

2019 London Book Fair – Fiction Hotlist

Anar Ali | Night of Power [Penguin Canada] (Fiction—Upmarket)

- A compassionate, utterly absorbing upmarket book club novel for readers of **Shilpi Somaya Gowda** (*Secret Daughter, The Golden Son*) and *A Place for Us* by **Fatima Farheen Mirza**, with hints of **David Chariandy's** *Brother*, **Night of Power** examines the emotional burdens and generational trauma of refugees, offering a much-needed perspective on what is lost—and gained—when we try to recreate home
- An heir to a once successful business empire fallen from grace, Mansoor Visram and his young family are forced to flee their home after Uganda begins a crackdown on its South Asian population; years later, in 1998, his son Ashif is a rising star in a multinational firm, having spent years distancing himself from his overbearing father and working to provide a comfortable simple life for his mother Layla—all the while, Mansoor continues to work on his dreams of raising the Visrams back into their old position of prominence
- Rights Held: World, excl. Canada (Penguin Canada); Pub date: Aug 2019; Page extent: 194 (ms)

Cherie Dimaline | Empire of Wild [CookeMcDermid] (Fiction—Indigenous Thriller/Suspense)

- From North America's literary superstar **Cherie Dimaline** comes **Empire of Wild**, the first adult novel of a four-book deal signed with Random House Canada (two adult novels, two YA novels)—one of the most anticipated literary events of the year
- The multi-award winning, internationally sought-after Indigenous author's last novel, YA crossover sensation *The Marrow Thieves*, has been a **national bestseller in Canada for more than 60 weeks, selling over 100,000 copies in North America**, and is soon to be published in the UK and Germany; the novel has won nearly every award it's been nominated for, from the Governor General's Award in Canada to the US-based Kirkus Prize for Young Readers (US \$50,000 prize)
- **Empire of Wild** is a propulsive, sensuous novel inspired by the traditional Indigenous story of the Rogarou—a terrifying werewolf-like creature that haunts and hunts—where the smart, Indigenous myth-filled narrative reminiscent of **Eden Robinson's** *Son of a Trickster* meets **Colson Whitehead** with a splash of **Stephen King**
- Broken-hearted Joan has been searching for her husband Victor for almost a year, when one terrible, hungover morning in a Walmart parking lot, she is drawn to a revival tent where the locals have flocked to hear a charismatic preacher named Eugene Wolff who, to her horror, is identical to her Victor—he denies, claiming that she's one suffering a delusion and his only mission is to bring his people to Jesus, but Joan soon discovers that's not all the enigmatic Wolff is doing
- Rights Held: World, excl. Canada (Random House Canada); Pub date: Sep 2019; Page extent: 320 (hc)

Joseph Kertes | Last Impressions [Penguin Canada] (Fiction—Literary)

- From the award-winning author of *Gratitude* and *The Afterlife of Stars*, **Last Impressions** is a masterful novel, elegant, humane, and deeply affecting
- **Joseph Kertes**, whose third novel, *Gratitude*, won both the Canadian Jewish Book Award and the U.S. National Jewish Book Award for Fiction, is blessed with a unique ability to write about family. As **Anne Michaels** said of his last novel, **"Kertes writes with tremendous love for the idiosyncratic and passionate loyalties of family. With masterly concision, he expresses the trauma of an era."**
- Set both in present-day Toronto and World War II Hungary, **Last Impressions** follows a larger-than-life father and a devoted son as they come to terms with each other and the fallout from their Hungarian refugee past, for readers of **Kristin Hannah's** *The Nightingale* and **Ellen Keith's** *The Dutch Wife*
- Rights Held: World, excl. Canada English (Penguin Canada); Pub date: Mar 2020; Page extent: 276 (ms)

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Karen Lord | Unraveling [CookeMcDermid] (Fiction—Urban Fantasy)

- The latest from the award-winning science fiction and fantasy author of *The Best of All Possible Worlds*, this stand-alone novel is an exploration of spirits, myth, and memory, steeped in Caribbean storytelling
- Miranda, forensic therapist of the City, just helped put a serial killer behind bars, but a near-death experience throws her out of time and into a realm of labyrinths and spirits where she encounters beings with an otherworldly interest in her files who reveal that the true mastermind behind the murders is still on the loose, chasing a myth to achieve immortality
- **“Lord manages to compress her story while balancing the cosmic and the personal—all with a verve that would be the envy of many veteran novelists.” —Jeff VanderMeer for *New York Times Book Review***
- For readers of **Daniel Jose Older**, **Max Gladstone**, and **Tade Thompson’s *Rosewater***, ***Unraveling*** is a dark story that expertly spirals down into bigger questions
- Rights Held: World, excl. North America English (DAW Books); Pub date: Jun 2019; Page extent: 304 (hc)

Joan Thomas | Five Wives [CookeMcDermid] (Fiction—Literary)

- From one of Canada’s best, ***Five Wives*** is a provocative and assured novel about the trials of faith, and the tensions of evangelism, based on a horrific true story, in the vein of *The Poisonwood Bible* and **Ann Patchett’s *State of Wonder***
- When a small group of evangelical Christian missionaries move into the rainforest in Ecuador, with the intent to convert the ‘uncontacted’ Indigenous Waorani people, all the men are speared to death – instead of leaving, the wives decide to continue the mission, with disastrous consequences that span decades
- For readers of **Lily King’s *Euphoria***, ***Five Wives*** is a lead title for HarperCollins Canada
- Rights Held: World, excl. Canada English (HarperCollins Canada); Pub date: Fall 2019; Page extent: 352 (pb)