

Adult Fiction Rights Guide Autumn 2024





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



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



John Blake is a commercial non-fiction imprint that publishes extraordinary real-life stories, true crime, biographies, sport, alternative histories and gift and humour.



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



Lagom is a health, lifestyle and wellness imprint offering fresh perspectives on physical and mental wellbeing.



Heligo Books is a business and smart-thinking imprint for curious readers and business leaders.



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



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



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



Nine Eight Books is a dedicated music imprint and home for broad, bold, and entertaining musical perspectives.



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



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

Film & television deals & options

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

Snowflake by Louise Nealon – Element Pictures

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

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

The Holiday by T.M. Logan – Channel 5

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

Geiger by Gustaf Skördeman – Monumental Pictures

Killing It by Asia Mackay – 42 Media

The Ice Beneath Her by Camilla Grebe – New Line Cinema

The Nine by Gwen Strauss – Kudos Film & TV

The Familiars by Stacey Halls – The Bureau

We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker – Disney

The Whistleblower by Robert Peston - Leopard Pictures

The Twelve Days of Murder by Andreina Cordani - Brock Media

Devil's Breath by Jill Johnson - Cornered Tiger

Dark Heart by Silvia Avallone - Cattleya



A Tiny Speck of Black, Then Nothing Emily Midorikawa

A dark, compulsive novel about two women pulled into Osaka's intoxicating, neon-drenched underworld.

Anna has never met anyone like the enigmatic Loll: a British hostess at the Moonglow bar, in the Japanese city of Ōsaka. While Anna teaches bored students by day, Loll passes the nights in smoky, dim-lit rooms where she pours men's drinks, lights their cigarettes and laughs playfully at their jokes.

All blonde wigs, shimmering dresses and bejewelled nails, Loll mesmerises with her glamorous allure. But her skin bears unexplained bruises beneath the glitter, and Anna's concern slowly begins to grow. She is troubled by the secret of the carved jade stone necklace that Loll seems determined to protect; the mysterious identity of her best client with shadowy links to the city's underworld crime bosses; and the sight Anna witnesses one afternoon: Loll teetering on the edge of a railway track, caught in the deafening rush as a train hurtles by.

Despite her persistent efforts, Anna can discover nothing about Loll's past, and so when she disappears, Anna is left with only the barest of clues to go on. But she is desperate to find her friend, and soon she's thrown onto a trail that will take her to the darkest corners of the neon-choked metropolis – hidden places from which people desperately warn her to stay away.

For readers of *All the Lovers in the Night* by Mieko Kawakami.

'Fascinating.'

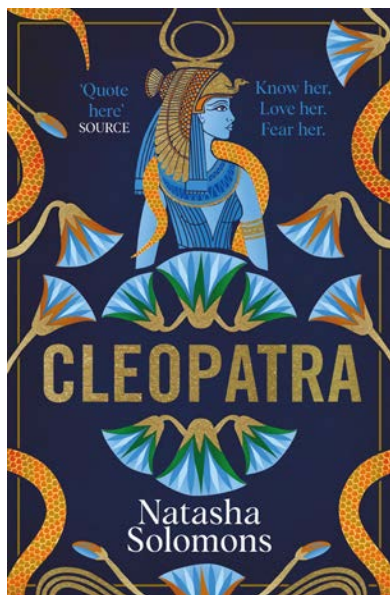
Tracy Chivalier

Winner of the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize



Cleopatra

Natasha Solomons



May 2025 DRAFT COVER
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: US (HarperCollins), Canada (HarperCollins)

Television & Film Rights: C&W

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

Know her. Love her. Fear her.

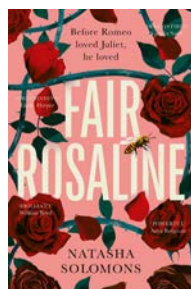
Cleopatra, Egyptian Princess, grows up the favoured daughter of the Pharaoh, hiding amongst the scrolls in the Great Library of Alexandria with her beloved slave Charmain, longing for the chance to one day write her own story.

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

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

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

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



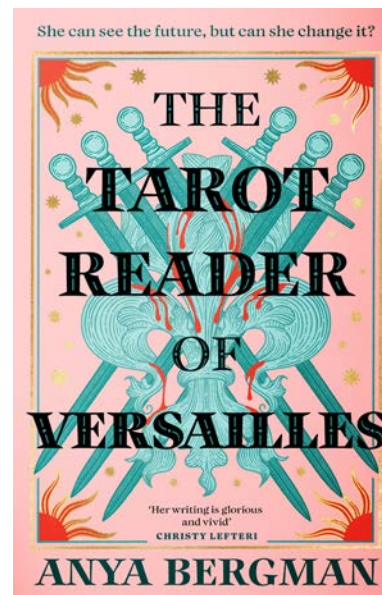
Rights Sold for Fair Rosaline:

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



The Tarot Reader of Versailles

Anya Bergman



June 2025
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: France (Michel Lafon), Portugal (Leya), Serbia (Laguna), Spain (Trini)

Television & Film Rights: Marianne Gunn O'Connor

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

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

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 can commune with the dead. Her reputation is such that revolutionaries and the aristocracy alike seek her out to divine their fortunes, but she is loyal to Marie Antoinette and the Dauphin of France. But Lenormand has seen the queen's fate in the cards, and must take care that it doesn't become her own.

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

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



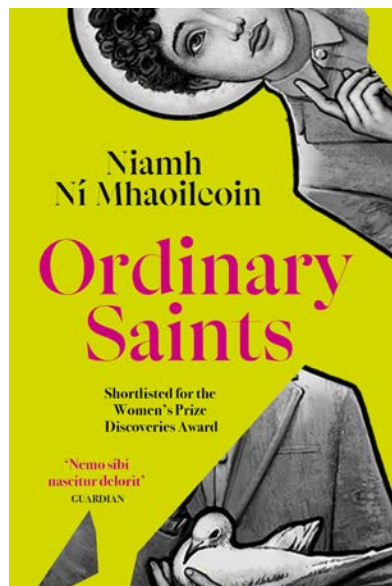
Rights Sold for The Witches of Vardo:

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

Over 60,000 copies sold

Ordinary Saints

Niamh Ní Mhaoileoin



April 2025 DRAFT COVER
368 pp
Literary Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Spain (Urano)

Television & Film Rights:
Peters Fraser + Dunlop

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shortlisted for the Women's Prize Discoveries award and winner of the inaugural PFD Queer Fiction Prize 2022

'Niamh Ní Mhaoileoin's writing has a real magic to it that hits you right from the first sentence.'

Okechukwu Nzelu

The Swell

Kat Gordon



February 2025
320 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Felicity Bryan Associates

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

In places of darkness, women will rise.

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

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

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

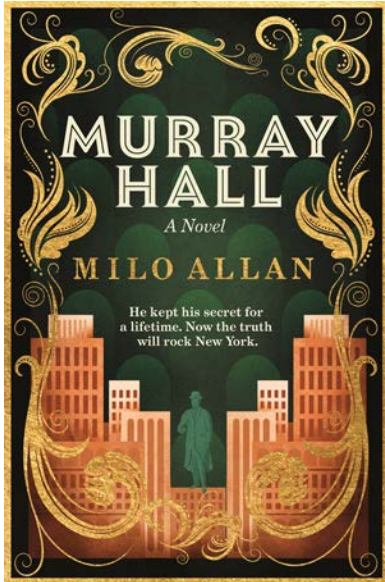
Moving between the turn of the 20th century and the 1970s as a dark mystery is unravelled, *The Swell* is a spellbinding, beautifully atmospheric read.

Perfect for fans of *Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent and Anya Bergman's *The Witches of Vardo*.



Murray Hall

Milo Allan



April 2025
288 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

MILO ALLAN is a pseudonym for Milo Clenshaw and Vicky Allan. Milo currently works as the Programme Assistant for Alchemy Film & Arts, the home of Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, Scotland's festival of experimental film. Vicky is an award-winning journalist and author. A staff writer for the *Herald on Sunday*, her work has also appeared in *The Times*, *Daily Express*, *Vogue*, *GQ*, *The Guardian* and *Scotland on Sunday*. Her novel *Stray* is currently being adapted as a feature film.

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

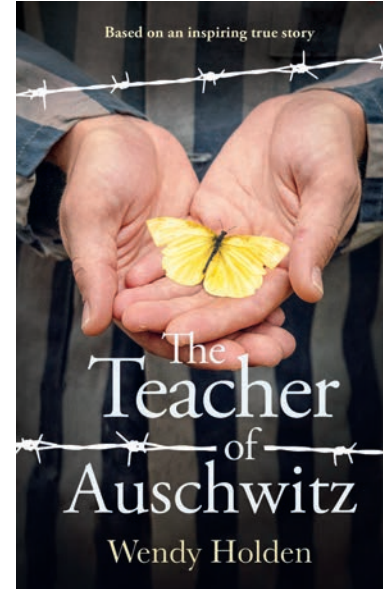
It is 1901, and Dr Gallagher has just pronounced Murray Hall dead. New York politico, gambler, womaniser – Hall is known to be all these things, but when the press break the news of his death to the world, they reveal a side to his identity he never wanted known, a secret no one could have guessed.

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

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

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

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January 2025
368 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil (Rocco), Czechia (Euromedia), Hungary (Alexandra), Italy (Piemme), Poland (Debit), Serbia (Publik Praktikum), Slovakia (Ikar), Spain (Newton Compton), US (HarperCollins)

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

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

The Teacher of Auschwitz

Wendy Holden

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

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

At the dark heart of the Holocaust, there was a wooden hut whose walls were painted with cartoons; a place where children sang, staged plays and wrote poetry. Safely inside, but still in the shadow of the chimneys, they were given better food, kept free of vermin, and were even taught meditation to imagine full stomachs and a day without fear. The man who became their guiding light was a young Jewish prisoner named Fredy Hirsch.

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

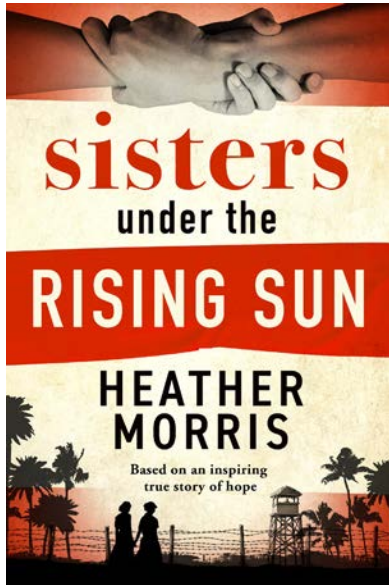
But time is running out for Fredy and the hundreds of children in his care. Can he find a way to teach them the one lesson they really need to know: how to survive?

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

'Haunting and beautiful. Excruciatingly vivid.'
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

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Sisters Under the Rising Sun Heather Morris



September 2023
384 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

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

Television & Film Rights: CAA

HEATHER MORRIS is an international number one bestselling author whose books have sold over 18 million copies and translated into over 50 languages. A television series of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* was released in May 2024.

When they lost everything, they found each other.

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

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

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

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



Over 18 million copies sold



Now a major Sky Original Series

Premiered globally on the 2nd May 2024

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

Harvey Keitel

Directed by the award-winning Tali Shalom-Ezer





Bethnal Green

Amélie Skoda



January 2025
352 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
The Good Literary Agency

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shortlisted for the 2021 Mo Siewcharran Prize

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

Sarah Turner

'A gentle and tender novel that looks for a shared humanity, even when life is at its most bewildering and isolating.'

Lily Lindon



Ghost Story

Elisa Lodato



September 2024
368 pp
Horror

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

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

The island is abandoned but she is not alone.

She came to write, but the island has its own story...

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

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

From the Costa First Novel Award shortlisted author of *An Unremarkable Body*.

'Will toy with your pulse and send chills down your spine [...] an unmissable modern Gothic that lingers long after closing the covers.'

Lucy Rose

An Invisible Tattoo

Suellen Dainty

Suellen Dainty

An Invisible Tattoo

echo COVER TO BE REVEALED

April 2025
Mystery

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown (Australia)

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

Old secrets. New confessions. The rules of friendship survive everything.

When the last songs of legendary poet and singer James Bennett are discovered 50 years after his death, the music industry buzzes with excitement. Rumours about these lost songs - and the mysterious circumstances of Bennett's death - have circulated for decades.

The only person who knows the truth is Ruth Henderson, a frail elderly woman living alone in Sydney. She chooses the young and ambitious journalist Kate Griffin to tell her version of the story - one which has nothing to do with the truth.

But soon Kate becomes suspicious about what she is being told. As Ruth grows weaker and struggles to maintain her façade, Kate is torn between a career-making story of sex, fame, death and excess, and betraying a woman she has unexpectedly come to regard as a friend . . .

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



Ruth Irons

The Lodger

echo COVER TO BE REVEALED

June 2025
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Antony Harwood

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

The Lodger

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

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

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

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

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

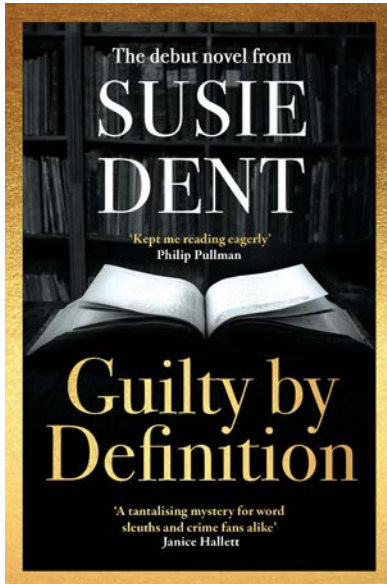
An unputdownable domestic thriller that will just not let you go for fans of Lisa Jewell and Shari Lapena.



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

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Guilty By Definition Susie Dent



August 2024
416 pp
Crime

World Rights

Rights Sold: Arabic (Dar Hibr), France (City), Italy (Newton Compton), US (Sourcebooks)

Television & Film Rights:
United Agents

SUSIE DENT is a writer and broadcaster on language. She has written for the *Independent on Sunday*, *The Telegraph*, and *The Times*, and is the author of several non-fiction books. She is a spokesperson for Oxford University Press, and has been a judge on the Costa Book Awards and on the Academy Excellence Awards. *Guilty By Definition* is her debut novel.

Word games can be murder.

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

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

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

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

Instant Sunday Times Bestseller

'Astonishingly clever.'

GUARDIAN

'Kept me reading eagerly.'

Philip Pullman

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

Janice Hallett

'A perfect balance between the language lessons of Bill Bryson and amateur sleuthing of Richard Osman.'

BUZZ MAG

Z

Murder At The Christmas Emporium Andreina Cordani



October 2024
368 pp
Cosy Crime

World Rights

Rights Sold: Ukraine (Knigolove), US (Pegasus)

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

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.

'Tis the season . . . for survival.

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

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

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

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

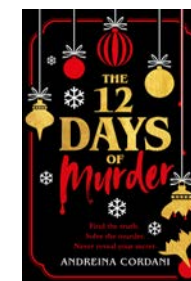
Praise for *The Twelve Days of Murder*:

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

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY

'A slick, savage mystery.'

MY WEEKLY

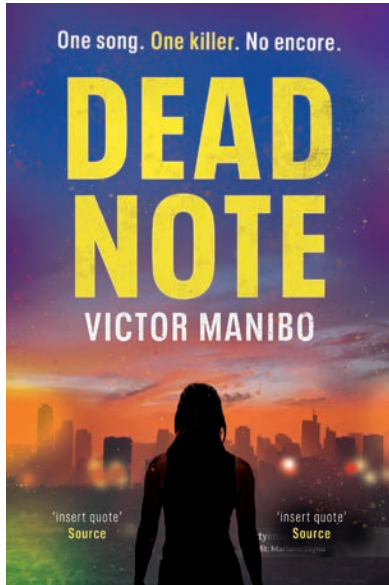


Rights Sold for *The Twelve Days of Murder*:
Hungary (Alexandra), Italy (Newton Compton), Spain (Newton Compton), Ukraine (Knigolove), US (Pegasus)

Film rights optioned by Brock Media

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Dead Note Victor Manibo



May 2025 DRAFT COVER
320 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

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

One song. One killer. No encore.

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

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

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

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

Z

Kill Pill David Barbaree



April 2025
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

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

Television & Film Rights:
Rogers, Coleridge & White

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

A killer is targeting executives at a US pharmaceutical corporation - revenge for their involvement in the opioid epidemic.

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

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

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

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

Z

Eat Slay Love Julie Mae Cohen



October 2024
384 pp
Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold: Serbia (Laguna), Ukraine (Family Leisure Club), US (Overlook)

Television & Film Rights:
Teresa Chris

JULIE MAE COHEN is the darker, funnier side of Julie Cohen – an award-winning, million-copy bestselling author. Her previous works have been translated into seventeen languages. She is an Associate Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Reading and a Vice President of the Romantic Novelists' Association and a founder of their Rainbow Chapter for LGBTQ+ writers.

Making new friends can be murder . . .

Marina is a divorced mother of three preschoolers.

Lilah is a shy and lonely librarian.

Opal is a broke post-menopausal fitness guru.

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

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

The brand new, sharply funny thriller about female friendship, empowerment and becoming a better person through murder. For fans of biting, funny feminist thrillers, and readers of *How To Kill Your Family, You'd Look Better as a Ghost* and *You*.

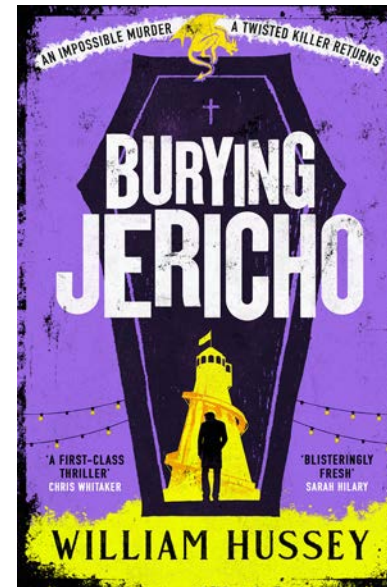


Rights Sold for *Bad Men*:

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

Z

Burying Jericho William Hussey



April 2025 DRAFT COVER
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
David Higham

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

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

In a rundown seaside town, the body of a missing man has been discovered, encased in the walls of a medieval church. How and why the corpse got there will unravel the lives of a group of old school friends, each with a terrible secret to keep. A secret hinted at by the paper men hanging from the trees in a nearby wood, by the ravings of the local 'wisewoman', and by the strange waxworks of a defunct fairground attraction.

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

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

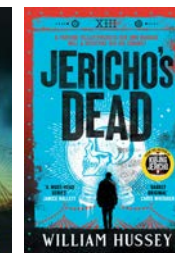
Praise for the series:

'Darkly original, suspenseful and haunting.'

Chris Whitaker

'Revelatory.'

Val McDermid



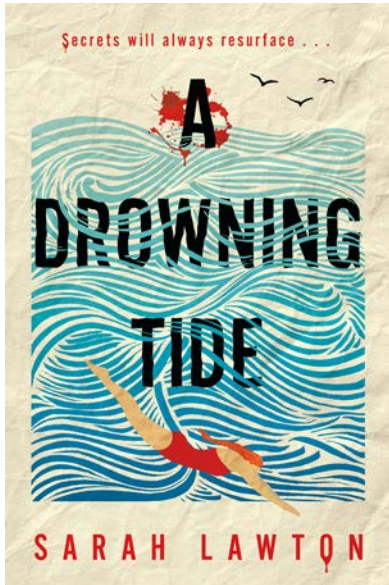
Winner of the Genre-Busting Book of the Year Fingerprint Award

Shortlisted for the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year



A Drowning Tide

Sarah Lawton



September 2024
304 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown

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

Secrets will always resurface . . .

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

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

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

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

'An engrossing, twisty mystery.'

Tammy Cohen

'Beautifully written, gorgeously twisty and a complete page-turner.'

Fiona Walker

echo



July 2025
Crime/Thriller

DRAFT COVER

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Shaw Literary

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

The Sunbaker

P. A. Thomas

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

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

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

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

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



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



The Friday Girl

R. D. McLean



March 2025 DRAFT COVER
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
The North Literary Agency

R. D. McLEAN is the author of seven previous crime novels and a number of short stories in anthologies and magazines, including *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, *The Book of Extraordinary Sleuths* and *Private Eye Stories*. His debut novel, *The Good Son* was shortlisted for the Private Eye Writers of America Shamus Award in 2010. His work has previously been translated into German and French.

Scotland, 1978. Detective Elizabeth Burnet battles to uncover the truth as a serial killer is terrorising the town of Dundee . . .

Newly assigned to CID, Detective Constable Elizabeth Burnet needs to prove herself more than most. In an era rife with misogynistic attitudes, some see her as little more than a pretty face hired to make the department more palatable to the public, giving her the nickname 'The Friday Girl'.

So when she stumbles across evidence of a nascent serial killer - dubbed "The Werewolf" by the local press - her theories are dismissed as the product of an overactive imagination, and the more she tries to persuade people of the truth, the more she's alienated from her colleagues. But the killer is out there, hunting for their next victim in the Templeton Woods.

The only person who believes Burnet is a recently dismissed detective with his own agenda: exposing corruption within Tayside Police. Working together, they soon realise that some within the police force may have their own reasons for covering up the recent deaths. And as the killer is exposed, Burnet uncovers the mind of a monster pushed to the edge.

For readers of Tana French and Alan Parks.

echo



July 2025
336 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

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

Best Left Buried

Neil A. White

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

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

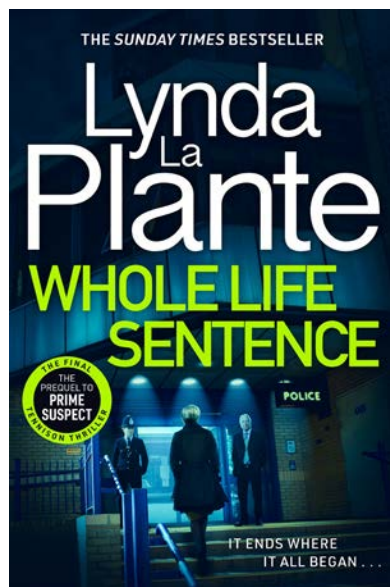
Adopted as a child, Aleja consoles herself with dreams of discovering her birth family and turns to Latham to assist her in the search. When Latham agrees to help, his decision puts him on a collision course with international spy agencies keen to ensure long-buried truths stay that way. As he seeks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



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Lynda La Plante

**Sunday Times Bestselling
Detective Tennison Crime Series**

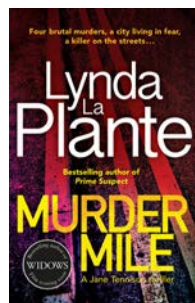
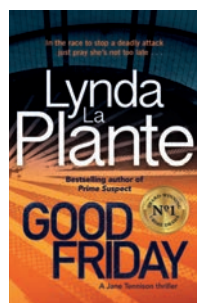


July 2024
400 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold in Series: Denmark (Superlux)

Television & Film Rights:
La Plante Global



**Lynda La Plante's
final Tennison crime
novel**

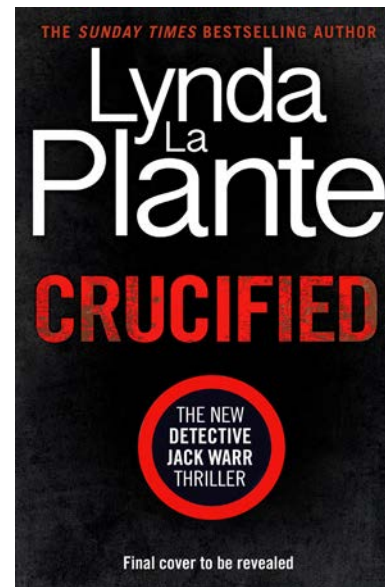
While Jane Tennison has elbowed her way into an elite team investigating non-domestic murders, there is nothing elite about her first assignments: a missing teenager cold case and an apparent suicide Tennison suspects is, in fact, murder.

But as she uncovers explosive evidence, Tennison's new colleagues watch like vultures circling prey. And, one by one, the cases no one else wanted are taken from her - and the glory along with them.

Now Tennison has had enough: of the rampant sexism, snide remarks and undermining. It's time to take what is rightfully hers from those who have held her back. She just has to do what she does best: find her prime suspect . . .

Crucified

Detective Jack Warr Crime Series



April 2025
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

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

Television & Film Rights:
La Plante Global



**Winner of the CWA Diamond
Dagger Award**

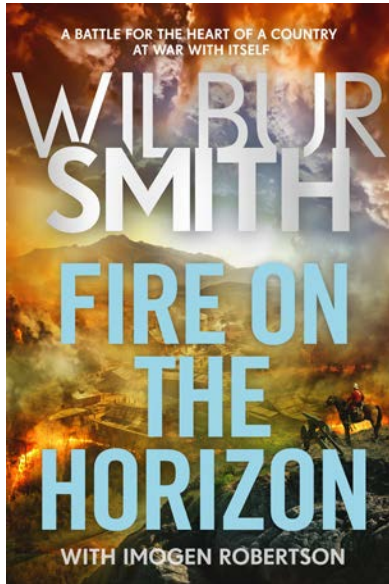
**Over a million copies sold
across the series**

After taking extended leave for the birth of his son, Jack is spiralling into depression, haunted by the horrific murder trial of serial killer Rodney Middleton. Refusing therapy, Jack finds solace in a dangerous friendship with Adam Bolder, an enigmatic artist involved in forging art. As Jack becomes captivated by Adam, his wife Maggie also becomes drawn into the allure of this world.

Just as Jack begins to feel ready to return to work, a gruesome murder rocks Portobello Market—the victim found nailed to a cross in the very shop where Jack and Adam first reconnected. Though the case falls outside his jurisdiction, Jack is too deeply entangled to stay away. Torn between his roles as detective and witness, Jack must confront the dark forces drawing him in, or risk losing himself entirely.

Z

Fire on the Horizon Wilbur Smith



August 2024
384 pp
Historical Adventure

World Rights

Rights Sold for the Series:
Argentina, Czechia, Denmark,
Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands,
Norway, Romania

Television & Film Rights:
Tibor Jones

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

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

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

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

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



Z

Crossfire Wilbur Smith



May 2025
Historical Adventure

World Rights

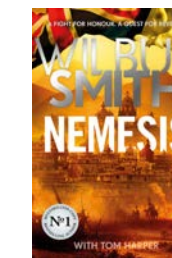
Rights Sold for the Series:
Argentina, Czechia, Denmark,
Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy,
Netherlands, Norway, Poland,
Romania

Television & Film Rights:
Tibor Jones

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

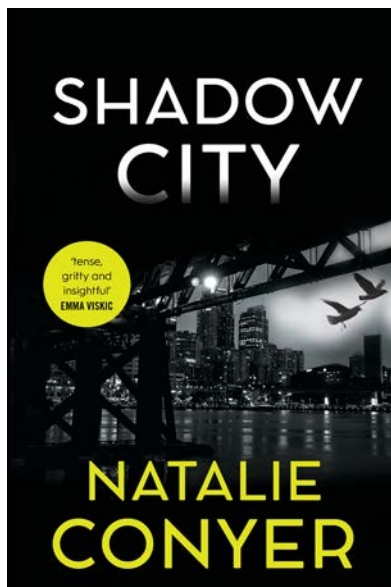
1943. The tide of the Second World War is turning: the German defeat at Stalingrad - the bloodiest battle in history - has opened the door for the Allies. Special Operations Executive, Saffron Courtney, is sailing from the west coast of Scotland to New York on the Queen Mary. Her mission - to uncover the identity of the mole in the British Embassy in Washington, D. C. before Churchill and Roosevelt begin the talks that will determine British and American military strategy in the wake of the Russian victory.

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



Shadow City

Natalie Conyer



September 2024
352 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold: South Africa (PRH)

Television & Film Rights:
Jane Novak

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

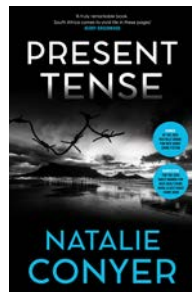
Every city casts a shadow, where evil flourishes.

Sydney, Australia: The body of a young woman is found in Chinatown. She's been beaten, tortured - and tattooed with the image of a sun. Called to the scene, Sergeant Jackie Rose asks herself whether this was a drug murder, or something else. But before her investigation can get underway, she is ordered to hand the case over to the Australian Federal Police.

Cape Town, South Africa: A local girl recruited to study in Australia has fallen off the radar. Veteran detective Schalk Lourens - recently suspended from duty - has already made plans to visit his daughter in Sydney, with emigration in mind. He decides to search for the missing girl while he is there.

Jackie and Schalk join forces, exposing a trail of corruption and crime stretching from the foreshore of the city's iconic harbour, back to South Africa and across the world.

Together the pair must navigate a minefield of deceit and manipulation set by an enemy more powerful and depraved than they can imagine. And failure isn't an option, because not only their own futures, but those of hundreds of vulnerable young people, hang in the balance.

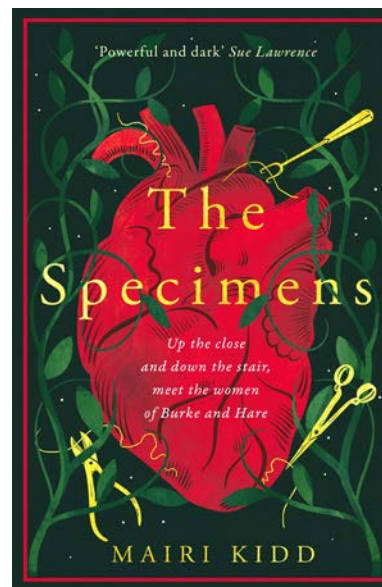


Winner of the Ned Kelly Best Debut Crime Novel



The Specimens

Mairi Kidd



September 2024
288 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

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

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

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

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

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

'Vivid and discomfiting, written with compassion and a draughtswoman's eye for detail.'

Lucy Ribchester

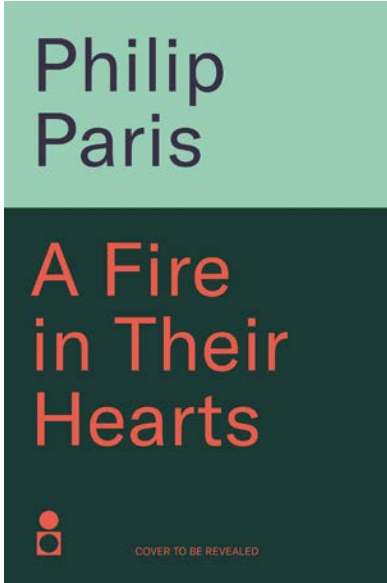
'Gruesomely gripping, this story will stay with you for a long time.'

Sue Lawrence



A Fire in Their Hearts

Philip Paris



August 2025
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

PHILIP PARIS is best known for his books about Orkney's famous WW2 Italian chapel, *The Italian Chapel* and the non-fiction *Orkney's Italian Chapel: The True Story of an Icon*. His previous book, *The Last Witch of Scotland*, was inspired by the true story of Janet Horne, the last person to be executed for witchcraft in Britain.



Her only crime was believing.

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

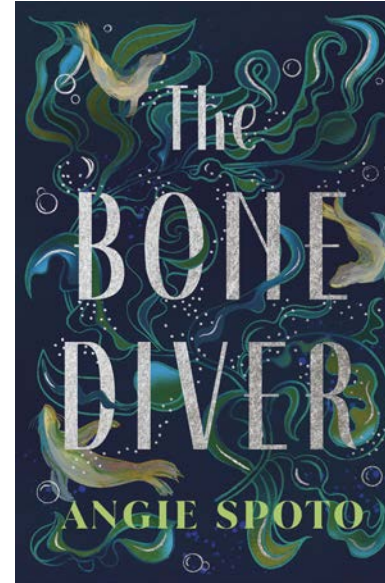
As the ship shatters, Violet and Samuel are torn from each other, thrust into the icy, black waters of the North Sea. Violet is later recaptured along with other Covenanters, but Samuel is nowhere to be found. Grieving and yet clinging to the hope that Samuel might still be alive, Violet is transported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

This epic tale of love and survival unfolds against the backdrop of the Killing Times, a brutal and often forgotten chapter in Scottish history that shaped the nation's future.



The Bone Diver

Angie Spoto



October 2024
272 pp
Historical Fantasy

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Underline Agency

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

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

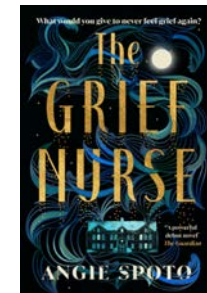
Kier Sealgair is the only daughter of a family of seal-hunters. She cannot kill and in hard times she is a burden to her family, especially now that her father is ailing. Her only friend is Fie, son of the town's tailor.

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

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

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

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



The Bridge to Always

Lynda Marron



April 2025 DRAFT COVER
Women's Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Papercuts Literary

LYNDA MARRON graduated from University College Cork in the 90s with two degrees in microbiology. However, her dream was to write a novel, so she opted for the Life Experience Creative Writing Course, which included teaching English, administrative work for a GP surgery, writing for an online bookseller, and a voracious reading habit. Her debut novel *Last Chance in Paris* was published in 2024.

A story of connections and second chances, about mothers and daughters, the promises we make, break and - sometimes - honour.

Ten years ago, when she was at university, Maeve Gaffney fell for a boy. When she then became pregnant, he didn't want to know, so she disappeared from his life.

For the next nine years, it was just Maeve, Maeve's mother, and Maeve's daughter, Emer.

After her mother's death, Maeve decides it's finally time to find her daughter's father - the man she's never stopped idolising - and stake her claim. Her arrival in the small West Cork town where the two of them first met, and where he still lives, is a chance to have the nuclear family she's always dreamed of.

For Tim, Emer's father, who hadn't known of her existence, it's an opportunity to rekindle an old flame. For Nóinín, Tim's wife, it's a threat, pure and simple. And for Emer? For her, as always, it's about Maeve.

Their arrival sets in motion a fatal chain of events nobody could have predicted.

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



Dancing With Bees

Anna Maynard



April 2025
Romance

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

ANNA MAYNARD's experience as a writer has largely been restricted to medical letters and discharge summaries, which, although written with care, are generally not butterfly-inducing. So after sitting her specialist medical exams she decided it was time to write about romance. When she's not dreaming up fictional heroines and hot male leads she can be found working in the emergency department, pottering in her garden, playing songs with her band, or racing on her bike to the school pickup.

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

A humiliating hagggle over a jar of honey with an outrageously handsome market stall holder is the closest that 33-year-old Sunny Moritz has ever got to thinking about bees. But before long she finds herself captivated and has even set up her own hive.

After contacting a beekeeping website for help, she is astounded to discover that the site is run by none other than the handsome market stall holder, Al. Intelligent and funny, Sunny finds herself increasingly drawn to him.

But after her mother develops a terminal illness and Al becomes strangely withdrawn, Sunny has to draw on all her internal reserves to cope, while trying to untangle her confusion about Al and her own uncertain direction in life.

This delightful contemporary romance is full of memorable characters, depicted with warmth and humour by a born storyteller.

Kaarina
Parker

Fulvia



COVER TO BE REVEALED

July 2025
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

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

Fulvia

Kaarina Parker

'She was a woman who took no interest in spinning or housekeeping. She wanted to rule a ruler, and command a commander.'

Fulvia is the daughter of a wealthy but unimportant Roman family. Raised in the countryside, she longs for a life of intrigue and influence. When her father dies and her inheritance is threatened, Fulvia makes her way to the city of Rome to secure her future.

There she marries a young aristocrat named Clodius, who is more interested in partying with his hedonistic friends than politics. Fulvia is drawn into their world of debauchery, and learns just how precarious the balance of power in the Republic is. Her ambition drives them both to political power, drawing the attention of the Senate and more seedy underworld opponents. But Rome is a dangerous place, and power can become notoriety overnight. Fulvia soon learns just how high the stakes really are, and that her ambitions may come at a terrible cost.

For fans of Elodie Harper and Elizabeth Fremantle.

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August 2024
368 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights excl. Germany

Television & Film Rights:
Selwa Anthony

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

The Mistress of Dara Island

Averil Kenny

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

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

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

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



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

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

Z

A New Life in the Château Sarah Long



March 2025
Women's Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Aitken Alexander

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

La vie en rose begins at 50!

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

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

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

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

Praise for *Invisible Women*:

'A treat.'

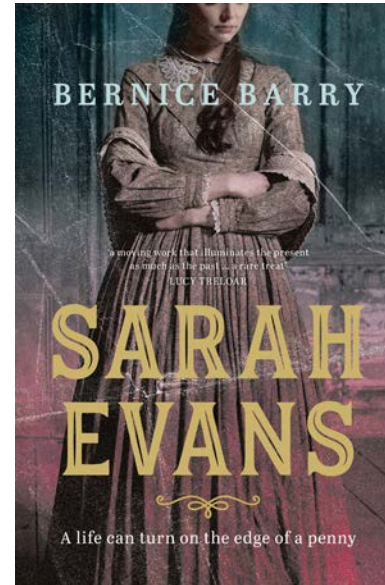
'Book of the week.'

BOOKBRUNCH

WOMAN'S WEEKLY

echo

Sarah Evans Bernice Barry



September 2024
304 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Jane Novak Literary Agency

BERNICE BARRY moved to full-time writing after a career as a teacher, adviser and international consultant in the teaching of literacy. Originally from the UK, she has lived on Wadandi country, on the coast near Margaret River WA, for twenty-three years, caring for a native garden in the bush. She is a regular presenter and speaker on a wide range of topics from wildflowers and botany to history and heritage. *Sarah Evans* is her first novel.

A life can turn on the edge of a penny.

London, 1798. Born into poverty, illiterate, eighteen-year-old Sarah Evans has been raised to believe she has no rights at all. She and her childhood friend, Lucy Burnes, struggle daily to find food and shelter, drawing strength and comfort from their friendship.

When she is falsely accused and found guilty of theft, Sarah is sentenced to transportation, but at the request of sadistic governor, Thomas Aris, she is secretly transferred to Coldbath Fields, one of London's most notorious prisons. Placed in his household, she becomes entangled in a web of sexual exploitation, cruelty and corruption, where powerful men rule and the law disregards women.

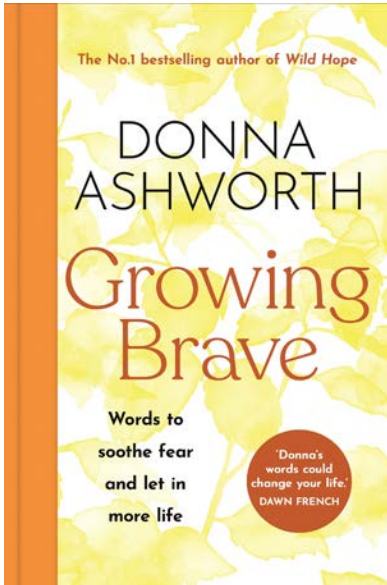
When Sarah is presented with an opportunity to regain her freedom, she seizes it. But even beyond the prison walls, she discovers she cannot escape Aris's control over herself and her children. Ultimately, it is through the power of her thoughts and words that she discovers true liberation, transcending the hardships she has endured.

Inspired by the true story of Sarah Evans, this uplifting reconstruction of her life celebrates her refusal to be broken by her circumstances. Though her existence is documented only by an 'X' in prison records, Sarah's story serves as a poignant reminder that the freedom of the mind is unyielding and indestructible.



Growing Brave

Donna Ashworth



September 2024
336 pp
Self-Help/Poetry

World Rights

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

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

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

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

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

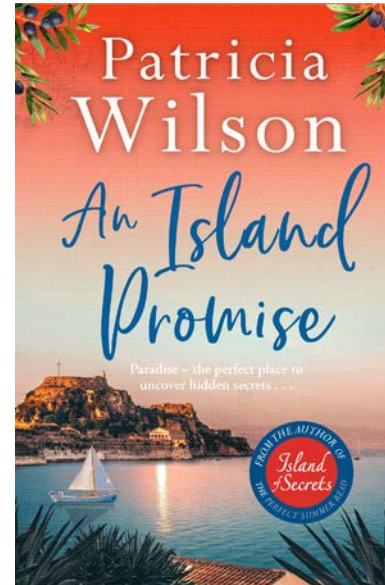
Every day we are bombarded by thoughts, feelings and information that make us feel anxious and afraid. We worry we don't measure up, we are scared of failure and we find it hard to be ourselves. We also feel powerless watching the world getting messier, angrier and more unstable.

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

Over 400,000 copies sold across all titles



CORE LIST



April 2023
432 pp
Women's Fiction

World Rights

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

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

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

An Island Promise

Patricia Wilson

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

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

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

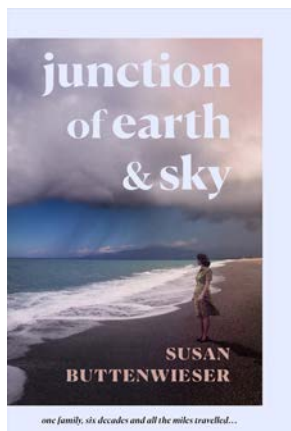
Will Flora discover more than she expects as she explores the island her family took refuge on?

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



Junction of Earth and Sky

Susan Buttenwieser



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

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

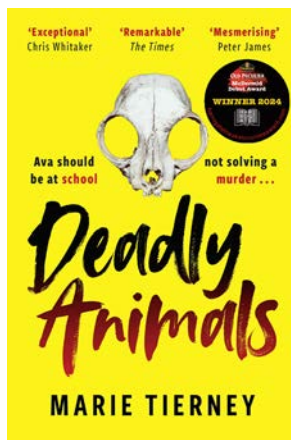
Spanning six decades and two continents, *Junction of Earth And Sky* unfolds the powerful bond between a grandmother and granddaughter, plagued by the past but determined to find their place in the world against all the odds.

Publication: August 2024
World Rights

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

Deadly Animals

Marie Tierney



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

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

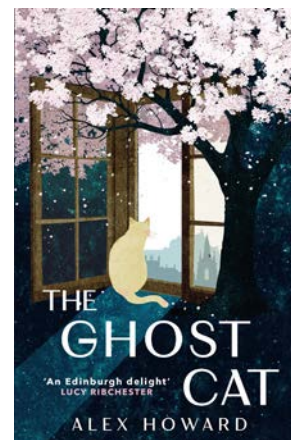
As Detective Seth Delahaye takes charge of the perplexing case, Ava refuses to sit idle. Determined and resourceful, she embarks on a daring quest to unveil the truth behind the string of chilling deaths plaguing her community. Armed with her unique skills and unrivalled local knowledge, Ava becomes an unlikely force in the race to apprehend the elusive killer before more lives are claimed.

Publication: February 2024
World Rights
Rights Sold: Czechia, Poland, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, US

Winner of Val McDermid Crime Debut Award and Daily Mail First Novel Competition

The Ghost Cat

Alex Howard



Twelve decades, nine lives, one cat.

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

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

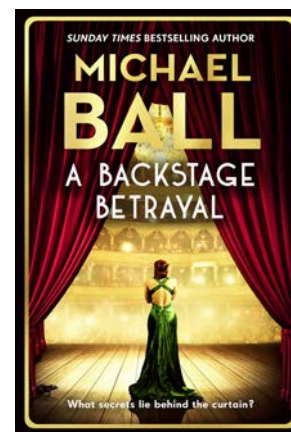
Publication: August 2023
World Rights
Rights Sold: Indonesia (Baca), US (Hanover Press)

A charming novel for fans of *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* and *How to Stop Time*.

Scottish Waterstones Book of the Month and Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller

A Backstage Betrayal

Michael Ball



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

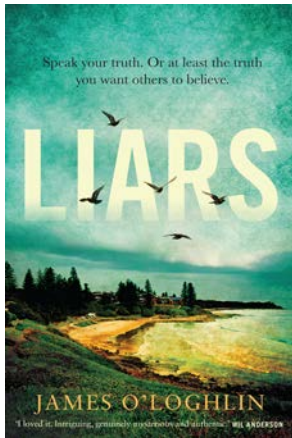
1926. Running a theatre may seem glamorous, but times are tough at The Empire. Owner Jack Treadwell, along with his mother Lillian and playwright wife Grace, are determined to revive their fortunes with the annual pantomime, a new venture, and an all-singing all-dancing talent contest to showcase top performers.

However, challenges loom as Lillian's new admirer, Grand Duke Nikolai Kuznetsov, might spell trouble, and West End star Stella Stanmore's scandal threatens to entangle The Empire. As the talent contest approaches, tragedy strikes, and amidst the glitz and glamour, sinister events unfold. Jack and Grace must navigate these dangers to save The Empire, but will their efforts be enough to avoid disaster?

Publication: November 2024
World Rights
Rights Sold: Bulgaria (Prozoretz)

Liars

James O'Loughlin



Publication: July 2024
World Rights

Speak your truth. Or at least the truth you want others to believe . . .

Barb Young, a long-time resident of Bullford Point, hires Joe Griffiths, a former addict recently returned from Sydney, hoping to help him start over. When a new resident is murdered, Joe becomes the prime suspect, but Barb believes the police are wrong.

As Barb digs deeper to clear Joe's name, she uncovers more questions. Is the murder linked to developers eyeing Joe's inherited waterfront home or his podcast about his ex-girlfriend's death? And what was the murdered woman trying to trade with the police? Barb soon realizes Bullford Point is a town full of secrets, where everyone lies . . .

'I honestly couldn't put it down. If you only read one book this year, make it this.'

Wil Anderson

The Reunion Party

Penny Batchelor



Publication: June 2024
World Rights

Four university friends. One weekend. What secrets are they hiding?

The outsider. The geek. The football star. The quiet one. The good Samaritan.

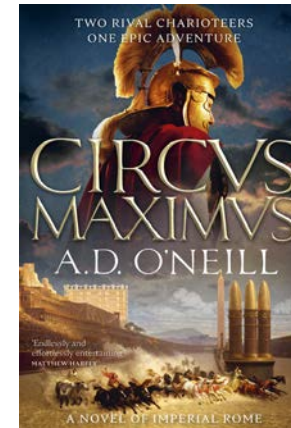
Five unlikely friends brought together by Tania Armstrong-Jones, the popular 'It girl' who changed their lives until tragedy struck, taking Tania away and tearing the group apart.

Now, twenty-five years later, they reunite at a remote country hotel on the anniversary of her death. As drinks flow and the party gets underway, secrets from their university days emerge. How well did they know Tania, and could there be more to her accident than they thought? Trapped with no way out and no one to trust, who will survive the reunion?

Perfect for fans of C.L. Taylor, Sue Watson and B.A. Paris.

Circus Maximus

A. D. O'Neill



Publication: May 2024
World Rights

Two rival charioteers. One epic adventure.

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

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

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

'Endlessly and effortlessly entertaining.'

Matthew Harffy

The Shadow King

Harry Sidebottom



Publication: October 2023
World Rights
Rights Sold:
Italy (Newton Compton),
Spain (Newton Compton)

For a king to rise, Alexander the Great must fall . . .

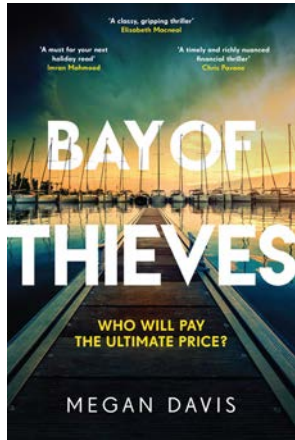
334 BC. Alexander the Great, aged just twenty-one, sets out with a small army to challenge Persia, the largest and most powerful empire in the world. Together, his Macedonian army marches East into the unknown - winning battles against overwhelming odds, storming impregnable fortresses from the Aegean through to India.

But there is another Alexander. Prince of the Macedonian royal house of Lyncestis, he becomes Alexander the Great's general and most trusted friend. Alexander of Lyncestis is torn between this friendship and the duty to avenge his murdered brothers. And he is under threat, too. Others - Persians, Greeks, Macedonians - see him as a rival for the throne. For six years of conspiracy and battle, his life hangs by a thread.

For Alexander of Lyncestis is the Shadow King.

Bay of Thieves

Megan Davis



Publication: July 2024
World Rights

A Sunday Times Thriller of the Month

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

When their boss draws them deeper into his web of corruption, the chic veneer of their existence falls away, leaving both women dangerously exposed to greed, gambling, and hazardous liaisons. Desperate for an escape route, they find that the only options make them worse than those they seek to evade. But how far will they go for money?

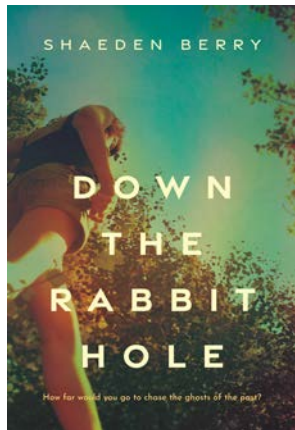
Amidst the opulence of the Côte D'Azur, *Bay of Thieves* explores the distorting power of wealth and its ability to destroy beliefs held over a lifetime.

'Davis is very much a name to watch.'

FINANCIAL TIMES

Down the Rabbit Hole

Shaeden Berry



Publication: October 2024
World Rights

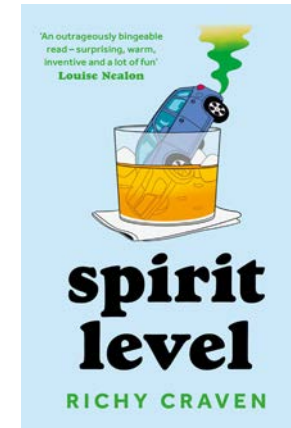
How far would you go to chase the ghosts of the past?

Alice Montgomery goes missing in 2015. Seven years later, her best friend Hannah returns to their small coastal town in Western Australia to care for her mother and confront their strained relationship. When Hannah learns that Alice's mother, Marnie, is terminally ill, she becomes desperate to uncover the truth about Alice's fate.

As Hannah starts asking questions, Marnie denies involvement and instead accuses a local teacher, Rachel Olney. What follows is a story of three women—Hannah, Marnie, and Rachel—grappling with grief, motherhood, and the lasting impact of tragedy, as they seek closure that may never come.

Spirit Level

Richy Craven



Publication: April 2024
World Rights

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

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

Danny discovers he can see ghosts - but only when he's drunk. Saddled with a best friend who can't leave his side, they must figure out what's going on and why Nudge can't cross over. Can Danny negotiate family life, therapy and a ghost that refuses to fade into the background before time runs out?

'A hilarious and genuinely moving story about grief and friendship.'

IRISH TIMES

Small Acts of Kindness

Caroline Day



Publication: March 2024
World Rights

Friendship can bloom in the unlikeliest of places . . .

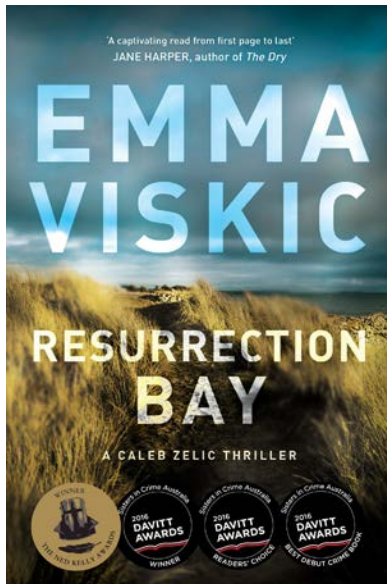
Kiki grew up in New Zealand dreaming of attending the UK's biggest music festival, Glastonbury. After the loss of her beloved Yaya who raised her, she travels to England to fulfil that dream, only to realize how sheltered her life has been. Ned, who's used to living an active life, has woken from his coma but nobody knows. He can hear everything happening around him, but can't get his body to respond. Mrs Malley, mourning the loss of her best friend, finds herself isolated with only her dog, Wordsworth, for company.

These three strangers are each in need of a little kindness in their lives, and this beautifully poignant and uplifting novel shows us the world through their eyes whilst highlighting the power of human connection.

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

Emma Viskic

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



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

World Rights

Rights Sold:

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

Television & Film Rights:

Fred & Bob Films

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



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

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

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

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

Recent prizes and bestsellers

2024 CWA Diamond Dagger Award

Lynda La Plante

2024 Thalia Proctor Lifetime Achievement Fingerprint Award

Lynda La Plante

2024 Val McDermid Debut Crime Fiction Award

Deadly Animals by Marie Tierney

2024 Genre Busting Book of the Year at The Fingerprint Awards

Killing Jericho by William Hussey

2024 Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year Shortlist

Killing Jericho by William Hussey

2024 RNA Jackie Collins Romantic Thriller Award Shortlist

Bad Men by Julie Mae Cohen

2024 Waterstones Debut Fiction Price Shortlist

Mongrel by Hanako Footman

2024 Glass Bell Award Longlist

The Silent Man by David Fennell

2024 Polari Prize Longlist

Killing Jericho by William Hussey

2023 McKitterick Prize Runner-Up

The Gifts by Liz Hyder

2023 Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Shortlist

The Witches of Vardo by Anya Bergman

2023 Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize Longlist

The English Fuhrer by Rory Clements

2023 Capital Crime Fingerprint Awards Shortlist

The House of Ashes by Stuart Neville

2023 CWA Gold Dagger Award Shortlist

The Winter Guest by W.C. Ryan

2023 Petrona Crime Award Longlist

Code Faust by Gustaf Skordeman

2021 CWA Gold Dagger Award

We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker

2021 RNA Joan Hessayon Award for New Writers

Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life by Caroline Day

Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year

We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker

Crime Writers' Association Endeavour Historical Dagger Award Winner

Stasi Child by David Young

Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction

Resurrection Bay by Emma Viskic

Davitt Award for Best Adult Novel

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

Eason Book of the Year

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

Nielsen Gold Bestseller

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

Aspen Words Literary Prize

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri

The Sunday Times #1 Bestseller

Maestra by L.S. Hilton
Wilde Like Me by Louise Pentland
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

Courtney's War by Wilbur Smith
Wild Hope by Donna Ashworth

The Sunday Times #2 Bestseller

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

The Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri
Call of the Raven by Wilbur Smith
Mrs England by Stacey Halls
A Daughter's Destiny by Rosie Goodwin
Songbirds by Christy Lefteri
Three Sisters by Heather Morris
The New Kingdom by Wilbur Smith
Unholy Murder by Lynda La Plante
Legacy of War by Wilbur Smith
Judas Horse by Lynda La Plante
Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life by Caroline Day

Trust Me by T.M. Logan
Blunt Force by Lynda La Plante
The Curfew by T.M. Logan
Vanished by Lynda La Plante
Storm Tide by Wilbur Smith
The Empire by Michael Ball
Dark Rooms by Lynda La Plante
A Daughter's Destiny by Rosie Goodwin
The English Fuhrer by Rory Clements

A Lesson Learned by Rosie Goodwin
The Mother by T.M. Logan
Pure Evil by Lynda La Plante
Nemesis by Wilbur Smith
A Taste of Blood by Lynda La Plante
Munich Wolf by Rory Clements
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

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