

**Adult Fiction
Rights Guide
Summer 2025**





Manilla Press is a boutique home for high quality fiction and narrative non-fiction; for books that get you talking and stories that endure.



Zaffre is our flagship adult imprint that focuses on a wide range of crime, thrillers, saga, women's and reading group fiction.



Black and White Publishing has teams based in both Edinburgh (where they were founded) and in London, and publishes a wide range of titles, including biography, sport, cookery, lifestyle, true crime, general and commercial non-fiction.



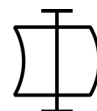
Eriu is based in Dublin, publishing books with a connection to Ireland, working closely with talented authors to bring Irish voices to international audiences.



Echo is an Australian publisher of narrative non-fiction, true crime, photographic and fiction titles.



Leap is a non-fiction imprint offering books to inspire, inform, and spark change. It speaks to the need for positive growth, both collectively and individually.



ITHAKA

Ithaka Press is a narrative non-fiction imprint covering topics from history and memoir to reportage and books about psychology or technology.



Blink Publishing's innovative non-fiction books seek to engage, entertain, inform and excite a wide commercial audience.



Footnote Press is an independently run, pioneering publisher of literary fiction and narrative non-fiction, focusing on migration, identity and marginalised knowledge as well as experiences of separation, resistance and reclamation.

Film & television deals & options

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

Snowflake by Louise Nealon – Element Pictures

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

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

Dark Heart by Silvia Avallone - Cattleya

A Glasgow Kiss by Sophie Gravia - BBC

The Cassie Raven Series - Under Option

Whalefall - Imagine

Z



The Wish Heather Morris

From the global phenomenon and author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* comes a brand-new contemporary novel of family, love and heartbreak.

Jesse is 15. She loves her friends, she tolerates her little brother, she loves her parents - even when they're arguing which feels like constantly these days. But most of all, she loves playing video games. Even from her hospital bed.

Alex is 27. He doesn't love a lot of things. To be honest, he's not really sure he knows how to. His desk at his job as a video games designer is empty, much like his life feels sometimes.

Then Jesse makes a wish. A simple one: a video game of her life; a forever game to be here, just in case she isn't.

One loving kid. One emotionally stunted adult.

Which one will get the happy ending?

Heather Morris is an international no.1 bestseller and has sold over 18 million copies worldwide. This brand-new novel is a fresh direction for her but speaks to all the themes that you know and love her for: hope in the darkest of places, family, love and courage.

Dirtpickers

Edie May Hand

A heart-swelling lyrical debut for fans of Chris Whitaker and *There Will Be Blood*.

In a remote valley in Idaho in 1981, a man, a woman and three children stop running to wash the blood from their hands and bodies. They are the few survivors of a terrible tragedy. Their only choice now is, somehow, to become a family.

Five years earlier, Opal and her husband James arrive at a small mining community in the Silver Valley, drawn by promises of fortune and independence. There they meet Baron Rowe, the charismatic visionary who controls the community with an iron fist. Baron's son Denny has spent his life trying, and failing, to live up to Baron's expectations, and to protect his little sister Maude from their father's excesses.

Soon, a tragic accident will change all their lives. And five years later, change will come again at the barrel of a madman's gun.

As these five become Ma, Da, Bunny, Bear and Baby, they must unlearn all they have known, tend to wounds old and new, and start afresh.

Dirtpickers is a heart-swelling beauty of a debut novel of trauma and found family, from an incredible new literary talent. Written in exquisite lyrical passages, the novel moves between the four main characters, shuffling back and forth in time, to create a story that will live long in the reader's memory.

'A magnificent novel. Edie May Hand's gift for language and for exploring the complexities of what humans are capable of is stunning.'

Belinda McKeon (*Solace and Tender*)

'A deeply human story of love, loss, trauma and resilience, a truly unforgettable read.'

Fiona Scarlett (*Boys Don't Cry*)

A Tiny Speck of Black and then Nothing

Emily Midorikawa

A dazzling literary suspense novel that plunges readers into the nightlife of Osaka, where a young hostess's disappearance initiates a dangerous pursuit through the city's criminal underworld.

Anna has never met anyone like the enigmatic Loll: a British hostess at the Moonglow bar in Osaka. While Anna teaches bored students by day, Loll passes the nights in smoky, dim-lit rooms, pouring men's drinks, and laughing playfully at their jokes.

But beneath Loll's glamorous facade, her skin bears unexplained bruises, and Anna's concern slowly begins to grow. She is troubled by the secret of the carved jade stone necklace that her new friend seems determined to protect; Loll's connection with her clients, including one with shadowy links to the city's underworld crime bosses; and the small fragments of information Loll volunteers about her past, her family and the circumstances that brought her to Osaka.

When Loll suddenly disappears, there are only the barest of clues as to where she might have gone. Desperate to find her friend, Anna refuses to give up. Soon she is thrown onto a trail that will take her into the darkest corners of the neon-choked metropolis.

For readers of *All the Lovers in the Night* by Mieko Kawakami and *Grotesque* by Natsuo Kirino.

'Exquisitely written and utterly compelling.'

Susan Barker

'An elegant, edgy and cinematic portrait of womanhood in all its vulnerability and strength.'

Emma Claire Sweeney



July 2026
Literary Thriller

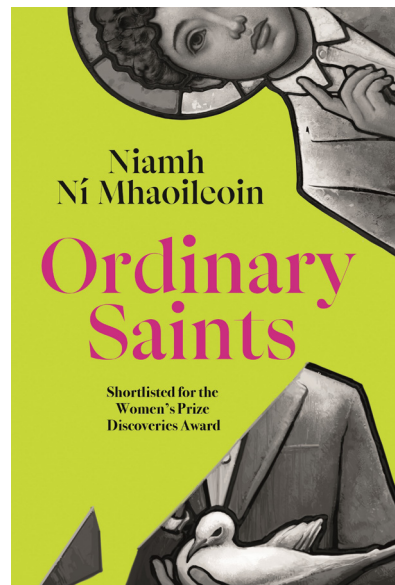
World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
United Agents

EMILY MIDORIKAWA is the author of *Out of the Shadows: Six Visionary Victorian Women in Search of a Public Voice*, and the co-author of *A Secret Sisterhood: The Literary Friendships of Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, George Eliot, and Virginia Woolf*. Her journalism has appeared in publications including the *Paris Review*, *TIME*, *The Times* and the *Washington Post*. She teaches on the writing programme at New York University London.

Ordinary Saints

Niamh Ní Mhaoileoin



April 2025
368 pp
Literary Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Spain (Urano)

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.

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

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.

**Winner of PFD Queer Fiction Prize
The Bookseller April Highlight**

'A moving novel of love, loss and life's mysteries.'
THE BOOKSELLER, Editor's Pick

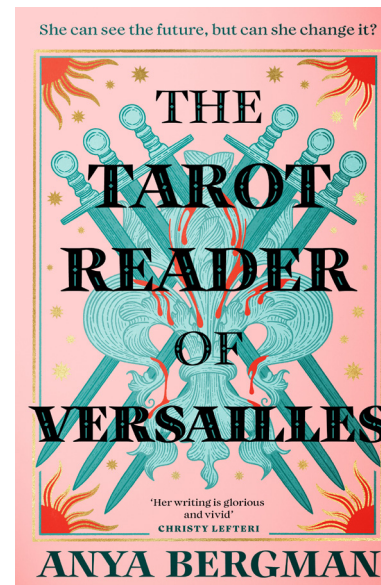
'A fresh funny, honest portrayal of familial love. I adored it.'

Louise Nealon

'The best debut novel I've read in a long time.'
Jessica Moor

The Tarot Reader of Versailles

Anya Bergman



June 2025
480 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil (Universo dos Livros), Bulgaria (Riva), France (Michel Lafon), Hungary (Helikon), Italy (Nord), Portugal (Leya), Serbia (Laguna), Spain (Trini), Ukraine (RM)

Television & Film Rights:
Marianne Gunn O'Connor

ANYA BERGMAN lives in Ireland, and is currently undertaking a PhD in 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, 1789. Marie Anne Adelaide Lenormand is a young woman with an extraordinary power - through her tarot cards, she can commune with the dead. Revolutionaries and the aristocracy alike are seeking her out to divine their fortunes. Lenormand is loyal to Marie Antoinette and the Dauphin of France, but she has seen the queen's fate in the cards and must take care that it doesn't become her own.

Then, one fateful day, she comes across Cait, a scullery maid from Ireland who has travelled to Paris for love. Cait has powers too - she can read people's pasts as Lenormand reads their futures. The two young women share an electrifying connection, drawn to each other's abilities. But Cait is hiding something. What will she do - and who will she betray - to bring revolution to the shores of her beloved Ireland too?

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



**Rights Sold for
The Witches of Vardo:**

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

Over 60,000 copies sold

Cleopatra

Natasha Solomons

Know her. Love her. Fear her.

Cleopatra, Egyptian Princess, grows up the favoured daughter of the Pharaoh, hiding amongst the scrolls in the Great Library of Alexandria with her beloved slave Charmain, longing for the chance to one day write her own story.

Then when her father dies, willing that Cleopatra rule with her selfish brother Ptolemy, danger stirs. As the young Egyptian Queen sails the Nile to greet her people, he plots to destroy her and take the throne for himself.

But while Ptolemy has the power of Egypt behind him, Cleopatra has her wits. And when the great Caesar arrives from Rome, she realises he could be the key to her salvation – though courting this powerful man could cost her everything.

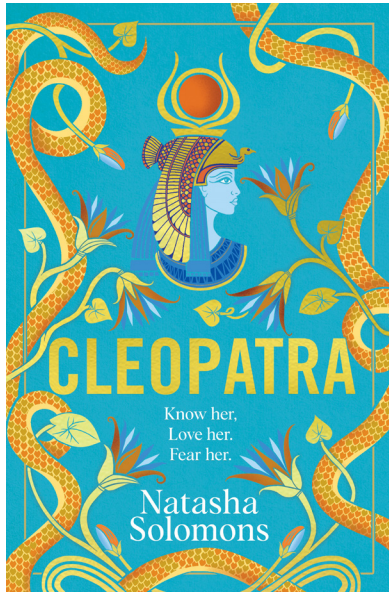
Can Cleopatra save her life, her throne and her beloved Egypt and finally write her own history?

Told from the perspectives of both Cleopatra and Caesar's mistress Servilia, *Cleopatra* is a powerful, unmissable new retelling, drawing out the real woman behind the great legend.



Rights Sold for *Fair Rosaline*:

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



May 2025
336 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil (Pensamento), Canada (HarperCollins), France (HarperCollins), Italy (Neri Pozza), Hungary (Athenaemum), Netherlands (Ambo Anthos), Serbia (Laguna), US (HarperCollins)

Television & Film Rights:

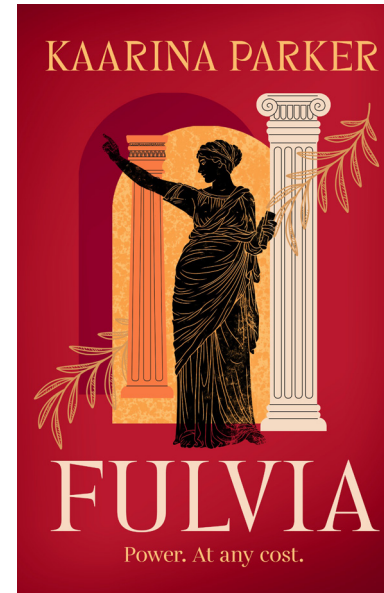
C&W

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.

Fulvia

Kaarina Parker

Power. At any cost.



July 2025
288 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

KAARINA PARKER is a writer, model, and activist based in Auckland, New Zealand. She studied History and Film at the University of Melbourne and has a Masters in Creative Writing. She has a particular love for the extraordinary women of the late Roman Republic, who achieved so much and are credited with so little.

'In my life I walked among titans, emperors, generals - men whose feuds and desires shaped the landscape of Rome . . . Some were my friends, some of them I loved, others loathed me, and others still grew to fear me.'

Born into a wealthy but unimportant family, Fulvia is raised in the peace of the Etruscan countryside but longs for a life of excitement and influence. When her father dies and her inheritance is threatened, she makes her way to the city of Rome to secure her future.

Motivated by both passion and opportunism, Fulvia marries Clodius, a hedonistic young senator. They are perfect partners - risk takers, scornful of convention and eager for change. Although Clodius is heir to a leading aristocratic family, he has spent his life criticising the rules of his class and championing the common people. As a wife and mother, Fulvia fulfils her role in a society that denies women any influence outside the home - but she is also a ruthless political strategist, intent on seeing her husband rise through the ranks of Rome's governing body, the senate. And, through him, wielding her own authority.

But Rome is a dangerous place, and power can become notoriety overnight. Fulvia soon learns just how high the stakes really are, and that her ambitions may come at a terrible cost.

For fans of Elodie Harper and Elizabeth Fremantle.

The Swell

Kat Gordon



February 2025
320 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Canada
(HarperCollins), Italy (Tre60)

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.

An addictive and intricate read about family and the complicated role of women within it.

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 captivating mystery as it is a story about the choices available to women through the ages.

A spellbinding, beautifully atmospheric read that will delight fans of *Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent and Anya Bergman's *The Witches of Vardo*.

'Beautiful and powerful, a story of courage and survival that echoes across generations.'

Emily Critchley

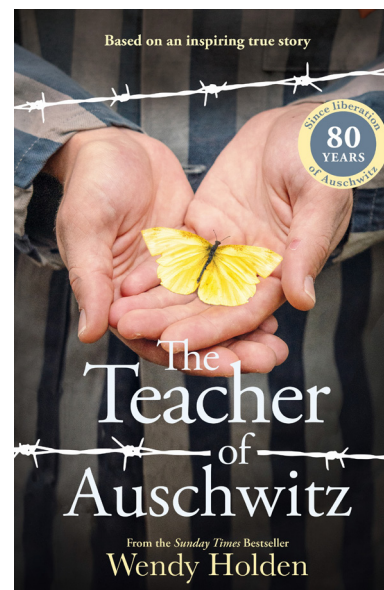
'A deeply satisfying, deftly woven novel of female power and resistance, and of feminisms both implicit and explicit.'

Anna Hope

'Gripping, bewitching, and laced with atmosphere.'

Harriet Constable

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January 2025
368 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil, Czechia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, The Netherlands, US

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

WENDY HOLDEN was a respected journalist and war correspondent. She is the author of more than thirty-five non-fiction titles and three novels. Her books include *Born Survivors*, the bestselling story of three mothers who hid their pregnancies from the Nazis, now published in 24 countries.

The Teacher of Auschwitz

Wendy Holden

He taught them the most important lesson of all: how to live.

Fredy built a wall against suffering in their hearts...

At the dark heart of the Holocaust, there was a wooden hut whose walls were painted with cartoons; a place where children sang, staged plays and wrote poetry. Safely inside, but still in the shadow of the chimneys, they were given better food, kept free of vermin, and were even taught meditation to imagine their stomachs full and their days free of fear. The man who became their guiding light was a young Jewish prisoner named Fredy Hirsch.

But being a teacher in such a brutal concentration camp was no mean feat. Whether it was begging the SS for better provisions, or hiding his homosexuality from his persecutors, he risked his life every day for one thing: to protect the children from the mortal danger they all faced.

But time is running out for Fredy and the hundreds of children in his care. Can he find a way to teach them the one lesson they really need to know: how to survive?

Assiduously researched and drawn from archives and survivor testimonies, historian and biographer Wendy Holden tells the inspirational and uplifting true story of Fredy Hirsch: *The Teacher of Auschwitz*.

'Haunting and beautiful. Excruciatingly vivid.'

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

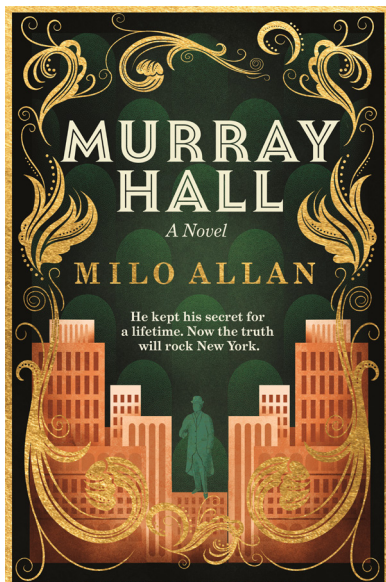
'The closest possible narrative a person who did not experience those times herself could have written.'

Dita Kraus, the real-life inspiration for *The Librarian of Auschwitz*



Murray Hall: A Novel

Milo Allan



April 2025
288 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

MILO ALLAN is a pseudonym for Milo Clenshaw and Vicky Allan. Milo currently works as the Programme Assistant for Alchemy Film & Arts. Vicky 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*.



Bethnal Green

Amélie Skoda



January 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 mother, who worked as a nurse in the NHS. Her work has appeared in various reviews and anthologies.

A beautifully immersive coming-of-age tale set amongst the brilliance and bleakness of 1970s London.

Penang, 1971. When Suyin Lim is offered the opportunity of a lifetime - a place as a trainee nurse in London's Bethnal Green Hospital - she jumps at the chance to leave her job as a seamstress and unite with her sister, who left for the same path a year before.

However, without warning, her sister returns to Penang, a shadow of her former self, and Suyin is forced to leave without any answers. Suyin soon finds herself starting a new life in London, falling in love with the vibrant city and its people. As she immerses herself in the gruelling but rewarding work of caring for her patients, she begins to understand what she really wants out of life . . .

Bethnal Green explores the themes of sacrifice and heartbreak, the power of using your voice and the will to build a life of one's own against the odds.

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

Shortlisted for the 2021 Mo Siewcharran Prize

'A searching, immersive debut.'

Tash Aw

'Heartstring-pulling and hopeful with beautifully drawn characters.'

Sarah Turner

'A tender, original read with a slow burn mystery and love story that kept the pages turning.'

Elaine Chiew



The Wise Witch of Orkney

Anna Caig

Anna
Caig

The Wise Witch of Orkney



COVER TO BE REVEALED

February 2026
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
David Higham Agency

ANNA CAIG has worked in communications for over 20 years. She now runs a business training creative people in how to do their own marketing. Anna's submission *The Spae-Wife* was shortlisted for the CWA Debut Dagger prize in 2020 and was the springboard for *The Wise Witch of Orkney*. This is her debut novel.

Can three brave women come together to defy the King?

1593, Scotland. King James VI launches a bloody witch hunt across the length and breadth of the country to rid the land of evil.

But they are already within his court.

Disguised as a lady-in-waiting, Elspet Balfour has been sent from Orkney to serve the Queen Anna of Denmark, the witch-hunting king's new bride, at court in Edinburgh. For Anna is pregnant and, against her husband's decree, wishes for her baby to remain with her after birth. She seeks a binding spell from Elspeth, a 'spae wife', a wise woman and herbalist, to protect her unborn child.

While Elspet struggles to keep her identity secret in a court that wishes her dead, another woman seeks her aid - Kitty Muirhead, unwed and impoverished, desperate to rid herself of her burdens past and present. Kitty and the Queen could not be more different, but they just might be each other's salvation.

The hunt is closing in on the three women. They must concoct a reckless plan to save one another before that fearful death sentence is cast upon them: *witch*.

For fans of *Wolf Hall*, *Hamnet* and *The Witches of Vardo*.



Poor Creatures

Mairi Kidd

Mairi
Kidd

Poor Creatures



COVER TO BE REVEALED

October 2025
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

MAIRI KIDD is Director of the Saltire Society and has been Head of Literature at Creative Scotland and CEO of Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books. She has also worked as a publisher to open up the written word to children and young people with dyslexia. Mairi is the author of *Warriors*, *Witches and Damn Rebel Bitches*, *Feisty and Fiery* and *Fierce*, *We Are All Witches* and *The Specimens*.

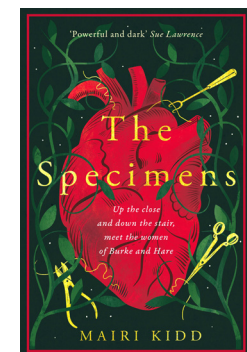
The fictionalised story of Mary Shelley and the birth of *Frankenstein*.

She did not mean to. But she has killed, and killed, and killed again.

Dundee, 1812. Isabel Baxter awaits the arrival of Mary Godwin, a girl of precocious intellect and grand passions, sent north to cure an ailment no one understands. Nestled in woodland on the banks of the Tay, the Baxter family estate seems a perfect place for a troubled girl to recuperate. But The Cottage is a place of secrets, memories . . . and monsters.

Haunted by sickness and loss, Mary steps with Isabel into a shared fantasy world of intrigue and desire. As the fiction weaves its web about them, the two girls begin to lose their interest in reality - with far-ranging consequences for the lives of more than themselves.

The tale of the birth of *Frankenstein* has fascinated for centuries. *Poor Creatures* imagines the birth of Mary Shelley the writer - and the devastating effects on the circle about her.



The Wonder of You

Willow Grainger

Willow Grainger

The Wonder of You

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COVER TO BE REVEALED

April 2026
Romance

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
CAA

WILLOW GRAINGER is a pseudonym for writer, podcaster and influencer, Bethany Rutter. Her writing has appeared in the *Guardian*, *Telegraph Magazine*, *Vogue*, *Dazed*, *RedOnline*, *The Debrief* and others. She co-hosts the podcast *What Page Are You On?* and is the author of *Plus+*, a coffee table book offering style inspiration for everyone. Her novels include *No Big Deal* and *Melt My Heart* as well as YA fiction for Hot Key Books.

An enemies-to-lovers romance set against the backdrop of the biggest film franchise in the world.

Emily Montgomery and Josh Sacco have two things in common:

- 1) They have played the main characters of *Wonderwick Woods*, a hugely popular global film franchise based on a series of bestselling novels, since they were kids.
- 2) They cannot stand each other.

Emily is a consummate professional, she knows that she will have to fight to be taken seriously as an actress after coming of age as a beloved children's book character. She always knows her lines.

Josh is a Hollywood nepo baby, famous for always having a new girl on his arm. He constantly forgets his lines.

As they head back to set to film the next instalment of the series, they know that there's immense pressure on them both to deliver the biggest moment of the series yet, a kiss between their characters.

But can you kiss someone convincingly when you've hated them since you were 14 years old?

Perfect for fans of *Magnolia Parks* and *The Idea of You*.



Estelle Maskame

Forever & Always You



COVER TO BE REVEALED

September 2025
Romance

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

ESTELLE MASKAME published the first book in her international bestselling *Did I Mention I Love You?* series when she was just seventeen. A word-of-mouth sensation, she is also the author of standalone novels *Dare to Fall* and *The Wrong Side of Kai*. With over one million copies of her books sold and her work translated into 22 languages, her fiction attracts countless passionate, loyal fans worldwide. Winner of the Young Scot Arts Award 2016, Estelle has been shortlisted for the Young Adult award at the Romantic Novel of the Year Awards.

Forever & Always You

Estelle Maskame

They promised to be best friends forever . . . but what if they could be more?

Of all of Gabby's terrible mistakes, losing Austin may have been the worst one.

As children, they were inseparable best friends - until golden girl Gabby publicly broke Austin's heart and set fire to their friendship. She hasn't seen him since.

Now Gabby is a college drop-out with a crappy apartment, her promising future rapidly slipping through her fingers. In her own words, she's nothing. So, she's got nothing to lose when she sets out to fix her life and the many mistakes she's left in her wake.

Austin is the one who got away, and she's never forgiven herself for hurting him. But can he forgive her now?

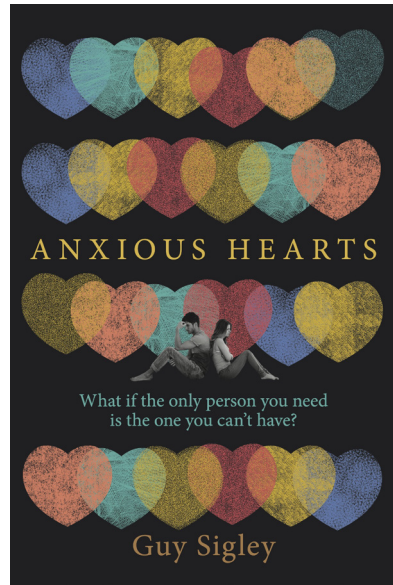
A sweet and charming friends-to-enemies-to-lovers romance where a high school bully makes amends for her bad behaviour and falls in love with the boy whose heart she broke. For fans of Ali Hazelwood, Hannah Grace and Laurie Gilmore.



Over a million copies sold across her titles

Anxious Hearts

Guy Sigley



September 2025
336 pp
Romance

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

GUY SIGLEY lives in Melbourne, Australia with his wife and three children. He is an occasional podcaster and the author of *The Barney Conroy Series*

If overwhelming anxiety and the pressure to succeed rule your life, can there be room for love?

Kelly O'Mara, a 28-year-old junior doctor, is relentless in her pursuit of excellence. She will sacrifice friendships, a social life and romance to be the best. But her constant self-imposed pressure is like a stick of dynamite, ready to explode at the smallest spark.

Finn Walsh is a successful actor, but behind the showbiz smile he's battling anxiety, self-loathing and a sense of impending doom. Finn struggles to hold back the darkness of everyday life away from the camera.

Kelly and Finn have been inseparable since childhood; two souls who share a deep, powerful bond. They've always been each other's safe place. But now, the crushing weight of their own fears and expectations creates a rift in their relationship that sends them both into a toxic spiral. Can they succeed in the world without each other's support? Or will they realise that to sacrifice everything is the only way they will both survive?

Anxious Hearts is an enthralling and warm-hearted exploration of love, mental health and the impossible standards we can set for ourselves.

Dancing With Bees

Anna Maynard



April 2025
304 pp
Romance

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

ANNA MAYNARD's experience as a writer has largely been restricted to medical letters and discharge summaries, which, although written with care, are generally not butterfly-inducing. So after sitting her specialist medical exams she decided it was time to write about romance. *Dancing With Bees* is her debut novel.

The path to true love doesn't always flow as smoothly as honey . . .

Sunny Moritz needs a change. She's thirty-three, single, weary of tedious romances with the wrong kind of men and, according to her disappointed parents, drifting about like a tumbleweed. Her former high school crush, orthopaedic surgeon Adam Harrison, might be meeting all her physical demands (and requiring a subtotal of zero emotional headspace), but what about the rest of her life?

When Sunny decides to start beekeeping, the man with the information she needs is an odd, enigmatic and indecently sexy Antarctic scientist. Surely, though, she's way too pragmatic to be affected by his magnetism . . .

But as her hunger for meaning starts to bloom, Sunny begins to think that maybe it's not too late to reconnect with her parents, maybe it's time to start dancing again and maybe she could even have a lasting relationship.

This delightful contemporary romance is full of memorable characters, depicted with warmth and humour by a born storyteller. For fans of Beth O'Leary and Emily Henry.

'A laugh-out-loud funny debut that's both sexy and heartfelt. A real winner!'

Maya Linnell

'Fun, funny and tender.'

Katie McMahon

'A page-turning, tender and funny story about finding (and returning to) the people and passions that make you feel alive.'

Steph Vizard

Z

Wildflower

Becky Jenkinson

Becky
Jenkinson

Wildflower

Z

COVER TO BE REVEALED

June 2026
Romantasy

World Rights

Rights Sold: US (PRH/Del Rey)

Television & Film Rights:
The Blair Partnership

BECKY JENKINSON is a writer, illustrator and teacher from Manchester. She graduated with a First Class BA (Hons) degree in Animation from Norwich University of the Arts, and in 2019, moved to Tokyo, Japan, where she currently teaches English. *Wildflower* is her debut novel.

A cursed magical florist and an outcast sorcerer must work together to unravel a conspiracy.

When an anonymous request for an unknown flower lands at the door of Felicity 'Fliss' Farrow, a magical florist cursed to tell the truth, she is intrigued. An expert in local flora, how is it possible she has not heard of this species before? Determined to unravel the mystery, she leaves the safety of the duchy to fulfil the request.

On her quest, she encounters Willoh Vane, a handsome sorcerer outcast from the duchy for his part in a disaster five years previous. Fliss knows all about Will's reputation, especially as her best friend Card is soon to marry Prince Bastion, who was victim of Will's machinations. She does not trust him, but Will proves invaluable in helping her find the mysterious plant. When two more requests appear for other similarly rare flowers, Fliss finds herself in Will's path again. He is not as he seems, and Fliss begins to think that perhaps the rumours surrounding him are unfounded . . . and she cannot stop thinking about him.

As Card's wedding day approaches, Fliss suspects that the plants she has discovered may be used for a sinister purpose. But with her involvement with banished Will, for the first time she is not believed. Can the two work together to avert this crisis before disaster strikes again? And is there a happy ever after waiting for them at the end?

Ella Enchanted meets *Emily Wilde's Encyclopaedia of Faeries* with echoes of Stephanie Garber in this cosy fantasy romance.

Z

Dream of the Jet-Black City

Pablo Valcárcel Castro

Pablo
Valcarcel Castro

Dream of
the Jet-
Black City

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COVER TO BE REVEALED

May 2026
Fantasy

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Julie Crisp Agency

PABLO VALCÁRCCEL CASTRO grew up in a bilingual household in the Canary Islands. He studied law but currently teaches entrepreneurship and innovation in Madrid. In 2016, he attended the Odyssey Writing Workshop in New Hampshire. *Dream of the Jet-Black City* is his debut novel.

With the power to form dreams and nightmares into reality, will those in control choose to shape a better world – or destroy it?

Lightning-Hunter Ash chases living lightning across the city's shadowy rooftops, his survival dependent on the energy that powers the jet-black city. When a nightmare creature attacks his gang, he summons a protective shadow beast, gaining a power that forces him to choose: weaponise it at the ruthless Academy or serve a manipulative Archdreamer.

Geil, a Nightmare-Hunter and half-human, half-dream creation, is torn between her violent dragon heart and the guilt over her lover's death. When she uncovers her former master's plot to overthrow the city's rulers, the Archdreamers, she must embrace her inner dragon to stop a nightmare that threatens to destroy the city.

Meanwhile, Daerna, a Wailer tasked with calming the city's raging Motherstorm, defies her order to investigate a deadly plague, risking everything to reveal the truth.

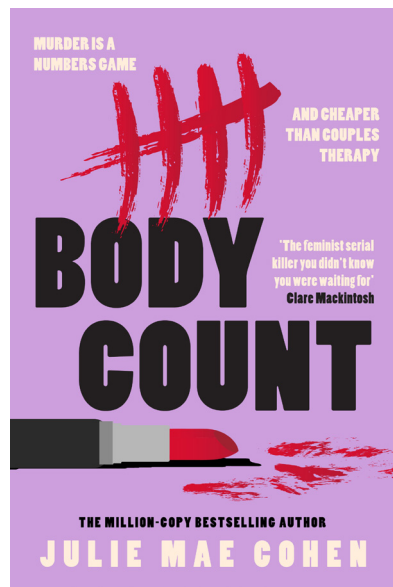
As their paths converge, they must uncover the city's dark secrets and stop those manipulating the dream power before their world is consumed by a living nightmare.

The lyrical prose of Carlos Ruiz Zafón meets the political intrigue of *House of the Dragon*. For readers of Brandon Sanderson, Adrian Tchaikovsky and Mark Lawrence.

Z

Body Count

Julie Mae Cohen



August 2025
352 pp
Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Teresa Chris Agency

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, a Vice President of the Romantic Novelists' Association and a founder of their Rainbow Chapter for LGBTQ+ writers. *Body Count* is the sequel to *Bad Men*, Julie's debut thriller.

'I never know if 'body count' refers to how many men I've slept with, or how many men I've killed. Just to be on the safe side, I try to keep them equal.'

Saffy Huntley-Oliver's life is going great. She's got a fabulous new boyfriend, Jonathan, and they are crazy in love; now that she's no longer single, she can get back to her favourite hobby of killing all the bad men she can find.

Well. There are one or two teensy snags. For one, her beloved sister Susie is still dating that manbunned toe-rag Finlay and it is so hard not to murder him. For another, Jonathan's dog, Girl, sheds a lot, and so Saffy can no longer wear anything velvet or black. Jonathan himself seems to have lost his taste for murder, and is ignoring all the tempting corpses that Saffy keeps putting in his way, which is a crying shame because he looks so sexy covered in blood.

And to top it all off, those idiot police keep on sniffing around, looking for whoever killed that kinky sex pest politician. And someone has even—so rude—killed one of her marks before she could reach him.

The police are never going to find her . . . but has someone else?

The highly-anticipated sequel to the international hit and BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick *Bad Men*.

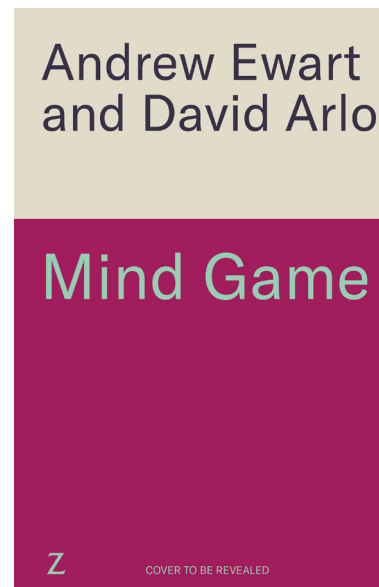


Rights Previously Sold:
Brazil (Buzz), Germany (Heyne), Greece (Harlenic), Italy (Piemme), Israel (Keter), Romania (Flacara), Russia (Eksmo), Serbia (Laguna), Spain (Newton Compton), Turkey (Eksik Parca), Ukraine (Family Leisure Club), US (Overlook)

Z

Mind Game

Andrew Ewart and David Arlo



July 2026
Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
No Ordinary

ANDREW EWART is the author of two published speculative thrillers, *Forget Me and Replace You*. He is currently head of production at *The Sunday Times*.

DAVID ARLO is a recording artist, songwriter, actor, writer, director, and executive producer, who is signed to Arista/Sony Music US. He is the co-founder of the production company No Ordinary.

How far would you go to save your family?

It's the most anticipated video game of all time. TAP – Total Altered Perception – is a fully immersive virtual reality simulation which allows the player to live out their dreams.

Its creator is Hal Ashton, a genius programmer at software firm Kosmos. If the game fails, his career is over – and the deadline is fast approaching. The only way he can make TAP the world-conquering experience it needs to be is to convince his family – his frustrated wife Scarlett, awkward son Grayson and golden girl Olivia – to be guinea pigs for the final playtest.

As his loved ones experience their fantasies inside the game, Hal watches, learning some secrets about them along the way. But sinister glitches begin to appear, trapping them inside TAP and causing violent physical reactions – and there is no way of escape. Are there dangerous faults in the program or is a saboteur at work? The only way for Hal to rescue his family is to splice himself into their games, at great risk to all of them.

Black Mirror meets Anthony McCarten's *Going Zero* in this speculative thriller about the dangers of technology, the dividing line between reality and fantasy, and how far you would go to save your family.

Z

A Girl's Girl

Emma Robertson

Emma
Robertson

A Girl's
Girl

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COVER TO BE REVEALED

June 2026
Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
DHH Literary Agency

EMMA ROBERTSON has written short stories and flash fiction, with pieces published in a number of anthologies and literary magazines including *Popshot Quarterly*, *Idle Ink* and *Lunate*. In 2022 she was longlisted for the Bath Flash Fiction Award and was one of the winners of Spread the Word's 'City of Stories' competition. *A Girl's Girl* is her debut novel.

Darcy has everything she's ever wanted . . . her friend wants to take it all away.

At school, Darcy Starr was the girl everyone wanted to be and the girl every boy wanted to be with – effortlessly beautiful, confident and most importantly, popular.

Twenty years on, married to her childhood sweetheart Jon, and living in the suburbs with their young daughter, life still looks perfect until the reappearance of her old school friend, Alex, threatens to expose the cracks beneath the filters.

Newly divorced and post-glow up, Alex Rigby is back in their lives and she's after revenge – but Darcy doesn't know why.

Both sides of the story begin to emerge, along with secrets and lies that will change their lives forever.

The Holiday meets *One of the Girls* in this deliciously dark psychological thriller.

Z

Home Sweet Home

Ruth Irons



June 2025
352 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Antony Harwood Agency

RUTH IRONS grew up in South Wales before studying Music at Exeter University, and then Musical Theatre at Central School of Speech and Drama. She worked as an actor, musician, and music teacher for many years before turning to writing as an outlet, completing courses with Curtis Brown Creative and the Writers Bureau. Her debut novel, *The Perfect Guest*, was published in June 2024.

You invited her into your home. But how well do you really know her?

Jules and Scott are a young professional couple living on the outskirts of London. When Orla - a charismatic Irish actor - sweeps into their lives, they decide to invite her to their house-share: she needs a home, they could do with the money, and she's fun and charming, with a busy job and active social life.

But once Orla moves in, Jules starts to feel uncomfortable. Whatever the occasion, Orla has to be centre-stage, and there's always something that casts her in the spotlight. Every social occasion, every outing, every get-together is dominated by her and her daily dramas.

When Jules discovers she's pregnant, she's relieved Scott agrees Orla should go. But the day they decide to tell her, she has her own news - and it's devastating.

Asking her to move out now is out of the question. But an unspeakable question starts to form in Jules' mind. She must be wrong though, surely? Because no one would lie about something so terrible. Would they?

An unputdownable domestic thriller that will just not let you go. For fans of Lisa Jewell and Shari Lapena.



Rights Sold for
***The Perfect Guest*:**
Slovenia (Hisa Knjig),
US Audio (Dreamscape)

A Scrooge Mystery

Andreina Cordani

Andreina
Cordani

A Scrooge Mystery

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COVER TO BE REVEALED

October 2025
Seasonal Crime

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
The North Literary Agency

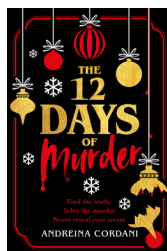
Before writing her first novel, ANDREINA CORDANI was a senior editor and writer for magazines including *Good Housekeeping* and *Cosmopolitan*. She is the author of two YA thrillers, *The Girl Who...* and *Dead Luck*. *The Twelve Days of Murder* was her debut adult novel.

When everyone's favourite reformed miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, errs from the path of goodness, he starts seeing spirits again - this time of a girl, whose murder he must solve if he is to avoid the dreaded vision of *The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come*.

Ebenezer Scrooge wants to be a good man. He wants to be remembered. And he never, ever wants to see a ghost again as long as he lives. But changing your ways on Christmas day is easy. Changing your ways for the rest of your life is a little trickier. Almost a year on from his haunting, the only things keeping him on the straight and narrow are fundraising attempts with the formidable Mrs Tassell and his growing bond with Tiny Tim.

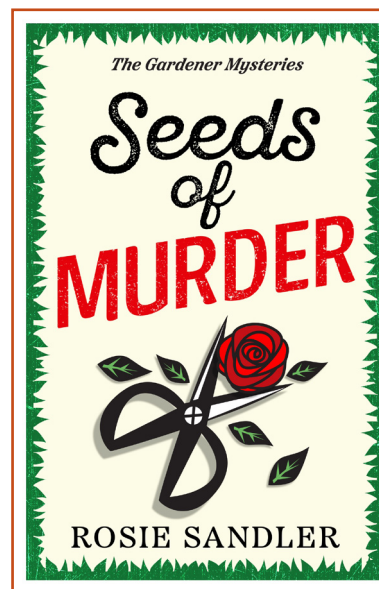
Scrooge believes he's doing Christmas right - decorating his house, buying gifts, and planning a Benevolent Feast for the Poor. So when a lucrative business deal arises, he jumps at the chance to make some quick money . . . to give to the poor, obviously. But maybe just keep some - OK, most - of it for himself.

But then Scrooge sees her. Another ghost, silent and terrifying. And in order to be free of this haunting he must solve her murder. It leads him to investigate the connections between London's elite and the city's criminal underworld.



Previous Rights Sold:
Finland (Otava), Hungary (Alexandra), Italy (Newton Compton), Spain (Newton Compton), Ukraine (Knigolove), US (Pegasus)

Film rights for *The Twelve Days of Murder* optioned by Brock Media



August 2023
272 pp
Cosy Crime

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
The Literary Office

ROSIE SANDLER writes novels, poetry and short stories, and is an editor and creative writing tutor. She loves dressmaking and wearing colourful outfits, which often leads to joyful encounters with strangers. Although she enjoys visiting beautifully tended gardens, Rosie's own garden is a bit on the wild side (her excuse is that this encourages hedgehogs and other wildlife). Rosie is co-author of the *Agatha Oddly* trilogy of children's detective novels.

Seeds of Murder

Rosie Sandler

Roses are red. Violets are blue. All of the evidence is pointing at you.

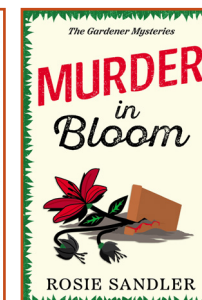
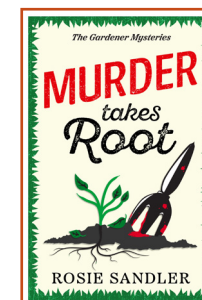
Steph Williams has arrived at the wealthy, gated community of Beaulieu Heights ready to start her new position as head gardener. Surrounded by mansions and acres of land, it's worlds apart from the life she knows.

If she happens to accidentally overhear private conversations while trimming the bushes, or is refused access to a locked shed, she knows not to question it - after all, gardeners should be seen and not heard.

Until notes start turning up, threatening to reveal the deepest secrets of the residents. Suddenly Steph finds herself the prime suspect, and now she must leave the shelter of the gardens behind to clear her name and save her job.

When the investigation puts her life at risk, Steph is up against the clock to weed out the real culprit before it's too late . . .

The first book in *The Gardener Mysteries* series, perfect for fans of Richard Coles, Fiona Leitch and Sarah Yarwood-Lovett.



Almost 50,000 copies sold across the series

An Invisible Tattoo

Suellen Dainty



April 2025
320 pp
Mystery

World Rights

Rights Sold: Serbia (Laguna)

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown (Australia)

SUELLEN DAINTY is the author of two novels: *After Everything*, which was selected by Target in their Emerging Authors programme, and *The Housekeeper*. Before turning to fiction, she worked as a journalist for *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian* and the *ABC*. She then moved to London, where she worked as a producer for Sky News, a freelance journalist and a ghost writer.

Lovers come and go. Friends last forever.

When the last collection of songs by British musical icon, James Bennett, is discovered in an old Somerset house, rumours about his mysterious death during a wild midsummer party more than fifty years ago begin to swirl again. An accident? Suicide? Or murder?

The only person still alive who knows what happened is frail but indomitable Ruth Henderson. She now lives in a Sydney apartment, but back in 1972 she was staying in England with her closest friend, Adela McMahon, who was married to James.

From very different backgrounds, Ruth and Adela became inseparable while growing up in an isolated Australian rural town, both longing for a chance to escape. Adela fled first, to the bright lights and hectic whirl of swinging London, where she soon met James. But not everything is as perfect as it seems. Ruth was a witness to her beloved friend's tempestuous and troubling relationship - and was by Adela's side the night James died.

Journalists are clamouring to hear Ruth's story. Of them all, Ruth chooses young and ambitious Kate Griffin, who will do anything to boost her career. But as the past and the present begin to collide, an unexpected friendship grows between the two women and deciding what really matters proves life changing for them both.

Set between the rock 'n' roll era of 1960s' England and contemporary Australia, this dual-timeline mystery is perfect for fans of *Daisy Jones and the Six*.



Lie to Me

Olivia Gavoyannis



May 2025
300 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Rogers, Coleridge and White

OLIVIA GAVOYANNIS grew up in Brighton before moving to Scotland to study English literature at the University of St Andrews. She has a Journalism MA from City University and is slowly but surely learning Greek, which pleases her family. She lives and works in London as a journalist. When not reading or writing, Olivia can often be found walking, swimming or cooking unnecessary quantities of food for friends.

An intoxicating psychological suspense thriller set on a Greek island, against the backdrop of the swinging sixties.

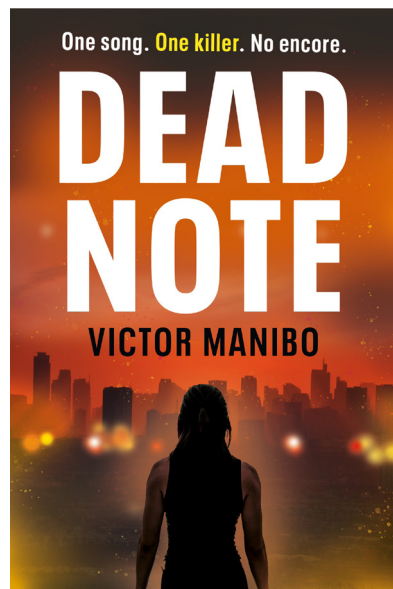
Lonely, naive eighteen-year-old Jean is caught in a deadly ménage à trois with glamorous racing driver Vivienne and her dashing husband Robert.

The three spend their summer competing in increasingly dangerous motor races by day and their nights in a blur of equally risky hedonistic partying. As Vivienne takes Jean under her wing, and teaches her how to dress to get what she wants, the two become more and more inseparable and Jean finds she's dangerously entrenched in Vivienne and Robert's private life.

As she vies for their attention she soon realises she's in far too deep. And, as the stiflingly hot summer days pass in a haze of ouzo-drenched seduction, Jean must ask herself: how far will Vivienne go to win? And is Jean willing to pay the ultimate price to help her get there?

Z

Dead Note Victor Manibo



May 2025
320 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

VICTOR MANIBO is a Filipino fiction writer living in New York. A 2022 Lambda Literary Emerging Voices Fellow, he is the author of the science fiction noir novel *The Sleepless*. *Dead Note* is his first crime novel.

One song. One killer. No encore.

Mia Cordova's world imploded when her father was shot dead in front of her while singing a karaoke classic. The police insisted that his death was the result of a random barroom brawl - an open and shut case - but when, three years later, another man is killed in the same way, singing the same song, Mia is convinced the two killings must be connected.

When a newspaper article draws a link between the murders, Mia is thrown into an investigation that leads her into a world of interrogations, gambling rings and shootouts.

With the police quick to cast suspicion on her, Mia must bring her father's killer to justice alone. But can she catch the killer before she becomes his next victim?

Fassbender's *The Killer* meets Femy Kayode's *Lightseekers* in this irresistible cat-and-mouse chase across Manila.

Z

Kill Pill David Barbaree



April 2025
418 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

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

Television & Film Rights:
Rogers, Coleridge & White

DAVID BARBAREE's first novel *Deposed* was longlisted for the Historical Writers' Association Debut Crown Award. He has a B.A. in Philosophy and a J.D. in Law. As a lawyer, he has practiced criminal law, civil litigation and regulatory enforcement. He lives in Toronto, Canada, with his wife and three children.

They're the most hated family in America. And it's her job to keep them alive.

After his daughter overdosed and died, William Thomas Knox brutally murdered billionaire Skip Buchanan, patriarch of the family most responsible for the American opioid epidemic. Online communities glorified Skip's death - one murder to balance out the loss of one million innocent people - and turned Knox into a hero.

One year later, veteran Harper Scott is out of work and just desperate enough to take a job protecting members of the hated Buchanan family. Then, as the online mob grows and death threats against the Buchanans reach a fevered pitch, another Buchanan is murdered and Harper is thrown into a race to find the killer.

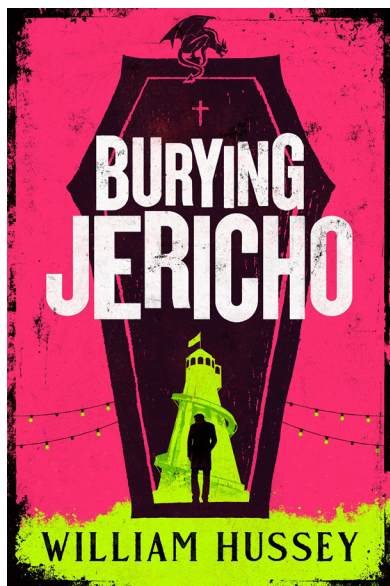
There are precious few Americans who have not been harmed by the opioid crisis. But how do you find a killer when there are millions of suspects?

For fans of *Empire of Pain* by Patrick Radden Keefe and *To The Lions* by Holly Watt.

Z

Burying Jericho

William Hussey



April 2025
400 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold in Series: Japan (Bungeishunju), Latin America (Trillas)

Television & Film Rights:
David Higham Agency

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.

Murder won't stay buried . . .

While Scott **Jericho** is tasked with investigating the most baffling case of his career, his partner Harry is set upon his own fateful path.

In a rundown seaside town, a young man has vanished without a trace. Jericho's investigation of this disappearance will unravel a diabolical plot and expose a secret long buried. A secret hinted at by the paper men hanging from the trees in a nearby wood, by the ravings of the local 'wise woman', and by the eerie waxworks of a defunct fairground attraction.

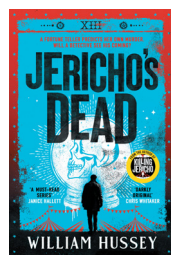
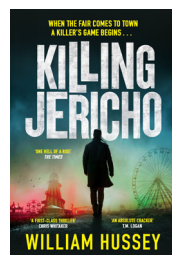
As fates collide and an impossible murder is executed, a twisted killer from the past is closing in on Harry and Jericho. But is it already too late for Jericho to save himself and the man he loves?

For readers of Robert Galbraith, Ray Celestin and Mark Billingham.

Praise for the series:

'Darkly original, suspenseful and haunting.'
Chris Whitaker

'Revelatory.'
Val McDermid

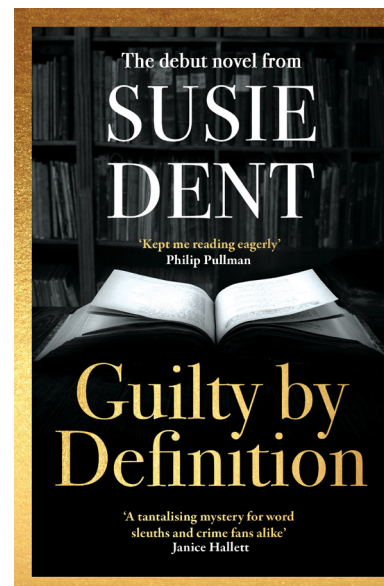


Winner of the Genre-Busting Book of the Year Fingerprint Award
Shortlisted for the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year and the Polari Prize

Z

Guilty By Definition

Susie Dent



August 2024
416 pp
Crime

World Rights

Rights Sold: Arabic (Dar Hibr), France (City), Italy (Newton Compton), Netherlands (AW Bruna), Spain (Newton Compton), Taiwan (Marco Polo), US (Sourcebooks)

Television & Film Rights:
United Agents

SUSIE DENT is a writer and broadcaster on language. She is the author of several non-fiction books and is a spokesperson for Oxford University Press, *Guilty By Definition* is her debut novel.

Word games can be murder.

When an anonymous letter is delivered to the Clarendon English Dictionary, it quickly becomes clear that this is not your usual lexicographical enquiry. Instead, the letter hints at secrets and lies linked to a particular year.

For Martha Thornhill, the new senior editor, the date can mean only one thing: the summer her brilliant older sister Charlie went missing.

After a decade abroad, Martha has returned home to the city whose ancient institutions have long defined her family. Have the ghosts she left behind her been waiting for her return?

When more letters arrive, and Martha and her team pull apart the complex clues within them, the mystery becomes ever more insistent and troubling. It seems Charlie had been keeping a powerful secret, and someone is trying to lead the lexicographers towards the truth. But other forces are no less desperate to keep it well and truly buried.

Instant Sunday Times Bestseller
Bestselling Crime Debut of 2024
Over 50,000 copies sold

'Astonishingly clever.'
GUARDIAN

'Kept me reading eagerly.'
Philip Pullman

'A tantalising mystery for word sleuths and crime fans alike.'
Janice Hallett

'Will delight anyone who appreciates fine crime writing.'
THE TIMES

Z

Lynda La Plante

The Scene of the Crime



August 2025
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
La Plante Global

With over 50 bestselling novels, over 5 million copies sold in the UK alone, and a member of The Crime Thriller Awards Hall of Fame, LYNDA LA PLANTE is truly crime fiction royalty. She is responsible for over 170 hours of primetime TV, including the perennially popular *Prime Suspect*. In 2024, she was awarded the CWA Diamond Dagger Award and the Thalia Proctor Lifetime Achievement Fingerprint Award for her lifetime contribution to the crime genre.

The brand-new detective series from legendary crime writer Lynda La Plante.

The husband of a prominent and infamously ruthless barrister is found in horrific condition after a robbery and brutal assault. Now in a coma, a major investigation is launched using the newly formed, experimental Metropolitan Police Serious Crime Analysis Unit (MSCAN).

Lynne Russell is an experienced CSI with qualifications in psychology and criminology. But Lynne's first job as team leader of MSCAN is entirely new to her: to bring together a team of three trusted officers.

The four of them have dealt with every kind of murder and major crime scene - their expertise ranges from forensic DNA to blood splatter analysis, digital forensics and beyond.

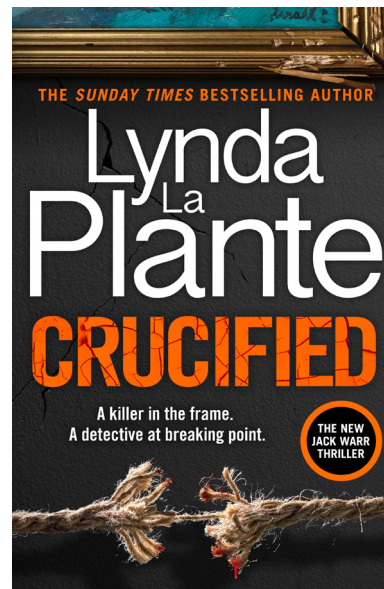
Now they must piece together the complex puzzle at the heart of this brutal crime. If it was a robbery gone horrifically wrong, what was so important to have been stolen?

Like with any new police department, there is immense pressure for instant results. One careless decision, one wrong accusation from Lynne or her team and their superiors would be all too happy to close down MSCAN for good.

For fans of Peter James, Karin Slaughter and Martina Cole.

Crucified

Detective Jack Warr Crime Series

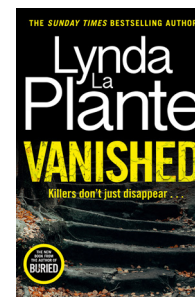
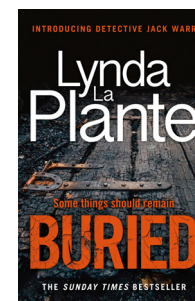


April 2025
416 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold in Series: France (L'Archipel), Romania (Flacara), Serbia (Publik Praktikum)

Television & Film Rights:
La Plante Global



Winner of the CWA Diamond Dagger Award

Over a million copies sold across the series

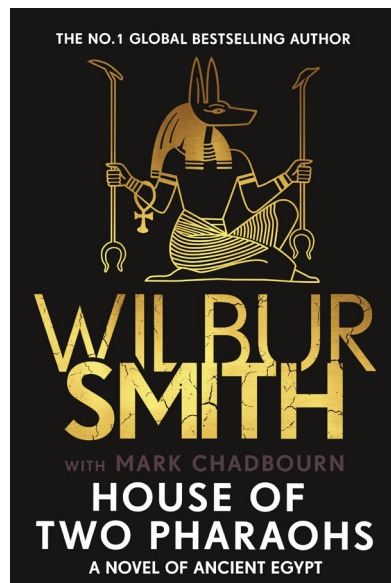
Detective Jack Warr is haunted by the gruesome legacy of serial killer Rodney Middleton and reeling from a series of events that has left him deep in depression. Refusing the Met-offered counselling service, Jack instead finds solace instead through renewing a dangerous friendship with the artist and master forger, Adam Border.

When a body is discovered nailed to a giant cross in a framer's shop, Jack feels a connection to the case even though it is not in his jurisdiction. But is his involvement that of a detective or witness?

Z

House of Two Pharaohs

Wilbur Smith



August 2025
368 pp
Historical Adventure

World Rights

Rights Sold for the Series:

Argentina, Czechia, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway

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.

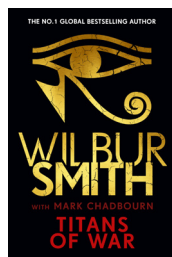
From the shadows, a new evil will rise.

Since his appointment as Nomarch of Memphis, by the God-Pharaoh Rameses, Piay has thrown himself into pulling the city back from the brink. The famous white city walls have been rebuilt, the once starving inhabitants fed and every day caravans have arrived from the desert wastes, filled with the many riches looted and hidden by the Hyksos. But when the body of a murdered scribe is found sealed inside the newly constructed city vault - the mark of Anubis, god of death, scrawled next to him in his own blood - panic sweeps the city. Only the wisest man in all Egypt can solve this mystery - Piay's mentor, the great sage Taita.

Called from his place at the God-Pharaoh Rameses' side, Taita's arrival in Memphis calms the populace, but it isn't long before the mark of Anubis appears again, and again. Taita and Piay are drawn into a battle of wits against a criminal mastermind turned warlord, his aim - with the demise of the Hyksos - to see the kingdom of the Red Pretender restored and the forces of Rameses crushed.

Will everything that Taita has fought for be torn asunder? Or will he and Piay finally reunite the two kingdoms? Only time will tell. And time is running out.

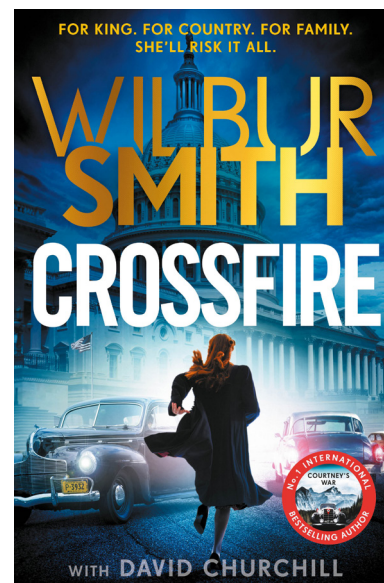
The next action-packed novel in the bestselling Ancient Egyptian series.



Z

Crossfire

Wilbur Smith



May 2025
368 pp
Historical Adventure

World Rights

Rights Sold for the Series:

Argentina, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania

Television & Film Rights:

Tibor Jones

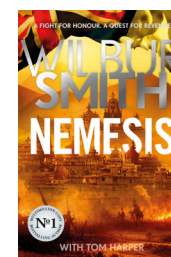
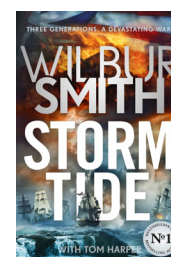
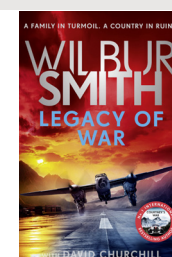
For King. For country. For family. She'll risk it all.

1943. The tide of the Second World War is turning: the German defeat at Stalingrad - the bloodiest battle in history - has opened the door for the Allies.

Special Operations Executive, Saffron Courtney, is sailing from the west coast of Scotland to New York on the Queen Mary. Her mission - to uncover the identity of the mole in the British Embassy in Washington, D. C. before Churchill and Roosevelt begin the talks that will determine British and American military strategy in the wake of the Russian victory.

Haunted by the death of Hauptsturmführer Schröder, a high-ranking Nazi she killed in self-defence, Saffron must first confront her own demons before she can turn her attention to the agents following her, and the spy who threatens to derail the Allied advance. Time is running out. Can Saffron complete her mission before the forces of darkness close in? Or will she succumb to the shadows that haunt her?

A race-against-time Courtney series thriller from the Master of Adventure.



The Writers' Room

James O'Loghlin

How far would you go to make your dreams come true?

Barb Young has accepted an invitation from her new friend, retired detective John Mayne, to spend a week at a rural mansion in the Southern Highlands of Australia. Mayne is acting as the 'Crime Consultant' for a writers' room, tasked with turning late author Clara Jenkins's bestselling, prize-winning novel into a television series. Clara drowned 20 years ago, just after finishing the book, and her four best friends, now running a successful production company, are writing and producing the series. To add to this mix is Clara's son, also a writer, and representatives from the streaming service Gorge, financiers of the series.

When one of the members of the writers' room is found dead at the bottom of a nearby cliff, the police consider it a tragic accident. However, Barb and Mayne aren't so sure and decide to start digging. But even they are not prepared for what they are about to discover . . .

Humour and intrigue in this clever whodunnit by author of *Liars* and *Criminals*.

'A terrific whodunnit.'

READINGS

'A ripper of a murder mystery that's got humour, nuance, and relatable characters in spades.'

HAPPY MAG

James O'Loghlin

The Writers' Room

echo COVER TO BE REVEALED

October 2026
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

JAMES O'LOGHLIN is an Australian comedian, television and radio host, and author of thirteen books. He began his career as a corporate lawyer, realised it wasn't for him, and became a criminal lawyer and a comedian. He has hosted four television shows - including *The New Inventors* on ABC-TV for eight years - and presented programs on ABC Local Radio for fifteen years. His debut novel, *Criminals*, was published by Echo in 2022.

The Sunbaker

P. A. Thomas

A beachside murder-mystery bursting with local colour and humour from the author of *The Beacon*.

When overworked forensic pathologist Nicola Fox arrives for a long overdue break at her holiday house in Brunswick Heads, she's shocked to discover someone on the sun lounger in her back yard. And that he has been dead for some time.

Rumours soon emerge that the sunbaker took more than a few dark secrets to his grave, secrets many people, and especially the police, were keen to bury. When the arse-covering and finger pointing begin in earnest, Nicola finds herself a suspect.

New to town, she only knows one person who might be able to save her: Jack Harris, a journalist at the local newspaper, *The Beacon*. When he begins investigating, the police organised crime unit arrives, and soon they are threatening both him and Nicola, leaving Jack to wonder if it was the police themselves who had committed the crime.

Can Jack uncover who really killed the man, and why the body was left in the backyard of a forensic pathologist, before the escalating threats to his own well-being become more than just threats?



July 2025
384 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Shaw Literary

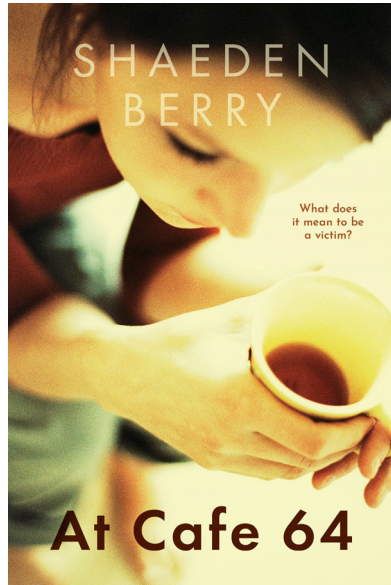
P. A. THOMAS studied medicine in Australia before undergoing specialist nuclear medicine training in the USA. He now works as a specialist at a public hospital in Brisbane. He is also a wilderness landscape photographer, has had many joint and solo exhibitions, and his images have appeared in *Australian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



**Shortlisted for the 2024 Ned Kelly Award
for Best Debut Crime Fiction**

At Café 64

Shaeden Berry



November 2025
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

SHAEDEN BERRY is a writer 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*.

What does it mean to be a victim?

Justin Kowalski drives his vehicle through the front of Café 64, killing four people, including himself, and taking with him the reason behind his act. With seemingly no history of criminal behaviour or illness, the police can do nothing but chalk it up to an isolated incident.

Almost two years later, three different women walk into a support group for the Victims of the Café 64 Tragedy.

Maddie, who lost her fiancé, is consumed with an all-encompassing rage, and is on a desperate hunt for the truth.

Emily is wracked with guilt, eaten from the inside out by the secrets she keeps.

Flo, with a mask of optimism firmly in place, insists to anyone who will listen that she is fine. But how long can she keep up the facade?

Their coming together will throw them all onto a path that will rock the foundations of their shaky, precarious lives, forcing them to confront the truths, lies and questions that surround that day. Can any horrific event truly exist in isolation? What does it mean to be a victim? And how do we cope when our losses are not so cut and dry?



Gunpowder Creek

Alex Dook



September 2025
304 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

ALEX DOOK currently works in corporate communications and occasionally as a freelance journalist. He is a guest host for the popular Australian writing podcast *Words and Nerds*. Alex's previous writing has been longlisted for the 2019 Fogarty Literary Award and Highly Commended in the 2021 Fogarty Literary Award.

An adrenaline-charged road trip crime thriller, featuring an unlikely heroine and an explosive conclusion.

Emily Barnes is relieved when her eighteen-year-old son Zach moves out. At last, she can finally focus on her career while he spreads his wings. But Zach's in trouble: to help with the family finances, he has been moonlighting for local thugs. Worse, he's botched a job and his boss now wants his pound of flesh. Literally.

Desperate, Emily strikes a deal to complete Zach's final job herself. The terms are clear: in three days, deliver a stolen car to Gunpowder Creek, a ghost town 900 kilometres deep into the outback. Miss the deadline and Zach dies. And whatever happens, don't open the boot...

The job should be simple. But there's someone dangerous roaming those lonely highways. Someone who doesn't want the car and the cargo to make it to their destination.

Set across the sprawling West Australian outback, this cat-and-mouse thriller will appeal to readers of Adrian McKinty and Will Dean.

echo

Best Left Buried

Neil A. White



June 2025
336 pp
Crime/Thriller

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*. 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.

Matt Latham embarks on a mission to uncover the truth behind a decades-old war crime, leading him from America to Cuba in a whirlwind of chaos and intrigue.

Matt Latham, foreign correspondent and part-time spy for Australia's Secret Intelligence Service, arrives in Dallas to ghostwrite the memoir of his friend Bryant Callahan, who is running for the US Senate. However, Latham soon begins to mistrust the man he once revered, discovering that the former ambassador had spent two mysterious years with the CIA. He also suspects Bryant of abusing his young Cuban wife, Aleja.

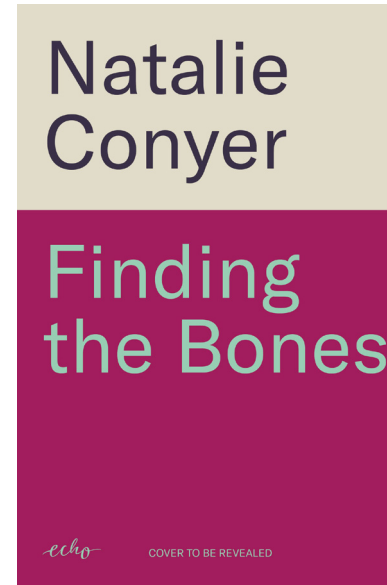
Adopted as a child, Aleja consoles herself with dreams of discovering her birth family and turns to Latham to assist her in the search. When Latham agrees to help, his decision puts him on a collision course with international spy agencies keen to ensure long-buried truths stay that way. As he seeks to find justice for the vengeful ghosts of the past, Latham must navigate an ever-more complex cascade of tragic events - while questioning the morality of his own choices.



echo

Finding The Bones

Natalie Conyer



March 2026
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold: South Africa (PRH)

Television & Film Rights:
Jane Novak Agency

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.

Would you break the law to protect your family?

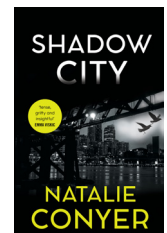
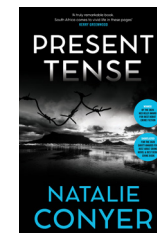
1980s: Belle Fitzgerald, young, rich and spirited, has come to live in Kings Cross, Sydney's bohemian heart and its centre of organised crime. When she learns of plans to develop her street and oust its residents, she decides to do everything in her power to stop the developer. This brings her up against the notoriously corrupt local cops - and against her better judgment, she embarks on a passionate affair with one of them, Stanton Rose.

Then, Belle goes missing. Her disappearance and presumed murder become one of the nation's great mysteries.

Present-day: Stanton Rose, retired, is an Australian icon, a supercop celebrated for his undercover work in the Cross in the 1980s. Jackie Rose, his daughter, admires her father so much she joined the police herself. She's a homicide detective now, tough, uncompromising and ambitious.

Then Belle Fitzgerald's bones are discovered, and Jackie is given the very cold and very public case. This will be her moment to shine. But as her investigation deepens, what she discovers will turn her life upside down.

She has to decide how far she will go to keep what she learns a secret, and how much she will compromise her beliefs to do so.



Winner of the Ned Kelly Best Debut Crime Novel

echo

The Moscow Defector

A.W. Hammond

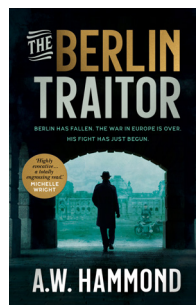
The Iron Curtain has fallen. Behind it is the woman he loves. Will family ties prevail over ideology?

Berlin. September, 1948. The Soviets have blockaded the Allied-controlled zones in West Berlin. The Cold War has well and truly begun.

Auguste Duchene is working with the Allies to lure Soviet spies to defect within the city. When he is passed information that his Moscow-based wife, Sabine, is in danger, Duchene considers the risky play of faking his own defection to the Soviets to secure her safe passage out. Meanwhile, Sabine learns that Duchene is being manipulated with the aim of capturing him and uncovering the name of a double agent supplying information to the Allies.

As Duchene and Sabine risk exposure to save one another, a gripping drama unfolds.

The thrilling conclusion to the Auguste Duchene trilogy.



'Vivid and captivating.'

Heather Morris

echo

Softly Calls the Devil

Chris Blake

An intricate crime thriller set on New Zealand's wild and remote west coast.

In an attempt to escape the ghosts of past cases, former detective Matt Buchanan has taken a job as a community policeman in the small South Island town of Haast.

Then, Matt's retired predecessor is found murdered near the Haast River. The retired officer was re-investigating a murder-suicide from 1978. And after a local man commits suicide, Matt begins to link the old unsolved case with the murder of his retired friend.

Things only become more interesting when a journalist also begins investigating the recent murder and teams up with Matt. Their joint investigation leads them to an underbelly of current and former gang members and former police informants. As the bodies pile up, Matt suspects there's a darker truth lurking out there . . .



July 2025
288 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

CHRIS BLAKE is a New Zealand author whose debut novel, *The Sound of Her Voice*, was a double finalist in the Ngaio Marsh Awards for Best Novel and Best First Novel. He was an assistant storyboarder for Season 2 of the crime drama series *The Gulf*. Born and raised in Auckland, he served briefly in the Army Reserve before joining the police in 2006.



The Lost Girls

J. M. Cannon



February 2025
304 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

J. M. CANNON lives in the Northwoods of Minnesota, where ideas for eerie books and psychological suspense come easy. During work hours, when not writing, J.M. is probably on a walk. Hopefully in the woods, but just as often making the most out of a busy city street. *The Lost Girls* was previously published as *The Flash Girls*.

Three girls go missing. Will they ever be found?

Charleston, South Carolina.

Four years ago, three girls disappeared into the night. One by one they went missing, never to be seen again. No witnesses, no leads, nothing.

The only thing they had in common? An uneasy sense of being watched in the days before they vanished. Noises in the night, and boot prints in the flower beds outside their bedroom windows . . .

One of the lost girls was Anna Klein's best friend. With no body, the case went cold. But Anna never stopped looking for Sylvie - or whoever took her.

But now, four years later, Anna finally has a lead when a body turns up in an abandoned mansion. She has to know: is it Sylvie? But time is running out. As the storm of the century threatens the entire East Coast, the clock is ticking to find the answers before the trail goes cold.

Can Anna find Sylvie and the other girls before they're lost forever?



The Woman Next Door

Penny Batchelor



May 2025
320pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

PENNY BATCHELOR is the Amazon bestselling author of psychological thrillers *My Perfect Sister*, *Her New Best Friend* and *The Reunion Party*. She is a co-founder and judge of the ADCI Literary Prize for adult fiction by a disabled/chronically ill novelist.

Jen Cartwright has a decent life. Nice husband, nice house, good job. But then a blast from the past arrives just in time to ruin everything . . .

Jen and her husband return from their holiday to find their new next-door neighbour is Stacey Abbott, Jen's childhood bully.

It could be coincidence, but Jen remembers how bad things got when they were kids. She can't shake the creeping feeling that her past is back to haunt her.

Then, when Jen's close friends start to abandon her, and her livelihood is threatened, it seems that the vendetta from the past has begun again.

But why now, twenty years later? What does Stacy want this time? And how far will Jen go to keep the woman next door from ruining her life?

A gripping psychological thriller about the dark secrets that lurk behind closed doors. Perfect for fans of C.L. Taylor, Sue Watson and B.A. Paris.





The Pilot's Wife

Cynthia Anderson



May 2025
352 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

Originally from the United States, CYNTHIA ANDERSON has a BA from the University of Colorado and an MSc from the London School of Economics. *The Pilot's Wife* won a Bronze Medal in the 2024 Historical Novel Society. Cynthia is a member of the Historical Novel Society and writes regular book features for their website. She is currently based in Switzerland.

A WWII novel about the power of love, family, and learning from our mistakes.

Europe, 1944. Nineteen-year-old Hedy can't bear her country's neutrality in the face of the ultimate evil. This is not the Switzerland she loves, and she cannot stand by any longer. Helping to smuggle Jewish children through the forest from France to refugee camps in Geneva is dangerous work – there are German patrols everywhere. But finally Hedy feels she is doing something worthwhile.

Then one night in the forest she stumbles across a wounded American airman. Second Lieutenant Samuel Reardon was dropping supplies to the French resistance when his plane crashed. Despite the grave danger it will bring to her family, Hedy can't leave Samuel lost and injured, so she hides him in her father's mountain hut.

As Hedy and Samuel grow closer, the dangers of their resistance work become ever more serious, and soon the pair must make the ultimate choice that will tear them apart . . .

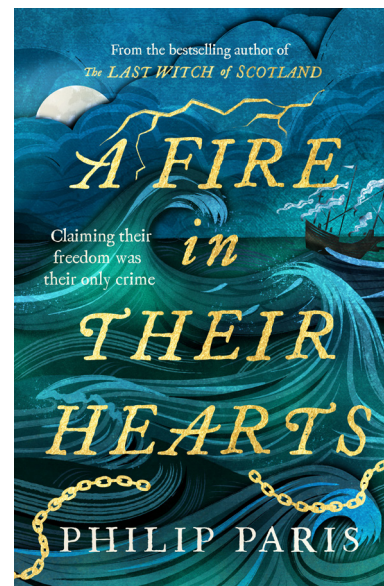
America, 2015. Nineteen-year-old Gina looks at her grandmother's hands that tell the story of her whole life and wonders how much time they have left together. Since her mother died, Mamie Hedy is all Gina has left. But then her grandmother reveals a shocking secret that takes them back to her home in the Swiss mountains for one last time.

After all these years, can Gina and her Grandmother find the answers that time never forgot?



A Fire in Their Hearts

Philip Paris



August 2025
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

PHILIP PARIS is best known for his books about Orkney's famous WW2 Italian chapel, *The Italian Chapel* and the non-fiction Orkney's *Italian Chapel: The True Story of an Icon*. His previous book, *The Last Witch of Scotland*, was Waterstones Scottish Book of the Year 2024.

Claiming their freedom was their only crime.

Scotland, 1679. Violet and Samuel, childhood sweethearts, find themselves locked in the hold of *The Crown of London* as it's abandoned by its crew and breaks apart on the jagged rocks off Orkney. Their love, forged through years of persecution, imprisonment, and the brutal civil war tearing Scotland apart, is their only anchor as they face certain death. The nation is engulfed in the Killing Times, a violent struggle between the Protestants and King Charles II's Catholic forces over the right to lead the Church of Scotland.

As the ship shatters, Violet and Samuel are torn from each other, thrust into the icy, black waters of the North Sea. Violet is later recaptured but Samuel is nowhere to be found. Grieving and yet clinging to the hope that Samuel might still be alive, Violet is transported to Barbados, where she is forced into backbreaking labour on a sugar plantation, enduring unimaginable horrors. But Violet will never give up hope of finding Samuel, as she dreams of escape and reunion in a foreign land.

This epic tale of love and survival against all odds is perfect for fans of *The Witches of Vardø* and *Outlander*.



Waterstones Scottish Book of the Year 2024
Over 50,000 copies sold

The Bridge to Always

Lynda Marron

A story about identity and place, about finding out who you are, who your people are, and what it means to be a family.

Maeve Gaffney arrives in a small West Cork town in pursuit of a dream: to be reunited with Tim, the man she fell for years ago and who, unbeknownst to him, fathered her daughter, Emer.

For Tim, now married and a pillar of the community, Emer's existence is a shock - but the chance to rekindle an old flame with her mother is tempting.

For Agnes, a lonely landowner, Maeve and Emer's arrival is an opportunity to make money - and maybe new friends.

For Malachi, a man of few words but deep emotions, it's . . . complicated.

For Emer, it's about growing up and finding her voice.

For all five, the arrival of this beautiful, wild mother and her silent, observant daughter sparks a devastating chain of events none of them could have predicted.

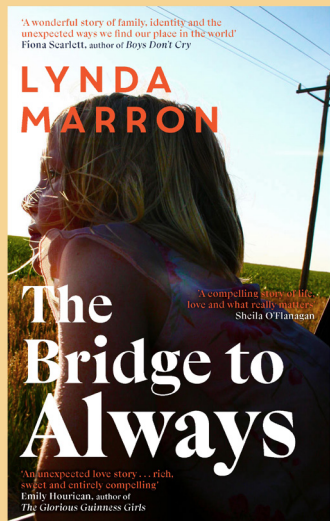
Perfect for fans of Anne Griffin, Sinead Moriarty and Cathy Kelly.

'An unexpected love story . . . rich, sweet and entirely compelling.'

Emily Hourican

'The warmth of her storytelling evokes Maeve Binchy.'

Fiona Scarlett



April 2025
352 pp
Women's Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

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. Her debut novel *Last Chance in Paris* was published in 2024.

Z

A New Life in the Château

Sarah Long

La vie en rose begins at 50!

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

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

How long can they keep living *la vie en rose*? And will fresh starts bring new drama in life and love?

A smart and fun feel-good read about friendship, new beginnings and celebrating middle-aged life. Perfect for fans of Veronica Henry and Daniela Sacerdoti.

Praise for *Invisible Women*:

'A treat.'

BOOKBRUNCH

'Book of the week.'

WOMAN'S WEEKLY



March 2025
384 pp
Women's Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Aitken Alexander

SARAH LONG is a London-based author of three previously published commercial fiction novels and one hilarious memoir about her ten years living in Paris.



Library Cat

The Observations of a Thinking Cat

Alex Howard

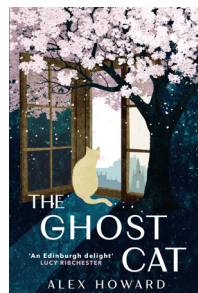
Revelations, lessons and tips from an extraordinary cat.

Library Cat – the resident cat of Edinburgh University Library – is not like other cats. He is a thinking cat. You can tell by the canny glint in his eye, his arched, disdainful whiskers and his unrelenting interest in books and piles of paper.

This is Library Cat's story. Join him on the adventures he takes when he leaves his favourite turquoise chair in the library and his favourite food (bacon-rind) behind to go out into the big, bad world. Meet his cousins Biblio Chat and Saaf Landan Tom. Hold your breath during his brief encounter with the elusive Puddle Cat and his run-in with the terrifying and mysterious Black Dog.

This is principally the story of Library Cat's search for meaning in a seemingly meaningless world. But it's about us Humans, too. You see, with his black and white head bobbing a foot off the ground, Library Cat has seen us Humans from a very different angle. And he thinks we have it all wrong . . .

A witty collection of the imagined observations of Edinburgh University's famous and much-missed Library Cat.



Rights Sold for The Ghost Cat:
Arabic (Dar Hibr),
Germany (Blanvalet),
Indonesia (Baca),
Spain (RBA),
Turkey (Kitap),
US (HarperCollins)

Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month

Alex
Howard

Library
Cat



COVER TO BE REVEALED

July 2025 (Reissue)
192 pp
General Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: France (Bragelonne),
Italy (Garzanti)

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

ALEX HOWARD is an author, editor and theatre professional from Edinburgh. *Library Cat* won the People's Book Prize in 2017, and has been translated into French, Korean and Italian. His novel *The Ghost Cat*, about a time-travelling cat called Grimalkin, was a Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month.



To The Women

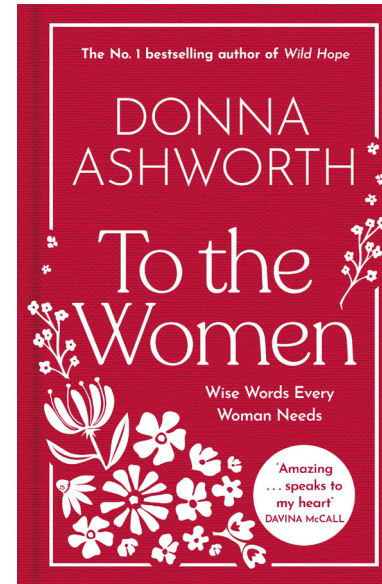
Donna Ashworth

The updated edition with over 70 new poems from the *Sunday Times* bestseller of *Wild Hope*.

To the Women is a celebration of the beauty, strength and joy of being a woman. A love letter to our deep capacity to love, rage, fear and rebuild, Donna Ashworth reminds us that we are stronger when we come together and unstoppable when we accept ourselves. With poems such as 'Be That Woman', 'Take Up Space', 'When One Woman Screams', 'There Will Be Days' and 'To the Woman Who Thinks She Isn't Good Enough', Donna helps us find comfort, inspiration and courage in the many roles we play in life as daughters, guides, mothers and friends.

Originally self-published in 2020 with 48 poems, this beautiful gift hardback edition has been fully revised and updated complete with over 70 new poems. Full of wisdom and comfort every woman needs to hear, Donna helps us see that we're never walking alone.

Over 550,000 copies sold across all titles



February 2025
288 pp
Self-Help/Poetry

World Rights

Rights Sold: Croatia (Znanje),
Thailand (Amarin), US (Hay House)

Rights Previously Sold: China,
Czechia, France, Italy, Korea, Poland,
Portugal, Serbia, Taiwan, Turkey

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

DONNA ASHWORTH is a *Sunday Times* bestselling author and the UK's no. 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.



An Island Promise

Patricia Wilson

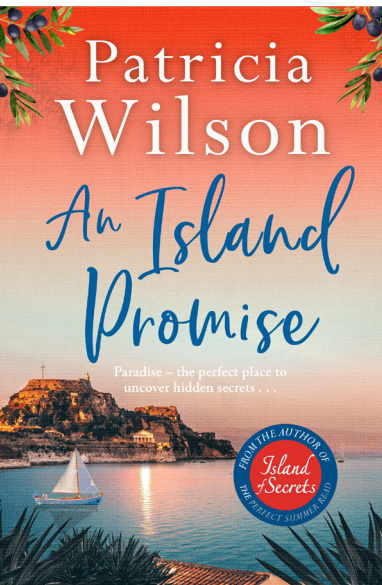
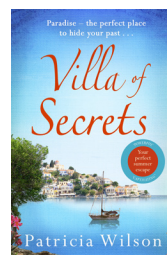
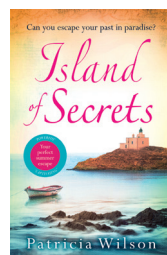
Paradise – the perfect place to uncover hidden secrets . . .

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

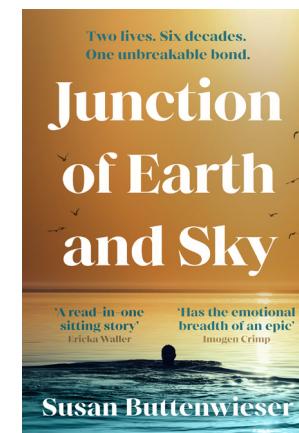
Previous Rights Sold: Arabic (Dar Molhimon), Bulgaria (Noble Star), Croatia (Mozaik), Czechia (Albatros), Estonia (Pegasus), France (City), Greece (Patakis), Israel (Modan), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Romania (Univers), Serbia (Vulkan)

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.

Junction of Earth and Sky

Susan Battenwieser



Publication: August 2024
World Rights

A heart-breaking, lyrical novel about the enduring power of love.

Growing up in 1940s England, Alice's life is upended by war, forcing her to leave behind her dreams and start anew in America. Decades later, in the 1990s, her granddaughter Marnie lives a rough life running drugs along the New England coast but holds dear the memories of her nurturing childhood in Rhode Island, where her grandmother's love overshadowed her parents' disappointments.

Spanning six decades and two continents, *Junction of Earth And Sky* unfolds the powerful bond between a grandmother and granddaughter, plagued by the past but determined to find their place in the world against all the odds.

Perfect for fans of *The Dutch House*, *The Paper Palace* and *Betty*.

Ghost Story

Elisa Lodato



Publication: September 2024
World Rights

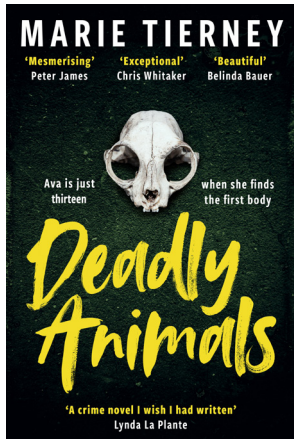
She believes there is nothing on the island but the ghosts in her mind, but believing isn't enough.

Off the windswept coast of Scotland lies Finish Island, rugged and remote. Once a home, it now stands abandoned, a place of dark history and deep memory, a place that holds its stories close. Unable to write since her daughter's death, it's here that Seren comes to work, hoping that the solitude and silence will inspire her next novel.

But the island holds memories of its own, restless and unwilling to stay buried. As unsettling occurrences become even more bizarre and frightening, Seren starts seeing uncanny resonances between her past and the island's history. There is something on this island, something ancient and unforgiving. Will Seren discover its secrets, before it's too late?

Deadly Animals

Marie Tierney



Publication: February 2024

World Rights

Rights Sold: Czechia, Japan, Poland, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, US

Ava should be at school. Not solving a murder . . .

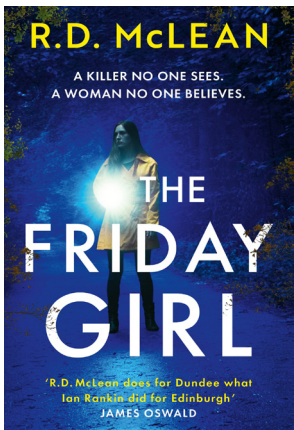
Thirteen-year-old Ava Bonney possesses an unusual intellect far beyond her years. She is fascinated by the intricate process of animal decomposition, studying roadkill found in the streets around her home. But, one night, Ava's secret nocturnal routine takes a chilling turn when she stumbles upon the lifeless body of fellow schoolmate, Mickey Grant.

As Detective Seth Delahaye takes charge of the perplexing case, Ava refuses to sit idle, embarking 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.

Winner of Val McDermid Crime Debut Award
Winner of Daily Mail First Novel Competition
Crime Fiction Lover's Best Debut Novel Editor's Choice
ITW Thriller Awards Best First Novel finalist

The Friday Girl

R. D. McLean



Publication: March 2025

World Rights

As Detective Elizabeth Burnet battles to uncover the truth, her chase for 'The Werewolf' races towards a bloody, terrifying conclusion.

Scotland, 1978. Detective Elizabeth Burnet needs to prove herself more than most. In an era rife with misogynistic attitudes, some see her as little more than a pretty face. When she stumbles across evidence of a nascent serial killer, her theories are dismissed as the product of an overactive imagination. The more she tries to persuade people of the truth, the more she's alienated from her colleagues. But the killer is out there, hunting for their next victim in the Templeton Woods.

Teaming up with a recently dismissed detective with his own agenda, they soon realise that some within the police force may have their own reasons for covering up the recent deaths. And as the killer is exposed, Burnet uncovers the mind of a monster pushed to the edge.

The Bone Diver

Angie Spoto



Publication: October 2024

World Rights

Rights Sold: Indonesia (Gramedia), US (Open Road)

A gothic tale of legend, secrets and monsters in the deep . . .

The only daughter in a family of Scottish seal-hunters, Kier Sealgair is becoming a burden. She cannot kill, and the family are facing hard times now that her father is ailing. On the neighbouring cliffs stands Erskine Manor, home to a mysterious and wealthy family. Servants arrive in town to buy supplies, but the family is never seen, and waves of rumour spread in the struggling small-town community.

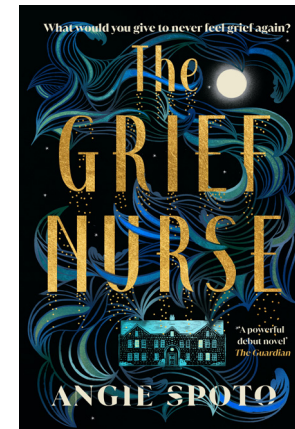
One day, after a chance encounter, Lady Erskine finds Kier and offers her a bargain that could save Kier's father and change the town's impending fate. But questions remain. Who lives in the five towers of the manor? Is the Lord of the house alive? And are the children of the manor even human, or are the tales of spine-toothed monsters who roam the grounds true?

'A highly effective slice of folklore-inspired fantasy.'

THE HERALD

The Grief Nurse

Angie Spoto



Publication: June 2024

World Rights

Rights Sold: US (Open Road)

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. Living 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.

'A powerful debut novel.'

THE GUARDIAN

A Drowning Tide

Sarah Lawton



Publication: September 2024
World Rights
Rights Sold: Czechia (Zoner)

When her next-door neighbour goes missing, reclusive Merry dives into an irresistible puzzle.

Merry lives a simple life on the Isle of Wight. For work, she creates cryptic crosswords. For pleasure, she swims in the ocean. In between, she keeps an eye on her neighbour, Lucas Manning, son of her late best friend Julia. Until one day, Lucas disappears.

The Manning family has always had a sinister side - only Lucas has been above suspicion. Until now. With Lucas's employers desperate to find him and the sensitive project he has absconded with, has Merry been wrong about Lucas all along?

Combining a spiky, singular voice with a brilliantly twisty mystery, this is a gripping story of toxic families, dangerous secrets and the past catching up with the present.

The Mistress of Dara Island

Averil Kenny



Publication: August 2024
World Rights
Previous Rights Sold:
 Italy (Newton Compton),
 Norway (Kagge), Sweden
 (Modernista)

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

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, her determination and wilfulness bring her into conflict with her ruthless father, Richard 'Bullshark' 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.

Bay of Thieves

Megan Davis



Publication: July 2024
World Rights

A Sunday Times Thriller of the Month

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, and 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, leaving both women dangerously exposed to greed, gambling, and hazardous liaisons. Desperate for an escape route, they find that the only options make them worse than those they seek to evade. But how far will they go for money?

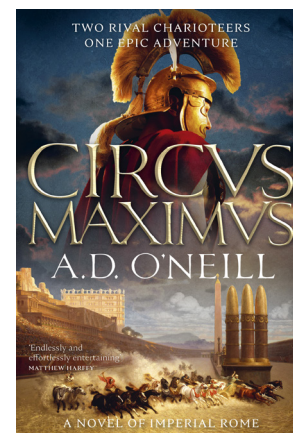
Amidst the opulence of the Côte D'Azur, *Bay of Thieves* explores the distorting power of wealth and its ability to destroy beliefs held over a lifetime.

'Davis is very much a name to watch.'

FINANCIAL TIMES

Circus Maximus

A. D. O'Neill



Publication: May 2024
World Rights

Two rival charioteers. One epic adventure.

A.D. 69. As a mob of 150,000 Roman citizens watches on, Corax of Campania and the flamboyant and cocksure Alector of Arcadia - 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.

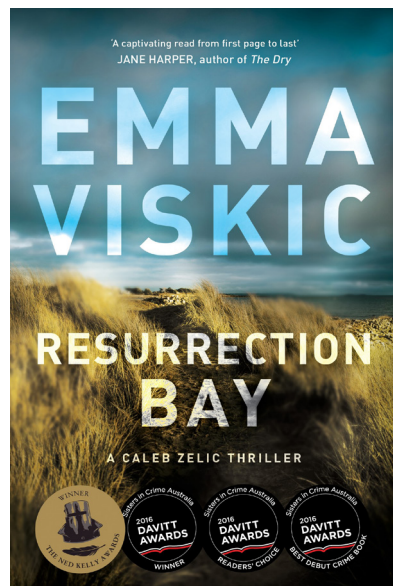
A tale of vicious rivalry, corruption and power in the greatest sporting arena in history - the Circus Maximus - that will ultimately decide the fate of the Roman Empire itself.

'Endlessly and effortlessly entertaining'

Matthew Harffy

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).



Caleb Zelic, profoundly deaf since early childhood, has always lived on the outside - watching, picking up telltale signs people hide in a smile, a cough, a kiss. When a childhood friend is murdered, a sense of guilt and a determination to prove his own innocence sends Caleb on a hunt for the killer. But he can't do it alone. Caleb and his troubled friend Frankie, an ex-cop, start with one clue: Scott, the last word the murder victim texted to Caleb. But Scott is always one step ahead.

This gripping, original and fast-paced crime thriller is set between a big city and a small coastal town, Resurrection Bay, where Caleb is forced to confront painful memories. Caleb is a memorable protagonist who refuses to let his deafness limit his opportunities, or his participation in the investigation. But does his persistence border on stubbornness? And at what cost? As he delves deeper into the investigation Caleb uncovers unwelcome truths about his murdered friend - and himself.

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

2024 Thalia Proctor Lifetime Achievement Fingerprint Award

Lynda La Plante

2024 Val McDermid Debut Crime Fiction Award

Deadly Animals by Marie Tierney

2024 Genre Busting Book of the Year at The Fingerprint Awards

Killing Jericho by William Hussey

2024 Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year Shortlist

Killing Jericho by William Hussey

2024 RNA Jackie Collins Romantic Thriller Award Shortlist

Bad Men by Julie Mae Cohen

2024 Waterstones Debut Fiction Price Shortlist

Mongrel by Hanako Footman

2024 Glass Bell Award Longlist

The Silent Man by David Fennell

2024 Polari Prize Longlist

Killing Jericho by William Hussey

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 Capital Crime Fingerprint Awards Shortlist

The House of Ashes by Stuart Neville

2023 CWA Gold Dagger Award Shortlist

The Winter Guest by W.C. Ryan

2023 Petrona Crime Award Longlist

Code Faust by Gustaf Skordeman

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

Davitt Award for Best Adult Novel

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

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

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

Good Friday by Lynda La Plante
The Foundling by Stacey Halls
Blunt Force by Ollie Ollerton
Buried by Lynda La Plante
Growing Brave by Donna Ashworth

The Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller

To the Women by Donna Ashworth
Guilty by Definition by Susie Dent
The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri
Mrs England by Stacey Halls
Songbirds by Christy Lefteri
Three Sisters by Heather Morris
The New Kingdom by Wilbur Smith
Legacy of War by Wilbur Smith
Judas Horse by Lynda La Plante
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
The Household by Stacey Halls
Five Broken Blades by Mai Corland
Warrior King by Wilbur Smith
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The Ghost Cat by Alex Howard
Fire on the Horizon by Wilbur Smith
Four Ruined Realms by Mai Corland

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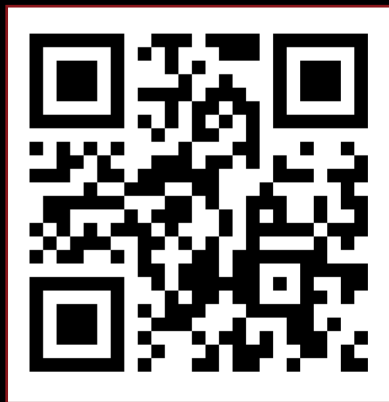
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