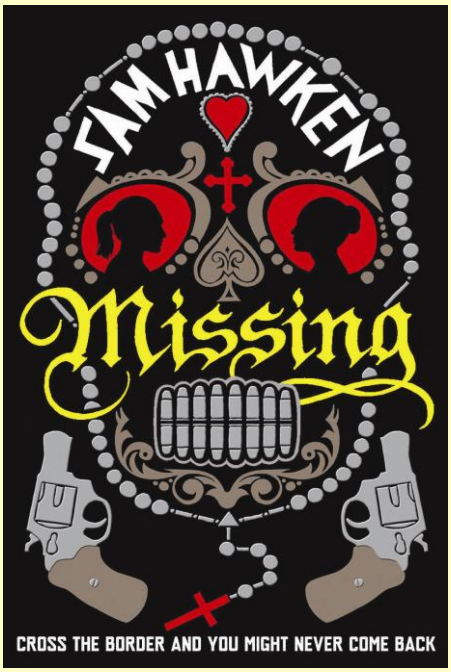
***

"There's a real warmth to the writing which implies that, while the author is undoubtedly having fun with some very clever plotting, he/she cares about the underlying themes, particularly the responsibility of all writers to write about what matters. For this reader, that brought to mind the famous Hemingway words: 'write one true sentence.' This book is, first and foremost, written by an author who loves writing." **—Sheila Bugler**

Hadley Colt is the pseudonym for an internationally acclaimed author. Hadley Colt's previous novels were published in several languages to excellent reviews and high praise from fellow writers who've declared the author's work, *"subtle, moving and tragic", "non conformist", "bold and extravagant", "reviving", "an explosive mix of humor and action"*, and who has been described as *"an erudite with formidable imagination"* and a *"master of suspense"*.

Author's blog: hadleydchase.blogspot.com

Sam Hawken
MISSING



Publisher: Serpent's Tail

Pub. date: September 2014

Format: trade paperback & e-book

Extent: 384 pages

Genre: Crime fiction

Rights held: World

Previous titles:

The Dead Women of Juarez (Serpent's Tail, 2011, Finalist of CWA New Blood Dagger Award)
Tequila Sunset (Serpent's Tail, 2012, nominated for the CWA Gold Dagger)
La Frontera (Betimes Books), 2013

Jack Searle, a former Marine, lives a life of quiet domesticity in Laredo, one of the poorest cities in Texas. His wife dead, he raises the teenaged daughters she had from a previous marriage and works as a private contractor. Once a month, they venture across the border into Nuevo Laredo, to visit the girls' Mexican cousins. It's when Jack's eldest step-daughter, Marina, asks to attend an evening concert on the Mexican side accompanied only by her cousin, that things go wrong. Against his better judgment, Jack allows the trip. Marina and her cousin do not return home that night or the next day…

Jack seeks help from the US consulate and the Mexican authorities, but it is only police inspector Gonzalo Soler who seems to care. As Gonzalo begins an investigation, the entire police force is relieved of duty on corruption charges and the Mexican army takes control of the city.

Jack funds further investigation out of his own pocket, and he and Gonzalo cut a bloody path through the dangerous streets of the city. Can they hope to find the truth and escape alive or shall they pay with their lives for the knowledge of what was done?

***

"As ferocious to read as it is soul wrenching." —**Ken Bruen**

"A hard-boiled plunge into damaged lives that grippingly evokes the dust, decay and pervading sense of death in Juárez, leaving you with a lingering sense of sweaty unease." —***Metro***

"A tense, gripping read and a plea for justice." ***—Sunday Times***

"A fascinating, tense and engaging read." ***—CrimeSquad***

"Hawken's words will keep you hooked until the very last sentence."
—New York Journal of Books

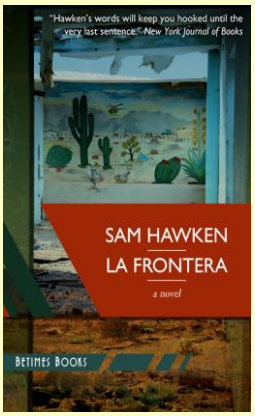
"Any aspiring crime writer, or student of crime writing, in need of a lesson (or refresher course) in modern noir fiction could do no better than invest in a copy of "Missing" by Sam Hawken. This is strong meat and not to everyone's taste, but undeniably powerful and tinged with sadness." ***—Shotsmag.co.uk***

Sam Hawken's first novel, *The Dead Women of Juarez* was published in the UK, France and Germany and shortlisted for the CWA "New Blood" Dagger Award 2011. He is also the author of *Tequila Sunset* (nominated for the Gold Dagger 2013),

La Frontera and of a number of short stories. Sam Hawken's fiction embraces a broad spectrum of genres and involves extensive research, authentic flavour and a devotion to dealing with issues both historical and contemporary.

Author's website: www.samhawken.com

LA FRONTERA



In *La Frontera*, Hawken illuminates the darkest sides of the illegal migration issue.

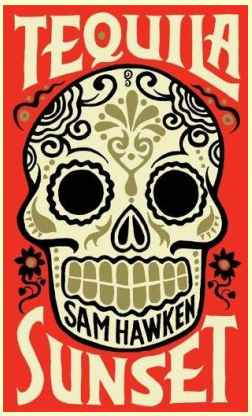
Ana Torres is a Texas Ranger assigned to a dusty outpost to protect the border. When she discovers the body of a dead crosser, the stage is set for an investigation and a confrontation in the nighttime desert.

Luis González lives on the Mexican side, helping those who seek a better life in the north while looking for peace in his own way.

Marisol Herrera, a border crosser chasing a dream, braves dangers on her journey from the high mountains of El Salvador to the sun-blasted flats of the Mexico/Texas border and the realities of *la frontera*.

Published by Betimes Books, 2013.

TEQUILA SUNSET



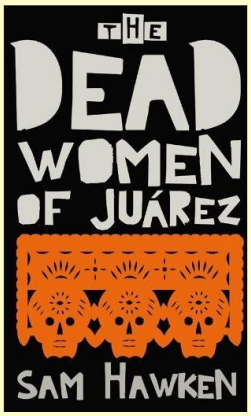
El Paso and Ciudad Juárez share streets, share industry, share crime. One gang claims territory in both: Los Aztecas. Felipe Morales is one of them. Recruited in prison, and now on the streets of El Paso, "Flip" has no choice but to step further into that world, but he has a secret that could mean his life. Witness to murder and intimidation, he tries one desperate gamble to get out.

El Paso detective Cristina Salas struggles to balance the needs of single motherhood, and the parenting of a disabled child, with those of life in the city's gang unit.

When her path crosses with Felipe, their relationship will spell the difference between a life behind bars for the young gang member, a grisly death or freedom.

Published by Serpent's Tail, 2012. France: Belfond. Turkey: Tünel

THE DEAD WOMEN OF JUAREZ



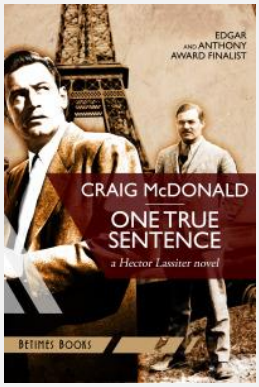
Across the US/Mexico border from El Paso is the city of Ciudad Juárez, an industrial zone dominated by the *maquiladoras*, massive factories producing American consumer goods at Mexican labor rates. People make a life in Ciudad Juárez despite an ongoing battle between the authorities and two rival drug cartels. But forgotten amid all of this are the crimes called *feminicidios*, the female murders.

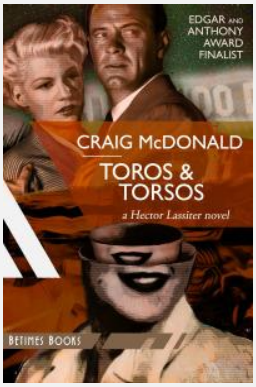
Kelly Courter is an American living in the city. He has fled Texas and started a new life as a punching bag in local boxing matches and as a drug mule for his Mexican friend, Estéban. He's also involved in a relation Paloma, who has a personal crusade in the dead women of Juárez. When Paloma disappears and her violated body turns up in a field not far from his apartment, he becomes the number one suspect in her death.

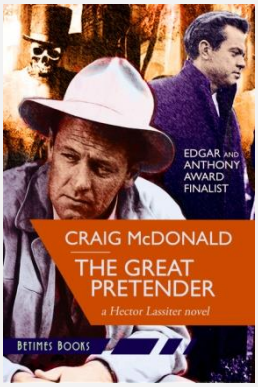
Published by Serpent's Tail, 2011. Germany: Tropen/KlettCotta; France: Belfond.

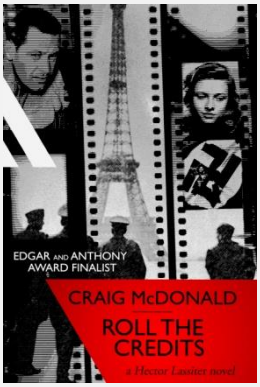
Craig McDonald
THE HECTOR LASSITER SERIES

"I don't think there's anything quite like them. These are incredible novels... Not only is the series a one-of-a-kind, but Craig has done one better by trying to make each novel a different novel." **—James Sallis**









Publisher: Betimes Books

Pub. date of the first title: September 2014

Format: trade paperback & e-book

Extent:
One True Sentence - 380 p.
Forever's Just Pretend – 314 p.
Toros & Torsos – 384 p.
The Great Pretender – 286 p.
Roll The Credits – 420 p.

Genre: Crime fiction

Rights held: World
(consult us about rights to individual titles)

This cycle of eight novels from Edgar®- and Anthony-nominated author Craig McDonald has won the love of an enthusiastic international readership. The series features a larger-than-life crime writer Hector Lassiter, an epitome of bygone masculinity and a witness of major events of the 20th century and its secret history. The Lassiter novels spin around unexplored and underexplored aspects of real historical events. They are set in real places and incorporate real people.

As author Duane Swierczynski said, "Reading a Hector Lassiter novel is like having a great uncle pull you aside, pour you a tumbler of rye, and tell you a story about how the 20th century 'really' went down."

Betimes Books release in 2014 and 2015 four previously published and four new Hector Lassiter novels, issuing them in a chronological order for the first time: *One True Sentence, Forever's Just Pretend* (new), *Toros & Torsos*, *The Great Pretender* (new), *Roll the Credits* (new), *The Running Kind* (new), *Head Games, Print the Legend*.

Craig McDonald is an award-winning author and journalist. The Hector Lassiter series has been published to international acclaim in numerous languages (French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, and Spanish).

McDonald's debut novel *Head Games* was nominated for Edgar®, Anthony and Gumshoe awards in the U.S. and the 2011 Sélection du prix polar Saint-Maur en Poche in France. *Head Games* is soon to appear in graphic novel format from First Second Books, an Eisner Award winning imprint of Henry Holt & Co. The Lassiter series has been enthusiastically endorsed by a who's who of crime fiction authors.

Author's website: http://www.craigmcdonaldbooks.com/

HEAD GAMES
graphic novel

"This stampede set in 1957 is like a movie by Peckinpah given a new treatment by Donald Westlake and filmed by the Coen brothers. The author masters the codes and the clichés of the genre and plays with them with a mocking majesty. From the beautiful Mexican girl to a pitiless killer, all the classical devices are there. But Mr. McDonald thwarts the compulsory figures. It's crazy, credible, non-conformist. A 'noir' novel indeed; a Novel, most certainly. "

—Courrier International

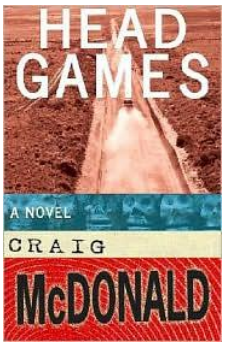
Publisher: First Second Books (Macmillan US)

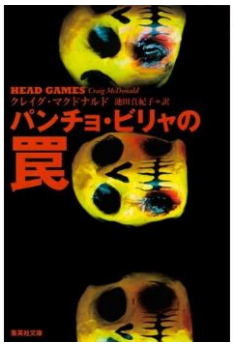
Pub. Date: 2015

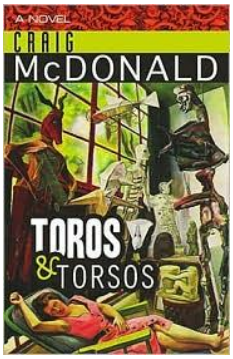
Rights held: French & Russian

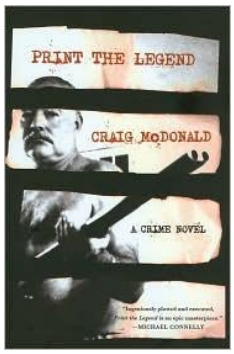
All other rights: *rights@firstsecondbooks.com*

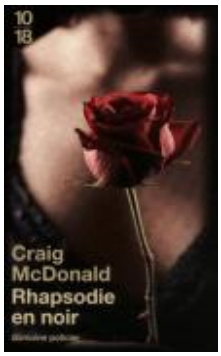
International editions of the Hector Lassiter series

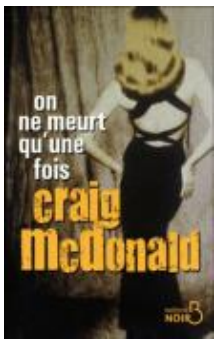


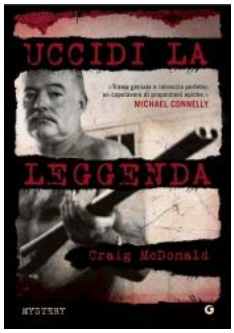












Joe Murphy
I'M IN BLOOD

(This is not the final cover image)

Publisher: Brandon Books

Pub. date: 2015

Format: trade paperback & e-book

Genre: Crime fiction

Rights held: Russian
All other rights: rights@obrien.ie

Previous titles: *Dead Dogs (2012)*
1798: Tomorrow the Barrow We'll Cross (2011)

At seventeen-years-old, Nathan Jacob's life is coming apart. His adoptive father, a man whom he adored, has just passed away. Nathan is left grief-stricken. His only family is his adoptive mother and her million-to-one chance son. Nathan feels he will never be a part of their world. His only companion is Esther Gilsenan, a girl he is falling for more and more deeply with every passing day.

But Nathan is grappling with other demons. His obsession with 'true crime' writing finds him reading into a series of grisly murders that occurred in Dublin's past. Nathan decides to write his own version of these horrific events and he enlists Esther's help. But what is it that is speaking to him down the long spans of time? And what things are being said? Things half-formed and dark that mutter to him from the pages of history. Things that draw his bloodline back to 1890's Dublin and the horrors that took place there.

Sergeant George Frohmell of the Dublin Metropolitan Police is a man under pressure. His beloved, bedraggled city has suddenly become the hunting ground for a faceless monster. A creature who preys on the city's underclass and leaves them butchered in the back alleys of Dublin's teeming red light district. As the death toll increases and the politics of 1890's Ireland come more and more to the fore, Sergeant Frohmell must find his man or lose everything.

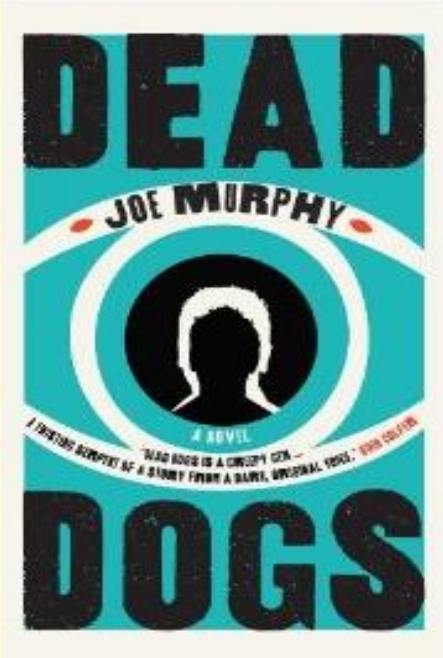
I Am in Blood is a many-layered tale of darkness and bloodshed. It asks the question: *Who are we?* And most importantly: *Do we have a choice?*

Joe Murphy was born in 1979 in Co. Wexford, Ireland. In Enniscorthy Vocational College, he excelled at English, winning several awards and being shortlisted for Young Science Fiction Writer of the Year. Joe studied English at University College Dublin where he received 1st Class Hons and a scholarship to complete a Masters in Early Modern Drama. He went on to qualify as a secondary school teacher.

Joe Murphy's ambitious debut novel "*1798: Tomorrow the Barrow We'll Cross*" was published in 2011 by Liberties Press (Dublin) to excellent reviews: *"epic novel of revolution", "a swashbuckling tale", "a cracking good read", "brilliantly researched and movingly written", "a gut wrenching and page turning story"...*

His second novel, *Dead Dogs*, was published in 2012.

DEAD DOGS



Publisher: Liberties Press

Pub. date: 2012

Format: Trade paperback & e-book

Extent: 256 pages

Genre: Crime fiction

Rights held: World ex. UK & Ireland

Previous titles: *1798: Tomorrow the Barrow We'll Cross (2011)*

Seán Galvin isn't like the other children. While they play and laugh and keep on growing up, Seán doesn't. Instead he does stuff to things. Things like cats and dogs. Bad stuff.

Seán has only one friend, the nameless narrator who tells their story. They have a lot in common. Both mothers are absent. Both fathers cannot cope. Both boys are outsiders in their small-town world. Their young lives revolve around sport and school. That is until Seán finally does something appalling and the boys have no choice but to tell someone. Someone older. Someone they should be able to trust. What they uncover is a secret far more awful than anything Seán is capable of: they witness a murder. *(Or do they?)* Because of their previous behaviour, no-one believes them.

Their little rural town becomes a place of cold scepticism and barely-hidden conspiracy. *(But is there really a conspiracy?)*

The novel's unreliable and increasingly unhinged narrator embarks on a mission to prove that *they* saw what *they* saw, and his obsession will see their friendship tested to its limits and their lives changed forever. *Dead Dogs* is a novel that leaves the reader guessing right up to its wrenching climax and beyond.

***

"Dead Dogs is a creepy gem, a twisting serpent of a story that will have you looking over your shoulder." **—Eoin Colfer**

"Well written and full of heart-pounding suspense, this proves that Murphy is an impressive talent." ***—The Sunday Times***

"The author certainly has an eye, ear and nose for the macabre and has succeeded in creating a fiction which should keep readers engaged right to the end." **—Robert Dunbar, literary critic and reviewer for *The Irish Times***

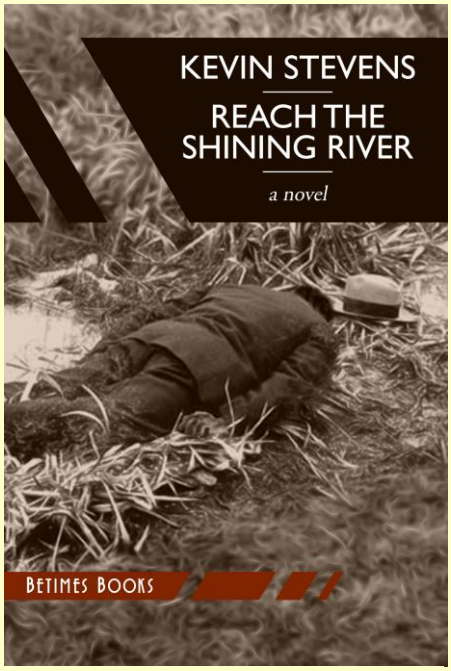
"Dark and unsettling, Dead Dogs is a modern-day gothic story powered by scenes of horror and comedy, masterfully created by Mr. Murphy's hauntingly beautiful prose. It is evident from the very first page that the reader is in for something special, and what a special something it turns out to be. Extraordinary."
—New York Journal of Books

"Disturbing read that pushed black humour to the brink."
—Books Ireland

"Creepy, tense, witty and darkly entertaining." ***—Wexford Echo***

"An interesting, grim and unusual read." ***—The Metro Herald***

Kevin Stevens
REACH THE SHINING RIVER



Publisher: Betimes Books

Pub. date: April 2014

Format: e-book & trade paperback

Extent: 299 pages

Genre: Historical crime fiction

Rights held: World

Kansas City, 1935. Emmett Whelan, an idealistic county prosecutor who has left behind his Irish roots and married into the country club set, takes on the city's corrupt political machine when he investigates the brutal murder of a black musician.

As Emmett gets deeper into the case, the racial violence deteriorates. So does his personal life. He searches the city for the heart of its corruption and discovers that it runs deeper and a lot closer than he has ever suspected. And when the truth unfolds – about the killings, the machine, Emmett's wife – a surprising and devastating climax reverberates at every level of the city.

Reach the Shining River is an urban crime drama about money, race, and class. Tense and full of memorable characters, it has the smell of a big river, the atmosphere of 1930s America, and a soundtrack that is pure jazz and blues.

***

"It is a measure of the book's achievement that the consequences of their actions are both poignant and wholly in keeping with the inexorable laws of a world resurrected by Stevens's fluid prose."
—***Three Monkeys Online***

"Not only a solid murder mystery, but equally a colourful and thought-provoking study of a moment in time. With the rhythm and cadence of the prose, echoing the blues soundtrack that underscored the whole book, Stevens easily achieved that balance between crime fiction and literary fiction due to his exceptional characterization and engaging prose." ***—Raven Crime Reads***

"Reach the shining river impressed me in both the quality of its prose and the vividness of its place. Reading the novel, you are shunted back to another time: a time of corruption, of small-town politics, and the blues. (...) The novel is compelling and highly readable without being formulaic. A terrific read - I was hooked from the start." **—Readers' reviews**

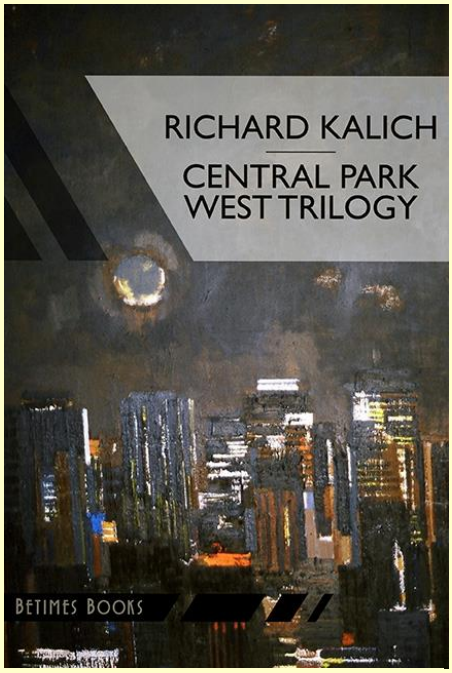
Kevin Stevens is the author of two novels published by Simon & Schuster UK, *Song for Katya* and *The Rizzoli Contract*, and *This Ain't No Video Game, Kid!*, a novel for young adults published by Little Island. His superhero fantasy for children, *The Powers*, is the Dublin UNESCO City of Literature Citywide Reading Project for children in 2014.

The Cops Are Robbers, his true crime account of New England's largest bank burglary, was made into an NBC Movie of the Week starring Ed Asner and George Kennedy. Kevin lives in Dublin and Boston and writes about jazz and American politics for *The Irish Times* and other publications.

Author's website: reachtheshiningriver.wordpress.com

Richard Kalich
CENTRAL PARK WEST TRILOGY

"A major American writer." —*Philadelphia Inquirer*



Publisher: Betimes Books

Pub. date: August 2014

Format: trade paperback & e-book

Extent: 560 pages

Genre: Literary fiction

Rights held: World translation

(Individual novels previously published in Great Britain, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Israel, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, and Japan. Please contact us for details: agency@authorrightsagency.com)

Author's website: www.richardkalich.com

"Central Park West Trilogy" includes three novels, *The Nihilesthete*, *Penthouse F* and *Charlie P.*, originally published separately and collected for the first time in a single volume.

Postmodern fables, dark, shocking, perversely funny, wickedly astute, and compulsively readable, they share Kalich's ferocious energy and unique vision. Together, they break down standard notions of plot, character and form a body of work that is distinctive and brilliant.

The Nihilesthete (first published in 1987 and nominated for a Pen/Faulkner Award, The Hemingway Award, a National Book Award, and Pulitzer Prize) introduces us to Kalich's dark world, where a spiritually desolate caseworker plays increasingly sadistic games with a limbless, speechless idiot with a painter's eye. This enigmatic physically diminished esthete will reveal not only his true essence, but the very center of what it means to be human.

Penthouse F (first published in 2010) is a cautionary tale that takes the form of an inquiry into the suicide—or murder?—of a young boy and girl in the Manhattan penthouse of a writer named Richard Kalich. The reader becomes the jury as the fictional Kalich's own philosophical musings, personal documents, and notes on a novel in progress are presented alongside interview transcripts between "The Investigator," Kalich, and his acquaintances. Blurring the lines between reality and fantasy, kindness and cruelty, love and obsession, guilt and responsibility, writer and character, *Penthouse F* is a critical examination of an increasingly voyeuristic society, a metafiction where Kalich the writer, Kalich the person and Kalich the character all merge together, as the reader must pick through the confusion to discover the truth.

Charlie P (first published in 2005) dispenses with a conventional narrative altogether, as we follow the comic misadventures of a singularly unique, comic and outlandish Everyman. At age three, when his father dies, he decides to overcome mortality by becoming immortal: by not living his life, he will live forever. Akin to other great American icons such as Sinclair Lewis's Babbit and Forrest Gump, Charlie P, while asocial and alienated, is, at the same time, at the heart of the American dream.

Central Park West Trilogy encapsulates Kalich's uncompromising examination of the state of modern life, as well as his experimentations with form and language.

About Richard Kalich's writing

"He's after what it means to be profoundly out of step with one's culture yet still unwilling to let go of the American dream." —**Brian Evenson**

"Kalich is a successful novelist, one who has succeeded in consistently producing perplexing fictions that fail to categorize themselves and escape the warping influence of authorial intent."
—Electronic Book Review

"Speaks with a singular honesty, power and eloquence about our spiritually diminished modern world."
—Mid-American Review

"Kalich represents the best in contemporary fiction. He has every chance to become—why not? —a living classical author." ***—Hooligan Literary Magazine*, Moscow**

Praise for *The Nihilesthete*

"A brilliant, hammer-hitting, lights-out novel." ***—Los Angeles Times***

"One of the most powerfully written books of the decade." ***—San Francisco Chronicle***

"As important and original a novel to have been written by an American author in a generation."
—Mid-American Review

"A shocking, chilling fable." ***—Seattle Times***

"A tour de force… equals the best work of playwright Sam Shepard." ***—Columbus Post-Dispatch***

Praise for *Charlie P*

"With his continuous comic exaggeration, Kalich is able to describe, highly uniquely, the overwhelming, vertiginous, risky sensation of being alive." ***—American Book Review***

"Charlie P is an urban everyman, the self-regarding and coreless creature of our times. Kalich has captured him through endless reflections down the tunnel of the facing mirrors. One reads and reads and smiles. *Charlie P* captures the note of our late modern times." **—Sven Birkerts**

"Kalich is after what it means to be profoundly out of step with one's culture yet still unwilling to let go of the American dream. And this tension between dream and reality makes *Charlie P* a deliciously painful book." ***—Bookforum***

"I would rather that the familiar be embraced and the novel resonate beyond itself and intone the spheres of Plato and Beckett. *Charlie P* resonates." ***—Review of Contemporary Fiction***

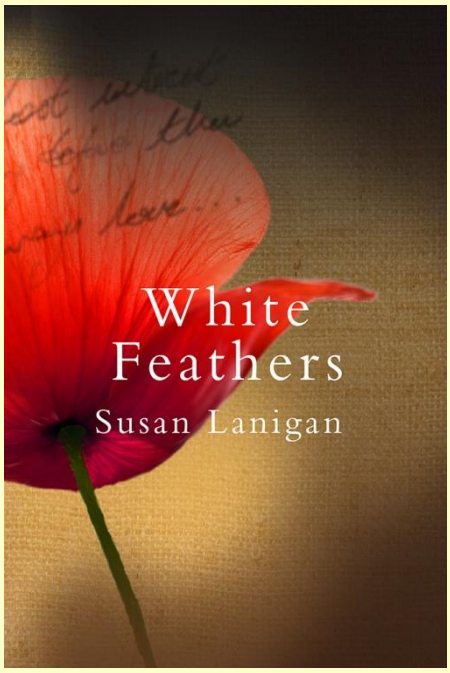
Praise for *Penthouse F*

"*Penthouse F* is akin to the best work of Paul Auster in terms of its readability without sacrificing its intelligence of experiment. […] Kalich delivers afresh, relevant, and enticingly readable work of metafiction." ***—American Book Review***

"Ghosts haunt this book from first page to last: Dostoevsky, Mallarme, Kafka, Mann, Camus, Pessoa, Gombrowicz--and, oh yes, most perniciously of all, "Kalich." For he is a man who tortures himself both with the novels he has written and with those he has not. Let us forgive him even if he will not forgive himself, recognizing as we do the one truth of this tale that seems to be beyond doubt: "It was all in his head like everything else about him." **—Warren Motte, *World Literature Today***

"If one of the great European intransigents of the last century—say, Franz Kafka or Georges Bataille or Witold Gombrowicz—were around to write a novel about our era of reality TV and the precession of simulacra, the era of *Big Brother* and *The Real World,* what would it look like? Well, it might look like Richard Kalich's *Penthouse F…* a space contiguous with those dark inner rooms that the European avant-gardists took us into. Right next door is the closet where the whipper whips his perpetual victim in *The Trial."* **—Brian McHale**

Susan Lanigan
WHITE FEATHERS



Publisher: Brandon Books

Pub. date: Autumn 2014

Format: trade paperback

Extent: 422 pages

Genre: Historical women's fiction

Rights held: Russian
All other rights: rights@obrien.ie

Eva Downey, a misfit in her family, jumps at the chance to attend a finishing school, especially as she is about to be pushed into marriage. At the school, she finds kinship and - eventually - love. But when war breaks out in 1914, her family forces her to make a choice. She must present the man she loves with a white feather of cowardice, or no money will be given for her sister's life-saving treatment in Switzerland.

The decision she makes will have irrevocable consequences for her and those around her. Eventually guilt drives her into war work near the Front.

Thirty years and two World Wars later, world-famous Jamaican soprano Lucia Percival comes out of retirement to sing the part of the Muse of War, from a musical setting of First World War epic "The Dove" about conscientious objectors. But is Lucia's interest in the part entirely professional - or does she need to make sense of her long-buried memories of the war, her ties with Eva and her own story of pain and loss?

From Jamaica to London to the fields of France in wartime, through marriage, birth and death, this story of love and war follows the two women in their quest to make peace with the past.

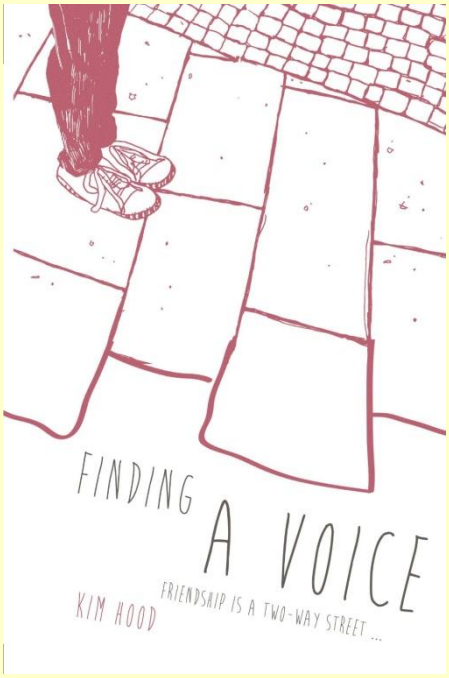
***

"Don't be tricked into thinking this is a 'Cinderella' story, the first part, so gently and simply told by the author, almost lulls you into a false sense of security before World War I sticks it's fearsome and harrowing boot in. The age old tale of falling in love occurs on the brink of war, when much of the country, (before reality hit) fluttered and flirted with feelings of heroism, romance and enchantment. This is a story that promises, expands and heightens expectations before the truth of battle has it's wickedly brutal way. Proving that assault and conflict can be cunningly insidious as well as glaringly obvious, this is an intense and stirring debut novel." ***— Lovereading.co.uk***

Susan Lanigan is an Irish writer and has been writing since she was young. Since graduating from a Masters in Writing in NUI Galway in 2003 with first class honours, she has a considerable record in publishing short stories, having been shortlisted three times for the Hennessy New Irish Writing Award (2005, 2009, and 2012).

Recent publications include *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* (Sept/Oct edition 2012) and *Nature Futures* (2010 and 2011). Susan has also been shortlisted for the Fish Short Story Award (2011) and the Bristol Prize (2010), as well as being longlisted for the Raymond Carver short story award in 2011 and for the Paris Literary Prize in 2013. *White Feathers* is her first novel.

Kim Hood
FINDING A VOICE



Publisher: The O'Brien Press

Pub. date: September 2014

Format: trade paperback

Extent: 232 pages

Genre: Young Adult Fiction

Rights held: Russian

Rights sold: German (CBJ Verlag)

All other rights: rights@obrien.ie

Jo could never have guessed that the friendship she so desperately craves would come in the form of a severely disabled boy. He can't even speak. Maybe it is *because* he can't speak that she finds herself telling him how difficult life is with her eccentric, mentally fragile mother.

Jo devises a crude system for spelling out words and discovers that behind Chris' lopsided grin and gigantic blue wheelchair is a real person — with a sense of humour, a tremendous stubborn streak and a secret he has kept from everyone.

For a while it seems life may actually get better. But as Jo finds out just how terrible life is for Chris, and as her own life spirals out of control, she becomes desperate to change things for both of them.

She hits a wall when she tries to acquire an expensive specialist computer that Chris needs to be able to communicate properly.

In a dramatic turn of events, Jo explodes in frustration and makes a decision that could end in tragedy.

This is the story of how an unusual friendship unlocks the words that neither Jo nor Chris knew they had.

***

"Touching and poignant... Written with deep compassion and understanding, this is excellently written and will grip the reader's attention." ***—Parentsintouch.co.uk***

"Kim Hood certainly packs a punch in her story of friendship against the odds … there are plenty of messages that could be drawn from these pages. But the one that comes over most strongly is that there is no such thing as 'normal'."

—Evening Echo

"Gives an honest, clear-eyed account of the challenges Chris and Jo have to deal with… despite the uplifting ending, it is never sentimental… a gripping story, well told, with rounded and appealing characters." ***—Booksforkeeps.co.uk***

Kim Hood grew up in British Columbia, Canada. After earning degrees in psychology, history and education, she wandered through a few countries before making the west coast of Ireland home. Her eclectic work experience in education, therapy and community services has presented endless opportunity to observe a world of interesting characters, and usually entailed lots of writing. She has always had a passion for trying to understand life from the perspective of those on the fringes of society.

Celine Kiernan
RESONANCE

(This is not the final cover image)

Publishers:
The O'Brien Press (Ireland)
Allen & Unwin (Australia)

Pub. date: Spring 2015

Genre: Fantasy

Rights held: French & Russian

All other rights: rights@obrien.ie

Set in Ireland in the XIX century, but telling a story that spans more than two centuries, *Resonance* is a dark, complex fantasy which incorporates elements of the supernatural, sci-fi and romance.

What does it mean to be alive? What is it worth to stay alive?

Ireland, 1890: two ruthless immortals prowl the theatre district in search of food for their 'Angel'. Ancient, pitiless and caring for none but their own twisted family, they will stop at nothing to maintain their grip on life.

A seamstress, the young man who loves her and a penniless American magician soon find themselves imprisoned in a snow-bound country estate, the latest additions to the family's warped collection. Here, they are nothing but food, nothing but entertainment. And soon they will be nothing at all.

Far from their homes and fighting for survival, Tina, Joe and Harry come to understand that far more is at stake than their lives and dedicate themselves to healing a wound which stretches back in time and threatens to undo the fabric of the world itself.

***

"This is writing of an extremely high order, eloquent in its imagination and warm in its empathetic humanity."

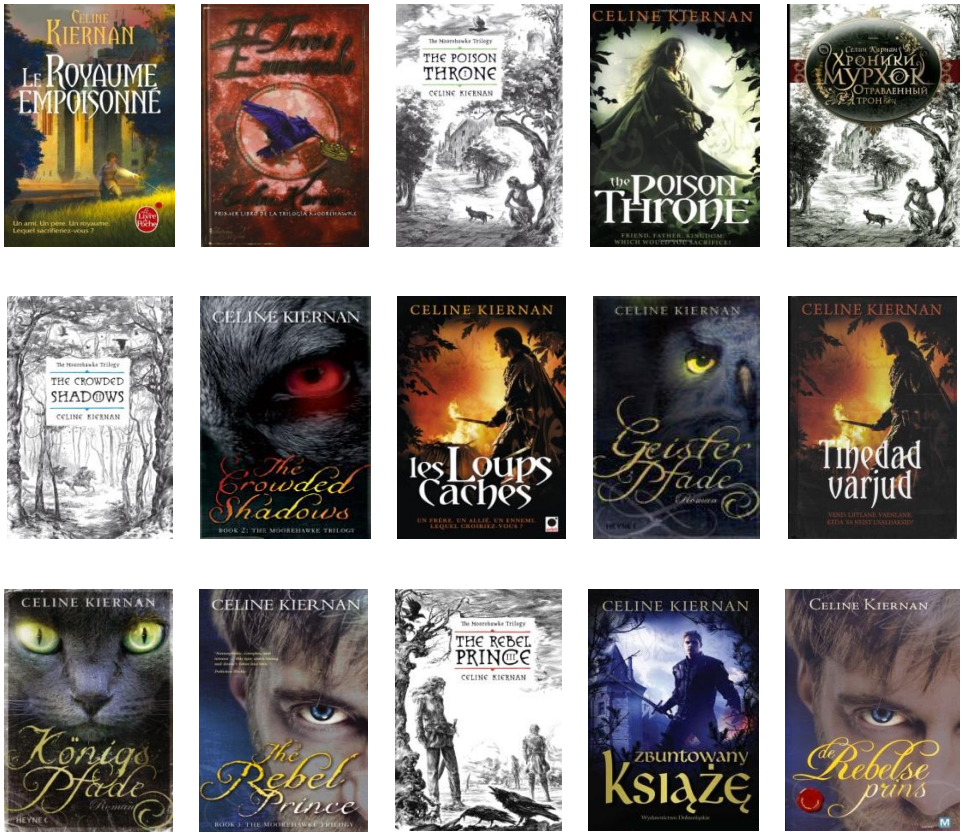
—Robert Dunbar

Celine Kiernan's *Moorehawke Trilogy* was published in Ireland by The O'Brien Press, in Australia by Allen & Unwin and in the UK and the USA by Little, Brown. It was translated into French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Russian, Polish, Estonian and Turkish.

The Poison Throne is the Winner of The Reading Association of Ireland Award, a finalist of The Irish Book Awards and one of the 250 outstanding new international books for children and young adults selected for The White Ravens 2009 by The International Youth Library in Munich. Her ghost story *Into the Grey* (*Taken Away* in Australia) is a winner of the prestigious Children's Books Ireland Award and Children's Choice Award 2012 and of The Reading Association of Ireland Award 2013.

Author's website: www.celinekiernan.com

INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS OF THE MOOREHAWKE TRILOGY



"This is fantasy at its best – a well-constructed savage world, vividly described action and an admirable heroine. The scope is vast and the battles bloody. The denouement is breathtaking."

— *Magpies* (Australia)

Rights sold: English: Ireland (The O'Brien Press); UK/USA (Little, Brown); AUS / NZ (Allen & Unwin); Spanish (Planeta); German (Heyne & Bertelsmann); French (Orbit France); Russian (Ripol Classic); Polish (Wydawnictwo Dolnoslaskie / Publicat); Dutch (Abimo/Marmer); Estonian (Tiritamm); Turkish (Kavis). Audio book (US): Brilliance Audio.

INTO THE GREY

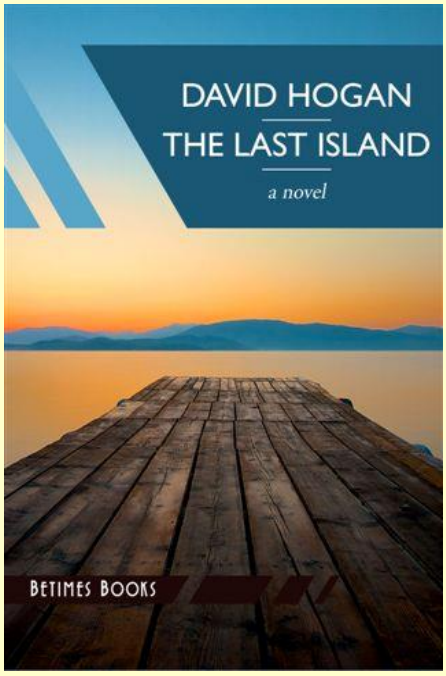
Winner the Children's Books Ireland & Children's Choice Awards 2012
Winner of the Reading Association of Ireland Award 2013

"Celine Kiernan's most impressive fiction to date. This is writing of an extremely high order, eloquent in its imagination and warm in its empathetic humanity. It evinces the author's understanding of what has been the subject of great literature since time immemorial, with what Wilfred Owen called 'the eternal reciprocity of tears'." **—Robert Dunbar**

Published in Ireland by The O'Brien Press, in Australia by Allen & Unwin, in the UK by Walker Books and in the US by Candlestick Press. Rights sold: Islandic.
Rights held: French & Russian. All other rights: The O'Brien Press at rights@obrien.ie

David Hogan
THE LAST ISLAND

Finalist of the San Diego Book Awards



Publisher: Betimes Books

Pub. date: October 2013

Format: e-book & trade paperback

Extent: 192 pages

Genre: Contemporary fiction

Rights held: World

The Last Island is a universal tale of escape, love and redemption.

A Boston fireman, in an attempt to flee personal and professional tragedy, accepts a job as a bartender on a Greek island. In an isolated cove, he meets Kerryn, an animal rights activist who believes dolphins possess consciousness, intelligence and souls.

Kerryn enjoys an extraordinary and personal relationship with a dolphin and is waging a covert war to stop the local fishermen from using illegal nets that not only deplete the sea of fish but also take dolphins' lives.

The fireman is pulled into this conflict as his relationship with Kerryn deepens. But Kerryn's passion and convictions lead her to make a fatal decision that changes the island and both their lives forever.

The novel's emotional landscape and its themes of environmentalism, animal rights, and the costs of capitalism make *The Last Island* both timely and timeless.

***

"The Last Island delivers smoothly an unforgettable experience you won't get anywhere else."

—TheReaderAndTheChef.blogspot.ie

"Hogan's adept storytelling makes us ponder our spiritual essence." ***—The Greek Star***

"A thought provoking bitter-sweet tale. A story of running from one's self, trying to find the better man that you just "know" is somewhere inside. A story of seeking refuge, trying to preserve a refuge, attempting to keep an old way of life that has survived for thousands of years. A story of belonging, finding ones place in this world, acceptance, being outcast, looking in from the outside. A war of conflict within the soul and with the modern world. Fighting inner demons, fighting demons from without. Trying to find a place of peace and balance. Learning to be, learning to need less."

—Reader's review

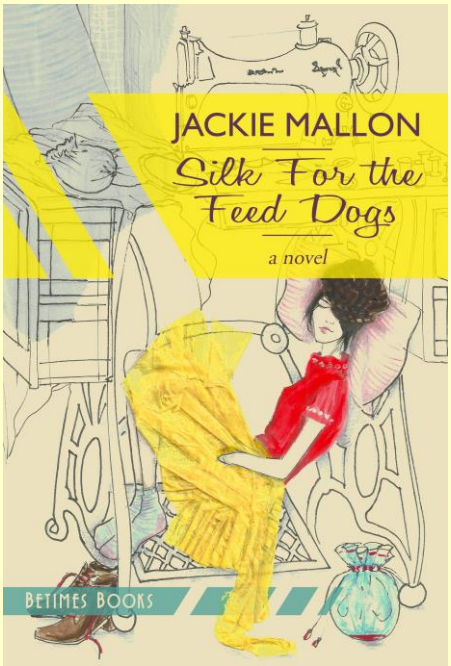
"I would compare the ambition and skill here to Barbara Kingsolver at her best. " **—Reader's review**

David Hogan is an acclaimed playwright whose works have been widely produced. Most recently, the NPI-award winning *Capital* was recommended by LA Weekly and *No Sit – No Stand – No Lie* opened the 'Resilience of the Spirit' Human Rights Festival in San Diego, California.

A dual citizen of the US and Ireland, David Hogan lived and worked in Greece for a number of years. He currently resides in Southern California where he is an avid surfer.

Author's blog: davidhoganwriter.com/

Jackie Mallon
SILK FOR THE FEED DOGS



Publisher: Betimes Books

Pub. date: September 2013

Format: e-book & trade paperback

Extent: 383 pages

Genre: Contemporary women's fiction

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Turkish (Nar Kitap, Marie-Claire group)

Some will do anything to see her fall… Kat Connelly, innovative designer and introspective daughter of an Irish farmer, is disappointed with her first job in fashion. She copies catwalk looks for a London *garmento* who is reliant on two things to survive: self-medication and cheap Chinese production.

Kat feels the lure of a higher aesthetic beckoning and escapes to Milan.

As Italy's imminent smoking ban looms darkly over the land, Kat's personal world lights up: design and beauty are all around, dazzling and seducing, not to mention the overwhelming Italian male libido. She has claimed her slice of the *bella vita* and with it a sense of belonging she has yearned for since childhood. Of course, the *bella vita* comes at a price.

When Kat is invited into the impenetrable House of Adriani to design their high-profile collection, she throws a cast-iron hierarchy into turmoil.

***

"Silk for the Feed Dogs is a stellar accomplishment – get it, read it, you won't regret the indulgence of silk against your skin."
—DisappearingInPlainSight.com

"The book is a must read for budding Fashion Designers as it gives a behind the scene glimpse into the real world of fashion, for Fashion Designers, who will relate to Jackie's words, trials tribulations and successes and for Fashion Lovers who seek a great read. ...Insightful, fun and full of 'ah that's what it would've been like' moments."
—TheLifeOfStuff.com

"The writing is sharp and humorous. Mallon is a very observant author and her heroine Kat negotiates her way through a world it's clear her creator knows a lot about. In particular the passages in Italy made me feel as if I were there myself, without having to get on the plane to go there." **—Susan Lanigan**

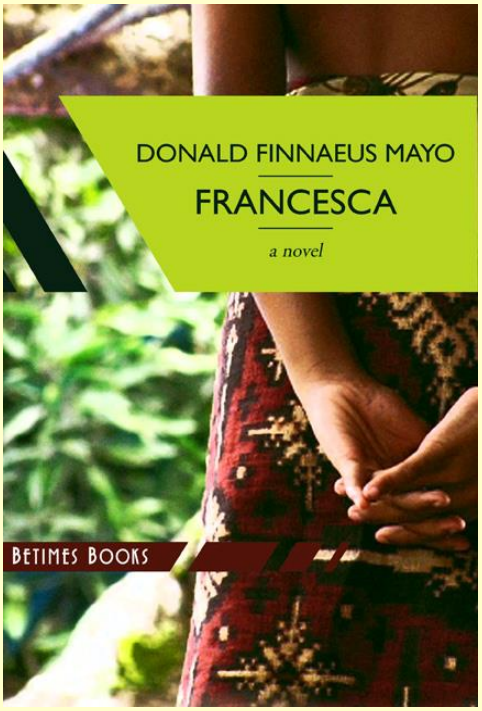
"Mallon writes out of the great Irish tradition of beautifully descriptive prose, which she wonderfully tailors to a modern, cosmopolitan world."

"Light and fun yet profound and intelligent", "clever and insightful", "refreshing", "witty", "highly enjoyable"… ***—Readers' reviews***

Jackie Mallon is an Irish writer and fashion designer currently living in New York. After studying at London's St Martins School, she worked in the world of high fashion in Milan for eight years, stockpiling stories for the novel she didn't know she was gearing up to write.

Author's blog: jackiemallon.com
Author's Pinterest page: http://pinterest.com/maljax1/

Donald Finneaus Mayo
FRANCESCA



Publisher: Betimes Books

Pub. date: November 2013

Format: e-book & trade paperback

Extent: 377 pages

Genre: Fiction

Rights held: World

It's December 1975 and seventeen-year-old Francesca is about to find out if that which does not kill her will make her strong. Caught in the crossfire of the Indonesian army's brutal invasion of East Timor, she escapes with her life and little else. Arriving on the shores of Indonesian Borneo, she finds herself thrust into an ersatz American small town carved out of the jungle by Constar Oil of Texas.

Interwoven in Francesca's journey are a cast of vividly drawn characters - the bored expat brat who befriends her, a divorced fundamentalist missionary bringing Christ to the jungle via Oklahoma, the inept son of a murdered socialist martyr, a former Vietnam War helicopter pilot, an amah who supplements her income turning tricks... Watching over them all is the menacing former Colonel Benny Surikano, Constar's Mr. Fixit to whom everyone turns when they need something.

Set against a backdrop of endemic political corruption, moral compromise and the pursuit of oil, *Francesca* is a passionate story of one woman's struggle against overwhelming odds to shape the country that nearly destroyed her.

***

"Perhaps reading it prior to going to bed is not advisable as one might end up staying up rather later than one intends and arrive at work blurry eyed the next day."

—Establishment Post, Singapore

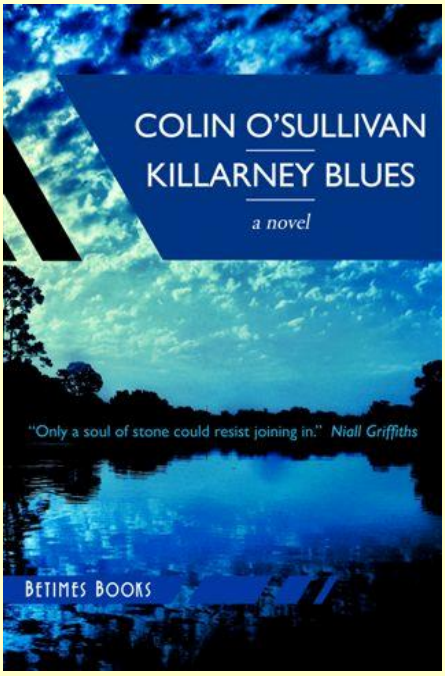
"A full-bodied tale of love and war set against the complex political and commercial landscape of Indonesia in the 70s. It's a moving and sensitively written story that draws you in from the start." **—Readers' reviews**

Donald Finnaeus Mayo was born in London and grew up in Australia and South East Asia, the backdrop for his novel, *Francesca*.

He was educated in England, where he graduated in Politics and Culture. At various times he has worked as a radio journalist for the BBC, a business writer for major corporations, and as a photographer. He currently lives in Hampshire with his wife and three children.

Author's blog: donaldfinnaeusmayo.wordpress.com

Colin O'Sullivan
KILLARNEY BLUES



Publisher: Betimes Books

Pub. date: November 2013

Format: e-book & trade paperback

Extent: 234 pages

Genre: Contemporary fiction

Rights held: World

Picturesque Killarney might seem the perfect place to enjoy the rare gift of sun but the town has got the blues. Bernard Dunphy, eccentric jarvey and guitarist, is pining for his unrequited love and has to contend with an ailing mother and an ailing horse.

His troubled friend Jack gets embroiled in a violent crime. A trio of girlfriends becomes entangled in the terrible webs of their own making. The novel fluctuates between darkness and light as the protagonists struggle with their inner demons.

Can friendship, love and music save their sinking souls?

***

"Colin O'Sullivan writes with a style and a swagger all his own. His voice - unique, strong, startlingly expressive - both comes from and adds to Ireland's long and lovely literary lineage. Like many of that island's sons and daughters, O'Sullivan sends language out on a gleeful spree, exuberant, defiant, ever-ready for a party. Only a soul of stone could resist joining in."

—Niall Griffiths

"His words swagger with purpose, never meandering too long on a scene, always moving the story forward, even when it goes back in time, like a faded photograph coming into view. Lyrical to a point, one word flowing to the next, hardly stopping."

—LoveSexAndOtherDirtyWords.com

"The language of the characters is as musical and as enjoyable as the blues backdrop for the story"; "…a wonderful read from a terrific talent"; "…a bittersweet story, infused with the blues and unrequited love"; "terrific insight, wonderful read"; "shocking and moving"; "takes the reader deep into the hardships of life".

—Readers' reviews

Colin O'Sullivan lives in the north of Japan and works as an English teacher.

His short fiction and poetry have been published in various print and online anthologies and magazines, including *A Living Word* (anthology of Irish writers), *Staple New Writing*, *The Stinging Fly*, *These are Our Lives* and *Cork Literary Review.*

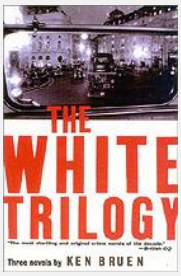
Author's blog: osullivancolin.wordpress.com

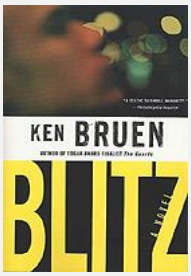
SELECTED BACKLIST

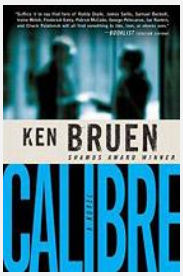
Ken Bruen

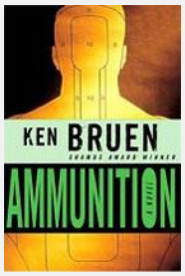
THE SERGEANT BRANT SERIES

"If you only know Bruen's work from the Taylor series, you're in for a treat. For Bruen is also the author of a police procedural series set in southeast London, featuring the amoral Sergeant Brant". —***Bookreporter***









MOVIE ADAPTATIONS

LONDON BOULEVARD - Film starring Colin Farrell and Kiera Knightley

BLITZ - Film starring Jason Statham

Rights held: World

Rights sold:

London Boulevard (The Do-Not Press, 2001.)**:** USA: St. Martin's Press, 2009, UK: Transworld (film tie-in), 2011; France (Fayard); Japan (Shinchosha); Spanish (Pamies); Russian (Ripol Classic); Polish (Gruner+Jahr Poland); Czech (Plejada); Chinese (Law Press); Turkish (Sel Publishing); German (Suhrkamp); Hebrew (Sela); Italian (Casini); Finnish (Arktinen Banaani); Korean (Sigongsa), Hungarian (Alexandra).

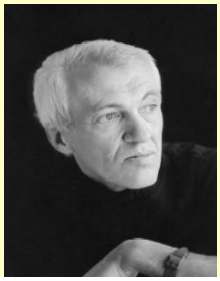
The White Trilogy (The Do-Not Press, 1998-2000): World Ex: USA/Canada (Justin, Charles & Co.); France (Gallimard); Russia (U-Factory); Japan (Hayakawa); Spain (Pamies); Turkey (Tünel).

Blitz (The Do-Not Press, 2002): World Ex: USA/Canada (St. Martin's Minotaur); UK (Transworld - movie tie-in); France (Gallimard); Russia (Ripol Classic); Italy (Casini); Israel (Sela Books).

Vixen (The Do-Not Press, 2003): World Ex: USA/Canada (St. Martin's Minotaur); France (Gallimard); Israel (Sela Books).

Calibre (St. Martin's Minotaur, 2006): World Ex: USA/Canada (St. Martin's Minotaur); France (Gallimard); Germany (Polar Verlag).

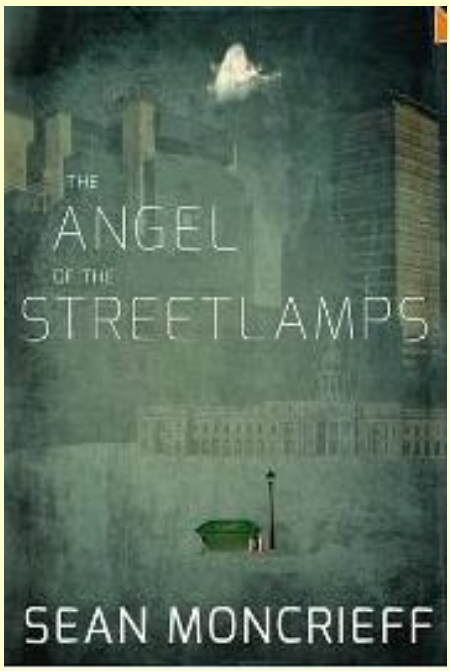
Ammunition (St. Martin's Minotaur, 2007): World Ex: USA/Canada (St. Martin's Minotaur); France.



Ken Bruen was born in Galway in 1951 and is the author of over thirty novels translated in twenty languages.
Ken Bruen has been a finalist for the Edgar, Anthony and Barry awards and he has won the Shamus Award and the Macavity Award.

"So many books are so much like so many other books that it's always a delight to encounter a writer with an utterly distinctive voice. The prize-winning Irish novelist Ken Bruen is such a writer. The words that best describe him, besides original, are outrageous and hilarious." **—Washington Post**

Sean Moncrieff
THE ANGEL OF THE STREETLAMPS



Publisher: New Island

Pub. date: 2012

Format: e-book & trade paperback

Extent: 352 pages

Genre: Contemporary fiction

Rights held: World ex. English UK & Ireland

Rights sold: Turkey (Tünel)

When Manda Ferguson falls out of an apartment window to her death, the story is on all the front pages. But then her death starts to have an effect on the living.

Baz: the man accused of killing her has to decide whether or not to turn himself in.

Maurice: the taxi driver who inadvertently helped Baz escape wrestles with whether he should mete out his own form of justice.

Rachel: the failing election candidate who has to choose between giving up or speaking her mind.

Michael: the priest who administered the last rites to Manda and who is finally forced to confront his true (dis)beliefs.

Carol: Manda's cousin. A tabloid reporter on the verge of losing her job who begins to discover some curious gaps in her memory…

But the effect travels even further than these five intersecting stories when claims are made that Manda's 'spirit' is appearing beneath lampposts. In an economically devastated Ireland, where people have lost faith in politics, in business or religion, each character strives to answer the question: when there's nothing left to believe in, what can we believe?

***

"There is mystery, death and love in *The Angel of the Streetlamps*; there are wolves and there are sheep. Seán Moncrieff presents us with a cacophony of genuine voices strutting their views on politics, religion and class wars. Moncrieff is a master of the vicious aside, the canny comment and the funny twist, and he brings insight and intelligence to this novel of a damaged, confused and all too recognisable 21st century Ireland."

—Nuala Ní Chonchúir, author of "Mother America"

"…The writing is snappy and stylish, and his dialogue is spot-on."

—The Irish Examiner

"It's thoughtful and dark, even cynical, in its dissection of how a single crime reverberates throughout Irish society."

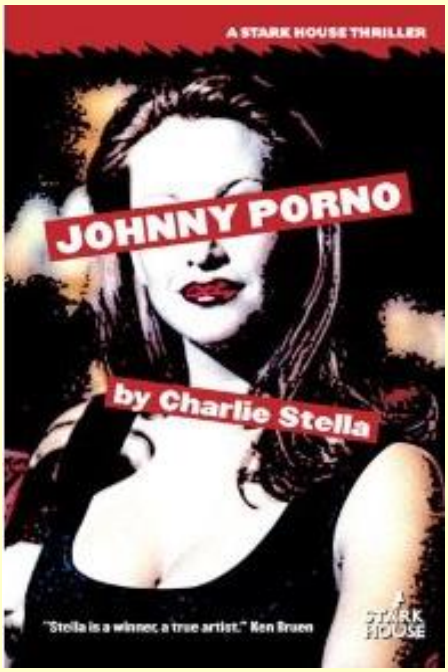
—The Irish Independent

"A riveting read." ***—Tatler***

Sean Moncrieff's first novel, *Dublin*, a needle-sharp, funny and scathing thriller, was published in May 2001 by Doubleday and reached the bestseller lists in Ireland. A non-fiction book, *Stark Raving Rulers: twenty minor despots of the twenty-first century*, was published in October 2004, followed by *God, A Users' Guide* in 2006. A second novel, *The History of Things*, was published in 2007.

Sean hosts *Moncrieff*, an award winning radio show every afternoon on Newstalk in Ireland, and works on a new non-fiction book, *The Irish*, commissioned by Gill & Macmillan (for publication in 2015).

Charlie Stella
JOHNNY PORNO



Publisher: Stark House Press

Pub. date: April 2010

Format: e-book & trade paperback

Extent: 340 pages

Genre: Crime fiction

Rights held: World, ex. English N/A
Rights sold: Polish, Spanish (Ediciones B, Mexico)

It's the summer of 1973. Disco is King and the New York mob is at the peak of its power.

John Albano, an out-of-work construction worker with child support and rent payments he can't keep up with, is driving for a local car service when his quick hands and honourable nature place him in the middle of a perfect storm of danger. He's just trying to make ends meet with a weekend stint counting heads and collecting the take at illegal screenings of the recently banned porno film, *Deep Throat*, for Mafioso Eddie Vento.

But a devious ex-wife, her more devious ex-husband, the wiseguys behind the film, and a host of cops snowball into an often humorous, sometimes violent, action-packed page turner loaded with the masterful dialogue that earned Charlie Stella six *starred* reviews.

***

"Don't be fooled by the title – it's just a gangster moniker. Elmore Leonard fans are going to love Stella's entirely original contribution to the slice-of-criminal-life genre, down-and-dirty division." ***—Booklist***

"Stella's vibrant seventh crime novel catches the cadence and daily grind of organized crime grunts… Stella tosses an eclectic cast of characters into the mix… admirers of Elmore Leonard and George V. Higgins will be happy." ***— Publishers Weekly***

"*Johnny Porno* is a terrific Nixon Era crime caper reminiscent of Elmore Leonard." ***—The Mystery Gazette***

"This has all the trappings of classic Stella – decent guys, wise guys of various standing in the mob, good/dirty cops, but most importantly, dialogue that makes you want to stand up and beg for more." ***—Men Reading Books***

"Stella is carving himself a niche in crime literature somewhere between the late Eugene Izzi's street noir and Elmore Leonard's ironic tragicomedies. Bottom line: it works."
—Booklist *Starred* Review

"Fresh, fast and darkly-funny." ***— Kirkus *Starred* Review***

Charlie Stella's first two novels, *Eddie's World* and *Jimmy Bench-Press*, received excellent reviews, establishing him as a new voice in the hard-boiled fiction market. His third novel, *Charlie Opera*, had the distinction of being selected as one of the Best of 2003 (Mystery) by *Publishers Weekly*.

Cheapskates earned him comparisons to such literary greats Elmore Leonard, Donald Westlake, and Mario Puzo. Spiked with rare authenticity and crackling dialogue, Stella's world is a kaleidoscope of danger, violence, humour, and sometimes love.

Author's page: http://charliestella.com

Foreign agents representing Author Rights Agency Ltd.

China: Big Apple Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.
Mr. Chris Lin
E-mail: ***chris-lin@bigapple1-taipei.com***
Taipei Office:
Tel: +886 2 822 872 11, ext: 202
Fax: +886 2 822 867 41

Balkan countries, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia: Prava i Prevodi
Ms. Tamara Vukicevic
E-mail: milena@pravaiprevodi.org
Tel: +381 11/ 3016141 & 3119880
Fax: +381 11/ 3119879

Germany: Liepman AG
Ms. Suzanne de Roche
E-mail: suzanne.deroche@liepmanagency.com
Tel: +41 44 261 76 60
Fax: +41 44 261 01 24

Israel: The Deborah Harris Agency
Ms. Rena Rosner
Email: rena@thedeborahharrisagency.com
Tel: +972 2 566 0568
Fax: +972 2 561 8711

Italy: Susanna Zevi Agenzia Letteraria
Ms. Susanna Zevi
E-mail: susanna.zevi@agenzia-zevi.it
Tel: +39 2 657 08 63
Fax: +39 2 657 09 15

France: L'Autre agence
Ms. Marie Lannurien
E-mail: contact@lautreagence.eu
Tel: +33 1 80502870

Japan: The English Agency
Mr. Atsushi Hori
E-mail: atsushi.hori@eaj.co.jp
Tel: +81 3 3406 5385
Fax: +81 3 3406 5387

Korea: Korea Copyright Center Inc. (KCC)
Ms. Kyung Kang
E-mail: khkang@kccseoul.com
Tel: +82 2 725 3350
Fax: +82 2 725 3612

The Netherlands: Sebes Literary Agency
Mr. Paul Sebes
E-mail: sebes@sebes.nl
Tel: +31 20 6160940
Fax: +31 20 6180843

Spain, Portugal & South America: Antonia Kerrigan Literary Agency
Ms. Antonia Kerrigan
E-mail: antonia@antoniakerrigan.com
Tel: +34 93 209 38 20

Turkey: Kalem Literary Agency Ltd.
Ms. Sedef İlgiç
E-mail: rights@kalemagency.com
Tel: +90 212 249 17 47
Fax: +90 212 245 44 19

ALL OTHER TERRITORIES:
Author Rights Agency Ltd.
Ms. Svetlana Pironko
E-mail: svetlana@authorrightsagency.com
Tel. +353 1 49 22 112