PRESS RELEASE FROM THISTLE BOOKS

Being a man is easy when you know how, eh? Yeah, right.
All very funny – as long as it isn’t actually happening to you.
RELEASE DATES: throughout Summer 2013

"Comic novelists as riotous and eccentric as Guy Bellamy don’t grow on trees." The Mail on Sunday
"The best-selling novelist whose books are compulsory holiday reading." The Independent

At last, the evergreen Guy Bellamy comic novels are being re-released (with stylish, new covers too!) Originally published between 1977 & 2005, these much-loved, revived best-sellers offer high-octane belly laughs for a new generation of men (and for those who can’t wait to read them again).
Thirteen laugh-out-loud reads – perfect gifts for any man who’s dealing with life’s tribulations.

THE SECRET LEMONADE DRINKER

Guy Bellamy’s first runaway-success novel unleashed his comic genius upon an unsuspecting world – and they loved it!

Published by Thistle www.thistlepublishing.co.uk Twitter: @ThistleBooks
Available through Amazon in paperback or as an ebook

Christmas time in a small, utterly featureless town somewhere in the Home Counties. The main preoccupations of the inhabitants are drink and gossip – all of which lead to a pretty violent Festive party.

In the middle of it is Bobby. Bobby manages a launderette. He used to be a school teacher. One fateful day his class was interrupted by a gorgeous blonde journalist, Caroline. Bobby married her.

Then, one evening, an attractive brunette wanders into the launderette. It is her second visit, and in no time she has dragged Bobby into bed. Meantime, Caroline announces that she wants a baby – a baby by “a real man” (and she doesn’t mean Bobby). As Christmas looms, will Bobby yield to the tempting charms of the brunette?

"Funny, caustic and gloriously readable." The London Evening Standard
"Laugh and relax and escape …. told with humour and style." The Daily Express

About the author: Guy Bellamy was born in Bristol in 1935 and lived mostly in Surrey. After National Service in Germany with the RAF, he went into journalism and worked on newspapers in Cornwall, Bournemouth, Brighton and Fleet Street including The Daily Express and The Sun. A former pupil of Farnham Grammar School, he is married with a daughter and now lives in Hampshire.

"The funniest writer in Britain." Birmingham Sunday Mercury

A welcome return – 12 more GUY BELLAMY favourites newly re-released by Thistle ....

See over for more information about these 12 books >>>
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A Village Called Sin
Compton Sinbury is the sort of idyllic village that you are likely miss when you are careering down the M3 – but, for the villagers, life’s problems don’t just seem to pass them by... Paul commutes for a six-figure salary in the city, while his wife takes up a new hobby: drinking. Local reporter Harry gazes out of his cottage window at the little girl nobody knows is his daughter. Owen, the Vicar has ceased to believe in God, which is a professional handicap but his lust for his beautiful sister Cathy is even harder to ignore. And Barnaby dreams of the pregnant girlfriend who deserted him forty-eight years ago... No wonder the locals abbreviate the village name to Sin.

I Have a Complaint to Make
At 25, Fred, is stranded in a small country town and steadfastly refuses to catch an early morning train anywhere, let alone to a City office. If the price of living in this world is working for five days out of seven, he is not sure that the place is worth the price. But Fred’s half-hearted attempts to find an alternative fail spectacularly. When he tries to make money, he loses his girlfriend in a poker game.
Finally he cracks. He buys a gun...

In the Midday Sun
In the bath one morning Daniel Ward worked out how to take £1 million from the local banks without the use of violence. Now he lives in a villa on Spain’s so-called Costa del Crime. His brother, Matthew, was a millionaire but, after an unfortunate incident with a girlfriend, his furious wife reported him to the Inland Revenue. With his bank accounts frozen and warrants out for his arrest, Matthew arrives in southern Spain (travelling on a false passport and with the girlfriend in tow). There, Daniel and Matthew run into their third brother, Mark, a penniless pianist now singing for his supper in the tourist bars. A summer in the sun. But for fugitives on the Costa del Sol, life isn’t all champagne and sangria. Homesick Daniel spends his time studying holiday brochures about Britain. Matthew has his problems too, including a pregnant girlfriend. But for pianist Mark things start to look up.

The Comedy Hotel
Max is surprised to learn that his voluptuous wife is expecting a baby. After all, he has secretly had a vasectomy. His business is failing in the recession and his teenage son has decided to make a mysterious trip to Spain instead of launching himself on the career that his parents expected. Alec, a headmaster, has been secretly living in sin for years but putting the matter right doesn’t bring its expected happiness. And Laurie, a powerful businessman, is married to an aggressive lady who thinks nothing of clipping off his moustache while he sleeps, or serving him a dog-food omelette.
Warmest of all, the three of them discover that the years spent being devoted parents have not produced the fine young offspring that they had set their hearts on. So what can the future hold for Max, with a child of unknown provenance on the way?

At least there is always the solace of the Comedy Hotel.

See over for more Guy Bellamy books >>>

To request review copies or to be put in touch with the author, please contact
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The Holiday
The exceedingly expensive Carlton Hotel on the Croisette at Cannes is beyond the reach of most English visitors but for publishing tycoon Andrew – comfortably installed in a rooftop suite with tanned and leggy journalist Kimberley Neal – it is the only place to stay.

Others have also arrived at the Carlton. There’s newly redundant Bruce, desperate to recapture his sparkle after twenty years lost in a boring job – accompanied by his long-suffering wife Frances. And there’s rough-hewn London Roger, celebrating a casino win with Esmé, an artist by trade.

Soon they are enjoying Andrew’s generosity, unaware that they are about to embark on an extraordinary adventure that only reality can bring to an end...

What peculiar circumstances lead to Bruce’s arrest? Can Kimberley Neal imagine life as a prostitute? How can Roger not remember the mother of his child? Will Andrew get a knighthood? And, last but not least, just who was it sang that irritatingly catchy pop song ‘Little Things Mean A Lot’?

Anything can happen to the English abroad and here most things do. Master satirist Guy Bellamy serves up a delicious cocktail of wit, humour and wry social commentary.

The Man Who Won
Financial disasters hit three friends in the same month and lives of peace and prosperity are replaced by poverty. But as they adjust to their new austere existence one of them wins the lottery and imagines that he can repair the damage. However, life isn’t as straightforward as that.

The Mystery of Men
By the time Julian Wyatt jogs his way to the local public house for his nightly orange juice, Oscar Mansfield is already on his fourth whisky. One sight of the perspiring executive gives the magnanimous Oscar a brilliant idea. A guaranteed earner, with a touch of the lottery thrown in... What if one were to gamble on longevity? What if one could get an insurance policy on a friend’s early demise?

Soon four men are in the syndicate, insuring their lives and waiting for some tax-free cash. But with a little help from the women in their lives, fate is about to throw a riotous chain of mishaps their way. The Mystery of Men was produced as a BBC film.

The Nudists
It is a lazy summer of beach umbrellas and blistering heat. The sea is warm, the sky is blue and life is good – or is it?

The Venables’ sun-drenched honeymoon takes a new direction when bridegroom Simon meets a former Page Three girl relaxing in a Mediterranean bar. And surprises of a less pleasant nature are in store for young advertising millionaire Ben Brock when the pharmaceuticals market begins to shrink.

Meanwhile, penniless Nick Bannerman, furiously writing a book on woman’s inhumanity to man, receives his due and more besides as his past catches up with him and his future begins to expand.

When the three parties find themselves together on a holiday to remember, all is revealed, and their crossed destinies become further entwined, for better, for worse, both richer and poorer.

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The Power of Women
Redundant Sam Dawson and the very much unemployed Tim Bonner have dreams of being millionaires. Not yet strictly men of leisure, they feel entitled to enjoy at least some of life’s indulgences – like a round of golf and a pint. The cost of living is cheaper in the West Country after all. Janice Dawson also has her daily round – a host of small jobs that earn her enough money to keep her family afloat. But Janice has had enough. Drowning her sorrows in her cooking sherry, she hits on a novel idea – a foolproof get-rich-quick-scheme – for Sam. Meanwhile, Beverley Callard, the not so proud mother of Tim’s three-year-old daughter, is also resolving to try her man’s luck. Tim’s latest crazy idea is going to materialize – or else. Never underestimate the power of women. Before the men know what has hit them, they find themselves whisked from the fairway and treading very unfamiliar turf. And as for the women – well, they’ve never had them so good.

The Tax Exile
From a position of acute poverty – no job and the rent owed – Fred Carton is suddenly plunged into a situation where a year’s stay in Monte Carlo will save him a Capital Gains Tax bill of £600,000. But he has managed to find the money for only one previous trip abroad, he doesn’t speak French and the girl he has his eye on is busily at work in England. So is his friend Dermot Ryan, who has a junk stall and a stormy marriage to attend to. The idea that his poorest friend is considering become a tax exile fills him with horror. ‘I always thought that exile was one of the saddest words in the language,’ he says. But Fred sees himself becoming “A happy man quaffing champagne under a sunshade while topless ladies frolic in the pool beside him.” What happens surprises them both, as Dermot Ryan’s marriage, collapsing under flying kitchenware, spills over on to the Cote d’Azur, and Fred finds that saving £600,000 from the greedy hands of the government can produce feelings of guilt as well as triumph.

The Sinner’s Congregation
Named after a trip to see South Pacific, the Bali Hotel stands not in the South Seas but in a remote corner of Southern England. Reluctantly owned by Martin Lomax, the Bali has a bar that provides refuge to residents and a group of eccentric locals including the sharp-tongued, gin-swilling Mrs Stapleton and her verbal sparring partner Adam. One fateful day, however, the mirth and merriment of the Bali is clouded by the arrival of a spectre from Martin’s past. His name is Edwin Catchpole and to say that he is a vicious brute would be flattery. To Martin, the opportunity to even the score is far too tempting to resist...

A Year in Suburbia
The year starts badly for Mark Hutton who finds that his wife has left him for no reason on New Year’s Eve. His mood isn’t improved when an old friend arrives from Australia and insists on organising a reunion dinner for the boys who were in their class at school. That evening ends in tragedy, but throws up a ray of hope for Mark who discovers that one of the guests has married the girl he fell in love with all those years ago. And when he produces a family photograph the son bears a startling resemblance to Mark. Closeted in his own small and unprofitable bookshop, he wrestles with his problems - romantic, professional and social. And what he discovers is that a lot can happen in a year...

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