



'His storytelling powers are so fluent and persuasive,  
the quality of his observation so fine' *Daily Telegraph*

# JUSTIN CARTWRIGHT TO HEAVEN BY WATER

Author of the  
Richard & Judy bestseller  
THE PROMISE OF  
HAPPINESS



BLOOMSBURY



BY THE SAME AUTHOR

*The Song Before it is Sung*  
*This Secret Garden* (non-fiction)  
*The Promise of Happiness*  
*White Lightning*  
*Half in Love*  
*Leading the Cheers*  
*Masai Dreaming*  
*In Every Face I Meet*  
*Interior*

j-44017

# TO HEAVEN BY WATER

JUSTIN CARTWRIGHT

M.F. Axundov adına  
Azərbaycan Milli  
Kitabxanası

B L O O M S B U R Y  
LONDON • BERLIN • NEW YORK



W6(4=Bu)

First published in Great Britain 2009  
This paperback edition published 2010

Copyright © 2009 by Justin Cartwright

Lyric from 'Alma' written by, and reproduced by kind  
permission of, Tom Lehrer (Maelstrom Music)

The moral right of the author has been asserted

No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner  
whatsoever without written permission from the Publisher except in  
the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews

Every reasonable effort has been made to trace copyright holders of  
material reproduced in this book, but if any have been inadvertently  
overlooked the Publishers would be glad to hear from them.

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc  
36 Soho Square  
London W1D 3QY

[www.bloomsbury.com/justincartwright](http://www.bloomsbury.com/justincartwright)

Bloomsbury Publishing, London, New York and Berlin

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978 1 4088 0103 1  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Typeset by Hewer Text UK Ltd, Edinburgh  
Printed in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, St Ives plc



For Geza Vermes



A BBC RADIO 4 BOOK A

J-41017

'A high-class piece of literary entertainment ...

David Cross is surrounded by secrets. When his wife Nancy was alive he kept secrets from her, and now that she is dead he must hide his new happiness from his children, Lucy and Ed. But they too have their troubles: Ed's marriage is in trouble, Lucy is being stalked by her ex-boyfriend, and both worry that their father will find a new partner.

*To Heaven by Water* is a touching and hilarious portrait of a family trying to come to terms with loss in their own way.

'What distinguishes *To Heaven by Water* and turns it into a convincing take on the English (or rather London) early twenty-first century is the eye for detail and the sheer brio of the writing'

*Independent*

'Cartwright's books are literary icebergs with more concealed than shown, which keep on working long after the turn of the final page'

*Daily Mail*

'Cartwright has mastered a particular type of wry English social comedy invariably seething with black undercurrents'

Eileen Battersby, *Irish Times*

Magnum Photos

homsbury.com

£7.99



Mixed Sources  
Product group from well-managed  
forests and other controlled sources

Can also find FSC® labels  
www.fsc.org  
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

14m



Also  
available  
by  
Justin  
Cartwright

“Müəlliflik hüququ və əlaqəli hüquqlar haqqında” Azərbaycan Respublikası Qanununa və nəşr ilinə, ölkə üçün mühüm əhəmiyyət kəsb etdiyinə görə bu elektron resursdan yalnız kitabxananın “Lokal şəbəkədən istifadə üzrə oxu zalı”nda istifadə etmək olar.

\* \* \*

Due to Law of Azerbaijan Republic on “Copyright and related laws”, year of publication and for this reason that this material is important for our republic you can use this electron resource only in the “Local network reading hall”.

\* \* \*

Принимая во внимание закон Азербайджанской Республики "Об авторском праве и сопутствующим правам", год издания, и чрезвычайную важность для страны, получить доступ к данному электронному ресурсу можно только в библиотечном "Читальном зале по использованию локальной сети".