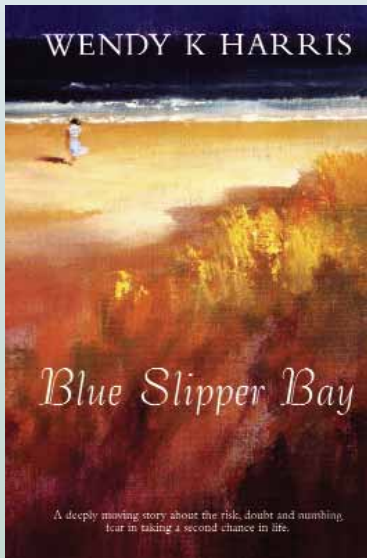




transita
Contemporary women's fiction
Spring/Summer 2007



A deeply moving story about the risk, doubt and numbing fear in taking a second chance in life.

Blue Slipper Bay

Wendy K Harris

'My advice is to gather together every shred of self-worth that you can summon, plus all your memories that make you feel good. Hold onto them like mad and fashion a new life for yourself doing what you want.'
She tapped Sophie's arm again.
'Ditch the rest; it's not worth the headspace. And don't try to see too far into the future either. Do what's right for you now.'

£7.99 · 342 pages · 978 1 905175 33 8
June 2007

Sophie, bereft after the loss of her mother and her husband's betrayal, walks out of her demanding profession and her home. She seeks refuge with her friend, Jill, on the Isle of Wight, not suspecting she is about to be drawn into another crisis.

Jill, a psychologist, is as obsessive and compulsive as the clients she treats and has her own complex reasons for persuading Sophie to stay.

Over the cliffs at Blue Slipper Bay, Nick lives in a beach hut, challenged by the sea. A seeker of truth, walled in by his own guilt and grief, he finds solace in resurrecting the forgotten gardens of Wraith Cove Hotel.

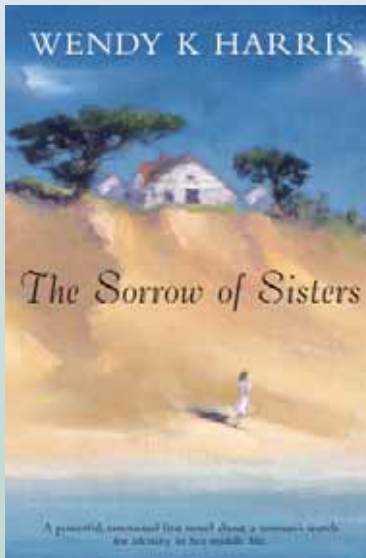
Sophie, Jill and Nick all need to make peace with their past before they can risk taking a second chance with the future.

Praise for Wendy's first novel, *The Sorrow of Sisters*:

This is a profoundly moving book. The Woman Writer

'The author writes beautifully of the delicate ghost like quality of the island, together with acute observation of internal emotion. It's written with skill, change of pace and mood. The individual voices of her characters carry an exciting plot which makes for compulsive reading.' Caroline Hunt. Theatre Director.

Also by Wendy K Harris



The Sorrow of Sisters

'A compelling read, The Sorrow of Sisters tells the seemingly disparate stories of Jane and Lillian, and of how ultimately they weave into one.'

£7.99 · 384 pages · 1 905175 26 4 · 2006

Forty nine year old Jane sits in her comfortable, glass-walled designer home, tapping out lucrative novels. But the bequest of a cottage on the wild southern shore of the Isle of Wight by a woman unknown to her is about to shift the whole equilibrium of her life and relationships.

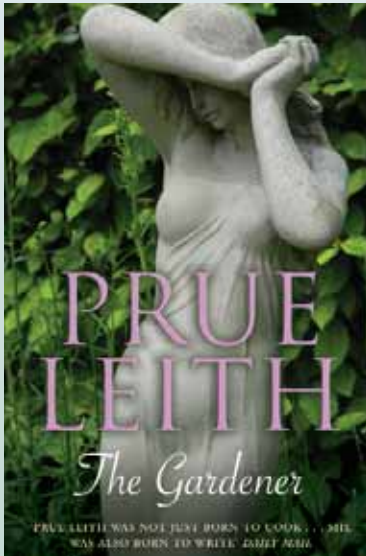
'This is the best book I've read for a very, very long time – Maybe one of the best books EVER. I haven't felt that way for a book since I started to read classics ages ago, and found out how wonderful the world of reading was. I loved your book and I am going to carry it in my heart forever. Some books mean something special for you – and as I read so many books in my profession it was magical to find this gem in the book flood.' Sara Hemmel. Fiction Editor of Swedish weekly family magazine.

'This book reminds me of a cross between Wuthering Heights and the fiction of Sarah Waters. It has all the intensity of Brontës's work coupled with the gorgeous prose and deep humanism of Sarah Waters.' Lisa Guidarini. Reviewer. Chicago, Illinois, USA

'Be warned: this is a page-turner and once started you won't want to put it down. I have enjoyed Wendy K Harris's first novel so much – a story of a woman's quest for her roots – that I have booked a break on the Isle of Wight to enable me to visit some of the places mentioned in the book!' Margaret Powling. Feature writer and reviewer.

'A powerfully moving love story ... a thumping good read.' The Bluestalking Reader

'The main characters are so well written that they stay with you long after you have finished the book. This is a wonderful first novel by Wendy Harris, and I hope she goes on to write many more.' Jan Wright. Short Story Writer.



The Gardener

Prue Leith

'Under the bracken, under the soil, under the forest, under the water, the garden's history is there. It needs an ardent lover to find it.'

£7.99 · 396 pages · 978 1 905175 345
August 2007



A modern day Lady Chatterley, only this time the occupant of the big house is a dot.com billionaire with little education and no sophistication, while his gardener is everything he is not.

Lotte is in unfamiliar territory. After a painful divorce and a great deal of soul-searching, she's abandoned her successful career as an architect for a degree in Garden History, and uprooted her three children to take a job as Head Gardener to millionaire Brody Keegan.

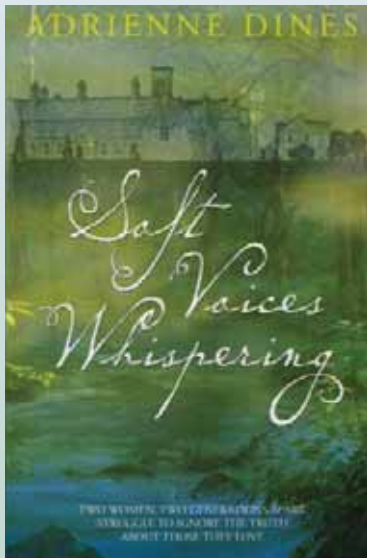
Brody is as ignorant about gardens as Lotte is knowledgeable, his tastes as loud as hers are quiet. The things they have in common are a passion for Maddon Park and a determination to get their own way.

As Lotte locks horns with her boss and his spoilt young wife, she finds herself on an emotional rollercoaster. She knows what is right for the garden, but – still raw from divorce, anxious about the children and frightened of entanglement – she has no idea what is right for *her*.

Praise for *Sisters* and *Leaving Patrick*:

'Leith writes conscientiously with intelligence and wit. A very likeable romantic read.' Daily Mail

'A highly enjoyable, well-plotted tale about love and infidelity.'
Good Housekeeping



Soft Voices Whispering

Adrienne Dines

€7.99 · 384 pages · 1 905175 29 9 · 2006

'A natural born storyteller.'

The Kilkenny Voice



Two women, two generations apart, struggle to ignore the truth about those they love.

When Eleanor Morrissey leaves Kildoran on a dark September night in 1930, nobody is sorry to see her go and nobody expects to see her return. As far as the villagers are concerned the Morrisseys have been shamed out of town forever. Fifty years later, some visitors attend the funeral of the convent's Mother Superior.

When the funeral is over, one woman stays behind. Until she is free to leave again, she must struggle to understand her legacy – a legacy of voices. Threatening, angry, accusing voices that only she can hear, because they are soft voices. Whispering.

'Soft Voices Whispering will appeal to anyone who can't wait till the next Maeve Binchy novel comes along ... an absorbing and enjoyable read. Adrienne Dines is a name to watch out for in the future.' RTE.ie

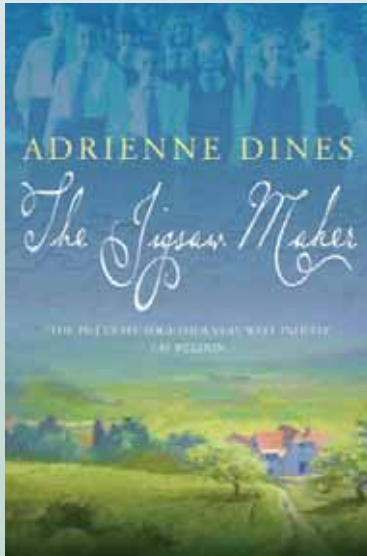
'This is a compelling tale of two women, two generations apart who struggle to ignore the truth about those they love and third novel from Adrienne who has been hailed as 'Ireland's new Maeve Binchy.' Booktime

'Soft voices whispering is a well-paced, multi-layered story ... strongly reminiscent of Maeve Binchy's earlier work.' Books Ireland

'Well and intricately plotted, as is a trademark of her writing (how does she manage to keep it all under control?). I can't really say more without giving away the plot but it was excellent and powerful and I can't wait for the next one!' Lizzybee BX

'Another compelling read from Adrienne Dines ... a meticulously plotted set-up for what becomes a complex family drama set in rural Ireland. Hard to put down and impossible to forget, this is a book with a big heart.' Amazon Review 5*

Also by Adrienne Dines



The Jigsaw Maker

£7.99 · 320 pages · 1 905175 23 X · 2006

When stranger Jim Nealon walks into Lizzie Flynn's shop and proposes that she help him make his beautiful jigsaws, Lizzie agrees. It's a project that she can fit into her humdrum life without making too many changes. She's about to turn fifty – she could do with a distraction.

Then Jim shows her the photographs he intends to use. Now the settled picture that was Lizzie's life is in the air, falling in a thousand different pieces. As she scrambles to put her life back together again, Lizzie is startled to realise that it can't be done. It was never a whole picture anyway. Too many of the pieces didn't fit. And one piece is missing.

'A brilliant follow up to Adrienne Dines' debut Toppling Miss April ... Well plotted and very enjoyable.' Lovereading.co.uk

'This seemingly light novel has a dark underbelly - a complex tale of secrets and lies.' Irish Examiner

Topping Miss April

'Toppling Miss April is a mélange of hilarious misunderstandings and risqué innuendo, which makes it a pleasure to read.' Ireland on Sunday

'An outrageous tale – a ridiculous riot!' Irish Independent

'At last – a REAL book for real women who've lived long enough to know that love is never perfect.' Sharon Kendrick

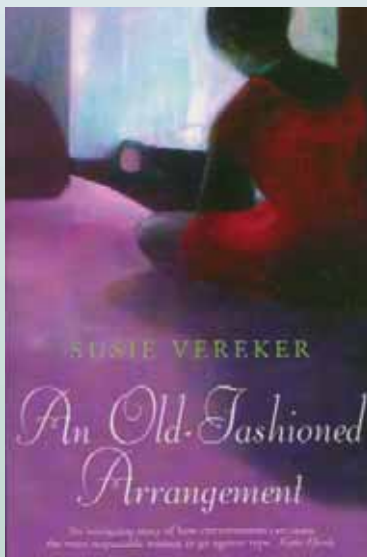
'A good rollicking funny read with enough twists and turns to satisfy the most demanding reader with the small details beautifully observed.' Lizzybee BX

'A Raucous Irish Comedy - that's what this novel is all about. The innuendo, the farce, the spicy and sensual humour hit out at you on every page.'

Amazon Reviews 5*



£7.99 · 1 905175 12 4 · 2005 · 1 905175 12 4



An Old Fashioned Arrangement

Susie Vereker

£7.99 · 320 pages · 1 905175 28 0 · 2006



Set in Geneva, a rich and gripping story of love and relationships, nicely seasoned with a touch of suspense.

Kim is suddenly adrift in an expensive foreign city with a child to support. She's been trailing dutifully around the world with her unreliable husband Richard, ex army officer turned international businessman, but early one morning he is reported killed in a plane crash in the Indonesian jungle. His shady employers insist she must leave the company-rented house within a month and, with no home in England, she finds herself destitute. Then wicked old Henri makes a practical proposition. What would you do if you were Kim? How would you cope with the extraordinary dilemmas she faces?

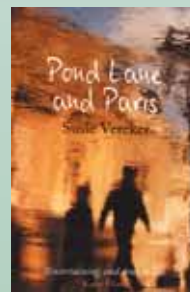
'The novel is a rich and gripping story of love and relationships, spiced with just a touch of suspense' Hampshire Life

'We were hooked by this intriguing suspense novel set in Geneva.' Bella

'A story of relationships and finding love, with convincing and very likeable characters. Vereker writes in an easy-to-read and humorous style.' France Magazine

Pond Lane and Paris Susie Vereker

Widow Laura Brooke finds a job with sophisticated ambassador Oliver Farrington in Paris. But can she cope with her demanding employer and a new culture after her solitary celibate life?

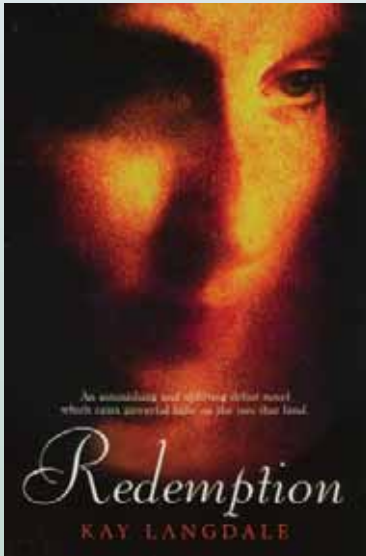


Longlisted for the RNA/Foster Grant Award 2006

'This is a hugely entertaining book by a gifted storyteller with exceptional perception. An absolute must!' Carousel Magazine

'I love it. The writing is fresh, the characters believable and interesting.' Eileen Ramsey

£7.99 · 320 pages · 1 905175 06 X



Redemption

Kay Langdale

£7.99 · 320 pages · 1 905175 30 2 · 2006



'An astonishing and uplifting debut novel which casts powerful light on the ties that bind.'

An unusually moving and compulsive novel which looks at love and marriage: six women, six different but interconnected relationships.

Sarah, stifled by the twin pressures of family and work, may just succumb to temptation; Kate, a romantic at heart, is tormented by the loss of love; Isobel, ever faithful to her husband, yet accepts - perhaps implicitly encourages - infidelity; Martha, whose glorious affair in her 50s is the defining moment of her life; Sheila, in an unconventional marriage, resigned to chastity, yet the most generous of spirit; and Judith, whose past demons need to be laid to rest before she can live life truthfully.

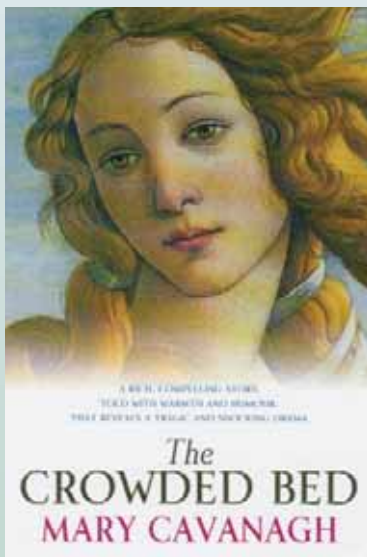
By candidly exploring their lives, each character must confront some uncomfortable realities: their subsequent honesty will determine whether this leads to despair or to mutual acceptance, collective grace and, ultimately, joy.

'Langdale's affecting first novel celebrates, frankly and subtly, the checks and balances of marital life.' The Sunday Times

'Langdale's accomplished debut takes marriage, motherhood, loyalty and duty and considers them in a fresh light. The sensitivity with which the author describes her characters' innermost thoughts is one of the things that makes this book worth reading.' The Times

'Langdale's work derives its greatest strength from the confluence of an elegant, adept use of language and a singularly insightful evocation of the mature female psyche.' hercircleezine.com

'Your novel Redemption is a most remarkable description and analysis of different emotional states, written with truly exceptional sensitivity and awareness.' Alan Bullock



The Crowded Bed

Mary Cavanagh

£7.99 · 320 pages · 978 1 905175 31 4 · 2007



'A rich, compelling story, told with warmth and humour, that reveals a tragic and shocking drama.'

Joe Fortune, a Jewish GP, has been married to Anna, his Aryan beauty, for twenty years, in a relationship that is sustained with great passion and happiness. But in the shadows of their lives, dark secrets are hidden. Joe has long nurtured a desire to murder Gordon, Anna's father; a motive born of past events and involving revenge, mutual hatred, and Gordon's deep prejudice for Joe's Judaism.

Anna too is hiding deep, painful secrets. In a highly charged exposé the reader is led back and forth over the changing face of the last half century to discover love, lies, passion, religion, cruelty and violence. While the powerful Joe is revealed as angry and resentful, Anna's quiet dignity discloses her own extraordinary and shocking revelations.

'If you're squeamish, look away now.' This funny and dramatic first novel about the darkest of family secrets begins with Joe Fortune, a charismatic Jewish doctor, killing his father-in-law. Joe has good reasons for wanting Gordon dead – better reasons than your average murderer. The sanity of his adored wife, Anna, a fragile Botticelli blonde, may depend on it. Meanwhile, Joe must decide exactly how Jewish he wants to be. It is a tall story, but is told so artfully that there are genuine surprises.' The Times

'Using the phrase 'a darn good read' always seems a somewhat dismissive way to describe a book, and yet it IS a darn good read, in fact, a great read and deserves to sell lots of copies. And if you want to know if Joe did murder his father-in-law and, if he did, whether he got away with it well, you will just have to buy the book and find out. You won't be disappointed.' Random Jottings of a Book and Opera Lover

'A cleverly written book that starts with a murder, then takes us back in time to see what prompted it.' the.bookbag.co.uk



A Lifetime Burning

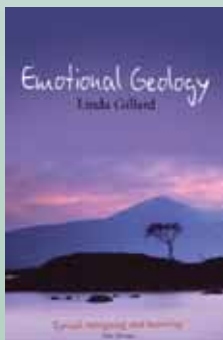
Linda Gillard

£7.99 · 430 pages · 1905 175 25 6 · 2006

'Books that force you to look at things in a different light, and force you out of your comfort zone, do what fiction was meant to do. No light or easy read, not to mention not a comfortable one, A Lifetime Burning addresses some very controversial subject matter. Yet, Gillard finds the absolute perfect line to tread, not condoning the actions of the characters but still presenting them as fallible yet worthy human beings. A truly skillful novel, and one that deserves a much wider audience.' Bluestalking Reader who has chosen *A Lifetime Burning* as one of her 10 best books of the year. She writes at <http://tinyurl.com/vmown>

'The book is also highly entertaining. It engages the reader, both emotionally and intellectually, and it is hard to put down.' Kevin Crowe, Am Bratach

'An absolute page-turner! I could not put this book down and read it over a weekend. It is a haunting and disturbing exploration of the meaning of love within a close-knit family, the Dunbars.' www.lovereading.co.uk



**Shortlisted
for The
Waverton
Good Read
Award 2006.**



Emotional Geology was voted 4th in the UK BookCrossers poll of Top Ten Books of 2006 conducted on their Yahoo discussion forum.

'I just finished reading this. Wow. It blew my socks off. I literally could not put it down. I read it in bed. I read it while I was cooking lunch. I read it while I was eating lunch. I walked to the sofa, book in hand, and read it till it was finished.'

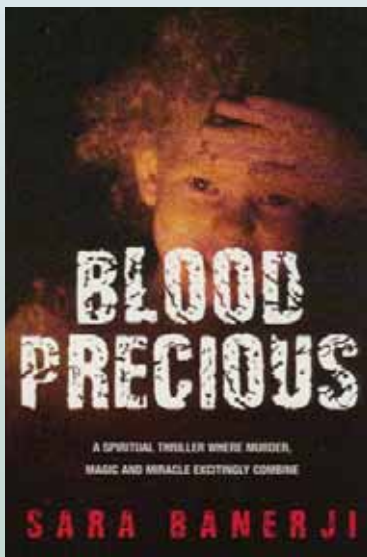
'This book is many things - a love song to North Uist, an enquiry into exactly how art is made, a thing of beauty, a tug on the heart-strings, a hymn of praise to the damaged, to the incomplete, a wonderful thing of hope.' LyzzyBee from Birmingham, Bookcrosser

Emotional Geology

Linda Gillard

£7.99 · 320 pages · 1 905175 07 8

'Linda Gillard writes with considerable intelligence about 'the lives of mature contemporary women with stories to tell that explore the truths and desires that colour their lives.' Northwords Now – a new writers' magazine for the North



'A spiritual thriller where murder, magic and miracle excitingly combine'

Snobbish, aloof and eighty years old, Lady Arabella Cunningham-Smythe wishes she were dead. Then she could join her late husband as they had planned so meticulously before he died.

But a band of well meaning friends and relations are determined to thwart her wishes. When her beloved four year old granddaughter, Naomi – who has magical powers - is kidnapped her will to live must return if she is to turn detective, successfully outwit a mass murderer – and learn how to use her mobile phone.

In the hunt for Naomi, her experiences are more varied and intense than in the whole of her previous life. In the process she discovers at last who she really is.

'Lady Arabella is feisty, and at times downright crusty, but the spark is there within her, and is a joyous one to follow.' Bookmarkonline

Blood Precious

Sara Banerji

£7.99 · 320 pages · 978 1 905175 32 1 · 2007



The Waiting Time

Sara Banerji

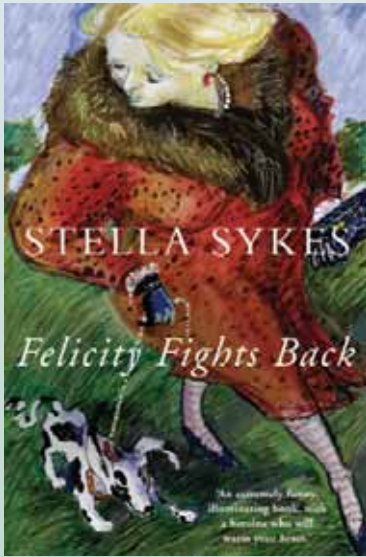
The key to Julia's identity lies somewhere beneath Kitty's home, but digging it up may cost more than she imagines in this riveting tale of sacrifice, denial and misplaced love.

£7.99 · 288 pages · 1 905175 02 7 · April 2005



Nominated for the 2007 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

'There is no-one else who writes like Sara Banerji.' Philip Pullman



Felicity Fights Back

Stella Sykes

£7.99 · 320 pages · 1 905175 27 2 · 2006



'An extremely funny, illuminating book, with a heroine who will warm your heart.'

Divorced after thirty years of marriage and, feeling well past her sell-by date, Felicity Fox has to start her life all over again.

She moves to London and discovers that her friends are only too eager to help her. Jane, with her perfect marriage, is determined to find Felicity a new husband. Venetia, with her perfect body, is determined to mastermind Felicity's physical transformation and Rose, with her perfect country life, is determined to persuade Felicity to return to Wiltshire. And Felicity herself is determined to ... Well, actually, she has no idea. She's been a wife and mother for so long, she doesn't know what else there is. However, she is about to find out with a little help from her friends.

But, as so often happens, other peoples' lives are rarely what they seem, and Felicity discovers that even if she is never likely to have a rich and successful husband, or at any rate her own rich and successful husband, or a size ten figure, or that Georgian manor house, she does indeed have a new life.

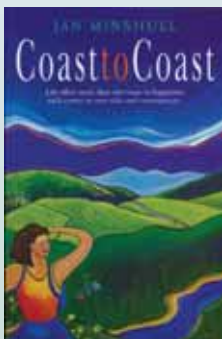
And what's more, it's all hers; she did it herself; and it's very satisfactory.

'If you are a fan of the Bridget Jones books, then Felicity Fights Back is a must-read ... a hilarious book ... well-written, true to life and will make you cry with laughter.' Burton Mail

'Wickedly funny and fast moving.' Joanna Lumley

'Felicity Fights Back is a 'rite of passage' novel, in which a woman finds her own identity and learns to fit – and even love – her (fairly substantial) skin. What makes it different – and hilarious – is that in this case the woman undergoing the rite of passage is well over fifty. The book has an energetic cast of larger-than-life characters, and is enormous fun to read.' Simon Brett

'Well meaning friends try everything to help heroine Felicity regain her self-esteem, sometimes with hilarious consequences.' Kaureen Humberstone, Nottingham Evening Post



Coast to Coast

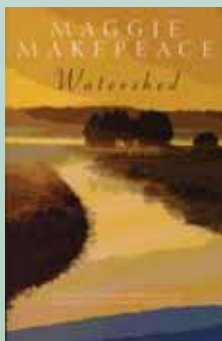
Jan Minshull

£7.99 · 320 pages · 1 905175 21 3 · 2006

Annoyed at yet again being taken for granted, fifty-year-old Linda refuses to accompany her successful, executive husband on a Rotary trip. The more Jim tries to manipulate the situation, using friends and their adult children to persuade her to go, the more she digs in her heels.

Instead, she sets off on her own to walk from East to West coast. The ups and downs and climatic changes of the walk, across wild open moors, fertile dales and the mountainous Lake District, provide time and space in which to reflect on her life and consider her future.

'A likeable heroine who deals with a marital crisis in a novel way. I strongly recommend you make this journey with her.' Benita Brown



Watershed

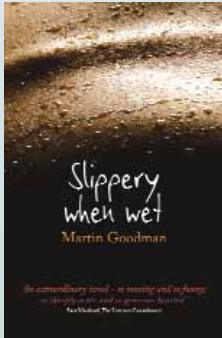
Maggie Makepeace

£7.99 · 352 pages · 1 905175 24 8 · 2006

Jonathan arrives in the Somerset Levels and shuts himself away in a lonely cottage to write about his obsession – water. He poses an irresistible challenge for Pamela, a forceful pillar of the community. But why is Jonathan so resistant to her blandishments - and so rude?

Only Vinny, Pamela's long-suffering companion, has the desire and the sensitivity to get to the bottom of Jonathan's strange behaviour. But she herself is trapped by emotional blackmail. Will Jonathan prove to be her saviour, as much as she is his? Vinny is forced to make a difficult decision, and comes to her own personal watershed.

Watershed is the story of two women in middle life, our inseparable connection with the natural world and a longing for freedom.



Slippery When Wet

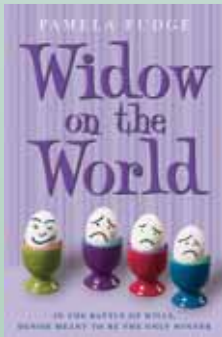
Martin Goodman

£7.99 · 256 pages · 1905 175 20 5 · 2006

Occupation: 'matriarch.' When Maggie's husband dies in the bed of another woman, she surges out of their stately home. She heads East, to the source of the family wealth, touching down in Bangladesh. A beautiful young man, Sepen, welcomes her at the airport and shepherds her through the culture shock of his country. As their relationship becomes sexual he starts to crack her English veneer. When she becomes ill she needs him. When she grows strong again she needs him even more.

Maggie continues her journey to Thailand. In releasing her husband's ashes into the River Kwai she steps clear of her past. It's too damn stupid to think of Sepen as part of her future. Surely it is?

'Goodman writes with flare and panache, and the narrative fizzles along.'
The Times



Widow on the World

Pamela Fudge

£7.99 · 320 pages · 1 905175 22 1 · 2006

Widowed at 45, Denise has come to the end of that first year alone and survived. It's time to get back out in the world and live her life. However, life, and particularly her own family, seem to have other ideas as first her mother and then her daughter move into a house that is suddenly bursting at the seams.

A battle of wills ensues, but it is a battle that Denise is determined to win by fair means or foul, because only when she has sorted everyone else's lives out can she finally get on with her own.

Romance doesn't figure anywhere in her calculations but Denise, of all people, should know that life doesn't always go according to plan.

Books published in 2005...



£7.99 · 275 pages ·
1 905175 01 9

Scuba Dancing

Nicola Slade

Finn Fitzgerald has walked out on her job in Brussels, her flat and her cheating boyfriend to move to Hampshire where she finds herself inescapably in the centre of village intrigue, romance and a cast of characters that will make you laugh out loud.

'A wonderful mix of characters, in a plot full of warmth and humour.

A great read.' Reader's review



£7.99 · 275 pages ·
1 905175 03 5

Turning Point

Bowering Silvers

Ruth is a talented, but overly modest artist, forced to put her life on hold while she cares for an elderly mother. A sudden heart attack forces her to review her choices, while the arrival of new faces opens up the possibility of a dream career in the theatre and love with a younger man.

LONG LISTED FOR THE RNA/FOSTER GRANT AWARD 2006



£7.99 · 275 pages
1 905175 05 1

Forgotten Dreams

Doris Leadbetter

Sixty-year-old Helen Lytton, a retired research scientist, travels to Australia determined to prove her theory that there had once been water in the far, arid north of Western Australia.

'A really gripping book that has the pace and excitement of The Da Vinci Code – but better written and more enjoyable.' Reader's review



£7.99 · 275 pages ·
1 905175 00 0

Uphill All The Way

Sue Moorcroft

Fifty-one year old Judith loses her younger lover, Giorgio in a diving accident in Malta and returns to England where she struggles to regain her love of life. But a road that's uphill all the way can bring exhilarating views, especially when you find someone who wants to travel it with you...

'A terrific first novel. I look forward to the next.'

Reader's review

'Uphill all the Way is a novel about a woman finding herself at a cross-road, which is one of my very favorite themes in fiction ... a very satisfying read, all around.'

Blue Stalking Reader

'This an excellent book and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it.'

The Book Bag



Stage by Stage

Jan Jones

After her husband walks out on their marriage, Beth juggles her children's acting pursuits with making ends meet and finds herself drawn to Owen, an actor married to the stage.

WINNER OF THE ROMANTIC
NOVELIST'S NEW WRITERS'
AWARD 2005

***'This is a well written fairly light
read with much theatrical
atmosphere.'***

Living Magazine

£7.99 · 320 pages
1 905175 08 6



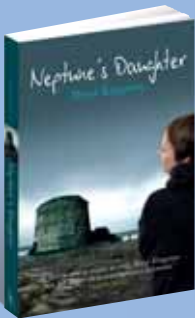
Elissa's Castle

Juliet Greenwood

When Elissa Deryn buys a dilapidated castle in Snowdonia to turn it into a B&B, she has no idea just what she is letting herself in for. Far from fading into obscure old age, Elissa suddenly finds herself eminently desirable with suitors appearing at an alarming rate.

***'Enchanting fiction with
unexpected depth. Brilliant
dialogue.'*** *Living Magazine*

£7.99 · 320 pages
1 905175 04 3



Neptune's Daughter

Beryl Kingston

Widow Gwen MacIvor surprises everyone when she builds a new, independent life for herself – but will she sacrifice it all to make her daughter happy?

£7.99 · 384 pages · 1 905175 13 2

***'An enjoyable novel that would be
an excellent holiday companion.'***

NewBooks Magazine

£7.99 · 320 pages
1 905175 13 2



Tuesday Night at the Kasbah

Patricia Kitchin

Looking for a distraction from her empty marriage and emptying nest, Judy Blackwell joins a local belly dancing class and finds her life shaken up in more ways than one!

***'I found the book easy to read and
a real giggle ...'***

Newbooks Magazine

£7.99 · 320 pages
1 905175 15 9



£7.99 · 320 pages
1 905175 09 4

After Michael

Betty O'Rourke

When Fiona Latimer learns that her husband Michael has died of a sudden heart attack alone in his London flat, she is shocked but not devastated. His past however comes back to haunt her as she discovers her life with him was not at all what it had seemed.

'I was completely gripped by this fast-paced, well-written mystery ... only pick this book up if you have time to devote to it, as you will find it hard to put down.'

Newbury Weekly News



£7.99 · 320 pages
1 905175 19 1

A Proper Family Christmas

Jane Gordon-Cumming

William would prefer to spend Christmas alone watching trash TV, while the recently widowed Hilary would like to ignore it all together. But the family has other plans. This year's Christmas at Haseley House will change all their lives!

'Plenty of laughs and life-changing events ... a terrific read.'

The Nottingham Evening Post

'Packed with delightful, unforgettable, eccentric characters and written with humour and deep sensitivity.'

Katie Fforde

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