HEAD OF ZEUS

NEW TITLES

JULY 2012 - JANUARY 2013
CONTENTS

JULY / P.4-5
Catherine the Great
Robert K. Massie
HB £25.00

JULY / P.6-7
The Conductor
Sarah Quigley
HB/D  £17.99
HB £14.99 / TTPB £12.99

JULY / P.8-9
Habits of the House
Ray Mouton
HB £16.99 / TTPB £12.99

AUGUST / P.10-11
In God’s House
Joyce Carol Oates
HB £15.99 / TTPB £12.99

SEPTEMBER / P.12-13
Roman Games
Bruce MacBain
HB  £15.99  / X
TPB £12.99

SEPTEMBER / P.14-15
The Babylon Gene
Alex Churton
TPB £12.99

SEPTEMBER / P.16-17
The Return of the Thin Man
Dashiell Hammett
HB £14.99

OCTOBER / P.18-19
The Silver Thread
Kylie Fitzpatrick
HB £17.99 / TTPB £14.99

OCTOBER / P.22-23
Tigress of Forli
Elizabeth Lev
HB £16.99 / TTPB £12.99

OCTOBER / P.24-25
The Vengeance of Memory
Mark Oldfield
HB £17.99 / TTPB £14.99

OCTOBER / P.26-27
A Fatal Thaw
Dana Stabenow
HB £6.99

OCTOBER / P.28-29
The Corn Maiden
Joyce Carol Oates
HB £15.99 / TTPB £12.99

NOVEMBER / P.30-31
Shadows in the Night
Jane Finnis
HB £14.99 / TTPB £12.99

NOVEMBER / P.32-33
One for Sorrow
M. Reed & E. Mayer
HB £14.99 / TTPB £12.99

NOVEMBER / P.34-35
Wine of Violence
Priscilla Royal
HB £14.99 / TTPB £12.99

NOVEMBER / P.36-37
Something You Are
Hanna Jameson
HB £7.99

DECEMBER / P.38-39
Nocturne
Joseph Wambaugh
HB £16.99 / TTPB £12.99

DECEMBER / P.40-41
First Daughter
Eric Van Lustbader
HB £16.99 / TTPB £12.99

DECEMBER / P.42-43
A Cold Day for Murder
Dana Stabenow
HB £6.99

DECEMBER / P.44-45
Nicholas & Alexandra
Robert K. Massie
TPB £18.99

JANUARY / P.46-47
The Rook
Daniel O’Malley
HB £16.99 / TTPB £12.99

JULY / P.6
The Return of the Thin Man
Dashiell Hammett
HB £14.99

JULY / P.7
In God’s House
Ray Mouton
HB £17.99 / TTPB £14.99

JULY / P.8
Habits of the House
Ray Mouton
HB £16.99 / TTPB £12.99

AUGUST / P.10
In God’s House
Ray Mouton
HB £17.99 / TTPB £14.99

SEPTEMBER / P.12
Roman Games
Bruce MacBain
HB £15.99 / TTPB £12.99
A magnificent and memorable portrait of one of the most remarkable women in history.

The daughter of an impoverished aristocrat, Catherine was married aged 16 to Grand Duke Peter, heir to the throne of all the Russias. In 1762, Catherine rode out of St Petersburg at the head of an army to arrest her husband. Three months later she became empress of the largest empire on earth. She was 33 years old.

Catherine ruled Russia for 34 years, fighting the Turks abroad and rebellion at home, and shepherding her people through the upheavals of the French Revolution. She died in 1796 aged 67. From this extraordinary life of great events, fabulous splendour and barbaric cruelty, Robert K. Massie has woven a thrilling narrative based on impeccable scholarship.

Number one in New Zealand for twenty weeks, a profoundly moving story of music, survival, friendship and love in wartime Leningrad.

June 1941: Nazi troops surround the city of Leningrad, planning to shell and starve the people into submission. That winter, one of the bleakest in Russian history, the Soviet government orders conductor Karl Eliasberg to prepare for the performance of a lifetime.

In just five months, Eliasberg will conduct the ragged remains of his orchestra in the premiere of Shostakovich’s Seventh Symphony – a hauntingly beautiful piece written to bring a spark of hope to the composer’s besieged countrymen. Set against a backdrop of war, this is a moving story of the power of music to sustain the human spirit through the darkest of hours.

SARAH QUIGLEY has won several awards during her career. This summer marks the seventieth anniversary of the premiere of the Seventh Symphony.

‘I felt utterly transported to a place and a time – Leningrad in the grip of winter and the brutal siege that saw its citizens stripped of hope and dignity, eating boiled shoe leather to survive, the life being slowly crushed out of them... Quigley deserves to be mentioned alongside writers like Jane Smiley, Andrea Levy and Rose Tremain.’

HERALD ON SUNDAY

‘This is a superb book – an extraordinary period of history brought into proximity by a daring novelist with a sound knowledge of music and a gift for the language of intimacy. In Karl Eliasberg, the conductor, Sarah Quigley has created someone whose misfortune is to embody all the complexities of artistic ambition and failure, and jealousy, as well as self-loathing. The Conductor is superbly imagined and brilliantly realized.’

LLOYD JONES, AUTHOR OF MISTER PIP
Fay Weldon’s new novel describes three weeks in the lives of an aristocratic household, at the close of the nineteenth century.

As the summer of 1899 gives way to autumn, Lord Dilberne’s decision to remain in Belgrave Square rather than move the household to the ancestral acres of Dilberne Court sends out ripples of concern. His gamble on mining shares in the Transvaal has brought no financial relief to an already mortgaged estate. The novel explores how change affects the lives above stairs and below.

But as it unfolds, the novel also becomes a love story, precipitated by the arrival of Minnie, an unmarried American heiress, and her resourceful mother. With wit and sympathy — and no small measure of mischief — Ms Weldon plots the interplay of restraint and desire, manners and morals, reason and instinct.

Fay Weldon has written over thirty books. This is the first instalment of a three part novel set between 1899 and 1906.

“She had vowed never to trust a man again, let alone love one. But now, on the banks of the Serpentine Lake in Hyde Park – how she loved London! – Arthur had wound a twig around her wedding finger and said, ‘There, we are officially engaged.’ Then they had pecked each other on the cheek.

‘Are you serious?’ she had asked.

‘I am completely serious,’ he said. ‘It is time I got married. One has to look after the succession, you know. You will not interfere with my steam cars: I will not interfere with your little artistic sketches. Once we have achieved two sons, one for the title and one spare in case of illness and accident, we will both be free to go our own ways.’

‘I must have time to think about this,’ she said.

‘You disappoint me. You seemed a woman of quick decision.’

‘Oh very well,’ she said. ‘Let’s do it. One could go further and fare worse.’

The expression on his face did not alter. He just blinked a little.

‘We will wait three months before we announce the engagement,’ he then said, ‘for the sake of Society’s reaction, and for the sake of the household, which would otherwise have hysteric. We must show some sign of developing passion between us. The servants like a show of true love.’
THE TRUTH MATTERS.

It was this simple thought that led me on a twelve year journey that I began on a cold New Year’s day in Paris.

Like the protagonist of the novel, I lost everything that ever mattered to me as a result of the experience of being burdened by the secrets of the Church.

I felt a strong obligation to the victims of child abuse, whose names I will never know; a duty to use my knowledge to write a story for them, a story no one could write but me.

It took me more than a decade. Every day I wrote, I travelled back to the most painful period of my life. There were many days when I could not force myself to do it. But I wanted to write a book that represented the whole truth, write it for the victims.

I dedicate it to them as I dedicated twelve years of my life to them. The truth matters.

RAY MOUTON

This book is more than a novel. It’s an event twelve years in the making. It’s a journey into the dark places of the mind. It’s a devastating testament to one of the most harrowing problems of our time. And it’s the story of one man’s crusade to bring justice to the victims of child abuse.

When promising young lawyer Renon Chattelault agrees to defend the first Catholic priest to stand trial for child abuse, he knows it will be controversial. Most men would stand aside. But Chattelault is not most men. With the evidence he has gathered during the defense of a man he abhors, he mounts a crusade to expose the vast conspiracy at the heart of the Catholic Church. A conspiracy which allows those who have abused children to continue committing those crimes. For years, he lives and breathes a fight for justice that will cost him everything he has.

RAY MOUTON was the defense lawyer on the first criminal case of child abuse by a Catholic priest. His actions ignited a scandal that still rages today.
An informant has been murdered and the emperor wants answers from the only honest man in the senate: Pliny the Younger.

Rome: September, 96 AD. The body of Sextus Verpa, a notorious senatorial informer and libertine, is found stabbed to death in his bedroom. His slaves are suspected. Pliny is ordered by the Emperor Domitian to investigate and conscripts his friend, the impoverished poet Martial to his aid. However, the Ludi Romani, the Roman Games, have just begun and for the next fifteen days the law courts are in recess. If Pliny can’t identify the murderer in that time, Verpa’s entire household will be burned alive in the arena.

As the deadline approaches, Pliny struggles with the painful dilemma of a good man forced to serve a brutal regime, facing a conspiracy that touches the heart of imperial Rome: that implicates the paranoid emperor himself.

BRUCE MACBAIN holds a BA in Classics and a PhD in Ancient History.
An explosive conspiracy thriller that moves at break-neck speed around the globe to uncover a secret written in the blood at the dawn of history...

2004: when violent Jihadists bomb a Masonic lodge in Istanbul, the Turkish military enlist maverick British agent Toby Ashe to find the cause of the attack. Hurled into a tense race against the CIA to solve an intelligence puzzle encompassing genetic research, a covert SAS mission, the true origins of Freemasonry and the strange disappearance of the leader of a Kurdish mystical religion, Ashe must travel the globe in pursuit of answers.

What if the invasion of Iraq was nothing to do with WMD? What if America wasn’t motivated by oil, or regime change? What if the world’s largest superpower was driven by a desire to find something far more dangerous – a viral weapon passed down through history...

ALEX CHURTON is a Freemasonry expert. He lives in Gloucestershire.
The biography that gained Robert K. Massie the Pulitzer Prize, and a love-song to the rise of the Russian Empire, now back in print.

Against the monumental canvas of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Russia, unfolds the magnificent story of Peter the Great. Crowned at the age of 10, he became a barbarous, volatile feudal tsar with a taste for torture; a progressive and enlightened reformer of government and science; a statesman of vision and colossal significance: Peter the Great embodied the greatest strengths and weaknesses of Russia while being at the very forefront of her development.

Robert K. Massie delves deep into the life of this captivating historical figure, chronicling the events that shaped a man into a legend.

The silver thread

Kylie Fitzpatrick

A panoramic historical novel of rare beauty set between Victorian England, Ireland and Australia during the great age of sail.

Dublin, 1840: Rhia Mahoney watches in despair as her father’s linen warehouse goes up in flames. When her uncle, a shipping merchant, commits suicide, Rhia determines to find out what really happened – only to find herself arrested, and forced to board a prison ship bound for Australia. The voyage is made bearable by the women’s daily chore: to sew scraps of fabric into an elaborate quilt. And with every stitch, Rhia unwittingly binds herself closer to a murder plot that has its roots in the cloth trade...

Weaving death, love and adventure into a vivid tale set at the height of Empire, The Silver Thread is narrated with the skill and style of a literary storyteller.

Kylie Fitzpatrick is the author of two historical novels which have been published in ten languages.

The rajah quilt

is the only known surviving convict quilt from the transportation period, and was made by women on the transport ship Rajah in 1841. I was drawn to the quilt itself, initially – a painstakingly and beautifully crafted textile – and from there I was led to the Quaker charity that supported convict women by collecting remnants to be made into quilts. This, in turn, led me to the Irish and English cloth trades, and my story grew from there. The backdrop of industrialisation, the first opium war and the beginnings of early photography were all in sync, historically, with the journey of the Rajah, and this was how they came to be woven into my story.

Kylie Fitzpatrick
When famed true-crime writer Julian Wells is found dead in a boat set adrift, the question is not how he died, but why!

What happened to this man, a writer of dark non-fiction works that detail some of the worst crimes of the twentieth century?

When Wells takes his own life in Montauk, New York, his best friend, the literary critic Philip Anders, begins to reread his work in order to prepare a eulogy. This rereading, along with other clues, convinces the critic that his friend has committed a terrible crime, and that it was as punishment for this crime that Wells took his own life. Anders’ investigation, his obsession, with the mystery of the man he thought he knew leads him from Paris to Budapest, a journey that takes him deeper and deeper into the heart of darkness that was Julian Wells.

THOMAS H. COOK is one of the world’s most respected crime writers. He has won many awards for his novels.

I HAVE ALWAYS believed that a crime novel should be a novel, period. It should be a fully-realized work of art, one in which character and setting are both well developed. I don’t care 'who done it', if I don’t care to whom it was done.

Crime novels deal with lives in crisis, and for that reason they are perfect vehicles for exploring the subtleties of moral choice and the consequences of moral failure. For that reason, the characters in crime novels can’t exist only to either commit or suffer crimes. They must be human beings capable of feeling the full range of emotions we associate with criminal acts, jealousy, greed, desperation, hopelessness. They must confront all the pits and snares with which the road of life is littered, and they must do so not as cardboard figures, but as people whose lives are touched by either moral or physical crisis.

When crime writers care about their characters, they write books that can instruct and inform readers in exactly the same way as mainstream fiction, but this is done only when crime writers consider themselves novelists first and genre novelists second.

THOMAS H. COOK
The life of Caterina Sforza crosses the firmament of Italy’s High Renaissance like a shooting star.

She was born a Sforza in 1463, the illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Milan, and she died a Medici in 1509. In her 46 years she bore eight children and buried three husbands. She was painted by Botticelli, feted by Pope Sextus the Fourth, slandered by Machiavelli, celebrated as a warrior queen who led her own troops into battle, besieged, imprisoned and raped by Cesare Borgia, remembered as the author of a recipe book that went through more than 100 editions and honoured at her death as ‘without a doubt the first lady of Italy’.

Her direct descendants would include the Grand Dukes of Tuscany and the Kings of France and England.

ELIZABETH LEV is an art historian. She lives in Rome.

‘Warring kingdoms, feuding cousins, corrupt popes and hapless husbands and lovers. Caterina’s tale is as action-packed as Game of Thrones.’

New York Times
I’VE HAD THE good fortune to be associated with the principals of the Dashiell Hammett estate for many years. Richard Layman, author of the best Hammett biography, as well as the bibliography, has been a friend and fellow collector for thirty years.

Back in 1986, Rick and I had corresponded about unpublished and uncollected Hammett material. Amazingly, I still had the file, which had a newspaper clipping from 1976 referring to an unpublished Thin Man story. A call to Rick. Did he have this story? Three days later, he called back to say that he not only had it, he had two Thin Man Stories, one titled ‘Another Thin Man’ and the other ‘After the Thin Man’.

These were the stories, often referred to as treatments, which Hammett had written for the sequels to the immensely popular William Powell and Myrna Loy film, The Thin Man. I read them immediately and with great enthusiasm. These were polished stories with impeccable character development and finely tuned dialogue. Combining for nearly 300 pages, this will be an amazing book – the first new Dashiell Hammett book in more than a half-century. For a publisher, these books are the stuff that dreams are made of.

OTTO PENZLER
The story of a man you pray you’ll never meet and a cruelty that echoes through decades. A superb debut by a new British star.

Madrid, winter 1953: the snow lies thick on the ground and Comandante Leopoldo Guzmán is preparing a dawn raid. This man is the cold, unyielding steel of Franco’s regime, the fear behind his power. He is accountable to none, and moves at will through the corruption and deprivation of Franco’s Spain. But Guzmán is hiding a secret, a secret that will change everything.

Madrid, 2010: Ana María Galindez is a forensic scientist investigating the mass graves of the Franco era, the atrocities committed by the head of the infamous Brigada Especial, Leopoldo Guzmán. The man disappeared without trace in 1953, but as Galindez will soon discover, this doesn’t make him any less deadly.

MARK OLDFIELD holds a PhD in criminology. He lives in Kent.
One day in the Hudson Valley, an 11-year-old girl disappears on her walk home from school. A new novella of shocking intensity from Joyce Carol Oates.

Twice nominated for the Nobel Prize, Joyce Carol Oates presents an unbearably taut and terrifying tale combining the fury of folklore and adolescent insecurity. Marissa is an innocent girl, with hair the colour of corn-silk. She does not hold others in strange thrall, as some young women do, she obeys her parents, she does not stay late after school, lingering on her walk through the swaying heads of maize. She is the perfect sacrifice.

The Corn Maiden is a novella, followed by six other nightmares.

JOYCE CAROL OATES is a giant of the literary world. She has written over seventy books and lives in New Jersey.
The first in a series set on the frontier of the vast Roman empire.
Welcome to Britannia, AD 91.

It is almost fifty years since the legions invaded, but Britain is still a raw frontier province. Tensions run high, especially in the north, where Aurelia Marcella, a young Roman woman fled from the disaster at Pompeii, runs the Oak Tree Inn on the road to York.

When a traveller, Quintus, is left for dead outside the inn, Aurelia finds herself confronting a secretive war-band led by a man known only as the Shadow of Death. Can she destroy him before his campaign of terror turns into open rebellion?

JANE FINNIS was a radio producer and reporter. She lives in Yorkshire.
The first in a historical mystery series set in Constantinople, following a slave who rises to become the Emperor Justinian’s most trusted advisor.

It is 527 AD and Constantinople is a city simmering on the edge of chaos, a volatile stew of creeds and cultures. At its heart lies the Great Palace and the imperial court of the Roman Empire, a seething knot of ambition, competition, intrigue and treachery.

Into the maelstrom comes John. Once a warrior, now a slave. Once a man, now a eunuch. But in a city where violence and murder are commonplace, it is John’s skills as an investigator that will win him his freedom and a place at the right hand of Justinian, the greatest of Byzantium’s emperors.

MARY REED and ERIC MEYER are husband and wife and authors of nine John the Lord Chamberlain historical mysteries.
WINE OF VIOLENCE
PRISCILLA ROYAL

It is late summer in the year 1270. Simon de Montfort’s rebellion is over, but the smell of death still hangs over the land. On a remote East Anglian coast, stands the priory of Tyndal, where the monks and nuns of the Order of Fontevraud long for a return to routine.

Their hopes are dashed, however, when twenty-one-year-old Eleanor of Wynethorpe is appointed Prioress by King Henry III over the elected choice of the priory itself. Young and inexperienced, Eleanor will face a grave struggle to win over her resentful flock – but she will also have to cope with the violence of a brutal murder. In a place dedicated to love and peace, Eleanor will find little of either.

PRISCILLA ROYAL has written eight books in the Medieval Mystery series.

‘Anyone who hasn’t read Priscilla Royal’s mysteries yet is in for a treat. She paints the 13th century in bold, convincing colours and portrays its people with style, suspense and wit.’
Sharon Kay Penman

‘With its intriguing plot, chilling conclusion and characters who exhibit universal and timeless feelings, this fresh first has all the potential to evolve into a series as enduring as Ellis Peters’ Brother Cadfael books.’
Publishers Weekly

A mystery series compared to Ellis Peters’ Cadfael, set around the priory of Tyndal in thirteenth century Britain.

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‘With its intriguing plot, chilling conclusion and characters who exhibit universal and timeless feelings, this fresh first has all the potential to evolve into a series as enduring as Ellis Peters’ Brother Cadfael books.’
Publishers Weekly

PRISCILLA ROYAL has written eight books in the Medieval Mystery series.
Is evil something you do? Or something you are?
Debut noir from an extraordinary British talent.

Nic Caruana is paid to kill people. He never meant to end up this way. Now he inhabits the bleak, dark city that runs like a seam beneath London.

He’s been hired to track down the killer of an arms dealer’s daughter, using any weapon necessary to get to the truth. But Nic has become obsessed with beautiful, damaged Clare – his employer’s wife and definitely not for the taking. This stricken mother has her own twisted agenda, and Nic has nothing in his armoury to protect himself from what is to come.

First in the London Underground Series.

HANNA JAMESON has lived in the United Kingdom and Australia. She is twenty-two years old and studying at the University of Sussex.

‘Hanna Jameson writes like an angel on speed. Ellroy and sometimes Rankin walk you to the dark side brilliantly. Something You Are is no less gripping, shocking and relentless.’

Q MAGAZINE
TRIBUTES TO JOSEPH WAMBAUGH
ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

‘Joe Wambaugh has been one of those necessary voices through the years – sometimes angry, sometimes illuminating, often wise, always funny and fascinating – and without him, the lives of many readers would be smaller. Including mine.’
STEPHEN KING

‘Joseph Wambaugh has been writing books that matter for a long, long time. He has always blazed a unique path in the field of crime fiction. These are stories with depth of character and humour and a cold, hard honesty that rings true with every read. I’m one of the few lucky enough to have already read a copy of Nocturne. It’s Wambaugh at his best!’
MICHAEL CONNELLY

‘Joseph Wambaugh has created some of the most original crime fiction ever.’ JAMES PATTERSON

‘Joseph Wambaugh is the writer who convinced me that the popular fiction of today can be the literature of tomorrow.’
T. JEFFERSON PARKER

‘I run to get Joe’s books, but they’re so good they make me feel like quitting my job and doing something else. A genuine luminary and a real figurehead for the genre.’
LEE CHILD

‘Writers are formed from their own reading. We’re all the products of those whom we’ve read, and loved. So Joseph Wambaugh bears some responsibility for what I’ve become, for better or worse. One of the greats.’
JOHN CONNOLLY

A panoramic tale of Los Angeles from Joseph Wambaugh, a grandmaster of crime fiction.

The Los Angeles district of San Pedro was one of the world’s busiest harbours. Now it is a locus for gangs and human trafficking. The ubiquitous Croatian and Italian longshoremen have diminished in numbers and influence. One Croat, Dinko Babich, has even stooped to taxi service.

But one night, driving a 19-year-old Mexican dancer to her club, he falls desperately for this sweet, sincere and endearing girl. And when she sees something she shouldn’t have, something that links her to an investigation of a shipping container filled with 13 corpses, Dinko will do all he can to protect her from the lethal and terrifying men behind it.

JOSEPH WAMBAUGH is a former LAPD detective, multiple New York Times bestseller and the acknowledged father of the modern police novel.

When an accident takes the life of his daughter, Emma, ATF agent Jack McClure blames himself, numbing the pain by submerging himself in work. Then he receives a call from his old friend Edward Carson.

Carson is just weeks from taking the reins as President of the United States when his daughter, Alli, is kidnapped. Because Alli’s best friend was Emma McClure, Carson turns to Jack, the one man he can trust to go to any lengths to find his daughter and bring her home safely.

ERIC VAN LUSTBADER is the author of more than twenty-five novels, which have been translated into over twenty languages.
MEET KATE SHUGAK
(AND MUTT)

1. A COLD DAY FOR MURDER
2. A FATAL THAW
3. DEAD IN THE WATER
4. A COLD-BLOODED BUSINESS
5. PLAY WITH FIRE
6. BLOOD WILL TELL
7. BREAKUP
8. KILLING GROUNDS
9. HUNTER’S MOON
10. MIDNIGHT COME AGAIN
11. THE SINGING OF THE DEAD
12. A FINE AND BITTER SNOW
13. A GRAVE DENIED
14. A TAINT IN THE BLOOD
15. A DEEPER SLEEP
16. WHISPER TO THE BLOOD
17. A NIGHT TOO DARK
18. THOUGH NOT DEAD
19. RESTLESS IN THE GRAVE

THE HEROINE
Kate Shugak is a native Aleut who lives on an 160-acre homestead in a national park, on one of the world’s last great frontiers. Her roommate is a half-wolf, half-husky dog named Mutt. Kate can shoot a rifle, butcher a moose, overhaul an engine and survive in remote regions of the Alaskan wilderness.

THE AUTHOR
In 1991 Dana Stabenow, born in Alaska and raised on a 75-foot fishing trawler, was offered a three-book deal for the first of her Kate Shugak mysteries. In 1992, the first in the series, A Cold Day for Murder, received an Edgar Award from the Crime Writers of America for best paperback novel.

THE PHENOMENON
Eighteen books later, Dana and Kate are regular residents on the New York Times bestseller list. In the words of a Washington Post reviewer: ‘An outstanding series. If you’ve never visited Alaska, it’s also an intriguing introduction to that big, brawling, rather bewildering state.’

THE BRITISH DEBUT
In December 2012, Kate Shugak, Mutt and Dana Stabenow will make their long overdue debut in Britain and the Commonwealth with the first three novels available in paperback. By the beginning of 2014, all the Kate Shugak novels will be available in paperback.
Dear You,

The body you are wearing used to be mine. The scar on my inner leg is there because I fell out of a tree at the age of nine. The filling in the far left tooth is a result of avoiding the dentist for four years. But you probably care little about this body’s past. After all, I’m writing this letter for you to read in the future.

You are probably aware of this next part already, since if you are reading this then you have survived several immediate threats, but you are in danger. Just because you are not me does not make you safe. Along with this body, you have inherited certain problems and responsibilities. Go find a safe place, then open the second letter.

Sincerely,

Me

An astonishing fantasy debut following a secret organization, the Checquy, that keeps the world safe from supernatural threat.

‘The body you are wearing used to be mine.’

So begins the letter Myfanwy Thomas is holding when she comes to in a London park surrounded by dead bodies wearing latex gloves. With no memory of who she is, Myfanwy must follow the instructions her former self left behind. She soon learns that she is a Rook of the Checquy Court, the highest-ranking members of Her Majesty’s Supernatural Secret Service.

And that she possesses rare and lethal supernatural abilities of her own.

And that someone in her organization wants her dead.

DANIEL O’MALEY has an MA in Medieval History. He lives in Australia.
Complementing Massie’s *Peter the Great*, a paean to the last days, and the last rulers of Russia’s Empire.

In this commanding book, Robert K. Massie sweeps readers back to the extraordinary world of imperial Russia to tell the story of the Romanovs. Nicholas’s political naïveté, Alexandra’s obsession with the corrupt mystic Rasputin, and little Alexei’s brave struggle with haemophilia.

Against a lavish backdrop of luxury and intrigue, Massie unfolds a powerful drama of passion and history – the story of a doomed empire and the death-marked royals who watched it crumble.


‘A moving, rich and densely documented account of the last Romanovs. The tale is so bizarre, no melodrama is equal to it.’ NEWSWEEK

‘A wonderfully rich tapestry, the colours fresh and clear, every strand sewn in with a sure hand. Massie describes those strange and terrible years with sympathy and understanding... They come vividly alive before our eyes.’ NEW YORK TIMES

‘An all-too-human picture... Both Nicholas and Alexandra, with all their failings, come truly alive, as does their almost storybook romance.’ NEWSDAY

‘A magnificent and intimate picture... Not only the main characters but a whole era become alive and comprehensible.’ HARPER’S
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