



## Hookline Books

### A Novel Choice by Readers

Hookline Books are chosen for publication by reading groups, while our writers are all students or graduates of MA writing courses.

We are the only people who let serious readers make publishing decisions.

The process stems from our Hookline Novel Competition which takes place in two stages:

1. Writers submit the first three chapters of their work and a brief synopsis. Readers select the works that show most promise – the writing that has 'hooked' them.
2. Short-listed writers submit their complete novel, and reading groups evaluate based on plot, character development, writing style and reader satisfaction. The authors receiving the highest praise are offered publishing contracts.

The process takes ten months.

The joy of the Hookline is that readers choose what will rise to the top – it is a fascinating process to watch. Interestingly, reading groups say there can be huge disagreement over favourite works – which echoes a Booker judge who said:

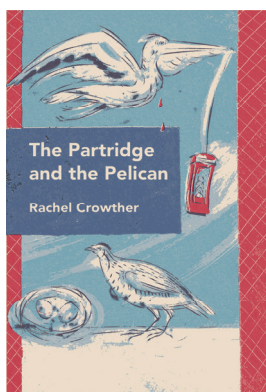
*'Strong books, like strong people, are divisive – a sentence that moved one of us to tears would leave another dry-eyed, a character one of us thought empty, another would find full – and we each fell for novels that did not make the long list.'*

Hookline Books are the only novels to gain a reader endorsement before publication.

We believe that all readers will find something in Hookline they can enjoy.

Details of the books follow. Review copies are available.  
Distributors: Gardners and Bertrams

## *The Partridge and the Pelican* by Rachel Crowther



In the summer of 1983, Olivia and Eve find a baby abandoned in a phone box.

The girls are 19, on holiday by the sea with their friend James. The events of that summer cast a long shadow as their lives unfold through careers, marriages and motherhood. When they meet again 25 years later, the baby in the phone box returns to haunt them and they are forced to confront the truths that have remained hidden for so long.

*The Partridge and the Pelican* explores the complexities of motherhood, the power of secrets and the enduring ties of friendship.

ISBN: 9780956517791

Price: £9.99

Published: 11 April 2011

Reader reviews:

*'I felt compelled to find out what would happen next.'*

*'Beautifully written...I thought the writer captured perfectly that mid-life crisis that women often feel.'*

*'One of the best books I've read for a while.'*

## *Seven Days to Tell You* by Ruby Soames



When Kate marries the wild, sexy Frenchman she meets on holiday, everyone is stunned. Marc, however, is an attentive, adoring husband – until one morning he goes out, and doesn't come back.

After three years spent searching for him, Kate has to move on. She cuts her hair, throws away his things, and finds someone else.

Then one morning she wakes up with Marc asleep in her bed. He asks for seven days to prove his love.

ISBN: 9780956517784

Price: £8.99 (available 1 July 2011)

Reading groups said:

*'A thoroughly engaging and fast-moving story. Unpredictable right until the end.'*

*'A compelling and rewarding read.'*

*'The twists and turns of the plot kept me hooked.'*

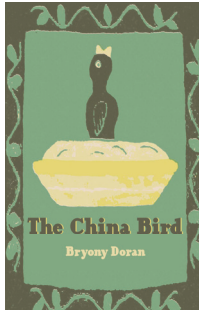
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## The China Bird by Bryony Doran



A young art student sees beauty in Edward's twisted spine, and begs him to sit for her. Dubious but flattered, Edward sheds his clothing and emerges from years of apathy. This tale of secrecy, love and eventual understanding explores our perceptions of beauty and lust.

ISBN: 9780956517739

Price £9.99

Published: 2009

### Readers Reviews:

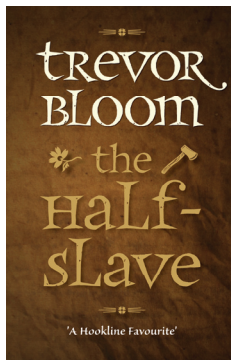
*'A beautifully written book, excellent description of human emotion, how life changes after certain events, the cry and pain... has been portrayed with reality, sensitivity, love and passion'*

South Woodford Library reading group

*'A very enjoyable read. I was with the characters throughout and wanted to know what happened to them ... I look forward to seeing this in book shops.'*

Clapham Library reading group

## The Half-Slave by Trevor Bloom



Ascha is the son of a Saxon warlord and a Roman slave mother, a half-slave, locked in the limbo between slave and free. Roman power is in decline, and Ascha is caught between competing tribes. When he is offered freedom if he will spy on his own people, Ascha must summon all his resources and his courage to discover where his loyalties lie.

ISBN: 978-0-9555630-6-5

Price: £10.99

Published: 2010

### Readers' Reviews:

*'Thoroughly convincing recreation of an entirely different era which kept me fascinated by the characters and wholly involved in the fate of the hero. I found it increasingly hard to put down, so a lot of midnight oil.'*

*A refreshing lack of idealisation – even of the hero; I believed in the characters.*

### Historical Novel Review said:

*'I found the realism in the characters, situations, and deftly woven plot strands made this a gripping story.'*

## A Young Woman's Guide to Carrying On by Jilly Wosskow



After another row with her mother, Kathryn collects her belongings and slams the door for the final time. It's 1974 and the beginning of a new life – but how much can Kathryn really leave behind? She takes a live-in job, working alongside the outrageous Dee-Dee. Both 17, and both with their own tragic past, they learn how to bag a bloke, get through testing times and even how to get on the property ladder.

ISBN: 9780955563096

Price: £9.99

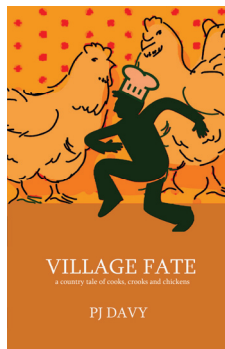
Published: 2010

### Readers' Reviews:

*'This was a fantastic book. Well written, the author did a fantastic job of carrying you through all the emotions of the characters and didn't let them do the 'right thing'. Nothing in real life is straight forward and we often go down a path that we regret later.'*

*'Made me laugh out loud – reminded me of my own family in many ways.'*

## Village Fate A Country Tale of Cooks, Crooks and Chickens by PJ Davy



Neville loves cooking. Fliss loves the quiet life. Mummy Behr loves Baby Behr, And they all love living in Nettlecomb Hatchett. But their rural idyll is under threat. When Fliss investigates, she finds something very nasty in the chicken shed..

ISBN; 9780956517746

Price: £8.99

Published: 2010

### Readers Reviews:

*'Exuberant writing style! The climax had me roaring with laughter.'*

*'An amusing take on a serious subject ... an enjoyable read.'*

*'A light-hearted modern morality tale.'*