

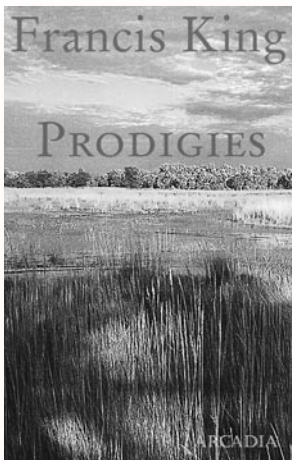


CATALOGUE

2001

ARCADIA

ARCADIA BOOKS  
2001



## **Prodigies** **Francis King**

‘It is a rare pleasure to know from the very first page of a new novel that you are in for a treat. Francis King immediately grabs the reader’s attention with an apparently effortless mastery’ – Louise Guinness, *Evening Standard*

**T**hree women – daughter, mother and aunt – abandon their pampered, privileged lives in The Hague of the 1860s, to set off on an epic journey to the heart of Africa. Since the daughter, Alexine, has inherited a vast fortune from her mysterious tycoon father, the women take with them the family butler and nurse and each her own personal maid. In Cairo they recruit a staff of more than a hundred.

The male explorers of the day at first mock at so audacious a trespass into what has previously been an almost exclusively male preserve. Then they begin to accord the trio a grudging admiration for their initiative, courage and endurance. Had she been born into a different class, the mother might have made a successful career as a concert pianist. The aunt, unmarried, once had an unhappy love-affair with Tsar Alexander II.

The travellers go through a series of now exhilarating, now bizarre and now terrifying adventures, as indomitably they push on with what becomes an exploration not merely of uncharted Africa but of their own innermost selves. Eventually tragedy engulfs each of them in turn.

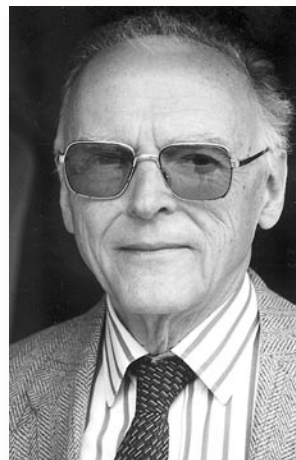
In a richly inventive novel, Francis King deploys all his formidable skills as a storyteller in bringing to vivid life both these three real-life characters and the extraordinary diversity of imagined people – European adventurers, Arab slave-traders, Egyptian porters, African tribesmen – met on their odyssey.

## Praise for Francis King's work:

'A master novelist now at the height of his considerable powers. He is prepared to examine – wittily and dramatically – issues skirted by most of his contemporaries: love, loyalties, humour, treachery and the oases and aridities of private passion. He deserves the widest possible readership' – Melvyn Bragg, *Punch*

'Francis King is writing novels of a professionalism that few can match. *Dead Letters* is a bitter-sweet comedy of uncomprehending, uncomprehended love. The surface of the narrative is so attractive that only on reflection do you realize how deep it goes' – Alan Massie, *Daily Telegraph*

'Beautifully written . . . brilliantly successful. He had me sitting on the edge of my chair and gasping with admiration even on the second time through. The best I have read in a long time' – Auberon Waugh on *Act of Darkness*, *Daily Mail*



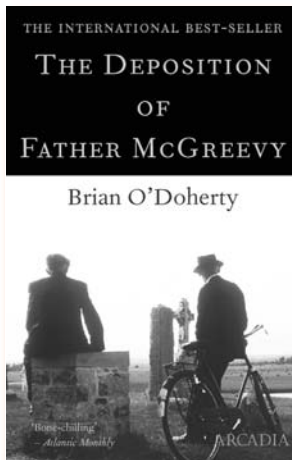
Francis King is a former International President of PEN and drama critic of the *Sunday Telegraph*. His numerous prize-winning novels include *Act of Darkness*, *Dead Letters* and *The One and Only*. *Yesterday Came Suddenly*, his autobiography, was recently published to acclaim. He lives in London.

Lead fiction title

Author tour

March

1-900850-55-9 £11.99 320pp



## *The Deposition of Father McGreevy* Brian O'Doherty

SHORTLISTED FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE 2000

In a London pub in the 1950s, editor William Maginn is intrigued by a mention of the strange – and reputedly shameful – demise of a remote mountain village in County Kerry, where he was born. Maginn returns to Kerry and uncovers an astonishing tale: both the account of the destruction of a place and the way of life which once preserved Ireland's ancient traditions and the tragedy of a increasingly isolated village where all the women mysteriously die – leaving the priest, Father McGreevy, to cope with insoluble problems. As war rages through Europe, McGreevy struggles to preserve what remains of his parish, against the rough mountain elements and the grief and superstitions of his people, and the growing distrust of the town below. An engrossing narrative in prose filled with grace and poetry, *The Deposition of Father McGreevy* explores the locus of misfortune and the very nature of evil.

*Praise for The Deposition of Father McGreevy:*

'Enthralling, chilling and memorable' – Shena Mackay, *Daily Telegraph*

'So original that the text is illuminating. This is an exciting approach to doing battle with the sorrowful Ireland of not so long ago'  
– Penny Perrick, *The Times*

'This priestly deposition develops into a grand examination of blind faith and human weakness. The shiver at the end chills right down to the soul'  
– TLS

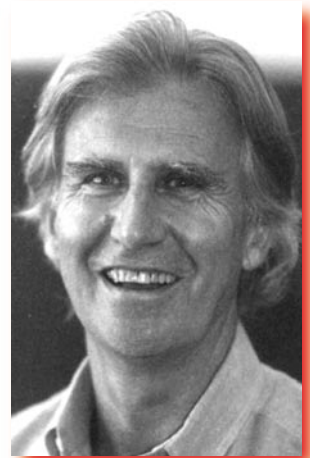
'Magical to the core. Read it and be smitten by this masterpiece as I was'  
– Walter Abish

'O'Doherty's powerful and sometimes magical writing keeps a reader closely involved' – Julian Moynahan, *New York Review of Books*

'O'Doherty's eloquent prose conjures up snow and cold and isolation as clearly as it does small town spite and gossip . . . bone-chilling'  
– *Atlantic Monthly*

## Brian O'Doherty

Born in Ireland in 1928, Brian O'Doherty graduated as a medical doctor from University College, Dublin and emigrated to the USA in 1957. In 1972 he returned to Ireland and changed his name to Patrick Ireland to symbolize his work for peace. A gifted polymath, O'Doherty has been a doctor, conceptual artist, art historian, critic, film-maker, author of numerous books on art criticism, art reviewer for the *New York Times* and editor-in-chief of *Art in America*. Currently the University Professor of Fine Arts and Media at Long Island University, he also taught film criticism for twenty-five years at Barnard College. As an art critic and historian, O'Doherty's works include *Inside the White Cube* as well as *American Masters: The Voice and the Myth*. He is the advisory editor of *The Recorder*, the journal of the American Irish Historical Society, and co-wrote the catalogue for the major Mark Rothko exhibition at the National Gallery of Art and the Whitney Museum. He lives in New York.



Already published

Author tour

1-900850-48-6 £11.99 320 pp

Third impression

Translation rights:

Arcadia Books

BRIAN O'DOHERTY  
*The Strange Case of  
Mademoiselle P.*



## *The Strange Case of Mademoiselle P.* Brian O'Doherty

‘So gripping that one reads it at a gallop, almost frantically waiting for more revelations and turns in the story. All in all a brilliant performance’ – Edward Said

**I**n this mysterious and haunting first novel of eighteenth-century Vienna Brian O'Doherty takes the reader from the hushed clinic of the controversial physician Dr Franz Anton Mesmer to the glittering and scheming Habsburg court of Maria Theresa of Austria.

*The Strange Case of Mademoiselle P.* is a book of music, psychology and history, a fictional account of Dr Mesmer, celebrated for his discovery of animal magnetism, which proved effective in the cure of many illnesses. We find the doctor in his clinic where he has just taken on a new patient, eighteen-year-old Marie Thérèse Paradies, who has been blind since the age of three. A gifted pianist, Marie Thérèse is protected by the patronage of the empress for whom she plays often at court where her father, Josef von Paradies, his imperial secretary.

As the thriller-like narrative unfolds through the three voices of Dr Mesmer, Marie Thérèse Paradies and Josef von Paradise, a gripping tale of good versus evil, of intrigue in high places, begins to emerge. It is the brilliant Age of the Enlightenment; and we hear the music of Mozart, catch the rustle of silken gowns, and eavesdrop talk of war and annexation, Benjamin Franklin and Frederick the Great of Prussia, and the crafty foreign minister, Count Kaunitz.

*The Strange Case of Mademoiselle P.* is a triumphant and compelling work, a story flawlessly composed and quietly erotic, which heralds an exciting and serious new voice in fiction.

‘Taking historical personalities like toys from a box and giving them new life is the most creative way of playing (in the best sense of the term). It gives another dimension to the theme of this book – the conflict between official medicine and “healers” – and shows that no medicine is effective unless it’s based on a philosophy of nature’ – Gregor von Rezzoli

Author tour  
February

1-900850-67-2 £10.99 240 pp

Translation rights:  
Arcadia Books

# The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon

Richard Zimler

‘An American Umberto Eco’ – Francis King, *Spectator*

## TOP TEN BEST-SELLER

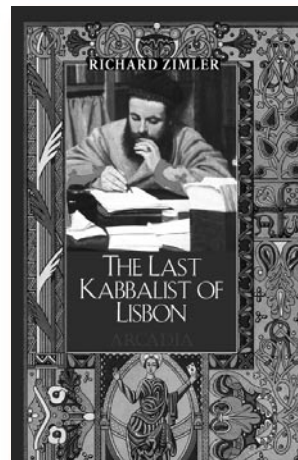
The year is 1506, and the streets of Lisbon are seething with fear and suspicion when the renowned kabbalist Abraham Zarco is found dead, a naked girl at his side. His nephew Berekiah, a talented young manuscript illuminator, investigates his uncle’s murder, and discovers in the kabbalah clues that lead him into the labyrinth of secrets in which the Jews sought to hide from their persecutors.

B format edition of Arcadia’s best-selling title. Over 30,000 copies of the C format paperback edition have been sold.

‘An international best-seller and a riveting literary murder mystery, his novel is also a harrowing picture of the persecution of sixteenth-century Portuguese Jews and, in passing, an atmospheric introduction to the hermetic Jewish tradition of kabbalah mysticism’

– John Murray, *Independent on Sunday*

Richard Zimler lives in Porto. His other novels include *Unholy Ghosts* and *The Angelic Darkness* (Arcadia 2000). He is currently working on a new novel.



Author tour

January

POS: Poster

1-900850-31-1 £6.99 320 pp

Also available:

B format edition

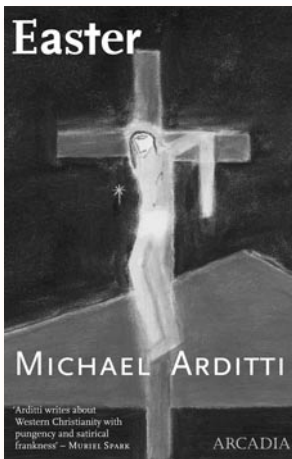
1-900850-03-6 £11.99 320 pp

Twelfth impression

*The Angelic Darkness*

1-900850-30-3 £11.99 256 pp

Second impression



## *Easter* Michael Arditti

‘Arditti writes about Western Christianity with pungency and satirical frankness’ – Muriel Spark

WINNER OF THE MARDI GRAS & WATERSTONE’S  
BOOK AWARD 2000

**T**he parish of St Mary-in-the-Vale is preparing for Easter. In his Palm Sunday sermon, the Vicar explains that Christ’s crucifixion and redemption are taking place every day. He little suspects that, before the week is out, he and his entire congregation will be caught up in a latter-day Passion story which will tear apart their lives.

Michael Arditti’s magnificent novel is both a devastating portrait of today’s Church of England and an audacious reworking of the central myth of Western culture. Taking the form of a traditional triptych, it is at once intimate and epic, lyrical and analytic. Shocking events unfold against a backdrop of meticulously observed religious services. High Church ritual, evangelical revivalism and the ancestor-worship of the English gentry are all subjected to merciless scrutiny.

In a fictional climate dominated by materialism, *Easter* stands apart in its bold exploration of the nature of God, the problem of suffering and the existence of evil. With an unforgettable gallery of characters ranging from a Holocaust survivor and an African princess to Aids patients and Queen Elizabeth II, it provides a dazzling and panorama of contemporary society. In its radical fusion of the sacred and profane, *Easter* throws down a challenge to believers and non-believers alike.

‘A masterpiece that – if there is a God, and provided He’s Christian and gay – could easily end up on the Booker shortlist. Even if He’s not, you should read it’ – *Time Out*



April

POS: Poster

1-900850-54-0 £6.99 400 pp

Also available:

B format edition

1-900850-34-6 £11.99 400 pp

Third impression

# Moe's Villa & Other Stories

James Purdy

'An authentic American genius' – Gore Vidal

In this new collection of short stories, James Purdy produces the same 'magnificent simplicity' that Edith Sitwell extolled when reviewing his earlier collections. 'There is never a sentence too much, a word too much.'

From the great opera star and her talking cat to the young girl with her fire-breathing dragon; from two black ladies in retirement and their mysterious tenant – a world-renowned film star – to two young illegal Mexicans and their 'cracked' landlord, James Purdy shows himself once again to be a master of the short story. In the words of Dorothy Parker, 'Only Purdy could make you think as you read: My God, these people happened! Those who read him are his for life.'

'A writer of fantastic talent. His books take one by the throat and shake one's bones loose. The American language at its best'

– George Steiner, *Sunday Times*



James Purdy is one of America's most distinguished and consistently interesting writers. His many novels include *Malcolm*, *Eustace Chisholm and the Works*, *Narrow Rooms* and, most recently, *Gertrude of Stony Island*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

January

1-900850-37-0 £10.99 208 pp

ARCADIA

FICTION << 13



## *Out of This World*

**Karl Ove Knausgard**

Translated from the Norwegian

‘Knausgard débuts with a novel so sharp, beautiful and tragic that it leaves the reader dumbstruck . . . conveyed by a pen as mighty as Dostoevsky’s and Hamsun’s’ – *Morgenbladet*

**T**he year is 1996. Henrik Vankel is twenty-six and a teacher in a small coastal community in northern Norway. He is lonely and shy and possessed by a desire that not even he can explain. Miriam, one of his pupils, is an innocent young thirteen-year-old – the very incarnation of the yearnings of his own lost youth. She is unlike all the other women he has approached and whose rejection has cast him into a darkness in which he wanders bewildered, left with his desire and longing, shame and disgrace . . .

‘Knausgard is an unusually talented observer, with a sensitive and precise view of the world . . . a sensational first novel’ – *Aftenposten*

Karl Ove Knausgard was born in 1968. *Out of This World* is his first novel. The Norwegian publishing sensation of 1998, it was hailed as ‘a 90s generation novel’ and a ‘Lolita for today’. It was awarded the Norwegian Literary Critics’ Award and the Booksellers Association’s Bjornson Scholarship.



Author tour  
October

1-900850-60-5 £12.99 700 pp

# Oranges for the Son of Alexander Levy

## Nella Bielski

Translated from the French by John Berger & Lisa Appignanesi

with *Isabelle* by Nella Bielski & John Berger

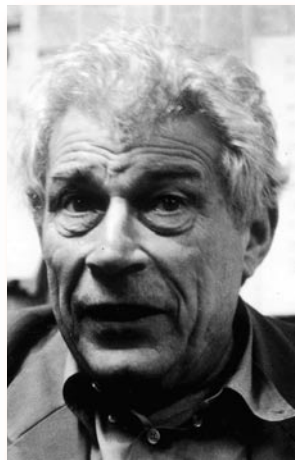
‘Bielski writes beautifully. Her delicate sense of humour runs like an electric beam illuminating the landscape’  
– Selina Hastings, *Daily Telegraph*

**T**wo novels in one. ‘Yet a day of reckoning can come . . .’ *Oranges for the Son of Alexander Levy* is Nella Bielski’s powerful meditation on the nature of love and loss and of absence. Liola returns to Moscow where her mother lies dying – this will be the last time Liola will see her. In Paris, Liola’s husband Paul has left her for the ‘one who haunts him’. She must discover how to make sense of all this, the shifting internal and external boundaries which confront us all.

*Isabelle* is Nella Bielski and John Berger’s powerful story in shots which brilliantly recreates the life of Isabelle Eberhardt who travelled throughout North Africa disguised as a young Arab man. She smoked kif, took innumerable lovers and made dangerous trips alone across the desert. Her freak death in a flash flood ended a brief life of disturbing contradictions, for Isabelle was a European turned Arab, a Christian who became a Sufi, a woman who passed for a man.

‘A tantalizing enigma, Berger and Bielski’s filmic approach is appropriate to Eberhardt’s literally dramatic life, and the symmetry of the imagery is an indication of the artistry of this work’ – *Observer*

John Berger won the Booker Prize in 1972 with his novel *G*. His celebrated fiction includes *A Painter of Our Time*, *Pig Earth*, *To the Wedding* and, most recently, *King*. His non-fiction includes *The Success and Failure of Picasso*, *Another Way of Telling* and *Ways of Seeing*. Nella Bielski was born in the Ukraine and now lives in Paris. Her prize-winning fiction includes *After Arkadia*. Together they have written two plays, *A Question of Geography* and *Francisco Goya’s Last Portrait*.



1-900850-33-8 £10.99 240 pp



## **A Bed in Heaven**

**Tessa de Loo**

Translated from the Dutch by Ruth Levitt

**HER NEW NOVEL . . . A GUARANTEED BEST-SELLER**

‘Details of time, place and atmosphere are acutely evoked, and the characters are presented with a generous sympathy that stops short of special pleading. Already a best-seller in the author’s native Holland, the book deserves to become one here’ – *The Times*

**A**utumn 1965: Kata spends time with three others in a bed – instead of heralding sexual freedom, she makes a shocking discovery which explains her father’s sombre silence. Winter 1944: Jewish Hungarian cellist Jenó is in hiding in his lover’s flat in Amsterdam – playing sick games, she makes love with a German on the other side of the thin wall. Autumn 1956: uncle Misa manages to leave Hungary to join his brother and tell tales of Kata’s ancestors. Autumn 1995: the story ends as it began, in a bed – after a burying her father, Kata finds herself in bed with her brother, with all the various threads of her life finally coming together.

‘A flat-out masterpiece: exhilarating and unforgettable’ – *Kirkus Reviews*

Tessa de Loo made her début with *The Girls from the Sweet Factory*; her novels include *Meander*, *Isabelle*, *The Smoke Sacrifice* and *The Miracle of the Dog*. *A Pig in the Palace* looks at Byron’s travels in Albania while *A Danger on the Way*, recently published, is a witty collection from her column in a Dutch motoring magazine. She lives in Portugal.

Author tour

September

1-900850-64-8 £11.99 240 pp

# The Twins

Tessa de Loo

Translated from the Dutch by Ruth Levitt

THE MILLION-COPY BEST-SELLER

‘Completely original . . . a fiction whose poise, compassion and breadth take the reader’s breath away’

– Joan Smith, *Sunday Times*

Two elderly women, one Dutch and one German, meet by chance at the famous health resort of Spa. They recognize in the other their twin sister they believed to be lost. They begin to tell each other their life stories – the last chance to bridge a gulf of almost seventy years.

Born in Cologne in 1916, the twins are brusquely separated from each other after the death of their parents. Anna grows up with her grandfather, in a primitive farming and Catholic milieu on the edge of the Teutoburgerwald. Lotte ends up in the Netherlands because of her TB, living with an uncle who harbours strong socialist sympathies. Bad relationships between the families and the intervening war cause the contact between the two sisters to be broken. When their paths cross again so late in life, Lotte, who sheltered Jews in hiding during the war, is initially extremely suspicious of her newly-found twin sister. But through Anna’s painful stories she is confronted with the other side of her own reality: the sufferings of ordinary Germans in wartime.

In this monumental novel, Tessa de Loo compellingly weaves the story of two twin sisters separated in childhood with that of two countries opposed in war, and depicts, in a simple yet harrowing prose the effects of nature and nurture on the individual.

‘This excellent novel spans the entire twentieth century. De Loo interleaves the twins’ story with that of two countries locked in bloody conflict. A moving read about humanity’s darkest hour’

– Sebastian Shakespeare, Paperback Choice, *Evening Standard*

ARCADIA



Author tour

POS: Poster, postcards

March

1-900850-56-7 £6.99 400 pp

Also available:

B format edition

1-900850-32-X £11.99 400 pp

Third impression