



PRESS RELEASE

Foxes' Oven

by Michael de Larrabeiti

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The year is 1940 and Becky Taylor, a young evacuee from London, arrives at Foxes' Oven, a gloomy house in the hamlet of Offham, some two miles from the town of Arundel. There she begins a new life with Agnes Clemmer and her family.

During the summer months Becky discovers happiness, a sense of belonging and even love. But there are secrets in Foxes' Oven, and Becky also discovers, at first hand, passion, jealousy, betrayal and violence. The horrific events of those days are to haunt her for nearly half a century until, in her old age, hidden truths are revealed and Becky comes, at last, to confront the pain and ghosts of her childhood.

Masterfully written, harrowing and powerful, *Foxes' Oven* is a beautiful and compelling vision of a world where the tensions of war and the destiny of star-crossed lovers are vividly depicted.

'A vivid, intriguing and evocative story.'
H R F Keating

'Compelling and atmospheric.'
John Carey, The Sunday Times

'A dark story with overtones of Ian McEwan's
Atonement ... keeps you enthralled'
The Guardian

'It is so well done ... Michael de Larrabeiti's
book is of a high literary standard.'
Beryl Bainbridge

About the publisher:

After spending far too much of a thirty-five year career battling with cowardly literary agents and timorous publishers, Michael de Larrabeiti decided to start his own publishing company. Today Tallis House is operated by Michael de Larrabeiti's literary estate, to ensure that his best work is always in print.

About the author:

Michael de Larrabeiti (1934–2008) was one of five children and was brought up in South London. His mother lived most of her life in the Lavender Hill area; his father was a disappearing Basque from Bilbao.

After leaving school at sixteen, he worked at many things: on camera in documentary films; as a travel guide and teacher in France and Casablanca; as a shepherd, completing the Provençal *transhumance*, herding three thousand sheep to their summer pastures in the French Alps; and as photographer on Oxford University's Marco Polo Expedition, travelling four months overland on a motorcycle to Afghanistan and India. He later read English and French at Trinity College, Dublin, won a scholarship to the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, and began a D.Phil at Keble College, Oxford, which he later abandoned to take up fulltime writing.

Michael de Larrabeiti was the author of many travel essays for *The Sunday Times* and fourteen books, including the much admired *Borrible Trilogy* and *Spots of Time*, a memoir. He was nominated for the CWA Golden Dagger Award, the Whitbread Prize, and the Travelex Travel Writer's Award.

