



## EXCITING NEW ACQUISITIONS AS PENGUIN READIES FOR FRANKFURT

London, 07 October 2008... Penguin announced today a superb list of recent acquisitions in the run-up to the Frankfurt Book Fair.

At **Michael Joseph**, editorial director Alex Clarke bought UK and Commonwealth rights in *And Another Thing...* the sixth installment of Douglas Adams's beloved and increasingly inaccurately named *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* trilogy. The book will be written by Eoin Colfer, author of the hugely popular *Artemis Fowl* series and is already one of the most anticipated books of 2009. The deal was made with Sophie Hicks and Ed Victor of Ed Victor Ltd.

**Viking** publisher Venetia Butterfield bought world rights in *Periodic Tales* by Hugh Aldersley Williams from Antony Topping at Greene and Heaton. *Periodic Tales* is a brilliant and engaging look at one of those graphic icons that, like the alphabet or the zodiac is lodged permanently in our memories. It brings readers into direct contact with the fundamental building blocks of the universe and reveals the intricate ways that the elements are woven into our culture, history and language. It will be published in Spring 2010.

At **Viking**, publishing director Tony Lacey has acquired UK and Commonwealth rights in *Love and Summer*, William Trevor's eagerly awaited new novel and his first since the Booker-shortlisted *The Story of Lucy Gault*. In his moving and masterly way Trevor evokes the passions and frustrations felt by the inhabitants of a small Irish town during one long summer. *Love and Summer* was acquired from Marcella Edwards at PFD and is set for publication in August 2009, along with a new two-volume collection of William Trevor's short stories to follow that autumn.

Also at **Viking** Kate Barker bought *A Disobedient Girl* by Ru Freeman, an epic, heartbreaking debut novel about two women – a servant and a mother fleeing an abusive marriage – whose lives are unexpectedly linked, set against the violent backdrop of Sri Lanka's recent past. UK and Commonwealth rights in *A Disobedient Girl* were sold by Caspian Dennis at Abner Stein on behalf of Julie Barer. It will be published as an original trade paperback in August, 2009.

**Viking** editorial director Eleo Gordon has acquired UK and Commonwealth rights from Bill Hamilton at A M Heath in *Running the Show: Queen Victoria's Colonial Governors 1857-1906* by Stephanie Williams for publication in Spring 2011. *Running the Show* details the history of the colonial governors who served at the far-flung reaches of the British Empire against extraordinary odds and in the most inhospitable conditions. Told through the lives of the governors and their families, it presents a kaleidoscope of the people, places and events through which, for better or worse, Victoria's enormous empire was run.

At **Fig Tree** publishing director Juliet Annan bought *Cleaving* by Julie Powell. A memoir by the bestselling author of *Julie and Julia*, *Cleaving* follows Julie as she learns to be a butcher. A fabulous, funny and often grisly story, this voyage into the world of butchery exposes the intimate side of the author's life as she uses her butcher's knife to reveal the shattering love affair that threatens to devastate her marriage. UK and Commonwealth rights in *Cleaving* were acquired from Sarah Chalfant at the Wylie Agency. It will be published in August 2009.



Simon Prosser, publishing director at **Hamish Hamilton**, has acquired world rights (excluding South Africa) in *Merchants of Death: Inside the Global Arms Trade* by Andrew Feinstein, author of the bestselling *After the Party: A Personal and Political Journey inside the ANC*. *Merchants of Death* is an in-depth, authoritative account of the global arms trade that examines the ways in which it is conducted with the involvement of our elected governments and the devastating consequences it has around the globe. Simon bought *Merchants of Death* from David Godwin at David Godwin Associates and it will be published in Spring 2010.

Also joining the Hamish Hamilton list are two novels for Spring 2009. The first is *Cockroach*, Rawi Hage's follow-up to his recent award-winning debut *De Niro's Game*. *Cockroach* follows the plight of an immigrant from a hot Arab country adrift in a snowy Northern city and melds love, sex, death, revenge and politics into a gripping tale of the immigrant experience. UK and Commonwealth rights were acquired from the Canadian publishers House of Anansi. Also acquired by Simon is *Butterfly* by Australian author Sonya Hartnett, winner of the Astrid Lindberg prize. Set in two neighbouring houses in a typical middle-class suburb, the book tells the story of 14-year-old Plum as she grapples with the travails of school, friends, family, loyalty and betrayal. UK and Commonwealth rights in *Butterfly* were bought from Penguin Australia, who will also be publishing next Spring.

Simon is also thrilled to have signed up a sequel to Pat Barker's bestselling *Life Class*, carrying forward the stories of several of the characters further into the First World War. The novel, acquired from the author via Gillon Aitken, is entitled *Toby's Room* and is scheduled to be published in 2011.

At **Allen Lane**, publisher Simon Winder has bought world rights in Alex Watson's *The People's War* from Andrew Kidd at Aitken Alexander. *The People's War* is a major new history of the First World War told entirely from German and Austro-Hungarian viewpoints by a brilliant young writer and researcher. Publication is scheduled for 2013. Simon has also acquired Richard Overy's *Countdown to War*, a short, provocative account of the days leading up to the beginning of the Second World War by one of the great historians of the conflict. It will be published in September 2009. World rights (excluding US) were bought from Gill Coleridge at Rogers, Coleridge & White. Simon has also bought Patrick French's *India*, a panoramic yet intimate account of modern Indian society by the author of *Tibet, Tibet* and the Samuel Johnson Prize shortlisted *The World Is What It Is*. UK and Commonwealth rights were acquired from Sarah Chalfant at the Wylie Agency.

Also at **Allen Lane** publisher Stuart Proffitt has bought *A World on Fire: Britain and the American Civil War*, the new book by Amanda Foreman, the award-winning author of the bestselling *Georgiana*, the basis for the film *The Duchess*. In *A World on Fire*, Amanda Foreman unearths the extraordinary stories of the British who fought in the American Civil War. UK and Commonwealth rights in *A World on Fire* were bought from Sarah Chalfant at the Wylie Agency with publication set for Spring 2010.

– Ends –

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