

Sheil Land Associates Ltd

LITERARY, THEATRE AND FILM AGENTS

RM 9-25 LABS House, 15-19 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2TH

Lucy Fawcett: 020 7405 9351 | lfawcett@sheiland.co.uk

Boris Starling

Screenwriter and Author

Boris is an award-winning novelist, screenwriter and journalist who has reached *The Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestseller lists. He has written nine novels including *THE LAW OF THE HEART* (Lake Union Press), *VODKA*, *VISIBILITY* and *CITY OF SINS*. His debut novel *MESSIAH* was made into a primetime BBC1 series which ran for five series, and he has written scripts and developed projects for broadcasters, studios and production companies in the UK, US and Europe. His non fiction includes *UNCONQUERABLE: THE INVICTUS SPIRIT*, about the extraordinary men and women who compete in the Invictus Games and he is also the author of the successful *HAYNES EXPLAINS* series and *THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN* with the Office for National Statistics. He is an experienced ghostwriter including *SOLDIER* with former SAS operator Jay Morton and autobiographies of Sam Warburton (British and Irish Lions rugby captain), Siya Kolisi (first black captain of the Springboks) and jockey Frankie Dettori.

Boris writes regularly for several national newspapers and was writer-in-residence at Max Gate, Thomas Hardy's house. Before becoming a full-time writer he worked for an international consultancy specialising in political risk assessment, confidential investigations and kidnap negotiation. Boris lives in Dorset with his wife, children, dogs and a constantly fluctuating number of chickens and ducks.

Script Work

BILLBOARD KING: Wrote opening episode of drama series commissioned by Genial Productions/Sophie Clark Jervoise.

THE KID: Wrote animated feature. A sci-fi reimagining of Charlie Chaplin's original 1921 film. Big Beach, New York/ Superprod, Paris/ Bidibul, Luxembourg

THE DEFECTOR: Commissioned to write the true story of a high-profile KGB defector to Britain in the 1980s. Circadian Pictures/Matthew Mitchell.

THE DRIVEN: Commissioned by Marauder Pictures to write a feature film about three very different Englishmen and their extraordinary quest for the land speed record after the First World War.

SEVENTH SYMPHONY: Available feature film telling the story of Shostakovich writing his symphony during the Siege of Leningrad.

QUICKSILVER: Drama series pilot set in Restoration London featuring Isaac Newton, Christopher Wren and Samuel Pepys as members of a prototype MI5.

I, GANGSTER: Developed true crime series with BBC Studios/Hilary Salmon and producer Liz Pearson. Treatment commissioned.

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FLYTRAP: Psychological crime thriller series about a female police officer who goes undercover to catch her best friend's killer optioned by Bandit Film and TV.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE: A 6x60 crime/espionage serial drama set in the world of London's super-rich under optioned to Acorn Media.

BLOOD OVER WATER: Co-wrote feature adaptation of the award-winning non-fiction book by David and James Livingston. The true story of the two brothers who competed against each other in the 2003 Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race, the closest race in history. (Tideway/Chrome/Harbour).

Produced Credits

MESSIAH: A television drama adaptation of Boris's novel of the same name published in 1999. The crime series ran for 5 series from 2001 – 2008 on primetime BBC one, starring Ken Stott, Frances Grey and Neil Dudgeon. Boris is credited as series creator and writer on Series 1.

- MESSIAH I: THE FIRST KILLINGS, 2001 – Series creator and writer
- MESSIAH II: VENGEANCE IS MINE, 2002 – Series creator
- MESSIAH III: THE PROMISE, 2004 – Series creator
- MESSIAH IV: THE HARROWING, 2005 – Series creator
- MESSIAH V: THE RAPTURE, 2008 – Series creator

BOOKS & NOVELS

Available for Film/TV

WHITE DEATH - Written as Daniel Blake (*HarperCollins, 2012*)

Two weeks before Kwasi King, chess's answer to Muhammad Ali, is due to defend his world title, his mother is found brutally murdered yards from Yale University. A tarot card has been left next to her dismembered body. Soon, more bodies turn up at other Ivy League colleges, all with tarot cards. But while some have been killed in a frenzy, others were dispatched with clinical precision. It looks like FBI Special Agent Franco Patrese's looking for not just one killer, but two. And while Patrese hunts, he knows that he too is being hunted, for he's received his own tarot card. The Fool. Could he be the next victim of this macabre intellectual battle?

CITY OF SINS - Written as Daniel Blake (*HarperCollins, 2011*)

New Orleans, Summer 2005: New FBI agent Franco Patrese is intrigued when the attractive PA to the city's richest man requests a secret meeting. She has information regarding an unthinkable conspiracy, and will trust no-one else. The next day she's dead – the victim of a bizarre ritual murder – and Patrese finds himself drawn into the murkiest of underworlds, piecing together connections between the city's seediest players and her top officials. Only two things remain certain – there are huge secrets hidden in these cesspools of corruption and crime, and some people will do anything to keep them that way. And all the while, the city's apocalypse looms. Her name is Katrina, and she's taking aim.

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SOUL MURDER – Written as Daniel Blake (*HarperCollins, 2010*)

When Pittsburgh homicide detective, Franco Patrese, and his partner Mark Beradino are called to a domestic dispute at the lawless Homewood estate events quickly spiral out of control. With two dead, Patrese believes he's got his killer - but things aren't always as simple as they seem. On the other side of town, the charred body of Michael Redwine, a renowned brain surgeon, is found in one of the city's most luxurious apartment blocks. Then Father Kohler, a Catholic bishop, is set alight in the confessional at his Cathedral. But they are just the first in a series of increasingly shocking murders. Patrese's investigation uncovers high-class prostitution, medical scams and religious obsession, but what Patrese doesn't realise is how close to the case he really is - and how it will take a terrible betrayal to uncover the truth.

VISIBILITY (*HarperCollins, 2006*)

In 1950s London, an MI-5 outcast stumbles upon a secret that will change the world – if he can stay alive long enough to tell it. London, 1952. As the fog rolls in, the chase begins. A stranger's approach offering highly sensitive information seemed routine to an ex-spy turned policeman. But when a body turns up instead of state secrets, Detective Inspector Herbert Smith finds himself in a race against time to solve the murder. For he is not the only one after the dead man's secret. It seems the CIA, KGB and MI-5 are all vying to get to the truth first and some are prepared to kill for it. As the Great Smog descends on London, bringing chaos and death, Herbert finds himself facing one of the greatest evils of the twentieth century. At stake is the biggest prize of all: the key to life itself.

VODKA (*HarperCollins, 2004*)

December 1991. Beautiful American banker Alice Liddell has arrived in Moscow as it reels under the collapse of the Soviet Union and suffers a brutal war between mafia gangs for control of the violently changing city. Hired to oversee the privatization of Russia's legendary vodka distillery—the Red October—Alice soon finds her ideals compromised by its director Lev, a gangland member as dangerously seductive as he is ruthless. When a shadowy enemy vows revenge on Lev, and a series of bizarre serial murders erupts in the darkest corners of the city, Alice finds herself being drawn into the dangerously violent underground world of Moscow.

STORM (*HarperCollins, 2000*) - ***Film/TV Rights – Harper Collins***

A storm-tossed crossing on the North Sea; a catastrophic ferry accident; hundreds dead. Detective Chief Inspector Kate Beauchamp is one of the survivors but her ferocious fight to stay alive brings with it a high cost: a burden of guilt that she should live while some of her friends died; a terror of water; a frozen inner core that never seems to melt. When the body of a young female journalist is found in Aberdeen soon after the disaster, Kate insists on conducting the investigation partly to exorcize her own demons, partly because she feels a strange affinity with the victim. The killing is peculiarly brutal and the murderer has left a unique calling card: attached to the woman's neck is a poisonous snake. Into this emotional cauldron steps the last man on earth Kate wants to see her estranged father, Frank, in Aberdeen to conduct the marine inquiry into the sinking. Was the disaster the result of a bomb, as claimed by the ferry-line's chairman, or is he trying to hide something? In a sweltering heatwave, Kate and Frank conduct their highly

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pressured investigations. But for both of them, danger is approaching fast a vortex of violence which will sweep them up and endanger their very lives.

UNCONQUERABLE: THE INVICTUS SPIRIT (*HarperCollins, 2017*)

Most races are about who gets to the finish line first. At the Invictus Games, even making the start line is an achievement beyond measure. Triple amputees, cancer survivors, multiple sclerosis patients, PTSD sufferers and many more all compete. They have been through the darkest of times, but in the camaraderie of competition they find hope anew. *Unconquerable: The Invictus Spirit* represents the spirit of the Games, upholding a message of self-determination, positivity and sacrifice. These stories of the Invictus athletes will inspire you, give you the courage and determination to succeed, and act as a bedside Samaritan for anyone to turn to in their hour of need.

OTHER TITLES

- **Haynes Explains Series – 12 titles** (*J H Haynes & Co Ltd, 2016 – 2017*)
- **Messiah** – (*HarperCollins, 1999*)