

# Barbara J Zitwer Agency



## FICTION

### **Mark A. Cooper**

#### **REVENGE OF BOUDICA, SEQUEL**

World English Sourcebooks, Fall 2011

When British Intelligence learns that Boudica: the leader of a shadowy criminal organization known as the Triads has a 100-ton shipment of drugs entering the county. They enlist Jason Steed to befriend the son of a deputy triad leader who is being held in a juvenile detention center. Jason soon determines its destination.

After the drugs are seized by Police and the Triads assets are frozen in China by the Chinese Commissioner. A reward is offered for the kidnap of the commissioner's daughter and a bounty is also placed on Jason's head. For their protection, both eleven year olds are taken to a secret location in Spain. But when the location is given away by a corrupt officer, Jason finds himself on the run from not only the most vicious criminal organization in the world, but also from the Spanish police and corrupt British Secret service.

Can Jason survive relentless attacks from an unforgiving bloodthirsty predator and keep the commissioner's daughter safe? A climatic ending with harrowing consequences in the French Alps on Mont Blanc pushes Jason beyond his limits.

#### **FLEDGLING JASON STEED**

Publication Fall 2010. FIRE/Sourcebooks - World English rights.  
Young Adult – first in a series, self-published internet hit. Sold to Artemis Yayinlari/Turkey.

A well thought-out plot line, with a lot of character and relationship development, especially between the characters of Jason Steed and his father Ray. What starts off as a very strenuous father-son relation, blossoms into a relationship based on mutual trust and respect by the end of the novel, and it is Jason's relationship with his father in particular which accounts for so much of his early development into an amazingly talented martial arts performer. It remains an entertaining read, with elements of romantic entanglement, the royal family, warfare, martial arts and the ideas of loyalty and honesty. The book has gained popularity over the internet, Alex Horowitz type-following. Raving readers' reviews

on Amazon.com. Protagonist compared to a young Jason Bourne, or a young James Bond without the gadgets. Compared to Alex Rider/Anthony Horowitz's book and young James Bond series.

## **Becky Eastwood**

### **THE J.M. BARRIE LADIES' SWIMMING SOCIETY**

Joey Rubin's about to have the adventure of her life. And it couldn't come at a better time. An architect/designer at a posh New York realty company, she's come a long, long way from her bookish childhood on the city's Lower East Side, without ever leaving the neighborhood she loves. She knows all the local characters and many of them know her and her beloved dog, Daisy, who's always by her side. But nowadays, when Joey makes her weekly pilgrimage to the deli on her block – the finest in New York, according to *Savoir Magazine* – she's more likely to be buying caviar than salmon.

Her life is rich and her work rewarding, but when the man she's been seeing for close to three years – a senior partner in her firm – decides abruptly to fall for someone else, Joey feels as though she's watching the sands pour through the hourglass. She's never longed for a ring, a white dress and the patter of little feet, but still – she's thirty-seven, she works sixty-five hours a week, and she hasn't seen her best friend, who lives in the English countryside, for nearly ten years. So when the opportunity arises for Joey to step in for an ailing colleague and show her bosses – especially the faithless Alex Wilder – what she's truly capable of doing, she doesn't waste a minute. What she doesn't foresee is how a simple trip to England will forever change her life.

Decamping with Daisy to the Cotswolds for a month, Joey finds herself in the village that time forgot, with a cast of characters right out of the novels of JM Barrie. The author spent many a month at the legendary Stanway House, which it is Joey's present assignment to redesign. Stunned by the contrasts between her driven, work-focused days in New York and the languid, seasonal rhythms of English country life, Joey comes under the spell of a group of remarkable eighty year-old women who swim daily, and all winter long, in an icy English pond – and who have been doing so together for the past fifty years. She meets a captivating and elusive widower and his feisty teenage daughter, samples the joyful and messy realities of parenthood and confronts the challenges of

## Becky Eastwood con't

keeping friendships – even the oldest and dearest of friendships - alive.

New York will ultimately reclaim its daughter, but the woman unloading her bags from the cab on East Houston Street is not the Joey Rubin who left the city a month earlier. She hardly recognizes herself. And yet it is herself, her truest and deepest self, that she has found.

## Risa Green

Author of adult novels,  
NOTES FROM THE  
UNDERBELLY & TALES  
FROM THE CRIB, NAL/  
North American rights,  
Mondadori, Droemer,  
Truth & Dare/Holland,  
Astrel/Russia, Sonia Draga/  
Poland, Marabout/France,  
Villagebooks/Japan, Desk doo/  
Slovenia. Hit ABC TV series.



### THE SECRET SOCIETY OF THE PINK CRYSTAL BALL

SOURCEBOOKS/JABBERWOCKY - YA, Arena/Germany.  
publication September 2010.

The Secret Society of the Pink Crystal Ball is Green's YA debut and is compared to Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants with magic! A classic coming of age story for young adult readers that has all the Risa Green trademarks: smart-talking, hip and funny language, heart and warmth and an intelligence and value that will not only entertain readers but also provides thought provoking ideas and discussions. This is a big, commercial novel which will capture girls' imaginations all over the world, and be a hit with their Moms, too.

Erin Channing is convinced that she's the most boring, normal girl on the planet. But when her kooky aunt mysteriously dies and leaves Erin a pink magic crystal ball. The call really is magic, and Erin's boring, normal existence gets turned upside down. With the help of her two best friends, Lindsay and Samantha, Erin deciphers a set of cryptic rules for

how to use the ball, while at the same time finds herself falling for a guy she thought she couldn't stand. But when Lindsay and Samantha try to convince her to break one of the rules and use the ball to solve their own problems, the plan backfires on them, and Erin realizes that she must use her common sense and intelligence to get everything back to, well,... normal.

## **Kyung Ran Jo**

Winner of the 2008 Donghin Prize. Author of TONGUE, Muhankodogne/Korea, BloomsburyUSA / world English rights, Muelenhoff/Holland, Modan/Israel, Random House/Germany, Piemme/Italy, Wydawnictwo LYNSKI

### **BLOWFISH**

Muhankodogne/Korea, August 2010. English partial translated by Chi-Young Kim is available.

A well-respected thirty-seven year-old sculptor is in her gallery. Her exhibit is successful; the many people gathered there shower her with praise. Slipping out of the gallery, she looks at the celebrities inside, the champagne flutes sparkling like jewels under the lights, her work, her success, as if it were someone else's party. She thinks about her past. When she didn't think of herself as a true artist or when she was ashamed, she never had the impulse to die. As she watches her party, she feels that it is time to end her life. The next day, she receives notification that she has been selected for S City Cultural Foundation's three-month residence program in Tokyo. Having always contemplated death, the method and place of death, she settles on the idea of doing it far away from home. She leaves for Tokyo.

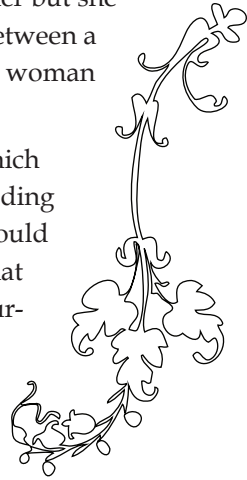
He is thirty-five years old and works at the International Tower Association. One day, he sees her standing alone on the eighth floor observation deck of Tokyo Tower. She seems depressed but resolute, as if she were about to leap off the tower. She reminds him of his brother, who jumped from a window a few years ago. He realizes that he has seen her before. He remembers meeting her a year ago, at a party. During the party, she held an eraser-sized piece of clay and played with it, molding hands and faces that captured the features of the partygoers. She was mostly quiet, but she did show interest in an estate administrator. She goes into the

## Kyung Ran Jo con't

café at another part of the tower. He approaches her but she doesn't remember him. This is the first meeting between a man who believes he's met his one true love and a woman who tries to push love away.

In the dead of night, she walks into Ueno Park, which is near her apartment, carrying a light, wooden folding chair. Only someone with a strong sense of self would choose to die by hanging. Someone who makes that kind of decision looks up before doing anything further. In the dark woods, she stands under a large tree, the chair by her side. When she looks up, she sees her grandmother perched on a branch, gazing down at her. Her grandmother, whose love for her husband was one-sided, dreamed of an artist's life but had to live as the wife of a poor fisherman in a small, isolated seaside village. A short conversation ensues between the granddaughter who is about to end her life and the grandmother who did, as two women who failed at love and as artists. She comes home, deflated, chair in hand. Her mind goes over the way her grandmother chose to die — on her own birthday, she made blowfish soup without moving the poisonous intestines and skin and killed herself in front of her family. She feels that it was a dramatic way to go, chosen by a woman who is conscious of herself, who wanted to be an artist, who truly loved a man. The next day, she goes to the largest fish market in Tokyo, the Tsukiji Fish Market. In that vast market, she finds a stall that sells blowfish. A few days later, she returns and asks the owner of the stall to teach her how to cook blowfish. During the three months she has in Tokyo, she learns how to handle blowfish and its poison.

Her father, who left home to become a carpenter, was dogged by the fear of suicide his entire life, as were his siblings. She grew up hearing that she resembles her grandmother, and when she became an adult, struggled to fight the temptation of death. She always wondered where the temptation came from. Now, in Tokyo, she is handling blowfish to die. Observing her, he realizes that she's preparing for her death. He stands by her, wanting to save her at all costs — to transform the blowfish of death into the blowfish of life. The novel alternates in chapters from his



and her perspectives. The story moves between Seoul, Tokyo, and Yosu, the seaside village where her grandmother lived.

## Han Kang

Author of *The Vegetarian*, published by Changbi. Sold to Flower City Publishing House/China.

### THE WIND BLOWS, GO!

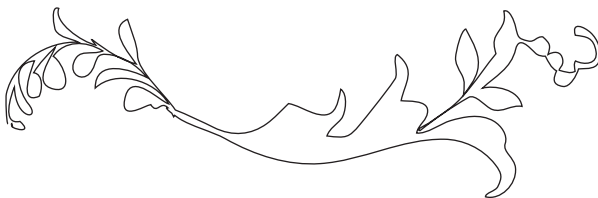
Moonji/Korea.

One late winter night, a car driven by Seo Inju, a female artist in her late thirties, plunges into the snow-covered Misiryong Valley. Three days later, she takes her last breath. Why did Inju head for the valley that night? Was the crash a suicide or accident? The circumstances surrounding Inju's death are never brought to light. The novel begins a year later when the narrator sees a special review in an art magazine, commemorating the first anniversary of Inju's death. In the magazine, Kang Seokwon, an art critic and professor who claims to have been Inju's lover, discloses Inju's posthumous work and pronounces her death a suicide. The narrator finds Seokwon's contact information and expresses her interest in seeing Inju's last works. The narrator, a close childhood friend of Inju, thinks it strange that these works are remarkably similar to those of Inju's dead artist uncle who had never publicly exhibited during his lifetime. Although her life had been far from easy, Inju had possessed an exuberant zeal for life, of which the narrator was well aware; in the end, the narrator rejects Seokwon's claims. The narrator begins to grope through her own memory to piece together the final year of her friend's life. She meets those who had known Inju and even sneaks into Inju's studio that has now come under the possession of Seokwon. As clues are slowly revealed, Inju's last days begin to fit together like pieces of a puzzle until the narrator, at last, discovers what actually took place on the snow-covered valley that fateful night. Although the novel uses the structure of a mystery where clues are presented as pieces of a puzzle and the truth is revealed gradually, it focuses on life and death, memory and reality, sacredness and human conflict. Inju's uncle, who had died of a brain hemorrhage twenty years before, depicted the birth and explosion of stars through ink; his inner world had created a deep and lasting impression on both Inju and the narrator.

## Han Kang con't

There is a twist at the end of the novel when the narrator discovers that Seokwon had driven Inju off the road that night. He sets fire to Inju's last works, attacks the narrator with an ink stone, and disappears after locking her in the studio. The narrator gains consciousness and just barely manages to escape from the fire. The novel ends with the narrator on a ventilator, drifting in and out of consciousness, as she is carried away in an ambulance. The problem that occurs when an unconscious patient who had been breathing through ventilatory support begins to breathe spontaneously is called "fighting the ventilator." He may not breathe in rhythm with the ventilator but "fight" it, exhaling while the ventilator delivers a breath and inhaling while the ventilator withdraws a breath. In this critical situation, the medical team will first administer sedation or neuromuscular blockade and then control the ventilator breath in pre-determined volumes. The patient is taken off the ventilator only after the condition of his lungs and many other factors have been carefully analyzed. Both Inju and the narrator are put on ventilators at one point; as they fight for breath, one dies while the other hovers between life and death. The emotions and relationships of these characters continually shudder and collide like breath that is out of sync. The novel explores the beauty of existence, vastness of the universe, and human desire and limitations while it careens toward its surprising yet inevitable end.

The story of a young mentally disturbed woman who thinks she is becoming a tree, and thus the purest form of life on the planet. The world is a mess. She stops eating meat. The cruelty of meat-eating is a metaphor for the cruelty of the world today, thus her vegetarian habits are symbolic, spiritual ones in the literary work that was a sensation in Korea. Kang is among the new wave of Korean lit stars who are gaining an international following. Nominated for the Dongin Literary Award 08. Her works have published by Korean major literary works publishers; Munhakdongne, Changbi, and Munji.



# Ai Mi

## HAWTHORN TREE FOREVER

World English Publication Spring 2012. Zang Yimou's film adaptation will be released in China in September 2010, premiers at Cannes Film Festival, May 2011 and will be released throughout the world. Virago will publish in Spring 2012. Jiansu Literature and Art, 2007/China. Sold to Virago, Little Brown/UK & Commonwealth, Anasi Press/Canada, Orlando/Holland, Belfond/France, Rizzoli/Italy, Bonniers/Sweden, SUMA, World Spanish, Gyldendal Norsk/Norway. Bonniers/Sweden, Editora Leya/Brazil

Compared to *BALZAC AND THE LITTLE SEAMSTRESS*, the story of *HAWTHORN TREE FOREVER* begins in the late seventies, right after the devastation of the Cultural Revolution, when a young girl, Jingqiu, fell in love with a boy nicknamed "Laosan," which means "third brother" in Chinese. Jingqiu is from a politically suppressed family, while Three is the son of a mighty army general. She knew there'd no hope for them, but Three did everything within his power to protect her and finally won her heart. Their budding romance was cut short by fate, as Laosan had leukemia and died before there could be any ending for them, happy or otherwise. Later, Jingqiu would leave China for the United States, eventually becoming a university professor. She got married, and had a daughter, but she could never forget Three, the man who loved her with a passion so pure and steadfast that she believed it could last forever. Then Jingqiu met Ai Mi, another Chinese immigrant who writes online. She decided to give Ai Mi her diaries and notebooks, hoping she would give voice to her story, never imagining it would become the phenomenon it is today. Ai Mi started posting *HAWTHORN TREE FOREVER* online in 2007, and it quickly became the reading sensation of the year. People in their fifties, who experienced the Cultural Revolution of them "zhiqing," or educated youth forced to leave the cities and went to the countryside for re-education, saw themselves in Jingqiu and Three. Young people born in the 80s and 90s, on the other hand, were moved by the purity of their love, which is all the more precious in a time when sex is easy and everywhere. In September 2007, *HAWTHORN TREE FOREVER* was published in book form, with a staggering first print run of 700,000 copies. The publisher printed five hundred galleys and sent these

## **Ai Mi con't**

to celebrities, corporate leaders, authors and critics, creating an unprecedented buzz. Almost everyone cried after reading the book, and the female readers were especially touched by the tragic love story. The word spread, and by the time the book hit the shelves, HAWTHORN TREE FORVER was already destined to become a bestseller. The film version is directed by internationally renowned Zhang Yimou (RAISE THE RED LANTERN, TO LIVE, and HERO).

## **Kyung sook Shin**

### **A PHONE CALL FROM WHEREVER, CONTINUES TO RING, TO FIND ME**

Mukhadogne Publishers, Spring 2010- instant BESTSELLER. An English partial will be available in Winter 2010.

Yoon, the protagonist of the novel, looks back at her life after receiving a phone call from an ex-boyfriend. The story, set in 1980's Korea, spans the most formative eight years in Yoon and her friends' lives; a time when they explored love, friendship and inner growth.

### **PLEASE LOOK AFTER MOM**

World English Publication – April 5, 2011. Complete english translation available. Knopf/ US and Canada, Weidenfeld & Nicolson / UK & Commonwealth rights- will be published simultaneously on Mother's Day, 2011. Foreign editions to follow: Oh!Edition/France , Muelenhoff/Holland, Grijalbo RHM/ Spanish rights Shueisha/Japan, People's Literature Publishing/China, Phan Nam Publishing/Vietnam, Edtiora Intrinseca/Brazil,, Piper/Pendo for Germany, Forlaget/Norway, Neri Pozza/Italy, Miskal/Israel, Eurasian/Taiwan, Kwaity Orientu/ Poland.

Winner of the 2nd Prix de l'Inaperçu in France this year, Best-selling novel by award winning Korean novelist. Shin Kyung-sook has been honored with numerous awards including 1996 Manhae Literature Prize, 1997 Dong-in Literature Prize and 2001 Isang Literary Prize.

Please Look After Mom chronicles a family's shock and despair follow-

ing the matriach's disappearance. So-nyo, the mother of four children, suffered a stroke in years past and is often in a confused state. She arrives in Seoul with her husband to visit her children but is wrenched from her husband's grasp in a crowded subway station. Her husband is in the car, but she is left behind. She is gone but the time her husband returns to retrieve her. This event triggers the family's meandering, emotional journey to find So-nyo, as they reflect on their relationship with the woman they have only thought of as a mother and wife. Desperately following every lead to find her, So-nyo's children and husband lash out at one another but also become close-knit, supporting one another as each tumbles along a path of regret, grief and fear. Alternately heart wrenching and uplifting, this intimate novel illuminates the complexities of love among family members. A heart rending account of a mother's anchoring effect on her family's life and an astute, intimate stuffy of regret, is sure to resonate with readers all over the world.

## **Pyeon Hye-yeong**

### **ASHES AND RED**

Changbi/Korea, 2010

A debut novel by award-winning writer Pyeon Hye-yeong, *Ashes and Red* is a haunting tale of a man who is a stranger in a strange land; a man who could have easily stepped out of Camus' imagination. And like Jose Saramago's *Blindness*, *Ashes and Red* is poised to become a new, international bestseller.

The story takes place in Korea and the unnamed country C, in a filthy, rat-infested and polluted city could be taken as New York, Naples, Bangkok, Beijing or any other metropolis on the verge of polluting itself to death. This is a contemporary psychological novel that reads like a postmodern classic. A mesmerizing book, a page-turner with an ecological and cultural warning. The main character is a morally bankrupt everyman in the overly technological, electronic world of this book. When nature intrudes on him, however, his animal instincts erupt to dangerous results.

The unnamed protagonist of *Ashes and Red* works for a pest control company and after inadvertently demonstrating his skills at catching

## **Pyeon Hye-yeong con't**

rats, he is given a much sought after transfer to a foreign country where he is to work in a chemical plant at a higher level job. No sooner does he deboard the plane than he is whisked away by quarantine officials and detained overnight. The next day he makes his way to his new home in the foul-smelling, trash-choked corner of the city. In short order his luggage and phone are stolen and he is told not to come to work the next day. He suddenly realizes that he is stranded with no means of contacting the outside world. Still worse, when he finally manages to contact an old friend he is told that his ex-wife has been murdered and her body found in his apartment. Shortly thereafter he is arrested. In a flash he throws himself out the window to a huge pile of garbage below. The novel follows his struggle to survive in this foreign city gripped with fears of contamination and to reestablish contact with his company and friends and regain his memory, which was lost in his self-imposed amnesia. Did he kill his wife or not? Who is he? At once meditative and action-filled, *Ashes and Red*, is a timely account of the destructive impact of fear and anxiety on people's lives. Readers will be electrified by the vision of a city falling apart at the seams and the story of a man who may not quite be who he seems to be.

## **Ling Zhang**

### **GOLD MOUNTAIN BLUES**

World English Publication in September 2011.

Sold to: Atlantic Books/ UK & Commonwealth- pub date Fall 2011, Viking Penguin /Canada Fall 2011, Editions Belfond/ France. Italy/ Piemme, Keter/Israel, Oceanida/ Greece Spain/ Destino, Schoeffling/ Germany, Signatur/Holland. Published by October Literature & Art Publishing House/China, China Times/Tawian.

Bestselling Chinese novel: A saga of five generations of the Fong family that have fought against seemingly unbeatable odds to build a better future for their children. Covering a span of five generations and shifting back and forth from the village of Kaiping, in southern China to the Canadian Rocky Mountain, *Gold Mountain Blues* unfolds the stories of people who braved the ocean to come to a wild land called British Co-

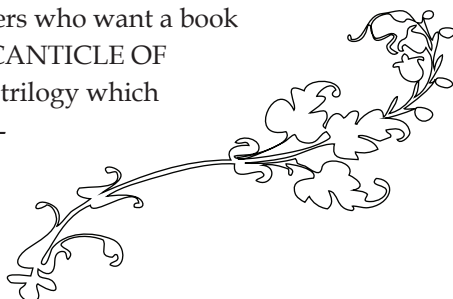
lumbia, leaving their aging parents, newly wed wives or young children behind, to pursue dreams of wealth and prosperity that quickly eluded them; stories of husbands and wives separated by Head Tax, Chinese Exclusion Act, as well as a vast span of ocean, yet keeping their marriages alive for decades because of a strong common will to build a better and more secured home for their children. The story of a lengthy and profound journey of two races finally becoming reconciled after a century of distrust and rejection are universal themes. *Gold Mountain Blues* is a heart-breaking tale of unspeakable human suffering and hardship, endured with dignity, courage and tenacity.

## FAN WEN

### CANTICLE OF THE LAND

Phillipe Picquier/France. Original publisher: October Literature & Art Publishing House (5/10) 430pp

CANTICLE OF THE LAND is compared to GOLD MOUNTAIN BLUES. This is a historical, literary novel set in the Tibetan region of China and spanning the tumultuous decades from 1940's-80's. It tells the story of a young beautiful noblewoman who is the object of desire of no less than three men: her fiance, to whom she has been promised as his third wife; a wandering minstrel with whom she elopes; and a bandit, who is sent to bring her back home but falls for her instead. It is also the story of the unlikely friendship between a boy living Buddha and a Catholic missionary from Switzerland who seek to understand each other's religion and world view. Based on an extraordinary true story and years of research, CANTICLE is a novel about the fate and destiny of both Tibetan China and these characters written in a vibrant and mesmerizing style. At once a sweeping historical novel, but also an intimate love story and a thoughtful examination of Catholicism and Buddhism, this book is a thirst quencher for readers who want a book like PILLARS OF THE EARTH. CANTICLE OF THE LAND is the third book in a trilogy which was published to major critical acclaim in China, however this third and last book is a stand alone, commercial, international read.



# Chi Zijian

## THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ARGUN

Published by October Literature and Art/China. Sold to Harvill Secker/UK and Commonwealth - will be published in Spring 2012, Corbaccio/Italy, House of Books/Holland.

Author is the only Chinese writer to win the Lu Xun Literary Award three times. She won the Mao Dun Literary Award, the highest award for a novel in China, for *The Argun*. Chi has published five novel, and six collections of short stories.

Chinese book and English language reader's report and author/book info available.

*The Argun* is a first-person narrative told from the point of view of an aging Evenki woman in the last years of the 20th century. She chooses to stay behind when her tribe abandons the forested mountains of Northeast China for "civilized" life among town dwellers, where their beloved reindeer will be cooped up like cattle. *The Argun* is inspired by the life of the last Evenki woman chieftain and Chi's travels in Australia and Ireland. At once a lament for the loss of tribal tradition and a meditation on the destructive power of modernization, *The Argun* is *One Hundred Years of Solitude* re-imagined for Northeast China and told from the female perspective. Exuberantly researched and written in a direct and cinematic style with a touch magic realism, this novel will appeal to readers of Stef Penney, Isabel Allende, and Khaled Hosseini. It also invites comparison to Yu Hua's *To Live* and Alai's *Red Poppies*.

Chi Zijian, like the authors mentioned above, makes me think of orchestra directors, leading so many people into one music and one story. Here the author does this masterfully. She has divided the book into four parts: morning, noon, sunset, and an epilogue. The narrator does not really express an opinion: she is old and has seen so much, it is unnecessary at this stage to come up with forceful thoughts. This is life in its pure force. Of course there is sadness at the decline of her tribe, and it is with much wisdom that she understands that it is not the Evenki people who are harmful to Nature, but of course the settlers who have enriched themselves by cutting wood. Her tone is that of an old strong woman, she is present throughout the book, even though there are many other characters, details, different stories. She definitely remains the thread

throughout the story. Chi has a tight control over the narrative, and in the end leads the reader into this epic story very well. This is a magnificent tribute to wild life and its confrontation with history, civilization and development. It is a book which makes you think about the impact of men on their environment, and about the apparent incompatibility between tradition and modernization. This small tribe in Northeast China becomes representative of so many tribes around the world which have met the same fate. It has a certain literary quality, and yet remains an accessible (very much so) piece of work. I just watched Avatar not so long ago, and, funny or not, this book reminds me a lot of the movie, perhaps because of the beauty in the story telling, no harshness and no unnecessary opinions, but a very strong message and a moving narrative.

## NON FICTION

### **Gil Alicea**

#### **STILL LIVIN'**

#### **Memoir of a Transplanted New Yorker**

Gil Alicea with Carlos Harrison. Proposal due winter 2010.

This is the incredibly dramatic life and near-death experience of the author who was given three months to live if he didn't receive a liver transplant. Alicea tells his story in an uncompromising and brutally honest way with the help of Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, Carlos Harrison. Both truly inspirational and a testament to the transformative power of love, this memoir will touch the hearts of readers anywhere in the world, and will also have them reading at breakneck speed following the author's travel for hope. Alicea went from his home in NYC to the middle of America in order to be evaluated for a transplant. Without knowing a single person and forced to relocate to a strange city, the author underwent intensive medical and psychological tests to determine if he met the criteria for a transplant. As doctors and specialists tested every part of his body, social workers and psychologists interrogated every part of his mind and discussed every action in his past; a past he thought was long ago buried. Alicea, a social worker, husband, son, brother, father, friend and mentor – an upstanding citizen, a happy and fulfilled man, was jolted back to memories of his violent, abusive, and dangerous past. He hardly recognized the young man he had been, having changed his life

## **Gil Alicea con't**

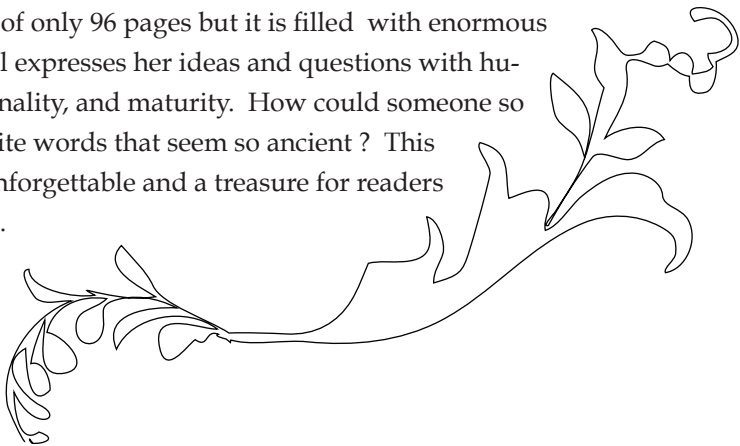
so drastically. But when faced with this final judgement, he became his fiercest critic, and while hoping and praying for a second life, he doubted he would get it. But, it took about 700 hours for Alicea to learn his fate. He received the life-saving phone call in the middle night. A liver had been accepted for Alicea if he could make it to the hospital, in another state, within a few hours. With the help of a private jet service, the author flew out of one city and landed in another, a thousand miles away, sped to the hospital and walked into its admitting office with only fifteen minutes to spare. **STILL LIVIN' MEMOIR OF A TRANSPLANTED NEW YORKER** is a testament to the enduring spirit of humanity and about how one man, and so all men, can become the best of who they were born to be.

## **Liel Braitman**

### **MY DAD IS AN ANGEL**

Miramah House/Holland, Droemer/Germany. English partial available.

Liel is a ten year old Jewish girl from Amsterdam who wrote and drew her thoughts and feelings after the death of her beloved father when she was four. This heartbreaking and profound diary, spanning from ages 4-8 was written when Liel mourned the loss of her father to cancer. Liel's writings collected by her mother show the mind of a child who has the uncanny ability to illuminate the biggest questions of life and death. It is at both times thoroughly innocent and also deeply complex. It is a tiny book of only 96 pages but it is filled with enormous ideas. Liel expresses her ideas and questions with humor, originality, and maturity. How could someone so young write words that seem so ancient? This diary is unforgettable and a treasure for readers of all ages.



## **Dr. Diana Nasher**

Lukas Lessing- ghostwriter, Independent journalist and author.  
He was awarded the Zurich prize for journalism in 1996.  
Ghostwriter for Yangzom Brauen: Eisenvogel (Heyne Verlag,  
München, 2009)

### **THE LAST SUMMER IN AFGHANISTAN**

Heyne Verlag- publication March 2012. Sold to Sperling/  
Italy, DeBoekerij/Holland. Complete ms. in German WILL BE  
COMPLETE IN JANUARY 2011. PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE.

The story of the Nashers, like that of all Afghans, is the story of a country of powerful patriarchs whose mothers and wives were always directly involved in their fortunes and misfortunes. It is the story of a family told against the background of the golden age enjoyed by Afghanistan during the 40-year rule of Mohammad Sahir Shah. This golden age came to an abrupt end with events that began with the involuntary abdication of the last Afghan king in 1973, the eventual Communist takeover of power in 1978 and the subsequent invasion by Soviet troops. The story of the Nasher dynasty is a grand Afghan-European tale encompassing three generations which begins at the end of the 1920s when a middle-class Afghan chemistry student falls in love with a young German woman from a good family.

Diana Nasher tells the story of her family, who came from the Pashtun upper classes of a still intact Afghanistan, from the beginning of the twentieth century up until the coup and the invasion of the Soviet troops which followed in 1979. This was the catastrophe that was to change everything, the point at which the ongoing suffering of this once rich country took root. In an epilogue, Diana Nasher's story sketches the fate of her family in the thirty years of exile which followed the coup, and in a short, personal conclusion it evaluates the current state of affairs in Afghanistan and tells the reader about the country in which soldiers from the UK, US and other nations are currently risking their lives in the pursuit of highly questionable, self-imposed goals.

# Scarlett Stoker

## DRACULA IN DIOR: THE ULTIMATE A-Z FASHION GUIDE FOR THE UNDEAD AND THOSE WHO WISH TO BE

Sonzogno/Italy, Fleuve Noir/France, Larousse do Brasil/Brazil.

Written by style expert Scarlett Stoker, 'Dracula in Dior' is a parody of the classic style advice guide, only this time the beneficiaries are not humans, but vampires. It's the ultimate A-Z for the undead – freshly turned and those approaching their 900th birthday- to help them dress for blood soaked success in the 21st century. God knows if the devil can wear Prada, it is time for Dracula to don Dior.

Despite striving for centuries to stay under the radar, vampires today are hotter than an eternity in hell. Books! Movies! Internet shrines! You might call them our newest rock stars. But pray tell, why have we fallen so hopelessly in love with these beasts who walk the night consumed with bloodlust? Five words. Sexy. Seductive. Insatiable. Mysterious. Passionate. Admit it, who among us doesn't dream of finding a man or woman who fits that description? Yes, it is quite true vampires are also are undead. Yes, they sleep in coffins and harbor an unquenchable thirst for blood. Your blood. Well, raise your hand if you don't have any character quirks others might find a little surprising at first. Thank you. Though fashionably thin (there isn't a woman alive who doesn't envy a vampire's 22 inch waist and ability to say no to food) and fashionably late (midnight is their favorite hour to arrive anywhere) vampires do suffer from one fashion related deficit. They are not fashionable. Here they are, roaming the earth among us in their black capes, velvet gowns, pasty faces and bloodshot eyes, a look that hasn't been updated in forever. Then you have those younger vampires who favor ripped jeans, T-shirts, and beaten up leather jackets, another fashion cliché. So popular, so lusted after, and yet so clueless when it comes to dressing. The names Dior, Balenciaga, Prada and Calvin Klein mean nothing to them, and yet they should! Mark Twain once wrote that clothes make the man. And should they not also make the man who lives for all eternity? Yet for vampires a style upgrade is about more than glamour and raising self esteem, both things fashion has the power to do. It's about staying alive and yet, undead. Many vampires were born centuries before this one, and are not only unaware of the latest fashion trends but of the latest

research into the meaning and importance of dressing in a person's life. Simply put, the better you look, the more friends you make, the more people one knows in every strata of society, the more opportunity to ... feed. Vampires have no-one giving them fashion advice- until now.

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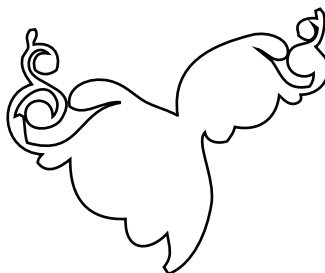
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