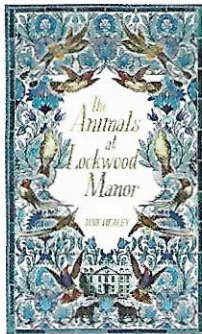


GHOSTS OF THE PAST

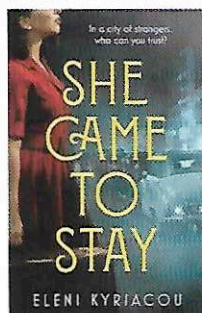


THE ANIMALS AT LOCKWOOD MANOR by Jane Healey (£14.99, Pan Macmillan)

In the early days of World War Two, Hetty, a museum curator and evacuee, arrives at Lockwood Manor

with part of the Natural History Museum's collection. Yet there are strange goings-on and when Hetty feels she is being stalked, the book takes a ghostly turn. This hypnotic tale will keep you emotionally invested to the end.

SOHO SECRETS



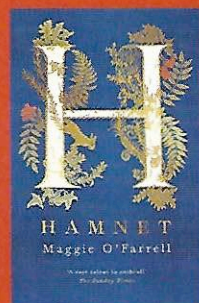
SHE CAME TO STAY by Eleni Kyriacou (£18.99, Hodder & Stoughton)

It's 1952 and the Great Smog has settled over Soho, London. Dina has arrived from Cyprus with her brother,

looking for a better life. When she meets the glamorous Bebbia at the notorious Pelican Revue, where she's started sewing costumes, she sees her chance to start living. Only, it appears that everyone has a secret. An intriguing tale of friendship, family, betrayal and hope.

HOW I WRITE

Maggie O'Farrell



Maggie O'Farrell is the author of seven books, including *The Hand That First Held Mine*, which won a Costa Book Award. Her latest historical novel,

Hamnet, is the thrilling story behind Shakespeare's famous play.

Nothing prepared me for how disorientating it would be to write a novel about the 16th century. I felt I had to relearn everything I knew about constructing a sentence, a paragraph, a line of dialogue. Swaths of metaphors and images were unavailable to me. Writing *Hamnet* reminded me most of my first forays and attempts into fiction.

I love research. For *Hamnet*, a lot of it was practical – I flew kestrels, planted a herb garden, walked around Stratford-upon-Avon and the Globe, and learnt how to make cures from plants and flowers. More fun than sitting at a desk!



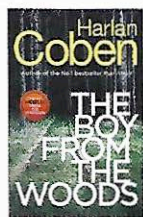
Living with small children trains you to write in short bursts. It has become an ingrained habit of mine to rejoin the flow after an interruption.

I'm pathologically secretive about my first draft. But when I feel that I've written myself into a corner, I show the manuscript to my husband, then editor.

My best piece of advice I ever got was: 'Keep going'. It was given to me by Barbara Trapido and Elspeth Barker, on an Arvon writing course, in 1996.

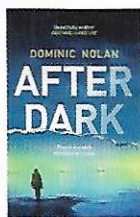
✦ *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell (£20, Tinder Press), is out on 31 March.

5 OF THE BEST *Intriguing investigations*



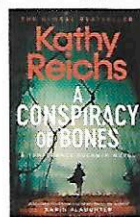
THE BOY FROM THE WOODS by Harlan Coben (Century)

When a girl goes missing and a finger arrives in the post, Wilde is called on to investigate. Dramatic and tightly plotted.



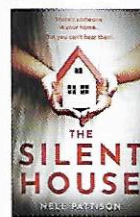
AFTER DARK by Dominic Nolan (Headline)

This gripping follow-up to his debut DS Abigail Boone thriller sees the detective on the trail of a terrifying criminal.



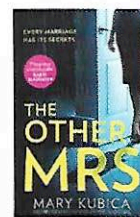
A CONSPIRACY OF BONES by Kathy Reichs (Simon & Schuster)

Forensic anthropologist Temperance tries to solve the case of a faceless corpse who had her phone number.



THE SILENT HOUSE by Nell Pattison (Avon)

When the deaf Hunters wake to find their daughter murdered, interpreter Paige suspects they are hiding something.



THE OTHER MRS by Mary Kubica (HQ)

An unsettling read. The brutal murder of a woman in a coastal town is witnessed by Camille, former mistress of a man who's moved to the area.