

**Rebecca Hill, Usborne Fiction Director, has acquired UK and Commonwealth (excl. Canada) rights to a new YA novel from Will Hill – author of the critically acclaimed *Department 19* series - from Charlie Campbell at Kingsford Campbell.**

Disquieting, thought-provoking and unforgettable, ***After the Fire*** is the story of a girl growing up in a fenced-off community away from the normal world who discovers that everything she once believed in is a lie. Taking inspiration from the Branch Davidian religious sect and the 1993 Waco Siege\*, ***After the Fire*** is a new and exciting direction for Will. Rebecca says of the acquisition: “*Will Hill is currently known for his action-packed plots in Department 19, and with After the Fire he will become known for writing a literary novel which is absorbing, truthful, and beautiful too. A story of identity and vulnerability, where freedom is denied at every turn – this book will break your heart and make you question: would I have the strength to act in the same way?*”

*Before the fire, Moonbeam knew what the rules were, and what her future held. Alongside her Brothers and Sisters in their small community deep in the Texas desert, she was protected from the dangers of the outside world. They were safe under the guidance of Father John – and they were ready for the Final Battle. But that was before her mother was banished and she was forced to question everything she believed in...*

We meet seventeen-year-old Moonbeam after the fire. Now safe in a secure facility, Moonbeam must put her trust in two strangers – Dr Hernandez and Agent Carlyle – and find the strength to tell them her story.

With a building sense of unease and tension reminiscent of Emma Donoghue’s ***Room***, and the fascinating real-life inspiration of Emma Cline’s ***The Girls*** – ***After the Fire*** is a book that will stay with readers long after the final page.

Will says: “*I’m so delighted to be joining Usborne’s amazing list – their incredible enthusiasm and belief in the endless possibilities of the YA novel made them the perfect home for After the Fire, and I’m looking forward to working with them to introduce readers to Moonbeam and her world.*”

**Will Hill** grew up in the north-east of England and worked as a bartender, bookseller and in publishing, before quitting to write full-time. His first novel, *Department 19* – the first in a series of five – was published in 2011 to widespread acclaim, garnering Will, and the series, a huge fan base. Will now lives in east London.

***After the Fire*** is currently scheduled for publication in February 2017.

\*The Waco siege began when the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms attempted to raid the property of the Branch Davidians, a religious group in Waco, Texas, resulting in an intense gun battle and the deaths of agents and members of the sect. After the siege shocking stories emerged about life in the compound under leader of the sect, David Koresh.

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