

Jenny Brown Associates Rights Guide
London Book Fair 2009

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***Borealis Race* by Kara Kellar Bell**

Category: Debut Fiction

Extent : 116,000 words

UK & Commonwealth: on submission

The Book

A sweeping, compelling narrative, brilliantly plotted, of dark family secrets which switches between Glasgow and Berlin, and between the 1920s and 30s and the present day.

Brief Description

Film historian Laura is writing a biography of the brilliant Barry family of Glasgow. All achieved fame in their day; sisters Christabel and Iris Stuart were gifted artists and contemporaries of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Christabel married pioneer film-maker Frank Barry, and their children were society photographer Alex, painter Rose, and Eva who became a celebrated silent movie star in 1920s Germany. Eva's career was tragically cut short when she was assassinated in a Berlin street, and her murderer never found.

Her research almost complete, Laura becomes increasingly fascinated by Eva, and tracks down her few remaining relatives and contemporaries to nursing homes. Through interviews, letters and diary entries, Laura is able to piece together much of Eva's final year, and, alongside the glamorous world of the movie industry, a disturbing and vivid portrait of Berlin society emerges, of jealousies, sexual intrigue, family disputes, and the rising power of Nazism. Her research leads her to a sinister French collector of Eva's films and memorabilia, and Laura realises that she has unwittingly allowed the collector access to all her contacts. Back in Glasgow she realises she's being followed, her phone is tapped and her flat broken into. Someone is trying to prevent her from completing her research. She travels to Berlin to interview a contemporary of Eva's who may hold the missing piece in the jigsaw. The truth about Eva's last year, and the mystery surrounding her death, is far stranger than Laura has bargained for, and she is left with the most difficult decision of her life.

The Author

The author is Kara Kellar Bell. She's in her early 40s, and is from Paisley. She studied Film and Media at Stirling University.

Second Lives and The Campaign by Clare Stephen

Second Lives

Category: Debut Fiction

Extent : 75,000

UK & Commonwealth: on submission

When successful businessman and philanthropist, Harry Melville, dies at the age of just forty-four, the lives of his twin brother, Ben, and wife, Sarah, are thrown into turmoil.

Harry seemed to have it all, a close-knit family and a happy marriage – as well as all the trappings of wealth. But as Harry recalls key moments in his past from the afterlife, a story emerges of the unspoken and bitter jealousies between the brothers and of an unhappy wife who cheated on her husband only to pay for her betrayal heavily after his death.

Yet, as Harry makes peace with his past, so his loved ones begin to embrace the future and their chance to start over.

The Campaign

Category: Fiction

Extent : tbc

UK & Commonwealth: on submission

When a General Election is called, leader of the opposition, Richard Williams, is ready for battle. Riding high in the polls, victory looks certain. As they head into the campaign, Richard ups the pressure on his actress wife, Anna, to put her career on hold and become the perfect first lady-in-waiting. But she quickly becomes a dead weight when a tabloid newspaper exposes her distant past as a high-class escort girl.

At the behest of his advisors, Richard announces a separation from Anna. But when the press and public become sympathetic to her plight, Richard soon finds himself begging his wife to return to his side. Playing his best hand, he reminds her that she has only a couple more years of childbearing age left ... and Anna is persuaded to return to the fold and a furious effort is launched to regain the public's trust.

The election is won, but shortly after entering Downing Street Anna has one last bombshell to drop ...

The Author

Clare Stephen is a 35-year-old journalist who lives in Edinburgh with her husband, stepdaughter and two young sons. After graduating with an MA degree from Glasgow University in 1993, she went on to complete a postgraduate diploma in journalism at Cardiff University. She has worked in the press for twelve years and, during her time as a features writer, her articles were published in both national and regional newspapers and magazines. A former Scottish Editor of the Press Association, she is currently an editorial director with the agency.

Random and Sewer by Craig Robertson

Random

Category: Crime fiction

Extent : 75,000

World English rights: Simon and Schuster (UK)

Pub date: April 2010

Glasgow has a new serial killer. A lawyer, a bookie, a check-out girl ... are all dispatched with meticulous planning and lethal efficiency. Police are mystified – there is nothing to connect the victims ... only the severed fingers posted to them by the murderer ...

The investigation seems to be going nowhere, but when a small time drug dealer becomes the latest of these seemingly random victims, the police find an unlikely ally in one of the city's most feared criminal overlords. He too is determined to track down the killer, and he's used to getting what he wants ...

A dark, intelligent and furiously compelling novel ... with a twist.

Sewer

Category: Crime fiction

Extent : tbc

World English rights: Simon and Schuster (UK)

Pub date: April 2011

A small-time drug dealer is murdered. It's a footnote in the newspapers - just another depressing statistic from the mean streets. No-one pays it much attention, no-one cares. But when there's a second murder - of one of Glasgow's leading drug lords – people start to pay attention. Police try to clamp down on the inevitable turf war that breaks out ... though few mourn the passing of this drug kingpin.

Then, on the other side of the city, another major supplier is murdered and it becomes apparent this is no tit-for-tat killing but that someone is taking out the untouchables. The police make the inevitable statements about not allowing such killings to go unpunished - how they won't stand for vigilantism on the city's streets - but the truth is they're not unhappy at seeing the demise of men they themselves could not stop.

When a third drug lord is killed, the unknown vigilante gains hero status in the media and everyone's morals are stretched to breaking point. Only one cop, detective sergeant John Craith, seems hell-bent on finding the killer. The question his fellow officers are asking is - why is he so determined?

Craig Robertson is a journalist with the *Sunday Post*. He lives in Glasgow. *Random* is his first novel.



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**Mr Rosenblum's List
Or Friendly Guidance for the Aspiring Englishman
by Natasha Solomons**

Category: Debut Fiction

Extent : 92,000

World rights: Sceptre

**Rights sold: Little, Brown (USA), Kindler Verlag (Germany), Sperling and Kupfer (Italy),
ViceVersa (Spain), Calmann-Levy (France)**

UK pub date: April 2010

The Book

A magical and quixotic literary debut that was the subject of a 7-way auction in the UK

Brief Description

At the outset of World War II, Jack and Sadie Rosenblum escape Berlin, bound for London. Disembarking in England, a pamphlet is placed in Jack's hands. Written by the British Jewish Aid Committee, it details how to act like 'the English'. Jack follows it to the letter ... it's his way to assimilate.

In time Jack begins to compile his own amendments and additions – his 'list'. An Englishman must get his suits hand made in Saville Row, he must drive a Bentley and he must become a member of a golf club.

But when Jack is rebuffed from every golf club in London he determines to build his own course. He moves an unwilling and depressive Sadie to rural Dorset and so begins a quixotic adventure ... amongst myths of woolly pigs, magical cider and the turning of the seasons.

The Author

Natasha Solomons is a 28-year-old screenwriter – working with her co-writer and husband, David Solomons. They have - in development with Material Entertainment (Producers of 'Run, Fatboy, Run) - an adaptation of Jane Austen's *Lady Susan*. She is also developing an original screenplay set in the world of ballet as well as a high school comedy with Synchronicity Pictures. She and David live in Dorset. This is her first novel.



Give And Take by Stona Fitch

Category : Fiction

Extent : 63,500 words

US/Canada: Thomas Dunne; UK/Commonwealth: Two Ravens Press

Pub date : Spring 2010

'The story brilliantly blends a page-turning plot with themes which make the reader consider their attitude to money, wealth and consumerism.'

Independent on Sunday

'...has an Elmore Leonard quality, slick and slightly nefarious characters sped along by lean prose.'

Los Angeles Times

The Book

A road novel about a jazz pianist who steals diamonds and BMWs, sells them, and then gives the money away.

Brief Description

"Yes, I steal. I make no apologies for it. Stealing is unimportant. But what you do with the money makes all the difference in the world."

Ross Clifton is a brilliant jazz pianist – and an even more talented thief. He steals millions of dollars in diamonds and BMWs and gives all the money away. But his life as a latter-day Robin Hood is about to come to an abrupt end. Fast, funny and felonious, *Give And Take* takes you on an economic shakedown cruise.

The Author

Stona Fitch lives with his family in Concord, Massachusetts. His novels have been published in the US, UK, France and Germany. His second novel, *Senseless*, has been praised for anticipating violent anti-globalization protests, online hostages, and other political developments. *Give+Take* is his third novel, originally published by Concord Free Press in a limited edition of 1500 copies which were all given away entirely free! This has earned him the nickname 'the Robin Hood of Publishing', inspiring coverage in the LA Times and The Bookseller which in turn led to Thomas Dunne buying rights for a forthcoming hardcover edition, with Two Ravens to publish in the UK.



***The Secret Mandarin* by Sara Sheridan**

Category : Historical fiction

Extent: 115,000 words

UK/Commonwealth: Avon HarperCollins

Pub date : October 2009

The Book

A sweeping tale of drama, passion and espionage set in China at time of Opium Wars.

Brief Description

Actress Mary Penney disgraces her respectable relations when she becomes pregnant. Her family's attempts to pack her off to India for a new life are thwarted when she fails to board her ship. Desperate to remove her from English society, Mary's brother in law forces her to accompany him on his voyage to China, outwardly a botanical expedition but Robert is also working as a spy for the East India Company. On board he refuses to speak to her for the first month, and Mary is left alone to come to terms with her plight. The mission is difficult and dangerous - the novel is set at the time of the first Opium War, the British are regarded as enemies, and the export of tea bushes banned. Robert and Mary disguise themselves as a mandarin and man-servant, and Mary's eyes are opened by the journey- she learns about plants, becomes fluent in Cantonese, empathises with the plight of Chinese peasants, and revels in the freedom afforded by her male identity. As the voyage continues into remote territory, so Robert and Mary's relationship changes from antipathy to respect, and from friendship to love.

The Author

Sara Sheridan has based the adventure on the historical figure of plant collector Robert Fortune who did travel to the Far East, but the story is fiction. Sara's books include *Truth or Dare* (Arrow) 1998 ; *Ma Polinski's Pockets* (Arrow) 1999 and *The Pleasure Express* (Arrow) 2001. She has also ghost written for Mia Dolan and Judy Westwater (Harper Element). She lives in Edinburgh and is now working on her second historical novel, *The Arabian Knight*, to be published by Avon in 2010.

Joseph's Box by Suhayl Saadi

Category : Fiction

Extent : 263,000 words

UK & Commonwealth : Two Ravens Press

Pub Date : July 2009

The Book

Drawing on a wide framework of cultural and spiritual reference, this is an extraordinary and ambitious novel with a visceral sensuality and subtle touches of magical realism, in the vein of Okri, Murakami and Pamuk.

Brief Description

Recently-bereaved Zuleikha MacBeth wades into the River Clyde one morning and recovers a large box, with which she becomes obsessed. The discovery of the box brings her together with Alex, a lute-playing clerk, and they manage to open the box – only to find six further boxes inside which they can only open once they have followed cryptic clues.

The clues lead Zulie and Alex on a physical and emotional journey modulated through music across Glasgow, Argyllshire, Lincolnshire, Sicily, Lahore, and finally the frozen peaks of the 'Roof of the World'. Zulie, a troubled doctor, finds herself sucked into the vortex of the terminally ill Archie MacPherson, an ambivalent, visionary ex-WW2 airman and Glasgow shipyard worker. In the manner of a lord of misrule, Archie's dying consciousness begins to shape and ultimately define Zuleikha and Alex's quest as they progress through the seven Sufi stations of sacrifice, truth, power, obedience, life, memory and beauty.

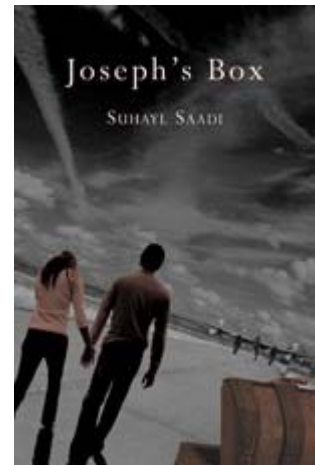
The Author

Suhayl Saadi is a fiction writer and playwright who lives in Glasgow. His first book was a collection of stories, *BURNING MIRROR* (Polygon). *PSYCHORAAG* (2004, Black & White) was shortlisted for the James Tait Black Award and widely reviewed:

'An enchanting and colourful novel that combines magical realism with the gritty reality of Glasgow's urban scene' New Statesman, Books of the Year

'One of the most original and powerful novels to come out of Scotland for years' The List 100 Best Scottish Books

In 2008 his opera libretto was performed in Scotland and at Riverside Studios London as part of Scottish Opera's 5:15 series (other libretti were by Alexander McCall Smith and Ian Rankin).



Hogdoggin' by Anthony Neil Smith

Category : Crime Fiction

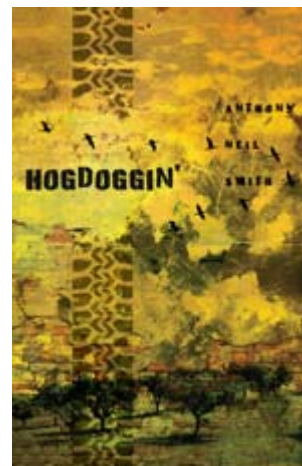
Extent : 320 pages

North American English language and French rights: Bleak House Books

US pub date : June 2009

'If you can picture the intellectual and physical mayhem that might have resulted from a Jim Thompson and Harry Crews collaboration, you'd be on the right track. But Anthony Neil Smith is his own writer—and a very fine one, indeed.'

Booklist



The Book

A special agent obsessed with bringing in former Deputy Billy Lafitte, biker and traitor.

Brief Description

Former Deputy Billy Lafitte is a no-good, crap-for-brains, despicable and dangerous traitor — Special Agent Franklin Rome is sure of it. So sure, in fact, that he's willing to investigate outside departmental bounds. Willing to blackmail and bribe his fellow lawmen into helping him. Willing to ferret Lafitte out of whatever snake-hole he's hidden himself in, and do what the too-lax government wouldn't let him do back in Yellow Medicine county, just months ago...

And Rome's plan is working. Squeeze a man's ex-wife, especially an ex-wife as unstable as Ginny Lafitte, and watch her overprotective man appear from thin air to stand by his family. No matter that Rome's had to bend a few rules in order to make it happen; Billy's end will justify Rome's means.

Of course, Rome didn't count on Billy riding in to save the day on a turquoise motorcycle — with a beard, fifty extra pounds of muscle, and the weight of a man named Steel God at his back. Nor did he think Billy would go and get himself caught up with paint-huffing, knife-wielding rednecks. And Rome certainly never predicted that a broken-hearted, vengeful woman named Colleen would be just as hot for Lafitte's blood as he is ...

The Author

Anthony Neil Smith is the editor of *PLOTS WITH GUNS: A NOIR ANTHOLOGY* (Dennis McMillan, 2005), and author of three previous novels, *PSYCHOSOMATIC* (PointBlank Press, 2005), *THE DRUMMER* (Two-Dollar Radio, 2006), and *YELLOW MEDICINE* (Bleak House, 2008).

Backlist:

Yellow Medicine (crime fiction): Bleak House Books (US and France)

The Drummer (crime fiction): Two-Dollar Radio (US)

Psychosomatic (crime fiction): PointBlank Press (US); Hårnqvists Bokförlag (Sweden)

Broken Hearts by Grace Monroe

Category : Crime Fiction/series/female protagonist

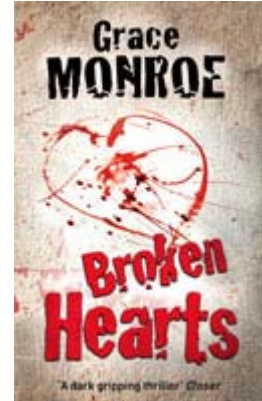
Extent : 94,000 words

English language : Avon, HarperCollins

Pub date : June 2009

'a thrilling crime protagonist with star potential' Daily Record

'This is a shocking thriller and I couldn't put it down. Dan Brown fans looking for something more hardcore will love this'. Closer Magazine



The Book

Cross your heart and hope to live! Fourth in the new fast-paced Edinburgh-based crime series featuring feisty young lawyer Brodie McLennan

Brief Description

In Edinburgh a man's corpse is found with an overdose of heroin and missing his heart. The murder and its expertly removed organ allows reporters and police to resurrect the name of one of the country's most renowned killers – Romeo. 20 years ago, this twisted modus operandus was identical to that performed by Brendan Fallon and Renee Richardson, two ten year olds found guilty of kidnap, murder and mutilation. But having served their time, the killers were released under new identities and the case was put to rest. Until now.

Are the Romeo killings beginning again? Is a copycat on the loose? The authorities hope so - otherwise the evidence points to a cataclysmic error in judgment two decades before.

Defence lawyer Brodie McLennan is drawn into the investigation when she is hired to defend Dr Graham Marshall, one of the city's richest men, who claims to be being blackmailed and wrongly identified as the Romeo killer. Who would be trying to frame such a man, and what is their motive? Brodie soon becomes trapped in a case where dangerous secrets from the past mean that nothing, and nobody, can be taken at face value. Ultimately, she must risk everything she has to defend a client who may be a victim . . . or a monster.

The Author

Grace Monroe is the pseudonym for writing partnership Linda Watson-Brown and Maria Thomson. Linda is an established writer of non-fiction, and Maria is a former lawyer. Both live in Scotland.

Forthcoming

Broken Hearts is the second in a four book series signed by Avon. Dark Angels was published November 2007, Blood Lines in May 2008 and The Watcher in October 2008.

Vanessa and Virginia by Susan Sellers

Category : Literary Fiction

UK & Commonwealth : Two Ravens Press

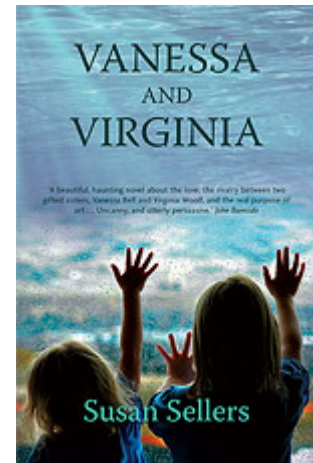
US & Canada : Harcourt, May 2009

Sweden: Ordfront

Russia: Fluid Publishing House

Korea: Image Box

Extent : 61,000 words



The Book

A beautifully written, haunting debut novel about the lifelong rivalry and interdependence of sisters Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell.

*Discover pick by Barnes&Noble in US for summer 2009

*Author appearing at literary festivals throughout UK

'A delectable little book' Publishers Weekly

"A fascinating, compelling novel written with authority and tenderness." Susan Vreeland

Brief Description

In a gloomy house in Hyde Park Gate two young girls are raised to be perfect ladies. But from the beginning Vanessa Bell and her sister Virginia Woolf pursue different dreams, and in their Bloomsbury household they create a ferment of free thinking and freer living. Devoted to each other, yet fiercely competitive, both sisters fight to realise their artistic vision amidst a chaos of desire, scandal, illness and war. Traced with lyrical intensity, their entangled lives gradually reveal an underlying pattern. An expert on Woolf's life and work, Susan Sellers is inspired by Woolf's own brilliant narrative technique – a sensuous, impressionistic, interior voice – to inhabit the mind of an artist at work, and recreate the tale of two sisters as Vanessa might have told it.

Vanessa and Virginia is a chronicle of love and revenge, madness, genius, and the compulsion to create beauty in the face of relentless difficulty and deep grief.

The Author

A Professor of English and Related Literature at the University of St Andrews, Susan has written books on myth, literary and feminist theory and women's fiction. In 2002 she won the Canongate Prize for New Writing, and is currently the holder of a 'New Writing Partnership Escalator Talent Award' and an Arts Council 'Grant for the Arts'. She is currently working on her second, set in the London art world. She lives near Cambridge with her husband, a composer, and their young son.



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Give a Boy a Gun by Alistair Little

Category : Non-fiction/politics

Extent : 94,000 words

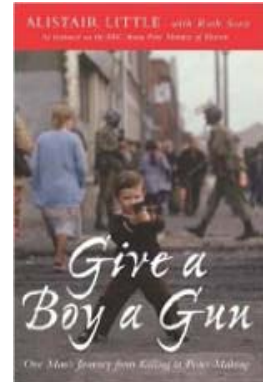
UK & Commonwealth : Darton Longman Todd

Pub Date : April 2009

The Book

Give a Boy a Gun is the powerful story of Alistair Little, a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force who, aged seventeen, murdered a man.

***Alistair's life and that of Joe Griffin, brother of the murdered man form the basis of the award-winning major BBC drama, *Five Minutes of Heaven*, starring Liam Neeson and James Nesbitt.**



Brief Description

'What turns an ordinary boy growing up in a loving family into a man of violence, and then what helps him turn his back on bloodshed?'

This is not just a book about Northern Ireland. The horrors of Alistair's youth are shared by hundreds of young men caught up in situations of conflict across the world. In retelling his story, he explores the factors that turn a boy brought up in a stable loving family into a terrorist, and then transforms his violence into a deep desire for reconciliation.

Too young to receive a life sentence, Alistair served a 13-year prison sentence in Long Kesh and H-blocks. Once released, he began the slow and painful process that turned him away from terrorism to work internationally with victims and perpetrators in the field of conflict transformation and restorative justice.

The Author

Alistair Little is now involved with the reconciliation movement, and has shared a platform with the Dalai Lama.



Glasgow Kiss by Alex Gray

Category : Crime Fiction (sixth in series)

Pub date : April 2009

English Language World Volume rights : Little, Brown

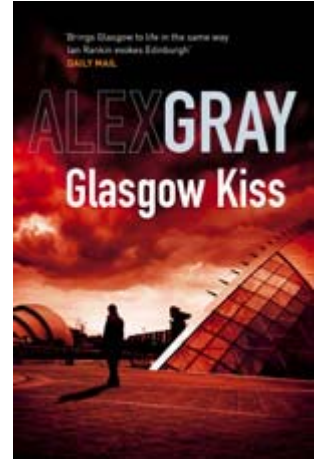
Germany : Heyne (Diana Verlag)

'Gray gets better by the book' Marcel Berlins, The Times

'An artfully constructed psychological mystery' Daily Mail

'A compelling read' Daily Mirror

'This is a golden age for Scottish crime writing and Gray more than holds her own against the likes of Rankin and McDerimid.' Daily Express



The Book Featuring the most dynamic new Scottish detective since Rebus, Glasgow Kiss is a page-turning thriller steeped in the history and atmosphere of Glasgow.

Brief Description

Eric Chalmers is one of the most popular teachers at Muirpark Secondary School in Glasgow. So when precocious teenager Julie Donaldson accuses Chalmers of rape, the school goes into shock. How could a deeply religious family man like Chalmers do anything like that? With some students and teachers supporting Julie, and others standing by Chalmers, life at Muirpark is far from harmonious. And then things get much worse-Julie Donaldson goes missing, and the police are called in. For DCI Lorimer, this is the second missing persons case in a week. A toddler has been missing for several days -and with each day, the likelihood of being found alive diminishes. With hope fading, it becomes a breakneck race against time to find both missing girls- and to find out whether gentle Eric Chalmers really did rape Julie...

The Author Alex Gray was born and educated in Glasgow. She has worked as a folk singer and an English teacher. She has been awarded the Scottish Association of Writers Constable and Pitlochry trophies for her crime writing. Her first crime novel Never Somewhere Else was a bestseller on publication in 2002.

Forthcoming

Little, Brown has signed up a title for 2010

Backlist

Never Somewhere Else (Canongate 2002), **A Small Weeping** and **Shadows of Sounds** (Allison & Busby), **The Riverman** and **Pitch Black** (both Little, Brown)



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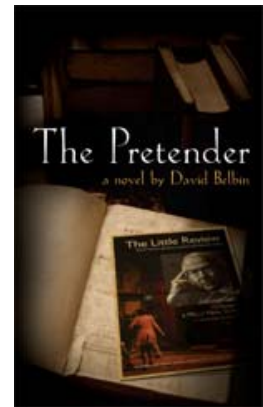
The Pretender by David Belbin

Category : Fiction

Extent : 224 pages

UK & Commonwealth : Five Leaves Publications

Pub Date : November 2008



The Book

The Pretender is a first-person account of the late teenage years of an accidental literary forger.

A gripping writerly thriller ... pacy and smart—Jackie Kay

Brief Description

From an early age, Mark Trace shows a remarkable talent for literary forgery. A gap year in Paris sees his skill exploited by an unscrupulous manuscript dealer. Hurrying home, Mark fetches up in London, working at one of the UK's oldest literary magazines. That's when the trouble really starts. Hemingway and Graham Greene are only the beginning. What starts as a prank soon becomes deadly serious. In this literary thriller David Belbin writes about originality, desire and literary ambition in the voice of a character with the capacity to deceive everyone, including himself.

The Author

David Belbin has published numerous short stories in literary magazines and anthologies. He works part time as programme leader of the MA in Creative Writing at Nottingham Trent University and is an experienced speaker in public, on radio and TV. He edited a crime short stories anthology, 'City Of Crime' (Five Leaves), wrote a best selling guide to eBay.co.uk ('The eBay Book', Harriman House) and now edits the Crime Express series of novellas for Five Leaves. He is best known for his many novels and short stories for Young Adults, including 'Denial', 'Festival' and 'Love Lessons'. In the 90's, he wrote a string of twenty crime novels, from 'Shoot The Teacher' to 'Dead Guilty' including a twelve novel sequence about young police officers, The Beat, for Scholastic, making him the company's best selling UK author. He has a lively blog (and bibliography) at

<http://www.davidbelbin.com>

See also http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Belbin for full biographical details.

