

BOOKS

Lucky 13

for Dalene

THIRTEEN countries have already signalled their intention to publish South African author Dalene Matthee's South African bestseller "Circles in a Forest".

The United States, West Germany, Holland, Sweden, France, Israel, Brazil, and, of course, Britain are among the countries publishing the book soon. Latest addition: Iceland!

"We expect Dalene Matthee to become a major South African writer on the international scene," said a spokesman for her agent, Curtis Brown.

"Not on the same plane as someone like Nadine Gordimer, but only because "Circles in a Forest" is not political in the sense in which Miss Gordimer writes.

"A non-political book from South Afri-



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ca is rare... except that this one is of course political in one way: That the forest and the elephants are being destroyed."

It was Andre Brink who, after reading the manuscript in the original Afrikaans, had dubbed the book "Quite superb" and recommended its publication here.

Dalene Matthee's own English translation was put to an auction won by Penguin Viking.

"It was very unusu-

al to sell it like this before the first English publication," said the spokesman. "Normally we need a book to show someone. But everyone realised it would be a special book."

The question of film rights has arisen, but the agents will not talk about it at this stage.

Dalene Matthee, who is writing two more books on similar themes, is coming to Britain for the publication here on August 30.