

# Chômu Press

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## Human Pages

By John Elliott

*Published by Chômu Press 17<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2012, £12.50, Paperback Original*



**Before Second Life there was Chance Company.** An organisation evolved from 60s roots, now a corporate entity in the 1980s, Chance Company is a pre-Internet Second Life, offering clients a vacation from their own lives in other, fabricated lives. In this labyrinth of identities, real or assumed, Agnes Darshel searches for her errant father, a search that involves her in the internal conflicts of Chance Company's creation myth and history. What begins as a masquerade becomes Russian roulette. This may be a game of chance, but the dice, like the guns, are loaded, and someone is marked to lose.

**Against a dark, atmospheric background of Europe, the USA, South America and North Africa,** themes of exile, real and self-imposed, and the consequences of being on the losing side politically are played out in a shifting underworld where mysteries and crime are never far from the surface.

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## What People Say:

“A matryoshka doll of a novel, where style and characters nest one inside the next indefinitely, the latter being occasionally revived with brandy and the former at once displaying and twisting the traditions of such masterpieces as *The Waves* and *The Saragossa Manuscript*.”

Brendan Connell

## Praise for John Elliott’s previous novel, *Dying to Read*:

“*Dying to Read* is a marvellous slide along the high tension wires of a vast imagination with nothing but a frayed belt to keep you above the intertextual chasm. Gut wrenching potboiler, postmodern farce, metafictional improvisation, genuinely wicked satire, it perfectly fuses hot momentum with cool profundity...”

Rhys Hughes

“It’s always such a joy to read a novel which is truly original. John Elliott’s book is fast paced and funny, the plot intrigues, and the characters — many so inventively named — leap off the page.”

Hilary Bonner

***For more information or a review copy, please contact Kasia on  
pr@chomupress.com or 0208 099 1507***

## John Elliott:

John Elliott was born Glasgow 1938. As well as ‘Scotland making him’, he has lived in Spain and Paris and worked as an Assistant Film Editor, a night telephonist and in the Unemployment Benefit Service. His first novel, *Another Example of Indulgence*, was published by Calder and Boyars. His second, *Dying to Read*, was published by Chômu Press in 2011. A persistent jazz and improvised music listener, he now resides in Twickenham.

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**Chômu Press** is an independent UK publisher dedicated to publishing fiction that is both imaginative and unhindered by considerations of genre. They’ve been described as the publisher equivalent to art house cinema, eclectic and anarchic without sacrificing quality. Their mission is to publish books that people will read in the same way they listen to popular music—not from duty, but in the excitement of personal discovery.

Website: [www.chomupress.com](http://www.chomupress.com)