

Adult Fiction  
Rights Guide  
Autumn 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, science fiction and fantasy, 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.



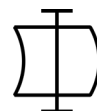
**Eriu** is based in Dublin, publishing books with a connection to Ireland, working closely with talented authors to bring Irish voices to international audiences.



**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.



# Imaginary Forces

Georgia Moorhouse

*The Secret History* meets *Exciting Times* and *The Rachel Incident* in this novel about a love triangle that spirals into dangerous obsession.

Robin is unreliable, unstable and utterly devoted to his oldest friend Henry. So when Henry's beloved mother dies unexpectedly, Robin is there to pick up the pieces. But grief can send us down unexpected paths . . . For Henry, it leads him to the theory of multiple universes and to Yolanda, a brilliant scientist who can help him understand it.

Robin and Yolanda have three things in common: they are in love with the same man, they despise each other, and they are oblivious to the fact that Henry is spiralling into an all-consuming obsession that will irrevocably change them all.

A novel about love in its many forms - longing, devotion, obsession, addiction - and just how nuanced and messy it can be.

**Shortlisted for the Women's Prize Discoveries 2024**

Georgia Moorhouse

## Imaginary Forces



COVER TO BE REVEALED

January 2027  
Literary Fiction

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
The Soho Agency

GEORGIA MOORHOUSE was raised in the Midlands and moved to London to study law. Her writing has been longlisted for the V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize and shortlisted for the Women's Prize Discoveries Award. *Imaginary Forces* is her debut novel.



# These Glass Bodies

Rebecca Hooper

A tender, absorbing and unsettling novel about nature's fragility and love's quiet power to heal.

It is the warmest spring anyone can remember. Anna lives with her father near the ocean in Scotland. She spends her time hand-rearing nestlings from the wild and has never felt more at peace than in Invergrian, with her birds and her woods and her work.

Rory, eleven years old, has not spoken a word since his mother Pip walked out on the family five years ago. He can't believe his luck when he stumbles upon Anna's house of birds. He's long believed birds to be magic, and Anna seems happy to teach him how to help them, not questioning his silence.

Rory's father, Angus, has been struggling since Pip left, but seeing his son so happy with the birds and with the beautiful and enigmatic Anna, he finds the fog he has been mired in finally start to lift.

But as the spring burns on, amid the quiet work of saving the nestlings, alarm bells start ringing. Water becomes scarce. The elderly in the town become fearful. Exhausted birds start falling out of the sky. And then, Anna discovers a body washed up on the shore.

Tender and exquisitely crafted, *These Glass Bodies* is an absorbing, unsettling debut about love, disconnected people and our fragile relationship with the natural world.

Rebecca Hooper

## These Glass Bodies



COVER TO BE REVEALED

April 2027  
Literary Fiction

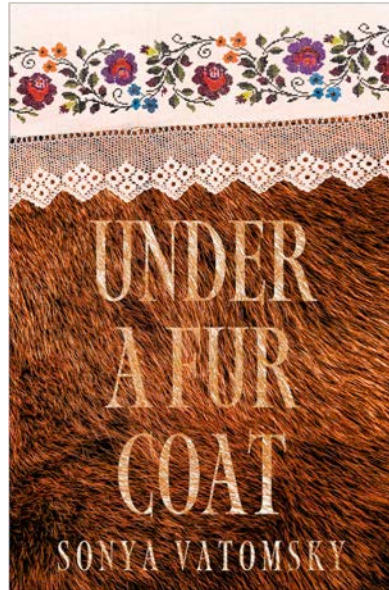
### Translation Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Greene & Heaton

REBECCA HOOPER is an evolutionary biologist based in the Orkney Islands, with a PhD in corvid cognition and sociality. She writes about wildlife science for BBC Wildlife, as well as in her weekly newsletter about biology, climate action and philosophy. *These Glass Bodies* is her debut novel.

# Under A Fur Coat

Sonya Vatomsky



September 2026     DRAFT COVER  
Literary Fiction

## World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Greene & Heaton

SONYA VATOMSKY was born in the Soviet Union and grew up in the Pacific Northwest, where they studied Linguistics and Finnish at the University of Washington. They are a member of the Horror Writers Association and have been published in *Brave New Weird: The Best New Weird Horror*. Sonya's nonfiction has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Smithsonian Magazine*. In 2024, they were shortlisted for the PFD Queer Fiction Prize. *Under a Fur Coat* is their debut novel.

*'I became obsessed with Seurasaari, with the curative properties I assigned to it in my desperation for an action, a ritual - something that could fix everything...'*

Vivienne, a photographer from Manchester, arrives at a boarding house on a tiny Finnish island hoping to rekindle her creativity and heal her broken heart. Although her fellow guests welcome her into their makeshift family, her camera still hangs at her side unused.

Vivienne quickly grows close with Ilya, the affable caretaker, and Gagarin, a rebellious mycologist. And when she discovers they're searching for a mythical bracket fungus - the Bigfoot of mushrooms - Vivienne throws herself headfirst into the cause.

The days pass in a blur of snow and birch trees and vodka. Yet the longer Vivienne spends in the forest, the more it consumes her. Haunted by lost time, inexplicable acts of violence, and rising tensions among the guests, Vivienne begins to suspect there's something darker behind Gagarin's determination. Because ambition always requires sacrifice. She's just not sure whose...

*Under a Fur Coat* is an art novel with obsession at its heart and folklore around the edges. For readers of *Ghost Wall* by Sarah Moss and *Bear* by Marian Engel.

**Shortlisted for the PFD Queer Fiction Prize 2024**

# Darling Pig

Kat Gordon



March 2027  
Historical Fiction

## World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Felicity Bryan Associates

KAT GORDON worked briefly at *Time Out*, as a gymnastics coach, an HIV counsellor, and as the world's worst bartender before publishing her first novel, *The Artificial Anatomy of Parks*. Her second novel, *An Unsuitable Woman*, was picked by Richard and Judy for their Book Club. Having lived in Budapest and Reykjavik, she is currently settled in London with her partner and their son.

**A captivating, subversive tale illuminating the women of Charles Dickens' household and showing the great writer as he's never been seen before.**

*'You make me very happy, Darling Pig,' he says. 'I hope I shall make you as happy.'*

Ida Rose can hardly believe her luck when she lands a job as a maid to Charles Dickens' family. She has writing ambitions of her own, and it isn't long before the charming, convivial Charles begins to take her under his wing. But as Ida is drawn into the lives of the Dickens family, she begins to realise that, behind closed doors, all is not quite as it seems, and not everyone there is happy about her growing influence.

Years before, a young Charles marries his wife Catherine. Catherine is deliriously happy, overwhelmed by the speed and determination of their courting. But as the time passes she realises Charles has an unyielding core, and a secret shame that leads back to his childhood. As the Dickens' marriage builds towards a perfect storm of frustration, loss, guilt and control, young Ida arrives at their door.

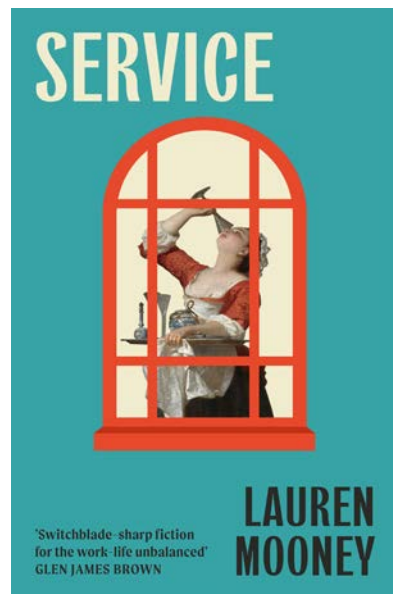
A powerful dual narrative, at once sweeping and intimate, *Darling Pig* gives a contemporary twist to a long-buried tale. Perfect for fans of Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet*, Zadie Smith's *The Fraud* and Lily King's *Euphoria*.



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

# Service

## Lauren Mooney



June 2026  
352 pp  
Literary Fiction

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
David Higham

LAUREN MOONEY works in theatre and audio drama, and has co-run Kandinsky Theatre Company since 2015, making award-winning shows across the UK and Europe. She is a graduate of UEA's Creative Writing Prose MA, where she held the David Higham Scholarship. She lives in London with her husband Stewart and their tortoise, Sacher Tort. *Service* is her first novel.

**Workplace novel meets haunted house story in this razor-sharp, wickedly funny debut novel.**

Danielle MacKinnon's nearly thirty and still hasn't got her life sorted. Her job as a PA to the blithely privileged Jeannie is boring, and existentially depressing, and now, after a break-up, she needs to find somewhere to live for the next two months.

Her best friends are keen to help, but Danielle's broke, burning through their couches and good-will, until she gets an unexpected proposal from Jeannie. Danielle can stay at Westerley, the sprawling Yorkshire estate where Jeannie grew up. They need someone to look after the old place anyway. She'd be doing them a favour.

At Westerley, Danielle luxuriates in her idyllic, borrowed life as lady of the manor - but the house is big, old and uneasy. It's a strange place to live alone.

And then Jeannie arrives unannounced. As Danielle works for her, serves her, and lives in her house, the razor-thin boundaries between them begin to dissolve. Soon their relationship slides into something older, stranger and harder to name.

Meanwhile, something is happening at Westerley. Things where they shouldn't be. The shadow of a maid sweeping in the dawn light. But is the house really haunted? Or is Danielle?

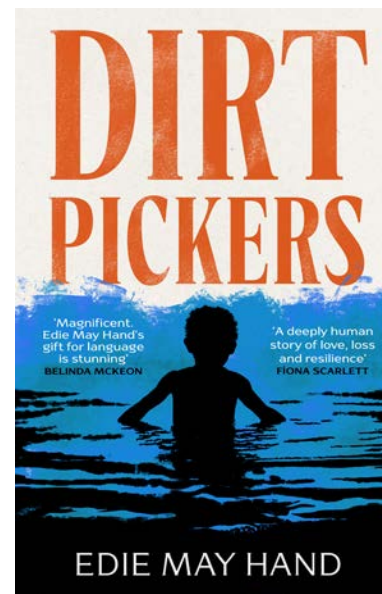
*Fleabag* meets *Rebecca* with echoes of Holly Gramazio's *The Husbands* in this incredibly funny novel that breathes life into the worst possible scenario . . . living with the boss from hell.

*'An ingenious melding of nightmares. Trapped in a city you can't afford, trapped in a haunted manor that isn't yours. This switchblade-sharp, hilarious novel asks - which is scarier?'*

Glen James Brown

# Dirtpickers

## Edie May Hand



May 2026  
352 pp  
Literary Fiction

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Storyline Agency

EDIE MAY HAND is a writer from County Meath, Ireland. She graduated from University College Dublin in 2019 with a joint honours in History of Art and English Literature. Her debut novel *Dirtpickers* was a winner of the Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair 2024.

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

*Little Maude Rowe sits in the crick, her pockets heavy with gold, the blood on her palms turned to powdered rust . . .*

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 gun . . .

*Dirtpickers* is a heart-swelling beauty of a debut novel of trauma and found family, from an incredible new literary talent.

### Winner of the Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair 2024

*'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

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

Fiona Scarlett

## A Tiny Speck of Black and then Nothing

### Emily Midorikawa

**A dazzling slow-burn debut set in the underworld of Osaka's nightlife.**

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 criminal 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

*'The soul of a stylish mystery and the pace of an old-fashioned thriller.'*

Mohammed Hanif

July 2026  
384 pp  
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

**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.

**Shortlisted for the Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize 2025**

**Winner of PFD Queer Fiction Prize**  
**The Bookseller April Highlight**  
**A Radio 2 Book Club Pick**

*'A moving novel of love, loss and life's mysteries.'*

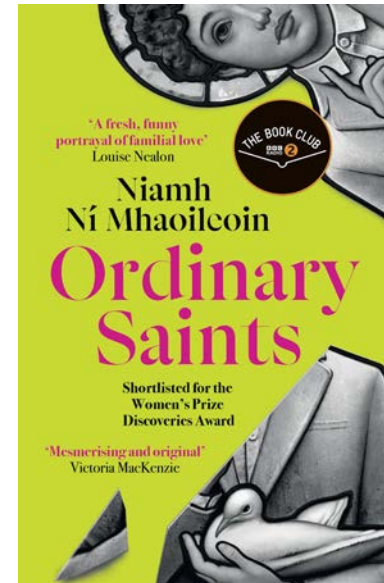
THE BOOKSELLER, Editor's Pick

*'This debut is pretty perfect. It's informative, original, heartfelt, very real, and stunningly written.'*

IRISH EXAMINER

*'Beautifully written and brilliant on grief, love and family expectations. Wonderful.'*

DAILY MAIL



April 2025  
368 pp  
Literary Fiction

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Spain (Urano), Ukraine  
(One More Page)

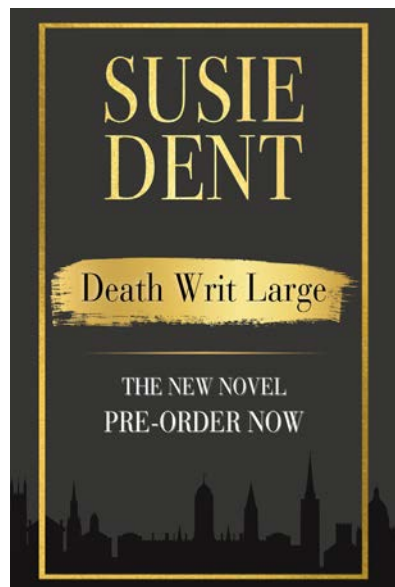
**Television & Film Rights:**  
Peters Fraser + Dunlop

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. Her debut novel *Ordinary Saints* was shortlisted for the 2025 Waterstones Debut Prize.

Z

## Death Writ Large

### Susie Dent



August 2026  
Crime

**World Rights**

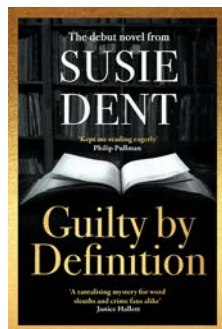
**Television & Film Rights:**  
United Agents

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. Her debut novel *Guilty By Definition* was an instant *Sunday Times* bestseller and was shortlisted for Thriller of the Year at the 2025 British Book Awards.

The unmissable new linguistic mystery in the *Sunday Times* bestselling series from Britain's wordsmith, Susie Dent.

When mysterious symbols appear as graffiti around Oxford, lexicographer Martha Thornhill recognises them from a runic alphabet created by a deceased fantasy writer whose papers she once worked on. But this is no publicity stunt, and tensions intensify when further graffiti is found near the body of a university lecturer.

Martha is not the only one to have doubts when the suspicious death is assumed by police to be a suicide. Called upon to lend their linguistic expertise to the case, Martha and her colleagues begin to unearth a tragedy that extends beyond the ancient walls of the university. As new messages portend more death, it's clear that a spirit of vengeance is stalking the city's streets, and may be reaching out towards them too.



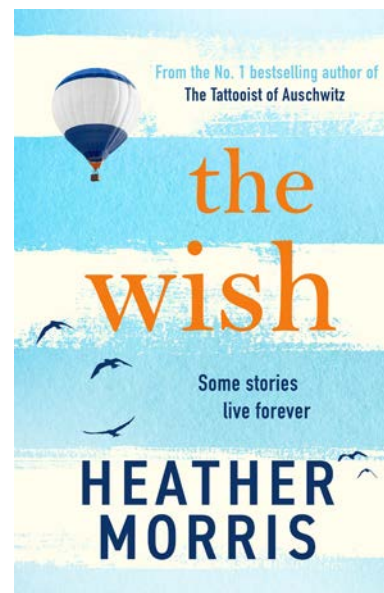
**Rights Sold for *Guilty By Definition*:**  
Arabic (Dar Hibr), France (City), Italy (Newton Compton), Netherlands (AW Bruna), Spain (Newton Compton), Taiwan (Marco Polo), US (Sourcebooks)

**Instant *Sunday Times* Bestseller**  
**Bestselling Crime Debut of 2024**  
**Shortlisted for Thriller of the Year at 2025 British Book Awards**  
**Over 150,000 copies sold**

Z

## The Wish

### Heather Morris



September 2025  
320 pp  
General Fiction

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Czechia (Albatros), Estonia (under offer), France (LeDuc), Netherlands (HarperCollins), Norway (Aschehoug), Portugal (Presenca), Serbia (Laguna), Slovakia (Ikar), US (HarperCollins)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
CAA

HEATHER MORRIS is an international number one bestselling author whose stories of survival, resilience and hope have sold over 19 million copies and been translated into over 50 languages. A television series of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* was released in May 2024.

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

Jesse is 15. She loves her friends, her little brother and 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 29. He doesn't love a lot of things. To be honest, he's not really sure he knows how to. His desk at work, as a VR games designer, is empty, much like his life feels sometimes.

Then Jesse makes a wish. A simple one: a video experience made of her life, something to be there, just in case she isn't.

One loving teenager.

One lonely adult.

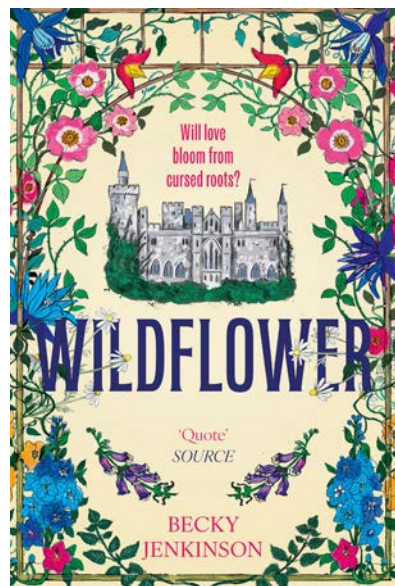
Which one will get the happy ending?

From the international No. 1 bestseller comes a heartbreaking contemporary novel of a dying teenager's final wish, a lonely young man's journey towards connection, and the unexpected friendship they find together. Perfect for fans of Jojo Moyes, Jodi Picoult, and John Green.

Z

## Wildflower

### Becky Jenkinson



June 2026  
Romantasy

DRAFT COVER

#### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** France (Bragelonne),  
Italy (Nord), 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 save their kingdom from a sinister conspiracy.**

Cursed from birth to always tell the truth, magical florist Felicity 'Fliss' Farrow chooses her words carefully and avoids trouble. But when she receives an anonymous request for a mystery flower, her quest leads directly into trouble's path, to sorcerer Willoh Vane.

Fliss knows all about the outcast - yet teasingly handsome - sorcerer, rumoured to have caused disaster throughout the kingdom. She's witnessed the resulting ongoing feud with Prince Bastion, whom her best friend, Card, is soon to marry. But despite the divided loyalty she feels, Fliss reluctantly accepts Will's help and, as they succeed in finding more rare flowers together, she finds herself increasingly drawn to him.

As the royal wedding approaches, Fliss fears the flowers they've found are intended for a sinister purpose. But with the kingdom set against Will, her warnings are ignored. Can Fliss and Will save the kingdom from disaster and ultimately discover what Fliss has sought for so long - the truth behind her curse?

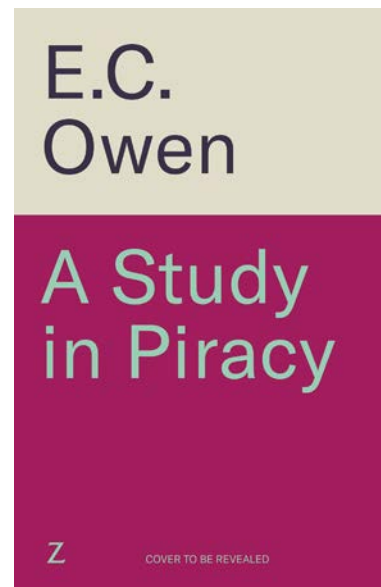
*Ella Enchanted* meets *Emily Wilde's Encyclopaedia of Faeries* with echoes of Stephanie Garber in this cosy fantasy romance, featuring beautiful illustrations from the author herself.



Z

## A Study in Piracy

### E. C. Owen



April 2027  
Fantasy

#### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

E. C. OWEN is a freelance copyeditor and is therefore cursed to have far too many opinions on commas. She spends her free time getting emotionally invested in video games, playing as much Dungeons and Dragons as she physically can, and finding new and interesting ways to ruin her characters' lives.

***Pirates of the Caribbean* meets *Nevernight* in this debut fantasy novel where students are trained in the piratical arts at a special academy.**

Kye was raised on treasured tales of seas and stars by her father, a pirate captain whose ship never returned to shore when she was young. Captain Caspian was searching for the Anchor, a lost artefact of untold power, and Kye has harboured nautical ambitions of her own ever since. Years later, she can finally enrol at the legendary Academy of the Piratical Arts to be trained in hopes of earning a commission to complete his quest.

During initiation, Kye feels her navigator powers awaken and starts to attune to the song of the stars. But there are only three places available and four students bearing the navigator's mark. Defending her place is the first trial she will face alongside tests of courage, determination and, most difficult of all, the heart.

Perfect for fans of *Sword Catcher* by Cassandra Clare, *Seafire* by Natalie C. Parker and S.A. Chakraborty's *The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi*.

# Z

## Dream of the Jet-Black City

Pablo Valcárcel Castro



May 2026  
Fantasy

**DRAFT COVER**

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Julie Crisp Agency

PABLO VALCÁRCEL CASTRO grew up in a bilingual household in the Canary Islands, where he hid from sunny skies in musty libraries and fantasy books. After working as a lawyer and running a small video games studio, he turned his yearning for beautiful and impossible worlds into writing them as well as teaching entrepreneurship to make them happen. He is now based in Madrid. *Dream of the Jet-Black City* is his debut novel and the first book in a trilogy.

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

Ash and his crew race across rooftops in pursuit of living lightning from the perpetually raging Motherstorm. This energy the jet-black city of Onyxia depends upon is all that stands between them and starvation. When a monstrous nightmare attacks, death is all but certain - until Ash dreams a shadow panther into existence to protect himself. But this new power comes with a price: either conscription to the harrowing Academy or indebtedness to a wealthy patron.

Daerna belongs to a devout sisterhood who sing hymns to calm the eternal storm. When she learns of a mysterious sickness spreading through the city's populace, she feels it is her duty to help, even though her order has abandoned the afflicted to their fate.

Geil is a creature born of Dream and bound to the Drake form she conjured to survive her Academy training. While nightmare-hunting she encounters a young girl with the dreamer gift and feels compelled to save her from enduring the same cruel fate she faced. But this means returning to the jet-black city, home to the past she has tried to outrun, and navigating the political turbulence in the wake of an election.

As each pursues their own ends, they soon discover that they share common goals. But can they find a way to learn from the secrets the city has buried within its past before their whole world turns into 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

## Deathless King

R. A. Castellan



October 2026  
Fantasy

### World Rights

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

R. A. CASTELLAN is a pseudonym for David Hair, an award-winning, New Zealand-based author of multiple fantasy series for both adults and children. His writing is influenced by his studies of mythology and history at university as well as his time living in India, Thailand and the UK.

**When the only defence against the vampire horde is destroyed and the threat of another Blood War looms, new heroes must rise to save the world from an evil that refuses to die.**

Long ago, the Lightbearers saved the Five Kingdoms from the undead, with a light - the Starstone Lamp - that was meant to shine forever, a beacon and barrier against the horrors of the night. But the Lamp has been broken, the Lighthouses that keep the undead at bay have all failed, and the Darkness has returned. New heroes must rise . . .

Conlan Greylock has tainted blood, and the edict is clear: anyone infected with vampire blood must perish. Refusing to accept his fate, he places his soul in the hands of Rohina, with whom he shares a powerful supernatural bond. Rohina, and her genius son Timor, think they can save Conlan - and the rest of the world - from the vampire plague. But they're outlaws too, for creating the perfect golem, a man made of metal and stone who can think and feel . . . Together they must journey into the wilds, seeking the answers of riddles only they can unravel.

Mohan and his daughter Dariana have their own reasons to haunt the margins: Mohan's beloved wife Shakti is lost among monsters, calling his name. While ambitious young sorceress Yarrow and her friend Emyl are on a quest of their own: to prevent a loved one from joining the undead.

Thrown together by fate, they must save their world from an enemy beyond comprehension: the Vampire God, Varthak.

The first book in a bloodthirsty new epic vampire series for fans of Jay Kristoff, John Gwynne and Anna Stephens.

# Z

## The Wonder of You

Willow Grainger

**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*, *The Idea of You*, Lindsey Kelk and Mhairi McFarlane.

Willow Grainger

The Wonder of You

Z

COVER TO BE REVEALED

May 2026  
384 pp  
Romance

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Portugal (Asa)

**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.



## Highland Getaway

Amber Eve

**The perfect Scottish getaway. The wrong influencer. All publicity is good publicity . . . right?**

Rosie Winter has spent her life believing that the right outfit can change everything - but when she's mistakenly invited to an influencer retreat at a castle in the Scottish Highlands, she's forced to swap designer dreams for cosy jumpers, freezing lochs and locals who see straight through her social media façade.

Most infuriating of all is Hunter Stuart, a rugged, no-nonsense Scot who seems determined to challenge everything Rosie thinks she knows about success, happiness and herself. As curated perfection gives way to chaos, muddy boots and Hunter's infuriating wisdom, Rosie realises that real transformation doesn't come from looking the part - it comes from Scotland itself and the people who call it home.

A sweet and funny, heart-warming romcom set in a remote Highlands castle for fans of rivals-to-lovers, slow-burn and mistaken-identity romances.

Amber Eve

Highland Getaway



COVER TO BE REVEALED

June 2026  
Romance

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Kate Nash Literary

AMBER EVE is a former journalist who was born and raised in Scotland, and has been writing stories her entire life. Her Substack, the *Accidental Author*, is one of the top-rated newsletters, and she's also written for publications like *The Sun*, *The Scotsman* and more. She's a sun-loving Swiftie who once lived next to an International Man of Mystery, and she was not named after her red hair, although everyone assumes she was.



# Forever & Always You

Estelle Maskame



September 2025  
320 pp  
Romance

## World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Slovakia (Albatros)

**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, and soon became a word-of-mouth sensation. With over one million copies of her books sold and her work translated into 22 languages, her fiction attracts countless loyal fans. Winner of the Young Scot Arts Award 2016, she has been shortlisted for the Young Adult award at the Romantic Novel of the Year Awards.

## Sometimes love needs a second chance.

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

As children, they were inseparable - 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.

*'Estelle is an auto-buy author for me!'*

Katie Holt

*'I simply could not put it down! A must read.'*

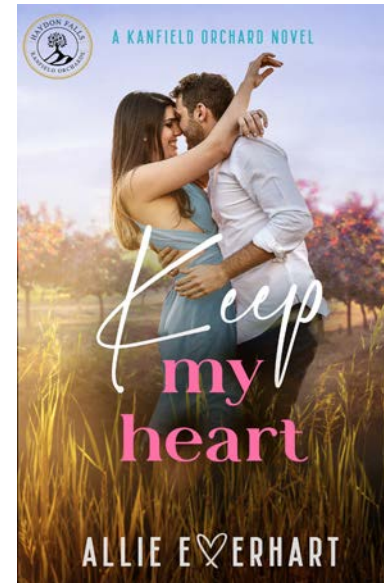
Ally Weigand

**Over a million copies sold across her titles**



# Keep My Heart

Allie Everhart



October 2025  
384 pp  
Romance

## World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

ALLIE EVERHART is the author of more than 60 books and several bestselling series, including *The Jade Series*, *The Kensington Series*, and *The Wheeler Brothers*. Allie writes a mix of angsty college romance, spicy sports romance, and thrilling romantic suspense.

## Welcome to Haydon Falls, home to the beautiful Kanfield Orchards - and four smokin' hot Kanfield brothers!

Lyndsay Davis never thought she'd return to her hometown, especially not fresh off a divorce. But here she is, face-to-face with Nick Kanfield, her old high school math tutor . . . who just happens to be the hottest of the Kanfield brothers.

Back then, she was all about bad boys. And sure, she liked Nick, but only as a friend. Now? He's grown into all kinds of sexy, and suddenly, those old rules she made for herself don't seem to matter anymore.

Nick Kanfield was the quiet guy with a secret crush: the tutor, the one in the shadows while Lyndsay cheered from center field. She married the quarterback. He buried his feelings.

But now she's back, and more beautiful than ever. And he's not the shy math nerd anymore. he's a rising-star attorney in New York.

When she gives him that smile, the one that used to undo him in high school? He starts to wonder if maybe this time, it's his turn . . .

*Keep My Heart* is the first book in the steamy small-town Kanfield Orchard Series.



*Break My Heart*, the second book in the series, is also coming October 2025!

Z

William  
HusseyThe Woman  
Who Wasn't  
There

Z

COVER TO BE REVEALED

July 2026  
Crime/Thriller**World Rights****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 put to work in his *Scott Jericho* thrillers.

# The Woman Who Wasn't There

William Hussey

**There are some twists *no one* can see coming . . .**

Bestselling crime author Marian Lane is surrounded by adoring readers when she learns that her husband Dane is dead.

Marian returns home in shock to discover a stranger on her doorstep. A woman who not only claims she's Marian's biggest fan but says that she comforted Dane in his final moments.

At first, this woman, Mary, is a source of comfort. Until she admits Dane confessed a secret. One she can't quite remember; one Marian is desperate to learn.

But Mary is a storyteller too. And though Marian knows every twist in the genre, she won't see this one coming.

This is an unmissable standalone thriller from up-and-coming master of crime William Hussey.

Z



April 2025  
400 pp  
Crime/Thriller

**World Rights**

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

**Television & Film Rights:**  
David Higham Agency

# Burying Jericho

William Hussey

**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.

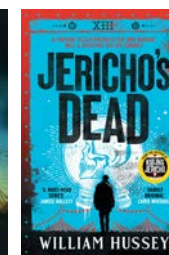
As fates collide and an impossible murder is executed, a twisted killer from the past is closing in on Harry and Jericho. But is it already too late for Jericho to save himself and the man he loves?

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

Praise for the series:

*'Darkly original, suspenseful and haunting.'*  
Chris Whitaker

*'Revelatory.'*  
Val McDermid

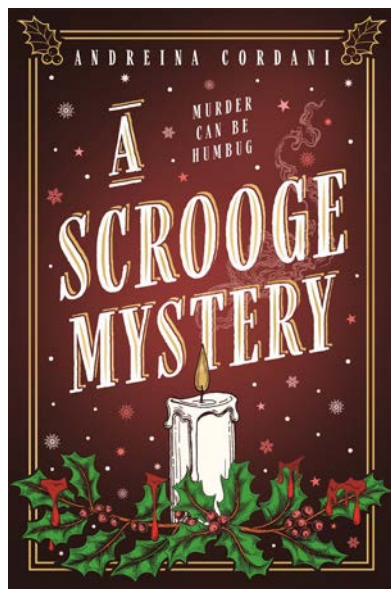


**Winner of the Genre-Busting Book of the Year Fingerprint Award**

**Shortlisted for the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year and the Polari Prize**

# Z

## A Scrooge Mystery Andreina Cordani



October 2025  
368 pp  
Seasonal Crime

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** US (Pegasus)

**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.

**The perfect festive whodunnit, featuring Dickens' beloved miser, Ebenezer Scrooge.**

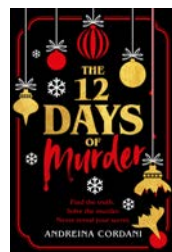
Last Christmas, Ebenezer Scrooge was visited by three festive spirits, and the bleak vision of his future has haunted him ever since. He wants to be a good man, and he never wants to see another ghost for as long as he lives.

But changing your ways for a day is easy. Changing your ways forever is a little trickier. Almost a year on from his haunting, Scrooge is slipping back into bad habits.

When a lucrative business opportunity comes his way, he jumps at the chance to make some quick money . . . to give to the poor, obviously . . .

But then Scrooge sees her. Another ghost, silent and terrifying. When Bob Cratchit is arrested for the woman's murder, Scrooge sees only one way to save both his loyal employee and himself: he must solve this crime.

Scrooge's investigation takes him from the heights of business on the Royal Exchange to the depths of London's criminal underworld alongside the formidable Widow Tassell, boot-boy Jem and Tiny Tim. And as Christmas draws closer, Scrooge begins to realise there's more at stake than his own soul.



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

# Z

## Wrap Party J. A. Wallace



November 2026  
Seasonal Crime

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

J. A. WALLACE is Head of Production at *The Sunday Times* and is overly fond of a pun headline.

**This Christmas, someone won't make the cut.**

A blackmail plot at the end-of-season wrap party for middling detective series Bankwood turns fatal - because another member of the cast has a plan of their own.

The setting: a spectacular underground Masonic Hall beneath the City of London, with many tunnels, no phone signal . . . and only one way out.

Unlike the programme, there are no killers or psychopaths, but a disparate group of people who all have a secret they'd rather keep hidden - and will go to extreme lengths to keep under wraps.

A seasonal psychological thriller set during a wrap party of a popular fictional detective TV series in London. Perfect for fans of Chris Frost and Alex Pine.

Z

# The Family Break

Ruth Irons

Ruth Irons

## The Family Break

Z

COVER TO BE REVEALED

July 2026  
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.

**Their dream holiday is about to turn into a nightmare . . .**

When upscale travel agent Allegra is offered a complimentary stay for her extended family at a new, exclusive woodland retreat, she's delighted to discover it has everything you could ask for: luxury treehouse accommodation, activities for the kids, spa treatments, fine dining and relaxation for the adults.

But relationships within the group are fraught and an engagement announcement between Allegra's brother and his boyfriend seems only to worsen matters. Frustrated with her family, and having been taken for granted for years, Allegra forms an unexpected bond with someone new, while the holiday seems to be cursed as one thing after another starts to go wrong.

Resentments grow and tensions rise, and it soon becomes clear that their family problems might run deeper than anyone suspected. As the warning signs become more disturbing, they realise they haven't been asking the right questions: how did they really come to be here? And which of them won't be going home?

Perfect for fans of T. M. Logan and Claire Douglas.

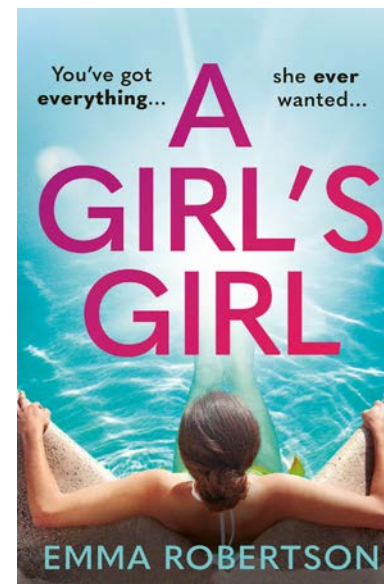


**Rights Sold:**  
Slovenia (Hisa Knjig),  
US Audio  
(Dreamscape)

Z

# A Girl's Girl

Emma Robertson



June 2026  
Thriller

DRAFT COVER

### 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.

On a group holiday to celebrate their friend's forthcoming wedding, 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 debut.

## Mind Game

Andrew Ewart and David Arlo

Andrew Ewart  
and David Arlo

### Mind Game

Z

COVER TO BE REVEALED

July 2026  
Thriller

#### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
No Ordinary

ANDREW EWART is the author of two 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. *Damien Ike and the Fallen House of Draven* is his debut work of fiction.

### How far would you go to save your family?

Hal Ashton has spent years developing the most anticipated video game of all time. In TAP - Total Altered Perception - players can live out their fantasies in a fully immersive virtual reality simulation. With the deadline only weeks away, it's the last chance to save his career. But the game still isn't perfect.

He's been warned against amending the source code, yet it's the only way he can achieve total immersion, where players won't realise they're in a game at all. He just needs to conduct a final test off the books, and for that, he needs willing volunteers: his family.

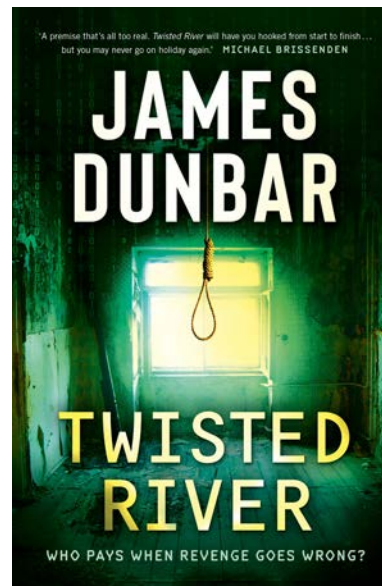
As Hal's frustrated wife Scarlett, awkward son Grayson and golden girl Olivia enter TAP, sinister glitches appear, twisting their dreams into living nightmares from which they cannot escape. Hal realises the only way to rescue them is to enter their games as another player. Can any of them find their way back to reality?

Anthony McCarten's *Going Zero* meets *Black Mirror* in this speculative thriller about the dangers of technology and the dividing line between reality and fantasy.

echo

## Twisted River

James Dunbar



September 2025  
336 pp  
Crime/Thriller

#### World Rights

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

JAMES DUNBAR is a journalist, television scriptwriter, travel writer, university lecturer and website editor. *Mole Creek* (2024), his first venture into the crime thriller and espionage genre, was shortlisted in the Danger Awards. Published as Jimmy Thomson, he is also the author of two crime novels and two true-crime memoirs, as well as several books about Australian army engineers during the Vietnam War.

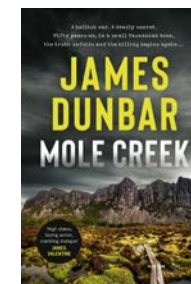
### It's not only the guilty who have something to hide.

When married couple Cate and Rory Porter return from their European holiday, they make a nightmare discovery. Their credit cards have been cancelled, their bank account has been emptied, and their phones and internet have been cut off. Their home in the Australian coastal town of Kiama has been rented out as a holiday let, and their dog and pet-sitter have disappeared. Meanwhile, Cate's work colleagues have received copies of her handwritten resignation letter, posted from Paris, filled with insults and lurid allegations.

The pain isn't over yet, not by a long shot. Someone has set out to destroy Cate and Rory's lives - and their anonymous enemy's motivations are a mystery.

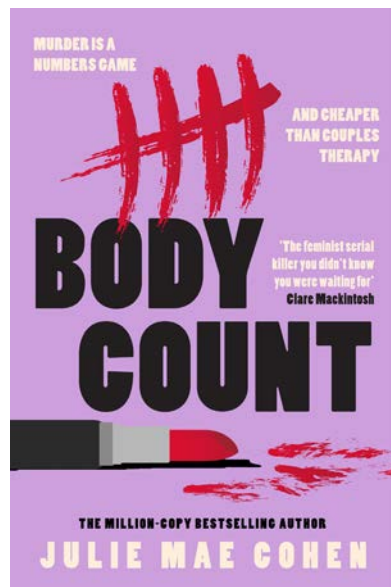
As the harassment ramps up, some likely suspects emerge. Is it the anti-vax campaigners who have already targeted them over Rory's website for dog owners? Or maybe a pro-Russian activist who objects to Cate's work with Ukrainian refugees?

To make matters worse, the local police seem suspicious of their allegations. Cate and Rory quickly realise the only way to reclaim their lives - and their beloved dog, Iris - is to find their tormentor themselves. And it isn't long before things turn dangerous. Deadly dangerous.



## Body Count

Julie Mae Cohen



August 2025  
416 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.

### Murder is a numbers game – and cheaper than couples therapy.

Serial killer Saffy Huntley-Oliver's life is going great.

She's got a fabulous new boyfriend, Jonathan. She has literally got away with murder. And now that she's no longer single, she can get back to her favourite hobby: killing bad men.

Particularly Sir Thomas West, a children's TV star who truly deserves to die.

But there are a few little snags. For one, her beloved sister Susie is still dating that insufferable Finlay. For another, Sir Thomas has a very large bodyguard. And Jonathan himself has given up his job investigating true crime, despite all the tempting corpses that Saffy keeps putting in his way.

All of this would be easy to ignore in the flush of new love. Except Saffy's never been in love before, and it's weird. She's having difficulty separating romance from homicide. Especially when someone discovers Saffy's secret hobby and starts sending Jonathan coded messages about her crimes.

Is someone trying to break them up? Or trying to hunt her down?

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

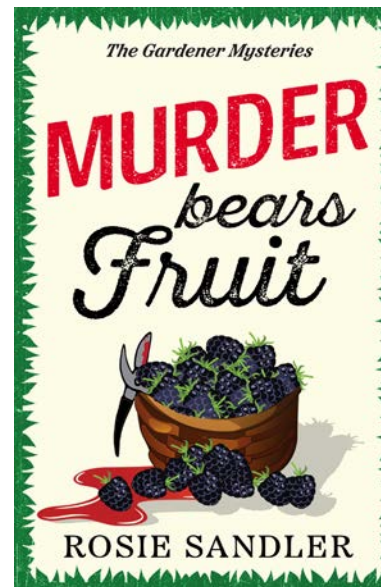


**Rights Previously Sold:**  
Brazil (Buzz), Germany (Heyne), Greece (Harlenic), Israel (Keter), Italy (Piemme), Romania (Flacara), Russia (Eksmo), Serbia (Laguna), Spain (Newton Compton), Turkey (Eksik Parca), Ukraine (Family Leisure Club), US (Overlook)



## Murder Bears Fruit

Rosie Sandler



November 2025  
352 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.

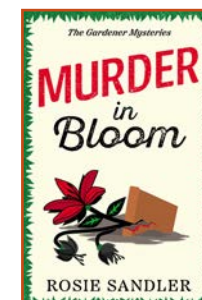
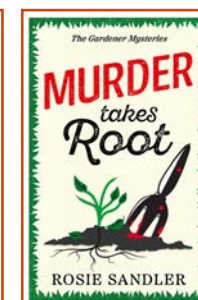
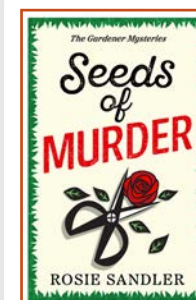
### A delightful cosy crime series where the stakes are high, the gardens are lush, and murder is always in season.

Able to cherry pick her gardening projects after all her recent success, Steph Williams arrives at a luxury hotel in the Yorkshire moors with her beloved dog Mouse. She has been tasked with bringing the outdated gardens into line with the hotel's sleek and glassy new guise, and can't wait to dig in.

But, before Steph can enjoy the fruits of her labour, she makes a shocking discovery in the hotel's pool: a body, fanned by a beautiful evening dress, floating beneath the stars.

As she rushes into the scene, Steph realises this is no accident. When a surprising arrest is made, she will have to dig deep to ensure the police have the real killer. But Steph's missing ex-husband proves a thorn in her side, as ever: turning up very much alive, and urgently needing her help.

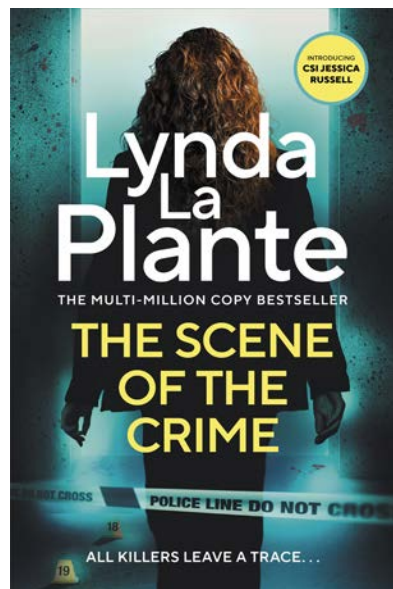
Will Steph be able to find the murderer, and the missing rubies, and come up smelling of roses?



Over 70,000 copies sold across the series

# Z Lynda La Plante

## The Scene of the Crime



August 2025  
496 pp  
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, LYNDLA 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 introducing CSI Jessica Russell 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).

Jessica Russell is an experienced CSI with qualifications in psychology and criminology. But Jessica'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?

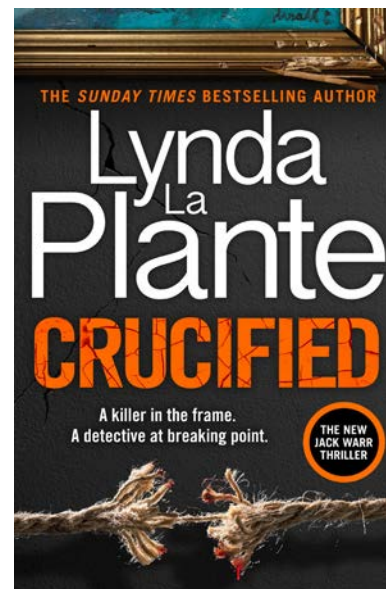
Like with any new police department, there is immense pressure for instant results. One careless decision, one wrong accusation from Jessica or her team and their superiors would be all too happy to close down MSCAN for good.

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

**Instant Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller**

# Crucified

## Detective Jack Warr Crime Series



April 2025  
416 pp  
Crime/Thriller

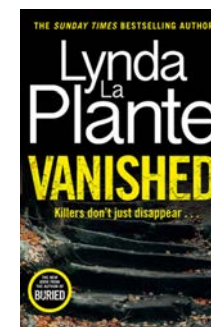
### World Rights

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

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

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?



**Winner of the CWA Diamond Dagger Award**

**Over a million copies sold across the series**

Z

## Vengeance

### Wilbur Smith



**A journey for a better life. A past as dark as it is inescapable.**

South Africa, 1828. Chased from the hills of Zululand and running for their lives, Ralph Courtney and his adopted family - Ann and little Harry - are left with no water, no food and no clothes to protect them from the sweltering African sun. After crossing the Drakensberg Mountains, desperate to put the past behind him and become a better man, all that matters to Ralph is finding somewhere to start a new chapter and build a home where Ann and Harry can live in peace.

When Harry is gravely injured, they are saved by a group of missionaries who take them to their station at Mahikeng. Although comfortable, Ralph is not happy to stay, and determined to find a wagon to transport his family to Cape Town, he sets off for Philippolis. But things do not go to plan and Ralph finds himself on trial for murder.

As the trial draws to a close, Ralph's true identity is revealed and the story of his imprisonment and escape from Robben Island ten years before comes to light. Ralph is transported to the penal colony of Van Diemen's land in Tasmania, the worst prison on earth, and the outlook is bleak. All he wants is to get back to Ann and Harry and live a better life, but can that ever be possible as the past keeps coming back to haunt him?

May 2026  
Historical Adventure

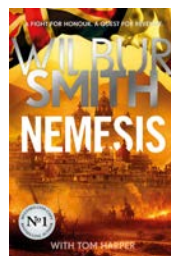
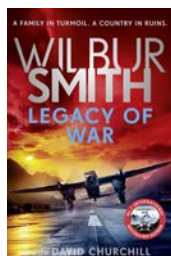
#### World Rights

#### Rights Sold for the Series:

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

#### Television & Film Rights:

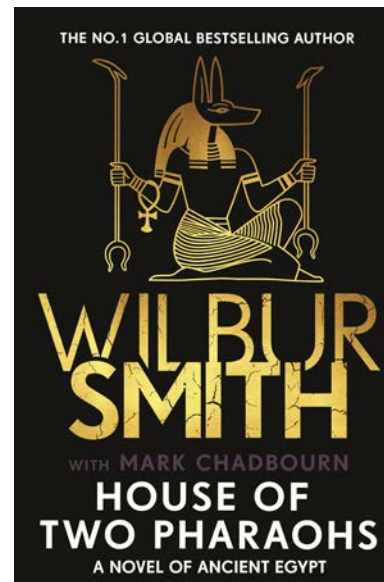
Tibor Jones



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## 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.

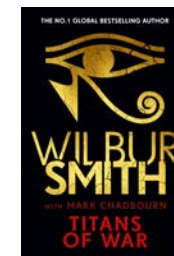
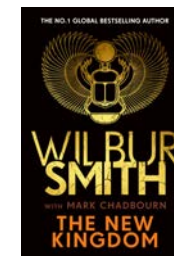
**From the shadows, a new evil will rise.**

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.

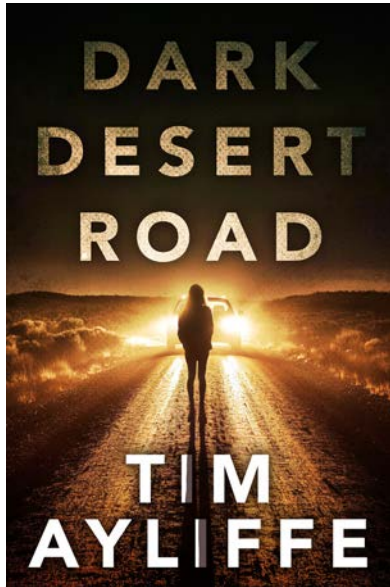
Will everything that Taita has fought for be torn asunder? Or will he and Piay finally reunite the two kingdoms? Only time will tell. And time is running out.

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



# Dark Desert Road

Tim Ayliffe



January 2026  
400 pp  
Crime/Thriller

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
CJZ Productions

TIM AYLIFFE is an award-winning author whose thriller novels have been informed by his 25-year global career as a journalist. He writes about crime, espionage, extremism and the global power games at play in the twenty-first century. He has been the Managing Editor of Television and Video for ABC News and also Executive Producer of News Breakfast. Several of his thrillers are in development for TV.

**A fugitive sister. A dangerous father. A terror cell hiding in plain sight.**

Kit McCarthy hasn't seen her identical twin sister, Billie, in more than a decade.

The sisters don't see eye to eye, which is understandable, considering Kit's a police officer and Billie followed their bank-robbing father into a life of crime.

Kit is no angel. Burnt out by years working in child protection, she has been accused of using excessive force in the arrest of a violent drunk. Kit has just been ordered to take time off work when she gets a frantic message from Billie, telling her she has a young son and that somebody is trying to kill her.

And then Billie disappears.

Kit's journey to find Billie takes her through shuttered towns destroyed by drought, where everybody owns guns, nobody talks to cops, and people get lost for a reason. She will risk everything to find her sister and the nephew she never knew she had.

But does Billie really want to be saved?

Family loyalty meets violent extremism in this race-against-time thriller.

**Screen rights optioned by CJZ Productions.**

*'Unforgettable characters and a simmering plot.'*

Candice Fox

*'A helter-skelter road trip that starts fast and never lets up.'*

Matthew Spencer

# Gunpowder Creek

Alex Dook



September 2025  
304 pp  
Crime/Thriller

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

ALEX DOOK is a writer based in Perth, Western Australia. His previous writing has been longlisted for the 2019 Fogarty Literary Award and Highly Commended in the 2021 Fogarty Literary Award. *Gunpowder Creek* is his debut novel.

**'Mum, please. I need your help. I've done something stupid . . . They're coming for me.'**

Friday, 1:30pm. Emily Barnes is finishing work for the week, ready for a break from her laptop. Then she receives a panicked voicemail from her son Zach, punctuated by a gunshot.

By 4 p.m., she's driving a stolen car out of Perth, with explicit instructions from Zach's captors - in three days, deliver the car to Gunpowder Creek, a ghost town 900 kilometres deep into the West Australian outback. Miss the deadline and Zach dies. And 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 its cargo to make it to Gunpowder Creek. Someone with cold eyes who has seen death and liked it.

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

*'Candice Fox meets Quentin Tarantino.'*

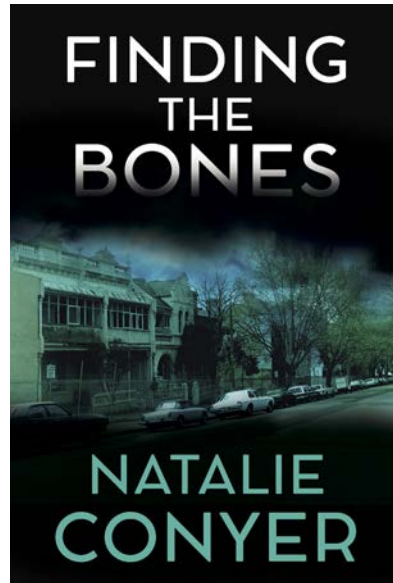
Ben Hobson

*'Compelling characters, breakneck pace and a cracking plot. A gripping debut.'*

Vikki Wakefield

# Finding the Bones

## Natalie Conyer



March 2026  
316 pp  
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?**

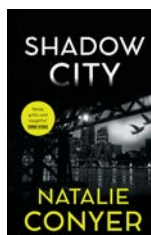
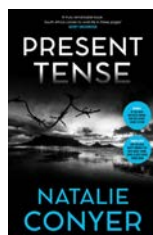
1980s: Belle Fitzgerald, young, rich and spirited, has come to live in Kings Cross, Sydney's bohemian heart and its centre of organised crime. When she learns of plans to develop her street and oust its residents, she decides to do everything in her power to stop the developer. This brings her up against 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 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**



# The Girl She Was

## M. I. Hattersley



September 2025  
320 pp  
Crime/Thriller

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

M. I. HATTERSLEY has spent the last couple of decades balancing creative work with a long list of mind-numbing day jobs. He's toured Europe with a rock 'n' roll band, trained as a professional actor, and founded a theatre and media company. He now writes psychological thrillers and domestic suspense novels, drawing on his years of experience with intense people and unpredictable situations. He published *The Ex* in July 2025 and has two more psychological thrillers scheduled for release this year.

**She thought she could leave her past behind. She was wrong . . .**

Nadia Morgan has everything she ever wanted. A nice house. Three wonderful children. A loving husband. Even running two businesses only adds to her feelings of accomplishment.

But she also has a dark secret. Something happened twenty years ago that she's been trying to forget about ever since. But some things can't be left in the past.

A phone call from an old acquaintance sets off a series of terrible events which lead to tragic consequences for those involved and has Nadia questioning her sanity. As her dark past closes in on her she must come to terms with what she did, and the pact she broke, if she wants to survive.

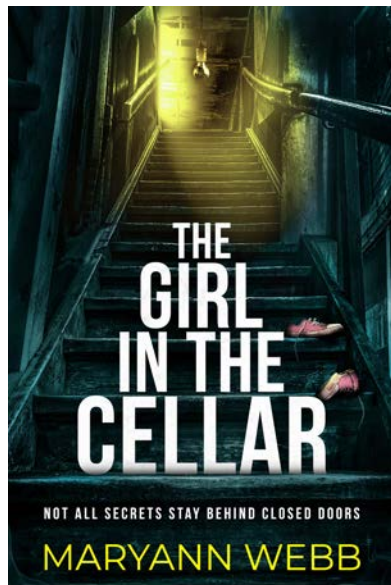
Can she keep her family safe or will her past finally catch up with her?





# The Girl in the Cellar

Maryann Webb



October 2025  
384 pp  
Crime/Thriller

## World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

MARYANN WEBB is the bestselling author of psychological thriller and suspense novels that unravel the complexities of relationships, exploring themes like trust, betrayal, and the darker corners of the human psyche. She is based in Australia.

**Not all secrets stay behind closed doors.**

Izzy Blake hasn't seen sunlight in four years. She only eats when she's been good. She only gets to wash when he says so.

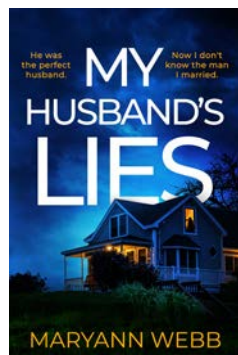
Izzy has fought to maintain her identity and sanity, clinging to memories of the life she once knew. Her parents, her job, her real name. But it's hard, she's been in the cellar so long.

Every day is the same. Dark. Pain. Alone. Until . . .

One day the door opens and it's not him. It's a woman. Who clearly has no idea that her boyfriend has Izzy chained up in their wine cellar.

But as the lines between friend and foe blur, Izzy is faced with an impossible choice: trust Kady and risk her own survival, or take matters into her own hands and escape at any cost. With time running out and danger closing in, can Izzy outwit her tormentor, and finally escape from the cellar?

An utterly addictive and pulse-pounding psychological thriller that's perfect for fans of Steena Holmes, Noelle W. Ihli, Becca Day and Sonya Bateman.



echo



November 2025  
352 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.

# Softly Calls the Devil

Chris Blake

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

Things are going well for Matt Buchanan. After some hard times, life is peaceful as constable for the small, isolated settlement of Haast on New Zealand's South Island. He's made friends among the locals, won their trust. He keeps their little world safe.

But then his much-loved predecessor, Gus, is discovered beside a river with a bullet through his head. He'd been looking into a disturbing murder-suicide from 1978: the parents' bodies were found, but not their daughter's. Suspecting a darker truth, Matt is certain the answers can't be too far away in this close-knit community. Tensions rise, people are threatened, and memories surface of a cult that went horribly wrong . . .

Even when support arrives, Matt finds himself pursuing a case that's well outside his remit and takes him to places he'd sooner not revisit. He has managed to shun his own demons, and is desperate not to face them again, but when confronted by the devil himself, he must take action, rediscover something of the person he was and save those he loves.

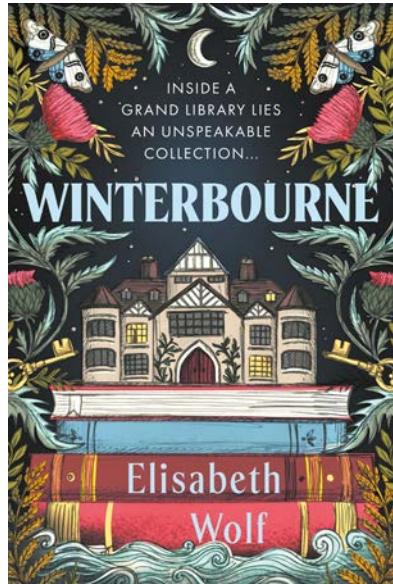
*'World-class crime fiction.'*

Craig Sistorson



# Winterbourne

## Elisabeth Wolf



January 2026 DRAFT COVER  
Fantasy/Thriller

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Jenny Brown Associates

ELISABETH WOLF is a writer of contemporary gothic fiction, creating classic tales that utilise the genre's most beloved tropes - crumbling mansions, vulnerable heroines, windswept landscapes and dark, brooding antiheroes. She lives in Edinburgh and has published eight crime novels under the name Alison Belsham.

**Inside a grand library lies an unspeakable secret . . .**

Librarian Anne Adams has found the perfect escape: a job cataloguing the library of Winterbourne, an architectural masterpiece on a remote island off the west coast of Scotland. Surrounded by an awe-inspiring landscape, the library is magnificent, with priceless first editions, a librarian's dream.

However, Anne's early weeks in her new job are beset by obstacles - no internet, a house plunged into darkness every night and unexplained mysteries on the island.

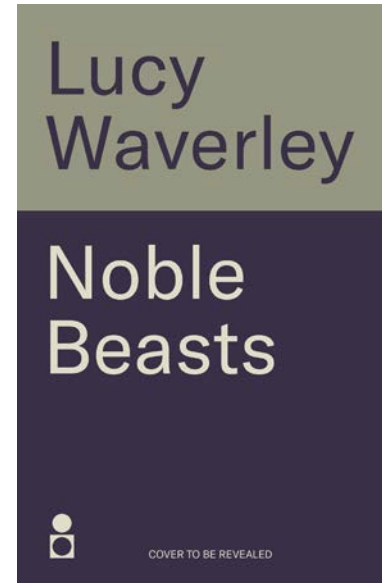
After weeks of isolation, upon meeting the mysterious owner Lucien Broussard, Anne is puzzled. Eloquent and well-travelled, his reclusive nature seems uncharacteristic. But after finding a cryptic clue within the pages of a book, Anne discovers that Broussard's collection includes everything from the mundane to the books no one should ever open . . .

For fans of *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova, *The Book That Wouldn't Burn* by Mark Lawrence and *Hagstone* by Sinead Gleeson.



# Noble Beasts

## Lucy Waverley



May 2026  
Historical Fiction

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Miller Bowers Griffin Literary

LUCY WAVERLEY is a journalist. She studied Ancient and Modern History and is currently working on a Master's in Art History and Literature on Landseer, Walter Scott, and Robert Burns at the University of Oxford. An early draft of this novel was longlisted for the Caledonia Novel Award and shortlisted for the 2023 Cheshire Novel Prize.

**A famed artist, a scandalous affair, and the beasts that roamed his mind. A fascinating debut novel based on a true story.**

It's the summer of 1858 and everyone who can has fled London. As a foul miasma hangs over the capital, painter and sculptor, Edwin Landseer, is toiling at a fever pitch. Because England needs lions, England expects lions, and fifteen years to finish the monumental lion sculptures for Trafalgar Square is a disgrace.

But even as lions stalk the sculptor's alcohol-fuelled nightmares, his dreams take him elsewhere. No longer an old man losing his grip on reality, but a young artist eager for life, recognition and love. Traversing decades, this story leaps back and forth, from the squalor of Victorian London, to Edwin's youth in the early 1800s when the Duchess of Bedford - twenty years his senior - bursts into Edwin's life.

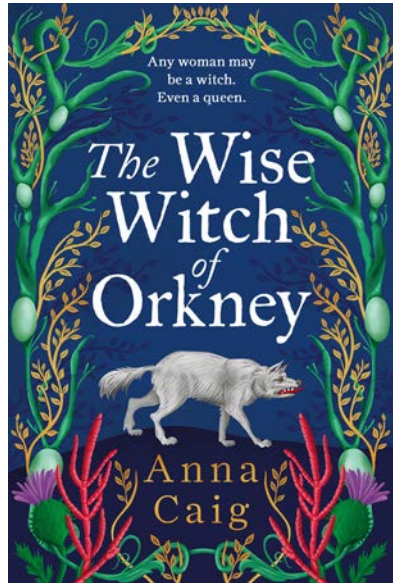
*Noble Beasts* is a fascinating tale that blends the hazy romanticism of the Scottish Highlands with the history of 19th century London, and the infamous rumour that Edwin Landseer, the sculptor of the famous lions of Trafalgar Square, was taking more from the Duke of Bedford than the occasional commission. It charts his relationship to the Duchess, the Queen and the Royal Academy, alongside the events that led to his declaration of insanity in 1872.

For fans of *The Romantic* by William Boyd and *The Flames* by Sophie Haydock.



# The Wise Witch of Orkney

## Anna Caig



February 2026  
344 pp  
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 creatives in how to do their own marketing. Anna's submission *The Spae-Wife* was shortlisted for the CWA Debut Dagger 2020 Prize and was the springboard for her debut novel *The Wise Witch of Orkney*.

**Any woman may be a witch. Even a queen.**

Scotland, 1593. 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 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 Elspet, 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*.

A spell-binding debut novel about Scotland's witch-hunting hysteria for fans of *The Marriage Portrait*, *Hamnet*, *The Witches of Vardo* and *The Maiden*.



# Poor Creatures

## Mairi Kidd



October 2025  
288 pp  
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*.**

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 this fantasy 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 worst monsters are the human kind . . .

Years before *Frankenstein*, this is a story of emerging womanhood and literary intrigue, exploring the many monsters in young Mary Shelley's life.

Perfect for fans of Stacey Halls, Sara Sheridan and Ambrose Parry.



**Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month**

# To Rule a Ruler

## Kaarina Parker

**'Some stories, some lives, cry out to be told. This is one of them.'**

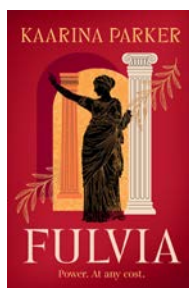
**- Conn Iggulden**

Rome, 50 BC. Fulvia is now a wealthy young widow, with more than just gold to her name. In the wake of her husband's death, she has captured the love and loyalty of the people, and the men who rule Rome are beginning to realise just how formidable she has become. There are those who fear her and those, like Julius Caesar, who see her potential.

Marcus Antonius is a powerful man in need of a commanding officer. Fulvia sees in him a man who could rule all of Rome, with her help. They marry and, when Caesar is assassinated, begin a perilous game of vying for the ultimate power.

The pair have the love of the people and a shared ambition to rule, but their enemies are many: Caesar's assassins, Brutus and Cassius, the cunning young queen Cleopatra, the razor-tongued orator Cicero, and the cold, calculating Octavian. Yet Fulvia, hardened by grief and betrayal, is no stranger to adversity, and she will stop at nothing to claim the power and legacy she knows she deserves. Whatever the cost.

For fans of Elodie Harper and Elizabeth Fremantle, this sequel to *Fulvia* is a captivating story of how she rose to power and defied the expectations of women in Ancient Rome.



Kaarina  
Parker

To Rule  
a Ruler



COVER TO BE REVEALED

July 2026  
Historical Fiction

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
High Spot Literary

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. Kaarina also has an established career as a fashion model, and is a voice for diversity in the fashion industry in Australia and New Zealand. *Fulvia* was her first novel.

# 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.

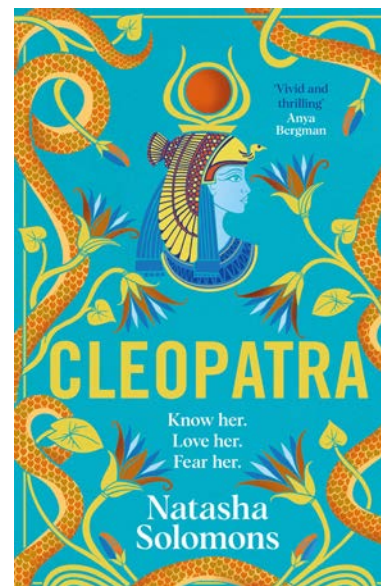
But while Ptolemy has the power of Egypt behind him, Cleopatra has her wits. And when the great Caesar arrives from Rome, she realises he could be the key to her salvation – though courting this powerful man could cost her everything.

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.

*'A fresh and lively take on a well-known tale.'*

THE TIMES, Best Historical Fiction Books of 2025  
So Far



May 2025  
352 pp  
Historical Fiction

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Brazil (Pensamento), Bulgaria (Bard), Canada (HarperCollins), France (HarperCollins), Italy (Neri Pozza), Hungary (Athenaeum), 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.



**Rights Sold for  
*Fair Rosaline:***

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

# The Tarot Reader of Versailles

Anya Bergman

**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.

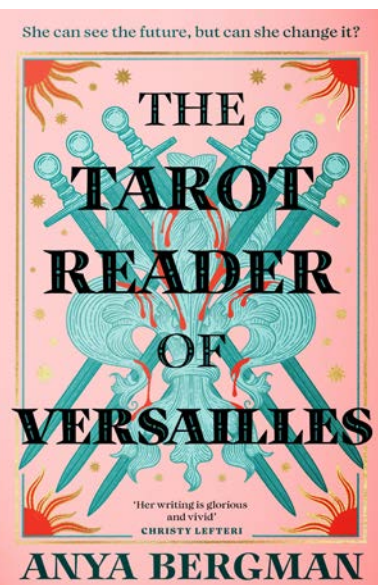
Then, one fateful day, she comes across Cait, a scullery maid from Ireland who has travelled to Paris for love. Cait has powers too - she can read people's pasts as Lenormand reads their futures. The two young women share an electrifying connection, drawn to each other's abilities. But Cait is hiding 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**



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), Thailand (Star Seer), 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.



# A Fire in Their Hearts

Philip Paris

**Claiming their freedom was their only crime.**

Scotland, 1662. As civil war rages and King Charles II tightens his grip on the Church of Scotland, childhood sweethearts Violet and Samuel are swept into a violent struggle for religious freedom. They pledge their hearts to each other - and to a cause that will test their faith, courage and love beyond measure.

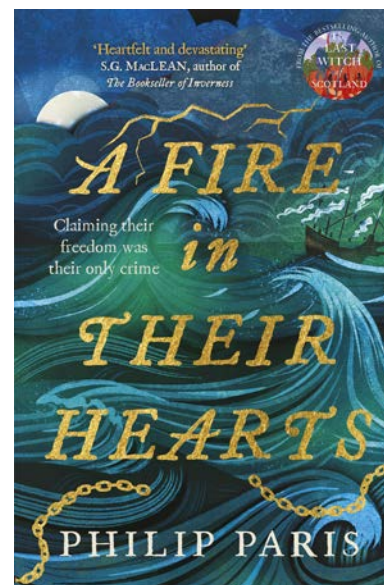
Hunted as rebels, imprisoned behind the walls of the infamous Greyfriars Kirkyard and torn from their homeland, Violet and Samuel are sentenced to a life of indentured servitude on the brutal sugar plantations of Barbados. But when their ship wrecks off the coast of Orkney, they become separated.

Alone and captive in a foreign land, Violet must summon every ounce of strength to survive the horrors she faces - and to cling to the hope that Samuel is still alive. Can love endure across oceans, through wars and captivity?

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

*'An utterly heart-wrenching novel.'*

Fiona Valpy



August 2025  
400 pp  
Historical Fiction

## World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

PHILIP PARIS is the bestselling author of *The Last Witch of Scotland*, Waterstones' Scottish Book of the Year 2024 and Blackwell's Edinburgh Book of the Year 2023. His hugely varied work is often inspired by events or issues that have previously had little coverage.



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



## The Lost Secrets of the Italian Post Office

Amanda Weinberg & Silvia Mazzola

**A sweeping, epic tale of love, friendship and betrayal against the backdrop of WWII.**

*Italy, 1943.* Ambra and Nina have been friends since they were children, their bond fixed by a friendship pact made in the shadow of a shared tragedy. But when war comes to their small Italian village, loyalties are tested and their friendship is stretched to breaking point.

For Nina, whose brother is part of a secret anti-fascist cell, the choice to fight is easy. For Ambra, who longs to escape her father's post office and covets the luxurious lifestyle of the Sansones, a prominent fascist family, things are not so black and white.

In a world where everyone is keeping secrets and where information is currency, the two friends must be careful who they trust. When childhood friend Nicolò, the Sansones' only son, asks one of them for help, the consequences could tear their friendship apart forever . . .

Inspired by true events, this story is perfect for fans of Fiona Valpy, Soraya M. Lane and Kate Quinn.



### Rights Sold:

Bulgaria (Colibri), Czechia (Vikend), Israel (Tchelet)



June 2025  
304 pp  
Historical Fiction

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Israel (Tchelet)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

AMANDA WEINBERG and SILVIA MAZZOLA met at a creative writing course and bonded over their love for storytelling and Italian culture. Their collaboration led to *The Lost Secrets of the Italian Post Office*, inspired by their research trip to Molise and its WWII history. Amanda's debut novel, *The Italian Bookshop Among the Vines* was published by Embla in 2023. Silvia, originally from Milan, is an art historian and author of *La Miniaturista*.



## The Cotswolds Christmas Cafe

Lizzie Lee

**Join Marnie for hot chocolate, homemade gingerbread and a fresh start in a charming Cotswolds village . . .**

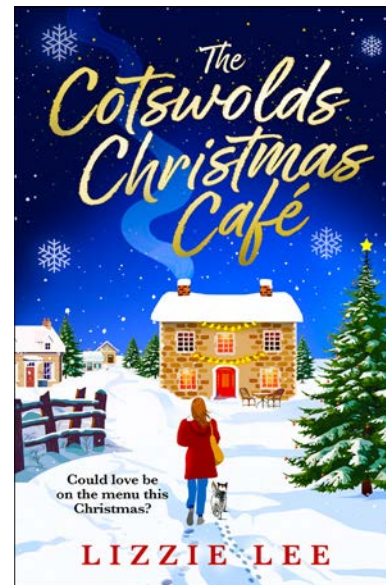
Mending her broken heart after splitting from her husband, Marnie and her thirteen-year-old daughter Lauren move to the picturesque village of Babblebrook.

Marnie's sure a new beginning in time for Christmas is just the thing they need. She can't wait to show Lauren the rolling hills, adorable duck pond, and delicious local bakery run by her good friends Matt and Nat.

But Matt and Nat aren't as young as they used to be, and the bakery is looking a little worn down. Its only regular customer is Marnie's grumpy neighbour Andrew (and his adorable scruffy dog Rosie). He might just be the rudest man Marnie has ever met, so she has absolutely no idea why she can't stop thinking about him . . .

After Pat has a fall, Marnie throws herself into helping out at the bakery. And, despite his gruff exterior, Marnie finds herself drawn to Andrew and his kind, reliable nature. But when some unexpected visitors land in Babblebrook, Marie is confronted with a choice – stick to what she knows, and the person she's always been, or start putting herself first for once.

She's spent her whole life taking care of everyone else, but is she ready to fight for her café dream, and admit that all she wants for Christmas is Andrew?



September 2025  
384 pp  
Romance

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Curtis Brown

LIZZIE LEE's work has been selected for the Womentoring Project and Penguin's WriteNow Live. She won the Curtis Brown Creative Marian Keyes Scholarship. Her first novel *Cunning Women* was published by Windmill Books in 2021. *The Cotswolds Christmas Cafe* is her first romance novel.

# Flowers in July

Anna Maynard



March 2026  
304 pp  
Romance

## World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

ANNA MAYNARD's experience as a writer had largely been restricted to referral letters and discharge summaries through her years of medical training. After finishing her specialist exams she decided to turn her hand to romance. When she's not dreaming up fictional heroines and swoony love interests, Anna can be found working in the emergency department, pottering in her garden or playing songs with her pop band.

**A charming and heartfelt story about opening yourself up to love.**

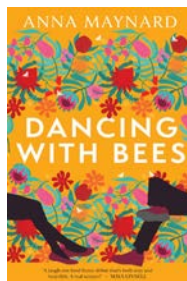
Disciplined and pragmatic, Mary Roberts feels she's got her life under control. She's recently moved to Hobart from Sydney, she's nearing the end of her training as an emergency doctor, and she keeps a tight handle on the wellbeing of her family back home.

But when it comes to her longterm boyfriend, Felix, she's always had a blind spot. That is, until she finds another woman's underwear in their bed . . .

From that moment, her world begins to unravel. Relentlessly.

In need of a temporary escape, Mary signs up to help run a wilderness expedition medicine course. But rock climbing, plunging into freezing cold water and working in the close company of a grumpy yet disconcertingly magnetic doctor are pushing her way out of her comfort zone.

Mary may be disentangling herself from Felix, but in the process she finds herself questioning everything she thought she knew As she confronts the idea of living life on her own terms, rather than focusing solely on the needs of others, could she finally be ready to fall in love?



**Rights Sold:**  
US (Open Road)

# The Last Resort

Amanda Hewitt



January 2026  
320 pp  
Romance

## World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

AMANDA HEWITT is an Australian romance author. Based in the south of Sydney, she loves gothic literature and English period dramas. When she is not writing, you can find her knee deep in laundry, or curled up on the lounge with a mystery and a glass of red.

**When the holiday romance ends, the real business begins.**

Abbey Parker arrives on an idyllic island resort in the Maldives. Her marriage is over, it's her first holiday alone, and an identity crisis is looming. Her solution? A complimentary bottle of champagne and a swim in the Indian Ocean.

Staying in the room next door is brooding Londoner Nick Northby. He's on his annual holiday, avoiding the sun, the glare and people - but he can't avoid having to rescue a tipsy, half-naked woman from drowning.

Their chemistry is immediate and undeniable. And with a mysteriously invested resort worker playing cupid, a holiday fling is inevitable.

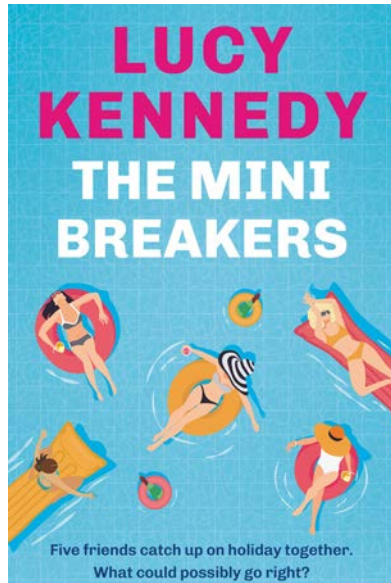
Abbey returns home changed, but still struggling to assert herself among her all-female family of powerhouse personalities. Meanwhile, changes are occurring at her work. Delacqua Hotels has new English owners, and her role as Executive Assistant to the CEO becomes extremely awkward - her new boss is none other than her former holiday flame, Nick Northby.

Boss Nick is very different from Holiday Nick - and it isn't just the bespoke suits. He's all business and boundaries.

Nick is determined not to fall for her. So why does he keep creeping past the line they drew in the white Maldivian sand, marking the end of their affair?

## The Mini Breakers

Lucy Kennedy



April 2026  
Women's Fiction

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Marianne Gunn O'Connor

LUCY KENNEDY is an Irish television and radio presenter. She first came to public attention co-hosting *The Podge and Rodge Show* on RTÉ 2 and has also presented *The Ex-Files*, *Live with Lucy* and her own chat show *The Lucy Kennedy Show*. Lucy currently co-hosts *Colm and Lucy in the Morning* with Colm Hayes on Ireland's *Classic Hits* radio show. Her bestselling *Friendship Fairies* books tell of the heart-warming adventures of young fairies Emme, Holly and Jess and their family. This is her debut novel.

**Five old friends catch up on holiday together - what could possibly go right?**

In 1995, five girls met on the first day of secondary school and have been best friends ever since. They vowed to always find time for each other. For over twenty years, no matter what, they go on a week's holiday together to relax, get away from work and family, and exchange gossip.

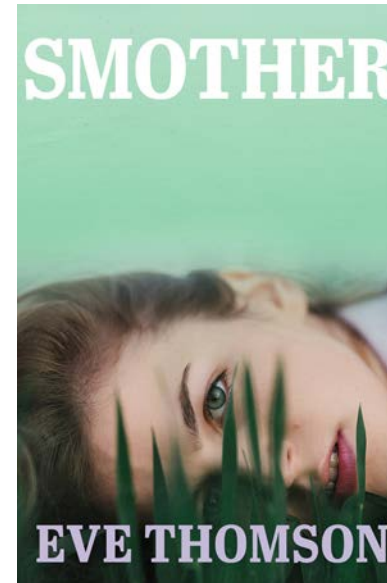
This year the girls are going to a beachside hotel in Portugal. But there's tension lurking beneath the surface. What dramas will happen this year? Cue mayhem, drunken antics and some genuinely poignant moments between friends.

A cheeky and fun read about middle-aged, perimenopausal and thirsty friends going bonkers in Albufeira that will make you want to join them – the perfect holiday read!

echo

## Smother

Eve Thomson



March 2026  
384 pp  
General Fiction

DRAFT COVER

### World Rights

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

EVE THOMSON is a partner at a leading Australian law firm, where she's a litigator, working on everything from class actions and media law to consumer protection. Her debut novel, *She Too*, dealt with law and celebrity, drawing from Eve's experience advising some of the country's biggest publishers on defamation matters. For her second novel, *Smother*, she has combined courtroom expertise with her experiences on the sidelines of kids' sports - both worlds as cut-throat and full of drama as each other.

**They said to play hard. They said to give everything. When she risks it all for the win, who's to blame for the damage?**

Bruce College, a private school in a leafy Melbourne suburb, is a place for winners. Its boys football team has a reputation for pumping out superstars. But when its girls' team pushes for glory, sixteen-year-old Grace Dooley is left with a catastrophic brain injury, and her parents want answers.

The school points the finger at the coach, Brick Hannaford, a former professional player who is struggling with the legacy of his own triumphant career. Brick says he was doing exactly what the parents and the school demanded of him: teaching the kids to excel.

Lawyer Romola Cross takes on Brick's case. As she navigates her own quest for love and happiness, she learns why Grace played that day - of the pressures bearing down from peers, teachers, coach and parents. But who should be held accountable? What will the Court's judgment be? And, once the case is over, will Romola find what she's been searching for?

*Smother* is a novel about the forces of love, ambition, fear and glory, and finding the right balance before it all comes undone.



## The Rag Princess

Rosie Goodwin



September 2025  
384 pp  
Women's Fiction

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Curtis Brown

ROSIE GOODWIN is the bestselling author of more than forty novels. Having worked in the social services sector for many years, then fostered a number of children, she is now a full-time novelist. She is one of the top 50 most borrowed authors from UK libraries and has sold over four million copies across her career.

**Sometimes you need to work out where you came from to find out where you truly belong.**

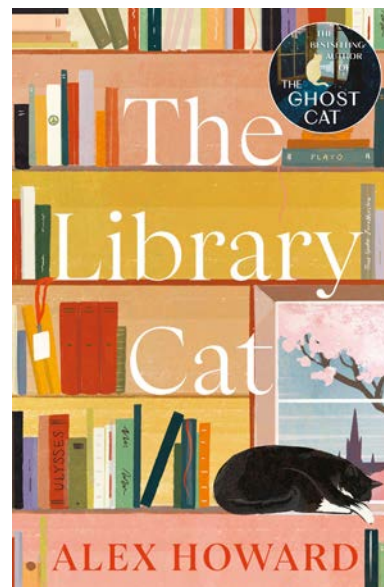
Nuneaton, 1904. Abandoned on the steps of the workhouse shortly after her birth, little Annie never felt the love of a family. When she's taken from the only world she has known to a smart home on Swan Lane, she dares to hope her life might be changing for the better. But hope is fragile. Grieving the loss of her own child, Maggie Lilburn didn't adopt Annie out of kindness - she wants her as a servant, not a daughter.

Despite Maggie's coldness, Annie finds flickers of warmth elsewhere: in the bond with her adopted brothers and in the quiet kindness of Maggie's husband Levi, the local rag-and-bone man. He sees Annie's potential and takes her under his wing and into his trade. As Maggie crumbles beneath the weight of her sorrow, Annie is determined to hold the fractured family together - and carve out a place of her own.

Through all of this one question remains for Annie: who were her parents and why did they abandon her at the workhouse all those years ago?

An emotional tale of resilience, heartbreak and the power of family and the first book in the brand-new *Rags to Riches* trilogy, from Britain's best-loved saga author.

**4 million copies sold across all titles**



July 2025 (Reissue)  
192 pp  
General Fiction

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** France (Bragelonne), Italy (Garzanti), Turkey (Kitap)

**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. His novel *The Ghost Cat*, about a time-travelling cat called Grimalkin, was a Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month.

## The Library 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.

Part whimsy, part cat-borne philosophical novella, this is a tale about Library Cat's search for meaning in a confounding world. But it's about us Humans, too. Because with his black and white head bobbing a foot off the ground, Library Cat has seen Humans from a very different angle . . .

And he thinks we have it all wrong.



### 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**



# Joy Chose You: The Essential Collection

## Donna Ashworth

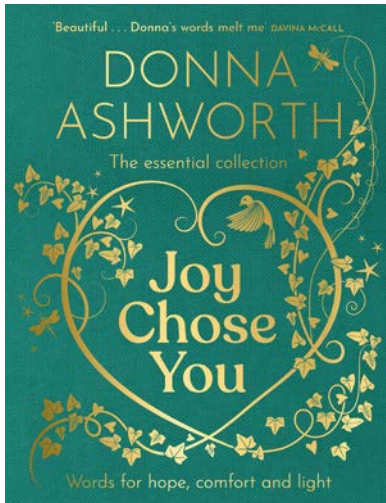
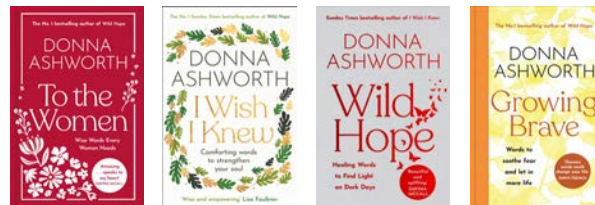
**A beautiful gift to bring joy and comfort to your days.**

This is a beautiful, colour-illustrated collection of Donna's most-loved poems to bring more joy into our imperfect lives. When we allow joy to wrap her quiet warmth around us we find ourselves opening up to more life, love and light.

With poems such as 'Joy Comes Back', 'Happy' and 'Unstoppable', as well as 20 new poems, including 'This Little Moment', 'Love Wins' and 'A Little Weird', Donna's wise words help us find hope in the dark, calm amid worry and greater joy in the beauty of living.

*'Joy is supposed to slip through  
the cracks of your imperfect life  
that's how joy works.'*

**Over 550,000 copies sold across all titles**  
**No.1 Sunday Times Bestselling Author**



October 2025  
256 pp  
Self-Help/Poetry

### World Rights

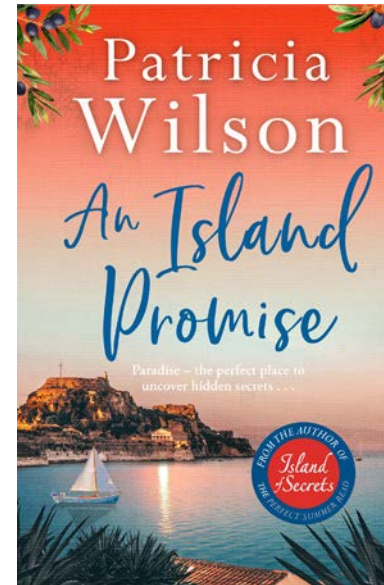
**Rights Sold:** US (Hay House)

**Rights Previously Sold:** China, Croatia, Czechia, France, Italy, Korea, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Taiwan, Thailand, 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 10 books and 2 million followers later, Donna is delighted daily with her mission to shower the world with her words.

### CORE LIST



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.

# 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.

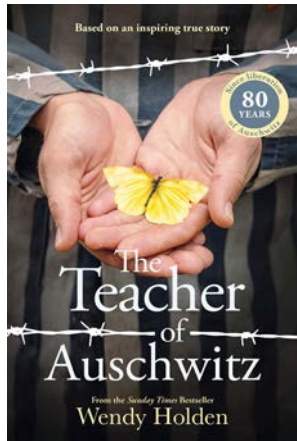
Will Flora discover more than she expects as she explores the island her family took refuge on?

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



## The Teacher of Auschwitz

Wendy Holden



**Based on the inspiring true story of Fredy Hirsch.**

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 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?

**Publication:** January 2025

**World Rights**

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

## The Pilot's Wife

Cynthia Anderson



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

*Europe, 1944.* Nineteen-year-old Hedy can no longer accept her country's neutrality. Risking everything, she helps smuggle Jewish children from France to safety in Switzerland. When she finds a wounded American airman in the forest, she hides him, despite the danger it brings.

*America, 2015.* Nineteen-year-old Gina cherishes her grandmother Hedy, the only family she has left. But when Hedy reveals a long-held secret, they return to the Swiss mountains, where the past still holds unanswered questions.

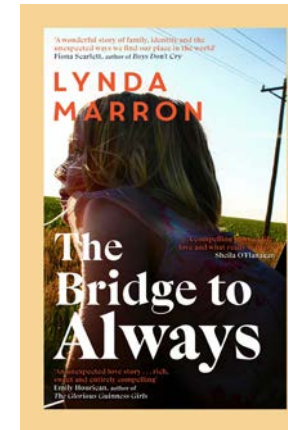
After all these years, can Gina and her grandmother find the answers that time never forgot?

**Publication:** May 2025

**World Rights**

## The Bridge to Always

Lynda Marron



**A story about identity, belonging, and what it truly means to be a family.**

Maeve Gaffney arrives in a small West Cork town chasing a dream: to be reunited with Tim, the man she once loved - and who, unknowingly, is the father of her daughter, Emer.

For Tim, now married and a pillar of the community, Emer's existence is a shock - but the pull toward Maeve is hard to ignore. For Agnes, a lonely landowner, their arrival offers a chance to make some 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 sets off a chain of events that none of them could have foreseen.

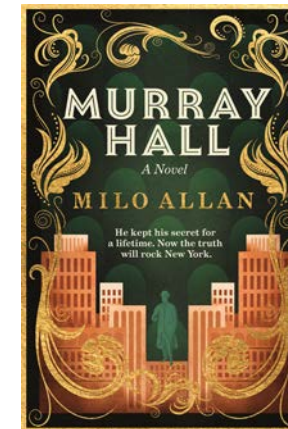
**Publication:** April 2025

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** US (Open Road)

## Murray Hall

Milo Allan



**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 all these things, but when the newspapers 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.

Sam Clellan, an ambitious young 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, Murray Hall is the definition of a self-made man. But the higher his status rises, the higher the stakes become.

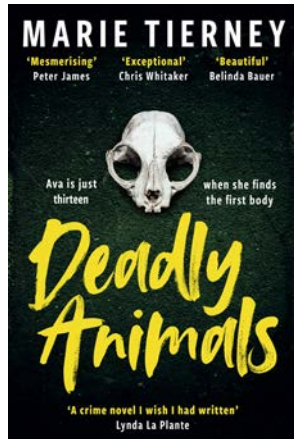
Inspired by a true story of one Scot's rise to prominence, *Murray Hall* unearths a queer past erased by history, finally bringing all the puzzle pieces together to discover the secret of this extraordinary, ordinary man.

**Publication:** April 2025

**World Rights**

## 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 Beacon / The Sunbaker

P. A. Thomas



**Publication:** January 2024 / July 2025

**World Rights**

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

This gripping and darkly funny crime series follows disgraced heir-turned-reporter Jack Harris, exiled to Byron Bay to work at his father's struggling local paper, The Beacon. When the paper's editor is found dead in a supposed shark attack, Jack suspects murder—and uncovers a web of secrets in the quirky coastal town.

In the second instalment, forensic pathologist Nicola Fox finds a dead body sunbathing in her backyard, drawing her into a new mystery that again leads to Jack—and a dangerous tangle of corruption, cover-ups, and small-town secrets.

## Kill Pill

David Barbaree



**Publication:** April 2025

**World Rights**

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

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

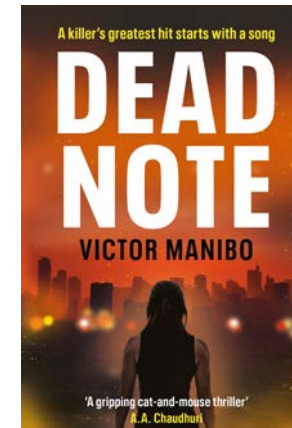
After his daughter overdosed and died, William Thomas Knox brutally murdered billionaire Skip Buchanan, patriarch of the family many hold responsible for the American opioid epidemic. Online communities glorified Skip's death - one murder to balance out the loss of one million innocent people - and turned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

## Dead Note

Victor Manibo



**Publication:** June 2025

**World Rights**

**A killer's greatest hit starts with a song.**

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, 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 a killer before she becomes his next victim?

*'An original, compelling, hard-hitting thriller.'*

A.A. Chaudhuri

## Lie To Me

Olivia Gavoyannis



**Publication:** June 2025  
**World Rights**

**She wanted the perfect long hot Greek summer. But the truth is always too good to be true . . .**

1960. Shy eighteen-year-old Jean faces another empty summer working at her father's stables, until Vivienne Fenwick's sleek green car screeches into the yard. With her Parisian bob and glamorous air, Vivienne, a professional racing driver, dazzles Jean.

Vivienne and her dashing husband Robert race fast cars, sip champagne on yachts, and live to win. When they offer Jean a job as their assistant in Greece, she leaps at the chance to escape her quiet English life.

But as Jean is drawn into their glittering world of high-speed races and ouzo-soaked nights, she finds herself caught in their turbulent relationship - and their secrets. How far will she go to keep this thrilling new life?

## The Quiet Wife

J. M. Cannon



**Publication:** April 2025  
**World Rights**

**The perfect fresh start turns into a perfect nightmare.**

At thirty-six, Katie Cope's life hasn't turned out as planned. In college, she had big dreams—until her best friend Claire vanished. Claire's car was found at a trailhead in the Rockies, but she was never seen again.

Katie let go of her ambitions and settled into a quiet life. Now that her husband Howard has sold his business, they've moved to a stunning new development in the Colorado mountains. Katie says it's the fresh start they need.

But that's a lie. She hasn't told Howard about the disturbing link she's discovered between their new home and a string of missing girls - girls just like Claire.

Now, alone in the house, Katie hears strange noises at night. There are footprints in the snow leading to their back door. She's done playing the quiet wife. But is it too late to uncover the truth?

## Best Left Buried

Neil A. White



**Publication:** June 2025  
**World Rights**

**Matt Latham embarks on a mission to uncover the truth behind a decades-old war crime.**

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.

## The Woman Next Door

Penny Batchelor



**Publication:** May 2025  
**World Rights**

**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 New Life in the Château

Sarah Long



**Publication:** March 2025  
**World Rights**

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

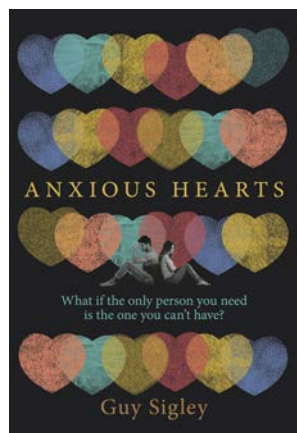
Nicole and her friends are living the dream. No dull, tedious retirement for them - instead the nine friends have clubbed together to purchase a magnificent (if crumbling) château in Normandy. And after three years of shared dinners, fine wine and gorgeous scenery, they have finally settled into a routine.

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.

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.

## Anxious Hearts

Guy Sigley



**Publication:** September 2025  
**World Rights**

### **What if the only person you need is the one you can't have?**

Kelly O'Mara is relentless in her pursuit of excellence. In her late twenties, she's a brilliant junior doctor preparing for her specialist paediatric exams. She'll sacrifice friendships, romance, and a social life to be the best. But the pressure is mounting and she's constantly on edge.

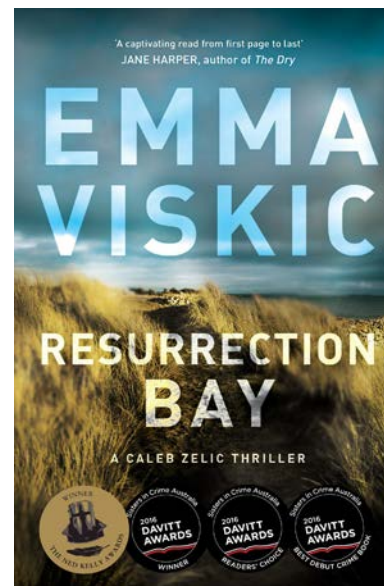
Finn Walsh knows Kelly better than anyone. A successful actor on the outside, behind the smile he's battling anxiety, self-loathing, and a fear that everything could fall apart.

Best friends since childhood, Kelly and Finn have always been each other's safe place, two broken souls bound by a deep, quiet understanding. But now, the weight of their own fears threatens to pull them apart.

As they spiral under the strain, how much will they risk to save each other - and themselves?

## 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.**

## 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

*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 by A. K. Turner - Under Option

*Whalefall* by Daniel Kraus - Imagine

*Dark Desert Road* by Tim Ayliffe - CJZ Productions

## Recent prizes and bestsellers

### 2025 Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize Shortlist

*Ordinary Saints* by Niamh Ni Mhaoileoin

### 2025 British Book Awards Crime of the Year Shortlist

*Guilty by Definition* by Susie Dent

### 2025 Fingerprint Debut Crime Book of the Year Shortlist

*Deadly Animals* by Marie Tierney

### 2025 Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year Shortlist

*Deadly Animals* by Marie Tierney

### 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 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

### 2021 CWA Gold Dagger Award

*We Begin At The End* by Chris Whitaker

### 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

### Nielsen Gold Bestseller

*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

### 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  
*Buried* by Lynda La Plante  
*Growing Brave* by Donna Ashworth

### The Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller

*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  
*Whole Life Sentence* by Lynda La Plante  
*Guilty by Definition* by Susie Dent  
*The Ghost Cat* by Alex Howard  
*Fire on the Horizon* by Wilbur Smith  
*Four Ruined Realms* by Mai Corland  
*A Cold Wind from Moscow* by Rory Clements  
*To the Women* by Donna Ashworth  
*The Daughter* by TM Logan  
*Our Sweet Violet* by Rosie Goodwin  
*Crucified* by Lynda La Plante  
*Crossfire* by Wilbur Smith  
*The Scene of the Crime* by Lynda La Plante

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