

## Michelle Paver back at Orion

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*Bestselling author returns to Orion with 'immersive and intoxicating ghost story Rainforest', part of emerging new sub-genre christened 'survivalist Gothic'*



Publisher Sam Eades acquired world rights to *Rainforest* by Michelle Paver 'in a major deal' struck with Peter Cox at Redhammer. Described as 'one of Britain's modern greats', the Sunday Times bestselling author has sold over 3 million copies worldwide.

According to the acquisition statement: '*Rainforest* is a companion story to *Dark Matter* and *Thin Air*, gothic thrillers that inspired a brand-new generation of readers and writers. *Rainforest* will be published as a lead title by Orion Fiction in October 2025, released alongside anniversary editions of *Dark Matter* and *Thin Air*.

'*Rainforest* is a haunting survivalist thriller that unfurls in the intoxicating and unforgiving rainforest. Grief-stricken entomologist Simon is sent on an expedition in the Mexican jungle, to escape a scandal that threatens to destroy his career. He joins an archaeological dig, beset by a series of troubling events and dissent in the ranks. As Simon treks deeper into the jungle in search of a new species of mantid, he loses his way and his grip on reality. Simon is not alone in the rainforest. And escape will be impossible...'

Paver (*pictured*) said: "I love telling supernatural stories set in remote, extreme environments. So be warned – *Rainforest* isn't the traditional haunted house story. With *Dark Matter* I took readers into the polar night. For *Thin Air*, to one of the highest mountains on earth. Now with *Rainforest* we're in a place of teeming life and sudden death, impenetrable shadows and shocking bursts of colour. For my hero, it's a refuge where he hopes to forget the tragedy he's left behind. But soon he discovers that the jungle is also a haunted place: it has spirits of its own, as well as the ghosts he brings with him. Readers have called my work 'survivalist Gothic.' That's fine by me!"

Cox said: "David Shelley [chief exec of Orion's parent company Hachette] was keen for Michelle to return to Hachette / Orion and proposed Sam Eades as her publisher. It was an inspired choice. Michelle and Sam have a mighty meeting of minds.

"*Rainforest* is both classic Paver and shockingly ground-breaking, and Sam has been an utterly brilliant



publishing accomplice in its genesis!"

Speaking to *BookBrunch*, Cox added: "Michelle is returning to Hachette from Head of Zeus, who published her last ghost story *Wakenhyrst* together with the final three books (9 in total) in the worldwide bestselling *Wolf Brother* series.

"Both companies (Hachette and Bloomsbury) fought hard for *Rainforest* and it was an agonizing decision for Michelle and indeed for me, since I have strong personal connections to both.

"Michelle has created a whole new sub-genre that's being termed 'survivalist Gothic.' Books such as *Dark Matter* and *Thin Air* exemplify this high-commercial sub-genre...I expect massive film/TV interest."

Sam Eades, publisher, said: "Every single second of this journey into the rainforest with Michelle has been a joy. Her phenomenal writing reminds me of the power fiction has to make us feel and make us fear. She weaves together Mayan culture with themes of obsession, possession, gender, death and rebirth, casting a dark spell on the reader all the way to the shocking finale."

*Rainforest* will be published in hardback, trade paperback, ebook and audio in October next year.

Orion released some background about the author. 'Michelle Paver was born in central Africa and came to England as a child. After gaining a degree in Biochemistry from Oxford University, she was a solicitor before giving up the law to write full-time. Her books include the bestselling *Wolf Brother* series for younger readers, and the acclaimed adult ghost stories *Dark Matter*, *Thin Air*, and *Wakenhyrst*. To make her stories real for her readers, she often travels to the world's most far-flung and challenging places."

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