

PRESS RELEASE: FICTION

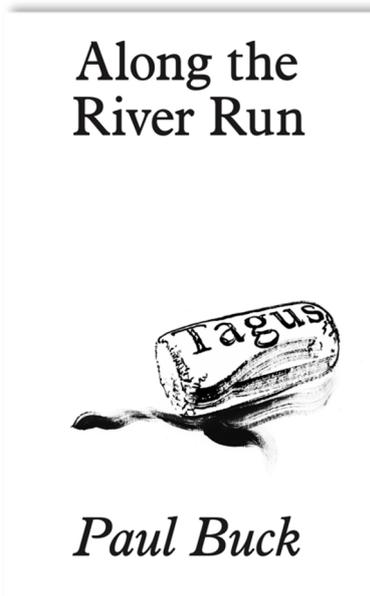
Along the River Run

Paul Buck

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Lisbon: that city at the mouth of the Tagus, that city that whispers, licks and seduces its visitors, that city that haunts those seeking refuge or its pleasures. Who would wish to escape?

It is the start of the millennium and two 'lads' from South East London are trapped in Lisbon among people and experiences set to push them to the limits. Attempting to lie low after a fateful night back home, the friends find themselves navigating an unfamiliar and unnerving new reality.

A psychological thriller inspired by a real-life incident, and distinguished by its sensitivity to subtleties of language and dialogue, *Along the River Run* is a story of guilt and retribution played out amid the streets, sounds and sights of this bewitching city.

Just as the undercurrents of Lisbon's Tagus are ever present, so the literary undercurrents of the capital as written by Pessoa,

Saramago or Sa-Carneiro are there to enrich and pervade the evolving narrative. The novel follows the author's much-praised earlier book on Lisbon, a cultural exploration in a 'Cities of the Imagination' series, setting up authoritative background research for this haunting story of psychological destruction.



Paul Buck has been writing and publishing since the late Sixties. His work is characterised by its sabotaging of the various forms in order to explore their overlaps and differences. Through the Seventies he also edited the seminal magazine *Curtains*, with its focus on threading French writing from Bataille, Blanchot, Jabès, Faye, Noël, Ronat, Collobert and a score of others into a weave with English and American writers and artists.

While editing and translating are still a daily activity – in partnership with Catherine Petit, the Vauxhall&Company series of books at Cabinet Gallery is their responsibility – he also continues to cover new ground: *Spread Wide*, a fiction generated from his letters with Kathy Acker; *Performance*, a biography of the Cammell/Roeg film; *Lisbon*, a cultural view of a city; *A Public Intimacy*, strip-searching scrapbooks to expose autobiography; *Library: a suitable case for treatment*, a collection of essays. In recent times he helped Laure Prouvost to write her film *Deep See Blue Surrounding You*, around which her Venice Biennale pavilion, representing France, was based.

Praise for *Along the River Run*

'A smartly crafted and necessary antidote to this fearful Little England moment. Paul Buck's fast-moving *Série Noire* existentialism exposes a pair of lost or posthumous Estuary souls to the treacherous seductions of the Lisbon labyrinth. You can trust the teller and the tale.'

– **Iain Sinclair** –

'*Along the River Run* stages the rape-revenge whodunnit as a failed and ghostridden getaway attempt. Ever a translator, in this case, from Kent via Lisbon and outward, Buck transliterates from the racist-xenophobic tabloid-misogynistic masculine of the early twenty-first century. His craft, here a deep and dangerously tender proceduralism, is propelled by the powerful currents of a lifelong engagement with the feminine.'

– **Hestia Peppe** –

'English lads on the lam in Lisbon, their skins too thin, beered-up and on edge, unmoored by ghosts and bloody memories: *Along the River Run* is hypnagogic noir, a red-light unravelling, a fever-dream of a Mediterranean thriller.'

– **Sukhdev Sandhu** –

About Prototype

Prototype was founded in 2019 by Jess Chandler, co-founder of the independent publishing houses Test Centre and House Sparrow Press.

Established to continue and develop the work begun by Test Centre, Prototype is committed to creating new possibilities in the publishing of fiction and poetry through a flexible, interdisciplinary approach. Through the discovery of high quality work across genres, Prototype strives to increase audiences for experimental writing.

Along the River Run is the 4th title in Prototype's new fiction list, following Caleb Klaces' acclaimed debut novel *Fatherhood* (longlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize), Jen Calleja's *I'm Afraid That's All We've Got Time For* and Turner Prize-winning artist Helen Marten's *The Boiled in Between*.

Test Centre's back catalogue includes works by Derek Jarman, Max Porter, Sam Riviere, Sophie Collins, Jack Underwood, Rachael Allen, Wayne Holloway-Smith and Jonathan Meades.

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