



THE BADGER'S SETT

Indie Publishing | Indie Bookselling

NEW BOOKS!

Jolts



New this week from Fernando Sdrigotti is *Jolts*, published by Influx Press.

Nine stories. Nine ways of not being at home. Nine confrontations to the limits of fiction and memoir. *Jolts* is a playful and honest exploration of the joys and sorrows of lives lived in-between places. A collection that travels across time, space, and language, in order to deliver the gospel of the Latin American short story.

£9.99 (paperback)

£5.99 (ePub or Kindle)

Available from:

<https://www.influxpress.com/jolts>

SPECIAL OFFER for launch week - simply enter IWANTJOLTSBABY at the checkout for a handsome 20% discount!!

Welcome...

To the first issue of The Badger's Sett, a weekly newsletter from us here at Bearded Badger HQ. It's fair to say that COVID-19 has hit every industry hard, and indie publishing and bookselling has been hit particularly hard across all sectors. I started Bearded Badger Publishing Co. earlier this year with a view to providing a publishing outlet for East Midlands based writers, an area that often gets overlooked in the whole North / South argument. I also kicked off an indie pop-up bookshop, held in Derby, to promote the books from some of our wonderful indie publishers, which was a huge success; the future looked bright!

Then all this happened!

Well, I won't lie, it's been tough, and pretty much all my initial plans have been turned on their head. But...after a short period of feeling glum, I've decided to grab the bull by the horns and try and do something positive.

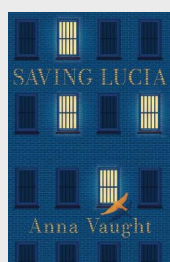
Bearded Badger still very much plan to publish our range of poetry, **TRA[verse]**, but due to the current situation this is likely to be an Autumn publication date, rather than summer as planned. The submissions so far have been excellent, and I can't wait to share some of this superb poetry with you. Our fiction range, **East of Centre**, has also seen some excellent submissions, and I hope to share some exciting news with you shortly about our publishing plans for that range!

Along with letting you know what is happening with Bearded Badger, I will also try and share some of the key happenings, book launches and events from the indie publishing and bookselling world. So you have anything you think should be shared, drop me a line.

Take care and stay safe,

Paul (aka The Bearded Badger)

Saving Lucia



This week also see's the launch of the keenly awaited new novel from Anna Vaught, *Saving Lucia*, published by Bluemoose Books. A novel that centres around the mystique of Lucia Joyce (daughter of James), it is a story of four women silenced during the course of their troubled lives, unable to tell their unique stories. 'Those who are confined have the best imaginations'.

£9.99 (paperback)

Available from:

<https://bluemoosebooks.com/books/saving-lucia-by-anna-vaught>

And whilst we're on the subject of Bluemoose Books, it feels like a good time to talk about their recent eBook collaboration with Little Toller, whereby they combined forces to publish a cracking little short story by award-winning writer, and former Bluemooser (not sure that's a word!) Benjamin Myers entitled *A Stone Statue in the Future*. A bargain at £3, and you can feel proud that you're doing your bit to support two great indie presses and a wonderful writer in such tough times.

<https://www.littletoller.co.uk/shop/books/little-toller/a-stone-statue-in-the-future-by-ben-myers/>

Borderless Book Club

Whilst there is no denying that COVID-19 and the lockdown period have proven to be extremely difficult for the publishing industry at large, a small group of publishers of translated books collaborated to develop and run an online book club.

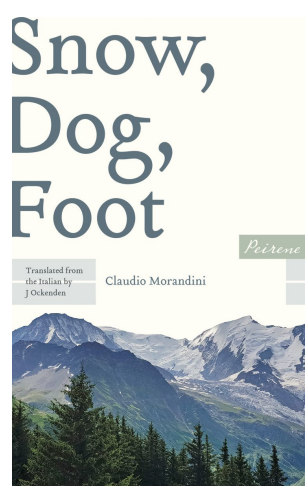
Peirene Press, Tilted Axis Press, Charco Press, Nordisk Books, Comma Press and Istros Books combined forces to run a series of weekly online events via zoom, each week taking turns to provide the reading matter. The events have proven to be such a success that the collaboration has decided to carry on...under the new banner of **Borderless Book Club**. You can find out more by checking out any of the above mentioned publishers on Twitter.

There is a session tonight (30th April), discussing *Singer in the Night* by Croatian author Olja Savicevic.

The next meeting after that is scheduled for Thursday May 14th. The book up for discussion next is *Snow, Dog, Foot* by Claudio Morandini (trans. J Ockenden) from Peirene Press.

To purchase this book go to:

<https://www.peirenepress.com/shop/books/snow-dog-foot/>



NB - Enter "borderless" at the checkout for a whopping 30% off!

Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue

I'm sure you've heard the old traditional wedding rhyme many times before...here in The Badger's Sett we've decided to use it to do a weekly column to try and talk about books. Old ones, new ones, borrowed ones, and erm, blue ones. Bear with me...

Old - a book at least older than 18 months.

New - a book from the past 18 months.

Borrowed - a book that someone lent you, or maybe you borrowed it from the library, and it really lit a fire within you.

Blue - ok, time to think a bit creatively. Think steak. Think of a blue steak. The rarest of steak. So this selection is a book that you feel doesn't get talked about enough, rarely at all! (Sorry veggies and vegans).

As this is the first week, I thought I'd have a go, to try and give you an idea what kind of books find their way into The Badger's Set.

Old - *Ask The Dust* by John Fante (1939)

Like many readers drawn to Fante, I found my way there via Charles Bukowski (who incidentally, I found my way to from Miles Hunt from The Wonder Stuff). *Ask The Dust* was first published in 1939, and it's probably my favourite novel of all time, charting the life of struggling writer, Arturo Bandini. Bukowski claimed that he discovered the book whilst searching in LA Public Library for something decent to read, stating 'it was like finding gold in the city dump', which as recommendations go, is pretty tough to beat.

<https://canongate.co.uk/books/351-ask-the-dust/>

New - *Leonard and Hungry Paul* by Ronan Hession (2019)

The past few years have been pretty turbulent, what with Brexit, Elections, and now COVID-19, and it sometimes feels society is irreparably divided. I read this novel against this backdrop, whilst struggling to come to terms with a particularly rough spell of anxiety, and it just brought a calm to me; I took on a new pace, a *Leonard and Hungry Paul* pace! It is basically the story of two friends, who perhaps sit on the fringes on society, seeing life a little differently to others, and charts their attempt to find their place in the world. It such a beautiful novel, and in these testing times, frankly, it should be government issue to all households!

<https://bluemoosebooks.com/books/leonard-and-hungry-paul>

Borrowed - *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami (1987)

An old friend lent me this book many moons ago, and it was my gateway to Murakami, and I've pretty much been smitten ever since. I don't think it's my favourite of his, that accolade belongs to *The Wind Up Bird Chronicle*, but it would definitely feature pretty high in the list. I went through a period where I read

quite a few 'coming-of-age' novels, but this one struck me in a different way, partly due to the exotic cultural differences portrayed by Tokyo, but mainly because it is essentially a story of first love (although my younger self would probably never admit to that!). I need to re-read this!

<http://www.harukimurakami.com/book/norwegian-wood>

Blue - Sombrero Fallout by Richard Brautigan (1976)

Someone once said to me that Brautigan was the best writer you've never read; so I read one of his novels, and it's so true! Almost no-one I speak to has even heard of him, let alone read anything he's written. Whilst *Trout Fishing in America* is probably the one novel of Brautigan's that people might have heard of, but *Sombrero Fallout* is my favourite of his, it is genius. I'm not really sure how to describe it, but there are two stories going on: a story of a sombrero falling from the sky, and the narrator's own story concerning his Japanese lover leaving him. It's as mad as a box of frogs, as the narrator's story (by now in the wastepaper bin), takes on a life of its own. As I say, it's genius!

<https://canongate.co.uk/books/1383-sombrero-fallout-a-japanese-novel/>

So that's it for this first issue of **The Badger's Sett**, please let me know if you like / hate it! This issue was put together pretty quickly, so the I'll try and improve the look for next time. Also, if you're an indie publisher with a book due for launch, drop me a line with the details and we'll try and include it in future issues.



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