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KEY=OLD - ROBERSON CARNEY

Old Filth *Orbit Books* 'Jane Gardam's work is rich and diverse and she writes beautifully. She's a treasure of contemporary English writing' Ian McEwan 'What a spiky brilliant sledgehammer of a novel is Jane Gardam's Old Filth' Patrick Ness Sir Edward Feathers has had a brilliant career, from his early days as a lawyer in Southeast Asia, where he earned the nickname Old Filth (Failed In London, Try Hong Kong) to his final working days as a respected judge at the bar. Yet through it all he has carried with him the wounds of a difficult and emotionally hollow childhood. Now an eighty-year-old widower living in comfortable seclusion in Dorset, Feathers is finally free from the demands of his work and the sentimental scaffolding that has sustained him throughout his life. He slips back into the past with ever mounting frequency and intensity, and on the tide of these vivid, lyrical musings, Feathers approaches a reckoning with his own history. Not all the old filth, it seems, can be cleaned away. Jane Gardam has written a literary masterpiece that retraces much of the twentieth century's torrid and momentous history. Feathers' childhood in Malaya during the British Empire's heyday, his schooling in pre-war England, his professional success in Southeast Asia and his return to England toward the end of the millennium, are vantage points from which the reader can observe the march forward of an eventful era and the steady progress of that man, Sir Edward Feathers, Old Filth himself, who embodies the century's fate. **The Man In The Wooden Hat From the Orange Prize shortlisted author** *Abacus* 'It's a cliché to compare novelists to Jane Austen, but in the case of Jane Gardam it happens to be true. Her diamond-like prose, her understanding of the human heart, her formal inventiveness and her sense of what it is to be alive - young, old, lonely, in love - never fades' Amanda Craig 'Her work, like Sylvia Townsend Warner's, has that appealing combination of elegance, erudition and flinty wit' Patrick Gale Filth (Failed In London, Try Hong Kong) is a successful lawyer when he marries Elisabeth in Hong Kong soon after the War. Reserved, immaculate and courteous, Filth finds it hard to

demonstrate his emotions. But Elisabeth is different - a free spirit. She was brought up in the Japanese Internment Camps, which killed both her parents but left her with a lust for survival and an affinity with the Far East. No wonder she is attracted to Filth's hated rival at the Bar - the brash, forceful Veneering. Veneering has a Chinese wife and an adored son - and no difficulty whatsoever in demonstrating his emotions . . . How Elisabeth turns into Betty and whether she remains loyal to stolid Filth or is swept up by caddish Veneering, makes for a page-turning plot in a perfect novel which is full of surprises and revelations, as well as the humour and eccentricities for which Jane Gardam's writing is famous. **The People on Privilege Hill** *Europa Editions* "Engrossing stories of hilarity and heartbreak" from the Whitbread Award-winning author of the Old Filth trilogy (The Seattle Times). A collection of stories from a writer at the height of her powers—a celebrated stylist admired for her caustic humor, freewheeling imagination, love of humanity, and wicked powers of observation. This is a delightful grouping of stories, witty and wise, that includes the return of Sir Edward Feathers, "Old Filth" himself. "[Gardam's] stories, like delicate tapestries, are alight with colors." —The Times (London) "When Gardam hits her mark, like other exemplary short-story writers such as William Trevor, Sylvia Townsend Warner and Elizabeth Taylor, she can be dazzling." —The Guardian "Gardam's brisk narration and fearless temperament make for serious fun." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "Wry, economical and perpetually surprising, these 14 stories from English novelist Gardam follow the last of the intrepid, stiff upper lip WWII generation of British ladies and gentlemen. . . . Gardam vividly evokes an age of iron wills." —Publishers Weekly "Gardam displays the consummate skill of the short-story-teller, which is that of the caricaturist, the ability to capture a personality in a few brief strokes. . . . Privilege Hill is a collection of gentle stories that you could read to your grandmother, with the kind of sharp wit that would no doubt give her a secret smile. But they're deeper than they look . . . so don't read them all at once." —The Bookbag **Last Friends** *Europa Editions* "The satisfying conclusion to Gardam's Old Filth trilogy offers exquisite prose, wry humor, and keen insights into aging and death" (The New Yorker). While Old Filth introduced readers to Sir Edward Feathers, his dreadful childhood, and his decades-long marriage, The Man in the Wooden Hat was his wife Betty's story. Last Friends is Terence Veneering's turn. His beginnings were not those of the usual establishment grandee. Filth's hated rival in court and in love is the son of a Russian acrobat marooned in the English midlands and a local girl. He escapes the war and later emerges in the Far East as a man of panache and fame. The Bar treats his success with suspicion: Where did this handsome, brilliant Slav come from? This exquisite story of Veneering, Filth, and their circle tells a bittersweet tale of friendship and grace and of the disappointments and consolations of age. They are all, finally, each other's last friend as this magnificent series ends with the deep and abiding satisfaction that only great literature provides. "[Gardam's] prose sparkles with wit, compassion and humor. She keeps us entertained, and she keeps us guessing. Be thankful for her books. Be thankful for this trilogy, which is ultimately an elegy, created with deep affection." —The Washington Post "Restores us to an era rich in spectacle and bristling with insinuation and intrigue. Vivid, spacious, superbly witty, and refreshingly brisk . . . the story (and the author) will endure." —The Boston Globe "All three Gardam books

are beautifully written but it's a pleasure to note that *Last Friends* is the most enjoyable, the funniest and the most touching." —National Post **Crusoe's Daughter** *Europa Editions* From the award-winning author of *Old Filth*. "[A] wonderfully old-fashioned novel . . . This post-Victorian charmer is an engrossing delight" (People). In 1904, six-year-old Polly Flint is sent by her sea captain father to live with her aunts in a house by the sea on England's northeast coast. Orphaned shortly thereafter, Polly will spend the next eighty years stranded in this quiet corner of the world as the twentieth century rages in the background. Through it all, Polly returns again and again to the story of Robinson Crusoe, who, marooned like her, fends off the madness of isolation with imagination. In the Guardian's series on writers and readers' favorite comfort books, associate editor Claire Armitstead said of *Crusoe's Daughter*, "This is the most bookish of books . . . Every time I return to it, I am comforted by its refusal to conform, its wonderful, boisterous bolshiness, and the intelligence with which it demonstrates that we are what we read." "Witty, subversive, moving." —The Times (London) "[A] richly textured novel . . . much occurs on the emotional landscape. We know Polly intimately, and she haunts our imaginations as surely as Crusoe haunts hers . . . a thought-provoking book." —Library Journal "[The] most seductively entertaining of British novelists." —Kirkus Reviews **The Hollow Land** *Penguin* The barren, beautiful Cumbrian fells provide the bewitching setting for the adventures of Bell and Harry, two children who find enchanting wonder at every turn, as they explore THE HOLLOW LAND. Everyday challenges give a daring edge to this rural work and play. There are ancient mysteries to explore and uncover, like the case of the Egg Witch, and everyone is curious about the Household Name, a wildly famous Londoner moving in to the jewel of the territory, Light Trees Farm. With painterly ease, Jane Gardam's stories fly with a marvelous spirit that will delight readers of all ages! **The Queen of the Tambourine** *Europa Editions* Winner of the Whitbread Prize for Best Novel of the Year: "Gardam's portrait of an insanely imaginative woman in an elusive midlife crisis is impeccably drawn" (The Seattle Times). With prose that is vibrant and witty, *The Queen of the Tambourine* traces the emotional breakdown—and eventual restoration—of Eliza Peabody, a smart and wildly imaginative woman who has become unbearably isolated in her prosperous London neighborhood. The letters Eliza writes to her neighbor, a woman whom she hardly knows, reveal her self-propelled descent into madness. Eliza must reach the depths of her downward spiral before she can once again find health and serenity. This story of a woman's confrontation with the realities of sanity will delight readers who enjoy the works of Anita Brookner, Sybille Bedford, Muriel Spark, and Sylvia Plath. "Excellently done . . . Manic delusions have never been so persuasive . . . Very moving when it is not being exceedingly funny." —Anita Brookner, award-winning author of *The Debut* "British author Gardam, who won the Whitbread Award for this jigsaw puzzle of a novel, keeps up the suspense to the end, writing like a sorceress in the meantime." —The Seattle Times "Brilliant." —The Sunday Times "An ingenious, funny, satirical, sad story . . . Vivid and poignant." —The Independent on Sunday "Wickedly comic . . . masterly and hugely enjoyable." —Daily Mail "Marvelously subtle and moving." —The Times (London) **The Stories** *Europa Editions Incorporated* Presents a collection of stories from the prolific award-winning English writer, including "Hetty

Sleeping," "The Easter Lilies," and "The Zoo at Christmas." **The Old Filth Trilogy** *Europa Editions Incorporated* Jane Gardam's beloved Old Filth Trilogy--her masterpiece, *Old Filth*, *The Man in the Wooden Hat*, and *Last Friends*--are here presented in a box set perfect for holiday gift-giving. Emotionally distant but highly successful Edward Feathers, his beautiful wife Betty, and his devilishly handsome professional rival (and Betty's one-time lover) Edward Veneering are the anchors of this series, with each novel focusing on a different character. Feathers was a "raj orphan"--children born in Far East British colonies and raised in England--while Veneering's own path to legal renown is a Dickensian as his name. *Filth* and his circle tell a bittersweet tale of enduring friendship while contending with the disappointments and consolations of age as a once-insurmountable empire declines around them. Told with Jane Gardam's customary wit, the Old Filth trilogy is a deeply humane and often comic portrait of aging and a reminder that the experiences we choose to take with us in our twilight years are as unforgettable--and unpredictable as life itself. **Filth** *W. W. Norton & Company* With the Christmas season upon him, Detective Sergeant Bruce Robertson of Edinburgh's finest is gearing up socially--kicking things off with a week of sex and drugs in Amsterdam. There are some sizable flies in the ointment, though: a missing wife and child, a nagging cocaine habit, some painful below-the-belt eczema, and a string of demanding extramarital affairs. The last thing Robertson needs is a messy, racially fraught murder, even if it means overtime--and the opportunity to clinch the promotion he craves. Then there's that nutritionally demanding (and psychologically acute) intestinal parasite in his gut. Yes, things are going badly for this utterly corrupt tribune of the law, but in an Irvine Welsh novel nothing is ever so bad that it can't get a whole lot worse. . . . In Bruce Robertson Welsh has created one of the most compellingly misanthropic characters in contemporary fiction, in a dark and disturbing and often scabrously funny novel about the abuse of everything and everybody. "Welsh writes with a skill, wit and compassion that amounts to genius. He is the best thing that has happened to British writing in decades."--*Sunday Times* [London] "[O]ne of the most significant writers in Britain. He writes with style, imagination, wit, and force, and in a voice which those alienated by much current fiction clearly want to hear."--*Times Literary Supplement* "Welsh writes with such vile, relentless intensity that he makes Louis-Ferdinand Céline, the French master of defilement, look like Little Miss Muffet."--*Courtney Weaver, The New York Times Book Review* "The corrupt Edinburgh cop-antihero of Irvine Welsh's best novel since *Trainspotting* is an addictive personality in another sense: so appallingly powerful is his character that it's hard to put the book down....[T]he rapid-fire rhythm and pungent dialect of the dialogue carry the reader relentlessly toward the literally filthy denouement."--*Village Voice Literary Supplement*, "Our 25 Favorite Books of 1998" "Welsh excels at making his trash-spewing bluecoat peculiarly funny and vulnerable--and you will never think of the words 'Dame Judi Dench' in the same way ever again. [Grade:] A-."--*Charles Wincoff, Entertainment Weekly* **Black Faces, White Faces** *Abacus* A loosely connected sequence of stories, offering vignettes of human foibles from the holiday island of Jamaica. Mrs Filling sees something nasty in the midday sun; an English lawyer dallies while his wife goes mad in England; sexuality flares and everywhere farce and racial tension lurk. **The**

Fatal Englishman Three Short Lives *Vintage* In *The Fatal Englishman*, his first work of nonfiction, Sebastian Faulks explores the lives of three remarkable men. Each had the seeds of greatness; each was a beacon to his generation and left something of value behind; yet each one died tragically young. Christopher Wood, only twenty-nine when he killed himself, was a painter who lived most of his short life in the beau monde of 1920s Paris, where his charm, good looks, and the dissolute life that followed them sometimes frustrated his ambition and achievement as an artist. Richard Hillary was a WWII fighter pilot who wrote a classic account of his experiences, *The Last Enemy*, but died in a mysterious training accident while defying doctor's orders to stay grounded after horrific burn injuries; he was twenty-three. Jeremy Wolfenden, hailed by his contemporaries as the brightest Englishman of his generation, rejected the call of academia to become a hack journalist in Cold War Moscow. A spy, alcoholic, and open homosexual at a time when such activity was still illegal, he died at the age of thirty-one, a victim of his own recklessness and of the peculiar pressures of his time. Through the lives of these doomed young men, Faulks paints an oblique portrait of English society as it changed in the twentieth century, from the Victorian era to the modern world.

A Long Way From Verona *Hachette UK* I ought to tell you at the beginning that I am not quite normal having had a violent experience at the age of nine' Jessica Vye's 'violent experience' colours her schooldays and her reaction to the world around her- a confining world of Order Marks, wartime restrictions, varella dresses, nicely-restrained essays and dusty tea shops. For Jessica she has been told that she is 'beyond all possible doubt', a born writer. With her inability to conform, her absolute compulsion to tell the truth and her dedication to accurately noting her experiences, she knows this anyway. But what she doesn't know is that the experiences that sustain and enrich her burgeoning talent will one day lead to a new- and entirely unexpected- reality.

Faith Fox *Abacus* When sweet, healthy hearty Holly Fox dies suddenly in childbirth, the Surrey village whose pearl she was reverberates with shock. She leaves behind her a helpless, silent husband, and a tiny daughter, Faith. Everyone assumes Holly's loving and capable mother Thomasina will look after Faith, but when she unaccountably deserts her newborn grandchild, the baby must be packed off to her father's peculiar family in the North - 'the very strangest people you ever saw my dear'. With wisdom, generosity, and understanding, Jane Gardam takes as her subject the English heart in all its eccentric variety. FAITH FOX sheds a clear, true light on the pain of bereavement whilst always offering the joyous possibility of a new beginning.

A Few Fair Days Grade level: 4, 5, 6, 7, e, i. **The Green Man An Eternity** First published in a collection of short stories called *Missing the Midnight: Hauntings and Grotesques*, this is a modern twist on the ancient fertility image of legend, church carvings and pub signs.

Jayber Crow A Novel *Catapult* "This is a book about Heaven," says Jayber Crow, "but I must say too that . . . I have wondered sometimes if it would not finally turn out to be a book about Hell." It is 1932 and he has returned to his native Port William to become the town's barber. Orphaned at age ten, Jayber Crow's acquaintance with loneliness and want have made him a patient observer of the human animal, in both its goodness and frailty. He began his search as a "pre-ministerial student" at Pigeonville College. There, freedom met with new burdens and a young man needed more than a mirror to find himself. But the

beginning of that finding was a short conversation with “Old Grit,” his profound professor of New Testament Greek. “You have been given questions to which you cannot be given answers. You will have to live them out—perhaps a little at a time.” “And how long is that going to take?” “I don't know. As long as you live, perhaps.” “That could be a long time.” “I will tell you a further mystery,” he said. “It may take longer.” Wendell Berry’s clear-sighted depiction of humanity’s gifts—love and loss, joy and despair—is seen through his intimate knowledge of the Port William Membership. **Going Into A Dark House** *Abacus* Molly Fielding's mother had been a terrible woman...! A terrible woman indeed. One need only to look at the old sepia photograph to see a vision of nastiness. The look of cunning, the self-satisfied smile, the aura of hauteur as she watches the little Italian photographer go about his business. They say the camera never lies, but maybe this one did... 'Going into the Dark House', the title story of Jane Gardam's passionate new collection, brilliantly captures the subtly subversive qualities of her art. Quietly mesmerizing and quite beautifully written, these ten stories are a delight. **The Flight Of The Maidens** *Hachette UK* This delightful novel describes the post-war summer of 1946 - and follows the growing-up of three young women in the months between leaving school and taking up their scholarships at university. Una Vane, whose widowed mother runs a hairdressing salon in her front room ('Maison Vane Glory - Where Permanent Waves are Permanent'), goes bicycling with Ray, the boy who delivers the fish and milk. Hetty Fallows struggles to become independent of her possessive, loving, tactless mother. And Lieselotte Klein, who had arrived in 1939 on a train from Hamburg, uncovers tragedy in the past and magic in the present. Rooted in the north of England, THE FLIGHT OF THE MAIDENS is peopled with extraordinary characters, who are evoked with all the humour, compassion and eye for detail that mark Jane Gardam as one of Britain's most gifted and original novelists. **The Sidmouth Letters** *Hachette UK* Jane Austen's love life - long the subject of speculation - is finally, delightfully dealt with in the title story of this collection. Many of the other stories, like 'The Sidmouth Letters,' bring together past and present - with sometimes hilarious, sometimes disturbing, often intensely moving results. With quiet elegance and devastating accuracy, Jane Gardam probes many and varied lives. We meet a trio of Kensington widows, mean-spirited and middle-aged, paying improbable tribute to a long exploited nanny; we await- with dread- a stranger to tea in an English home; we witness the mercurial changes that take place in young love, and we watch as a bohemian, passionate past returns to tempt domestic bliss. **Shadow of Nanteos** *Y Lolfa* A historical love story based on the lives of the Powell family of Nanteos mansion near Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. Set in the 1750s, at a time of great turbulence in the area which was nicknamed 'The Wild West', the book sets the personal tragedy of the gentry family against the background of the Cardiganshire lead wars. **Bilgewater** *Abacus* Marigold Green calls herself 'hideous, quaint and barmy'. Other people call her Bilgewater, a corruption of Bill's daughter. Growing up in a boys' school where her father is housemaster, she is convinced of her own plainness and peculiarity. Groomed by the wise and loving Paula, upstaged by bad, beautiful Grace and ripe for seduction by entirely the wrong sort of boy, she suffers extravagantly and comically in her pilgrimage through the turbulent, twilight world of alarming adolescence **The Summer After the Funeral** A mysterious

clergyman is dead. His daughter Athene is desolate. Through a muddle and the vagueness of her family, Athene finds herself in the summer after her father's funeral marooned in a cottage with a painter, then in a hotel and finally in a school, empty apart from a schoolmaster. **The Old Filth Trilogy Old Fifth, The Man in the Wooden Hat, and Last Friends** *Europa Editions* The complete “wonderfully entertaining trilogy” about three British friends approaching their twilight years with bittersweet humor (The Washington Post). Jane Gardam’s beloved Old Filth Trilogy—including her masterpiece, Old Filth, voted one of the 100 greatest British novels in a BBC survey; The Man in the Wooden Hat; and Last Friends—are here presented in one volume. Emotionally distant but highly successful Edward Feathers, aka Old Filth, a man who “belongs in the Dickensian pantheon of memorable characters” (TheNew York Times Book Review), his beautiful wife Betty, and his devilishly handsome professional rival (and Betty’s onetime lover) Edward Veneering are the anchors of this series, with each novel focusing on a different character. Feathers was a “raj orphan”—children born in Far East British colonies and raised in England—while Veneering managed to get out of his fishing village-turned-industrial-town just before the German bombs dropped (and his luck has held up pretty well ever since). The three tells a bittersweet tale of enduring friendship while contending with the disappointments and consolations of age, while a once-insurmountable empire declines around them. It forms a deeply humane and often comic portrait of aging, and a reminder that the experiences we choose to take with us in our twilight years are as unpredictable as life itself. “Her prose is so perceptive and fluid that it feels mentally healthful, exiling the noise and clutter of your mind as efficiently as a Schubert sonata. She could make actuarial tables pleasurable.”—The New York Times Book Review “Gardam is the best British writer you’ve never heard of.”—Maureen Corrigan, NPR **Old Filth - Book 1 - Old Filth Trilogy** FILTH, in his heyday was an international lawyer with a practice in the Far East. Now, only the oldest QC's and Silks can remember that his nickname stood for Failed In London Try HongKong. Long ago, Old Filth was a Raj orphan - one of the many children sent 'Home' to be fostered and educated in England. This book tells his story from birth to the extremities of old age. **Colombo Heat It's a Man's Life, Ladies: A Short Story from the collection, Reader, I Married Him** *HarperCollins UK* A short story by Jane Gardam from the collection Reader, I Married Him: Stories inspired by Jane Eyre. **The Testing of Luther Albright A Novel** *Harper Collins* “A sophisticated novel that breaks and swells the heart. A sure-footed excavation into the nuances of everyday terror—the kind that turns devotion into despair, trust into treachery, love into loss. Its pull is irresistible.” — Toni Morrison, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature and author of Song of Solomon “Quietly absorbing . . . the slow pileup of events takes on unexpected, if mild urgency . . . wholly original and convincing.” — New York Times Book Review Luther Albright is a builder of dams, a man whose greatest pride (besides his family) is running his hands over the true planes of the house he built himself and knowing that he’s constructed something that will shield and shelter them from harm. A relatively minor incident -- an earthquake that shakes his Sacramento home—reveals fault lines and cracks in the facade of his family. His teenage son’s behavior becomes increasingly bizarre and threatening, his devoted wife more distant, and then a dam of Luther’s design comes under investigation for

structural flaws exposed by the tremors. In the midst of his heartbreaking family dissolution, Luther must battle against the need to withhold his emotions and push his family even farther away. Nightmarish meanings begin to shout at Luther from the most innocent of places as debut novelist MacKenzie Bezos tightens her net of psychological suspense around the reader with bravura skill. In the spirit of Rosellen Brown and Alice McDermott, this is a harrowing portrait of an ordinary man who finds himself tested and strives not to be found wanting. **Mrs Bridge** Penguin UK Evan S. Connell's *Mrs Bridge* is an extraordinary tragicomic portrayal of suburban life and one of the classic American novels of the twentieth century, influencing books such as Jonathan Franzen's *The Corrections*. This edition has an introduction by Joshua Ferris, author of *Then We Came to the End* and *The Unnamed*. *Mrs Bridge*, an unremarkable and conservative housewife in Kansas City, has three children and a kindly lawyer husband. She spends her time shopping, going to bridge parties and bringing up her children to be pleasant, clean and have nice manners. And yet she finds modern life increasingly baffling, her children aren't growing up into the people she expected, and sometimes she has the vague disquieting sensation that all is not well in her life. In a series of comic, telling vignettes, Evan S. Connell illuminates the narrow morality, confusion, futility and even terror at the heart of a life of plenty. The companion novel, *Mr Bridge*, telling the story from the other side of the marriage, is published in early 2013 in Penguin Modern Classics, with an introduction by Lionel Shriver, author of *We Need to Talk About Kevin*. 'How it is done I only wish I knew' Dorothy Parker **Now We Shall Be Entirely Free** Europa Editions A British soldier flees to the Hebrides for reprieve from war while something else hunts for him in this historical thriller by the author of *The Crossing*. When Cap. John Lacroix returns home from Spain, wounded, unconscious, and alone, he believes that he has seen the worst of what men may do. It is 1809, and in England's wars against Napoleon, the Battle of Corruna stands out as a humiliation: a once-proud army forced to retreat, civilized men reduced to senseless acts of cruelty. Slowly regaining his health, Lacroix journeys north to the misty isles of Scotland with the intent of forgetting the horrors of the war. Unbeknownst to him, however, something else has followed him back from the war—something far more dangerous than a memory . . . A New York Times Notable Book of 2019 "Miller's writing is a source of wonder and delight." —Hilary Mantel Praise for *New We Shall Be Entirely Free* "Mr. Miller strikes an impressive balance between adventure and atmosphere." —The Wall Street Journal "Miller acutely imagines the war-scarred psychology of his characters . . . and uses the historical setting to great advantage." —TheNew Yorker "Miller is in fine form here, mixing an unforgettable cat-and-mouse chase with a moving love story." —Kirkus Reviews **Birdman** Grove/Atlantic, Inc. A serial killer stalks the streets of London in this "top-notch debut thriller"—the first Jack Caffery novel from the acclaimed author of *Gone* (Kirkus Reviews). In his first case as lead investigator with London's murder squad, Det. Inspector Jack Caffery is called on to investigate the murder of a young woman whose body has been discovered near the Millennium Dome in Greenwich, southeast London. Mutilated beyond recognition, the victim is soon joined by four others discovered in the same area—all female and all ritualistically murdered. And when the postmortem examination reveals a gruesome signature connecting the victims, Caffery realizes exactly what he's dealing with—a

dangerous serial killer. A finalist for the Edgar Award, *Birdman* explores the darkest reaches of the human mind and introduces a fascinating detective to the world of British crime fiction. "Treading the grisly path blazed by Thomas Harris in 1981 with *Red Dragon*, promising newcomer Hayder crafts a blood-curdlingly creepy debut thriller." —Publishers Weekly, starred review "A deftly plotted assault on the nerves. . . *Birdman* preys on the reader's expectations expertly, and Hayder handles her story's complicated time scheme with enviable assurance. Graphic, disturbing, splendidly readable." —Kirkus Reviews **Textermination A Novel** *New Directions Publishing*

A Crack in the Wall *Bitter Lemon Press* Pablo Borla's marriage is reduced to confrontations with his wife over their daughter's rebellious ways and his firm builds only repellent office blocks destroying the fabric of old Buenos Aires. It all changes with the arrival of a young woman who brings to light a murder committed decades ago by those in his office. A murder everyone assumed was forgotten. Claudia Piñeiro, after working as a professional accountant, became a journalist, playwright and television scriptwriter and in 1992 won the prestigious Pléyade journalism award. She has more recently turned to fiction; *All Yours* (finalist for the 2003 Planeta Prize) and *Thursday Night Widows*. **Being Dead A Novel** *Farrar, Straus and Giroux* A haunting new novel about love, death, and the afterlife, from the author of *Quarantine* *Baritone Bay*, mid-afternoon. A couple, naked, married almost thirty years, are lying murdered in the dunes. "Their bodies had expired, but anyone could tell—just look at them—that Joseph and Celice were still devoted. For while his hand was touching her, curved round her shin, the couple seemed to have achieved that peace the world denies, a period of grace, defying even murder. Anyone who found them there, so wickedly disfigured, would nevertheless be bound to see that something of their love had survived the death of cells. The corpses were surrendered to the weather and the earth, but they were still a man and wife, quietly resting; flesh on flesh; dead, but not departed yet." **Showing The Flag** *Abacus* The flag that is shown, literally and metaphorically, by these characters is always the Union Jack. Gardam's stories are acutely observed social commentaries on Englishness, its weaknesses and its illusions. **The Beginning of Spring** *HMH* *Man Booker Prize Finalist*: This "marvelous novel" about an abandoned husband, set in Moscow a century ago, is "bristling with wry comedy" (*Newsday*). March 1913. Moscow is stirring herself to meet the beginning of spring. English painter Frank Reid returns from work one night to find that his wife has gone away; no one knows where or why, or whether she'll ever come back. All Frank knows for sure is that he is now alone and must find someone to care for his three young children. Into Frank's life comes Lisa Ivanovna, a quiet, calming beauty from the country, untroubled to the point of seeming simple. But is she? And why has Frank's bookkeeper, Selwyn Crane, gone to such lengths to bring these two together? From a winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, this novel, with a new introduction by Andrew Miller, author of *Pure*, is filled with "writing so precise and lilting it can make you shiver" (*Los Angeles Times*). "Fitzgerald was the author of several slim, perfect novels. *The Blue Flower* and *The Beginning of Spring* both had me abuzz for days the first time I read them. She was curiously perfect." —Teju Cole, author of *Open City* **The Complete Review Guide to Contemporary World Fiction** *Columbia University Press* A user-friendly reference for English-language readers who are eager to

explore contemporary fiction from around the world. Profiling hundreds of titles and authors from 1945 to today, with an emphasis on fiction published in the past two decades, this guide introduces the styles, trends, and genres of the world's literatures, from Scandinavian crime thrillers and cutting-edge Chinese works to Latin American narco-fiction and award-winning French novels. The book's critical selection of titles defines the arc of a country's literary development. Entries illuminate the fiction of individual nations, cultures, and peoples, while concise biographies sketch the careers of noteworthy authors. Compiled by M. A. Orthofer, an avid book reviewer and the founder of the literary review site the Complete Review, this reference is perfect for readers who wish to expand their reading choices and knowledge of contemporary world fiction. "A bird's-eye view of titles and authors from everywhere—a book overfull with reminders of why we love to read international fiction. Keep it close by."—Robert Con Davis-Udiano, executive director, World Literature Today "M. A. Orthofer has done more to bring literature in translation to America than perhaps any other individual. [This book] will introduce more new worlds to you than any other book on the market."—Tyler Cowen, George Mason University "A relaxed, riverine guide through the main currents of international writing, with sections for more than a hundred countries on six continents."—Karan Mahajan, Page-Turner blog, The New Yorker

Songs of a Sourdough (Esprios Classics) Blurb Robert William Service (January 16, 1874 - September 11, 1958) was a British-Canadian poet and writer, often called "the Bard of the Yukon". Born in Lancashire of Scottish descent, he was a bank clerk by trade, but spent long periods travelling in Western America and Canada, often in some poverty. When his bank sent him to the Yukon, he was inspired by tales of the Klondike Gold Rush, and wrote two poems "The Shooting of Dan McGrew" and "The Cremation of Sam McGee", which showed remarkable authenticity from an author with no experience of gold-mining, and enjoyed immediate popularity. Encouraged by this, he quickly wrote more poems on the same theme, which were published as *Songs of a Sourdough*.

The Pangs Of Love Hachette UK With her customary accuracy, Jane Gardam reveals the extraordinariness of ordinary people as she deals with the pangs of love- fulfilled or hopeless, sexual or spiritual, tortured or hilarious- in these eleven stories. Paraded here are ladies with a 'thing' about vicars, strange events happening in ornate downstairs lavatories (and in ornate upstairs ones), and the English abroad, desperate and dotty. The glum and impossible Edna haunts the supermarket- and dispenses an unlikely kiss of life. The younger sister of Hans Christian Andersen's Little Mermaid declares her sibling 'very silly' and turns her story on its tail, an old maid forms a curious liason with a tramp, and small moments of temptation fill hotel rooms as histories glance briefly off each other.

You Deserve Nothing A Novel Penguin Set in Paris, at an international high school catering to the sons and daughters of wealthy families, *You Deserve Nothing* is a gripping story of power, idealism, and morality. William Silver is a talented and charismatic young teacher whose unconventional methods raise eyebrows among his colleagues and superiors. His students, however, are devoted to him. His teaching of Camus, Faulkner, Sartre, Keats and other kindred souls breathe life into their sense of social justice and their capacities for philosophical and ethical thought. But unbeknownst to his adoring pupils, Silver proves incapable of living up to the ideals he encourages in

others. Emotionally scarred by failures in his personal life and driven to distraction by the City of Light's overpowering carnality and beauty, Silver succumbs to a temptation that will change the course of his life. His fall will render him a criminal in the eyes of some, and all too human in the eyes of others. In Maksik's stylish prose, Paris is sensual, dazzling and dangerously seductive. It serves as a fitting backdrop for a dramatic tale about the tension between desire and action, and about the complex relationship that exists between our public and private selves.