

gramme with menus, tips and so on in *Atkins Made Easy* (Thorsons, A) and *Atkins for Life* (Pan, B) respectively. There is **Jamie Oliver's** *Happy Days with the Naked Chef* (Penguin, LF); the **Barefoot Doctor** with holistic antidotes to stress in *Liberation* (Element); **Joanna Hall's** *Drop a Size for Life* (Thorsons); the UK's answer to Atkins, apparently, in **Charles Clark's** *The New High Protein Healthy Fast Food Diet* (Vermilion); **Phillip C McGraw's** *Self Matters* (Pocket). One that caught my attention, **Rachel Greenwald's** *The Program* (Time Warner original), is a book that uses business tactics to help in finding a husband after 30. Time Warner is having lots of fun promoting, and one due for major exposure (five-part radio series, lots of press, ads) is **Richard Wiseman's** *The Luck Factor* (Arrow, B)—watch out for it.

Further non-fiction includes **George Harrison's** autobiography (with an introduction by Olivia Harrison, his wife) *I, Me, Mine* (Phoenix); popular history in **Christopher Lee's** *1603* (Review); and popular science essays in **Richard Dawkins' A Devil's Chaplain** (Phoenix).

In reissues, **Terry Pratchett and Stephen Briggs' The New Discworld Companion** (Gollancz) is fully revised and updated, which it hasn't been since 1997, and I would treat it as new; but the *pièce de résistance* among reissues is the beginning of the beautiful repackaging of **Georgette Heyer's** regency romances (Arrow, B, six titles)—brilliant.

The big mass market hardbacks are **Ian Rankin's** *Watchman* (Orion), **Colleen McCullough's** *The Touch* (Century), **Harlan Coben's** *One False Move* (Orion), and, for the bookshops, **Anne Tyler's** *The Amateur Marriage* (Chatto). In non-fiction the big title is **Dave Pelzer's** *The Privilege of Youth* (Michael Joseph).

FEBRUARY Giants

I don't know why it has taken her so long but **Barbara Taylor Bradford's** sequel to *A Woman of Substance*, *Emma's Secret* (HCP), is just what was needed to put her back on top; **Lisa Jewell** goes on growing up with *A Friend of the Family* (Penguin, B); as do **Josie Lloyd and Emlyn Rees** with four linking characters in *Love Lives* (Arrow, B) which, incidentally, earned them their first h/b. The new **Jeffery Deaver, The Vanished Man** (Coronet), is a Lincoln Rhyme one;

Charlotte Bingham's, *Daughters of Eden* (Bantam original) is, I am told, her best yet; and **Gerald Seymour's** *Traitor's Kiss* (Corgi) is terrific.

High-flyers

Manda Scott Boudica: Dreaming the Eagle (Bantam). With the epic historical adventure area continuing to flourish, it's great to have a British-based one. She writes like a dream. The second in the trilogy comes in a sim h/b.

Billy Hopkins *Going Places* (Headline). The fourth in his fictionalised autobiographies takes his family to Kenya in the 1950s.

Carole Matthews *The Sweetest Taboo* (Headline). Headline is pushing her up a notch with a fab lip gloss promotion that is bound to increase her profile.

Meg Cabot *Boy Meets Girl* (Pan). Pan has Giant aspirations for this, her second adult novel. The first, *The Guy Next Door*, was well received.

Ones to watch

Jane Elizabeth Varley *Wives and Lovers* (Orion). Glorious, satisfying tale of love and marriage from an author set for stardom if Orion gets its way. She could be its Vincenzi replacement.

Takashi Matsuoka *Cloud of Sparrows* (Arrow, B). The h/b didn't succeed as expected, so the p/b gets a complete facelift aiming the book squarely at the *Shogun* market.

Sarah Dunant *The Birth of Venus* (Virago). A complete change of direction for this crime author, to a beautifully packaged 15th-century Florence-based tale of love and intrigue. A big promotion includes winning a trip to Florence.

Louise Doughty *Fires in the Dark* (Pocket, B). Another author with a change of direction. The first of two epic novels that follow a Romany tribe through the horrors of Europe before and during the Second World War. Delayed from last year for cover reasons.

Jane Yardley *Painting Ruby Tuesday* (Black Swan). A truly charming first novel in the style of Laurie Graham/Kate Atkinson, which juxtaposes a precocious childhood centred on an extraordinary event (murder and sabotaging the enquiry) with the present-day woman confronting her life and past. Highly recommended.

Debbie Taylor *The Fourth Queen* (Penguin, B). A first novel of 18th-century Morocco to which a young Scottish lass flees, ending up in the

Emperor's harem. For the Philippa Gregory market with sex, very appealingly packaged.

Further first novels to watch include **Max Barry's** *Jennifer Government* (Abacus), a most unusual, quirky, futuristic satire; **Andy Secombe's** *Limbo* (Tor), a very exciting début that places comic fantasy in today's Hove; and **Andrea Camilleri's** *The Shape of Water* (Picador), which is the beginning of a Sicilian crime series—there are seven in the series, I understand, giving them plenty of time to build sales.

Major sellers

Thrillers and crime

Mary Higgins Clark *Second Time Around* (Pocket). Having reinvented this successful American author, Pocket is determined to follow through. It is repackaging the backlist and deservedly pushing hard.

William F Owen *Blackfoot is Missing* (Arrow). A terrific military adventure set in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the first half of 1970. Surprisingly, from a Brit, but he obviously really knows his stuff.

Robert Wilson *The Blind Man of Seville* (HCP). Given his CWA Gold Dagger Award (*A Small Death in Lisbon*) and his track record, HarperCollins believes he is a high-flyer and is intent on achieving that level of sales. He is exceptionally good, but the public still need waking up to him.

Meg Gardiner *Mission Canyon* (Coronet). Quite a splash was made with her first, *China Lake*, and Hodder is intent on building her fast.

Linda Fairstein *The Bone Vault* (Time Warner). She has given up the day job to concentrate on her writing, and with two novels this year (the second is in December), Time Warner is committed to breaking her through.

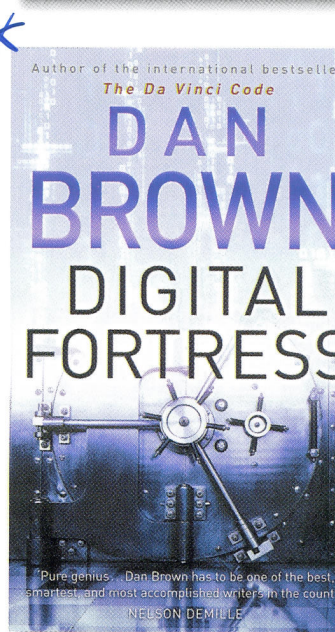
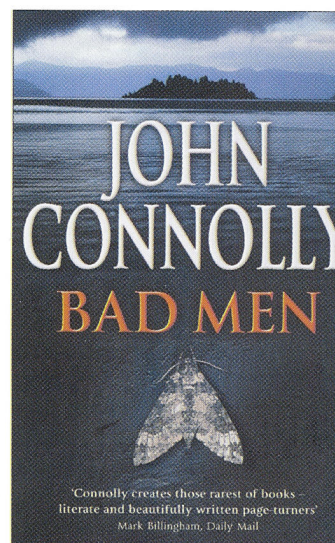
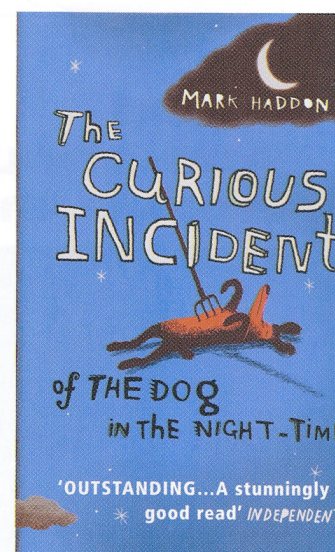
John Creed *The Day of the Dead* (Faber, A). CWA Steel Dagger winner and author of *Sirius Crossing* with another Jack Valentine thriller.

Sandra Brown *Hello, Darkness* (Coronet). Hodder is doing a splendid job reinventing this US suspense author of *The Crush*.

Quintin Jardine *Fallen Gods* (Headline). An Edinburgh and US-based Bob Skinner novel that Headline is building energetically. These things take time, so keep the faith.

Major sellers for the girls

Marika Cobbold *Shooting Butterflies*



From top Vintage publishes Mark Haddon's Whitbread shortlisted title (April); Coronet publishes the late John Connolly (March); and September, Corgi publishes a high flyer from Dan Brown.