



JILL HUGHES FOREIGN RIGHTS

Spring 2014

NEW FICTION:

Heidi James WOUNDING



Cora has everything a woman is supposed to want: a career, a caring husband, children and a stylish home. Desperate for release and burdened with guilt, she falls into a pattern of ever increasing self-harm and sexual degradation until a one night stand tips her over the edge and she finds herself in a dominatrix's dungeon. *Wounding* explores a woman's search for redemption, identity and truth.

• Heidi's own story is remarkable. She left school with no qualifications, married very young, had a baby and started stripping to earn money, moved on to work as a dominatrix's assistant and at a photo franchise in a supermarket. Will Self came in to drop off some photos and when he came to pick them up, Heidi had put a short story into the envelope. He got in touch, helped her with her writing and wrote a letter of support to Birkbeck where she gained her MA and then her PhD, on the way being encouraged and praised by Blake Morrison. **Heidi** now lectures at Kingston University. Her poetry, essays and short stories have appeared in numerous publications; **WOUNDING is her debut novel.**

- *'Haunted by Cora all day! I LOVED the ending and ... totally didn't see it coming. Fantastic. It turns so many notions on their head - marriage, what it is to be a married woman, motherhood. Though I initially sought an explanation for why she had become that way, I realised there is no one reason, but myriad. I also felt so much compassion for Cora at the end, where throughout I'd struggled because I was trying not to judge her - as I would in real life. It's more real, and more affecting for both elements. I still have more thinking to do on it - the sign of a very special book. It's so gripping, beautifully written, unique.'* Julia May, Australian journalist with *The Age*
- UK rights: Bluemoose Books – publication: May 2014

Mark Radcliffe STRANGER THAN KINDNESS



There is a fine line between madness and magic.

It is 1989 people are still tapping their feet to Live Aid and Community Care is about to reboot the industry of psychiatry. In a soon-to-be-closed asylum a bruised nurse, Adam Sands, is feeling less like a purveyor of kindness and more like a concentration camp guard with every passing drink. 26 years later Adam has got used to the quiet life when his past finally finds him. Maybe this time he can do some good. Even make a difference. But redemption, like magic, can come from the strangest of places. A searing satire on the relationship between global pharmacology and the mental illness 'industry', with Mark Radcliffe's humorous prose running throughout.

- Mark dropped out of university to live in a squat and join a band as singer-songwriter but returned to education later with a degree in Political Philosophy, an MA in Creative Writing and a teaching diploma. He has worked in the field of health, both as a nurse and a journalist, and is currently a senior lecturer at Brighton University. He still writes songs and has a terrific collection of hats!
- UK rights: Bluemoose Books – publication: November 2013
- Backlist: *GABRIEL'S ANGEL*

RECENT INTERESTING & PRIZE-WINNING FICTION!

Socrates Adams **A MODERN FAMILY**

TV's most popular car show presenter lives in the shadow of his career and his persona. He has the perfect job but not the perfect family. He views them from the outside and watches their slow disintegrate, unable to control anything that is not scripted. A bleak, satirical look at families might think they want to be UK rights: Bluemoose Books – publication: July 2013

- Socrates Adams has starred in and written the award winning film *Wizard's Way* (on general release Summer 2013). **A MODERN FAMILY** is his second novel.

Adrian Barnes **NOD**

Dawn breaks and almost no-one in the world has slept the night before. After six days of sleep deprivation, psychosis will set in; after four weeks, the body will die. In the interim, a bizarre new world arises and those previously on the fringes take the lead. One couple live a life-time in a week; as he sleeps, she begins to fall apart

- UK rights: Bluemoose Books – translation rights sold: Bulgarian, Hungarian
- **shortlisted for the Arthur C Clarke Award 2013** * **major TV series from Fox Entertainment in development**
- *'Nod is an amphetamine-fuelled nightmare ride that will leave you breathless - as well as sleepless ... In Adrian Barnes, Canada may have found her 21st century John Wyndham.'* Stephen May, author – *'This is the work of a writer in control of language and one with an expansive imagination. Detail is everything when one is describing the collapse of society.'* Julie Fisher, Bookmunch

Ben Myers **PIG IRON**

Jug Wisdom is the most feared bare-knuckle fighter in the gypsy world but when a near-death beating leaves him 'wired wrong', he turns his violence on his family and especially his youngest son Fred. The consequences are catastrophic. Fred is determined to lead a quiet life, but his father's name lives on and bullies and bigots still rule the estates. Visceral, touching, poetic and a great story.

- UK rights: Bluemoose Books
- **winner of Gordon Burns Prize 2013** – runner up in the Guardian's **Not The Booker Prize** (January 2013)
- *'... Ben Myer's luminous vernacular prose that makes beauty from the brutal truth.'* – Cathi Unsworth
- Ben is the author of the novel *The Book of Fuck* and *Richard* (a fictionalized life of Richard Edwards of the Manic Street Preachers - Picador 2010), and four music biographies

Selected backlist titles include:

Michael Stewart **KING CROW** - *'Part action thriller, part psychological drama, part birding manual, I've come across nothing quite like it. It's a fantastic example of modern (teenage) fiction at its innovative best.'* – Melvyn Burgess – YA/NA/crossover ...

James Stein **HOW MATH CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE, THE RIGHT DECISION and HOW MATH EXPLAINS THE WORLD** – popular mathematics

Mark Crick **KAFKA'S SOUP, SARTRE'S SINK and MACHIAVELLI'S LAWN** – pastiches of famous writers, illustrated

MANAGEMENT BRIEFS – short, easy to read series for busy managers, including topics such as Redundancy, Performance Management, Interview techniques, HR, etc