
PARTHIAN

BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS
DESIGN COMPETITION

Okay, so here's the deal:

Parthian have four new books being launched in 2010: the first four in our 'Bright Young Things' series, which will discover and nurture exciting new young authors.

We want to start the series with a bang, we want gorgeous cover designs that will turn the books into objects of desire, and we want them all to share a visual theme so that they make a real impact as a set.

This is your chance to to show us your stuff.
This info packs contains design briefs and some details about the books and authors to inform and inspire you.

The deadline is December 14th 2009. The winning set of designs will be announced on January 14th 2010. Entry is free and via email
(lucy@parthianbooks.co.uk)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone's ideas.

Good luck!

Contents of this Info Pack:

Page 2

The design brief and introductions to the four books

Page 3–7

Advance Information Sheets

(these are the documents that we give to bookshops and other trade contacts to promote the books before they're published.

These will give you more details about the individual titles, as well as extracts to inspire you.)

Page 8

Some examples of design that gets Parthian excited

*If you have any queries that aren't answered in this pack, please get in touch with Lucy Llewellyn at lucy@parthianbooks.co.uk

Design Brief

We want to create a dramatic monochromatic effect with these covers, so we'd like you to pick a single colour for each book and create a design using **only that colour!** Deadline is **December 14th**, and we'd like to have all designs as **EPS files with clear backgrounds** (we'll be looking at the designs overlaid on various coloured backgrounds while we're judging, and will decide on background colours for winning designs when they are chosen). We've included the proof covers below – these are rough designs that we use to promote the books before they get published – you can use these as much or as little as you like.

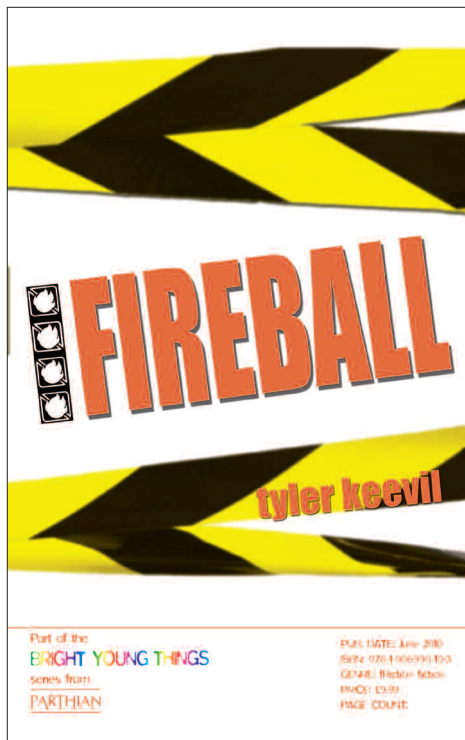
Your winning designs should:

- 1) represent each book's content and tone
- 2) clearly display the titles & authors' names
- 3) be equally easy to read/view at full size from across a room, AND as a thumbnail image on a computer screen
- 4) have equal impact as individual titles and as a set
- 5) be jaw-droppingly gorgeous and original
- 6) fit within the dimensions 198mm x 129mm
- 7) be EPS files with clear backgrounds, in zipped folders
- 8) be clearly labelled: file names should include your initials, surname, number of the book, (ie: ASmithBook1, ASmithBook2, etc...)

Book 1

Fireball by Tyler Keevil

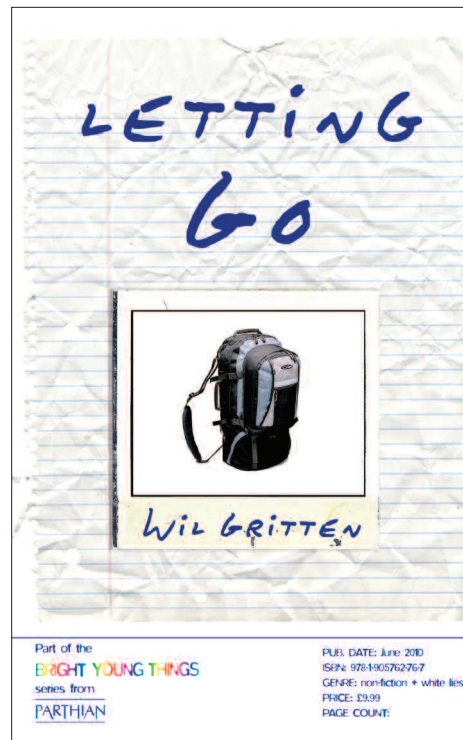
Set in Vancouver, this book follows four teenagers through an intensely hot summer. Violence, jealousy, trouble with the police.... it all ends up in Chris driving a stolen police car off a cliff in a blazing fireball...



Book 2

Letting Go by Wil Gritten

A true account of Wil's travels around South America, meeting people, trying to find authenticity, avoiding tourist traps, bingeing, camping, hostels... always trying to 'let go' while avoiding getting lost, robbed, raped or too paranoid!



Book 3

The Art of Contraception by Susie Wild

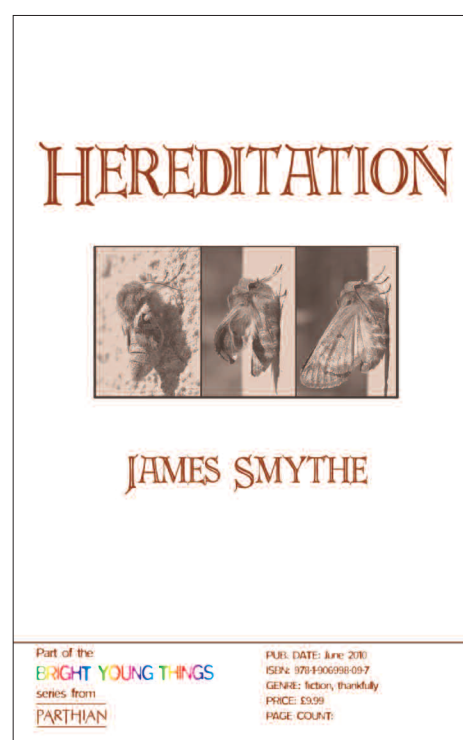
A set of short stories, loosely connected by the theme of contraception. This is no 'chick lit' tho. It's quirky and weird, and we'd like a funky sexy cover that won't put guys off. Egg-cups, mirrors-licking, holidays in bathrooms, trannies, red trench coats and blue hair.



Book 4

Hereditation by James Smythe

Starting in New York in the 1930s, this story follows two disturbed brothers battling to escape the mental illness & depravity inherited from their dad's family. Archaic language, candlelight, cobwebs, pianos and deteriorating bodies and minds...



Fireball

Tyler Keevil

Tyler Keevil's debut novel is written with the assured and confident air of a seasoned author. The book is set in Vancouver and starts at the end of the summer with Chris, the complex and misunderstood best friend of the protagonist, driving a stolen police car through a road block and over a cliff to his death. Tyler takes us back to the start of that summer and unravels the events leading to this scene, following the four teenaged characters through the months that will come to define their future. First hailed as heroes for saving a drowning woman, they find unwanted attention as minor local celebrities – a respect quickly replaced with envy and then harassment. As the temperature and the pressure rise, events spiral out of control, and Tyler keeps the tension close to boiling point right up to the final fiery climax.

Chris knew it was coming to an end. He didn't say anything but he didn't have to. I could just tell. We'd gone down to Cates beach to drink a few beers and throw away those stupid medals. That's where it happened. They said I helped him, which is complete crap. Chris didn't need my help. He could have done it blindfolded, with one hand. Of course, nobody wanted to believe that. Diggs claimed we did it together, and that's how the papers wrote it up. If it weren't for my dad, I probably would have ended up in prison.

But the point is, Chris did it alone. Just him and his fists.

'Shit,' I said. 'Did you kill him?'

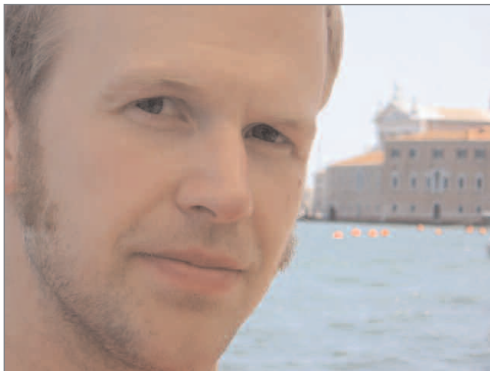
'Beats me.'

We stood on either side of him, looking down. His face was a mess. Droplets of blood were scattered all over the sand, like bright red bugs.

I leaned in closer, listening. 'I don't think he's breathing, man.'

'It doesn't really matter either way.'

I didn't understand what he meant at the time. I do now. He hadn't planned on stealing the squad car, or crashing it into a roadblock at a hundred miles an hour, but that's what happened. In an instant, the car became this blazing fireball, bright as the sun. Even that didn't stop him. He kept going, right off the cliff and into the ocean.



Tyler was raised in Vancouver, Canada. He first came to the UK in 1999 to study English and Lancaster University. Since immigrating to Wales, he has been fortunate enough to receive several awards for his short fiction. His work has appeared in a variety of magazines and anthologies. A short film he wrote recently showed on ITV Wales, and another picked up the Welsh Dragon Award at the Newport International Film Festival. In 2008 Tyler completed an MA in Creative Writing at Aberystwyth, and has gone on to start a PhD. To pay the bills, he works part-time in a factory near his hometown of Llanidloes, and has recently started lecturing in Creative Writing at the University of Gloucestershire

Short Fiction Publications

(forthcoming)	'Carving Through Woods...'	(Parthian Nu Anthology)
(forthcoming)	'The Masque of the Red Clown'	(Solaris (French transl.))
(forthcoming)	'Retribution'	(Front & Centre)
Dec., 2008	'Shadows'	(Planet)
June, 2008	'The Masque of the Red Clown'	(On Spec Magazine)
May, 2008	'Skin As White As Snow'	(The Strange Anthology)
April, 2008	'Tokens From The Wild'	(Brace Anthology)
March, 2008	'Cleaning the Western Kittiwake'	(Black Static)
Spring, 2008	'Fishhook'	(Dream Catcher)
Fall, 2007	'And & And'	(Blue Tattoo)
Summer, 2007	'Shooting Fish in a Stream'	(Transmission)
Spring, 2007	'Felled'	(New Welsh Review)
Autumn, 2006	'Father Figure'	(CFUK Magazine)
Winter, 2005	'The Big Bad Wolf'	(Cambrensis)

Writing Awards

2005	Real Writers Short Story Awards (Wales & West prize for 'Leaving Eden')
2005	Wicklow Writers Short Story Competition (Honourable Mention for 'Shooting Fish in a Stream')
2004	Writers Inc. of London (Writer of the Year Award for 'A Family Man')
2004	Frome Festival International Story Competition (Received 1st prize for 'Mangleface')

Letting Go

Wil Gritten

Letting Go opens in North Wales where Wil sits on a train after saying goodbye to his family and friends for an indeterminate length of time. After a brief stop in New York Wil heads for South America, where we follow him on his various adventures.

From the beach he lives on with only a stray dog for company, to his final destination and tearful goodbyes in Santiago, Chile, Wil searches for freedom of the soul, trying to avoid comfort and predictability in a bid to 'let go'. He reveals the turbulent personal effects that this search brings him with a refreshing emotional honesty, talking candidly about the friends, relationships, cities, countryside, drugs, fear and elation he experiences along the way, and how dangerously close 'letting go' can come to 'losing it' when the precarious balance between exploration and hedonism is threatened.

Wil Gritten writes with a wonderfully self-deprecating sense of humour and has the ability to make the most alien of places come to life with an almost tangible quality, so that the reader is transported away, feeling more like a travelling companion on this journey through unknown landscapes, both geographic and personal.

'Please wait until the aircraft has come to a complete standstill.'

I shouldn't be this scared. I should be coping better. I winged it though two dead bodies and a bout of septicaemia in India and Sri Lanka when I was eighteen.

I survived those two insane months with my old mate Gwyds in Madagascar when I was twenty one.

I've worked in all sorts crazy places around the world – from Cape Town to Tokyo to darkest North Wales. I've lived and worked on Coldharbour Lane amongst the crack dealers and smack-heads for years. I should not be this scared. But I am.

It has been built up so much in my mind by my well-meaning friends and relatives with their well-meaning advice: 'Watch out for the rapists and the kidnapers, Wil', they'd say

helpfully, 'and the thieves and the murderers and the coppers.'

'Ooo yeah Wil, the coppers, they're the worst.'

'Yeah Wil, I heard the coppers kidnap you, rob you then sell you to the rapists who rape you and then murder you.'

'Ooo yeah, I heard that too, Wil. Where is it you're going again?'

My own imagination, though I try to relax and be positive, makes up reams of horror stories too, mostly centring around being mugged. While still in Wales I dreamt about running endlessly through a Brazilian favela after the kids who'd stolen my BMX and rucksack, sweating and cursing them in a language they could only laugh at.

I have learned next to nothing about this country or its language. I have learnt to count in Spanish. That is all. What am I doing?



Wil Gritten was raised happily in North Wales without toy guns or television. At sixteen he left home and moved to Brixton under the pretence of becoming a carpenter. Within a year he found himself alone in India, and started writing. Wil stumbled into a career in modelling, and spent a few years working for some of the largest international fashion brands. By the age of twenty-five Wil had circumnavigated the globe twice. He writes and records his own unpleasant variety of music and is an expert in the field of organic vegetable gardening. He is currently living in Australia.

The Art of Contraception

Susie Wild

'A talent for razor-sharp, satirical observation' - Nigel Jenkins

Susie's collection is an quirky mix. From the deranged cravings of a mum-to-be leading to the accidentally poisoning of a co-worker in 'Pica', to the poignant and subtle unfolding of personal revelations of a mother and daughter in the novella 'Arrivals', Susie tells tales of the fantastic and the everyday with inimitable style and flair. Below is a list of contents, and an excerpt from 'Pica'

POCILLOVY
AQUATIC LIFE
PAYING FOR SEX
PICA

KETCHUP
LOVING LUCAS
BIG ON JAPAN
WAXING, WANING

DREAMS, INCONSISTANT ANGEL THINGS
STUNG
ARRIVALS (Novella)

'There you are Tanja.' Shrilled the big bosses' deputy, Carmen. 'You're not doing that...!' she paused, and pulled a face, 'pregnant throwing up thing again are you?' She sniffed the air.

'No, no. I'm fine!' Tanja said back, too cheerfully.

'Good, well I need you to help me out with a couple of things. I have an enormous mail out that should have gone out yesterday, and then there's the Debbie dilemma...'

Tanja raised her eyebrow. 'Oh?'

'Well I've just got back from the hospital. I accompanied her, she had no-one else, it seems. Anyway it turns out that the little incident of the sandwich thief has been solved.'

'Was it..?'

'Yes, yes, keep up. Only, well there's a small matter that would be better if it didn't get out.'

'Well they think that she must have swallowed some poisons, cleaning fluids and the like, a cry for help. Of course she's denying it, but there's no other possible explanation...'

Still feeling weak Tanja had begun to zone out again. She hadn't eaten enough for one, and certainly not for two. She was looking at the full length mirror opposite, nailed into the white tiled wall, entranced by how the light danced off it. She thought it would feel cool against the skin. She reached out and touched it lightly with her fingers. But that wasn't enough. She stepped forward and stuck out her tongue. Licked the glass. It tasted good. Like diamonds. It sparkled, fizzed and tingled in her mouth. She did it again, repeatedly lapping at her wet reflection and that of Carmen's face aghast.

(From the story 'Pica')



Susie Wild (29) is a writer, editor and journalist. She is the News Editor for national music magazine *Kruger* and their website www.krugerlabs.com. She has also worked as Film Editor for Welsh lad mag *Red Handed* and was the editor of Swansea's art magazine *Platform* (2004-2008). She's written for the majority of the Welsh Press as well as national publications including *Mslxia*, *Clash Magazine*, *TheSite.org* and *The Guardian*. Her words have appeared in *New Welsh Review*, *Planet Magazine*, *Metro*, *The Big Issue*, *Buzz*, *Swn*, *Artrock.com*, *Artrockertv*, *Big Times*, *BIG!*, *The Western Mail*, *The South Wales Evening Post*, *The Deptford Mercury*, *Venue*, *South West Screen*, *Mumbles Matters*, *Rising* and *The Spark*.

She has 2 MAs because she is greedy for knowledge – one in Journalism from Goldsmith's College and one in Creative Writing from Swansea University. Susie's debut short film, featuring

her poem 'Dim Smoking, Girls,' won The Co-op Award for New Directors at Beyond TV Festival 2007. It has been screened at Taliesin Arts Centre, the Dylan Thomas Centre, Elysium Art Space, the National Waterfront Museum and the cinema tent of a variety of festivals.

After spending her time reviewing other writer's work she figured she'd have a go herself. Parthian is the first publisher she sent the manuscript to, and they said yes. Her debut collection of short stories – *The Art of Contraception* – will be out on 1st of June 2010. Her short story 'Diving Lessons' features in the Parthian anthology *Nu: Fiction & Stuff* which will be published in May 2009.

People that Susie has interviewed include:

Rachel Trezise, Niall Griffiths, Stevie Davies, Sue Williams, Rhys Ifans, Richard Billingham, Howard Marks, Super Furry Animals, The Manic Street Preachers, Los Campesinos!, Feeder, The Automatic, Goldie Lookin Chain, Huw Stephens (Radio 1), Edith Bowman (Radio 1), Golden Silvers, Sportsday Megaphone, Alabama 3, Dirty Sanchez, Richard James, The Pipettes, Ebony Bones, My Brightest Diamond, It Hugs Back, The Headcase Ladz, The Poppies, Attack+Defend, The Caves, Rag Foundation, Holly Golightly, Saltpeter, Borivoj Radakovic, and Glenys Cour.

Hereditation

James Smythe

Synopsis:

Hereditation is a novel that tells the story of a family, focusing on two brothers growing up in New York in the 20th Century. When the novel begins these brothers, Erwin and Maynard Sloane, are living together in one of the last personally owned brownstone houses in Harlem. Both of them are dissatisfied with their lives, with both working in the jobs that their family seemed to push them towards, and both single, and without much experience of the opposite sex. They live with their mother, a perpetually ill woman who has recently suffered the indignity of her philandering husband, Ezra Sloane, leaving her to embark on a later life burst of sexual promiscuity.

When Erwin meets a woman, Lia, and brings her home it throws the dynamic of the family askew, not least because Maynard also finds himself attracted to her. Erwin, however, is unable to remain faithful, and starts seeing a Hispanic prostitute called Aurelia who, coincidentally, is also seeing Ezra. When Ezra dies of a heart attack the family is forced to look at themselves, an action that is especially harmful to Erwin, who suffers a breakdown at the realisation of how similar he is to his own father.

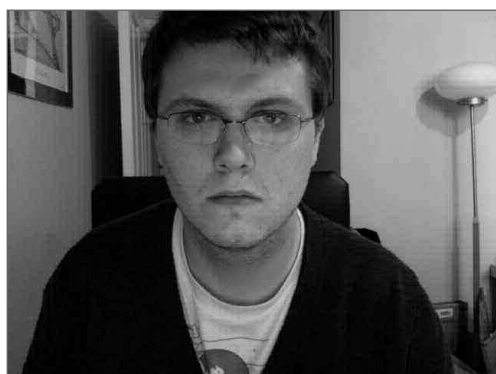
Erwin attempts suicide, is saved by Maynard, but then fakes his own death and escapes to live on the streets. At the same time that Maynard and Lia begin to confront their feelings for each other, and the mother tragically passes away in what might be an accident, or what might be Maynard's fault. Put on trial for her death, Maynard is found guilty and is sent to prison. He spends the next few years there whilst Erwin continues to live on the streets, developing a heroin habit and briefly adopting a baby. At a moment of revelation he decides to return home where he discovers that Lia has since fled the country, pregnant, and gone to England. He decides to follow her. A while later Maynard is released from prison and returns home to discover the house empty and abandoned. It isn't long before Erwin returns to find his brother though, and after they have a brief reunion, Maynard begins to suspect that his brother is putting off returning to his wife and child. When he develops an unknown illness and Maynard is forced to care for him, their life becomes focused around their house. They begin hoarding possessions, newspapers and rubbish, and find themselves falling into the familial roles that they have always found themselves: of brother, not doing things for themselves, and of feeling perpetual guilt over what they have (or haven't done) in their lives. Erwin's sickness grows worse. When his time finally comes and Erwin passes away Maynard makes the decision to do something for himself breaking the pattern of his entire genealogy, and heads to England to be with Lia, the woman that he has ever loved, and her son (who, it is revealed, may actually be his).

Erwin got thinner and thinner, his skin dragging itself across his face towards the floor, and he still didn't die.

Maynard never wished any harm to his brother, but he couldn't bear to see him suffer. On four or five occasions every day he found himself tempted to raise a hand to Erwin's mouth (Prison wasn't so bad the first time, he would tell himself, hand shaking as it crept through the warm air in front of Erwin's face), but the fact that his brother never closed his eyes caused him to cover-up the manoeuvre, instead adjusting the tie that he had put around his neck, or tilting his head left or right to change his view. December gave way to January – they had a Christmas celebration dinner of

a variety of fruits, including pear, grapefruit, lemon and blood orange, and Maynard sang hymns to Erwin, hoping that he would suddenly join in. January gave way to February snows. Maynard became increasingly paranoid, filling his pockets with snow as he gathered the water and covering the trail that led out from their front door, lest anyone should realise that they were still in there. The letters didn't stop coming, and on numerous occasions policemen would rap on the front door, 'just checking that everything is alright'.

Erwin, of course, didn't get any better, and Maynard was starting to be affected by the situation himself.



James Smythe was born in 1980 in West London, and migrated to Wales, where his maternal family lived. He has a PhD from Cardiff University, currently teaches in various places, intermittently performs in an improvised comedy group and has recently authored a book about Twitter, being released soon in the US by Sawhorse Media., *Hereditation* is his first novel, and is about love and fathers. His second novel will be about serial killers, and his third about God, probably. James's short story 'Decoration' is to be published in Parthian's *Nu* anthology.

BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS

some random stuff we like:

album artwork klimt stencil art andy warhol newschool tattoos
banksy movie posters manga escher collages graffiti
minimalism tim burton computer arts magazine typography

series design that we're jealous of, but confident you can outdo:

