

Adult Fiction  
Rights Guide  
Autumn 2023



## Film & television deals & options

*The Tattooist Of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris – Synchronicity Films/Sky TV

*Snowflake* by Louise Nealon – Element Pictures

*This Green And Pleasant Land* by Ayisha Malik – Eleventh Hour Films

*The Windsor Knot* by S.J. Bennett – Mammoth Productions

*The Shelf* by Helly Acton – Monumental Pictures

*The Holiday* by TM Logan – Channel 5

*The Phone Box At The Edge Of The World* by Laura Imai Messina  
– Cattleya

*Geiger* by Gustaf Skördeman – Monumental Pictures

*Killing It* by Asia Mackay – 42 Media

*The Ice Beneath Her* by Camilla Grebe – New Line Cinema

*The Nine* by Gwen Strauss – Kudos Film & TV

*The Familiars* by Stacey Halls – The Bureau

*Maestra Trilogy* by LS Hilton – Columbia/Sony

*We Begin At The End* by Chris Whitaker – Disney

*The Twelve Days of Murder* by Andreina Cordani – Brock Media

# Z



January 2025  
Historical Fiction

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Hungary (under offer),  
Italy (Piemme), US (HarperCollins)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Reserved to the Author

WENDY HOLDEN was a respected journalist and war correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph*. She is the author of more than thirty-five non-fiction titles and three novels featuring remarkable men and women, many of which are international bestsellers and several of which have been adapted for film, TV, and radio. Her books include *Born Survivors*, the bestselling story of three mothers who hid their pregnancies from the Nazis, now published in 24 countries, and the No.1 bestseller *Tomorrow Will Be A Good Day*, the memoir of Captain Sir Tom Moore.

## For Fredy: The Teacher of Auschwitz Wendy Holden

**My name is Fredy Hirsch. I am an athlete. I am a teacher. I am not a number, stabbed in ink into the flesh of my forearm. Nor am I identified by the pink triangle I'm forced to wear within these barbed wire walls.**

In Auschwitz-Birkenau, the heart of the Nazi's deadliest camp, there was a mural-covered building where hundreds of Jewish children gathered daily to sing, dance, and play. They left the overcrowded barracks each morning for Block 31, where they received an unconventional education, including history and even self-hypnosis. This place, oddly enough, drew senior SS officers who sought a glimpse of life before Hitler.

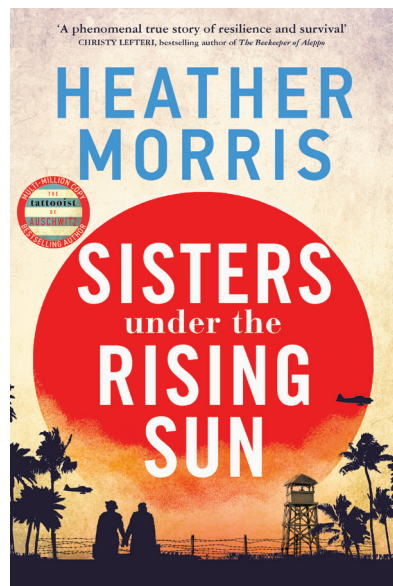
Fredy Hirsch, a respected Jewish youth leader and gay prisoner, created this oasis amidst the horror. He risked his life daily, negotiating with the camp commander, Dr. Josef Mengele, for extra food for the children under his care. Dubbed the 'Prince of Auschwitz' after starring in a camp production of *Snow White*, Fredy was a former athlete who prematurely aged, enduring frequent beatings and the constant threat of death.

Condemned for his sexuality and perceived 'collaboration' with the Nazis, Fredy Hirsch's name was nearly erased from history after the war. In this fictional account, drawing from thorough research and survivor testimonies, WWII historian and biographer Wendy Holden finally sheds light on this remarkable man who inspired a generation of the children he protected. "Fredy built a wall against suffering in our hearts," one survivor recalled. "He imparted lessons that guided us throughout life." These lessons remain poignant even eighty years later.



# Sisters Under the Rising Sun

## Heather Morris



September 2023  
384 pp  
Historical Fiction

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Brazil, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine, US

### Television & Film Rights: CAA

HEATHER MORRIS is an international number one bestselling author whose books have sold over 16 million copies and translated into over 50 languages. A television series of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* will be released in 2024.

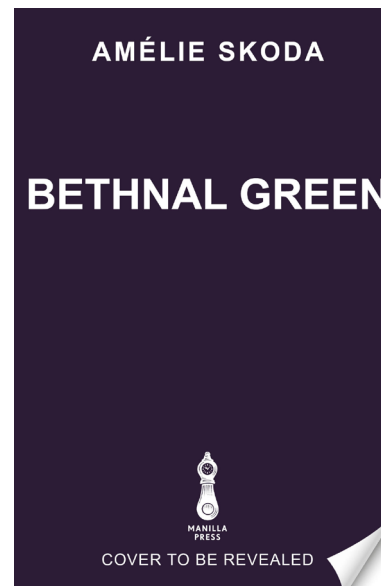
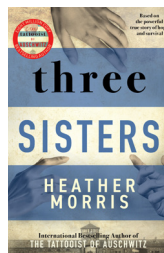
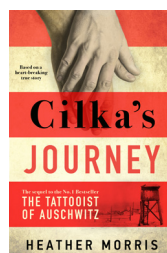
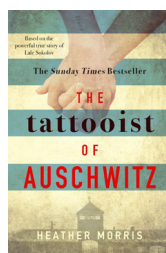
**An astonishing story of bravery, sisterhood and friendship in the darkest of circumstances.**

1942. Singapore is falling to the Japanese Army. English musician Norah Chambers places her eight-year-old daughter Sally on a ship leaving Singapore, desperate to keep her safe. As the island burns, Australian nurse Nesta James joins the terrified cargo of people, including the heartbroken Norah, crammed aboard the HMS Vyner Brooke. After only two days at sea, the ship is bombed and sunk.

Nesta and Norah reach the beaches of Indonesia only to be captured and held in one of the notorious Japanese POW camps, places of starvation and brutality. But even here joy can be found, in music, where Norah's 'voice orchestra' transports the internees from squalor into light. The friendships they build with the dozens of other women in the camps will give them the hope, strength and camaraderie they need in order to stay alive.

Internationally bestselling phenomenon Heather Morris brings another triumphant and transcendent true story to life: the women imprisoned by the Japanese during WWII and their courage and determination to survive.

*'A phenomenal true story of resilience and survival.'*  
Christy Lefteri (*The Beekeeper of Aleppo*)



June 2024  
352 pp  
Historical Fiction

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
The Good Literary Agency

AMÉLIE SKODA was born in London to French and Malaysian-Chinese parents and works as a journalist and editor. Her debut novel *Bethnal Green* is inspired by conversations with her NHS nurse mother and was shortlisted for the Mo Siewcharan Prize in 2021. Her work has appeared in various reviews and anthologies.

# Bethnal Green

## Amélie Skoda

**Balancing her new life in London with her duty to her family, one nurse must follow in her sister's footsteps to uncover her truth.**

Penang, 1971. Suyin's sister returns to the family home, a stricken figure, bearing an opportunity of a lifetime, for Suyin to take her place as a trainee nurse in London's East End.

With excitement and trepidation, Suyin embarks on a new adventure, but her sister's secrets are a constant reminder that she is living a borrowed life in a strange, tough city. She finds solace in her job and through the gruelling but rewarding work of caring for the sick, Suyin stitches together a new identity.

Whilst home pulls at her heartstrings, London gets under Suyin's skin as she learns to navigate a new country and culture. Life as a trainee nurse is tough yet it comes with the possibility of a new kind of freedom. As the pull between past and present becomes more complicated, quickened by a burgeoning romance with British doctor Robert, tragedy strikes at home. Back in Malaysia, Suyin is faced with dilemma: choosing between family duty and the new life she is forging on the other side of the world. And then comes the realisation that home can be a person rather than a place.

For readers of *Small Island* by Andrea Levy and *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin.

# The Tarot Reader of Versailles

## Anya Bergman

**She can see the future, but can she change it?**

Paris, 1793. In the notorious Conciergerie Prison, Marie Antoinette is having her cards read. What solace can the tarot give her now, in the midst of the Reign of Terror, when outside her cell the mob is buying for her blood?

Kate, a young Irishwoman whose fortunes have seen her travel from maid to closest confidante of Mademoiselle Lenormand, the infamous Tarot Reader of Versailles, sees the Queen of France's cards and knows what's in store for her. As the French Revolution is consumed by frenzied violence, Kate must use all her wiles to ensure that Marie Antoinette's fate doesn't become her own nor that of her mentor. But what turn of the Wheel of Fortune led a revolutionary Irishwoman to become entangled in French royalist plots? And what forces - supernatural or otherwise - can help her protect an innocent child from a cruel and unjust fate?

Set against the background of the French Revolution and the Great Rebellion in Ireland, this is a novel of fate and free will, where allegiances and romances can be forged or broken by the turn of a card.

Inspired by the true story of Marie-Anne Adelaide Lenormand, the most infamous Tarot Reader in France.



**Rights Sold for The Witches of Vardo:**  
Brazil (Universo dos Livros), France (Michel Lafon), Italy (Nord), Lithuania (Alma Littera), Poland (Insignis), Russia (MTS), Spain (Trini Vergara), Ukraine (RM)

# Fair Rosaline

## Natasha Solomons

**Was the greatest love story of all time a lie?**

Romeo Montague is handsome and charming and the first time he sees young Rosaline Capulet, who has secretly snuck into his family's masquerade summer ball, he falls instantly in love.

With her father determined that she join the nunnery after her mother's death, Romeo offers Rosaline the chance of a different life. Gradually he convinces her that only true love could make him feel this way, that he is enraptured by her beauty. Indeed, he cannot live without her!

These star-crossed lovers must keep everything hidden from Rosaline's family, at least until they are wed. But when a destitute young girl appears, claiming to be carrying Romeo's child, Rosaline starts to doubt all that she has been told. And as whispers of more girls reach her ears, what once felt like a courtship begins to feel more like a trap.

As Rosaline finally recognises Romeo for the villain he truly is, his gaze turns suddenly towards Rosaline's adored and beautiful cousin, thirteen-year old Juliet.

Can Rosaline save Juliet, who falls under Romeo's spell just as quickly as she did? Or can this story only ever end one way?

*Hamnet* meets *My Dark Vanessa* in this powerful and provocative untelling of Shakespeare's best known tale.

*'A terrific novel - very clever and alluring.'*

William Boyd

*'Vivid, turbulent and compelling.'*

THE INDEPENDENT



August 2023  
352 pp  
Historical Fiction

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Brazil (Pensamento), Germany (DTV), Italy (Neri Pozza), Serbia (Laguna), Spain (Roca), US (Sourcebooks)

### Television & Film Rights:

C&W

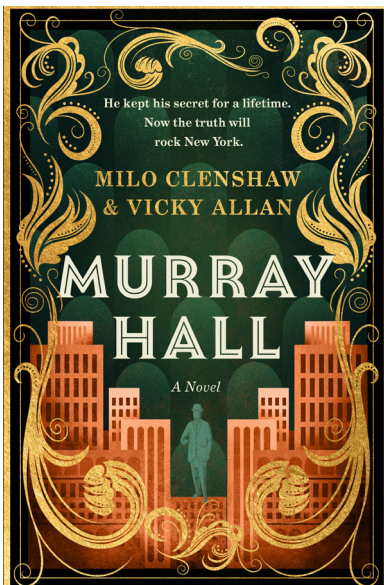
NATASHA SOLOMONS is the author of seven internationally bestselling novels, including *Mr Rosenblum's List*, *The Novel in the Viola*, which was chosen for the Richard & Judy Book Club, and *I, Mona Lisa*. Her novels have been translated into 17 languages.





## Murray Hall

### Milo Clenshaw & Vicky Allan



April 2024  
272 pp  
Historical Fiction

#### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

MILO CLENSHAW currently works as the Programme Assistant for Alchemy Film & Arts, the home of Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, Scotland's festival of experimental film.

VICKY ALLAN is an award-winning journalist and author. A staff writer for the *Herald on Sunday*, her work has also appeared in *The Times*, *Daily Express*, *Vogue*, *GQ*, *The Guardian* and *Scotland on Sunday*. Her novel *Stray* is currently being adapted as a feature film.

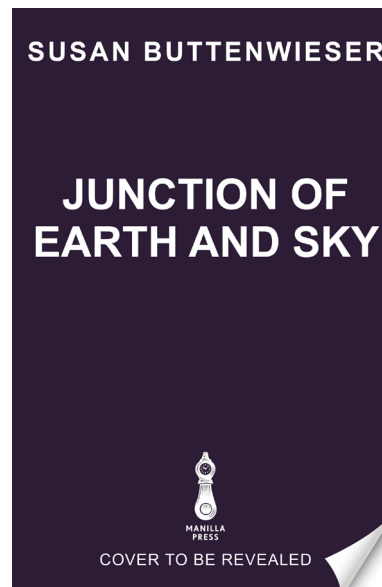
**He kept his secret for a lifetime. Now the truth will rock New York.**

It is 1901, and Dr Gallagher has just pronounced Murray Hall dead. New York politico, gambler, womaniser - Hall is known to be all these things, but when the press break the news of his death to the world, they reveal a side to his identity he never wanted known, a secret no one could have guessed.

One journalist is determined to uncover the truth of Hall's past, but his search leads him down winding alleys of fact and fiction. From humble beginnings in Glasgow's tenements to a life spent rubbing up against New York's political elite, Hall is the definition of a self-made man. But the higher his status rises, the higher the stakes become.

Inspired by a true story, *Murray Hall* unearths a queer past erased by history, finally bringing all the puzzle pieces together to discover the secret of this extraordinary, ordinary man, which shocked New York, America and the world.

For readers of *Confessions of the Fox* by Jordy Rosenberg and Hernan Diaz' *Trust*.



April 2024  
320 pp  
Literary Fiction

#### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
United Agents

SUSAN BITTENWIESER's fiction has appeared in numerous literary publications. Her first collection of short stories, *We Were Lucky with the Rain*, was published in 2020. She also contributes to news features to Women's Media Center and teaches creative writing in New York City public schools and to incarcerated women. This is her debut novel.

## Junction of Earth and Sky

### Susan Bittenwieser

**A tender, visceral voyage across time and continents charting one family's desperate pursuit of redemption.**

The enduring bond between struggling drug addict Marnie and her grandmother Alice is at the heart of this debut. Moving between 1940s England, when Alice was young and in the throes of first love, to Rhode Island in the 70s and 80s, we watch Marnie emerge into adulthood in the 1990s, plagued by a darkness that seems impossible to shake.

Shifting seamlessly between time and place, the novel charts their lives, shadowed by the consequences of cross-generational trauma, and illuminated by brief glimpses of the possibility of survival. Throughout it all, Marnie and Alice wrestle with the past whilst trying to build themselves a future. Here hope, compassion and love emerge from the darker moments they face.

In a similar vein to *The Dutch House* and *The Paper Palace*, this rollercoaster read is a generational story spanning two continents and six decades. At times heart-breaking, there is also joy and redemption within its pages.

Praise for the author:

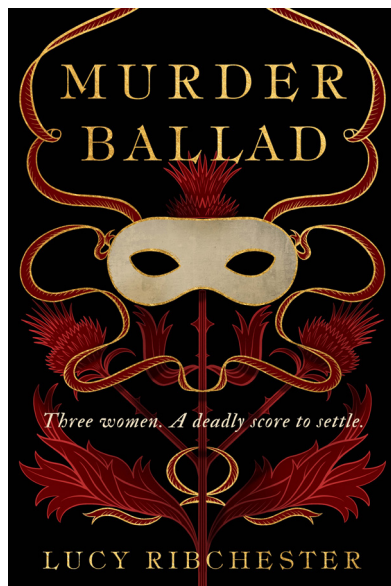
*'Bittenwieser is the best there is.'*

John Reed (*Snowball's Chance*)



# Murder Ballad

Lucy Ribchester



June 2024 DRAFT COVER  
304 pp  
Historical Fiction

## World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Lutjens & Rubinstein

LUCY RIBCHESTER received a New Writers Award from The Scottish Book Trust in 2013. She has since won the Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship and been shortlisted for several awards. Her first novel, *The Hourglass Factory*, was longlisted for the Historical Writers Association Debut Crown, picked by Val McDermid for her New Blood panel at Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival, and selected by Waterstones' Edinburgh as Book of the Year.

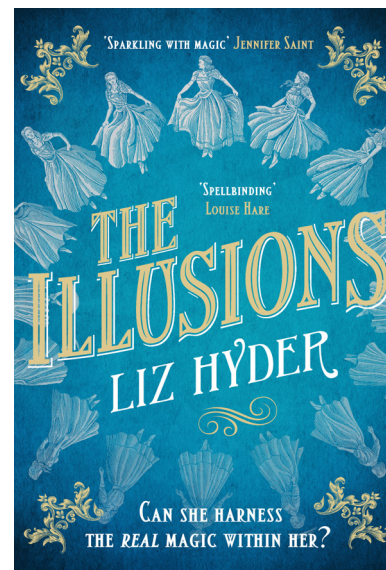
## Three women. A deadly score to settle.

Edinburgh, 1791. Isobel Duguid and her friend Clepsydro are the stars of the Edinburgh Musical Society. Clepsydro sings opera and Isobel sings famously dark Scottish ballads, despite being incapable of holding a tune. They roam the streets of Edinburgh, enjoying an opulent lifestyle.

One night a note arrives from the mysterious Cecilia Abercorn, asking if Isobel's most notorious song, 'The Fiddler's Wrath', might be included in a book. It's the tale of a prima donna who died of heartbreak after her husband committed murder and was sent to the gallows. Isobel is intrigued. But Mrs. Abercorn's curiosity about the ballad is far more than a fickle interest. When Clepsydro goes missing, Isobel is forced to confront her past and the truth about 'The Fiddler's Wrath' begins to emerge.

Using the geography of historical Edinburgh to guide us through the story, this dark tale becomes more complicated than anyone could have imagined and awakens the chilling retribution of a once buried secret.

A story of betrayal, mystery, and the secrets some would die to protect.



June 2023  
342 pp  
Historical Fiction

## World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Poland (Insignis)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Bird Literary Agency

LIZ HYDER has been making up stories for as long as she can remember. *The Gifts*, her widely acclaimed debut adult novel was published in 2022. *Bearmouth*, her 2019 debut YA novel was chosen as Children's Book of the Year by *The Times*, made multiple book of the year lists and won several prizes.

# The Illusions

Liz Hyder

## Can she harness the real magic within her?

England, 1896. Eadie Carleton, a pioneering early film-maker, struggles for her talent to be taken seriously in a male-dominated world. Enter stage right the brilliant young magician George Perris, who spots this potential in moving pictures, believing it will revolutionise the world of magic forever - but in order to achieve his dreams, he must first win over Miss Carleton . . .

Used to scraping a living as the young assistant to an ageing con artist, Cecily Marsden's life is turned upside down when he suddenly dies. Believing herself to blame, could young Cec somehow have powers she doesn't yet understand?

As a group of illusionists prepare for a grand spectacle - to mark both the retirement of legendary master The Professor and the announcement of his successor - Cec, Eadie and George's worlds collide. But as Cec falls in love with the bustling realm of theatre and magic, she faces the fight of her life to save the performance from sabotage and harness the element of real magic held deep within her.

*The Binding* meets *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell* in this captivating novel.

*'Charming and intriguing; sparkling with magic and romance.'*

Jennifer Saint (*Ariadne*)



**Rights Sold for The Gifts:**  
Poland (Burda),  
US (Sourcebooks)



# Ghost Story

## Elisa Lodato



September 2024  
Horror

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

ELISA LODATO grew up in London and read English at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Her first novel, *An Unremarkable Body*, was longlisted for the Bath Novel Award 2016 and shortlisted for the 2018 Costa First Novel Award. Her second novel, *The Necessary Marriage*, was published in 2018.

**She believes there is nothing on the island other than the ghosts in her mind, but believing isn't enough.**

The uninhabited Hebridean island of Finish is the perfect location to write a chilling ghost story. Seren, a writer who still feels numb and blocked after a great personal tragedy, hopes the island will inspire her to pick up her pen once more. Her literary agent has come to her with an idea for a book for which Seren feels a spark of creativity.

The island is wild, stormy, unforgiving and Seren is about to embark on a journey which will stir up painful memories, all the while watched over by the Shadowy Thing. What is this strange presence that haunts the island?

*Praise for An Unremarkable Body:*

*'An intriguing tale of love and loss . . . written with verve and delivers an amazing twist.'*

SUNDAY TIMES

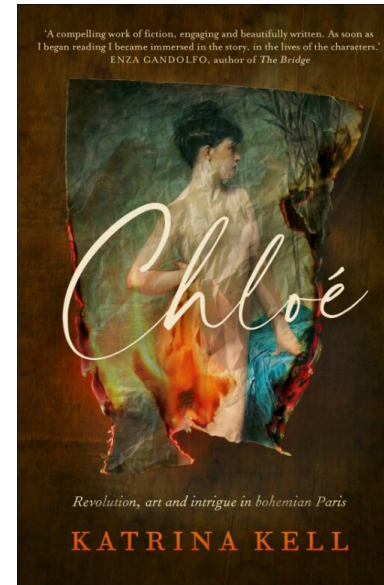
*'This novel pulls you in and will have you racing to reach the end.'*

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

echo

# Chloé

## Katrina Kell



January 2024  
368 pp  
Historical Fiction

DRAFT COVER

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

KATRINA KELL's award-winning writing includes two YA novels, short fiction, poetry, essays, and journalism. A vivid and unforgettable dream was the inspiration for *Chloé*. The unpublished manuscript of the novel won an Australian Society of Authors Award Mentorship, and Katrina's PhD thesis, *Capturing Chloé: Reimagining a Melbourne Icon*, explores the myths and volatile history of the iconic nude painting and its model.

**The true story of the enigmatic young woman behind one of Australia's most famous paintings.**

She's one of the most famous and beloved women in Australia: the beautiful, naked Chloé, painted in Paris in 1875 and later brought to Melbourne, where she still hangs in the Young & Jackson Hotel. But who was the enigmatic young girl who modelled for this iconic work?

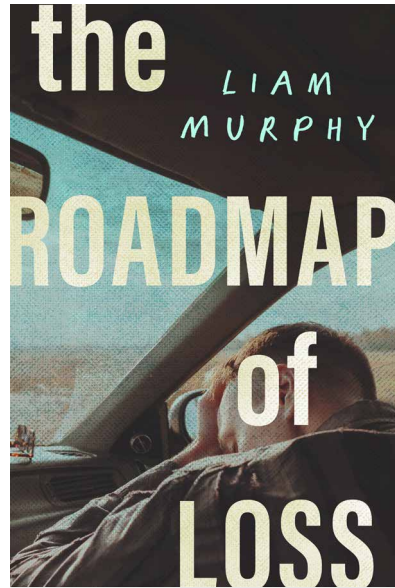
This luminous novel imagines the story of Marie, a teenager from Montmartre who, in the freezing winter of 1870, is sacked by her lecherous employer and joins other women in the revolutionary Paris Commune. But when the revolt is brutally crushed, her uncle blackmails her into slavery. Three years later, after escaping his control, she becomes a model for the famous painter Jules Lefebvre, who hires her to pose as Chloé – until he discovers her rebel past.

In Australia, four decades later, Abby, a grieving widow, finds a postcard of the painting her feckless husband had so admired at the Melbourne pub. When the bank tries to repossess her home, Abby loses control and is committed to a mental asylum. Determined to save the family's fortunes, her teenage sons, Paddy and Rory, volunteer to fight in the Great War to earn some money. And somewhere, between the clues shared by an elderly Irishman, and a mysterious woman they encounter at a Montmartre tavern, the boys learn the fate of the courageous Marie, and manage to heal their fractured family.

A dramatic, touching and compelling story of a woman's determination to survive in a harsh world and her power to change others' lives.

# The Roadmap of Loss

Liam Murphy



January 2024  
368 pp  
Literary Fiction

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

After graduating from the University of Technology Sydney with a Masters in Creative Writing, LIAM MURPHY went on to work and write for various Newscorp and Nine-Fairfax mastheads. Now, working with the NRMA, his writing can be seen in *Open Road* - Australia's longest-running motoring magazine.

A road trip across America, following in the footsteps of the father who abandoned him, leads a young man to new peace and understanding.

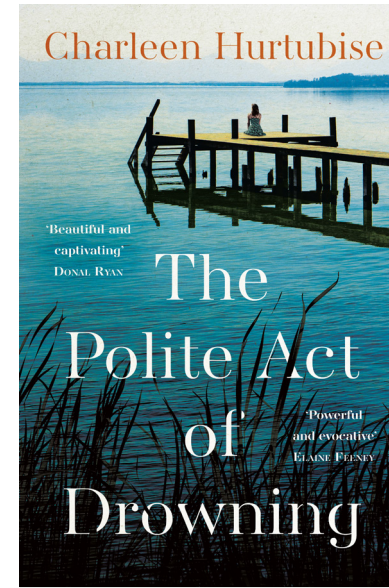
Melbourne, 1997. Mark Ward is confronting the sudden death of his mother, Celeste. His father Dylan has been missing from his life for 20 years, after abandoning his family and dying in a car accident. While clearing out Celeste's house, a bereft, rapidly spiralling Mark discovers a collection of letters written to her by his father after he'd departed for the United States, some letters dated after his apparent death. These writings, about life, love, dreams and fears, become beacons for Mark, who decides to try and achieve some peace and redemption by retracing Dylan's journey across America.

Moving through the country with only a beat-up car as company and the letters of a stranger for guidance, Mark is faced with the enormity and polarity of late nineties America. Bouncing from one city and bizarre situation to the next, he encounters a tapestry of people along the way - many of them eccentric, some malign, some nurturing, others as lost as he is. Alone in a foreign land, the search for peace soon becomes a battle with loneliness, addiction and nihilism as Mark begins to see in himself reflections of the father he grew up resenting.

Raw and uncompromising, *The Roadmap of Loss* is a riveting novel about human fallibility, vulnerability, the courage of letting go of the past and the power of forgiveness.

# The Polite Act of Drowning

Charleen Hurtubise



April 2023  
288 pp  
Literary Fiction

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Reserved to the Author

CHARLEEN HURTUBISE has lived in Ireland for over 25 years, having emigrated there from Michigan in the USA. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from University College Dublin where she has also taught. Her short fiction, essays and poetry have appeared in various publications.

An atmospheric tale of how secrets can destroy a family, when people are lost even to themselves.

Michigan, 1985.

The drowning of a teenage girl causes ripples in the small town of Kettle Lake, though for most the waters settle quickly. For sixteen-year-old Joanne Kennedy, however, the tragedy dredges up untold secrets and causes her mother to drift farther from reality and her family.

When troubled newcomer Lucinda arrives in town, she offers Joanne a chance of real friendship, and together the teenagers push against the boundaries of family, self-image, and their sexuality during the tension of a long, stifling summer. But the undercurrents of past harms continuously threaten to drag Joanne and those around her under . . .

This is a deeply atmospheric coming-of-age debut confronting issues of generational trauma, sexual identity and mental illness.

*'A beautiful and captivating novel, lyrical and sensuous, a precise and faithful evocation of the tumult and trauma of family life.'*

Donal Ryan

*'A luminous and gripping portrait of a teenage girl coming of age in a small lakeshore community [ . . . ] an exquisite debut from a powerful storyteller.'*

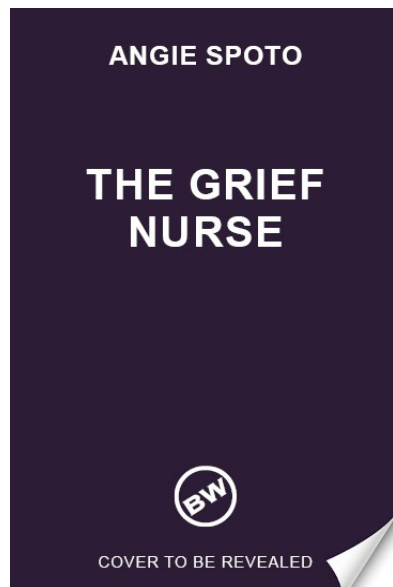
Michelle Gallen (*Factory Girls*)





## The Grief Nurse

Angie Spoto



June 2024  
284 pp  
Literary Fantasy

**World Rights excl. Italian**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Underline Agency

ANGIE SPOTO is an American writer living in Scotland. She grew up near Chicago, lived in the Netherlands, and eventually moved to Scotland to get her PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Glasgow. She loves stories that are dark and surreal, strange and magical, and is inspired by writers like Ursula Le Guinn, Octavia Butler, Leonora Carrington, and Naomi Novik.

**Imagine you could be rid of your sadness, your anxiety, your heartache, your fear. Imagine you could take those feelings from others and turn them into something beautiful.**

Lynx is a Grief Nurse. Kept by the Asters, a wealthy, influential family, to ensure they're never troubled by negative emotions, she knows no other life.

When news arrives that the Asters' eldest son is dead, Lynx does what she can to alleviate their Sorrow. As guests flock to the Asters' private island for the wake, bringing their own secrets, lies and grief, tensions rise.

Then the bodies start to pile up.

With romance, intrigue and spectacular world-building, *The Grief Nurse* is a gothic drama replete with beautiful people doing terrible things, vast lungfuls of fresh sea air, and a woman doomed to servitude learning about love and freedom.

For fans of Jenni Fagan and Elspeth Barker.

*'A conceptually-explosive and vividly-rendered story. An anthem for our times.'*

C. J. Cooke (*I Know My Name*)

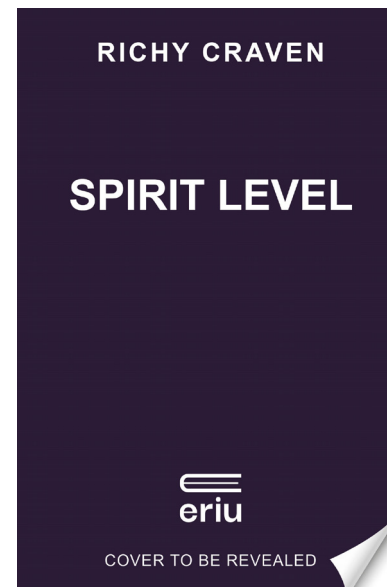
*'A powerful debut novel that explores serious, sensitive issues through a unique prism of fantasy.'*

THE GUARDIAN



## Spirit Level

Richy Craven



April 2024  
272 pp  
General Fiction

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Kate Nash

RICHY CRAVEN is an Irish writer. He will cautiously admit to having a degree in Environmental Biology, provided there are no follow up questions. He can be found mostly on Twitter for as long as that is still a thing. He lives in Dublin with his girlfriend and a Border Collie named Rio. Richy collects comic books and anxiety disorders.

**What happens when getting dead drunk causes the dead to appear?**

Danny Hook is a directionless twenty-something fresh out of therapy. Dealing with his disappointed family and dead-end career, he's sure things couldn't get much worse, until a drink-driving accident leaves his best friend Nudge dead and Danny hospitalised.

Danny also discovers he can see ghosts - but only when he's drunk. Saddled with a best friend who can't leave his side, they must figure out what's going on and why Nudge can't cross over.

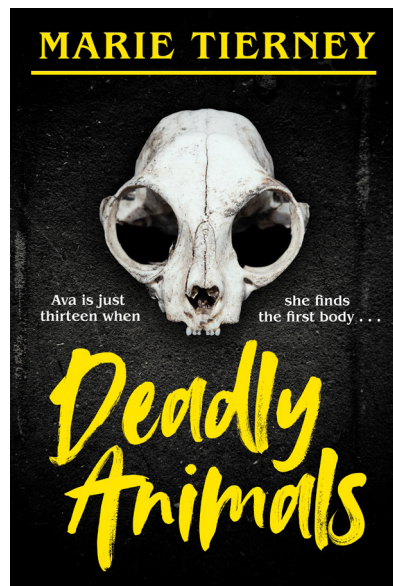
Can Danny negotiate family life, therapy and a ghost that refuses to fade into the background before time runs out?

Perfect for fans of Mike Gayle and Seamus O'Reilly.

Z

## Deadly Animals

### Marie Tierney



February 2024  
400 pp  
Crime/Thriller

#### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** US (under offer)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Luigi Bonomi

MARIE TIERNEY grew up in Birmingham and now lives in The Fens with her husband, son and two cats. *Deadly Animals* is her debut novel.

**Ava is just thirteen when she finds the first body . . .**

Thirteen-year-old Ava Bonney is unlike other children. Exceptionally bright, she has an obsessive interest in the rate at which dead animals decompose. The motorway she lives by regularly offers up roadkill, and in the dead of night Ava likes nothing better than to pull her latest discovery into her roadside den so she can study it.

But one night, as she arrives at the road, she stumbles across the dead body of fellow pupil, Mickey Grant.

DI Seth Delahaye is given the case – one of the darkest, most challenging of his career. He's worked some big cases before, though none like this.

But Ava is not the sort of person to step back and let someone else take charge when children like her are dying. And so she uses all her unusual skills and deep local knowledge to try to track down the serial killer in her community – whatever the cost.

This suspenseful debut has the heart of Belinda Bauer with the darkness of Mo Hayder.

*'A crime novel I wish I had written.'*

Lynda La Plante

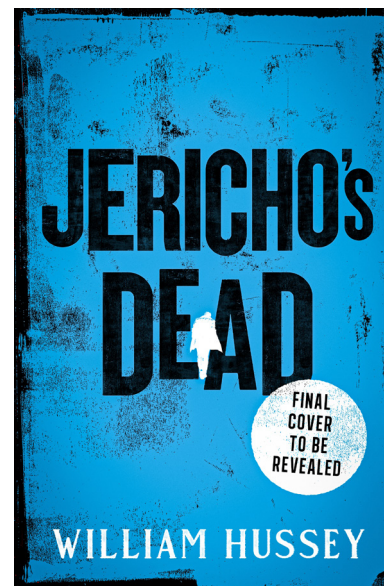
*'I found the writing crackling with energy and the story utterly mesmerizing [ . . . ] Huge talent.'*

Peter James

Z

## Jericho's Dead

### William Hussey



February 2024  
Crime/Thriller

DRAFT COVER

#### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
David Higham

WILLIAM HUSSEY is the award-winning author of over a dozen novels, including the Crime Fest award-nominated *Hideous Beauty* and *The Outrage*. Born the son of a travelling showman, he has spent a lifetime absorbing the history, folklore and culture of fairground people, knowledge he has now put to work in his Scott Jericho thrillers.

**Jericho is back, his thirst for justice remorseless.**

Former CID detective Scott Jericho is done with murder. Done with puzzles. Done with the dark rage that seems to haunt him.

That is until a vicious serial killer targets someone close to him.

But time is running out. Fortune tellers and psychics are being slaughtered and everything points to a link with a live TV event due to be broadcast on Halloween night. But what is the significance of the macabre wax effigies found at every crime scene? Why is celebrity psychic Darrel Everwood convinced he will die in four days time? And is Jericho's lover Harry really involved in the murders?

As a startling truth is revealed and an old enemy re-emerges, a murder beyond imagining is about to become the media event of the century . . .

The second novel in this groundbreaking series featuring crime fiction's very first Traveller detective.

*Praise for Killing Jericho:*

*'A tantalising glimpse of what promises to be a must-read series.'*

Janice Hallett (*The Appeal*)

*'One hell of a ride.'*

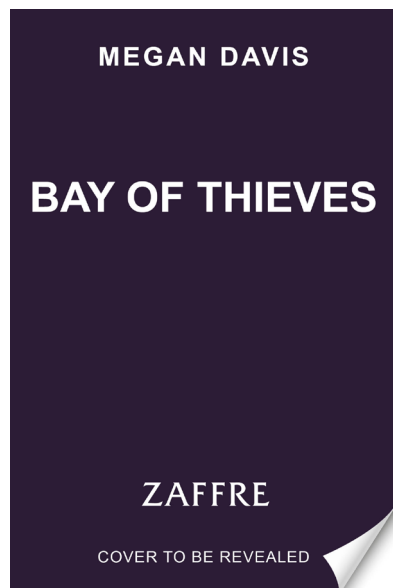
THE TIMES





## Bay of Thieves

Megan Davis



June 2024  
Crime/Thriller

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Rogers, Coleridge & White

MEGAN DAVIS has worked in the film industry and her credits include *Atonement*, *In Bruges*, *Pride and Prejudice* and the Bourne films. Megan is also a lawyer and is currently an associate at Spotlight on Corruption. Her debut *The Messenger* won the Bridport Prize for a First Novel in 2018 as well as the Lucy Cavendish Prize for unpublished writers in 2021.

**Amidst the opulence of the Côte D'Azur, crime doesn't always pay.**

Tired of her London life, Kate decides to follow in the footsteps of her charismatic friend Vanessa, who is living extravagantly among the elite in Monaco. She hopes that the colourful coastline and sparkling shores will herald an exciting new chapter. But, unknown to Kate, Vanessa is helping oligarchs conceal their wealth and taking increasingly perilous risks for her bullying boss.

When Vanessa's actions have an unexpected effect on her son, her life-long belief in putting money first is challenged. Meanwhile, Kate is deeply drawn under the corrupting influence of those around her. But what is she willing to do to keep the rich new life she has found?

*Bay of Thieves* explores the distorting power of wealth and its ability to destroy beliefs held over a lifetime.

Praise for *The Messenger*:

*'A sharply written, clever and classy thrill-ride through the streets of Paris.'*

Chris Whitaker (*We Begin at the End*)

*'A sleek, sinister debut.'*

WOMAN'S OWN



**Rights Sold for *The Messenger*:**  
US (Pegasus)

## The Beacon

P. A. Thomas



January 2024  
372 pp  
Crime/Thriller

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Shaw Literary

P. A. THOMAS studied medicine in Australia before specialist nuclear medicine training in the USA. He now works as a specialist at a public hospital in Brisbane. He is also a wilderness landscape photographer, has had many joint and solo exhibitions, and his images have appeared in Australian Geographic publications. He now lives in Byron Bay, the setting for his first novel, *The Beacon*.

**A newspaper editor is killed while surfing. Was it a freak accident at sea . . . or murder?**

Jack Harris, the disgraced son of Australia's most powerful business tycoon, has just been exiled to Byron Bay as a junior journalist at his father's smallest regional newspaper, *The Beacon*. His arrival coincides with the disappearance of the newspaper's editor, Patrick O'Shaughnessy, while out on his morning surf. When Patrick's body is discovered in the ocean, with a severed leg, it appears certain that he's fallen victim to a shark attack.

But when rumours emerge that Patrick was about to publish an explosive article – its subject unknown – Jack begins to suspect his death is not what it seems.

Although police aren't buying his murder theory, Jack joins forces with Patrick's daughter and investigates anyway, taking a sometimes less than lawful dive into the newspaperman's past. Together they discover plenty of Byron locals with a motive to kill, including a bioholistic dentist with a secret, a naturalist with an undisguised grudge, and even the mayor of Northern Rivers Shire. But has Jack bitten off more than he can chew?

Immensely entertaining, *The Beacon* is a murder mystery with a difference, bursting with humour, memorable characters and page-turning action.

# Z

## Bad Men Julie Mae Cohen



July 2023  
368 pp  
Thriller

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Germany (Heyne), Italy (Piemme), Israel (Keter), Romania (Flacara), Russia (Eksmo), US (Overlook)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Teresa Chris

JULIE MAE COHEN is the darker, funnier side of Julie Cohen – an award-winning, million-copy bestselling author. Her previous works have been translated into seventeen languages. *Bad Men* is her first thriller.

**It's a tough job, but someone's got to kill them . . .**

Saffy Huntley-Oliver is smart and rich . . . and in her spare time she's a serial killer. For the past fifteen years she's been hunting down and killing bad men: rapists, murderers, domestic abusers. But even Saffy has a heart. The problem is, it's hard to embark on a true romantic relationship when you're worried you may discover any minute that your boyfriend should be your next victim.

Having searched high and low, she's finally found a truly good man, one who even seems to share her "interests" and values. Jon Desrosiers is the creator of a hugely popular true-crime podcast investigating cold cases and helping bring murderers to justice . . . only in the traditional way. Well, no one is perfect.

So begins a tale of obsession as Saffy uses every trick in the book to get her man. When Jon becomes the suspect for a murder he didn't commit, Saffy is ready to up her game to find the truth and catch the real killer. And after all they go through, might Jon be the one who can finally understand and accept her true nature?

Even serial killers need a happily-ever-after . . .

Darkly funny, clever and outrageously provocative, this is *How To Kill Your Family* meets *Promising Young Woman*.

*'The feminist serial killer you didn't know you were waiting for [ . . . ] Sensational.'*

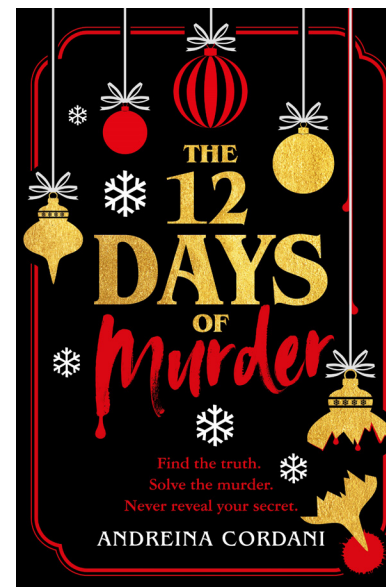
Claire Mackintosh

*'A delight on every page.'*

Erin Kelly

# Z

## The Twelve Days of Murder Andreina Cordani



October 2023  
384 pp  
Cosy Crime

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Hungary (Under offer), Italy (Newton Compton), Spain (Newton Compton), US (Pegasus)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Optioned by Brock Media

Before writing her first novel, ANDREINA CORDANI was a senior editor and writer for women's magazines including *Good Housekeeping* and *Cosmopolitan*. She is the author of two YA thrillers, *The Girl Who...* and *Dead Lucky*. *The Twelve Days of Murder* is her debut adult novel.

**Find the truth.  
Solve the murder.  
Never reveal your secret.**

Twelve years ago, eight friends ran an exclusive group at university: The Masquerade Murder Society. The mysteries they solved may have been grisly, but they were always fictional – until their final Christmas Masquerade, when one of the group disappeared, never to be seen again.

Now, the remaining members of the group receive an invitation to a reunion masquerade, to be held in a beautiful and remote hunting lodge in Scotland. When they arrive they are each assigned a new identity – they become Lady Patridge or Mr Gold; Lord Leapworth or Doctor Swan. The game begins, and it feels just like old times.

Until the next morning, when Lady Patridge is found hanging from a pear tree.

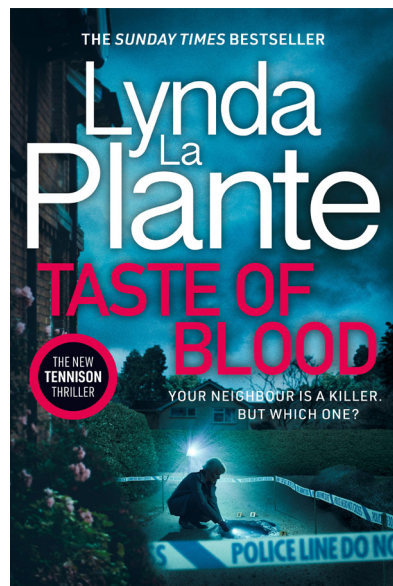
It quickly becomes clear that in this game, the murder will be all too real, and the story is bringing long-hidden secrets to the surface. If they hope to win the game and survive the twelve days until Christmas morning, then they will need to face the truth about their history together, who they have become – and what really happened on that fateful night twelve years ago?



Z

## Tennison Series

Over a million copies sold in the UK

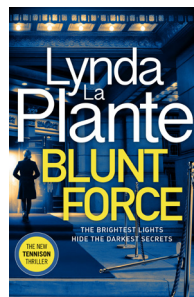
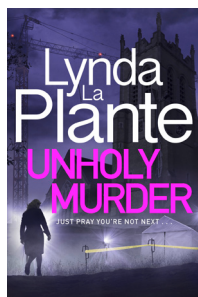
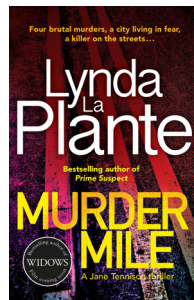
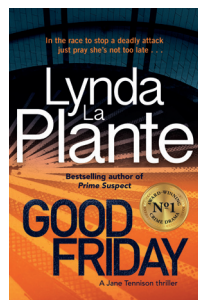


August 2023  
400 pp  
Crime/Thriller

### World Rights

**Rights Sold in Series:** Denmark  
(Superlux)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
La Plante Global



**Your neighbour is a  
killer . . . but which  
one?**

Jane Tennison was beginning to feel she'd made a big mistake. Having requested a transfer to a station nearer her home, she's now wondering if any serious crimes are ever committed in Bromley. Especially since the first case she's assigned to involves nothing more dramatic than an altercation between neighbours over a disputed property boundary.

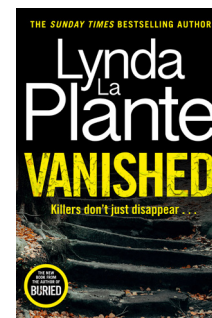
Jane's new boss wants her to wrap up the enquiry as quickly as possible, but something doesn't add up. Why was Martin Boon so adamant that David Caplan shouldn't install a new set of gates when they wouldn't encroach on his own property?

Against her boss's orders, Jane decides to dig deeper, and soon uncovers a trove of dark secrets in sleepy Clarendon Court involving a tragic death and a forbidden love affair. As Tennison hunts for the missing piece of evidence that will identify a vicious killer, she knows that this case will either make her career - or break it.

Z

## Lynda La Plante

### Sunday Times Bestselling Detective Jack Warr Crime Series



Over 950,000 copies sold in the UK

April 2020 / April 2021 / March 2022  
/ March 2023  
448 pp / 320 pp / 448 pp / 400 pp  
Crime/Thriller

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** France (L'Archipel)  
Romania (Crime Scene Press),  
Serbia (Publik Praktikum)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
La Plante Global

LYNDA LA PLANTE was born in Liverpool. She trained for the stage at RADA and worked with the National Theatre and RSC before becoming a television actress. She then turned to writing - and made her breakthrough with the phenomenally successful TV series *Widows*. With 37 bestselling novels, over 5 million copies sold in the UK alone, and a place in crime writing Hall of Fame, Lynda is truly crime fiction royalty.

**The latest Detective Jack Warr thriller from the Queen of Crime Drama.**

It was supposed to be a simple case: a young man arrested for armed assault. But it was just the beginning.

As Rodney Middleton awaits trial, Detective Jack Warr is warned by his mentor DCI Ridley that they have only scratched the surface of the man's crimes. Then DCI Ridley is suddenly removed from his post. No one is to contact him - and no one will say why.

As Warr digs into Rodney's past, Ridley calls pleading for help, now accused of a murder he insists he didn't commit. One of these men is a true monster, an evil soul. But which?

And what awaits Warr if he discovers the truth?

*'Lynda La Plante practically invented the thriller.'*

Karin Slaughter

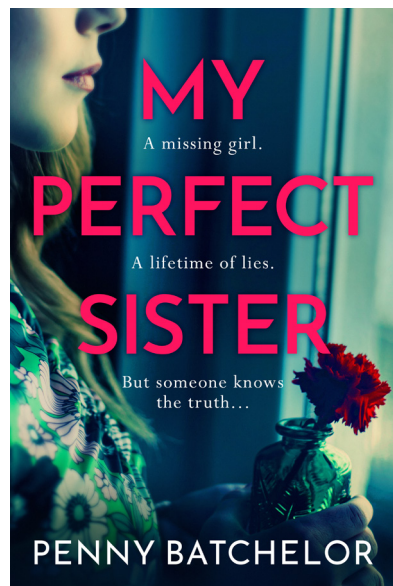
*'The UK's most celebrated female crime author.'*

DAILY MAIL



# My Perfect Sister

Penny Batchelor



April 2023  
272 pp  
Crime/Thriller

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

PENNY BATCHELOR is an alumna of the Faber Academy 'Writing a Novel' course. *My Perfect Sister* is her first novel.

**Annie is five when her beloved big sister leaves for school and is never seen again.**

The police search for weeks and Annie never gives up hope that Gemma will one day come home to her.

Now, twenty years after her sister mysteriously vanished, Annie returns to her childhood home to care for her ill mother. Opening the door to Gemma's room, Annie finds it untouched from the day her sister disappeared, with her make up still on the dresser and her books open on her bed.

Annie is certain that the answers to what happened to Gemma are here in her old room. But in the search to finally find Gemma, will Annie discover her perfect sister is not who she thought she was? And will her quest for answers put her in deadly danger?

Someone knows the truth. And they will do anything to stop Annie from finding it . . .

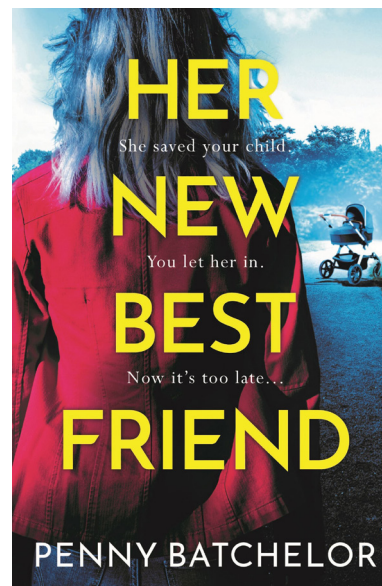
An absolutely gripping psychological thriller about the dark secrets that lurk behind closed doors. Perfect for fans of K.L Slater, Sue Watson and Shalini Boland.

**Longlisted for The Guardian's *Not the Booker Prize***



# Her New Best Friend

Penny Batchelor



May 2023  
272 pp  
Crime/Thriller

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

**She saved your child. You let her in. Now it's too late . . .**

Mum-of-two Audrey is horrified when during a moment of distraction in the park, her pram with baby Wilfred in it rolls down the hill and into a pond. Fortunately for her, Claire Jones is nearby and rescues Wilfred, soothing Audrey and daughter Antonia with coffee and cake in a nearby café. No harm is done.

However, the frightening experience dents Audrey's confidence and she replays the events over and over, convinced she can't have forgotten to put the brake on. To make matters worse she keeps spotting a shadowy figure everywhere she goes and becomes sure that someone is stalking her.

As Claire and Audrey grow closer, Audrey couldn't want for more from her new best friend. But when tragedy strikes for a second time, Audrey discovers that Claire wasn't who she thought it was . . . and now it's far too late . . .

A twisting tale of intrigue and deception – and of what happens when your worst nightmare comes true.

For readers of Ashley Audrain's *The Push*.





## The Italian Bookshop Among the Vines Amanda Weinberg



April 2023  
352 pp  
Historical Fiction

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

AMANDA WEINBERG studied Modern Languages at the University of East Anglia, followed by a PGCE at King's College London. She lives in London with her family and spends a lot of time in Pitigliano, Italy, the setting for the village of Monterini in the novel. Her debut novel is inspired by true events in the Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna areas.

**An absolutely gripping and heartbreaking WWII historical novel inspired by true events.**

In a secluded Italian village, Jewish and Catholic families live side by side. As the storm clouds of war gather, everyone will have to make a heart-breaking choice to save the lives of those they love . . .

Bella's Jewish family has run the local bookshop in her village for generations, sheltered by the olive groves and the purple vineyards surrounding it. On Bella's wedding day war is declared and Italy, like the rest of Europe, is plunged into deadly turmoil.

Orphaned Jewish children from Nazi occupied territories arrive in the village seeking refuge and Bella knows she must do everything she can to keep them safe. Her neighbours also take up the fight and the children are welcomed with open arms.

But when German soldiers arrive in the village, everyone is suddenly in terrible danger. Her father is forced to close the bookshop and go into hiding. Bella cannot bring herself to leave their home among the vines or abandon the children she has sworn to protect. She will fight for the home and the people she loves even if she must pay the ultimate price.

An unforgettable story of the courage of ordinary people in the darkest days of war. Inspired by real events, this is a perfect read for fans of Kate Quinn and Pam Jenoff.

# Z

## Secrets of Malta Cecily Blench



February 2024  
400 pp  
Historical Fiction

**DRAFT COVER**

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

CECILY BLENCH won the The Wilbur and Niso Smith Unpublished Author Award for her first novel, *The Long Journey Home*. She worked for an independent publisher for several years and is now a freelance writer and editor. *Secrets of Malta* is her second novel.

**Can two very different women unite to uncover the truth?**

Malta, 1943. The war in the air above Malta is over, but the battle for Europe is about to begin.

Margarita, a young singer in a Valletta nightclub, has not seen her former British lover Henry Dunn since breaking off their affair. His wife Vera, an enigmatic archaeologist, arrives at the club to tell her that Henry has disappeared, presumed dead, possibly at the hands of a notorious and dangerous spy, Nero.

As an unlikely bond develops between the two women, and strange secrets emerge, an urgent quest to unmask Nero starts - before he can enact a deadly plan and turn the tide of the war.

Full of suspense, courage and love, this is a stunningly written story about two extraordinary women, a world at war and a race against time.

Praise for *The Long Journey Home*:

*'Evocative and atmospheric.'*

Wilbur Smith

*'A sweeping historical fiction masterpiece.'*

MY WEEKLY





# Last Chance in Paris

Lynda Marron

**A funny, moving and above all life-affirming story of a make-or-break trip to Paris by an Irish couple following a tragedy.**

When her husband, Ronan, whisks her off for a romantic break in Paris, Claire should be delighted, but she'd rather be anywhere else. Still suffering from the loss of her stillborn baby nine months ago, she is afraid her marriage will be the next thing to die. Meanwhile Ronan's reasons for escaping their Cork home include more than simply comforting his wife.

Hollywood film producer Harry is on a bucket list trip to see the city of light. He's made many mistakes in his life, but the biggest was losing his wife, Nancy. Could the charm of Paris win her back?

In the iconic Parisian bookshop of Shakespeare and Co., American student Dan can't concentrate on his studies. He's too busy thinking of the new-found love of his life, blue-haired waitress Noémie. Can he really sacrifice his future as a lawyer for this bewitching French girl?

A series of events weave these lovable characters together as their stories become part of the tapestry of Paris, a city that comes alive on these pages.



February 2024 DRAFT COVER  
288 pp  
Women's Fiction

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Papercuts Literary

LYNDA MARRON graduated from University College Cork in the 90s with two degrees in microbiology. However, her dream was to write a novel, so she opted for the Life Experience Creative Writing Course, which included teaching English, administrative work for a GP surgery, writing for an online bookseller, and a voracious reading habit. *Last Chance in Paris* is her debut novel.

# Z

# A New Life in the Château

Sarah Long

**La vie en rose begins at 50!**

Nicole and her friends are living the dream. No dull, tedious retirement for them - instead the nine friends have clubbed together to purchase a magnificent (if crumbling) château in Normandy. And after three years of shared dinners, fine wine and gorgeous scenery, they have finally settled into a routine. True, not everything has gone to plan. They're one older resident down - and several younger residents up. Will and Fizz's new baby, Louis, fills the house with life, and when Nicole's daughter Maddie and her family arrive, they are welcomed into the fold.

But money for the upkeep of the château soon runs low, so, the make-shift family decide to take in lodgers. The arrival of visitors brings a welcome new dynamic to their community, and one particular guest, the charming and intriguing artist Apolline Granger, draws them all in - with unexpected consequences.

How long can they keep living *la vie en rose*?

A hilarious and feel-good escapist novel about friendship and new beginnings. Perfect for fans of Jo Thomas, Cathy Bramley and Veronica Henry.



April 2024  
Women's Fiction

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Aitken Alexander

SARAH LONG is a London-based author of three previously published commercial fiction novels and one hilarious memoir about her ten years living in Paris. Her books have sold over 100,000 copies.

Praise for *Invisible Women*:

'A treat.'

BOOKBRUNCH

'Book of the week.'

WOMAN'S WEEKLY



## Winter's Wishfall

Ceri Houlbrook



October 2023  
334 pp  
Seasonal Romance

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Julie Crisp

CERI HOULBROOK is a Folklore and History Lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire. *Winter's Wishfall* is her debut novel and combines her academic interests with her love of magical realism and creative writing.

**The perfect Christmas rom-com – with just a little hint of magic . . .**

After losing her job and boyfriend just a few weeks before Christmas, Ellie Lancaster makes some resolutions:

1. Exact revenge on ex.
2. Be unboring.
3. Find a job.

With item 1 complete, Ellie manages to tick off 2 and 3 simultaneously by accepting a mysterious archiving job on a tiny Scottish Island that doesn't seem to exist on any map.

In the new year, her equally new bosses – celebrity baker Clementine Jones and her straight-laced brother Cole – introduce Ellie to the archives: a vast network of underground caverns, filled with scrolls dating back centuries, each addressed to the same person, in a multitude of languages: *Dear Father Christmas* . . .

Despite the strangeness of it all, Ellie quickly falls in love with the island and her life there – but life is never simple, and just as she and Cole seem to be overcoming their mutual distrust, Ellie makes a fourth resolution – one that threatens everything she's come to hold dear. As the big day itself draws near, she has one chance to put things right and bring about her own Christmas miracle.

*'A heart-warming, magical story, bright with festive folklore and kindness, perfect to cosy up with this winter.'*  
Sophie Anderson (*The House with Chicken Legs*)

## Z

## Small Acts of Kindness

Caroline Day



March 2024  
416 pp  
Women's Fiction

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Lutyens & Rubinstein

CAROLINE DAY previously worked as a freelance journalist for national magazines and newspapers. She has now turned her hand to fiction. Her debut novel, *Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life*, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller and won the Joan Hessayon Award for New Writers.

**Friendship can bloom in the unlikelyst of places . . .**

Kiki grew up in New Zealand, dreaming of one day going to the UK's biggest music festival, Glastonbury. Now, mourning the loss of her beloved Yaya – the woman who raised her – she travels to England to realise that dream. It is only when she leaves home, that she realises just how sheltered her life has been up until now.

Ned lives an active and exciting life. Well, he did until the accident. Now, he's woken from his coma, but no one knows. He can hear everything happening around him, but can't get his body to respond.

Mourning the loss of her best friend and the only person who knew how difficult her marriage was, Mrs Malley finds herself lonely and isolated with only her dog, Wordsworth, to keep her company.

All needing a bit of kindness in their lives, this beautifully poignant novel highlights the power of human connection.

An uplifting novel of love, friendship and found family for fans of *The People on Platform 5* by Clare Pooley.



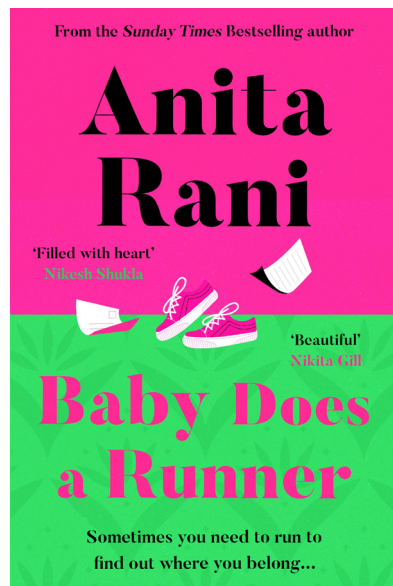
**Rights Sold for *Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life*:**

Albania (Living),  
France (L'Archipel),  
Germany (Piper)

Z

# Baby Does A Runner

Anita Rani



July 2023  
336 pp  
Women's Fiction

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Curtis Brown

Award-winning presenter ANITA RANI is one of the most recognisable faces on British TV and is well-known for her work for the BBC, Channel 4, and most recently, Netflix. Her memoir, *The Right Sort of Girl* made it to the *Sunday Times* Bestseller list. This is her debut novel.

**Sometimes you need to run to find out where you really belong.**

Baby Saul has had it with just about everything. She's fed up with her job and her colleagues, her love life is permanently casual, and underpinning everything is the grief of losing her much-loved dad. Oh, and if the aunties don't stop asking her when she's going to settle down and start having babies, she might just lose it.

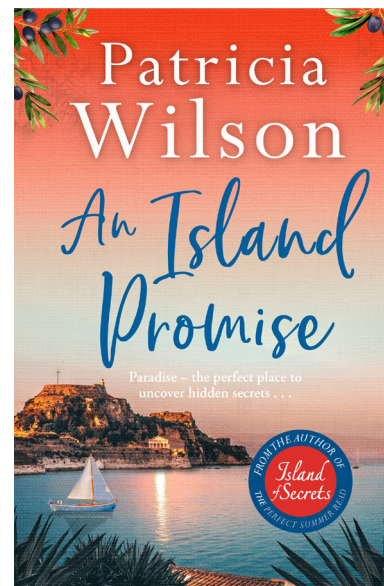
When she finds some love letters between her grandfather and someone who is very clearly *not* her grandmother, Baby realises that she needs to know more. She heads to India to do some detective work on this mysterious other woman . . . and to find out a bit more about herself along the way. What she doesn't bargain for is Sid, her guide (and unwilling driver) being annoyingly handsome, with a knack for asking Baby the sort of questions that force her to look at what she really wants out of life.

A vibrant journey of self-discovery through uncovering lost family history, this is perfect for readers of Sandhya Menon, Sara Nisha Adams and Sara Cox.

Z

# An Island Promise

Patricia Wilson



April 2023  
432 pp  
Women's Fiction

**World Rights**

**Previous Rights Sold:** Arabic, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Israel, Norway, Romania, Serbia

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

PATRICIA WILSON was born in Liverpool, has lived on Crete and is now settled on Rhodes. She was first inspired to write when she unearthed a rusted machine gun in her garden – one used in the events that unfolded during World War II on the island of Crete. The now elderly women involved in those events told Patricia their story, and her celebrated debut *Island of Secrets* was the result.

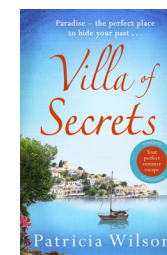
**Paradise – the perfect place to uncover hidden secrets . . .**

During the Nazi occupation of Athens, Daphne, a young Greek Jewish artist, finds her life suddenly under threat. She's in love with her Austrian art teacher, and together they must risk it all to escape his cousin, an SS officer. Pursued across Greece, their journey leads them to the island of Corfu.

In 2023, Flora has travelled to Corfu and begins painting the portrait of her charismatic grandmother Daphne, who is approaching her 100th birthday. During the sittings, Daphne recounts her love story and the story of a valuable piece of art from her youth, a masterpiece which bought her freedom but cost her everything she held dear.

Will Flora discover more than she expects as she explores the island her family took refuge on?

With her track record of over 400,000 copies sold, Patricia Wilson returns with a sweeping historical novel full of hope, intrigue and love.





# The Shadow King

Harry Sidebottom



November 2023  
416 pp  
Historical Adventure

## World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Italy (under offer), Spain (under offer)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
United Agents

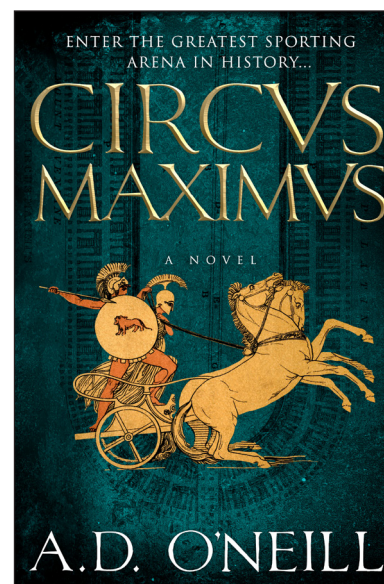
HARRY SIDEBOTTOM teaches Ancient History at Oxford University. His career as a novelist began with his *Warrior of Rome* series, which has sold over half a million copies. *The Shadow King* is his fifteenth novel, and his first set in Ancient Greece.

**For a king to rise, Alexander the Great must fall. The epic new standalone from one of our best-loved historical fiction authors.**

Alexander of Macedon was just twenty years old in 334BC when he set out with a small army to challenge Persia, the largest and most powerful empire in the world. The Macedonians marched East into the unknown, won battles against overwhelming odds and stormed impregnable fortresses. In the deserts and mountains between the Aegean and India they conquered nature itself. Yet disaster was never more than a sword stroke away. Alexander's companions were riven with murderous rivalries, their loyalty contingent. The threat of treason, inspired by ambition and Persian gold, or by honour and principle, was ever present.

*The Shadow King* tells this epic story from a new and unique angle through the eyes of another Alexander, a prince of the Macedonian royal house of Lyncestis. The Lyncestian was Alexander the Great's general and friend. But he was torn between that friendship and the duty to avenge his murdered brothers, and between adherence to the ways of his ancestors and the new world of empire. The Lyncestian was never safe. Others - Persians and Greeks, as well as Macedonians - saw him as a rival for the throne. For six years of conspiracy and battle, as the Macedonian army fought its way East, his life hung by a thread.

Alexander of Lyncestis was *The Shadow King*.



March 2024 DRAFT COVER  
Historical Adventure

## World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Inkwell Management

A.D. O'NEILL is the author of seven novels that altogether have been published in seventeen languages. His titles include *The Lamplighter*, *The Dark Side* and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Seek*. Three of his books have been optioned by Hollywood.

# Circus Maximus

A. D. O'Neill

**Enter the greatest sporting arena in history - the Circus Maximus.**

A.D. 69. As a mob of 150,000 Roman citizens watches on, Corax of Campania (a.k.a "the Raven") and the flamboyant and cocksure Alector of Arcadia (a.k.a "the Rooster") - champions of the Green Faction - fight for supremacy during the final races of the Plebeian Games.

Over the previous decades these once friends and now bitter rivals rose to prominence as they competed in the bloodstained arena. Now, they must leave everything to fate in order to gain ultimate power and determine not just their own destiny but that of Rome itself.

This epic adventure blends history, imagination and a thirst for adrenaline to uncover one of the greatest rivalries of all time, played out in the greatest sporting arena in history.

Praise for the author:

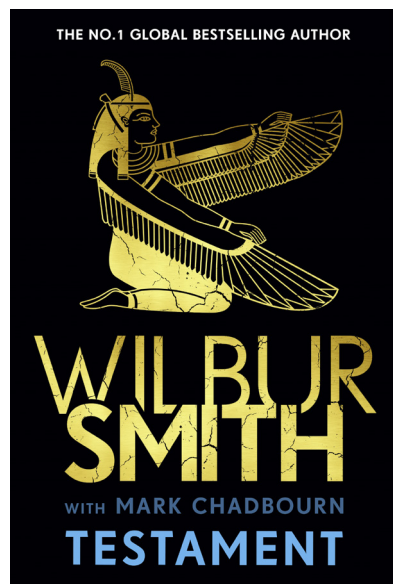
*'The most ingenious author I know.'*

THE GUARDIAN

Z

## Testament

Wilbur Smith



August 2023  
464 pp  
Historical Adventure

### World Rights

#### Rights Sold for the Series:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, USA

#### Television & Film Rights:

Tibor Jones

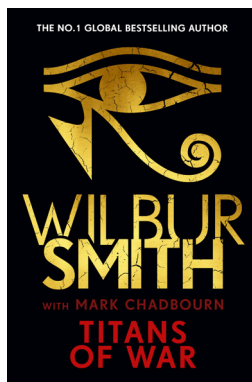
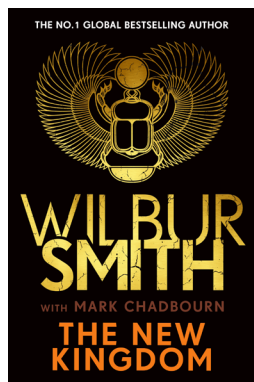
WILBUR SMITH is a worldwide phenomenon and one of the most successful novelists of our time. He is the author of over 40 international bestsellers during a 5-decade career, with sales of over 130 million books in twenty-six languages.

**In the ruins of battle, a hero must rise for the glory of Egypt.**

Years of Hyksos rule have seen the plunder of once-mighty Egypt. Though the two kingdoms have now been reunited by the armies of the true Pharaoh, his position is perilous, his rule under threat from those who seek to take advantage of the turmoil created by the overthrow of the Hyksos. Desperate to keep Egypt united, Taita the Magus summons his protégé, Piay, to solve a millennia-old riddle which has the power to secure Egypt's future forever.

But in the tumult of war, an evil has thrived. Malevolent followers of Seth, the god of chaos, are determined to claim this power and usher in a new age of darkness.

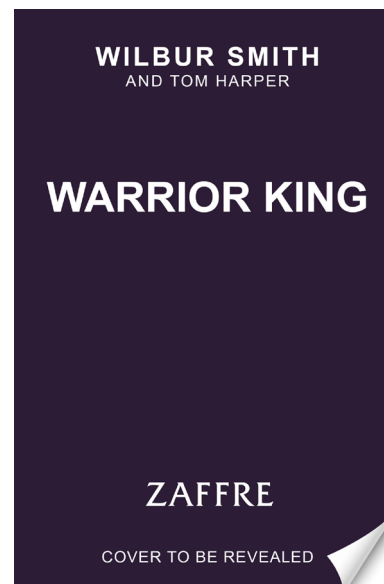
The fate of Egypt is at stake. Can Piay prevent their land falling into the hands of those who would see its ruin?



Z

## Warrior King

Wilbur Smith



April 2024  
480 pp  
Historical Adventure

### World Rights

#### Television & Film Rights:

Tibor Jones

**A tale of shipwrecks, sacrifice, and the unbreakable human spirit in the newest instalment of the Courtney series.**

South Africa, 1820. When Ann Waite discovers a shipwreck in Algoa Bay she is stunned to find survivors: a scarred sailor and a little boy. As the man walks away into the distance alone, Ann is left to raise the young child, Harry, in place of the baby she tragically lost at sea.

Disaster and hardship befall Ann and Harry, and desperation drives them into the path of the mysterious shipwrecked man once more. Ralph Courtney has recently escaped Robben Island with two fellow prisoners and is destined to seek his fortune at Nativity Bay, the fabled place about which his father told him stories.

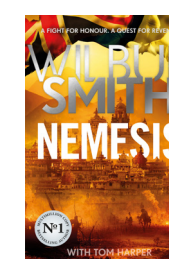
But far from being a land of paradise, Ralph, Ann and their fellow settlers find themselves facing unfamiliar challenges. It isn't long before they learn their new home borders the Zulu kingdom, where the warrior king Shaka's empire spans the continent. When Ralph encounters King Shaka, it is only the beginning of a daring new adventure of loyalty and survival.

*'Best historical novelist.'*

Stephen King

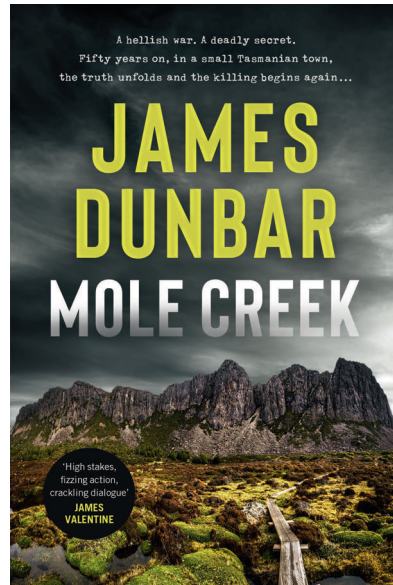
*'Wilbur Smith is one of those benchmarks against whom others are compared.'*

THE TIMES



## Mole Creek

James Dunbar



August 2023  
352 pp  
Crime/Thriller

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Curtis Brown (Australia)

JAMES DUNBAR is a journalist, television scriptwriter, travel writer, university lecturer and website editor. *Mole Creek* is his first venture into the serious crime thriller and espionage genre. Published under Jimmy Thomson, he is also the author of two crime 'caper' novels and two true-crime memoirs, as well as several books about Australian army engineers (sappers) during the Vietnam War.

### Betrayal cannot be buried forever.

In the tiny Tasmanian town of Mole Creek, retired Australian cop and Vietnam veteran Pete McAuslan has retreated to his fishing cabin to write his memoirs. In Sydney, his grandson, journalist and trashy true crime author Xander, learns that Pete has taken his own life, begging forgiveness in a suicide note.

Arriving in Mole Creek in the aftermath of Pete's death, Xander discovers that his grandfather's laptop is missing. He begins to suspect that something is wrong, refusing to accept the facts as presented. With the local police not interested in investigating an apparently open-and-shut suicide, Xander sets about uncovering the truth of what happened to his grandfather.

In the process, he discovers long-buried secrets from Pete's time serving in the Vietnam war: secrets that Pete has withheld from him and everyone else for fifty years; secrets that powerful people would prefer to stay buried.

Ensnared in a web of betrayals that began a generation before, Xander finds himself on the hitlist of a clinically violent assassin. Now he must race to identify the connection between the seemingly unremarkable death of an old Australian soldier and the imminent reactivation of the most powerful and potentially destructive 'sleeper' in the history of espionage – before the truth catches up with him.

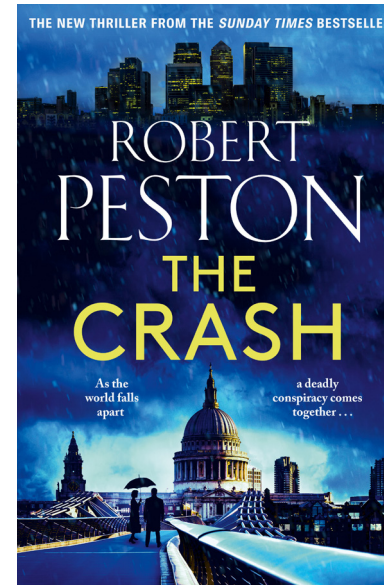
*'High stakes, fizzing action, crackling dialogue.'*

James Valentine

## Z

## The Crash

Robert Peston



September 2023  
400 pp  
Political Thriller

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Curtis Brown

ROBERT PESTON is one of the UK's top political correspondents, presenter of politics show 'Peston', founder of the education charity, Speakers for Schools and vice president of charity Hospice UK. He has written four critically acclaimed non-fiction books and has won more than 30 awards for his journalism, including Journalist of the Year and Scoop of the Year from the Royal Television Society. His debut novel and *Sunday Times* bestseller *The Whistleblower* has sold over 100,000 copies.

### As the world falls apart, a deadly conspiracy comes together . . .

London, 2007. The economy is booming, profits are up and the stock market sits near record highs. But journalist Gil Peck is a lone voice worrying it can't last. Deep in the plumbing of the financial system, he has noticed strange things happening which could threaten the whole economy. Nobody wants to hear it: not the politicians taking credit for an end to boom and bust, not the bankers pocketing vast bonuses, not even Gil's bosses at the BBC, who think it's irrelevant.

But then Gil gets a tip-off that a small northern bank has run out of money, everything changes. His report sparks the first run on a UK bank in 140 years. The next day, Marilyn Krol, a director of the Bank of England dies in an apparent suicide.

For Gil, it's personal. Marilyn was his lover: was his scoop connected to her suicide? Or is there something more sinister in her death? Gil is determined to find out.

The more he investigates, the more he is drawn into the rotten heart of the financial system, where old school ties and secret societies lubricate vast and illegal conflicts of interest. The whole economy has been built on a house of cards, and Gil is threatening to bring it down.

For readers of Robert Harris and Tom Bradby.

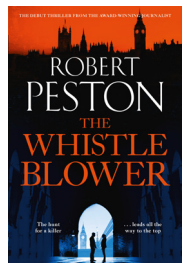
Praise for *The Whistleblower*:

*'Brilliant.'*

THE TIMES

*'A hell of a read.'*

THE OBSERVER

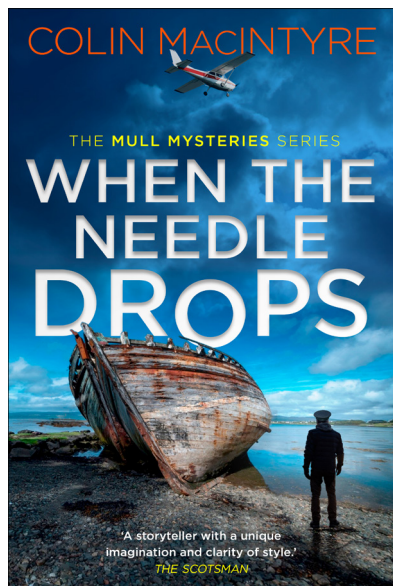






# When the Needle Drops

## Colin MacIntyre



May 2024  
288 pp  
Crime/Thriller

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

COLIN MACINTYRE is a multi-award-winning musician, producer, author for adults and children, and playwright. His debut novel, *The Letters of Ivor Punch*, won the 2015 Edinburgh International Book Festival First Book Award and was shortlisted for The Guardian's Not the Booker Prize

**A sinister plot is unfolding, holding the Isle of Mull in its grip.**

1998. Sergeant Ivor Punch receives a frantic call about a missing pilot and plane. He has vanished without a trace after taking off, impromptu and alone, in a Cessna Needle from the airfield of a local hotel.

This strange incident takes places on the tenth anniversary of the death of Punch's brother. Now aged 45, Punch is a loner who survives on a diet of whisky and *The Faces* vinyls, and the last thing he needs is to be reminded of the past.

Then a body is found, propped up on a hillside - but no plane in sight. To make matters even more frustrating, Punch must entertain an overly-keen and bureaucratic new deputy, PC Cluny, despatched from Head Office. Then a little girl, Iris, goes missing, and soon after another body is found.

When effigies start appearing around the island, all the evidence starts to point back to the start - to the elusive Maggie May and that first phone call to Sergeant Punch . . .

Based on the perplexing and unsolved case of the Great Mull Air Mystery.

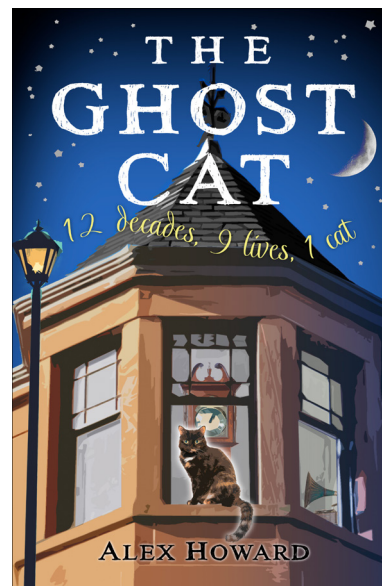
*'A storyteller with a unique imagination and clarity of style.'*

THE SCOTSMAN



# The Ghost Cat

## Alex Howard



May 2023  
304 pp  
Historical Fiction

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** US (Hanover Press)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Reserved to the Author

ALEX HOWARD is an author, editor and theatre professional from Edinburgh. A doctoral graduate of English literature, he wrote his first book *Library Cat* while completing his PhD, which won the People's Book Prize in 2017. Alex also writes poetry, which has been published in *New Writing Scotland*, *Gutter* and *The London Magazine*, among others, and his academic book *Larkin's Travelling Spirit* was published in 2021 (Palgrave MacMillan). His TikTok page, @housedoctoralex, has nearly 300,000 followers.

**Twelve decades, nine lives, one cat.**

Early morning, 1902. In a gloomy Edinburgh tenement, Eilidh the charlady tips coal into a fire grate and sets it alight. Overhearing, a cat ambles over to curl up against the welcome heat.

This is to be the cat's last day on earth. But he is going to return . . . as *The Ghost Cat*, a spirit-feline destined to live out his ghostly existence according to the medieval proverb of "The Cat with Nine Lives" - For Three He Plays, For Three He Strays, For Three He Stays.

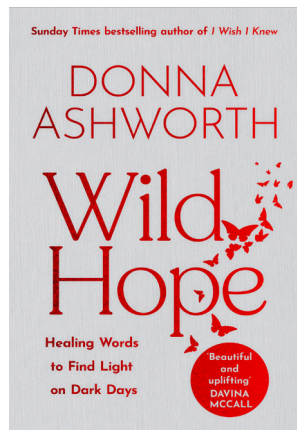
Follow the Ghost Cat as he witnesses the changes of the next two centuries, purring, shuffling and sniffing his way through the fashion, politics and technological advances of the modern era alongside the ever-changing inhabitants of an Edinburgh tenement. As we follow our new spirit-feline friend, this unique story unearths some startling revelations about the mystery of existence and the human condition and provides a feel-good read full of charm for any fan of history, humour and fur-ridden fun.



**Rights Sold for Library Cat:**  
France (Bragelonne),  
Italy (Garzanti),  
South Korea (Woongjin Thing Big)

## Donna Ashworth

### Wild Hope



**Healing words to find light on dark days from the UK's #1 poet.**

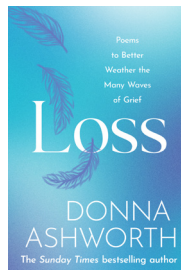
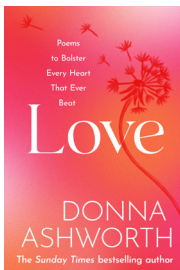
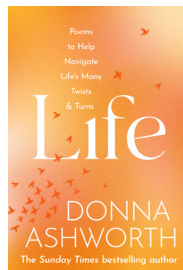
A powerful new collection of wisdom to help us find hope, peace, self-acceptance and inspiration on the days we feel worn down, helpless or sad. Written with love and understanding, Donna reminds us that amidst our daily struggles and constant outpourings of bad news we have so much to hope for, and that every one of us can play a part, big or small, in making the world a better place.

**Publication:** September 2023

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** US (Mango Publishing)

### Life, Love & Loss



**Publication:** October 2022

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** France (Hachette)

**Over 150,000 copies sold.**

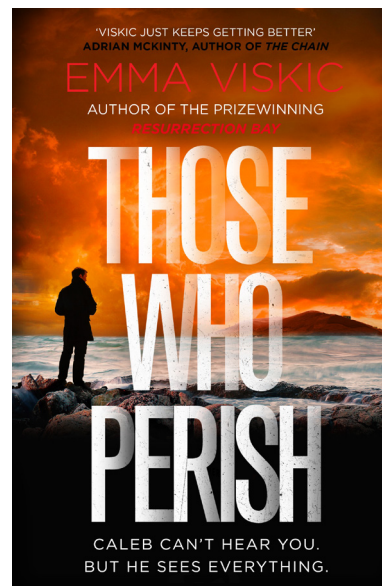
**Poetry collections with something for everyone.**

All-encompassing, honest and relatable, *Life*, *Love* and *Loss* is a three-volume poetry collection which will resonate with anyone who has experienced the joy and heartbreak that travel alongside being a parent, child, partner or friend.

For anyone in need of words of wisdom or a moment of calm, Donna sheds light on the beauty in small pleasures and explores our relationships with the unique sincerity and perception that is the hallmark of her poetry.

## Emma Viskic

**Resurrection Bay / And Fire Came Down / Darkness for Light / Those Who Perish**



September 2015 / August 2017 /  
December 2019 / March 2022  
Crime/Thriller

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:**

Canada (Pushkin), Czech Republic (Grada), France (Seuil), Germany (Piper), The Netherlands (Luitingh Sijthoff), Norway (Kagge), Poland (Muza), Romania (RAO), US (Pushkin)

**Television & Film Rights:**

Fred & Bob Films

EMMA VISKIC has won an unprecedented number of awards for her debut novel *Resurrection Bay*. In order to write the character of Caleb Zelic, Emma learned Auslan (Australian sign language).



**All he trusts is betrayal.**

Deaf since early childhood, Caleb Zelic has always lived on the outside, estranged from family and friends. Then one night his addict brother Anton reappears, begging for help. A man has been murdered and it looks as though Anton will be next. Caleb vows that this time he won't let his brother down. Together, they return to the wind-punished island where Anton has been seeking treatment from a controlling doctor with a troubling past. There, Caleb finds an isolated community where secrets run deep and resentments deeper.

As Caleb hunts for the killer, any misstep will ruin his tentative reconciliation with Anton. And when body parts begin to wash up on shore, it looks as though the killer is growing more desperate. With storms pounding the coast, the brothers must rely on each other to survive.

But trust comes at a deadly price in the final book in the Caleb Zelic series . . .

**Winner of the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction and of three Davitt Awards: Best Adult Novel (twice), Best Debut and Readers' Choice.**

**Shortlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger and the CWA John Creasy Award for New Blood.**



## Virtual Strangers

Sam Canning



**Do you believe in love at first type?**

Two people. One desk. A million Zoom calls. What could go wrong?

Ada is torn between her new friend Fraser and fan-fic forum correspondent Myster-E. But can you have real feelings for someone when you're virtual strangers?

They're putting the *hot* into hot desking. A modern *You've Got Mail* meets *The Flatshare* with a dash of *When Harry met Sally*.

*'Funny, sweet, and full of warmth.'*

Beth Reekles

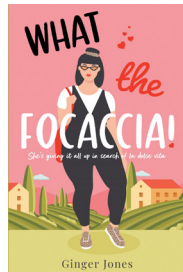
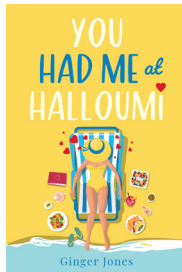
**Publication:** February 2023

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Brazil (Ciranda Cultural), Bulgaria (Era), Russia (Eksmo)

## You Had Me at Halloumi & What the Focaccia!

Ginger Jones



**Publication:** April 2022 / May 2023

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Poland (Kobiece), Russia (MTS)

**Escape to the enchanting Mediterranean as you dive into these delightful romcoms.**

Discover the captivating stories of Freya and Ramona as they chase their dreams against the picturesque backdrops of Cyprus and Italy.

With a dash of humor, a pinch of passion, and a generous helping of mouthwatering dishes, these heartwarming tales will leave you craving more. Get ready to laugh, swoon, and savour the perfect blend of romance and culinary delights in this irresistible series.

## Reputation

Lex Croucher



**Mean Girls meets Bridgerton in this historical rom-com for the modern woman.**

Abandoned by her parents, middle-class Georgiana Ellers has moved to a new town to live with her dreary aunt and uncle. When she meets the enigmatic France Campbell, Georgiana is introduced to a new world of drunken debauchery and mysterious young men with strangely arresting hands. But the price of entry to high society might just be higher than she is willing to pay . . .

**Shortlisted for BookTok Author of the Year 2023**

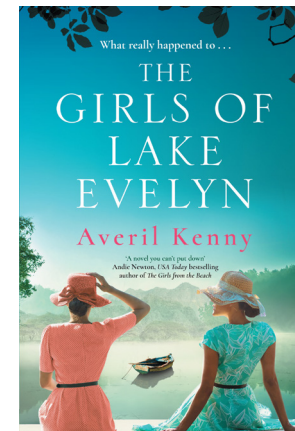
**Publication:** July 2021

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, US

## The Girls of Lake Evelyn

Averil Kenny



**A irresistible story of mystery, love and small-town secrets.**

Vivienne George finds refuge in a secluded lodge in tropical North Queensland after fleeing her high-society wedding. She befriends the lively Josie and discovers a dark history in the town: a curse linked to the tragic death of actress Celeste Starr. As Josie decides to stage a play about Celeste's death, unsettling events unfold, leading Vivienne on a quest to escape her past and free the girls of Lake Evelyn from the haunting curse.



**Rights Sold for Those Hamilton Sisters:**

Germany (Goldmann)  
Norway (Kagge)  
Sweden (Louise Backelin)



## The Launch Party

Lauren Forry



**Is this once-in-a-lifetime trip worth dying for?**

One hotel. Ten guests. How many will survive?

Perfect for fans of Lucy Foley, Anthony Horowitz and Hanna Jameson. Agatha Christie meets Andy Weir in this ultimate locked room mystery set on the first hotel on the moon.

*'And Then There Were None meets Black Mirror. Lauren Forry's moon-based murder mystery is heaps of fun!'*

Tom Hindle (A Fatal Crossing)

**Publication:** June 2023

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Croatia (Stilus), US Audio (Tantor)

## The Accident

Katie McMahon



**Can we really let go of the past?**

Grace, Zoe and Imogen are three women whose worlds are linked by unseen connections to friends, family and lovers. In this psychological drama, set in contemporary Hobart, they move inexorably towards an event that will change them all forever.

This is an insightful exploration of the ways our formative years shape us, the resonating influence of first love and the impact of social rejection set against the healing power of friendship.

*'An escalating sense of foreboding that drew me in from page one and never let me go.'*

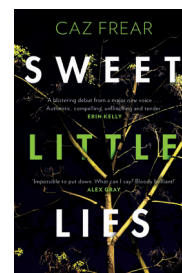
Fiona McIntosh

**Publication:** July 2023

**World Rights**

## Sweet Little Lies | Stone Cold Heart | Shed No Tears

Caz Frear



**Publication:** June 2017 / June 2019 / July 2020

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, USA

**Winner of the Richard & Judy Search for a Bestseller Competition**

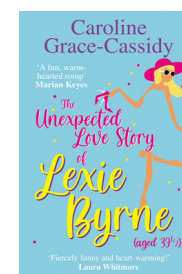
300,000 copies sold in the UK alone.

*'A blistering debut from a major new voice. I couldn't put it down. Authentic, compelling, unflinching and tender and written with real verve and assurance.'*

Erin Kelly

## The Lexie Byrne Trilogy

Caroline Grace-Cassidy



**Publication:** August 2021 / September 2022 / October 2023

**World Rights**

**An irresistible love story . . . delivered with sparkle and wit (in a too-tight red dress!)**

Meet Lexie Byrne. The big 4-0 is looming, but she's perfectly content without a man. How else could she watch movies on repeat and eat crisp sandwiches in bed? Finally free of her love-rat ex, she's never settling again. Nothing less than 'The One' will do.

Will the unexpected love story of Lexie Byrne have a happy ending after all?

## Recent prizes and bestsellers

### 2023 McKitterick Prize Runner-Up

*The Gifts* by Liz Hyder

### 2023 Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Shortlist

*The Witches of Vardo* by Anya Bergman

### 2023 Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize Longlist

*The English Fuhrer* by Rory Clements

### 2023 CWA Gold Dagger Award Shortlist

*The Winter Guest* by W.C. Ryan

### 2023 Capital Crime Fingerprint Awards Shortlist

*The House of Ashes* by Stuart Neville

### 2023 Petrona Crime Award Longlist

*Code Faust* by Gustaf Skordeman

### 2022 Petrona Crime Award

*Fatal Isles* by Maria Adolfsson

### 2022 CWA Gold Dagger Award Shortlist

*The Unwilling* by John Hart

### 2021 CWA Gold Dagger Award

*We Begin At The End* by Chris Whitaker

### 2021 RNA Joan Hessayon Award for New Writers

*Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life* by Caroline Day

### Theakston's Crime Novel of The Year

*We Begin At The End* by Chris Whitaker

### Crime Writers' Association Endeavour Historical Dagger Award Winner

*Stasi Child* by David Young

### Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction

*Resurrection Bay* by Emma Viskic

### Ned Kelly International Award

*We Begin at the End* by Chris Whitaker

### Davitt Award for Best Adult Novel

*Resurrection Bay* by Emma Viskic  
*And Fire Came Down* by Emma Viskic

### Apple Book of the Year

*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

### Eason Book of the Year

*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

### Nielsen Gold Bestseller

*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

### Aspen Words Literary Prize

*The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

### Betty Trask Award

*The Familiars* by Stacey Halls

### Irish Book Awards for Best Newcomer

*Snowflake* by Louise Nealon

### The Sunday Times #1 Bestseller

*Maestra* by L.S. Hilton  
*Wilde Like Me* by Louise Pentland  
*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris  
*Courtney's War* by Wilbur Smith

### The Sunday Times #2 Bestseller

*Mothering Sunday* by Rosie Goodwin  
*A Mother's Grace* by Rosie Goodwin  
*Good Friday* by Lynda La Plante  
*Wilde About The Girl* by Louise Pentland

*The Foundling* by Stacey Halls  
*Blunt Force* by Ollie Ollerton  
*Buried* by Lynda La Plante

### The Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller

*Ghost Fire* by Wilbur Smith  
*King of Kings* by Wilbur Smith  
*A Maiden's Voyage* by Rosie Goodwin  
*The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri  
*Wilde Women* by Louise Pentland  
*One Enchanted Evening* by Anton Du Beke  
*An Orphan's Journey* by Rosie Goodwin  
*Call of the Raven* by Wilbur Smith  
*Mrs England* by Stacey Halls  
*A Daughter's Destiny* by Rosie Goodwin  
*Songbirds* by Christi Lefteri  
*Three Sisters* by Heather Morris  
*The New Kingdom* by Wilbur Smith  
*Unholy Murder* by Lynda La Plante  
*Legacy of War* by Wilbur Smith  
*Judas Horse* by Lynda La Plante  
*Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life* by Caroline Day  
*Trust Me* by T.M. Logan  
*Blunt Force* by Lynda La Plante  
*The Curfew* by T.M. Logan  
*Vanished* by Lynda La Plante  
*Storm Tide* by Wilbur Smith  
*The Empire* by Michael Ball  
*Dark Rooms* by Lynda La Plante  
*A Daughter's Destiny* by Rosie Goodwin  
*The English Fuhrer* by Rory Clements  
*A Lesson Learned* by Rosie Goodwin  
*The Mother* by T.M. Logan  
*Pure Evil* by Lynda La Plante  
*Nemesis* by Wilbur Smith  
*A Taste of Blood* by Lynda La Plante

## International sub-agents

### BRAZIL

#### Tassy Barham Associates

Tassy Barham / Katrina Forde  
tassy@tassybarham.com  
katrina@tassybarham.com

### CHINA

#### Andrew Nurnberg Associates

Jackie Huang  
jhuang@nurnberg.com.cn  
Conor Cheng  
conor@nurnberg.com.cn

### CZECH REPUBLIC & SLOVAKIA

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