

Client: Cornerstone Publishing
Source: The Times (Saturday Review)
Date: 24 January 2015
Page: 17
Reach: 390765
Size: 184cm2
Value: 5608.32

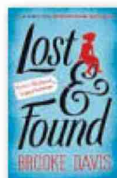
in short



Don't Let Him Know

by Sandip Roy
Bloomsbury, 246pp
£16.99 * £13.99

Romola has spent most of her life in India and now lives in America with her son, Amit, and his family. She has been to the US before, as a young bride, and doesn't like it any better now that she is an elderly widow. Why does Amit talk of leaving his good computer job to retrain as a cook? He finds an ancient love letter and decides that his quiet mother has been hiding a secret affair with a man named Sumit — but he doesn't know the half of it. This rich, delicious family story scrolls back to Romola's girlhood and her marriage of convenience to Avinash, with his "thinning hair and owlish glasses". When she arrived in America, the first letter she got from back home was that same love letter — but it was addressed to her husband. It's a believable and wonderfully written story of secrets between the generations.

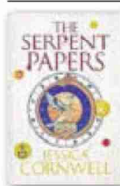


Lost and Found

by Brooke Davis
Hutchinson, 309pp
£12.99 * £11.69

Three lonely, grief-stricken misfits find each other. The first is seven-year-old Millie Bird, a red-headed stoic who collects dead things and knows that her dad is a dead thing. One day Millie's mother abandons her in a department store, "Right near the Ginormous Women's Underwear". Secondly there's Agatha, a reclusive and nutty widow of 82. Lastly there's Karl the Touch Typist, aged 87 and stuck in a nursing home. At the end of this offbeat and funny first novel, Brooke Davis writes an afterword, "Relearning the World", about the sudden death of her mother in a freak car accident. *Lost and*

Found is her exploration of the state of grief and the possibilities of renewal and is often painfully, tenderly observant, though the tone may be a little too sweet for some tastes.



The Serpent Papers

by Jessica Cornwell
Quercus, 479pp
£14.99 * £12.99

This is the kind of rich, multilayered story that demands and rewards commitment. The action jumps between 2003 and 2014, but the true drama comes from an ancient bundle of parchment. The prologue is a shocking murder of a young girl. Anna Verco is a psychic scholar in the pay of a secretive organisation, searching for a priceless book. A freak storm in a monastery in Majorca in 2014 seems to have uncovered it. When Anna visits the site, she unearths a bundle of old letters — and they seem to be linked to a series of notorious killings in Barcelona in 2003. Inspector Fabregat is still furious not to have solved the case, and Anna's letters bring him out of retirement. "The murderer is still out there. In this city. Eating olives. Being a bastard." *The Serpent Papers* (the first volume of a projected trilogy) is a triumphant debut, by a young writer with an incredible imagination.

Kate Saunders