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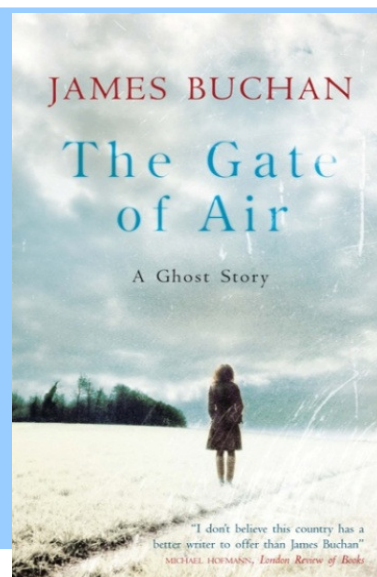
Media Release

The Gate of Air

By James Buchan

Publishing November 2008

RRP \$29.95



'Nobody – but nobody – tells a love story better' – *Daily Telegraph*

When mysterious loner Jim Smith moves into remote Paradise Farmhouse, he experiences some strange but wonderful midnight visits from an ethereal woman. He soon discovers that this dream-like figure is the incarnation of a 1960s beauty, immortalised in a famous nude portrait that belongs to his neighbour. Intrigued, Jim abandons his customary aloofness to find out more, and accepts a dinner invitation from his landlords, a billionaire-thug and his beautiful but mistreated wife.

The dinner party, a chance for a brilliantly satirical sketch of the braying upper class hunting set, is disastrous and, soon after, Jim's pastoral idyll disintegrates. His lambs die. Cows give no milk. Bees swarm. Sensing his ghostly lover has turned malevolent, Jim knows he must placate her before the circle of decay reaches those he loves, even if that means making the ultimate sacrifice.

Both an unsettling ghost story and intense love story, *The Gate of Air* is poetic, satirical and allegorical. This is a beautifully crafted novel about love and loneliness, life and death, and the indelible traces we leave behind us when we die.

James Buchan is the author of several novels, including *A Parish of Rich Women*, which won the 1984 Whitbread Book of the Year award and *Heart's Journey in Winter* which won the Guardian prize. He is also a literary critic and non-fiction writer. He is the grandson of John Buchan, the Scottish novelist.

'I don't believe this country has a better writer to offer than James Buchan'
– *London Review of Books*

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