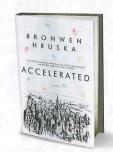


## LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Drug the children? These parents just say yes.

IN HER RIVETING NOVEL, Accelerated (Pegasus), Bronwen Hruska skewers the parenting habits of affluent Manhattanites through the perspective of suddenly single dad Sean Benning. Having just been left by his wife, Ellie, Sean is on his own dealing with the hypercompetitive environment at the exclusive Upper East Side school his 8-year-old son, Toby, attends (the boy's grandparents pay the tuition). An aspiring artist, Sean works a day job at the gossip rag *Buzz*, editing pieces on subjects like cellulite of

the stars and P. Diddy's love child. The tabloid gig supplies easy laughs, but Hruska is at her wittiest describing the lives of Toby's classmates: A boy attends occupational therapy to improve his



"pencil grip"; a girl gives her doll Play-Doh breast implants and pretends Tic Tacs are Xanax. The story turns sinister when Sean and teacher Jessica Harper discover Toby's best friend unconscious in the school stairwell, and darker still as educators pressure Sean to put his son on drugs for ADHD. The plot races forward as Sean develops a crush on Jessica, a gallery offers to show Sean's work, Ellie returns—and disturbing information about the medicating of students at the city's elite schools emerges. As

knowing as it is entertaining, this novel portrays a segment of New York as "a trap, an amped-up bubble where everything had to be better, faster, more impressive." —LOUISA ERMELINO

## PRISONER OF LOVE

Willie Sutton—hopeless romantic? That's how J.R. Moehringer portrays the notorious real-life bank robber in his moving novel, Sutton (Hyperion). It's 1969 and Sutton has just been paroled after 17 years in Attica. Driving around New York City with a newspaper reporter, he revisits the scenes of his life's key events. Moehringer draws on research

SUTTON I.R. MOEHRINGER

about Sutton's criminal career: his heists, his accomplices, his escapes. But it's the imagined, tragic story of Sutton's one true love, Bess ("Her eyes—pools of blue and gold. He feels the earth tip toward the moon"), that will steal your heart. — K.H.

THE BOOK THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE TO...

## Ken Follett



"I was 12 when they let me into the grown-up section of the public library and I discovered James Bond. Live and Let Die, by Ian Fleming, was the most exciting thing that had ever happened to me. When I started to write, my ambition was to give my readers the same kind of thrill."

Winter of the World (Dutton), book two in Ken Follett's Century Trilogy, has just been published.