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Dear James:

I am delighted to submit to you an outstanding debut novel, *FALLODON*, in the hope that you might consider representing the author, **Roger Humphries**.

*FALLODON* is a richly imagined historical novel, set in an isolated country estate in 1917 in an England that is like yet unlike the England we know. Across the Channel, Europe has almost been subdued by the Kaiser's armies while England remains besieged and impotent inside her island borders, sheltered by the Navy. Young lawyer Arthur Blanchard, still recovering from a devastating breakdown following the deaths of his father and brother, arrives at Fallodon Hall in Northumberland to take up the position of amanuensis to Sir Edward Grey, a former Liberal politician, as he writes his memoirs. Grey retired from public life in 1906 when his wife, Dorothy, was thrown from her dogcart and paralysed. At Fallodon, Blanchard encounters not only the melancholy, embittered and resentful Grey, but his disarming and bewitching wife, Dorothy, confined to her bed, but still a vital and influential presence, flamboyant Belgian exile, Barthold Poot, and local doctor Michael Ehrlich. As Blanchard learns more about the Greys, gradually we discover how Dorothy's accident influenced not only their lives, but the whole course of history, building up to a shattering finale where everything Blanchard thinks he knows is turned on its head.

Lyrically written as Blanchard's own memoir and wonderfully atmospheric, with a splendid Gothic setting, *FALLODON* imagines how the course of history might have changed had one woman lived, instead of died. Mingling politics with a complex and emotional human story, this is in my opinion a very accomplished first novel.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Green, Editor