

Circled by the Sands

Julia Lacey Brooke

Tiger of the Stripe ISBN 978 1 904799 69 6 Publication 20 October 2015

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TIGER OF THE STRIPE is proud to announce the forthcoming publication of Julia Lacey Brooke's remarkable new novel, *Circled by the Sands*.

Part crime fiction, part comedy of manners, part biting satire on the British ex-pat community in Italy, *Circled by the Sands* is in a class of its own.

British journalist Hilary Blyth famously liked a drop or two as well as a midnight dip, and when his body was fished out of the sea near the infamous Denti dei Cani rocks, the verdict was accidental death. His widow disagreed, but she went a little crazy after her husband's death and everyone was highly relieved when she returned to England...

A year later, three people converge on a secluded Italian coastal idyll. None of them is on holiday: the Hon. Veronica Dearborn (previously encountered in *The Mischief-Maker*) has refused to sell the film rights of her notorious memoir, and escapes London and her unscrupulous agent on a commission to interview J. Cadwallader Jones, the eccentric widower of a famous mystery novelist. Her old friend, food-writer Freddy Partridge, is on a working vacation, and hoping his Uncle Cadwallader is not spending all his inheritance. Julian Blyth, an injured orchestral violinist, has come to settle the estate of his late brother.

Welcomed and feted at first by the tight-knit ex-pat community, the three visitors quickly realise they have stepped on a nest of vipers, and Julian begins to have doubts that his brother's death was the accident it seemed.



JULIA LACEY BROOKE read English Literature and Renaissance History at the University of East Anglia, later taking an MLitt at the University of Birmingham's Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Now based in rural Tuscany, she is a freelance editor, teacher and lecturer. Her *The Stoic, the Weal & the Malcontent*, a fascinating study of the malcontent on the Elizabethan and Jacobean stage, was published by Tiger of the Stripe in 2013. Her first novel, *The Mischief-Maker*, was published by Tiger of the Stripe in 2014.

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