



Words Worth Reading Ltd

May 2012 ISSUE 40

Hi, and welcome to the May edition of the Words Worth Reading Ltd newsletter. This month saw a temporary suspension to student submissions as the son of one of our senior editors was admitted to ITU. We are pleased to report that he is making a speedy recovery. Normal service is now resumed - apologies for any inconvenience caused. Despite that April saw a record number of essay submissions!

Greek financial tragedy turned into fiction



Murders at the heart of Petros Markaris' new book echo the fury felt towards Greece's tax-dodging elite. Markaris' novel tells of a serial killer stalking the wealthy suburbs of Athens for rich Greek victims who have failed to pay their taxes.

The murders at the heart of Markaris's new book, *I Pairaios*, or *The Settlement*, resonate strongly with a mass readership furious at the country's tax-dodging elite whose fecklessness has helped bring Greece to its knees. Many readers, like its hero-narrator, Inspector Costas Haritos, are torn between disgust and sneaking admiration for the murderer, who calls himself the National Tax Collector, and who is demanding money not for himself but for the national coffers. Such was the public sympathy for the killer that Markaris found it prudent to put a note on the book's back cover saying: "Warning: This novel is not to be imitated."

"I wanted to tell the real story of how this crisis has developed and how it affects ordinary people," Markaris said in an interview at his Athens flat. He said crime writing provided the best form of social and political commentary available, because so much of what was going on in Greece now was criminal.

"The title had a meaning in ancient Greek which meant the end of life, the settling of life's account," the 75-year-old author said. "But its modern meaning is a method of raising tax revenue. In return for a payment to the tax office – a settlement – the state gives amnesty to people who haven't paid their taxes."

Later in the book, when Inspector Haritos is called on to look into the murders of rich Athenians, his first instinct is concern that any investigation exposing the private affairs of the elite could endanger his expected promotion. He struggles to feel sympathy with the victims, observing of the first, a famous surgeon: "Before opening up his patients with a scalpel, he would open their wallet."

On discovering the self-proclaimed National Tax Collector's motives, Haritos notes drily that if all the country's tax cheats were murdered the population would be reduced to some "wage-earners, the unemployed and housewives".

Spotted on Twitter



NHS Somerset

@nhssomerset

New Free Pocket Physio App for major surgery hip/knee patients (from UKSH) nominated Guardian Innovation Awards 2012

<http://www.uk-sh.co.uk/Our-Services/Pocket-Physio>



Patient Safety

@PatientsafetyUK

Using safety crosses for patient self-reflection: Patients in a medium-secure mental health unit used Productive... <http://bit.ly/KopGhg>



mhequalities

@mhequalities

A 2 minute film of what we do and why we do it

<http://www.sportingmemoriesnetwork.com/latest-smn-news/peoples-postcode-lottery-award-for-football-memories/> #football launching same for golf, cricket, rugby, athletics, Motorsport



Library Journal

@LibraryJournal

To Remain Relevant, Libraries Should Help Patrons Create — The Digital Shift <http://ow.ly/b9Vlv>

Authors ask for payment for library ebooks loans

The Society of Authors has suggested that writers rely on the income generated from library loans and have called for all digital books to be included in the PLR scheme. Under the PLR (Public Lending Right) scheme authors are paid 6.05p every time their books are borrowed from libraries. However, ebooks and audiobooks are not included in the scheme.

Nicola Solomon of the Society of Authors, said writers have a legal right to the payments, she said – and could even consider going to court to recover them. "Since 1992 'rental and lending right' has been a part of copyright protection. That means that authors have a legal right to equitable remuneration whenever their works are lent out," she said. "The failure to make the payments means that the government and libraries are actually infringing the author's copyright every time they make an ebook loan and authors would be entitled to sue for the losses caused by that infringement. We have no current plans to sue, and don't know of any authors who are planning to do so – we would hope that the Government would recognise its legal and moral responsibility to make payments to authors particularly as ebook lending from libraries is becoming significant."

Solomon has written to both culture secretary Ed Vaizey and Conservative MP Louise Mensch, who is sitting on the [select committee inquiry into library closures](#), to highlight the issue. "Any ebook lending should result in a PLR payment to the author ... PLR is designed to balance the social need for free public access to books against an author's right to be remunerated for the use of their work," she wrote to Vaizey on behalf of the [Society of Authors](#), which includes Philip Gross, Anthony Horowitz and Sarah Waters on its management committee. "We also wish to remind you that section 43 of the Digital Economy Act 2010 extends PLR to audiobooks and ebooks 'lent out' from library premises for a limited time but these payments have never been implemented. This is patently unjust and we urge that this provision be brought into force and that extra funds be made available to cover PLR payments for such lending."

Chair of the society, historical novelist Lindsey Davis, said that authors would "certainly be pushing" for PLR to be extended to ebooks and audiobooks. "We have earned it. It's not a benefit, it's a right," she said. "I would expect to be paid. There is no difference between ebooks and print books – it is all work, produced for people to read ... It seems very obvious to me [that an ebook] is just another version of a title, in the same way that a paperback is."

If you think you have an idea for an exciting new novel, find out about [Words Worth Reading Ltd's](#) ghost writing service



In other news...

CQC registration- The CQC registration process for GP's has now commenced nationally. The CQC will be publishing guidance on their website, which will appear in February. Words Worth Reading Ltd has started working with GP's to ensure that their practices are fit for registration. Please contact the [Words Worth Reading team](#) if you would like any advice or support. All our support packages are tailored to your exact needs.

Things that we like this month



Organic apple and pear juice

www.moororganicjuice.co.uk



Daily gardening hits and tips!

www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/calendar/



children's books

The Guardian's children's books site is written by children and for children

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/childrens-books-site>

Contact us:

If you wish to find out more about the services we offer or want to get in touch with us about anything then please do not hesitate to contact us in any of the following ways:

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