

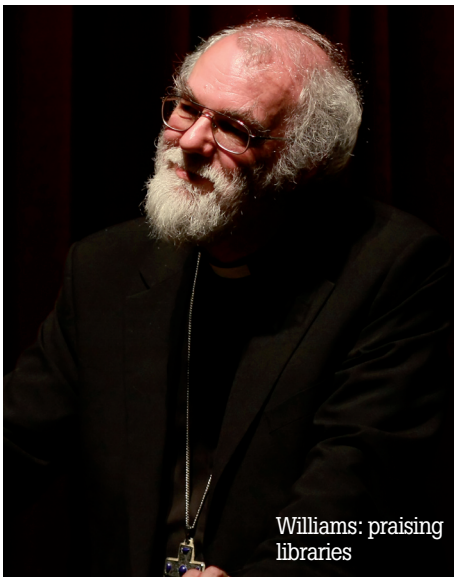
HarperCollins has acquired three novels from debut historical fiction author Joanna Hickson. HarperFiction commissioning editor Kate Bradley bought world rights through Jenny Brown at Jenny Brown Associates, with the first book, *The Agincourt Bride*, telling the story of Catherine De Valois, the bride, and later, widow of Henry V. Bradley said: "The trio of books we have acquired will look at the early Tudor dynasty—a period rich with intrigue and drama. Joanna wears her considerable learning lightly and displays a sureness of touch that belies her debut status." *Bride of Agincourt* will be published as paperback original in February 2013, with the second title following in November 2013.

www.thebookseller.com/rights+deal

ORBIT TO PUBLISH BRENT WEEKS AS E-ORIGINAL

Orbit is to publish a novella by science fiction and fantasy author Brent Weeks in digital editions only, with the title set for simultaneous release in the US and UK. Orbit publisher Tim Holman acquired world English language rights through Donald Maass at the Donald Maass Literary Agency to *Perfect Shadow*, which is set in the world of Weeks' Night Angel trilogy. Holman said: "The digital marketplace is an irresistible opportunity to publish shorter works of fiction." The e-book and unabridged audio edition will be available from June 2011.

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Williams: praising libraries

LIBRARIES

LIBRARIES VITAL FOR NATION'S HAPPINESS, SAYS ARCHBISHOP

Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, criticised library closures during his Easter sermon. The archbishop reflected on a recent stop-off at a local library on a "rather devastated" Manches-ter council estate. Williams said his visit

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had "revealed a lively group of teenagers who were regular users, welcomed by staff, glad of a place to do homework, gossip and feel secure". The Archbishop continued: "Space, opportunity, the time to discover a larger world to live in—where are the clearly articulated priorities in public discussion that would spotlight all this, so as to make us think twice before dismantling what's already there and disappointing more hopes for the future?"

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PUBLISHERS

EX-STACEY INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYEES SET UP PUBLISHING HOUSE

A publishing house focusing on titles about the Middle East and Arabia has been set up by former employees of Stacey International, following its restructuring in March this year. Gilgamesh will be headed by managing director Max Scott, with Graham Edwards becoming head of design and Charles Powell stepping into the role of head of editorial. The house plans to publish its first titles in autumn this year, with the list still to be confirmed. It will include illustrated reference, history, contemporary analysis and travel writing titles. Scott said it will publish between 20 and 30 titles a year, making e-books available at the same time as the physical editions.

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PRIZES

ORION SCORES FIVE ON CRIMEFEST SHORTLISTS

Orion has dominated this year's CrimeFest shortlists for its e-book, audiobook and humorous crime novel awards. The publisher featured five times with Alan Furst's *Spies of the Balkans* e-book plus two novels, Linwood Barclay's *Fear the Worst* and Michael Connelly's *The Reversal*, appearing on both the abridged and unabridged audiobook

shortlists. The winners will be announced at the festival's gala dinner on 21st May, with Little, Brown author Christopher Brookmyre as toastmaster. The crime-writing festival, which runs from 19th-22nd May in Bristol, will also include the shortlist announcements for the Crime Writers' Association's (CWA) Daggers on 20th May in the international, non-fiction, library, short story and debut categories. For the full CrimeFest shortlists, go to: www.thebookseller.com/prizes

STEIDL RECOGNISED AT KRASZNA-KRAUSZ BOOK AWARDS

German publisher Gerhard Steidl has been awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Publishing award by the Kraszna-Krausz Foundation at the Sony World Photography Awards. The Best Photography Book award went to *TJ* by David Goldblatt and Ivan Vladislavi (Contrasto). Best Moving Image Book was *Disappearing Tricks: Silent Film, Houdini, and the New Magic of the 20th Century* by Matthew Solomon (University of Illinois Press).

www.thebookseller.com/prizes

DUNMORE ON ORWELL SHORTLIST

Helen Dunmore's *The Betrayal* has made it onto the shortlist of the Orwell Prize for political writing, the first novel to be shortlisted since 2008. The winners of book, blog and journalism prizes, each worth £3,000, will be announced on 17th May. The book shortlist comprises: *The Rule of Law* by Tom Bingham (Allen Lane); *Let Our Fame Be Great* by Oliver Bullough (Penguin); *The Betrayal* by Helen Dunmore (Fig Tree); *Hitch-22* by Christopher Hitchens (Atlantic); *Death to the Dictator!* by Afsaneh Mogadam (The Bodley Head); and *Supernac* by D R Thorpe (Chatto).

www.thebookseller.com/prizes

WEB STATS @ THEBOOKSELLER.COM

MOST READ ONLINE THIS WEEK

CHILDREN'S LAUREATE TAKES ON WATERSTONE'S BRANDING

<http://www.thebookseller.com/news/childrens-laureate-takes-waterstones-branding.html>

BBC DEFENDS GENRE FICTION COVERAGE

<http://www.thebookseller.com/news/bbc-defends-genre-fiction-coverage.html-0>

JOHNSON SAYS WATERSTONE SHOULD GIVE UP ON BUYING BACK CHAIN

<http://www.thebookseller.com/news/johnson-says-waterstone-should-give-buying-back-chain.html>

MAMUT COULD BUY WATERSTONE'S FOR £35M

<http://www.thebookseller.com/news/mamut-could-buy-waterstones-£35m.html>

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