

**Adult Fiction
Rights Guide
Autumn 2026**





Manilla Press is a boutique home for high quality 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 is based in Edinburgh (where they were founded), 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 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 a pioneering publisher of literary fiction focusing on migration, identity and marginalised knowledge as well as experiences of separation, resistance and reclamation.



Embla is a digital-first publisher of standout commercial adult fiction, publishing bestsellers that will make you laugh, love, look over your shoulder and lose sleep.

Film & television deals & options

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

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

Whalefall by Daniel Kraus - Imagine

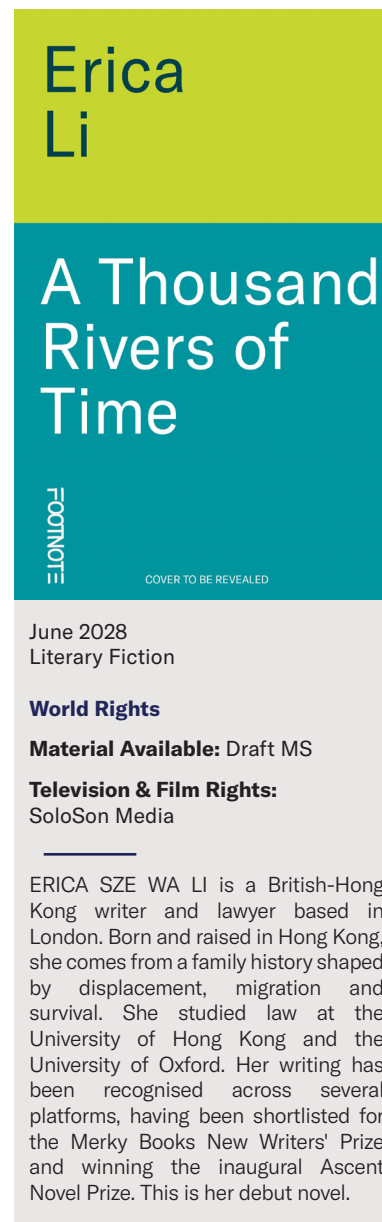
Dark Desert Road by Tim Ayliffe - CJZ Productions

Gunpowder Creek by Alex Dook - Under Option

Maestra Trilogy by L.S. Hilton - Under Option

A Murder of Detectives by Daniel Marshall - Under Option

FOOTNOTE



A Thousand Rivers of Time

Erica Li

A lyrical debut novel about family, memory and uncovered secrets that traces the lives of three generations of Hakka-Chinese women.

1945, Songkou, China.

The Japanese invasion and the Civil War leave Mei-yan's family destitute. With no means of providing for her daughters, Mei-yan's mother gives her and her sister, Jing-yan, away to a merchant family in Songkou. But when the Communists seize power, the family is persecuted for its capitalist background and the sisters try to flee to Hong Kong, Jing-yan is lost during their crossing of Deep Bay and Mei-yan is left to build a new life, alone, as a refugee in the British colony.

2013, Hong Kong.

Lydia, a PhD student on academic probation, knows little about her family. When she moved to England with her mother, Yi-ling, her grandmother, Mei-yan, was left behind and she hasn't seen her since. Then, Mei-yan is diagnosed with dementia, forcing Yi-ling and Lydia to return to Hong Kong for the first time since they left. As Mei-yan's memory deteriorates, her buried past resurfaces, and Lydia makes a shocking discovery - one that will change her understanding of the women who raised her and her own place in the world forever.

For readers of *Wandering Souls*, *Pachinko* and *Mongrel*.

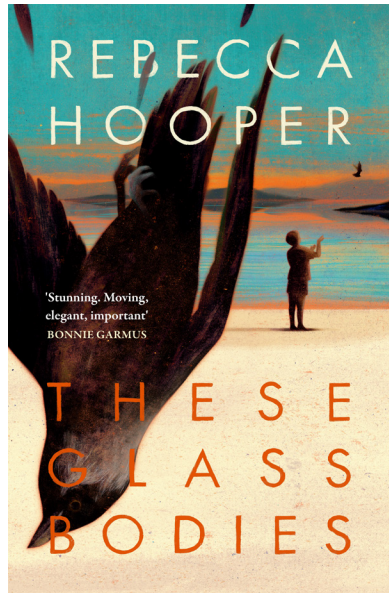
'Erica Li's magnificent novel is a work of rare emotional force, historical reach, and such maturity and poise. I'm thrilled that it will introduce so many readers to the Hakka community.'

Dina Nayeri

Winner of the Footnote x Counterpoints Prize 2026

These Glass Bodies

Rebecca Hooper



March 2027
288 pp
Literary Fiction

Translation Rights

Material Available: Final MS

Rights Sold: Czechia (Prostor),
Germany (Fischer)

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.

An unmissable debut novel of nature, love, and human connection.

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 suspected 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. When a shocking discovery on the shore sends Anna down a path of obsession, can Angus and Rory prevent her world from falling apart at the seams?

Tender and exquisitely crafted, *These Glass Bodies* is an absorbing, unsettling debut about love, disconnected people and our fragile relationship with the natural world. A perfect read for fans of Charlotte McConaghy and Elizabeth O'Connor's *Whale Fall*.

'Set against the heat of climate change, this stunning debut novel demonstrates the power of compassion and the grace of acceptance. Moving, elegant, important, Rebecca Hooper is a voice that must be heard.'

Bonnie Garmus

Imaginary Forces

Georgia Moorhouse



January 2027
304 pp
Literary Fiction

World Rights

Material Available: Final MS

Rights Sold: Hungary (Park), North
America (House of Anansi)

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.

A luminous portrait of love in its many forms - yearning, obsession, addiction - and just how messy and destructive it can be.

Robin is unreliable, unstable and utterly devoted to his oldest friend Henry. So when Henry's beloved mother - the novelist Marian Finch - dies unexpectedly, Robin is there to pick up the pieces. Henry comes into possession of an antiquarian bookshop and there - for a time - they build a life together.

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 a dangerous obsession that will irrevocably change them all.

For readers of Alice Winn and Tomasz Jedrowski.

Shortlisted for the Women's Prize Discoveries Award

'Utterly singular.'

Abigail Dean

'A fresh, intelligent and compelling debut, made all the more memorable by its brilliantly flawed narrator.'

Joanna Miller

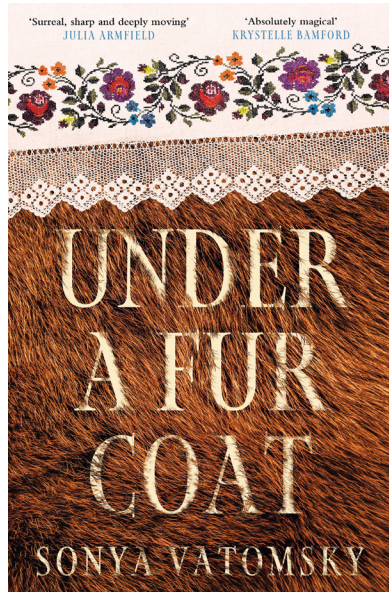
'Shades of Patricia Highsmith, Imaginary Forces is a cut above.'

Jennie Godfrey



Under A Fur Coat

Sonya Vatomsky



September 2026
272 pp
Literary Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: North America (House of Anansi)

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*. 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. Instead, she misses her wife. Her camera hangs at her side unused. And her fellow guests keep inviting her into the forest.

Vivienne quickly grows close with Ilya, the affable caretaker, and Gagarin, a rebellious mycologist. And when Gagarin confesses she's 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

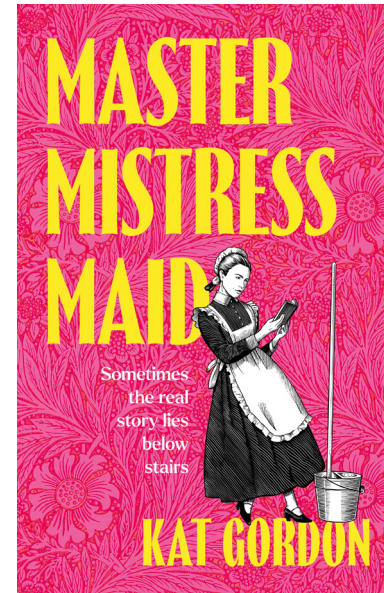
'A novel of outstanding reach and polish. A distinct and dazzling new gothic.'

Julia Armfield



Master, Mistress, Maid

Kat Gordon



February 2027
384 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Material Available: Final MS

Rights Sold: Spain (Libros de Seda)

Television & Film Rights:
Felicity Bryan Associates

KAT GORDON grew up in London, a short distance from Charles Dickens' house. *Great Expectations* has always been one of her favourite books, and at Oxford she studied and fell in love with his others. Her second novel, *An Unsuitable Woman*, was picked by Richard and Judy for their Book Club. Having lived in Reykjavik, her third novel, *The Swell*, was set in Iceland.

In the home of a great writer, sometimes the real story lies below stairs...

Isa 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 Isa 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, who 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 Isa arrives at their door.

Told in an addictive, voice-driven dual narrative, at once sweeping and intimate, *Master, Mistress, Maid* gives a contemporary twist to a long-buried tale.

'Propulsive, heart-rending, empathic and immersive.'

Anya Bergman



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

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.

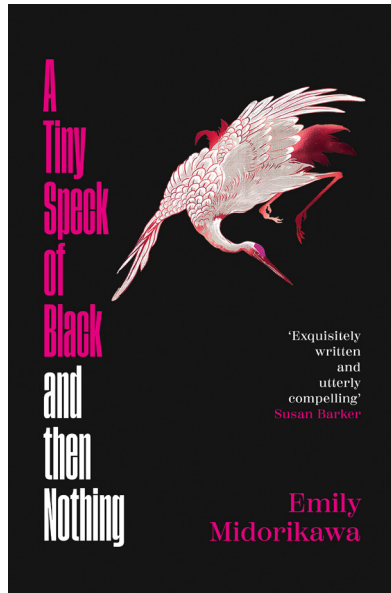
When Loll suddenly disappears, there are only the barest of clues as to where she might have gone. Desperate to find her friend, Anna refuses to give up. Soon she is thrown onto a trail that will take her into the darkest corners of the neon-choked metropolis.

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
368 pp
Literary Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold: North America (Open Road)

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*.



May 2027
Thriller

DRAFT COVER

Translation Rights

Material Available: Edited MS

Rights Sold: Czechia (Grada)

Television & Film Rights:
Donald Maass Literary Agency

CAROLINE MADDEN is an Irish novelist and former journalist celebrated for her darkly funny and feminist debut *The Marriage Vendetta*. Originally from rural Ireland and later a student of Management Science at Trinity College Dublin, she began writing fiction while working in business journalism.

The Village

Caroline Madden

It takes a village . . .

Everyone knows it takes a village to raise a child, but in modern life, that village has vanished.

Until now.

In an exclusive, secluded community, a matriarchal utopia has been built: a place where mothers receive unwavering support. Where nannies and night nurses are available around the clock, chefs prepare perfectly balanced meals, housekeepers manage every domestic task - and men are welcome only on strict terms.

What would a mother give up to gain entry, and what would she sacrifice to stay?

When struggling young journalist Anna Vard discovers this secretive settlement set up on the vast estate of the famously reclusive multi-millionaire Maeve O'Brien, she expects to find a bold reinvention of motherhood. But all is not as perfect as it seems. Is its enigmatic founder a visionary philanthropist reshaping the future of family life or a dangerous manipulator controlling the women who depend on her?

And if it's the latter, how far is Anna willing to go to expose the truth?

The Husbands by Chandler Baker meets *The Power* by Naomi Alderman with echoes of Liane Moriarty's *Nine Perfect Strangers*.

Service

Lauren Mooney



June 2026
352 pp
Literary Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: North America (Under Offer)

Television & Film Rights:
David Higham Associates

LAUREN MOONEY works in theatre and audio drama, and has co-run Kandinsky Theatre Company since 2015. 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. She's broke, hates her job as PA to the blithely privileged Jeannie, and now a break-up's left her with nowhere to live. It comes as a surprise when Jeannie suggests that Danielle stay at Westerley, the sprawling Yorkshire estate where she grew up. They need someone to look after the place anyway.

Danielle enjoys the borrowed luxury at first, but the house is strange, uneasy. The sleep paralysis that started in London has followed her there. Then Jeannie arrives unannounced.

Working for Jeannie, serving her, living in her house, the razor-thin boundaries between Danielle and her boss begin to dissolve. Soon their relationship slides into one that is older, stranger and harder to name.

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.

'Funny, bleak, delicious, totally terrifying. I could not put it down.'

Ella Risbridger

'An acerbically witty and haunting state of the times debut.'

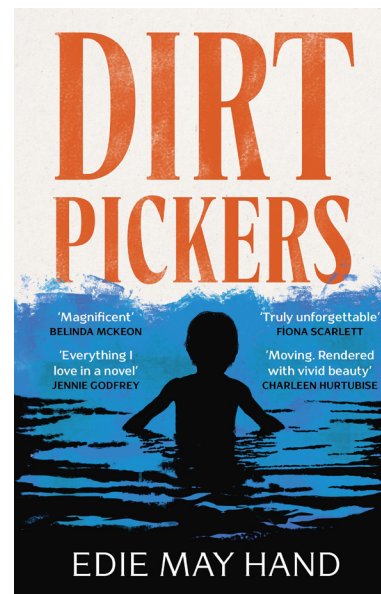
Charlotte Paradise

'A debut that speaks to our times... Genuinely chilling.'

The Guardian

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 darkly beautiful debut for fans of Chris Whitaker and Liz Moore.

'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 gorgeous piece of work, everything I love in a novel.'

Jennie Godfrey

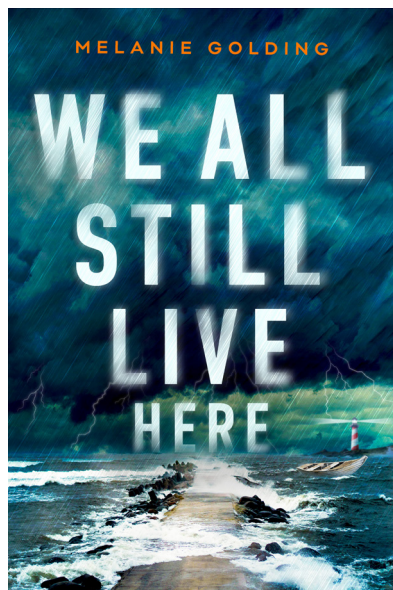
'A novel that will live in your head for a long time.'

Belfast Telegraph

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We All Still Live Here

Melanie Golding



July 2027
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Material Available: Edited MS

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

MELANIE GOLDING is the writer of *Little Darlings*, which was bought in a 24-hour pre-empt, became an Apple books number one bestseller and won the DragonCon award for Best Horror Novel. It has been optioned for screen by Free Range Films, the team behind the adaptation of *My Cousin Rachel*. Her second novel *The Hidden* was a B&N monthly pick in March 2023. She holds a PhD in Creative Writing from Bath Spa University.

Decades ago, two girls went missing. And now, another one has, and all signs point to him.

Theo lives on The Spit, away from the mainland, a place where everyone knows everyone, where secrets have no place to hide. Though he was born on the island, Theo has always felt different to the other children. His mother was born on the mainland, brought in when she married his father, and the other families hold them at a distance.

When Angie and Sam invite Theo into their fold, he thinks he has found kin. More, he thinks he has found his life's love in Angie. When the two girls go missing, all signs point to Theo.

Now, decades later, Theo's mother has died and he has to return to the island to deal with the things she never wanted to. The island is different now but there are still those lingering questions about the missing girls and Theo's involvement. When another girl goes missing, all eyes are on Theo.

Perfect for fans of Chris Whitaker's *All the Colours of the Dark* and *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore.

'Beauty and menace glint from Golding's writing in this gripping, character-driven mystery.'

Alex Clark

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He Asked For It

M. C. Cunningham

M. C.
Cunningham

He Asked
For It

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COVER TO BE REVEALED

August 2027
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Material Available: Edited MS

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown

M. C. CUNNINGHAM is a GP in north London, where he lives with his wife and son, and their small black cat. He has previously contributed to *The Guardian* anonymously as a medical professional and is a graduate of the Curtis Brown Creative writing course. This is his first novel.

Catching them isn't enough.

He can't believe this woman is talking to him. He had come out here, as he usually did, to watch that till girl through the greasy windows of the supermarket, waiting for her to leave so he could follow her home. But now, this woman is sitting at this bench with him, talking to him, asking him to go back to his. Maybe this is what is meant for him. Maybe this is what he deserves.

When Eden arrives at the scene, finding a man with a sword pushed through his stomach, straight through him and the sofa he's on, she immediately understands that this is no suicide. But everyone else seems convinced. Just like the other cases.

But Eden has never been the type to give up so easily. Her investigations lead her to a single woman, who was seen around the other men.

But it'll take far more than Eden to stop her. Because she doesn't want to just kill the ones that talk on the forums. No, she wants the big ones, the ones that drive the conversation. Namely, one specific man who has self-exiled to Eastern Europe. One specific man who she has a past with.

And she won't let Eden get in the way.

Marie Tierney

The Long Bones

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COVER TO BE REVEALED

February 2027
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Material Available: Draft MS

Television & Film Rights:
Luigi Bonomi Associates

MARIE TIERNEY was a finalist in the *Daily Mail* First Novel competition and her debut crime novel, *Deadly Animals*, was selected by bestselling crime writer Peter James as his winner. It then won the Val McDermid Crime Debut Award. When she isn't researching criminal history, she writes plays, poetry and creates art in different mediums. Born in Birmingham, she now lives in The Fens with her husband and son.

The Long Bones

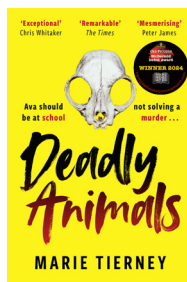
Marie Tierney

Four years after the Rubery murders, seventeen-year-old Ava must find a killer targeting young women.

Another killer is stalking the streets of Rubery, Birmingham. Ava, now 17, must use her unique skillset (and unusual obsessions) to bring the murderer to justice.

Belinda Bauer's *Rubberneck* meets Greg Buchanan's *Sixteen Horses*, with a touch of Mo Hayder.

**Winner of the Val McDermid
Crime Debut Award and the ITW
Best First Novel Award**

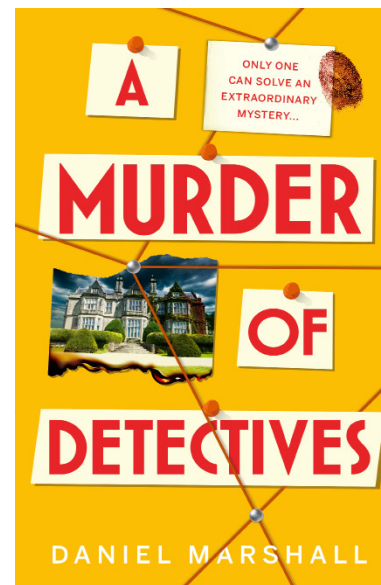


Rights Sold:

Czechia (Euromedia),
Japan (Shinchosha),
Poland (Filia), Romania
(Crime Scene Press),
Spain (Trini Vergara),
Turkey (Indigo), Ukraine
(Family Leisure
Bookclub), North
America (Henry Holt)

A Murder of Detectives

Daniel Marshall



April 2027
400 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Material Available: Final MS

Rights Sold: Italy (Newton
Compton), Netherlands (Luitingh
Sijthoff), Spain (Newton Compton),
North America (HarperCollins)

Television & Film Rights:
Optioned

DANIEL MARSHALL writes crime thrillers tinged with horror, and won a Northern Writers' Award in 2018 for his debut novel *Anthrax Island*. The sequel, *Black Run*, was *The Times* book of the month, and the final in the trilogy, *77 North*, was longlisted for the CWA's Ian Fleming Steel Dagger Award.

Six detectives must compete to solve a baffling murder case - but only one can claim the cash reward . . .

Matthew Fallow is no real detective - just a podcaster who stumbled into fame after uncovering his own murdered father's grave.

Now broke, grieving, and desperate, he accepts a bizarre job offer: solve the impossible murder of Clare Dunsmuir, who vanished as a teenager and reappeared fourteen years later - found dead in the exact same spot she disappeared from.

When he arrives at Clare's home, a remote Devon rectory, Matt finds five rival investigators waiting on the doorstep - all of whom are competing to solve the case and claim the cash prize. But when one of them vanishes overnight, the game turns deadly. Someone is determined to keep the truth buried - and this time, everyone's a suspect.

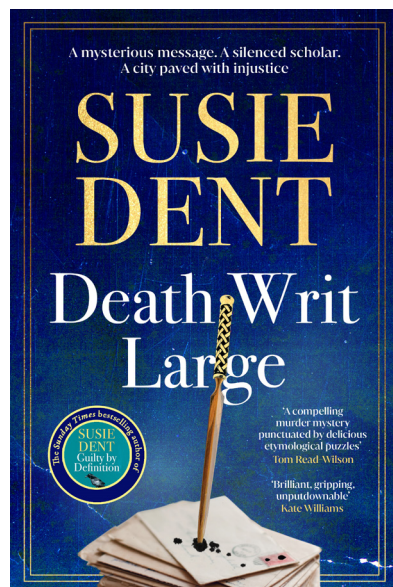
For fans of Alex Pavesi's *Eight Detectives* and *The Midnight Feast* by Lucy Foley.

Film/TV Rights Optioned

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Death Writ Large

Susie Dent



August 2026
416 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold: Italy (Newton Compton), Sweden (Lind), North America (Sourcebooks)

Television & Film Rights:
United Agents

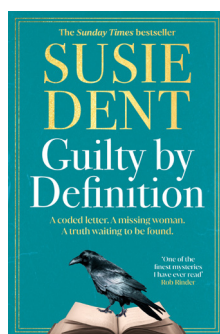
SUSIE DENT is a writer and broadcaster on language. She is the author of several non-fiction books and is a spokesperson for Oxford University Press. Her debut novel, *Guilty By Definition*, was an instant *Sunday Times* bestseller and was shortlisted for Thriller of the Year at the 2025 British Book Awards.

A mysterious message. A silenced scholar. A city paved with injustice.

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 dead 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.

An Instant *Sunday Times* Top 10 Bestseller



Rights Sold for *Guilty By Definition*:
Arabic (Dar Hibr), France (City), Italy (Newton Compton), Netherlands (AW Bruna), Spain (Newton Compton), Sweden (Lind), Taiwan (Marco Polo), Turkey (Inkilap), North America (Sourcebooks)

**Instant *Sunday Times* Bestseller
Bestselling Crime Debut of 2024
Shortlisted for Thriller of the Year at the 2025
British Book Awards
Over 190,000 copies sold**

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The Best of Enemies

Julie Mae Cohen



August 2026
384 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Teresa Chris Agency

JULIE MAE COHEN is the darker side of Julie Cohen, an award-winning author whose novels have sold over a million copies worldwide. Her thriller debut, *Bad Men*, was a BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick in 2023 and was shortlisted for the RNA Jackie Collins Award for Romantic Suspense.

Someone's turning Gwen's private grudges into a murder spree . . .

Gwen has a list of enemies. Not that she'd ever hurt them - she just likes knowing if karma catches up.

So when her childhood bully drowns in sewage, Gwen is quietly satisfied. But then another enemy dies. And another. Soon, everyone who's ever crossed Gwen - right down to someone who pushed in front in a queue - is meeting a bizarre end.

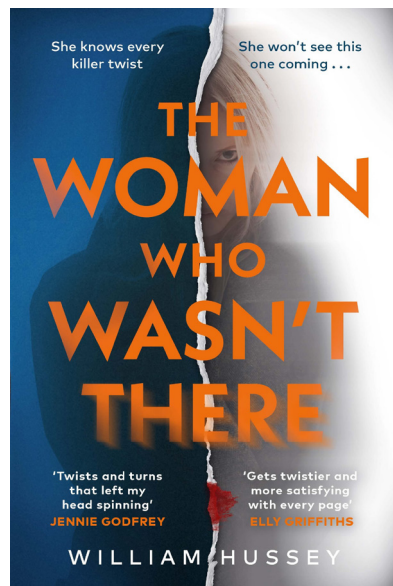
The police think Gwen's involved, but she's just as terrified. Someone's turning her private grudges into a murder spree - and could her newly rebellious daughter be next?

The brilliantly twisty and sharply funny thriller from the author of international bestseller *Bad Men*.



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

Z



July 2026
384 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

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

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

She knows every killer twist. She won't see this one coming.

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

She 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. Perfect for fans of Lisa Jewell and Harlan Coben.

'This thriller is the very definition of a page turner. with the kind of twists and turns that left my head spinning. A brilliant read.'

Jennie Godfrey

'A love-letter to crime writing and a novel that just gets twistier and more satisfying with every page. The ending is a tour-de-force. I loved it.'

Elly Griffiths

'Twisty, ingenious, thrilling, and unputdownable. Grips like a vice.'

Will Dean

Z



April 2027
336 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Material Available: November 2026

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

Television & Film Rights:
David Higham Agency

Jericho Rising

William Hussey

Murder won't stay buried . . .

Shattered by his last case, Scott Jericho has returned to the darkest corners of his past. With Harry in a coma and the truth of his mother's mysterious death revealed, nothing can rein in the violent impulses he's spent decades controlling.

Remorseless, he now hunts a man who has haunted his life longer than anyone could have guessed. But as a final confrontation with the killer known only as 'Peter Garriss' approaches - in a remote glacial valley by a lethal waterfall - another case calls out to Scott's humanity.

A child survivor of a serial killer is in danger. A child once taken from Jericho's Fair and who knows the identity of 'the Pied Piper' - the savage monster who abducted and held him hostage for months on end. A desperate, lonely child who will speak only to Scott Jericho . . .

Distracted and increasingly unstable, Scott must save the children and protect the community he calls home. But as he closes in on a soul-shattering truth, can he bring this new kind of killer to justice?

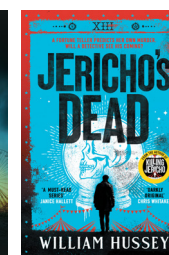
Praise for the series:

'Darkly original, suspenseful and haunting.'

Chris Whitaker

'Revelatory.'

Val McDermid



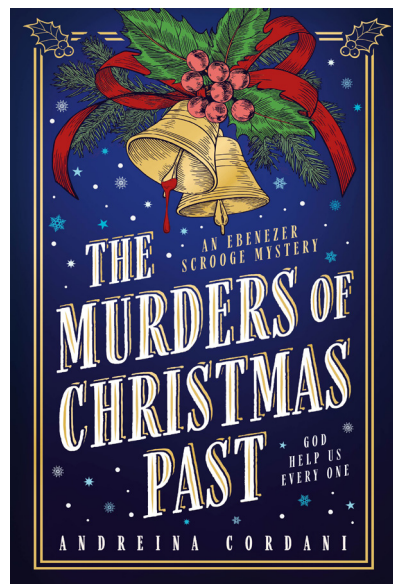
Winner of the Genre-Busting Book of the Year Fingerprint Award

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

Z

The Murders of Christmas Past

Andreina Cordani



October 2026
384 pp
Seasonal Crime

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
The North Literary Agency

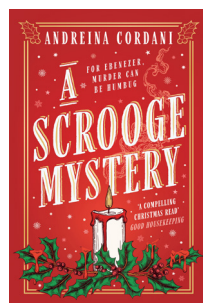
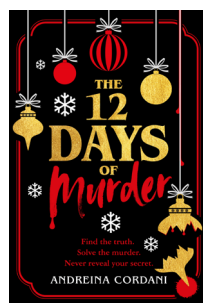
Before writing her first novel, ANDREINA CORDANI was a senior editor and writer for magazines including *Good Housekeeping* and *Cosmopolitan*. She is the author of two YA thrillers, *The Girl Who...* and *Dead Luck*. *The Twelve Days of Murder* was her debut adult novel.

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

A killer stalks the streets of London, murdering Christmas-hating misers, a mystery only reformed penny-pincher Ebenezer Scrooge can solve.

But Scrooge's chief witness is dead, his prime suspect is a mystical spirit that can walk through walls and his two faithful friends, Tiny Tim and the Widow Tassell, are doubting his sanity.

Scrooge's quest to find the killer takes him to the poorest, most deprived parts of the city as he has to face the very worst Victorian London has to offer.



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

Z

Wrap Party

J. A. Wallace



November 2026
336 pp
Seasonal Crime

World Rights

Material Available: Final MS

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

J. A. WALLACE was born in Chester, a city bookended by the Romans and Hollyoaks. After leaving school he taught English in Denmark, where he learned the meaning of 'hygge' before it became the subject of a thousand lifestyle articles. He is now Head of Production at the *Sunday Times* and is overly fond of a pun headline. He lives in St Albans with his wife and daughter.

A seasonal psychological thriller set during a wrap party of a fictional detective TV series.

DI Morten Bankwood is in trouble. As his long-time nemesis stalks towards him with a blade, it seems death has finally found him.

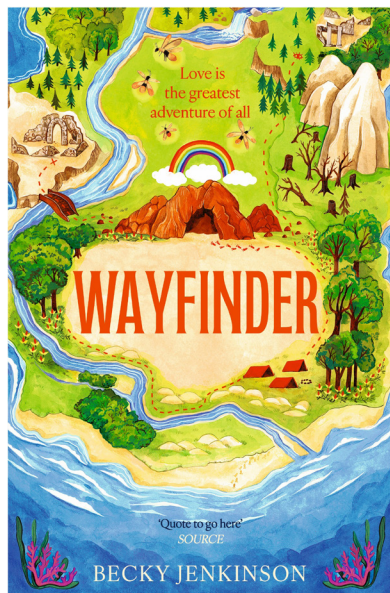
Then the director calls cut. It's a wrap for the latest season of Bankwood and the end-of-season party is due to begin. Cast and crew gather to celebrate the end of an era, but it seems someone has more sinister plans in mind.

In a spectacular underground hall filled with many tunnels, dark corners, no phone signal . . . and one way out, who will make the final cut this Christmas?

Taut, twisty, and darkly festive, *Wrap Party* is a seasonal psychological thriller perfect for fans of Chris Frost and Alex Pine. An irresistible and unique blend of glamour, tension, and claustrophobic suspense set against the glittering but treacherous backdrop of the cast's final night celebrations.

Z

Wayfinder Becky Jenkinson



June 2027
Cosy Romantasy

World Rights

Material Available: Draft MS

Rights Sold: North America (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* was her debut novel.

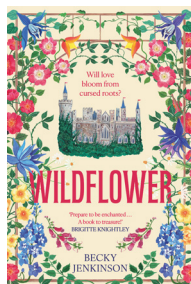
A cosy romantasy filled with magic, adventure, lost legends and heartwarming romance.

Exhausted by the demands of her healing gift and eager for adventure, Peregrine 'Perrin' Alcott bargains her way on an expedition to the mythical Island she's been obsessed with since childhood, where hidden relics and long-forgotten history await.

On the journey, Perrin finds friendship in a cartographer similarly keen to uncover the Island's secrets, a team that offer a reprieve from her overwhelmed magical senses and an unexpected reunion with an acquaintance from her past: Sloane Montrose, a calm and composed swordfighter whose presence unsettles Perrin more than the Island itself.

Following her own instincts - and curiosity - Perrin heads into ancient ruins, where she discovers cavernous tunnels, unusual animals and a darkness determined to cast a shadow over their camp. As the legends of the Island stir, Perrin finds what she never thought to seek: love that will last a lifetime.

Tomb Raider meets Stephanie Garber in this sapphic cosy romantasy involving a magical expedition where lost legends will be unearthed.



Rights Sold:
Bulgaria (Locus),
Czechia (Euromedia),
France (Bragelonne),
Germany (Lago), Italy
(Nord), Romania (Storia),
North America (Del Rey)

Z

Wild & West Elia J. Morgan

Elia J.
Morgan

Wild & West

Z

COVER TO BE REVEALED

June 2028
Romantasy

World Rights

Material Available: January 2027

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

ELIAN J. MORGAN was born amid the flat farmlands of the Netherlands but spent substantial time in their father's familial homeland of rugged Wales. They studied bones, folklore, history, and death at universities around the world, and followed their love of mountains to Japan, where they worked as an English Language teacher. They now live by the sea in the UK with their partner and dog, writing queer SFF with a focus on language and identity.

An enemies-to-lovers M/M spicy romantasy in which an outlaw and the bounty hunter who caught him must work together to pull off the ultimate magical heist.

Wild and his crew of outlaws have run rampant across the wastes for years. Their lawless antics have drawn the attention and ire of the sheriff of Blackjaw Ridge who put a bounty on their heads. Having finally been captured by bounty hunter West, they now languish in a local jail, and all face the gallows at dawn.

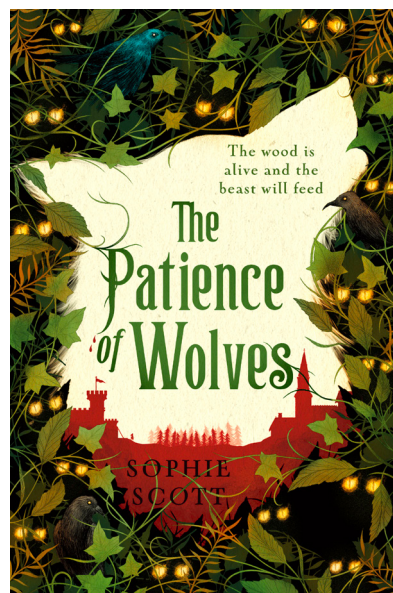
As midnight strikes and their inevitable demise draws closer, West appears with an offer: if Wild and his crew agree to retrieve the Marshal's Blessing, a legendary relic of untold magical power, he can grant them an indefinite stay of execution.

But they must complete their quest by the next full moon. As they journey across the wastes, Wild and West are drawn to each other in a way that proves hard to resist in an adventurous tale filled with magic, tension, high stakes, betrayal and, best of all, love.

Z

The Patience of Wolves

Sophie Scott



DRAFT COVER

May 2027
Gothic Fantasy

World Rights

Material Available: Edited MS

Television & Film Rights:
Maven Literary

SOPHIE SCOTT is a dark fantasy writer from the north of England. A passion for history and languages led to the University of Cambridge. While writing *The Patience of Wolves*, she worked as an independent bookseller and immersed herself in the fantasy genre, reading everything she could from the shelves around her, learning the craft of world building and suspense.

Ava Reid meets Chuck Wendig in this feminist tale of folklore, creatures and small-town secrets.

One year after the mysterious deaths of her parents, Patience Wakefield has closed herself off from the town that accuses her of their murder. But when an animal attack kills one of the townsfolk, whispers swirl that a beast, unseen for centuries, has returned: the wolf.

As the death toll rises it becomes clear the dark forest is alive with creatures once thought dormant. But are the real monsters the ones hiding in the wood, or those that call themselves a neighbour?

In this debut gothic fantasy, folkloric creatures and She-Wulfs collide in a tale of monsters, folklore and small-town secrets, launching the first instalment of a gripping new duology.

Perfect for fans of *Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil* by V.E. Schwab, *One Dark Window* by Rachel Gillig and Naomi Novik's *Uprooted*.

'Hypnotic and brimming with atmosphere, Scott weaves a gothic fairytale of dark deeds, intricate folklore and female solidarity that cuts as sharp as teeth.'

Kat Delacorte

Z

Heir to the Killers' Kingdom

Anna St-Germain

Anna St-Germain

Heir to the Killers' Kingdom

Z

COVER TO BE REVEALED

August 2027
Epic Fantasy

World Rights

Material Available: Edited MS

Television & Film Rights:
DHH Literary Agency

ANNA ST-GERMAIN is a Canadian lawyer based in London, who studied English Literature at McGill University and Common Law at the University of Ottawa. Having begun her writing career as a playwright, Anna wrote and directed for theatre festivals. Anna has now turned to writing novels, and her epic fantasy novel *Heir to the Killers' Kingdom* was longlisted for the Caledonia Novel Award 2025.

An epic political fantasy where lies, secrets and betrayal surround the mystery of the true heir to the kingdom of assassins on the brink of war.

In Montfer, killing is currency and murder is condoned by the crown. But in a kingdom of assassins, not everyone follows the rules. Following a coup that decimated the royal line, the monarchy is now protected by secrecy: twenty Children of the Forge are raised to rule - some are mere commoners; some are powerful nobility - but only one is the true Heir to the throne.

Valerian, however, believes unequivocally that she is the Heir.

Clever, ruthless and intensely devoted to her country, Valerian is one of the twenty Children. But before she has her title of queen confirmed, a young nobleman botches the assassination of a foreign prince, and her beloved country finds itself at war.

Valerian, desperate to prove herself, readily risks her life to defend Montfer, undertaking the most perilous missions behind enemy lines with patriotic fervour. But as she discovers painful truths at the heart of the kingdom, Valerian must choose between her duty to her suffering country and her ever-growing lust for power.

Longlisted for the Caledonia Novel Award 2025

'Heir to the Killers' Kingdom is a thrilling fantasy debut – a heady mix of magic, murder, mysteries and mayhem. I loved it!'

Gareth Brown

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Nightmare of the Evenfall Forest

Pablo Valcárcel Castro

Pablo
Valcarcel Castro

Nightmare of the Evenfall Forest

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COVER TO BE REVEALED

May 2027
Epic Fantasy

World Rights

Material Available: Edited MS

Rights Sold: Germany (Droemer Knaur)

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 lives in Madrid.

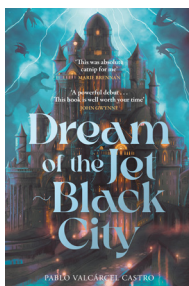
The unmissable conclusion to a dream-magic duology where loyalties will be tested and evil threatens to rise again.

In the twilight of a wounded world, three rising powers stand against an ancient terror stirring in the dark. Geil, reformer of Onyxia's brutal Academy, races against time and conspiracy to reshape the future before a Leviathan-Maker returns - and before a nightmare crafted to kill her strikes again.

Across the sea, Ash and Morvander chase forbidden knowledge, only to uncover the Dancing Death: a plague that turns villages into frenzied, dying revellers. Their hunt for a captive Remaker carries them into the dream-soaked court of the King of Thorns and, ultimately, the haunted depths of the Evenfall Forest, where the dead begin to march.

And far away on Solemn Isle, Daerna, hailed by some as blessed and hunted by others as heretic, unearths a revelation that could shatter faith itself.

As reality buckles and a forgotten goddess claws her way back into the world, their fates converge. To save their realms, they must unravel a nightmare older than history - and survive what emerges from the Charnel Mother's shadow.



Rights Sold:

Germany (Droemer Knaur), Italy (Fanucci)

Z

Map of Fate

E. C. Owen

E. C.
Owen

Map of Fate

Z

COVER TO BE REVEALED

July 2027
Fantasy

World Rights

Material Available: Edited MS

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 *The Raven Scholar* in this debut fantasy where students compete to graduate from the Arcane Academy of Piratical Arts.

Kye was raised on tales of seas and stars by her father, a Seafarer 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 is determined to follow in his wake at the legendary Academy, where students are trained in all the arcane piratical arts, from cartography to duelling.

When Kye is chosen by the charismatic Captain Mariza to be her Navigator, she is one step closer to her destiny. But as her magic awakens, binding her to the stars themselves, she struggles to master her gift. With three crews and only one able to graduate, she faces a difficult year ahead. Caught between sharp rivalries and the magnetic pull of a charming Skyfarer, Kye must weather the storm ahead before the tides turn for good.

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*.

Deathless King

R. A. Castellán



October 2026
592 pp
Epic Fantasy

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
RCW Agency

R. A. CASTELLÁN 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.

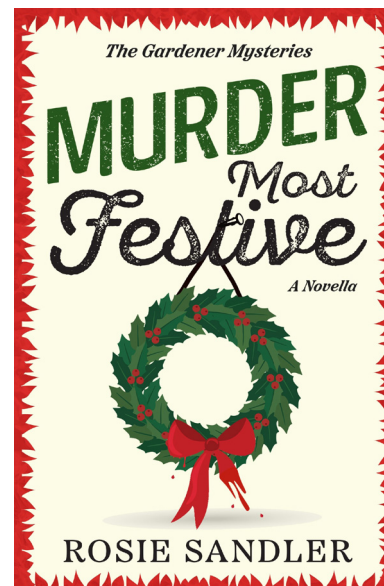
Long ago, the Lightbearers saved the Five Kingdoms from the undead, with a light - the Starstone Lamp - that was meant to shine forever, a beacon and barrier against the horrors of the night. But the Lamp has been broken, the Lighthouses that keep the undead at bay have all failed, and the Darkness has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



October 2026
120 pp
Cosy Crime

World Rights

Rights Sold in Series: Italy
(Fanucci)

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.

Murder Most Festive

Rosie Sandler

A charming and cosy festive murder mystery in the Gardener Mysteries!

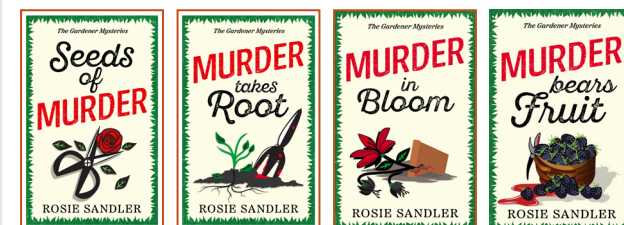
Gardener-turned-amateur-sleuth Steph Williams finds herself pruning suspects instead of roses in the sixth instalment of this charming cosy crime series. Perfect for fans of T.E. Kinsey, S.J. Bennett and Richard Osman.

'If I could rate it higher I would . . . I am genuinely obsessed and cannot wait for further books to come out!'

Reader Review

'Such a brilliant cosy mystery with a unique twist.'

Reader Review



Over 100,000 copies sold across the series

The Plus One

Richy Craven



June 2027
Romantic Comedy

World Rights

Material Available: Edited MS

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown

RICHY CRAVEN is an Irish writer. He will cautiously admit to having a degree in Environmental Biology, provided there are no follow up questions. He can be found mostly on Bluesky and Instagram. He lives in Dublin with his wife and a Border Collie named Rio. Richy collects comic books and anxiety disorders. *The Plus One* is his second novel.

Go to your ex's wedding. Bring a plus one. Try not to ruin everything.

When struggling musician Niall receives a plus-one to his ex-girlfriend's wedding it feels like fate, or a particularly cruel joke. She's a global pop star marrying another superstar; he's still playing pubs where even the bar staff look bored.

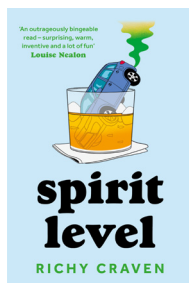
Holly, a razor-sharp gossip blogger, needs an in to the celebrity wedding of the decade - and Niall is it. What begins as a calculated move quickly turns complicated when sparks start to fly for real, and this time, the fallout won't stay off the record.

A warm, funny and emotional romantic comedy about choosing the right love story, even if it is not the one you expected.

Praise for *Spirit Level*:

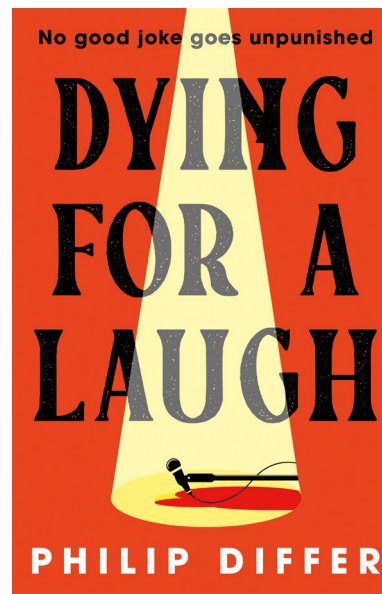
'It's touching, intriguing and GAS! I enjoyed it very much.' - Marian Keyes

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



Dying for a Laugh

Philip Differ



March 2027
Comedy

World Rights

Material Available: Draft MS

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

PHILIP DIFFER is an award-winning Scottish comedy writer, producer and performer whose credits include *Still Game* and *Spitting Image*. A leading figure in Scottish comedy for more than 40 years, he has written for television, radio, theatre and stand-up, working with many of the UK's most celebrated comedians including Kevin Bridges.

No good joke goes unpunished. Former friends become rivals in a darkly comic hunt for a vanished superstar

Once upon a time in Comedyland, Andy and Scott, two full-time nightclub bouncers and part-time failing comedians, witness the ultimate put-down when comedy superstar Chris Hardy shoots a heckler in front of a packed audience and gets away with it.

Now, on the eve of the biggest comedy tour the country has ever seen, set to open at its largest arena, Chris suddenly disappears. Millions are at stake, but where is the star?

Andy and Scott are separately offered the chance to revive their floundering stand-up careers if they can find him. Unable to resist the promise of a shortcut up the comedy ladder, both accept. What neither knows is that they have been hired for the same job by rival organisations, each with its own agenda for tracking down Chris. Former friends become fierce competitors in a race to the punchline.

Set in the dark side of comedy, this cautionary tale explores a world where crossing the line can have deadly consequences, where ambition outweighs loyalty and where comedians will do whatever it takes to succeed. After all, audiences are dying for a laugh and every comedian wants to bring the house down.

So... are you ready for the headline act?



All Bets Are Off

Estelle Maskame

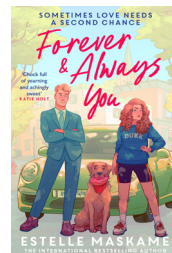
Three women. One wild weekend. Zero chance of everything going to plan.

Adelaide Sinclair is weeks away from her dream wedding to the love of her life... or so everyone believes. Her bachelorette in Vegas is meant to be the ultimate send-off, until her fiancé crashes the party with his bachelor crew, including Connor, the first boy she ever loved... and the only one who knows the truth.

Hailey Clark would rather be anywhere else than Las Vegas. When the email of a lifetime lands in her inbox - her shot at becoming a published author - she suddenly needs to balance her maid of honor duties with chasing her dreams. Easy enough... until she ends up handcuffed to the bride's charming younger brother, Theo, and her carefully laid plans go up in glittery smoke.

Evelyn Sinclair is finally twenty-one and ready to party, but she's also desperate for cash - and running out of time to get it. A little light theft seems like the perfect solution... until she tries to help herself to a Rolex from the wrist of a dangerously attractive stranger who insists on payback.

For fans of Ali Hazelwood, Hannah Grace and Laurie Gilmore.



Rights Sold:
France
(Larousse),
Slovakia
(Albatros)

Over 1 million copies sold across all titles

Z

Willow Green

Makes Me Wonder

Z

COVER TO BE REVEALED

July 2027
Romance

World Rights

Material Available: November 2026

Option Publishers: Portugal (Asa)

Television & Film Rights:
CAA

WILLOW GREEN is a pseudonym for Bethany Rutter, a writer, event chair and personal trainer. She lives in London.

Makes Me Wonder

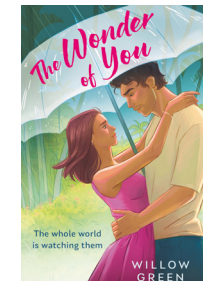
Willow Green

A hot new Cinderella trope romance from the author of *The Wonder of You*.

Tommy Wells has been acting in the biggest fantasy film franchise of the decade since school, and his character is about to be killed off. Years of the same workplace, the same colleagues, the endless press tours, fanfics and viral puppy interviews...are all about to come to an end. He's got no idea what is about to happen next.

Olivia Johnson's life is just beginning; she's got a new job, a new flat share with her cool, older sister and she's ready to live it up in London. Sure, her boss is a narcissist and she's completely broke, but she's got a playlist, a to-do list and an iced coffee, so she's ready for anything.

When Olivia and Tommy cross paths in an inadvertent viral moment, sparks fly, but with both of them trying to figure life, work and love out, is a Cinderella moment going to turn into a happily ever after or does that only happen in the movies?



Rights Sold:
Portugal (Asa)



Amber Eve

Highland Hitch



COVER TO BE REVEALED

June 2027
Romance

World Rights

Material Available: Draft MS

Television & Film Rights:

Kate Nash Literary Agency

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* and *The Scotsman*. 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.

Highland Hitch

Amber Eve

A witty, second-chance, forced-proximity Highland romcom where a cynical journalist gets an invitation to her own wedding - but who's the groom?

When Edinburgh journalist Ava Kerr receives a wedding invitation naming her as the bride - with the name of the groom signed 'The Love of Your Life' - she assumes it's a joke. But soon her editor, friends and family all receive matching invites, and Ava is strong-armed into returning to the remote Highland island she swore she'd left behind for good.

Back home, Ava discovers the village already deep into wedding preparations: the hall booked, the cake ordered, even a dress waiting on her doorstep. No one claims responsibility for the mysterious ceremony, and no one knows who she's meant to marry. Armed with a list of 'maybes' from her past, Ava is determined to find the prankster.

But the person she least wants involved - her ex-boyfriend Rhett Cameron - is the only one willing to help. And as old secrets resurface, Ava realises the mystery groom might not be the only thing forcing her to confront the past.

Charming, funny and full of heart, *Highland Hitch* is a romcom with '90s charm about facing the past, rewriting your story and finding love where you least expect it.



The Cotswolds Christmas Fair

Lizzie Lee

Could this Christmas bring a fresh start?

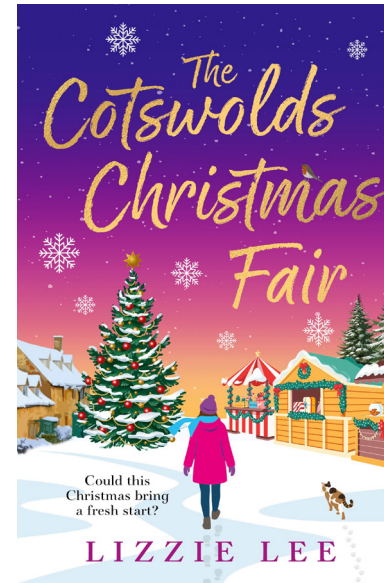
It's not that Jen hates Christmas. It's just that she would be quite happy letting December slip by without so much as a flicker of a fairy light.

But when her friends surprise her with a weekend away, fate has other plans... and soon Jen finds herself snowed in in the last place she would ever choose to be - Babblebrook, a sleepy Cotswolds village that takes festive cheer very seriously. Worse still, it's where her snooty older sister Julia lives.

Before long, Jen is swept up in the charm of village life, helping Ted - her long-time best friend and short-time college fling - with preparations for the Christmas Fair. And when she bumps into the handsome stranger she met on the train from London, things seem even brighter...

Then a secret is uncovered that forces Jen to question everything. Is Jen ready to let go of the past and admit that all she wants for Christmas has been in front of her all along?

Lizzie Lee is back with a brand-new gorgeous winter romance about fresh starts and discovering the true meaning of home! For fans of Philippa Ashley, Donna Ashcroft, Tilly Tennant and Sarah Morgan.



October 2026
352 pp
Romance

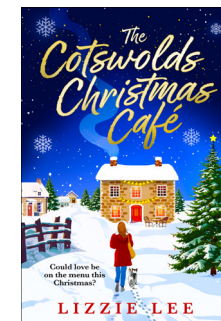
World Rights

Option Publisher: Turkey (Kitap)

Television & Film Rights:

Curtis Brown

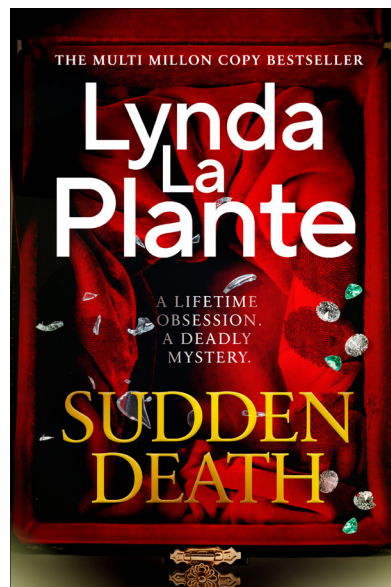
LIZZIE LEE is a writer of cosy romance. *The Cotswolds Christmas Café* (October 2025) is her debut romance novel, and is set in the fictional village of Babblebrook, based on the village where she grew up. Her summer romance, *The Little Greek Guesthouse*, published in May 2026. She also writes historical fiction under the name Elizabeth Lee. Her novel *Cunning Women*, a story of forbidden love and witchcraft, was published by Penguin.



Z

Sudden Death

Lynda La Plante



November 2026
400 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Material Available: Final MS

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.

A life-long obsession. A deadly secret.

When Clara arrives in beautiful Paris, struggling writer, Michael, is tasked with escorting her to the city's many cultural and culinary gems.

Wealthy beyond Michael's wildest dreams, the young Clara is uptight, aloof, and rude beyond belief. Yet there is something about her that intrigues Michael - a mystery he can't quite solve.

As he reluctantly gets to know Clara, Michael begins peeling back the edges of an extraordinary family secret. A secret that has become a deadly obsession. And the more time Michael spends with Clara, the more her obsession becomes his own . . .

The gripping new crime mystery about obsession and murder - from the multi-million-copy bestseller.

'La Plante excels in her ability to pick out the surprising but plausible details that give her portrayal of everyday life in a police station a rare ring of authenticity.'

Sunday Telegraph

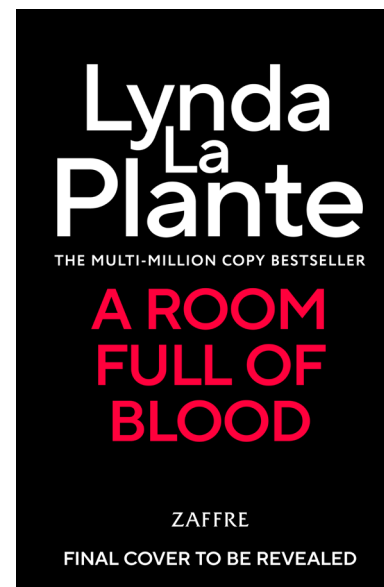
**Author is the Winner of the CWA
Diamond Dagger Award**

Over 5 million copies sold

Z

A Room Full of Blood

Lynda La Plante



March 2027
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Material Available: January 2027

Television & Film Rights:
La Plante Global

The second book in a brand new forensic thriller series from the legendary crime writer.

CSI Jessica Russell is called to a crime scene unlike any she has faced before: an abattoir.

Suspended thirty feet above the ground, the masked victim hangs in chains, arranged in an almost angelic pose.

As the horror of the scene unfolds, Jessica must use every ounce of her forensic expertise to identify the victim and find the most twisted killer her team has ever investigated.

'The UK's most celebrated crime author.'

Daily Mail

'Lynda La Plante practically invented the thriller'.

Karin Slaughter

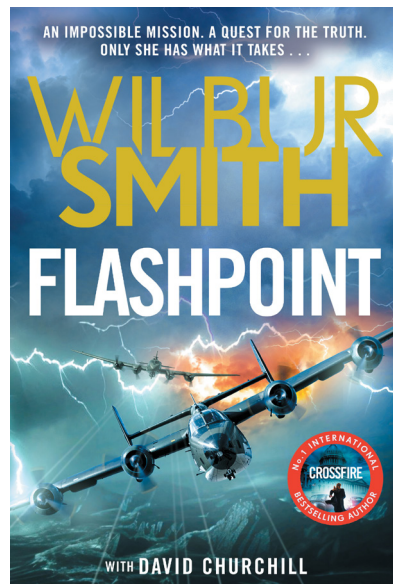


**Instant Sunday Times Top 10
Bestseller**

Z

Flashpoint

Wilbur Smith



August 2026
368 pp
Historical Adventure

World Rights

Rights Sold in the Series:

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

Television & Film Rights:

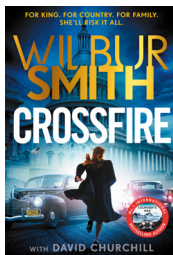
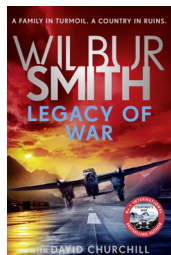
Tibor Jones

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

An impossible mission. A quest for the truth. Only she has what it takes . . .

1943, *America*. SOE's Saffron Courtney is back in New York, but even as she recovers from her mission to Washington, events on the other side of the Atlantic are making her return to England inevitable. The War Office need someone to extract an asset - a Jewish scientist, George Ezra, a man vital to the war effort - from his hideaway on the besieged island of Leros. But first there is a debt to settle, and the mob do not wait - even for a decorated war hero . . .

1946, *Kenya*. Back in her beloved homeland, and reunited with her lover-now-husband Gerhard Meerbach, Saffron thinks that she might finally have found the peace that she craves. The war is over. But when she's paid a visit by an English operative who blackmails her with accusations of Gerhard's involvement in Nazi atrocities, Saffron has no choice but to return to the US at his bidding. With not only her life, but her family at stake, Saffron must track down Ezra once more - before it's too late . . .



Z

Hunter

Wilbur Smith

Wilbur Smith

Hunter

Z

COVER TO BE REVEALED

May 2027
Adventure

World Rights

Material Available: Draft MS

Television & Film Rights:

Tibor Jones

A heart-pounding new Hector Cross thriller from the master of adventure.

Duty calls. And he must answer.

Brave young SAS officer Hector Cross is fighting in the Gulf War. In danger of burning out, he goes on leave. But the break doesn't last for long . . .

Kelly and Daniel Armstrong are in Uganda making a film about the effects of armed conflict on the wildlife. In a country in the midst of a rebellion led by a charismatic, fundamentalist Christian leader, their lives are under serious threat. Then Kelly is kidnapped. Daniel is desperate. He has no money and the British government does not pay ransoms. But unofficially there may be some hope.

When Hector is introduced to Daniel and hears of Kelly's kidnapping, he knows he has to help. As he's pulled back into a world of war, fighting, kidnapping and child soldiers, he soon realises he may be letting himself in for more than he bargained for. But a woman's life is in danger. And he might be her only hope.



Z

Finding May

Rosie Goodwin

Book 1 in the Seasons of Change Collection
from Britain's Best-Loved Saga Author

**Rosie
GOODWIN**
SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER
**Finding
May**

Cover to be revealed

February 2027
Historical Saga

World Rights

Material Available: Draft MS

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.

A moving historical romance in the brand new series.

London, 1850. Young May Forrester grew up in the slum tenements of London with no family other than her drunken mother to call her own. When her mother decides she can't look after her anymore, May is taken in by Bess as domestic help at the local brothel. Despite being abandoned by the one person who should love her the most, May finds a happy life there through a kind and nurturing boss and a close group of friends.

As May grows older, Bess takes her under her wing and tells her she is destined for better things. Although confused by her preferential treatment, May jumps at the chance to attend Miss Wren's finishing school for young ladies. Life is looking up for May and romance might even be on the horizon. But with secrets about herself and her family lurking beneath the surface, and an enemy threatening to expose her lies, will May ever really be able to find a place in higher society, or will everything she's wished for slip from her grasp?

A gorgeous spring romance and the first book in the brand-new *Seasons of Change* Collection from Britain's best-loved saga author.

Z

The Winter Bride

Rosie Goodwin



September 2026
368 pp
Historical Saga

World Rights

Option Publishers: Sweden (Lind)

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown

Could all her dreams finally be coming true?

Nuneaton, 1922. After a difficult childhood in the workhouse, never knowing her real family, and the horrors of the battlefields of the First World War, Annie has finally found her place in the world. With a thriving business, the love of her adopted family and a kind, generous fiancé in Monty, her future seems secure. Yet her heart cannot forget the questions that linger from her past - or the memory of Alex Gordon, the only man she has ever truly loved.

When long-buried secrets rise to the surface, Annie's carefully constructed world begins to crumble. Alone once more, she seizes her chance for a fresh start in London, determined to turn her talents into a flourishing new dress shop. Yet the past refuses to be silenced, and fate has one final twist in store: Alex's return.

Torn between the safety of what she has built and the dangerous pull of the love she has never forgotten, Annie must decide where her true future lies. Will she finally find the answers she has been searching for - and the love she has always yearned for - or will heartbreak find her once more?

The third book in the *Rags to Riches* Trilogy from Britain's best-loved saga author.



5 million copies sold across all titles



Newes of Witches

Mairi Kidd

A midwife must fight to save a girl accused of witchcraft before fear tears their village apart.

Rural Scotland, 1629. Amidst the bogs and corn fields, children are going missing, and others seem to have fallen under a malevolent spell. When a young serving girl is imprisoned on suspicion of witchcraft, it falls on healer and midwife Catriona to uncover the truth behind the matter.

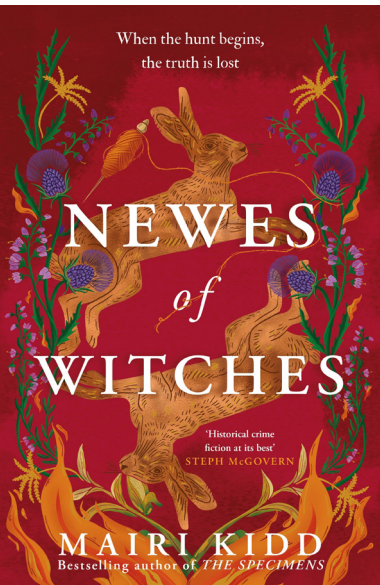
However, the investigation only raises more questions, and soon a violent truth comes to light which threatens to upend local life. As tensions in the community reach a fever pitch, allegiances shift, lives unravel, and Catriona struggles to save the life of an innocent girl. But in a village gripped by fear and paranoia, this may demand the greatest sacrifice of all.

From the bestselling author of *The Specimens*, a Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month, comes a new historic novel set during the Scottish witch trials. Perfect for fans of Stacey Halls, Sara Sheridan and Ambrose Parry.

'Completely immersive, the writing captivating.'
The Scotsman



Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month



August 2026
320 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

MAIRI KIDD graduated with a First in Celtic Studies from the University of Edinburgh and has worked in books ever since. Her novel *The Specimens* - a retelling of the 1828 crimes of serial killers Burke and Hare - was Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month. She lives by the sea in Edinburgh with her illustrator husband and their rescue cat.



The Whispering Island

Elisabeth Wolf

Beneath the waves, the curse is stirring.

When Lorna Sinclair loses her job following a violent outburst, she heads north in a battered van, searching for the truth about her birth family. Her only clue leads her to Stormforth - a deserted Scottish island now pervaded by the eerie thrum of a windfarm. But the remote island holds strange secrets and takes a grip on Lorna's mind. As the hypnotic turbines drone on, she dreams of curses, locket and murder.

Nearly fifty years earlier, sixteen-year-old Senga Niven falls pregnant by a married landowner. Beaten and shunned by her own family, she plots her escape. But before she can flee, an unspeakable tragedy befalls the man she loves. Senga's grief curdles into something dangerous and her revenge will leave a bloody mark upon Stormforth.

With a violent storm closing in, Lorna unearths skeletons from the past and uncovers a truth that binds her fate to Senga's in ways she never imagined. Trapped on the island and pursued by a dark figure, Lorna must fight for her life and decide whether to repeat the violence of the past or break free from it.

A haunting, atmospheric thriller about inherited trauma and buried history, *The Whispering Island* asks whether we can ever truly rid ourselves of the marks of the past.



May 2027
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Material Available: Draft MS

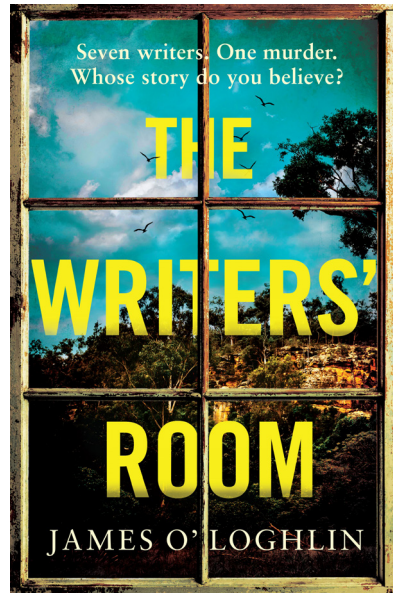
Television & Film Rights:
Jenny Brown Associates

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



The Writers' Room

James O'Loghlin



November 2026
400 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Material Available: Final MS

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

JAMES O'LOGHLIN is a comedian, television and radio host, and author of thirteen books. He began his career as a corporate lawyer, then became a criminal lawyer and a comedian. This is James' 14th book. He lives in Sydney with his wife and three daughters.

Seven writers. One murder. Whose story do you believe?

Clara Newsome was twenty-two when she died. A prodigiously talented writer, she'd seemed destined to take the literary world by storm.

Twenty years later, her four best friends have done rather well for themselves. Now successful screenwriters and producers, they've finally decided to adapt Clara's only novel into a television series, recruiting Clara's son Xavier to help. A creative retreat in a remote mansion in the NSW Southern Highlands, ten days of brainstorming, and a story that's been waiting two decades to be told. What could possibly go wrong?

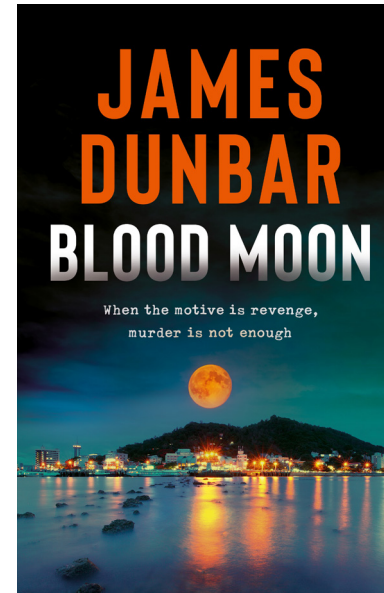
Quite a lot, as it turns out. Because housekeeper Barb Young has just found a body at the bottom of a nearby cliff.

The police are happy to call it an accident, but Barb is not the sort of woman who settles for a convenient explanation. As she starts asking questions nobody wants to answer, she discovers that everyone in the writers' room has something to hide. And that the real story of Clara's death might not be the one they've all been telling.

James O'Loghlin's twisty, suspenseful and darkly humorous crime novel follows unlikely amateur detective Barb Young - who readers first met in *Liars* - on a new adventure, as she sets about solving a mysterious death with charm, stealth and the world's most disarming interrogation technique.

Blood Moon

James Dunbar



September 2026
288 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown Australia

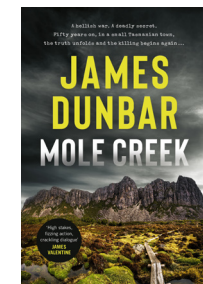
JAMES DUNBAR is a journalist, television scriptwriter, travel writer, university lecturer and website editor. *Blood Moon* is his third venture into the serious crime thriller and espionage genre, and is a direct sequel to his first, *Mole Creek*.

When the motive is revenge, murder is not enough.

Disgraced journalist Xander and his Vietnam veteran and erstwhile cave-dwelling survivalist mate Lorenzo are in grave danger - a situation exacerbated by the fact that they have no idea their recent past is about to catch up with them.

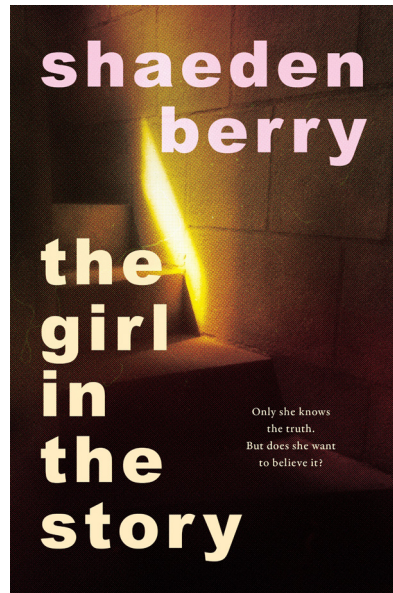
A few months ago, in the sleepy Tasmanian village of Mole Creek, Xander and Lorenzo accidentally thwarted a murderous attempt to cover up the existence of a Russian 'sleeper' agent who was ready to be activated to devastating effect. And now, in retribution, a ruthless assassin has been sent to kill them as slowly and painfully as possible.

But before the killer can strike, Lorenzo is lured to Vung Tau in Vietnam where another veteran thinks his life is in danger because he is investigating a war crime from 60 years ago. Meanwhile, Xander is offered bribes and threatened with violence as he researches a true crime book about the disappearance of a phenomenally successful artist. The art world, he discovers, has a layer of greed, corruption, jealousy and vicious rivalry that would put organised crime to shame.



The Girl in the Story

Shaeden Berry



September 2026
288 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

SHAEDEN BERRY is an author with a Bachelor's Degree in Creative Writing, and a Master's in Writing. Her debut novel, *Down the Rabbit Hole*, was shortlisted for the 2025 WA Premier's Literary Award for Emerging Writer and the 2025 Ned Kelly Award for Best Debut Crime Fiction. Her second novel, *At Cafe 64*, was longlisted for the 2026 Davitt Award for Adult Fiction.

Only she knows the truth. But does she want to believe it?

Matilda Andrew is just trying to survive.

She was only fourteen when she climbed the stairs out of the basement she'd been locked in by her father. It's been fifteen years since she walked across to her neighbour's house, knocked on the door and asked them to call emergency services. Fifteen years and at least, by now, the media has well and truly lost interest in telling stories about her family.

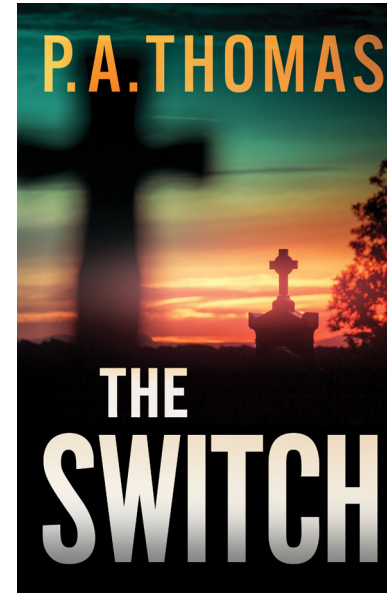
Only, it turns out they haven't.

Because there's a journalist who won't leave Mattie alone. A journalist who claims she has uncovered something groundbreaking about the time Mattie spent trapped in her own house, something that everyone else missed. Who insists there is more to this story, and will stop at nothing to be the one to tell it.

With her life thrust once more into the spotlight, and the precarious stability of her existence again shaky beneath her feet, Mattie finds herself forced to examine the stories surrounding those dark years of her life - both those told by others, and those she's told herself. What is truth? What is fiction? And what do we do when the two have become so entangled it's impossible to tell which is which?

The Switch

P. A. Thomas



December 2026
384 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Material Available: Edited MS

Television & Film Rights:
Shaw Literary

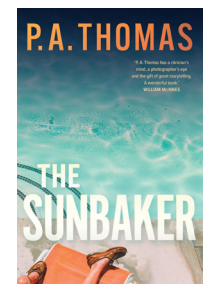
P. A. THOMAS studied medicine in New South Wales, undertook specialist training in nuclear medicine at the Mayo Clinic in the USA, and now works as a specialist at a public hospital in Brisbane. He is also a wilderness landscape photographer and has had many joint and solo exhibitions. He lives in the Byron Bay region, the setting for his first novel, *The Beacon*, and its sequel, *The Sunbaker*.

The final thrilling instalment of the Jack Harris mystery series.

Lisa Delaney has flown home to northern New South Wales just in time for the funeral of her grandmother, Mildred. At the end of the service, she shocks everyone present by asking for the coffin to be opened so she can say her final goodbyes to the woman who raised her like a mother. But a bigger shock awaits when the coffin lid is lifted. Mildred is missing, and in her place lies the body of a man - one that nobody seems to recognise.

With the police making slow progress in identifying the mystery corpse and no progress in finding Lisa's grandmother, Jack Harris, journalist at Byron Bay's local newspaper, starts his own investigation. When heavily armed gangland figures from interstate appear and another person goes missing, the pressure mounts. Can Jack track down Mildred and discover the reason for the body swap before more people - himself included - find themselves in harm's way?

With a mix of humour and suspense, and a dose of coastal charm, *The Switch* is another fast-paced murder mystery from the author of *The Beacon* and *The Sunbaker*.





Silent Tide

Alex Scarrow

A gripping, unputdownable and bestselling crime thriller series.

The coastguard found the boat drifting a few miles off the south coast.

What they discovered onboard was the last thing they expected to see.

DCI Bill Boyd - recently relocated from London to Hastings - is now with the East Sussex CID and his first case is that of a local business man and his new young wife, missing in the English Channel.

All that remains of them are the grisly discoveries aboard their half-submerged yacht and a digital trail that could put Boyd and his daughter, Emma, in danger.

Silent Tide is the first in a brand new series from Alex Scarrow.

Over 900,000 copies sold across the DCI Boyd Crime Series

SILENT TIDE

Alex Scarrow



cover to be revealed

October 2026
352 pp
Crime

World Rights excluding Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Russia

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

ALEX SCARROW has been a rock guitarist, a graphic artist and a computer games designer. He is the author of several adult thrillers, including *Last Light* and *A Thousand Suns*. He lives in England with his wife Debbie and his rescue spaniel, Ozzie.



The Threads Remain

Glenn Shapiro

Lives are torn apart. Lives are woven together.

Young Jewish couple Max and Gerda are running their treasured family toyshop, but impending danger will force them to make unimaginable choices to stay alive.

Just fifteen and drafted into the SS, Josef is unprepared for war. Serving his country will force Josef to question all he knows about himself. Can he do everything that's asked of him – and should he?

A decade after the war's end, a death in sixteen-year-old Friedrich's family propels him to investigate the past and uncover the truth about who he really is.

As they battle to survive World War II and life in Nazi Germany, all of their lives intersect in unexpected and profound ways.

What will be their legacy?

A sweeping, powerful and life-affirming novel about identity, conscience, resilience and the profound human connections that endure even as the devastating truths of World War II come to light.

THE THREADS REMAIN

Glenn Shapiro



cover to be revealed

September 2026
352 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Corvisiero Literary Agency

GLENN SHAPIRO was born and raised in New England. He is a lifelong writer of poetry and short stories, but made the leap to novels as part of his 'second act' after retirement. He is the son of a Jewish father and German-catholic mother who was born in Germany during the war and raised there, post-war, through her adolescence. His first novel, *Cold Spring*, met with acclaim from both critics and readers.



Her Perfect Marriage

Maryann Webb



November 2026
352 pp
Domestic Thriller

World Rights

Material Available: Final MS

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 Melbourne.

A dark and gripping domestic thriller guaranteed to have you on the edge of your seat.

A perfect husband.

An invitation to the party of the year.

A web of lies that will tear it all apart.

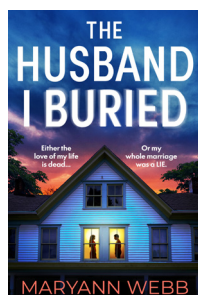
Since meeting Austin and marrying into the dazzling and powerful Avery family, Sienna has everything she could want - including an invitation to the most exclusive party of the summer, held on an idyllic and remote private island.

But Sienna and Austin have a secret. And now someone wants to make them pay. But who?

As the countdown to the party begins, Sienna begins to question who she can trust. Is her perfect marriage built on a lie?

As she tries desperately to uncover the truth, Sienna finds herself in danger. She fears she is about to expose a web of lies so big it is worth killing for.

And that killer could be at the party.



The Secrets She Keeps

Penny Batchelor



September 2026
336 pp
Psychological Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

PENNY BATCHELOR is the Amazon bestselling author of psychological thrillers *My Perfect Sister* and *Her New Best Friend*. Penny is a co-founder and judge of the ADCI Literary Prize for adult fiction by a disabled/chronically ill novelist. She lives in Warwickshire with her husband.

A brand-new psychological thriller from the Queen of Suspense.

I should have known it was too good to be true.

I have everything I ever wanted.

The perfect husband. The perfect family. The perfect home.

And now someone is hell bent on destroying it all.

It was so long ago and we were so young. That Scottish summer I met Niamh. We had a blast, the best of friends.

Until it all went wrong. And someone died.

We buried the secret together and moved on with our lives.

But now the body has been found and she is threatening to blame it all on me.

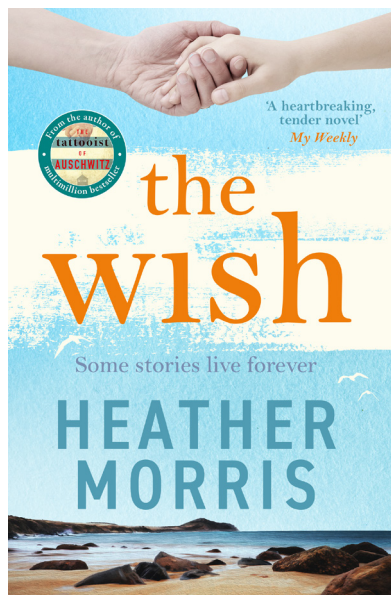
I am not going down without a fight. I will do anything to save my perfect life.

It's her or me.



The Wish

Heather Morris



September 2025
320 pp
General Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Arabic (Al Rewaq), Czechia (Albatros), Estonia (Hea Lugu), France (LeDuc), Netherlands (HarperCollins), Norway (Aschehoug), Poland (Marginesey), Portugal (Presenca), Romania (Humanitas), Serbia (Laguna), Slovakia (Ikar), North America (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.

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.

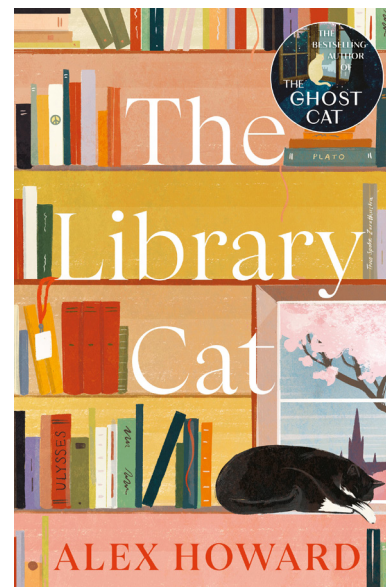
One lonely adult.

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.

The Library Cat

Alex Howard



July 2025 (Reissue)
192 pp
General Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: France (Bragelonne), Italy (Garzanti), Turkey (Kitap), North America (Hanover Square)

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.

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.

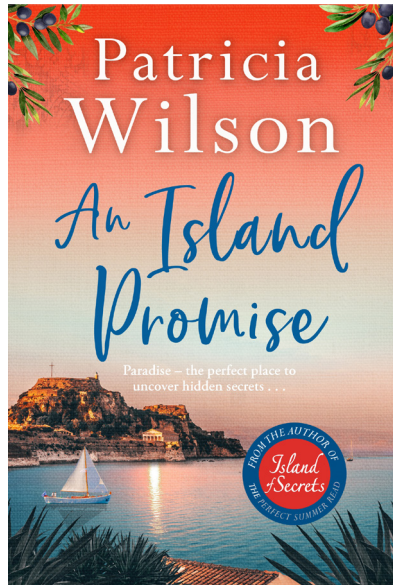


Rights Sold for *The Ghost Cat*: Arabic (Dar Hibr), Germany (Blanvalet), Indonesia (Baca), Spain (RBA), Turkey (Kitap), North America (HarperCollins)

Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month

An Island Promise

Patricia Wilson



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:
Reserved to the Author

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.

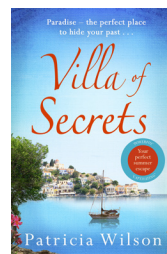
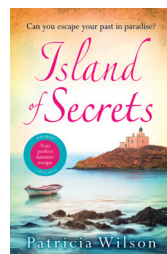
Paradise – the perfect place to uncover hidden secrets . . .

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.



Maestra

L S Hilton



March 2016
416 pp
Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold: Catalan (Roca), Denmark (Rosinante), Germany (Saga), Iceland (Saga), Spain (Roca), North America (Penguin Random House)

Television & Film Rights:
Under Option

L. S. HILTON is a writer and journalist who lives in London.

The international bestseller. Now under film/TV option!

By day Judith Rashleigh is a put-upon assistant at a London auction house.

By night she's a hostess in one of the capital's unsavoury bars.

Desperate to make something of herself, Judith knows she has to play the game. She's learned to dress, speak and act in the interests of men. She's learned to be a good girl. But after uncovering a dark secret at the heart of the art world, Judith is fired and her dreams of a better life are torn apart.

So she turns to a long-neglected friend.

A friend that kept her chin up and back straight through every past slight. A friend that a good girl like her shouldn't have: Rage.

Fatal Attraction meets *The Talented Mr Ripley* in this darkly decadent thriller that asks:

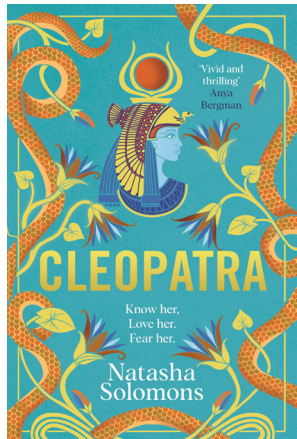
Where do you go when you've gone too far?

Rights previously sold in 37 territories

Film/TV Rights Optioned

Cleopatra

Natasha Solomons



Know her. Love her. Fear her.

Cleopatra, the favoured daughter of the Pharaoh, grows up dreaming of shaping her own destiny. When her father dies and she is forced to rule alongside her ruthless brother Ptolemy, her life and throne are threatened. As he plots to destroy her, Cleopatra must rely on her intelligence and ambition - and when Julius Caesar arrives in Egypt, she sees a dangerous chance at salvation.

Told through the eyes of Cleopatra and Caesar's mistress, Servilia, this powerful retelling reveals the woman behind the legend as she fights to claim her history and her empire.

Meet the real woman behind the myth.

Publication: May 2025

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Italy, North America, Netherlands, Serbia

The Tarot Reader of Versailles

Anya Bergman



Betrayal could lie in the turn of a card.

It is the early days of the French Revolution and, on the streets of Paris, terror reigns.

Marie Anne Adelaide Lenormand is a young woman with an extraordinary power: through her tarot cards, she communes with the dead. Loyal to Marie Antoinette, she has seen the queen's fate in the cards and must take care that it does not become her own.

When she meets Cait, an Irish maid who can read people's pasts as Lenormand reads their futures, the two women form a dangerous bond. But Cait is hiding something - and her choices may bring revolution far beyond Paris.

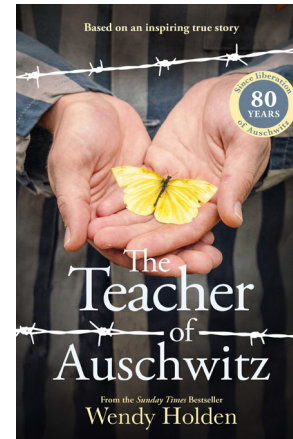
Publication: June 2025

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Thailand, Ukraine

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?

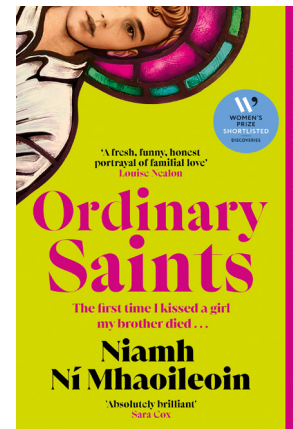
Publication: January 2025

World Rights

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

Ordinary Saints

Niamh Ní Mhaoileoin



The first time I kissed a girl, my brother died . . .

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?

Publication: April 2025

World Rights

Rights Sold: Germany (Residenz), Italy (La Nuova Frontiera), Spain (Urano), Ukraine (One More Page)

Shortlisted for the Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize 2025 and longlisted for the 2026 Dublin Literary Award

The Italian Chapel

Philip Paris



Forbidden lovers, divided by war, united by a secret act.

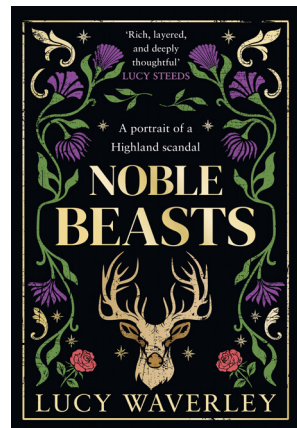
Orkney, 1942. Amid the turmoil of the Second World War, a group of Italian prisoners are sent to the remote Orkney island of Lamb Holm. In the freezing conditions, hunger and untold hardships of Camp 60, this ragtag band must work together to survive.

Domenico, a talented artist, is among them. He inspires his comrades to create a symbol of peace during these dark days of war, and out of driftwood and scrap they build the Italian chapel: a beacon of hope and beauty in a world ravaged by war.

Publication: April 2026 (Reissue)
World Rights

Noble Beasts

Lucy Waverley



The story of a famed artist, a scandalous affair, and the beasts that roamed his mind.

In the suffocating summer of 1858, Sir Edwin Landseer faces the monumental task of sculpting the Trafalgar Square lions. The nation is watching, the Royal Academy is whispering, and the Queen herself expects brilliance.

As the pressure mounts, beasts begin to stalk Edwin's increasingly alcohol-fuelled nightmares. His mind flees from stifling Victorian London to the freedom of the Scottish Highlands, the riotous days of the Regency and the woman who set his world alight. Georgina: the love of his life. The world called it a scandal, but the world didn't know what it was talking about. The world should have called it a tragedy.

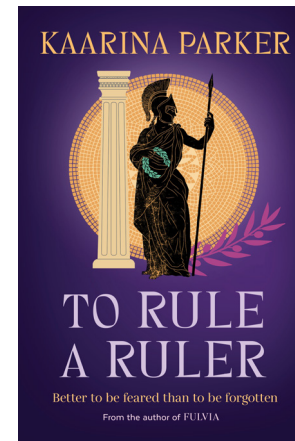
Publication: May 2026
World Rights

Rights Sold: Hungary (Animus) *'Rich, layered, and deeply thoughtful.'*

Lucy Steeds

To Rule A Ruler

Kaarina Parker



The thrilling conclusion to *Fulvia*, Kaarina Parker's bold, feminist epic of ambition, legacy and birth of empire.

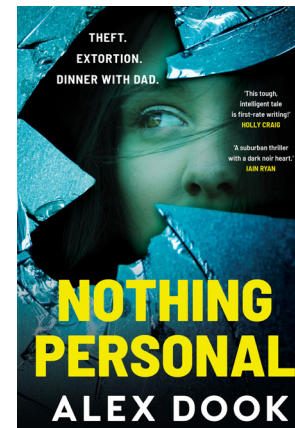
Fulvia is now a wealthy young widow, with more than gold to her name. In the wake of the death of her husband, the populist politician Clodius, she has captured the love and loyalty of the people for herself, while harnessing the force of one of ancient Rome's most violent criminal gangs.

As civil war erupts, the clever and ambitious Fulvia takes advantage of the unrest to establish her own authority. And finally, the men who rule Rome begin to understand just how formidable she has become. There are those who fear her and those, like Julius Caesar, who see her potential.

Publication: June 2026
World Rights

Nothing Personal

Alex Dook



Theft. Extortion. Dinner with Dad.

Lola McKenzie never wanted to steal from her dodgy boss. But she also never wanted to be stuck in a dead-end job, paying off her dad's debts.

So when she sees a bag of cash sitting around unattended at work, she figures it's time to make life a little easier. Only, the next day her boss is missing, presumed dead.

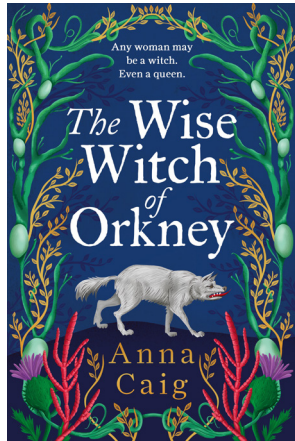
Turns out that Lola's pinched more than a bag of cash ... nestled at the bottom of the bag was a USB drive. Lola doesn't know what's on it, only that it's important enough for the local cops and the local crooks to come looking for it.

Publication: August 2026
World Rights

Is it a magnet for trouble? Or her ticket out of the hard life? All she has to do is figure out a way to sell it to the highest bidder without revealing her identity. Should be easy, right?

The Wise Witch of Orkney

Anna Caig



Publication: February 2026
World Rights
Rights Sold: Spain (Trini Vergara)

A spell-binding debut novel about Scotland's witch-hunting hysteria.

1593, Scotland. King James VI launches a bloody witch hunt across the length and breadth of the country. But the women he fears most are already within his court.

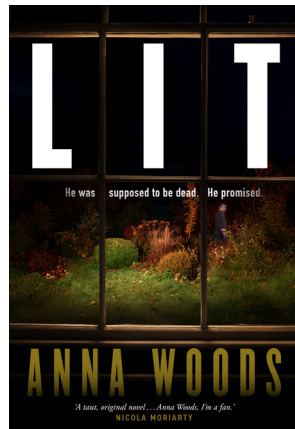
Elspet is a spae-wife, a wise woman and healer from the isles of Orkney. Some might call her a witch.

When the king's new bride, Anna of Denmark, summons her to deliver her baby and cast a binding spell over the child, Elspet is trapped between two impossible choices - for she cannot refuse the queen, and she cannot be discovered by the king.

While Elspet struggles to hide her secret identity in a court that wishes her dead, another woman seeks her aid: Kitty Muirhead, outcast, persecuted and desperate to escape the shadows of her past.

LIT

Anna Woods



Publication: June 2026
World Rights

What would you do if someone you knew came back from the dead?

Gin is an architect on the brink. LIT, the Auckland-based practice she shares with her girlfriend, Clary, has been precarious since their third partner - Clary's ex, Billy - disappeared, presumed dead.

Now, several years later, LIT's financial problems and Gin's personal debts are snowballing. Clary - emotionally fragile since the disappearance - is growing increasingly remote and elusive. When Gin begins to be haunted by glimpses of Billy, she blames stress and guilt. But could he be back, threatening to expose the past?

Trapped in a web of secrecy and betrayal, Gin's downward spiral gathers force as she begins to suspect her paranoia hides an even more shocking truth - one that will send her whole life up in flames.

A Girl's Girl

Emma Robertson



Publication: June 2026
World Rights

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 - effortlessly beautiful, confident and most importantly, popular.

Two decades later, she still appears to have the perfect life: a devoted husband, a beautiful daughter and a picture-perfect suburban home, until her old school friend Alex Rigby reappears. Newly divorced, post-glow-up and harbouring a mysterious vendetta, Alex is about to turn Darcy's world upside down.

On a group holiday to celebrate a friend's wedding, secrets, lies and old rivalries bubble to the surface, threatening to change everything Darcy thought she knew about her past. . . and herself.

An Island Burning

Colin MacIntyre



Publication: April 2026
World Rights

The second book in The Mull Mysteries series from multi-award-winning author and musician, Colin MacIntyre.

Burns Night, January 2000. In the early days of the new millennium, two burnt-out cars are discovered on a barren glen on the isle of Mull. Inside them, only teeth and bones.

Meanwhile, Ivor Punch is busy policing a protest when he meets a strange visitor purporting to be Robert Louis Stevenson, who speaks of an island that appears only twice a century. As smoke fills the air and bodies are discovered, Sergeant Punch searches for the crux of the mystery by looking to the past.

Amid peculiar forces at play, a freshly moored ferry full of curious characters and a Burns Night play to set the evening alight, he needs to decipher what is real or imagined - before the island falls into chaos.

Recent prizes and bestsellers

2026 Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize Shortlist

Honey in the Wound by Jiyoung Han

2026 Dylan Thomas Longlist

The Tiny Things Are Heavier by Esther Ifesinachi Okonkwo

2026 Fingerprint Award Shortlist for Best Crime Novel

The Good Father by Liam McIlvanney
Quantam of Menace by Vaseem Khan

2025 Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize Shortlist

Ordinary Saints by Niamh Ni Mhaioileoin

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 Prize 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

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 Top 10 Bestseller

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri

Mrs England by Stacey Halls
Songbirds by Christi 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
One Woman's War by Rosie Goodwin
The Lies that Summon the Night by Tessonja Odette
One Woman's War by Rosie Goodwin
The Weekend by T.M. Logan
Death Writ Large by Susie Dent

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