

Sheila Ableman Literary Agency

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36 Duncan House Fellows Road London NW3 3LZ
Telephone: 020 7586 2339
E-mail: sheila@sheilaableman.co.uk



Danny Allan

Danny Allen is an experienced traveller who, during 2004 and 2005, followed in the footsteps of the extraordinary Elizabethan traveller, Thomas Coryate. Danny rode through Turkey, Iran and India by bicycle, in his attempt to find traces of the elusive but fascinating 'first tourist'. His book, *The Sky Above, The Kingdom Below*, recounting his adventures, was published by Haus in 2008.

James Ashcroft

James 'Ash' Ashcroft is 37. He went from Winchester to Oxford and took his law degree to Sandhurst. He joined the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1993 as an infantry officer and "across the water" survived an IRA bullet in South Armagh. It was his first "contact". After five years' service with tours of West Belfast, Bosnia and on secondment with American Special Forces, Ash faced the dilemma of pursuing a military career or having a bash in Civvy Street. He chose PSD. Private security is commonly called Close Protection (CP) or Private Security Detail. The pejorative term 'mercenary' has fallen into disuse. CP operatives are invariably highly-trained ex-military personnel with experience undercover in special ops, guerrilla wars and drug wars.

The work traditionally performed by Special Forces and Marines was increasingly being contracted out to private companies and on the battlefields of Iraq there was a new kind of soldier on the front line. *Making a Killing: The Secret World of Private Security in Iraq* shows us what life was really like in Iraq in the front line. It was published by Virgin Books in October 2006. His second book, *Escape from Baghdad* was published by Virgin in 2009.



Dr Jonathan Balcombe

Jonathan Balcombe was born in England, raised in New Zealand and Canada, and lives in Washington, D.C. Since gaining his PhD in ethology (animal behaviour) from the University of Tennessee in 1991, he has worked primarily in animal protection. His love of nature and zest for bird watching have taken him to five continents. He has published scientific papers on communication in bats, nesting in freshwater turtles, cooperative breeding in birds, and medical simulation.

His first book, *The Use of Animals in Higher Education: Problems, Alternatives and Recommendations*, was published by Humane Society Press in 2000. *Pleasurable Kingdom: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good*, an exploration of animals' experience of pleasure, was published by Macmillan in May 2006. It was also published in Greece, Germany Japan, Spain, Portugal, Korea and Finland. His book on animal behaviour, *Second Nature* was published in 2010 by Palgrave Macmillan. His latest book *Exultant Ark* was sold to the University of California Press and was published in 2011.

Amanda Barrett

Growing up with an interest in environmental politics and conservation, Amanda joined the BBC's Natural History Unit in the mid-eighties after obtaining a degree in Ancient Mediterranean Studies. After working as a secretary, production assistant, and researcher; she joined forces with Owen Newman in 1990 as an assistant producer on his Arctic fox film for the BBC's recurring series, *The Natural World*. Since then, they have made numerous films together in diverse countries such as Australia, Brazil, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia

She has written numerous magazine articles for BBC Wildlife and been a principal contributor to several successful books such as *Wild Africa* and *Earth's Great Events*. She has also been instrumental in writing scripts, winning Best Script at the Wildlife International Film Festival in Missoula, for *Cats* under *Serengeti Stars*, in 2002. She co-wrote *African Cats*, published by Disney in 2011, with Keith Scholey.

Vanessa Berlowitz

Vanessa Berlowitz was the Series Producer for the television series, Frozen Planet, and director and producer of two programmes for Planet Earth.

Vanessa studied Human Sciences at the University of Oxford. She joined the Natural History Unit in 1991 and went on to become a multiple award winning director and producer. She has also contributed to a number of books, the latest being her collaboration with Alastair Fothergill on *Frozen Planet* (BBC Books 2012)

Simon Brighton

Simon Brighton is an enthusiastic historian and photographer. A number of his photographs were used in The Da Vinci Code illustrated edition. *In Search of the Knights Templar: An Illustrated Guide to the Knights Templar Sites* (UK) is an introduction to the Knights Templar which gives clear information about the sites and where they can be found. Weidenfeld Illustrated published this in July 2006. His book, written with Terry Welbourne, *Echoes of the Goddess. The quest for the Sacred Feminine in the British Landscape*, was published by Ian Allan Publishing in 2010.

Dr Nigel P Brown

Nigel P. Brown gained a master's degree in Classics from Downing College, Cambridge before going on to forge a highly successful career as an advertising copywriter. *Nike, Nurses and Neon* was published by John Blake Publishing in autumn 2008. This book is a *pot pourri* of evidence that shows how the Greek and Latin languages are still alive in the English we use today.

Dr Alixe Bovey

Alix Bovey is a Canadian art historian and writer. After completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria, she moved to London to study at the Courtauld Institute of Art, from which she received her MA and PhD. Her research interests include the art of the Middle Ages and the legacy of medieval culture in the modern world. She is the author of *Monster and Grotesques in Medieval Manuscripts* (British Library/University of Toronto, 2002) and *The Smithfield Decretals: Tales from the Margins of a 14th century Law Book* (British Library/Toronto) was published in 2005. She presented a BBC4 TV series called *In Search of Medieval Britain*, which transmitted on BBC4 in April 2008. She is working on *Monster: A Cultural History of Things that Go Bump in the Night*.



Dr Clive Bromhall

After gaining his doctorate in zoology from Oxford, Clive Bromhall became a natural history documentary maker. During his filmmaking career he has studied subjects as diverse as deadly snakes, human sexuality and shark births. As well as many other awards he received an Emmy nomination for the documentary series *The Human Sexes*.

The Eternal Child is the product of a lifelong fascination with the evolution of mankind. *The Eternal Child* was published by Ebury Press in 2003. His latest book, *Why Breasts are Beautiful*, is on offer



Jim Burge

Jim Burge is a writer, producer and director of factual television programmes with a strong narrative element. He has been fascinated by the Middle Ages since studying medieval philosophy at university. He has made films for BBC's Timewatch, as well as a series entirely about the Middle Ages, *Strange Landscape*. Among his many films on science and the arts, Jim made *The Transmission of Roger Bacon*, which he wrote and directed using Bacon's original writings. He also made programmes for Channel Four's acclaimed series about the Industrial Revolution, *The Day the World Took Off*. *Untold: An Indian Affair* was a Channel Four series about the relationship between Britain and India and he directed various Richard Starkey programmes for the monarchy series.

His book, *Heloise and Abelard*, was published by Profile Books in 2003, and was published by HarperCollins in the USA in 2004. It was also published in Poland and Korea. His latest book, *Dante's Invention*, was published by The History Press in 2010. Jim is now working on a novel.



Giancarlo and Katie Caldesi

Giancarlo and Katie Caldesi are the proprietors of Caffè Caldesi in Marylebone and Caldesi in Campagna in Bray in Kent and have been running their cookery school in London since July 2005. BBC2 showed a 20 part series on their Tuscany Cookery School Course that they organised in the summer of 2005. The book to accompany this, *Return to Tuscany*, was published by BBC Books in May 2006. Their first book, *Italian Mama's Kitchen*, was published in September 2005.

Katie brought out *The Italian Cookery Course*, which was published by Kyle Cathie in 2010 and short listed for the Andre Simon prize. The latest book by Katie and Giancarlo is *Preserving*, to be published by Kyle Books in 2014.



Professor Caroline Cox

Caroline Cox is an international authority of fashion history, whose work explores the relationship between fashion, beauty and culture. She works as a Cultural Trends Advisor for Vidal Sassoon's Advanced Academy as well as lecturing and broadcasting throughout the world. Caroline was awarded the honour of a Visiting Professorship in Cultural History at the University of the Arts, London. This honorary title was bestowed for her services to the development of cultural history, in particular her writing on fashion.

Her books on fashion history and theory have been published internationally and include *Lingerie: A Lexicon of Style* (Thomas Dunn Books 2001), *Hair and Fashion* (V & A Publications) and *Stiletto*. (Mitchell-Beazley U.K./Harper Design International U.S.A) Her book, *Seduction*, was published by Michael Beasley in 2006. *Bags of Pleasure, the history of the handbag*, was published by Aurum Press in 2007 and *Vintage Shoes* was published by Carlton Books in 2009. *How to be Adored: A guide to Modern Glamour* was published by Quadrille in 2009. *Grown Up Glamour* was published by Quadrille in 2010 and *Vintage Jewellery* was published by Carlton also in 2010. She has since written another book on shoes, *Innovation: Shoes*, for Quintessence and is currently at work with a number of publishers on more ideas.



Professor Robin Dunbar

Magdalen Collage in Oxford.

Robin studied philosophy and psychology at Oxford and, having gained his doctorate in psychology at the University of Bristol, held fellowships at Cambridge, Liverpool, the University of Stockholm, and was Professor of Biological Anthropology at University College London. He was for many years Professor of Psychology at the University of Liverpool but is now Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology and Director at the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology at the University of Oxford. He is also a Fellow of

He is renowned for popularising science, making complicated material accessible to the general reader. He appears regularly on radio and television science programmes and writes for science magazines, such as *New Scientist*, *The Scotsman* and *BBC Wildlife Magazine*, as well as *The Times*, *Independent on Sunday* and the *Higher Education Supplement*.

His main research interests are the evolution of the mind and the social systems of human and non-human primates. He has carried out field studies of monkeys and antelope in East and West Africa and of wild goats in Scotland.

He has published eleven books, over 150 scientific papers and 100 items of popular science journalism. *The Trouble with Science* (Faber & Faber 1995) has been translated into five languages and published in the US by Harvard. *Grooming, Gossip and the Evolution of Language* (Faber & Faber 1996) has been translated into six languages, with a US edition published by Harvard in 1997. *Cousins: Our primate relatives* with Louise Barrett was published by BBC Worldwide in 2000 and he published *The Human Story* with Faber & Faber in 2003. *How many friends does one person need*, a book based on his highly-acclaimed articles, was published by Faber in 2010 and has been published in the USA, Spain, Japan, Russia, Turkey, Poland, China, Egypt, Korea, Rumania and Italy. *The Science of Love and Betrayal* was published by Faber & Faber in 2012 and Wiley in the USA. It has also been published in Italy and Holland. His book *Evolution of Man* is on offer.

Tadg Farrington

In 1996 Tadg won a grant under Scottish Screen's New Voices scheme to develop his treatment, *Cluny MacPherson*, into a feature length screenplay and he was the writer for *The Human Footprint*, which was broadcast on Channel 4.

Over the past 6 years he has worked as an editor, most notably on *The Machine Doctor* by Peter Burnett which won a Scottish Arts Council book of the year award in 2002. His book, *The Average Life of the Average Person*, was published by Square Peg, Random House, in 2009. His latest book, *157 Chinese Emperors and How they Died* is on offer.



Peter Firstbrook

Peter Firstbrook's first book, *The Voyage of the Matthew* (BBC Books, 1997) accompanied the TV series of the same name. Peter is also the producer of the BBC film *Lost on Everest* and he wrote the highly successful accompanying book *Lost on Everest – the Search for Mallory & Irvine* (BBC Books 1999). *Lost on Everest* won first prize at the Premio ITAS dell Libro di Montagna Publishing Awards, the Italian award for non-fiction books devoted to mountaineering.

He was also the series producer of *Surviving the Iron Age* and author of the accompanying book, *Surviving the Iron Age* (BBC Worldwide 2001). He directed *A Year in Tibet*, the 12 part BBC4 series. His book, *The Obamas, Footsteps out of Africa* was published by Random House in 2010 and by Crown in the US in 2011. His latest book, *Captain John Smith, A biography of a braggart and a bounder*, will be published by Oneworld Publications in 2014.



Alastair Fothergill

Alastair Fothergill studied Zoology at the University of Durham, joined the BBC Natural History Unit in 1983 and was appointed head of the unit in 1992. During his tenure he produced the award-winning series on the Antarctic, *Life in the Freezer* and *Blue Planet*. He wrote the accompanying book, *Life in the Freezer*, (BBC Books 1993) and co-wrote *Blue Planet*, (BBC Books 2001). Alastair was the series producer of *Planet Earth* and co-writer of the book *Planet Earth* BBC Books 2004). He is co-director of two feature film for Disney. He also brought out *Planet Earth: The Photographs*. (BBC Books 2007).

Alastair's next major series for the BBC was *Frozen Planet*, and he wrote, with Vanessa Berlowitz, the accompanying best-selling book *Frozen Planet*. It was published by BBC Books, Random House, in 2011. It was also published in Germany, Korea, Turkey, Holland, Spain and Japan. Alastair is currently working on films and series with the BBC and Disney.



Caro Handley

Caro graduated from York University with a degree in politics and philosophy. She specialised in African politics, having grown up in Kenya. Before moving into publishing she worked as a journalist. She trained on local newspapers in South Wales and Peterborough before moving into magazines and the national press. Caro worked for *Woman Magazine* as a feature writer, *The Daily Mail* as a reporter, *Woman's Own* as Assistant Editor and *The Sunday Express Magazine* as Assistant Editor. She then went freelance and worked for a wide variety of magazines over the next ten years, including stints as agony aunt for *Chat* magazine and later for *Good Housekeeping*.

She also trained as a counsellor/psychotherapist and although she decided not to pursue this as a career and to stay with writing, it has been enormously useful to her in her work as a ghost writer. She has often been asked to work with authors the publishers considered particularly challenging.

She wrote under her own name a series of four very successful short books, later translated into 12 languages - *Sorted in 30 days: Work/Money/Finding Love/Keeping Love* (Carlton Books 2002) and, since 2000, a very large number of high profile celebrity, ghosted books, many of which went on to become major best sellers. These cannot be listed here for reasons of confidentiality.



Ken Howard

Ken Howard is an award-winning TV and film producer and director and also an award-winning composer

Among his many films for the BBC, *Braveheart* and *Today I am A Man*, both won the Royal Television Society Award for Best Children's Programme in 1990 and 1991 and were followed by *Listen To Me*, a study of deaf children, *You've Got A Friend* with Alan Ayckbourn, that dealt with children's imaginary friends and the drama, *Open Mind* with Anna Massey, about child psychotherapy.

For BBC's *Bookmark* he wrote, directed and composed the Christmas special drama *Sunny Stories* - an evocation of the life of Enid Blyton, starring Maureen Lipman and Anna Massey. His 8-part rock history of London, *Routes of Rock* was transmitted on ITV and two 6-part children's series for BBC, *Court in the Act*, aired on BBC2.

Ken Howard is a director of Landseer Productions Ltd in London and his novel for young adults, *The Young Chieftain*, was published by Tamarind, Random House, in 2010.



Paul Kieve

Paul Kieve is the only illusionist to have been connected to the Harry Potter films - as physical magic consultant to Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (in which he also appears) and as a pre-production consultant on Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. He privately tutored Daniel Radcliffe who became hooked on magic and has written the introduction to Paul's innovative book *Hocus Pocus – a Tale of Magnificent Magicians and their Amazing Feats* published by Bloomsbury in the UK and Germany in October 2007. The title was published in the USA by Scholastic in June 2008. Further editions have been sold in Brazil, Italy, Turkey, Portugal, Germany Poland, Spain, Denmark, The Netherlands, China and Israel. It was Children's Book

of the Month at Borders.

Paul's has been passionate about the subject of magic since the age of 10 but his professional career started at the age of 16 when he performed magic in the video for Sade's hit *Your Love Is King*. He was runner up in the international Young Magician of the Year competition in 1985 and after leaving school toured the globe for 4 years performing his acclaimed magic act in Japan, Italy, the QE2 and The Magic Castle in Hollywood.

Since 1991 Paul has mainly concentrated on creating innovative illusionary effects for theatre productions, and is now considered to be one of the leading international designers in this field.

He is also considered to be a leading expert in the subject of magic history and was magic consultant on the BBC History of Magic series. Paul has tutored many celebrities and even supervised the sawing in half of Pop Idol / American Idol star Simon Cowell live on BBC TV! Paul is now working on another book on magic.



Christine King

Christine has edited, written and co-written many best-selling books in her capacity as ghost-writer. Apart from the innumerable books which she has rewritten and edited for many publishers, she has worked with Iain Stewart on *Journeys from the Centre of the Earth* and worked with Simon Brighton on *In Search of the Knights Templar*. She ghosted Elaine Lordan's *Whatever it Takes*, (Ebury 2007) and worked on Gail Porter's autobiography *Laid Bare* (Ebury 2007), and wrote *Sold* which was published by Hodder in 2008. Christine has ghosted many other celebrity autobiographies which cannot be listed for

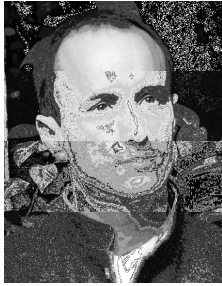
confidentiality reasons.



Kate Lock

Kate Lock is a writer and journalist based in York. As a features writer for Radio Times, she joined *Casualty* as an extra; interviewed Due South mountie Paul Grose in his underpants; got drunk with Johnny Morris; attended a wedding for The Archers; lurked in a graveyard on *Pride and Prejudice*; had a close encounter with a lion for *Vets in the Wild* and – almost - got a date with Richard E Grant. This knowledge of television stood her in good stead for writing TV tie-ins, including: Jimmy McGowan's *The Lakes* (BBC Worldwide 1998) *Where the Heart Is: Home* (Headline 1998) *Home* and *Where the Heart Is: Relative Values* (Headline 1999) (BBC Worldwide 1998) *Tiffany's Secret Diary* (BBC Worldwide 1998) *Bianca's Secret Diary* (BBC Worldwide 1999) *Who's Who in EastEnders* (BBC Worldwide 2000) *Burnside: The Secret Files* (HarperCollins 2000) and *Steve Owen: Still Waters*: (BBC Worldwide 2001).

Ebury Press published *Carion Kisses*, a work of autobiographical non-fiction, in March 2004, later published in paperback as *Dangerous Love*. She wrote a personal account of her attempts to live a greener life style. *Confessions of an Eco Shopper*, which was published by Hodder in 2008.



David Manners

David enjoyed an eclectic education in Epsom, Lichfield, Paris, Frankfurt and Stockholm. After a period of public relations in Pittsburgh and working the harvest in North Pennsylvania's Amish country, he returned to Britain to read Music, specialising in composition. David has been employed as a cabaret and ballet pianist in London, an English teacher to German bankers, a translator for a Parisian professor, a care-worker with autistic children, and as an assistant to a leading theatrical milliner. He worked for five years as a theatre designer, primarily with one of Britain's foremost dance companies, for which he was also commissioned to compose original orchestral work. David spent twelve years as massage therapist at Glyndebourne Opera, where he also taught *Shaiva Tantra Yoga*. He has led courses in the same, little-known tradition at English National Opera, for the Jerwood Young Artists' Programme, and with village groups in various regions of India. He is the co-founder of a charity that provides medical care, education and human contact for socially excluded individuals and communities on the Indian subcontinent. For the past fourteen years, David has divided his life between the Sussex Downs and the Bengal Himalaya. His book, *In the Shadow of Crows*, an account of his spiritual journey through India, was published by Reportage Press in 2009 and reissued by Signal Books Ltd. in 2011.

His next book, *Limitless Sky* is a unique personal account of one man's discovery of an inspirational, yet little-known, Himalayan tantric tradition, into which he was progressively initiated over a period of some fourteen years. With its preference for the practical, rather than the faith-based and mystical, this tradition proves ideally suited to Western rationality'. This is on offer.

Fiona Rule



Fiona is a professional writer and researcher with over 15 years experience in a variety of disciplines including advertising copy, PR press releases, magazine features and columns, non-fiction books, newsletters and research papers. She has a particular interest in social history, interior design and furniture. She gained a valuable insight into how the publishing industry operates (particularly from the retail perspective) while working for two years at Books Etc Head Office as Assistant to the Marketing Director where she was responsible for the organization of many book signings, talks and readings. Fiona is also a trained vocalist and is experienced in performing in front of an audience. Her book, *The Worst Street in London* was published by Ian Allan Publishing in 2008 who also published *The Docks* in 2009. She wrote *London's Labyrinth* which was published by Ian Allen Publishing in 2012, followed by *Notting Hill* which will be published by Ian Allen Publishing in 2014.

Keith Scholey

Keith and Amanda Barrett wrote *African Cats*, published by Disney in 2011, to accompany a feature film of the same name. Keith was born and raised in East Africa. He qualified as a zoologist with both a degree and Phd from Bristol University. In 1982 he worked as a wildlife stills photographer, a passion he kept throughout his television career. He also began working with the BBC Natural History Unit as a researcher and subsequently became a producer making many films for the Natural World and Wildlife on One series as well as for special series including David Attenborough's award winning *The Private Life of Plants*.

In 1993 he became an executive producer running *Wildlife on One* and creating series such as the *Wildlife Specials* and *Big Cat Diary*. In 1998 he was appointed the Head of the Natural History Unit and as editor in chief oversaw series including David Attenborough's *Life of Birds* and *The Life of Mammals*, *Blue Planet*, *Andes to Amazon*, *Cousins* and *Wild Africa*.

In 2002 he was appointed Controller of Specialist Factual, responsible for BBC Natural History, Science, History, Arts, Business and Religious in-house productions. Natural History productions made during this time included *Springwatch*, David Attenborough's *Life in the Undergrowth* and *Planet Earth*. In 2006 he was appointed the Controller of Factual Production.

Dave Sharp

Dave Sharp has written a remarkable account of his search for his lost family. Given away at birth and brought up by a loving adoptive family, he discovers, late in life, that he is the full brother of Ian McEwan, the renowned writer. John Blake published *Complete Surrender* in 2008.



Professor Iain Stewart

Professor Iain Stewart has worked for the Centre for Geosciences, Department of Geography and Geomatics, University of Glasgow and is now professor at the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Plymouth.

He has presented Horizon programmes and presented the series *Journey from the Centre of the Earth*, which was transmitted in January 2005. He wrote the accompanying book, also called *Journeys from the Centre of the Earth*, which was published by Century. His next series was *Journey from the Centre of the Earth: Pacific Rim*, which transmitted in the autumn of 2006. His book, *Earth: The Power of the Planet*, was published in 2007 by BBC Books to accompany the BBC2 5 part series. It was published by National Geographic in the USA and has also been published in Greece, Germany, Cyprus and Russia. His latest book, *Geologica Britannica*, an area by area exploration of the terrain of Britain, is on offer.



Peter Taylor

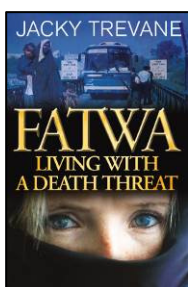
Peter Taylor, author of *Provos*, *Loyalists* and *Brits* has reported on Northern Ireland for over thirty years and has made more than fifty documentaries on the conflict for *This Week* and the BBC's *Panorama* in addition to numerous authored series for the BBC. He authored *The Third World War: Al Qaeda*; *The New Al Qaeda*; *Al Qaeda*; *Time to Talk?*, *Generation Jihad* and *Age of Terror*. He has also presented three *Panorama* Specials on major Al Qaeda-related terrorist plots.

His books include *Families at War: Voices from the Troubles* (BBC Books 1989), *The Provos: The IRA and Sinn Fein* (1998), *Loyalists* (2000) and *Brits: The War Against the IRA* (2002), all published by Bloomsbury. His book, *Talking to Terrorists* was published by Harper Press in 2011.

In 1995 Peter received the prestigious RTS Judges' Award for his lifetime's coverage on the conflict in Ireland and in 2001 was made fellow of the RTS. In 2002 Peter was awarded an OBE for services to broadcasting. He was awarded the James Cameron Memorial Award in 2008 and became an Honorary Doctor of Letters, Bradford University, for his work on terrorism and political violence in 2008.

Ingrid Thomas

Ingrid Thomas has been interested in shells since childhood. She has devoted many years to researching them and lecturing on the subject in the U.K. and overseas. Her book, *The Shell*, the definitive book on the subject, was published in 2007 by Thames & Hudson.



Jacky Trevane

Jacky was 23 when she arrived in Egypt for a ten-day holiday. She twisted her ankle and was rescued by an Egyptian family - where she met Omar. It was love at first sight, they married and Jacky, converting to Islam and taking an Arab name, became, in effect, an Arab woman. Jacky's description of her life living with a poor Arab family reveals a culture totally alien to her own, of two worlds that would inevitably clash with terrible consequences.

When her meticulously planned and dramatic escape was discovered, the 'sin' of taking a man's children from him resulted in the Iman in Cairo issuing a fatwa, a death threat. Jacky has been looking over her shoulder ever since, hence the pseudonym Jacky Trevane.

Hodder & Stoughton published *Fatwa: Living with a death threat* in January 2004 and *Invisible Women* in 2006.



Charlotte Uhlenbroek

Charlotte Uhlenbroek is the rising star of the BBC Natural History Unit. She has a degree in Zoology and Psychology from Bristol University and a PhD in zoology. While researching for her PhD, she spent four years in the forests of Gombe, Tanzania, studying the behaviour and vocal communication of wild chimpanzees.

Her first screen appearance was in the BBC Natural History Unit's Dawn to Dusk series (1996), then she went on to present BBC2's Chimpanzee Diary as part of the Animal Zone (1998-1999). Cousins (BBC1, 2000) was her first three-part series, in which she set off on a global adventure to meet our closest living relatives – monkeys, apes and other primates.

Her series, Talking with Animals, which explores the secret world of animal communication, was screened on BBC1 in the summer of 2002. Hodder & Stoughton published the accompanying book, and also published her book, *Jungle*, in autumn 2003, which accompanied the BBC TV series of the same name. Charlotte's latest book is a comprehensive book on animal behaviour, *Animal Life: The Definitive Visual Guide to Animals and their Behaviour*, which was published by Dorling Kindersley in 2008



Hubert van den Burgh

Hubert van den Burgh gained a master's degree in Modern Languages from Keble College, Oxford, before going on to forge a successful career in the city. As a reaction against glib city chat, he cultivated ways to improve his vocabulary, a project he has converted into his book, *How to Sound Clever*. This book sets down the 1000 words, which people encounter in everyday life, which they think they know, but don't actually have the confidence to use. This book gives the etymology

of the words but also gives lively examples of the how the words can be used, citing celebrities to make them memorable, and was published by A & C Black in 2010. His next book, *How to sound Even Cleverer*, is being written.

Catharine Von Bredow

In the Blink of an Eye is an account, painstakingly written by Hasso von Bredow, of the rare and devastating stroke in the brain stem. which he suffered when a seemingly healthy father of three and City professional. Unable to communicate other than by blinking an eyelid, this is a deeply moving story of his last years, written with the help of a machine. It also includes a brilliantly- written evocation of their life together by his devoted wife Catherine who shared his grief and pain with him. Orion published *In the Blink of an Eye* in June 2009. Catherine is currently writing a novel, which will soon be on offer.



Michael Williams

Michael Williams writes widely on railways for many publications, including *The Independent*, *Independent on Sunday*, *Daily Mail*, *New Statesman*, *The Oldie* and the railway specialist press. He is a senior Fleet Street journalist of many years' experience and the former Deputy Editor of the *Independent on Sunday*. He is currently Senior Lecturer in the School of Journalism, Media and Communication at the University of Central Lancashire. His previous books include *Society Today* and *Britain Now Quiz*.

He commutes regularly by train on the 435-mile return journey between his home in London's Camden Town and his office at Preston in Lancashire. His books *On the Slow Train* and *On the Slow Train Again* were published by Preface, Random House, in 2010 and 2011 respectively. He is now writing a book for Preface on how trains effected the war in Europe, *How Railways won the War*, which will be published in 2014



The Estate of Paul Ableman

Novelist, playwright, and screenwriter, Paul Ableman's play, *Green Julia* was a noteworthy success at the 1965 Edinburgh Festival and led to a career writing plays for radio, television and the stage. He was chief fiction reviewer for *The Spectator* and *The Evening Standard* as well as London Literary Correspondent for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

His main focus, however, was on fiction. The critically acclaimed *I Hear Voices* was published by Olympia Press in Paris in 1958 and was described by Philip Toynbee in the *Observer* '...a strikingly fresh and original work of art.... The writing is brilliant; both terrifying and hilariously funny'. Maurice Girodias, Olympia Press's publisher described it as, 'the book, not excluding *Lolita*, which gave me the greatest pride and pleasure to publish'. As well as many successful commercial novels, he wrote four more literary novels, *As Near As I Can Get* (1962 Spearman), and *Twilight of the Vilp* (1966), *Vac* (1968), and *Tornado Pratt* (1977) all published by Victor Gollancz Ltd. His last book was *The Secret of Consciousness; how the brain tells the story of me*. (Marian Boyars Publishers Ltd 1999). Faber Finds published the five novels in 2010. His novel, *Tornado Pratt*, was published in Italy by ISBN Edizioni in 2009.