

Adult Fiction Rights Guide Spring 2024



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 Holiday by T.M. 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

We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker – Disney

The Whistleblower by Robert Peston - Leopard Pictures

The Twelve Days of Murder by Andreina Cordani - Brock Media

Devil's Breath by Jill Johnson - Cornered Tiger

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January 2025
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Hungary (Alexandra), 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 dreamer. I am a teacher. I am not just a number. Nor am I identified by the yellow 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, set between Terezin and Auschwitz, 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.

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Sisters Under the Rising Sun Heather Morris

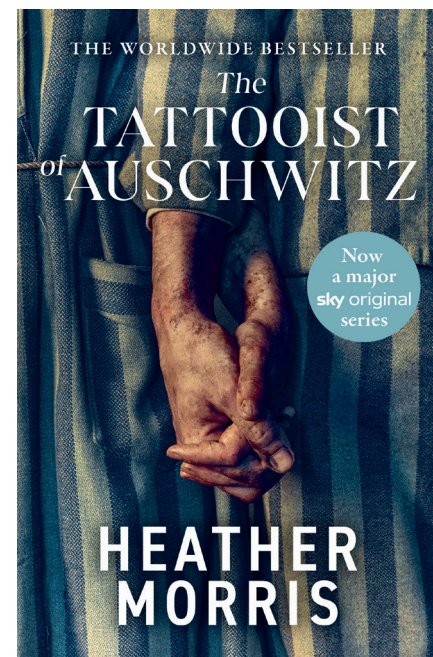
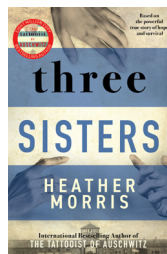
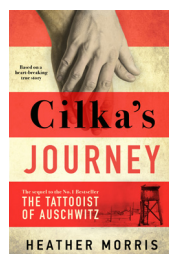
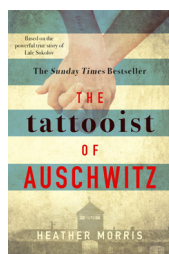
An astonishing story of bravery, sisterhood and friendship in the darkest of circumstances.

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 bombarded 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*)



Now a major Sky Original Series

Premiering globally on the 2nd May 2024

Starring Jonah Hauer-King, Anna Próchniak, Melanie Lynskey and

Harvey Keitel

Directed by the award-winning Tali Shalom-Ezer



September 2023
384 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, 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.

Cleopatra

Natasha Solomons



Apr 2025
Historical Fiction

World Rights

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.

It's finally time to meet the real Cleopatra.

Cleopatra: the beguiling, legendary Pharaoh and Queen of Egypt – the arch seducer who used her beauty to grasp for ever more power. But with her character only ever recorded by men who despised her, how can we be sure this was the real story?

From the lauded author of *Fair Rosaline* comes a powerful, unmissable new untelling, unravelling Shakespeare's Roman plays to draw out the woman behind the myth.

A captivating story of female power and vulnerability, of love and loss, fierce friendship and terrible betrayal: it's finally time to meet the real Cleopatra.

Praise for *Fair Rosaline*:

'A terrific novel - very clever and alluring.'
William Boyd

'An excellent spin on a timeless classic.'
Jennifer Saint

'Fresh and chillingly relevant, refracted through a feminist lens.'
Ellery Lloyd

'Vivid, turbulent and compelling.'
THE INDEPENDENT

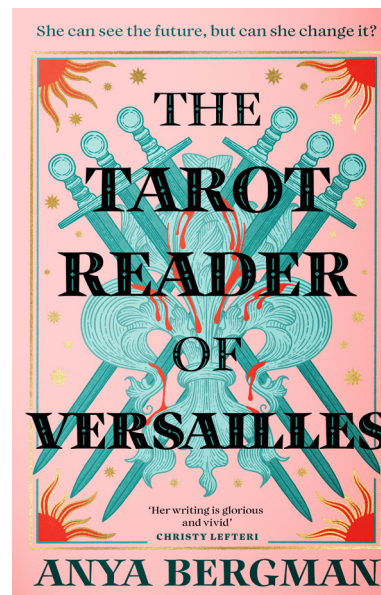


Rights Sold for *Fair Rosaline*:

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

The Tarot Reader of Versailles

Anya Bergman



January 2025
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Serbia (Laguna)

Television & Film Rights:
Marianne Gunn O'Connor

ANYA BERGMAN lives in Ireland, and is currently undertaking a PhD by Published Works at Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland where she also lectures, as well as tutoring for Jericho Writers. *The Tarot Reader of Versailles* is her second novel.

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 baying 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 Vardø*:

Brazil (Universo dos Livros), France (Michel Lafon), Italy (Nord), Lithuania (Alma Littera), Poland (Insignis), Russia (MTS), Spain (Trini Vergara), Ukraine (RM)



The Perfect Guest

Ruth Irons



June 2024
352 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Antony Harwood

RUTH IRONS lives in London with her family. She is a classically trained musician and has completed courses with Curtis Brown Creative and The Writers Bureau. *The Perfect Guest* is her debut novel.

She stayed in your house. Now she wants your life.

Dinah Marshall doesn't belong and she knows it. But after someone drops out, she's invited to spend the weekend at a luxury holiday home with three women from her days at Oxford University. However, the gulf between them has widened since then, and Dinah is conscious of being the only one with no money, career, partner or children.

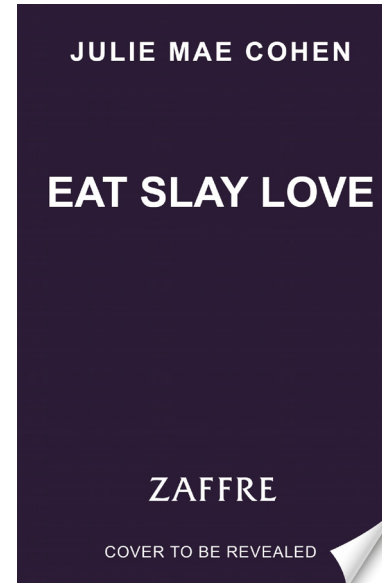
Feeling like an outsider, she takes to snooping around the house. She's fascinated by its owners, Isaac and Sarah Rivers - and when she discovers she can secretly stay an extra night, that fascination quickly spirals into obsession.

When Isaac Rivers meets 'Diana Malone' at an exclusive London members club, he introduces her to his wife and friends, and she's soon welcomed into the group. She seems to be trying a little too hard, however, and as her somewhat intense behaviour starts to raise both eyebrows and questions, one of her new acquaintances begins to suspect she isn't who she says she is. For Diana - or is it Dinah? - this is a disaster: she's worked hard to get where she has, and these suspicions threaten everything.

But Dinah isn't the only one with secrets, and if she's going down, then she might just take everyone else with her . . .

For fans of Michelle Frances's *The Girlfriend* and Lisa Jewell's *None of This is True* with a taste of Shari Lapena and a chime of *Saltburn*, this is a novel about obsession, and just how far some people will go to integrate themselves into an exclusive society and get what they want.

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August 2024
Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold: Ukraine (Family Leisure Club), 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. She is an Associate Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Reading and a Vice President of the Romantic Novelists' Association and a founder of their Rainbow Chapter for LGBTQ+ writers.

Eat Slay Love

Julie Mae Cohen

The brand new, sharply funny thriller about female friendship, empowerment and becoming a better person through murder.

Marina is a divorced mother of three preschoolers.

Lilah is a shy and lonely librarian.

Opal is a broke post-menopausal fitness guru.

These three strangers have nothing in common - except for the man who's been lying to all of them. And who they are now holding hostage in a basement.

Eat Slay Love is a book about making friends, finding joy, and discovering the woman you really are . . . though sometimes, becoming your best self involves committing abduction and murder.

For fans of biting, funny feminist thrillers, and readers of *How To Kill Your Family, You'd Look Better as a Ghost and You*.



Rights Sold for *Bad Men:*

Germany (Heyne), Italy (Piemme), Israel (Keter), Romania (Flacara), Russia (Eksmo), Turkey (Eksik Parca), Ukraine (Family Leisure Club), US (Overlook)

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Bay of Thieves Megan Davis



In the opulence of the Côte D'Azur, who will pay the ultimate price?

Vanessa and Kate live a glamorous life in the South of France helping the rich stay richer by hiding their money. While they know it's wrong, that their clients are corrupt, they are professionals and good at their jobs. Plus, there is the money . . .

When their boss draws them deeper into his web of corruption, the chic veneer of their existence falls away, along with their excuses, leaving both women dangerously exposed. Vanessa and Kate become desperate for an escape route, a way to beat the system without destroying themselves, but the only ones available require them to become worse than those they are seeking to evade. Whilst one woman pulls away from corruption, the other is drawn in. But just how far will each of them go for money - their clients' and their own?

Amidst the opulence of the Côte D'Azur, *Bay of Thieves* explores the distorting power of wealth and its ability to destroy beliefs held over a lifetime.

Perfect for fans of Rosamund Lupton, Sarah Vaughan and Tana French.

Praise for *The Messenger*:

'A strong, twisting, literary journey of revelation and redemption. Five stars.'

Janice Hallett



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

June 2024
400 pp
Crime/Thriller

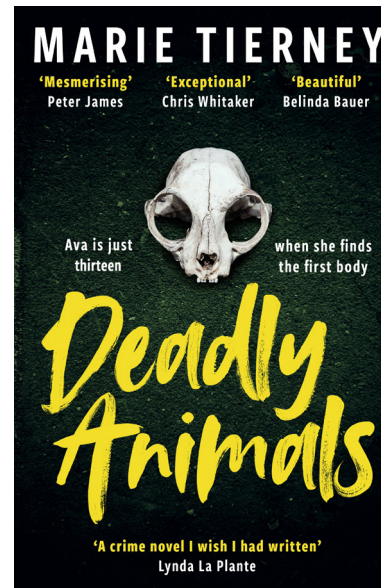
World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Rogers, Coleridge & White

MEGAN DAVIS has worked in the film industry and her screenwriting 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.

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Deadly Animals Marie Tierney



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

Thirteen-year-old Ava Bonney possesses an unusual intellect far beyond her years. While her friends play, Ava's fascination lies in the intricate process of animal decomposition, studying roadkill found in the streets around her home.

But, one night, Ava's secret nocturnal routine takes a chilling turn when she stumbles upon the lifeless body of fellow schoolmate, Mickey Grant.

As Detective Seth Delahaye takes charge of the perplexing case, Ava refuses to sit idle. Determined and resourceful, she embarks on a daring quest to unveil the truth behind the string of chilling deaths plaguing her community.

Armed with her unique skills and unrivalled local knowledge, Ava becomes an unlikely force in the race to apprehend the elusive killer before more lives are claimed.

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

'Exceptional in every way [...] A shockingly beautiful, rare and heartbreaking gem. I really can't recommend it highly enough.'

Chris Whitaker

'Marie's writing is beautiful.'

Belinda Bauer

'A crime novel I wish I had written.'

Lynda La Plante

'A remarkable debut. Funny, creepy, gory and moving. Ava is a wonderful creation . . .'

THE TIMES

February 2024
400 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

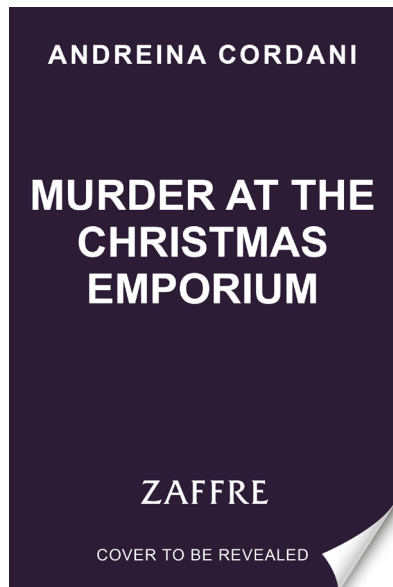
Rights Sold: Czechia (Euromedia), Spain (Trini), Ukraine (Family Leisure Club), US (Henry Holt)

Television & Film Rights:
Luigi Bonomi

MARIE TIERNEY was a finalist in the Daily Mail First Novel competition and her debut crime novel, *Deadly Animals*, was selected by bestselling crime writer Peter James as his winner. When she is isn't researching criminal history, she writes plays, poetry and creates art in different mediums.

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Murder At The Christmas Emporium Andreina Cordani



Christmas shopping can be deadly . . .

It's Christmas at The Emporium, a bespoke gift shop hidden in the depths of London's winding streets featuring handcrafted delights unavailable anywhere else. Tinsel coils around the wooden beams, lights sparkle in the windows and the open fire crackles comfortingly. As closing time approaches after a busy trading day, only a few customers drift towards the exit - but they find they cannot leave. The doors are locked.

What initially seemed an innocent mix-up turns sinister as the shopkeepers seem strangely uninterested in lending assistance. The festive cheer has all but disappeared among a growing feeling of unease - and then a chilling discovery is made in Santa's grotto.

For those that survive the night, it will be a Christmas to remember.

Perfect for fans of Agatha Christie, Alexandra Benedict and Janice Hallett's *The Christmas Appeal*.

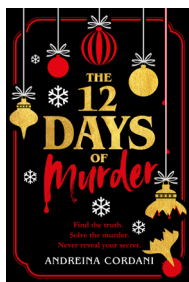
Praise for *The Twelve Days of Murder*:

'An impressive adult debut . . . Mystery lovers of all stripes will walk away satisfied.'

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY

'A slick, savage mystery.'

MY WEEKLY

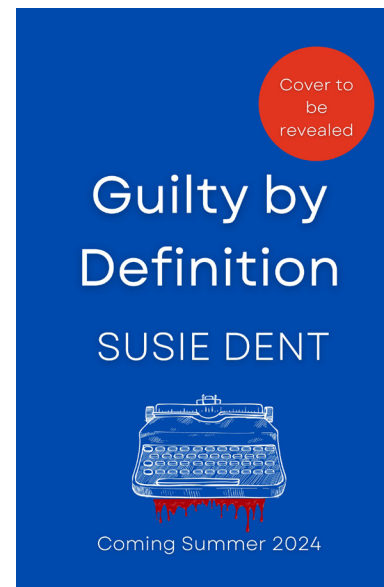


**Rights Sold for
The Twelve Days of Murder:**
Hungary (Alexandra),
Italy (Newton Compton),
Spain (Newton Compton),
Ukraine (Knigolove),
US (Pegasus)

**Film rights optioned by
Brock Media**

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Guilty By Definition Susie Dent



Word games can be murder.

An anonymous letter arrives at the offices of the Clarendon English Dictionary containing a challenge for the team of lexicographers working there. It's clear that's it's not the usual run-of-the-mill, eccentric enquiry. The letter hints at secrets, lies and a year. 2010. For Martha Thornhill, the new senior editor, that year can mean only one thing: the summer her brilliant, beautiful older sister Charlie went missing.

After a decade living abroad, Martha has returned to her father, her family home and the city whose institutions have defined her family, but the ghosts she thought at rest were only waiting for her to return.

More letters arrive, pointing towards a secret in the heart of the dictionary itself. As Martha and her colleagues start pulling apart the clues, the questions become more insistent and troubling. Charlie's disappearance is one of a series of secret absences going back centuries, and someone wants to keep those secrets buried.

August 2024
Crime

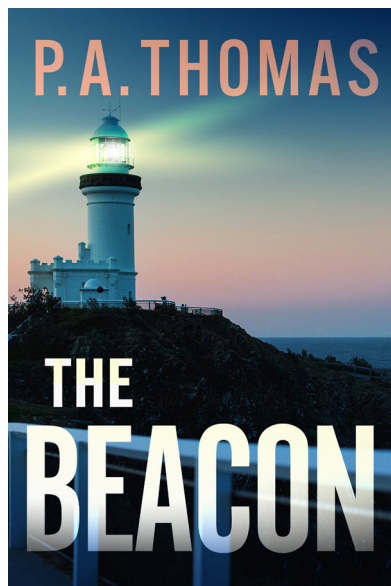
World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
United Agents

SUSIE DENT is a writer and broadcaster on language. She has written for the *Independent on Sunday*, *The Telegraph*, and *The Times*, and is the author of several books, including her latest, *An Emotional Dictionary: Real Words for How You Feel*, from *Angst* to *Zwodder*. She is a spokesperson for Oxford University Press, and has been a judge on the Costa Book Awards and on the Academy Excellence Awards. This is her debut novel.

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 undergoing 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 naturist 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.

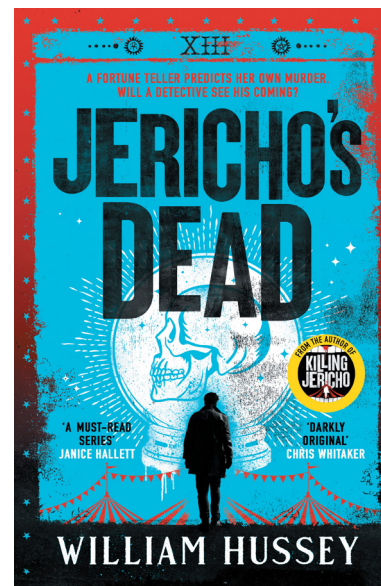
'The perfect summer read.'

Patricia Wolf (*Outback*)

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Jericho's Dead

William Hussey



February 2024
336 pp
Crime/Thriller

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.

A fortune teller predicts her own murder. Will a detective see his coming?

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. 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 the groundbreaking series featuring crime fiction's very first Traveller detective.

Praise for *Killing Jericho*:

'A detective who breaks every mould . . . A must-read series.'

Janice Hallett (*The Appeal*)

'An absolute cracker.'

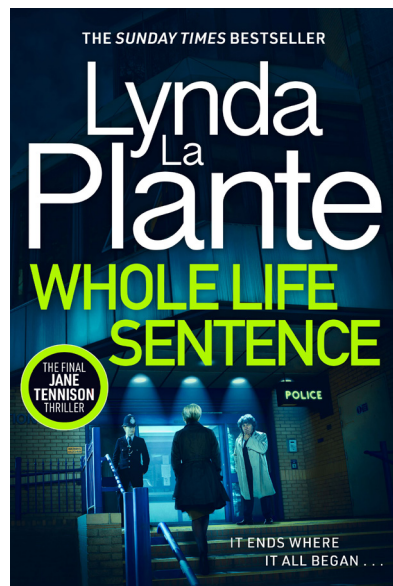
T.M. Logan



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Lynda La Plante

Sunday Times Bestselling
Detective Tennison Crime Series

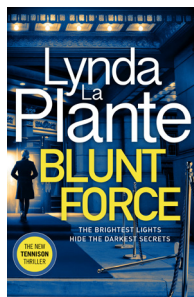
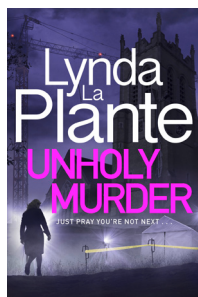
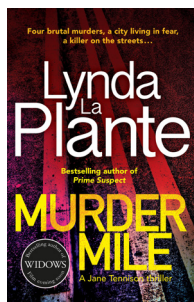
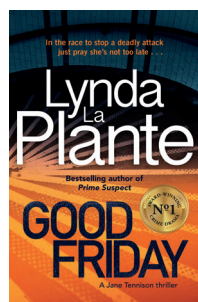


July 2024
400 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold in Series: Denmark (Superlux)

Television & Film Rights: La Plante Global



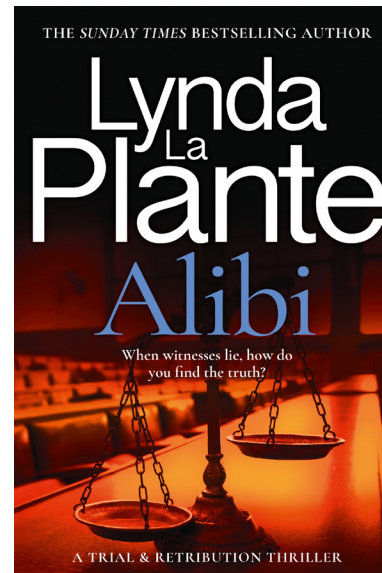
Lynda La Plante's final Tennison crime novel

Newly promoted Detective Chief Inspector Jane Tennison has elbowed her way into the Area Major Incident Pool, or AMIP, an elite team investigating non-domestic murders.

With her new position, she hopes the sexism and snide remarks will end. Then she gets her first assignment: a five-year-old cold case of a missing teenager no one else has any interest in investigating. But as Tennison gathers the crucial evidence to secure arrests, her new colleagues watch like vultures circling prey. And one by one the cases that she has built from the ground up are taken from her - and the glory along with them.

Tennison has seen it all before - but this time feels different. Get the job done here and she will rise to a level never before reached by a woman. It's hers for the taking. She just has to do what she's been doing brilliantly for years: find her prime suspect . . .

Winner of the 2024 CWA Diamond Dagger Award



December 2023
320 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
La Plante Global

LYNDA LA PLANTE 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. She was recently awarded the 2024 CWA Diamond Dagger.

Alibi

A Trial & Retribution Thriller

When witnesses lie, how do you find out the truth?

Identical and brutal assaults on three women. One woman survives to give a detailed description of her attacker.

The police arrest a suspect, Damon Morton, confident he is their man. But three of his employees admit to the crimes, and Morton's wife and girlfriend provide him with an alibi.

They all declare Damon Morton innocent. The police know he did it. But if people lie under oath in a court of law - who can the jury believe?

An unforgettable legal thriller from the Queen of Crime Drama. First published in 1998, this edition has been fully revised and edited to celebrate the phenomenal success of this much-loved series.

'Lynda La Plante practically invented the thriller.'
Karin Slaughter

'The UK's most celebrated female crime author.'
DAILY MAIL

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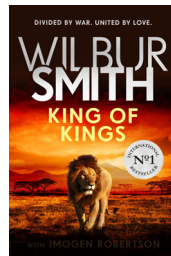
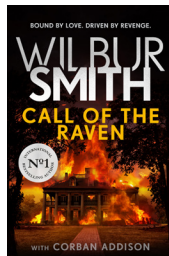
Fire on the Horizon Wilbur Smith

A familiar foe. A battle for the heart of a country at war with itself.

South Africa, 1899. The smouldering hostility between the Boers of the Transvaal and Orange Free State and the British colonies of the Cape and Natal is about to burst into flame. War is coming and no one can prevent it. Penrod Ballantyne, a celebrated colonel in the British army, is sent to Mafeking, 'the place of stones', to recruit and train men for the fighting ahead. Amber, his wife, the celebrated novelist, accompanies him - eager to see more of the country her husband is about to risk his life for. But when war is declared, Amber must flee for her life with their baby son and hope that her husband can survive against impossible odds.

Eight hundred miles to the south, in Cape Town, Ryder Courtney - adventurer, maverick, millionaire - is using his fortune and connections to bankroll the British war effort. His artist wife Saffron, frustrated by stuffy Cairo society, has joined him with their two children. But when their son Leon stows away on a train, determined to join his distinguished uncle, Penrod Ballantyne, in changing the course of history, Saffron and Ryder have no choice but to leave the safety of the Cape Colony and follow.

An epic historical adventure of war, family and courage in which two of Wilbur Smith's greatest families, the Courtneys and the Ballantynes, come together once again.



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Warrior King Wilbur Smith

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

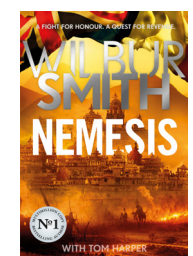


April 2024
480 pp
Historical Adventure

World Rights

Rights Sold: Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof), the Netherlands (Xander)

Television & Film Rights:
Tibor Jones



ZAFFRE

FINAL COVER TO BE REVEALED

August 2024
Historical Adventure

World Rights

Rights Sold for the Series:

Argentina, Czechia, Denmark, Hungary Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania

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.

Z

The Shadow King Harry Sidebottom



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*.

For fans of Simon Scarrow, Conn Iggulden and Ben Kane.

November 2023
416 pp
Historical Adventure

World Rights

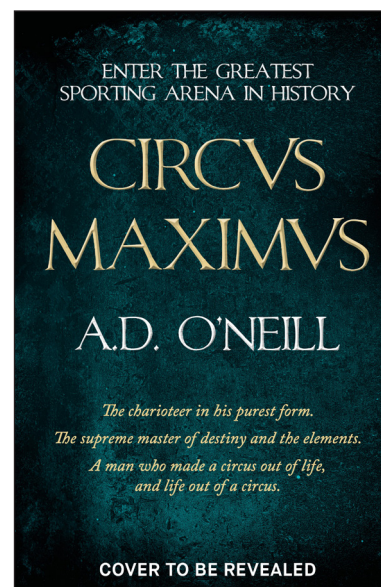
Rights Sold: Italy (Newton Compton), Spain (Newton Compton)

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.



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

May 2024
384 pp
Historical Adventure

World Rights

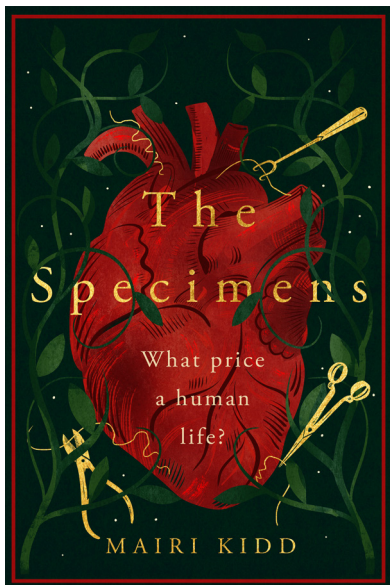
Television & Film Rights:
Inkwell Management

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.



The Specimens

Mairi Kidd



September 2024
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

MAIRI KIDD recently took up leadership of Moat Brae, Scotland's National Centre for Children's Books, in 2022. Her previous roles include head of Languages and Publishing at Creative Scotland and Managing Director of Barrington Stoke, a prize-winning publisher. Mairi is the author of *Warriors*, *Witches and Damn Rebel Bitches*, *Feisty and Fiery* and *Fierce* and *We Are All Witches*.

Up the close and down the stair, meet the women of Burke and Hare.

Inside the grand walls of Edinburgh's nineteenth-century scientific institutions, anatomists began to map the secrets of the human body in order to discover new medical innovations.

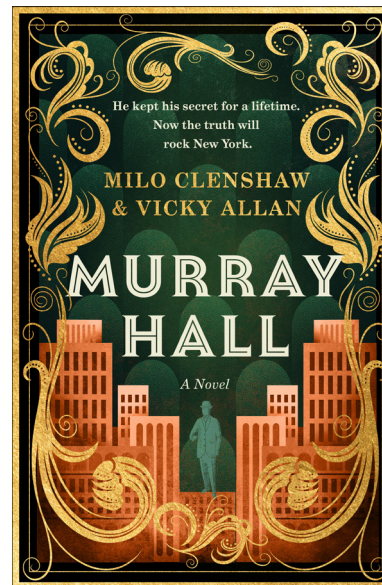
But to the horror of the local population, a shortage of bodies soon led to the gruesome act of graveyard bodysnatching, a heartless crime that would soon spread like a disease throughout the city. And when stealing cadavers turns to murder, Burke & Hare become two of the most notorious serial killers of their time.

This is the story of those grim events, told for the first time through the eyes of Susan and Helen, two women caught up in those horrific matters.



Murray Hall

Milo Clenshaw & Vicky Allan



August 2024
288 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.

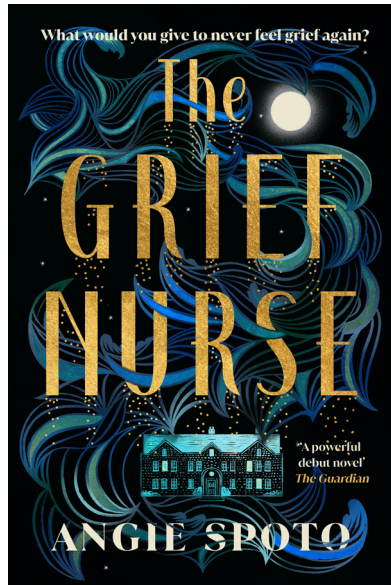
Inspired by a true story, *Murray Hall* unearths a queer past erased by history, finally bringing all the puzzle pieces together to discover the secret of this extraordinary, ordinary man, which shocked New York, America and the world.

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



The Grief Nurse

Angie Spoto



June 2024
284 pp
Historical 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.

What would you give to never feel grief again?

Lynx is a Grief Nurse. Kept by the Asters, a wealthy, influential family, to ensure they're never troubled by negative emotions. Kept at their manor house, limited to its walls, plush rooms and the elegant grounds on the family's Scottish island, she knows no other life.

When news arrives that the Asters' eldest son is dead, Lynx does what she can to alleviate their sorrow. But as guests flock to the island for the wake, bringing their own secrets, lies and grief, tensions rise and Lynx finds herself trapped at the centre of a family tearing itself apart.

But the son's death is not the last and the island soon becomes a vortex of jealousy, suspicion, hatred and tragedy – with Lynx caught in the middle. With romance, intrigue and spectacular gothic world-building, this spellbinding novel, set in a subtly reimagined 1920s Scotland, marks the debut of an extraordinary new voice in fiction.

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

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

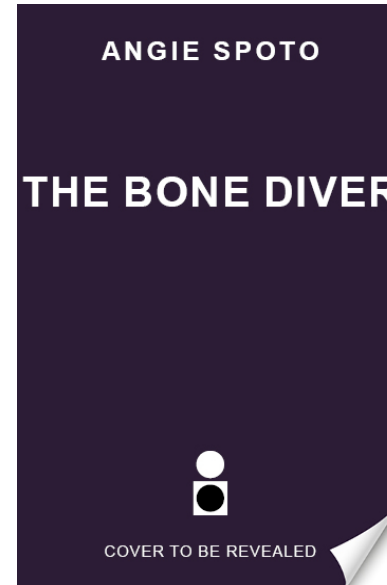
'A powerful debut novel that explores serious, sensitive issues through a unique prism of fantasy.'

GUARDIAN



The Bone Diver

Angie Spoto



October 2024
Historical Fantasy

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Underline Agency

A gothic tale of an aristocratic Scottish family, a young woman and the legend of the Selkies.

Kier Sealgair is the only daughter of a family of seal-hunters. She cannot kill and in hard times she is a burden to her family, especially now that her father is ailing. Her only friend is Fie, son of the town's tailor.

Near the town, high on the cliffs, is Erskine Manor. Servants come from the manor to the town to buy supplies but the family is never seen and rumours abound about them. Did the Lord kill the Lady? Are the five towers of the manor for the five daughters? Are the children of the manor even human, or are they taloned and spine-toothed monsters set to roam the overgrown walled grounds?

And then one day a woman arrives in Fie's shop wanting an impossibly expensive dress for one of her daughters. She can only be Lady Erskine. And later, on the rocky shore Kier meets the same woman who offers her a bargain, one that could save Kier's father.

This is the story of an aristocratic Scottish family, the legend of the selkies – mythological creatures that can shapeshift between seal and human forms – and a young woman, the daughter of a seal-hunting family, who is offered an impossible choice.

For fans of *Luckenbooth* by Jenni Fagan, *Fen* by Daisy Johnson and *Our Wives Under The Sea* by Julia Armfield.

Junction of Earth and Sky

Susan Buttenwieser



One family, six decades and all the miles travelled . . .

1941. Alice, fifteen years old and evacuated to a cruel home in the north of England, dreams of a better future and a loving family. While the Second World War rages, a brutal assault decides Alice's fate and she finds herself banished to America.

1993. Marnie, a struggling drug addict, riding the highways of America dealing and stealing, dreams of her past, when she was happy and secure in the love of her grandmother, Alice.

Spanning six decades and two continents, *Junction of Earth and Sky* is the spellbinding story of two women, grandmother and granddaughter, plagued by the whims of fate and at times, a darkness that seems impossible to shake.

But Alice's powerful love for Marnie resonates throughout the young woman's journey towards redemption in this spellbinding story of hope against the odds.

Praise for the author:

'Buttenwieser is the best there is.'
John Reed (*Snowball's Chance*)

August 2024
320 pp
Literary Fiction

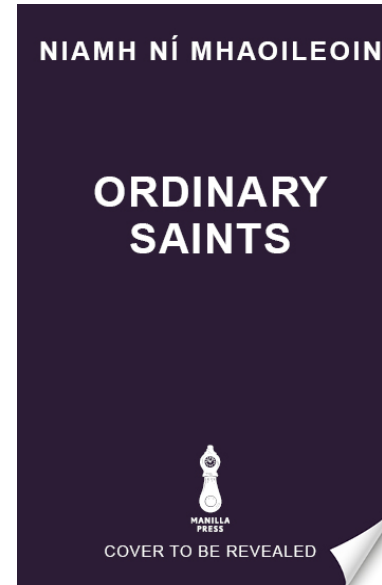
World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
United Agents

SUSAN BUTTENWIESER'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.

Ordinary Saints

Niamh Ní Mhaoileoin



An exploration of family, grief, queer identity, and the legacy of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Brought up in a devout household in Ireland, Jay is now living in London with her girlfriend, determined to live day to day and not think too much about either the future or the past.

But when she learns that her beloved older brother, who died in a terrible accident, may be made into a Catholic saint, she realises she must at last confront her family, her childhood and herself . . .

Inspired by the author's own devout upbringing, *Ordinary Saints* is a brilliant debut novel from a fresh, exciting new voice which asks – who gets to decide how we are remembered – and who we will become?

Perfect for fans of *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* by Jeanette Winterson and *Young Mungo* by Douglas Stuart.

An arresting, unmissable debut novel shortlisted for the Women's Prize Discoveries award and winner of inaugural PFD Queer Fiction Prize 2022.

March 2025
Literary Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Peters Fraser + Dunlop

NIAMH NÍ MHAOILEOIN is an Irish writer living and working in Edinburgh. Her stories, essays and articles have appeared in *Gutter*, *the New Statesman*, *The Millions*, *Sexualities* and other publications. *Ordinary Saints* is her debut novel.



The Swell

Kat Gordon



February 2025
320 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Felicity Bryan Associates

KAT GORDON is the author of Richard and Judy selection *An Unsuitable Woman* published first in hardback as *The Hunters*, sold at auction to Borough Press and pre-empted in Germany, France, and Italy. She has a flat in Reykjavik and is steeped in the history and mythology of Iceland.

Two sisters rescue a shipwrecked sailor in Iceland in 1910. Sixty-five years later a body is found in the ice.

1910. In the depths of a freezing winter, two sisters, Freyja and Guðrún, rescue a mysterious and charismatic man from a shipwreck near their remote farm in Iceland.

Sixty-five years later, in October 1975, a young woman – Sigga – is spending time with her grandmother when they hear the news over the radio: a body has been discovered on a mountainside near Reykjavik, perfectly preserved in the ice, and Sigga is convinced her grandmother knows something about the body.

A novel of sinister machinations set amidst the lava fields of Iceland, this dual timeline narrative is as much a story about the choices available to women through the ages, as it is a captivating mystery.

Moving between the turn of the 20th century and the 1970s as a dark mystery is unravelled, *The Swell* is a spellbinding, beautifully atmospheric read.

Perfect for fans of *Burial Rites* and *The Witches of Vardo*.



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.

Author Seren Doughty has written nothing in the five years since her daughter's murder. When her former editor approaches her agent with the idea for a ghost story, Seren immediately thinks of the abandoned island of Finish in the Outer Hebrides and seizes the opportunity to commit herself to a new project.

Leaving her old life far behind, she immerses herself in island life. The only building on the island - a small stone hut - becomes home as she finally picks up her pen and attempts to write. But Finish is not as abandoned as Seren first thought. She soon discovers the island is alive with strange noises and echoes of a bloody massacre, events more traumatic than any fiction she might construct. Her emerging manuscript becomes dominated by the figure of the island midwife, Granny Chulainn, whose attempts to save the island's children have gone unrecorded for many centuries. Unrecorded, that is, until the arrival of Seren.

Ghost Story is about a woman trying to rediscover her talent for writing in the face of unspeakable loss; a woman who must face her own considerable grief if she is to immerse herself in the world of the island. A world where greed can so easily turn to violence and violence to revenge; where peaceful solitude is also naked exposure and where the call of the past will not be silenced. Or ignored.

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.



April 2025
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.

echo



April 2024
368 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights excl. Germany

Television & Film Rights:
Selwa Anthony

AVERIL KENNY studied Education at James Cook University, before completing a Bachelor of Journalism at the University of Queensland. She currently lives in Far North Queensland with her family. When not dreaming up stories, she can be found nestled in her favourite yellow wingback chair reading and sipping tea, in her library overlooking the rainforest.

The Mistress of Dara Island

Averil Kenny

A tropical paradise is her birthright . . . but will its dark secrets destroy her dreams?

Thalia – Tally – Ramsey has grown up barefoot, wild and free on an island in the Coral Sea purchased by her maternal grandfather. It is a paradise with two faces: an idyllic honeymoon resort for the rich and famous; and an untamed coastline with steeply rising peaks covered in impenetrable jungle.

Tally has always known she will one day become the Mistress of Dara Island in her mother Nerissa's stead. A belief founded on her mother's promise. But as she matures in the 1960s, her determination and wilfulness bring her into conflict with her ruthless father, 'Bullshark' Richard Ramsey, a powerful figure feared by everyone, including his wife. Ultimately, Tally must face the heartbreaking realisation that her promised future is slipping from her grasp.

After a sudden disappearance from the island, Tally embarks on a desperate search that leads her deep into Dara's treacherous wilderness, a journey that will challenge all her assumptions about herself, her home and the people she loves.



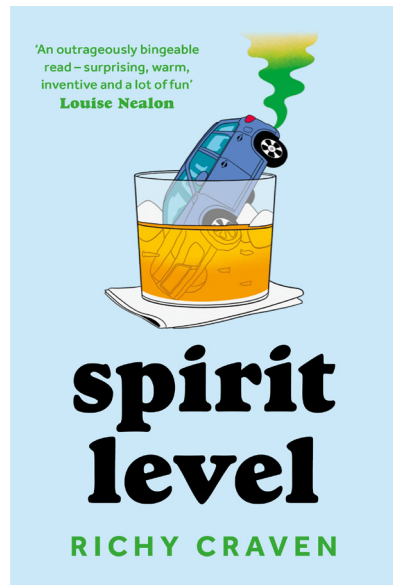
Rights Sold for Those Hamilton Sisters:
Germany (Goldmann), Norway (Kagge), Sweden (Modernista)



Rights Sold for The Girls of Lake Evelyn:
Italy (Newton Compton), Norway (Kagge), Poland (Burda)

Spirit Level

Richy Craven



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, Rónán Hession and Seamus O'Reilly.

'An outrageously bingeable read. It is surprising, warm, inventive and a lot of fun.'

Louise Nealon (*Snowflake*)

'The writing sparkles with wit from line to line, with every page hiding either a belly laugh or a sudden sharp observation of human nature.'

Alice Bell (*Grave Expectations*)

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.

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. For fans of Sophie Kinsella, Jojo Moyes, and Jenny Colgan.

'Frankly, it is wonderful.'

Martin Sheen

'A story of love, loss and redemption in one of the world's most iconic cities.'

Sheila O'Flanagan (*Her Husband's Mistake*)

'A fresh new voice in Irish fiction.'

Roisin Meaney (*Life Before Me*)

February 2024
288 pp
Women's Fiction

World Rights

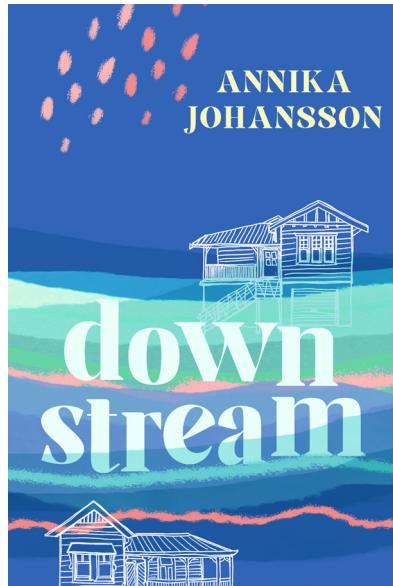
Television & Film Rights:
Papercuts Literary

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.

echo

Downstream

Annika Johansson



April 2024
320 pp
General Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

ANNIKA JOHANSSON is a freelance writer living in the rainforests on Bundjalung land (the Northern Rivers of NSW). Born in Brisbane, she did a BSc in Business Communications and has worked in Sydney, Asia and the Middle East as a copywriter and Creative Director. Her short story, *The Speed Dater*, won first prize in the Romance Writers of Australia Sweet Treats 2023 anthology competition. *Downstream* is Annika's debut novel.

What happens when your dream gets washed away? And then tries to drag your marriage down with it?

Rob - a happily married empty-nester, enjoying his late middle age - has always defined himself by the quality of the roof over his head and the state of his family life. Solid. Safe. Stable. But when the 2022 Lismore flood hits, he and his wife Sal find themselves homeless, their lives now the very opposite of secure and predictable.

They are left with no choice but to rent while they wait to find out the fate of their badly damaged home. After a mix-up with contracts, they reluctantly agree to share a house with strangers – a slightly older hippy couple, also impacted by the floods, who couldn't be more different from their new flatmates.

A two-bedroom, one-bathroom flat with very thin walls . . . Surely they can stick it out for six months – they're all grown-ups, right?

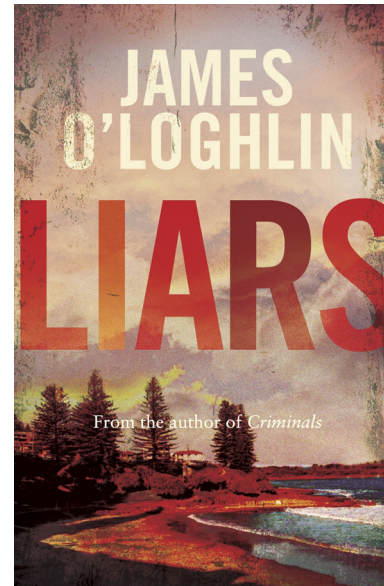
Only life has bigger plans for all four of them.

Downstream is a story about the forsaken dreams and buried secrets that lie below the surface of our everyday lives – until they reappear in the aftermath of trauma and disruption. With compassion and humour, Annika Johansson explores what 'marriage' and 'home' really mean, when you are faced with the prospect of losing them both.

echo

Liars

James O'Loghlin



July 2024
448 pp
Crime/Thriller

DRAFT COVER

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

JAMES O'LOGHLIN is a comedian, television and radio host, and author. He began his career as a corporate lawyer, quickly realised it wasn't for him, and changed course to become both a criminal lawyer and a stand-up comedian. James has won the Variety award for Best Australian Comedy Performer. In 2021 his first play, *Television*, was shortlisted for The Rodney Seaborn Playwrights Award and Highly Commended by The Silver Gull Play Award.

A sleepy coastal town. Deep secrets. Deadly truths.

Handywoman Barb Young has lived in the sleepy coastal town of Bullford Point for over fifty years - and frankly, in that time, not much has happened, unless you count that business where a bush turkey managed to board the ferry a couple of years ago.

When Joe Griffiths returns from Sydney after six years of drug addiction, jail and, eventually, rehab, Barb offers him a job, hoping to help him turn his life around. However, when another new resident of Bullford Point is murdered, Joe becomes the prime suspect.

Barb thinks the police have got it wrong, but the more she tries to find the truth and clear Joe's name, the more confusing things become. Is the murder connected to the developers circling the waterfront home Joe inherited from his parents? Or to the true crime podcast he has been making about the death of his ex-girlfriend, seven years previously? And what was the information the murdered woman had been trying to horse-trade with police?

As her off-the-books investigation continues, Barb discovers that drowsy Bullford Point is actually a town full of secrets - and that even though she's known everyone in the close-knit community for years . . . everybody lies.



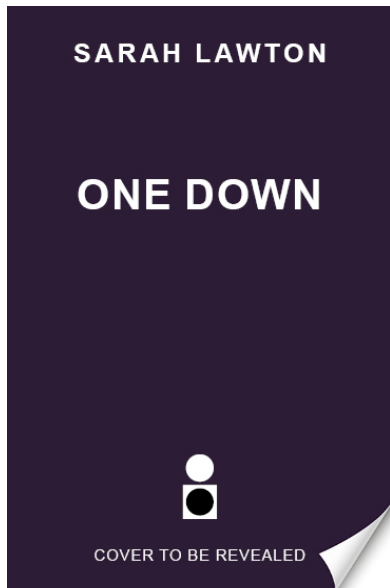
One Down

Sarah Lawton



The Reunion Party

Penny Batchelor



When her neighbour goes missing, cryptic crossword writer Merry finds a puzzle too tempting not to solve. But will she uncover her own hidden skeletons along the way?

Merry lives a simple life. For work, she writes cryptic crossword puzzles. For pleasure, she swims in the icy cold sea. And in between she keeps a careful eye on her neighbour, Lucas Manning, the son of her late best friend Julia.

One day Lucas' wife reports him missing. Merry has known Lucas his whole life; he would never walk out like this. Bad things have always hovered around the Manning family. But Lucas is different. A good man. He was the one who turned his own brother in to the police, after all. Although Sean has spent every day since professing his innocence.

As she begins to dig into Lucas' life, Merry forms an uneasy alliance with a private investigator doing the same. Gareth was hired by Lucas' employers, who are also desperate to locate him - and the sensitive work project he has absconded with. Merry might be a cryptic crossword mastermind, but reading people is hard. Was she wrong about Lucas?

This is no straightforward disappearing act: something much more sinister is at play. But as she gets closer to the truth, Merry must confront her own dark past with the Manning family, which she has fought so long to keep buried. Who can she trust with her secrets?

SARAH LAWTON

ONE DOWN

COVER TO BE REVEALED

September 2024
304 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown

SARAH LAWTON grew up on the Isle of Wight, and following university she embarked on a career in the charity sector. After a few years of full time parenting, she picked up her pen, and can now be found writing in various locations in East London. She is the author of the psychological thriller *All the Little Things* (Canelo, 2021).

PENNY BATCHELOR

THE REUNION PARTY

COVER TO BE REVEALED

June 2024
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* was her first novel, which she followed up with *Her New Best Friend*. She co-founded and is a judge of the ADCI Literary Prize for disabled and chronically ill authors who focus on positive representation of disability in their novels, something she has long championed herself.

On the twenty-fifth anniversary of Tania's death, five university friends reunite at a luxurious country hotel to commemorate the life of their dear friend.

Having always been the outsider, Jeannie has thrown everything into making the weekend a success.

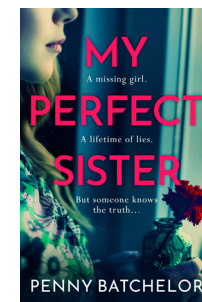
With two kids and busy work schedules, Keren is looking forward to some time alone with her husband and being back in the company of old friends.

Facing a messy divorce and bankruptcy, a few nights away is just the escape Johnny needs right now.

Saira has enough on her plate trying to co-parent with her ex-partner and would prefer to be as far away from the event as possible if she hadn't promised Keren.

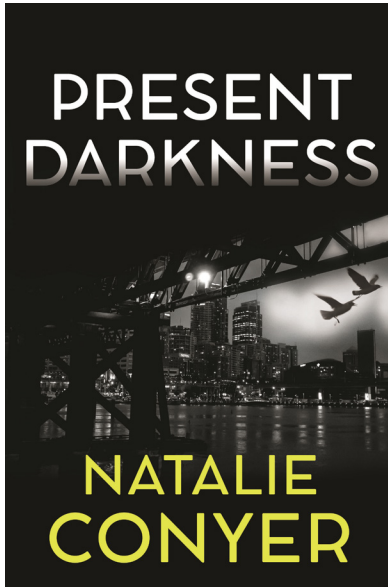
When the drinks start flowing and with the party in full swing, the merry mood of the night suddenly turns once secret revelations come to light about their university days. But just how well did they know Tania? And could there be more to Tania's accident than they're letting on?

Who will make it through the reunion in one piece?



Present Darkness

Natalie Conyer



September 2024 **DRAFT COVER**
352 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Jane Novak

NATALIE CONYER is a crime writer and the author of *Present Tense*, which won the Ned Kelly award for the Best Debut Crime Novel of 2020, was shortlisted for the Davitt Award and nominated as one of 2020's best reads by *The Australian*. Her short stories have won several awards in the Sisters in Crime Scarlet Stiletto competition. They've also been featured in anthologies, including the soon to be published *Dark Deeds Downunder Vol II*.

How far will people go for pleasure?

Sydney, Australia. The body of a young woman is found in a food court, and detective Jackie Rose is tasked to investigate. Is this a drug murder, or something else?

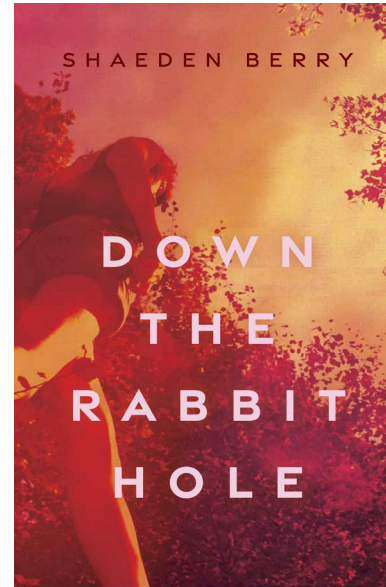
Cape Town, South Africa. Another young woman falls off the radar after leaving to study in Australia. Detective Schalk Lourens, who has been wrongly accused of war crimes, decides to visit Australia and while he's there, see if he can find her.

Following a trail that stretches across the world, Schalk and Jackie join forces and find themselves up against an enemy more powerful and depraved than they could imagine.

Their own futures, and those of hundreds of others, hang in the balance.

Down The Rabbit Hole

Shaeden Berry



September 2024 **DRAFT COVER**
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

SHAEDEN BERRY is an author with a Bachelor's Degree in Creative Writing, and a Masters in Writing. Her short stories have featured in anthologies such as *Kill Your Darlings' New Australian Fiction 2023*, *The Unexpected Party* and *Strangely Enough*.

A best friend with a secret. The reclusive, addict mother. A teacher with a shady past. And the missing girl at the centre of it all.

Seven years after Alice Montgomery goes missing, her best friend Hannah is bouncing from job to job, from house to house. She eventually decides to return to her hometown for the first time since she left to help her Mum out after surgery. The relationship is long-fractured, broken apart by grief after the suicide of Hannah's father when she was eleven.

When Hannah hears that Marnie Montgomery, Alice's Mum, has been diagnosed with terminal cancer, she is seized by the terror that she will never get closure for her friend's disappearance. An addict and recluse, rumours have long-since dogged Marnie – rumours that she was responsible for her daughter going missing.

Marnie insists she had nothing to do with Alice's disappearance, and points a finger instead at a teacher, Rachel Olney, who is nursing broken dreams and haunted by a single bad decision she made long ago.

What unfolds is a tale of three women – Hannah, Marnie, Rachel – and of grief left unchecked, of what it means to be a mother, a daughter, and of all the terrible ways in which we can hurt one another.

Shadow Lives

Neil A. White



July 2024
Crime/Thriller

DRAFT COVER

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

NEIL A. WHITE was born in Melbourne and educated in Australia and the United States. He is the author of the novels, *Closure*, *Turn a Blind Eye* and *Something for Bebe*, and the occasional short story. He is also the creator of the 'Songs Reimagined' series – *Minds Went Walking: Paul Kelly's Songs Reimagined* and *Into Your Arms: Nick Cave's Songs Reimagined*. He currently resides in Texas.

Foreign correspondent Matt Latham dives into the world of international espionage in this explosive thriller.

Matt Latham – sardonic foreign correspondent, and reluctant spy for ASIS (Australia's Secret Service) – travels to Kharkiv, Ukraine to interview a reclusive Russian billionaire. However, an explosion at the club where they planned to meet leaves Matt hospitalised and his interpreter, Katya Fomina, dead. But was it just another random act of violence in this war-torn region?

Released from hospital, Matt travels to Katya's small Ukrainian village to pay his last respects. There, he meets her parents and learns of Katya's fruitless search for her missing younger sister, Nadiya.

Picking up the threads of Katya's investigation into Nadiya's kidnapping propels Matt across Europe and ever deeper into a shadowy world of double agents, illegal arms shipments, and human trafficking. But discerning the difference between right and wrong isn't as straightforward as it seems. With each step, Matt is ever closer to finding Nadiya, and the shocking reason behind Katya's death.

This is a tale of loss, betrayal, and revenge. Of a flawed man's attempt to help a broken family, and in the process, to set a small corner of the world to rights. But will it make a difference in the battle against his own inner demons?

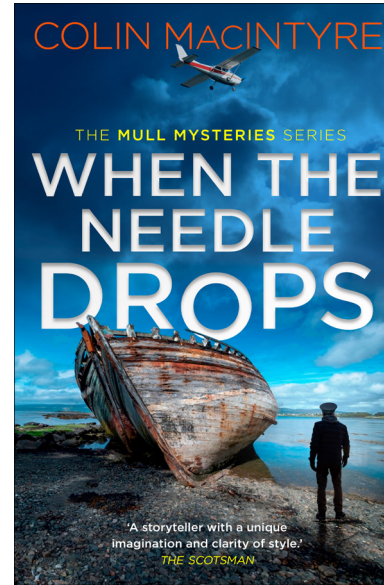
'A prescient thriller giving us the hero we need for our troubled times.'

James Phelan



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 place 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, dispatched 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

Murder in Punch Lane

Jane Sullivan



July 2024
336 pp
Crime/Mystery

DRAFT COVER

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

JANE SULLIVAN has won the inaugural Australian Human Rights award for journalism. She currently contributes to *The Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, writing features and a Saturday column, 'Turning Pages', on books and writing. She has also written for *Griffith Review*, *Meanjin* and *Australian Book Review* and has reviewed books for ABC Radio National's Books and Arts program.

A starlet is struck down on stage during a performance and her co-star turns amateur detective on a quest to find the murderer.

Melbourne, 1868. Dazzling theatre star Marie St Denis dies in the arms of her best friend, fellow actress Lola Sanchez. Everyone believes it was suicide by laudanum overdose. But Lola, an amateur detective, embarks on a quest to find her friend's murderer.

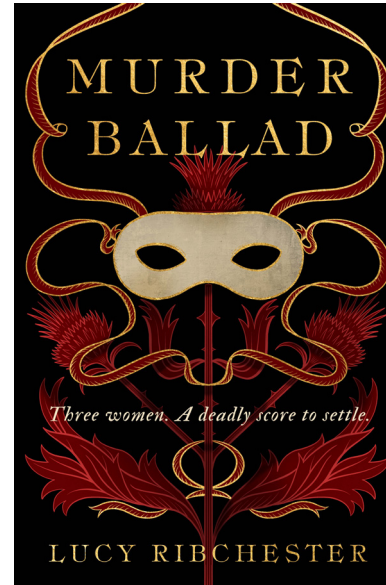
She seeks help from journalist Magnus Scott, leading to a tumultuous partnership as detectives. Amid their investigation, an unspoken attraction grows, complicated by Lola's frustration with Magnus' charm.

With secret lives – Lola as the bold boy Nick, and Magnus as the Walking Gentleman exploring the city – they uncover disturbing truths about Melbourne's dark underbelly. Who wanted Marie dead?

Then the murderer strikes again – this time, trying to drown Lola onstage as Ophelia dying in the brook. Between them, she and Magnus fight him off. Justice is done – but can she forgive Magnus for spurning her when she needed him most?

Inspired by real events and people, *Murder in Punch Lane* is a dark and gripping crime novel that maps the sins and secrets of nineteenth-century Melbourne.

'An accomplished and nuanced piece of writing.'
Sulari Gentill



June 2024
304 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Lutyens & 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.

Murder Ballad

Lucy Ribchester

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.

Free Meg Keneally



April 2024
336 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown (Australia)

MEG KENEALLY has worked as a journalist, corporate affairs professional and SCUBA diving instructor. She is the co-author with Tom Keneally of *The Soldier's Curse* and three other books in the *Monsarrat* series. Her first solo novel was *Fled*, published by Echo Publishing in 2019, followed by *The Wreck* (2020). With Leah Kaminsky, she is co-editor of *Animals Make Us Human* (Penguin, 2020).

From horse thief to the merchant queen of Sydney Cove – how did one woman rise so far?

Born into poverty in eighteenth-century England, her future was predetermined. But throughout her life Molly Thistle refused to follow the path laid out before her. Her headstrong nature, disdain for convention and desire for freedom were always destined to determine her fate.

Following her involvement in a fatal childhood prank, Molly dresses as a boy and flees on a stolen horse. Her new-found freedom ends with her arrest and an uncertain journey towards Britain's farthest prison colony.

Undaunted, Molly navigates her way through a society that denies power to her sex and scorns those who have not 'arrived free'. Her quick wit, resilience and ambition will attract the love of her life and the opportunity to forge a commercial empire. And those very same characteristics will create enemies intent on destroying all that she has battled to build for herself and her family.

Inspired by historical figures and actual events, *Free* is a story told with warmth and compassion for those who struggled, survived and sometimes even prevailed – and for those who did not. Meg Keneally once again brings the complexity and brutality of colonial Australia vividly to life.



**Rights Sold for
Fled:**
Russia (Hemiro),
US (Skyhorse)

Chloé Katrina Kell



February 2024
368 pp
Historical Fiction

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.

Taking the reader from Victoria's wild shipwreck coast to the artists' studios of revolutionary Paris and the bloody battlefields of Flanders, this sweeping novel reimagines the volatile history of the beautiful and enigmatic young woman immortalised in one of Australia's most iconic paintings.

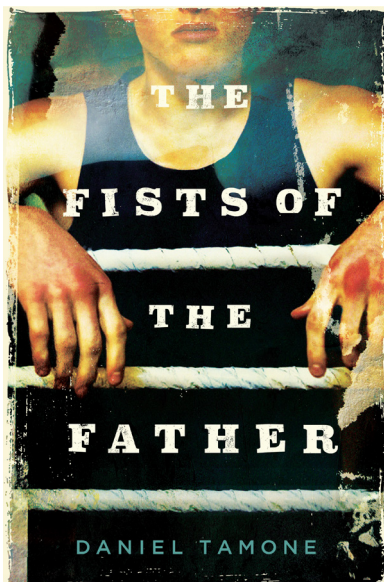
Created in Paris in 1875, *Chloé*, Jules Lefebvre's depiction of a naked water nymph, was brought to Melbourne's Young & Jackson Hotel in 1909, where it has hung ever since.

In this passionate, luminous retelling, Katrina Kell seeks to unlock the riddle behind the girl on the canvas, known to history only as Marie. In doing so, she weaves the compelling story of an incandescent spirit – a woman with the strength to defy the boundaries of class and convention in order to survive, and an enduring power to influence the lives of others across time and distance.

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

The Fists of the Father

Daniel Tamone



In the heart of Sydney, three generations of men in a family of champion boxers are trapped in a cycle of violence.

Ted "Little Boy Blue" Taylor has replaced his father, a troubled former heavyweight champion, as the darling of Australian boxing. However, after two uninspiring losses Ted is failing to live up to the expectation that has always plagued him.

Despite his father Ron's successful career, a painful history of alcoholism, domestic violence, gambling, and ties to the underworld of boxing all have a firm hold on the Taylors.

Ted's grandfather Pop is a Vietnam veteran only able to find peace in a boxing ring or the bottom of a bottle. He is the only link between Ted and his estranged father.

Ted's hatred of Ron runs deep, but more destructive is the fact he blames himself for his mother's suicide. Painful memories he has buried deep piece together a grim puzzle. He struggles to come to terms with his difficult past and his binding ties with his father, who he is being pressured to face off with in the boxing ring, all while dealing with early signs of brain damage that threaten to put an end to his career.

Succession meets *The Iron Claw* in this coming-of-age tale that explores generational trauma, mental health and addiction.

July 2024
316 pp
General Fiction

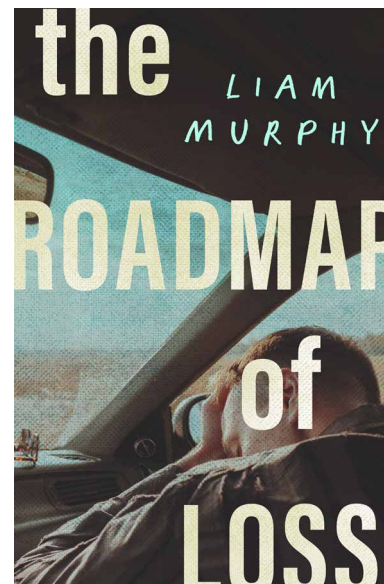
World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

DANIEL TAMONE lives in Sydney. He previously played rugby professionally and now works in financial services and is a past contributor to financial news provider Livewire Markets. His fiction has been recognised with a shortlisting in the Lane Cove Literary Awards and an honourable mention in the Writers of the Future writing competition.

The Roadmap of Loss

Liam Murphy



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.

January 2024
368 pp
Literary Fiction

World Rights

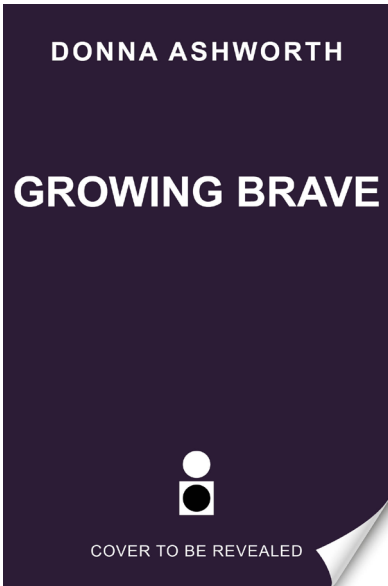
Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

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.



Growing Brave

Donna Ashworth



September 2024
Self-Help/Poetry

World Rights

Option Publishers: China (Beijing ZhengQingYuanLiu), France (Le Lotus et L'Elephant), Italy (TEA), Korea (Tender Hearts), Poland (under offer), Serbia (Laguna), Taiwan (Heliopolis), Turkey (Pegasus), US (Mango Publishing)

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

DONNA ASHWORTH is a Sunday Times bestselling author and the UK's number 1 bestselling poet. She started her social media accounts in 2018 where her love of all things poetry quickly became the focus. Now, over 1.4 million followers later, Donna is delighted daily with her mission to shower the world with her words.

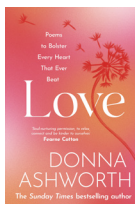
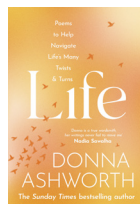
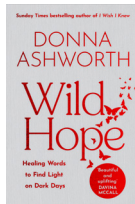
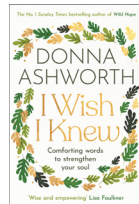
Words to fight fear and set your soul free from the No. 1 Sunday Times bestseller.

In this bold new collection of wisdom and poetry, Donna Ashworth helps us to find strength and courage on the days we feel lost, to pick ourselves up when times are hard, to accept we will feel fear and self-doubt, and to dare to let in more light and love as we brave life's challenges.

Every day we are bombarded by thoughts, feelings and information that make us feel anxious and afraid. We worry we don't measure up, we are scared of failure and we find it hard to be ourselves. We also feel powerless watching the world getting messier, angrier and more unstable.

With poems such as 'One Day You'll See', 'Search the Night', 'The Comparing' and 'Always There', bestselling author Donna Ashworth helps us to see that no matter how small or afraid we feel, we make the biggest difference in this world and to our own happiness when we are brave enough to show up as ourselves.

Over 300,000 copies sold across all titles



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 unlikeliest of places . . .

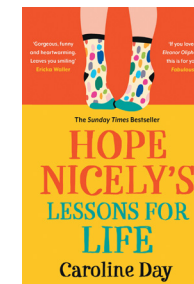
Kiki grew up in New Zealand, dreaming of one day going to the UK's biggest music festival, Glastonbury. Now, mourning the loss of her beloved Yaya - the woman who raised her - she travels to England to realise that dream. It is only when she leaves home, that she realises just how sheltered her life 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 and *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion.

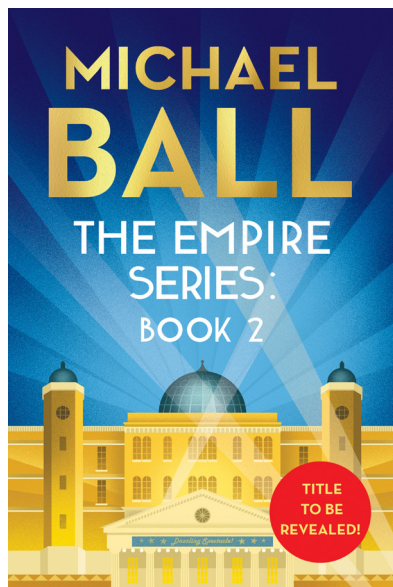


Rights Sold for Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life:

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

Z

Showtime Michael Ball



October 2024
Historical Romance

World Rights

Rights Sold: Bulgaria (Prozoretz)

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown

MICHAEL BALL OBE is a singer, actor, presenter and now author. He's been a star of musical theatre for over three decades, winning the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical twice. He's also won two BRIT awards and been nominated for a Grammy. Michael regularly sells out both his solo tours and his Ball & Boe shows with Alfie Boe and has multiple platinum albums. *The Empire* is his debut fiction series.

Take your seats as we raise the curtain at the Empire Theatre!

It's 1926 and the great Empire Theatre is back open for business. But following a turbulent period, owner Jack Treadwell and his playwright wife, Grace, know they need to get things back on track – and what better way to do that than with an all-singing all-dancing talent contest, showcasing the best performers around.

There's Baby Jane Dudley, reluctant child prodigy, whose mother insists she be star of the show, famous starlet Stella Stanmore, whose presence lights up any stage. And then there's Sally Blow. A widow with a young child to care for and not a penny to her name, she is desperate. But after seeing an advert in the local pub where she sings at night, could she dare to dream that the talent contest might be her big break?

As opening night draws closer, amid the glitz and glamour there are strange goings on and a plot afoot. Is everything Jack and Grace have worked so hard for about to come crashing down? And could this be curtains for *The Empire*?

Musical theatre legend Michael Ball brings his trademark warmth, wit and glamour to this sparkling new novel.

Praise for *The Empire*:

'A wonderful book. A lifelong love letter to the theatre.'
Reverend Richard Coles



Z

Secrets of Malta Cecily Blench



February 2024
400 pp
Historical Fiction

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



An Island Promise

Patricia Wilson

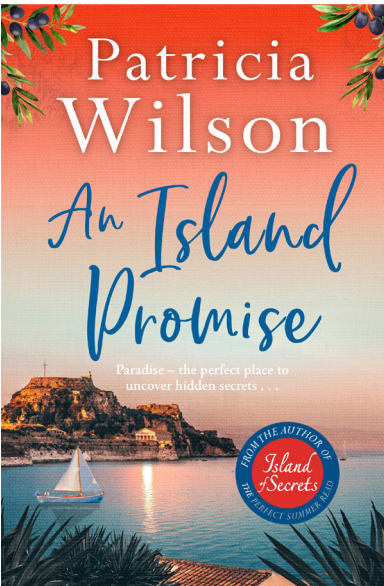
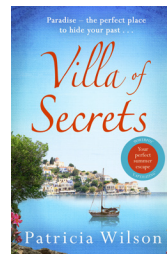
Paradise – the perfect place to uncover hidden secrets . . .

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.



April 2023
432 pp
Women's Fiction

World Rights

Previous Rights Sold: Arabic (Dar Molhimon), Bulgaria (Noble Star), Croatia (Mozaik), Czechia, (Albatros), Estonia (Pegasus), France (City), Greece (Patakis), Israel (Modan), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Romania (Univers), Serbia (Vulkan)

Television & Film Rights:

SoloSon Media

PATRICIA WILSON was born in Liverpool and now lives in 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 WWII. The now elderly women involved in those events told Patricia their story, and her celebrated debut *Island of Secrets* was the result.

The Italian Bookshop Among the Vines

Amanda Weinberg



Inspired by true events during World War II

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 . . .

Amidst the outbreak of war on her wedding day, Bella, the owner of the local bookshop, becomes a protector of orphaned Jewish children, risking everything to defy German soldiers, keep the bookshop alive, and safeguard both her home and the life she cherishes.

An unforgettable story of the courage of ordinary people in the darkest days of war. Perfect for fans of Kate Quinn and Pam Jenoff.

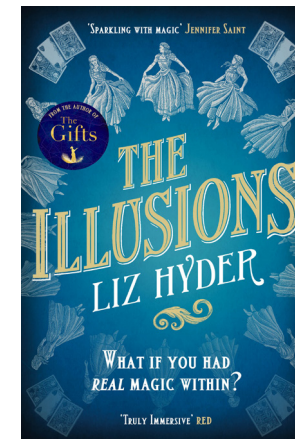
Publication: May 2023

World Rights

Rights Sold: Bulgaria (Colibri), Czechia (Vikend), Israel (Tchelet)

The Illusions

Liz Hyder



What if you had real magic within?

At a time of extraordinary change, two women must harness their talents to take control of their own destiny . . .

In 1896 Bristol, Cecily Marsden, a young assistant to a con artist, grapples with guilt over her master's sudden death and discovers potentially unknown powers within herself. Meanwhile, pioneering filmmaker Eadie Carleton and young magician George Perris intersect as they strive to revolutionize the realms of film and magic.

Inspired by real-life illusionists and early film pioneers, this astonishing story of women and talent, magic and power, sweeps you into a world where anything is possible and nothing is quite as it seems . . .

'Sparkling with magic.'

Publication: June 2023

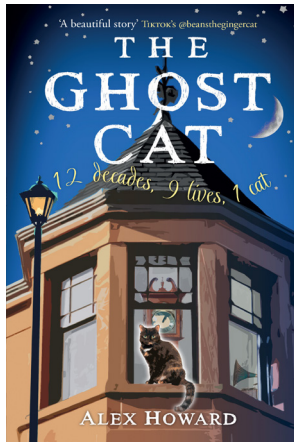
World Rights

Rights Sold: Poland (Insignis)

Jennifer Saint

The Ghost Cat

Alex Howard



Publication: May 2023

World Rights

Rights Sold: US (Hanover Press)

Twelve decades, nine lives, one cat.

Early morning, 1902. At 7/7 Marchmont Crescent, Eilidh the charlady tips coal into a fire grate and sets it alight. Overhearing, Grimalkin the cat ambles over to curl up against the welcome heat and lick his favourite human's hand. But this is to be his last day on earth . . . before he becomes the Ghost Cat.

Follow Grimalkin as he witnesses the changes of the next 120 years, prowling unseen among the inhabitants of an Edinburgh tenement, while unearthing some startling revelations about the mystery of existence, the unstoppable march of time and the true meaning of feline companionship.

This unique tale provides a feel-good read full of charm for any fan of history, humour and fur-ridden fun.

'Prepare to be enchanted.'

Simon Brett

Winter's Wishfall

Ceri Houlbrook



Publication: October 2023

World Rights

Rights Sold: Ukraine (Knigolove)

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

After a series of setbacks just before Christmas, Ellie Lancaster decides to embrace an 'unboring' life, and lands a mysterious archiving job on a hidden Scottish Island. Immersed in the archives, she discovers a collection of scrolls addressed to Father Christmas in a multitude of languages.

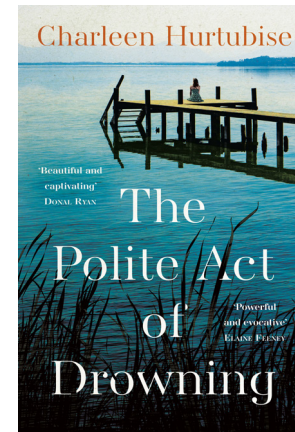
Despite the strangeness of it all, Ellie quickly falls in love with her new life - but things are never simple, and just as she and Cole seem to be overcoming their mutual distrust, Ellie makes a fourth resolution - one that threatens everything she's come to hold dear. As the big day itself draws near,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

'A heartwarming magical story.'

Sophie Anderson (*The House with Chicken Legs*)

The Polite Act of Drowning

Charleen Hurtubise



Publication: April 2023

World Rights

A luminous debut novel from one of Ireland's finest storytellers.

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 further from reality and her family.

An elegant, atmospheric, emotional coming-of-age novel with themes of generational trauma, sexual identity and coping with mental illness at its heart, as well as the silence of women drowning in plain view in their daily lives.

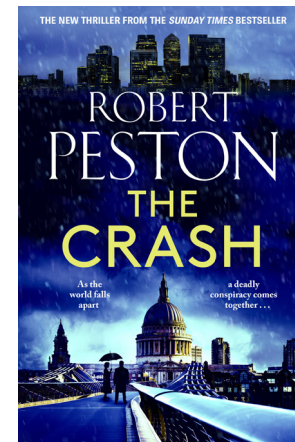
Perfect for fans of *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owen.

'Beautiful and captivating.'

Donal Ryan

The Crash

Robert Peston



Publication: September 2023

World Rights

Option Publishers: Poland (Zysk)

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

London, 2007. It's summer in the City: the economy is booming and the stock market sits near record highs.

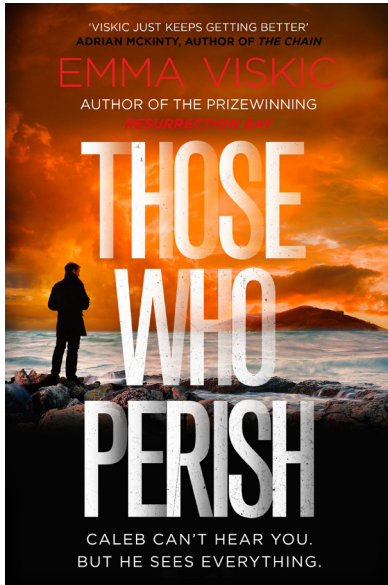
When journalist Gil Peck gets a tip-off that a small northern bank has run out of money, his report sparks the first run on a UK bank in over a century. The next day, Marilyn Krol, a director of the Bank of England dies in an apparent suicide.

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's investigation draws him deeper into the rotten heart of the financial system. The whole economy has been built on a house of cards, and Gil is threatening to bring it down. But in a world ruled by greed, some will kill to protect their interests.

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), Czechia (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.

Recent prizes and bestsellers

2024 CWA Diamond Dagger Award

Lynda La Plante

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
Wild Hope by Donna Ashworth

The Sunday Times #2 Bestseller

Mothering Sunday 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 Christy 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
Munich Wolf by Rory Clements

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