21 January 2014
For immediate release

Atlantic acquires poignant, polished and incredibly assured debut novel

Atlantic’s Publishing Director Margaret Stead has bought UK & Commonwealth rights from Sophie Lambert at Conville and Walsh in WHAT A WAY TO GO by Julia Forster: a witty, bittersweet, coming of age novel set in 1980s Britain where 12 year old Harper is coming to terms with the changes wrought by her parent’s divorce on her life. This is a novel about break ups, breakdowns and breaking the rules – and about discovering who you are along the way. This sparkling debut novel, with an unforgettable voice, will launch Atlantic’s fiction list in 2016, with publication in hardback and eBook in January.

Margaret Stead comments: ‘We are all delighted to be publishing Julia Forster’s charming, poignant, polished and incredibly assured debut. It is clever and laugh out loud funny, and Harper is a modern day Cassandra Mortmain, for anyone who loved I Capture the Castle. It is a brilliant exploration of the journey from teenager to adult, and a wonderful evocation of Britain in the eighties.’

Julia Forster comments: ‘I’m honoured and delighted that my novel What a Way to Go will be published by the bold and brilliant Atlantic Books. I can’t wait for Harper’s story to reach readers next year.’

Previously a literary agent’s assistant, Julia Forster currently works at the literary magazine New Welsh Review where she has been co-ordinating the inaugural 2015 New Welsh Writing Awards for non-fiction. She also sits on the bursary panel at Literature Wales helping to award bursaries to both emerging and established writers. In 2011, she received a Buying Time bursary which supported her while she started writing the novel. She is a member of PEN England and PEN Cymru. Julia lives in Machynlleth, Wales, with her partner and their two young children.

For any further information, please contact Fran Owen at Atlantic Books: francesowen@atlantic-books.co.uk / 020 7269 1623