

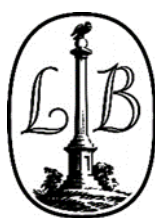
# little, brown

## BOOK GROUP

### TRANSLATION RIGHTS LIST

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FICTION  
FRANKFURT 2020





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Worldwide Spanish and Catalan, Portugal, Far East, the Netherlands, Flemish Belgium, the Indian Subcontinent and all of Eastern Europe excluding Poland.

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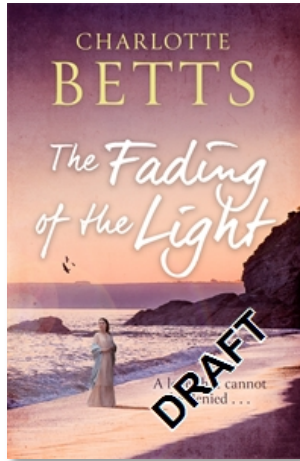
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## THE FADING OF THE LIGHT

Charlotte Betts

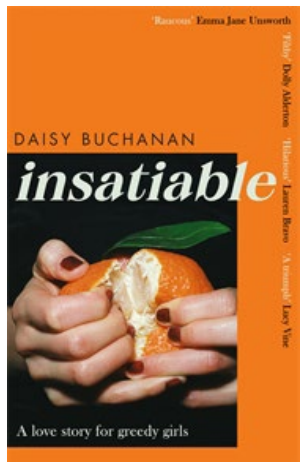
January 2021  
Platkus  
Saga & historical fiction  
384pp

The second title in the *Spindrift trilogy*, following talented painter Edith Fairchild, passionate in love and stalwart in her pursuit of artistic excellence, as she matures from an idealistic bride to the matriarch of the Spindrift community.

A beautifully evocative, multi-generational family drama set at the turn of the century and perfect for fans of Elizabeth Jane Howard, Santa Montefiore and Lucinda Riley.

**CHARLOTTE BETTS** began her working life as a fashion designer in London. A career followed in interior design, property management and lettings. Always a bookworm, Charlotte discovered her passion for writing after her three children and two step-children had grown up. *THE APOTHECARY'S DAUGHTER* is her debut novel and won the YouWriteOn Book of the Year in 2010, the Romantic Novelists' Association Joan Hessayon Award for New Writers in 2011 and the RoNA's Historical Category award for 2013. The sequel, *THE PAINTER'S APPRENTICE* was published in 2012 and shortlisted for the Festival of Romance's Best Historical Read Award in 2012. *THE SPICE MERCHANT'S WIFE* was published in 2013 and won the Festival of Romance's Best Historical Read Award in 2013.

Also available:



## INSATIABLE

Daisy Buchanan

February 2021  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
352pp

Stuck in a dead-end job, broken-hearted, broke and estranged from her best friend; Violet's life is nothing like she thought it would be. She wants more - better friends, better sex, a better job - and she wants it now.

So, when Lottie - who looks like the woman Violet wants to be when she grows up - offers Violet the chance to join her exciting start-up, she bites. Only it soon becomes clear that Lottie and her husband Simon are not only inviting Violet into their company, they are also inviting her into their lives.

Seduced by their townhouse, their expensive candles and their Friday-night sex parties, Violet cannot tear herself away from Lottie, Simon or their friends. But is this really the more Violet yearns for? Will it grant her the satisfaction she is so desperately seeking?

*Insatiable* is about women and desire - lust, longing and the need to be loved. It is a story about being unable to tell whether you are running towards your future or simply running away from your past. The result is at once tender and sad, funny and hopeful.

**DAISY BUCHANAN** is an award-winning journalist and author. Her non-fiction books, *How To Be A Grown Up* and *The Sisterhood*, have received critical acclaim and praise from a number of high profile writers. She has written features and opinion pieces for every major national newspaper and magazine in the UK - she was *Grazia's* Agony Aunt, *Dear Daisy*, and a columnist for the beloved smart women's website *The Pool*. Daisy is a TEDx speaker and the host of the chart-topping literary interview podcast *You're Booked*. She appears regularly on TV and radio speaking about everything from pop culture to feminism. This is her first novel.

### Praise for Daisy Buchanan:

'I really, really, really could have done with Daisy Buchanan in my twenties' **Bryony Gordon**

'Her humour and honesty never fail to make me laugh, cry and feel less alone' **Dolly Alderton**

'Wonderful! So funny and sparkly. Every woman should read it' **Marian Keyes**

'A beautifully written delight - clever, honest, hilarious and kind' **Nina Stibbe**



## THE GIRL WHO...

Andreina Cordani

January 2021  
Atom  
Young Adult Fiction  
272pp

**A gripping psychological YA thriller from a debut author.**

People can't bring themselves to say what happened to her. They just describe her as 'the girl who... you know...'.

Leah is the perfect survivor. She was seven years old when she saw her mother and sister killed by a troubled gang member. Her case hit the headlines and her bravery made her a national sweetheart: strong, courageous and forgiving. But Leah is hiding a secret about their deaths. And now, ten years later, all she can think of is revenge. When Leah's dad meets a new partner, stepsister Ellie moves in. Sensing Leah isn't quite the sweet girl she pretends to be, Ellie discovers that Leah has a plan, one she has been putting together ever since that fateful day. Now that the killer - and the only one who knows the truth - is being released from prison, time is running out for Ellie to discover how far Leah will go to silence her anger...

**ANDREINA CORDANI** has a background in journalism, working for women's magazines including *That's Life*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Good Housekeeping*. Specialising in 'real life' stories, she interviews seemingly ordinary people about their extraordinary lives. *THE GIRL WHO...* is Andreina's debut novel, drawing inspiration from those real life stories she's encountered.



## THE GOLDEN RULE

Amanda Craig

July 2020  
Little, Brown  
Contemporary Fiction  
400pp

**Amanda Craig's new novel turns on two women who meet by chance and discover that they are both victims of abusive husbands. Together, they plot their revenge.**

When Hannah is invited into the First-Class carriage of the London to Penzance train by Jinni, she walks into a spider's web. Now a poor young single mother, Hannah once escaped Cornwall to go to university. But once she married Jake and had his child, her dreams were crushed into bitter disillusion. Her husband has left her for Eve, rich and childless, and Hannah has been surviving by becoming a cleaner in London. Jinni is equally angry and bitter, and in the course of their journey the two women agree to murder each other's husbands. After all, they are strangers on a train - who could possibly connect them? But when Hannah goes to Jinni's husband's home the next night, she finds Stan, a huge, hairy, ugly drunk who claims Jinni is a very different person to the one who has persuaded Hannah to commit a terrible crime. Who is telling the truth - and who is the real victim?

**AMANDA CRAIG** is a British novelist, short-story writer and critic. Born in South Africa in 1959, she grew up in Italy, where her parents worked for the UN, and was educated at Bedales School and Clare College Cambridge.

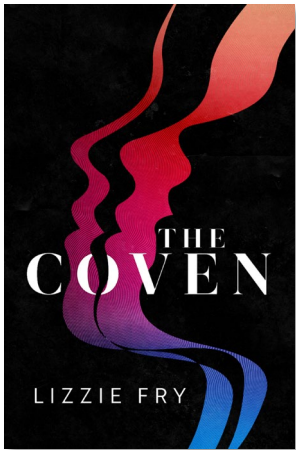
**Rights sold:**  
Italy (Astoria srl)

**Praise for Amanda Craig:**

'If you like your novels wide-ranging, ambitious, socially panoramic, and engaged in the most important issues of the day, Amanda Craig is the writer for you. For more than twenty years now she has been anatomising the state of the British nation with wit and empathy' **Jonathan Coe**

'She's such a skilful storyteller who vividly dramatises our lives with wit, wisdom and compassion' **Bernardine Evaristo**





*Not final cover*

**Rights Sold:**  
Germany (Heyne)  
Hungary (Cartaphilus)  
Spain (Planeta)  
Turkey (Epsilon Yayınevi)

# THE COVEN

Lizzie Fry

February 2021  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
448pp

Fans of *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Vox* and *The Power* will love this breathtaking, pacy global race against the clock to defeat a shadowy organisation dedicated to destroying women's potential.

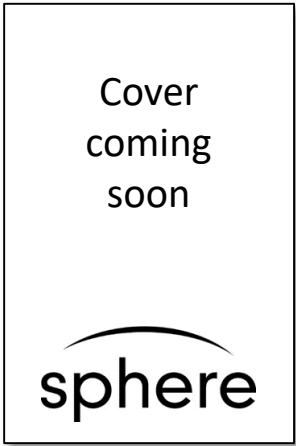
Imagine a world in which witchcraft is real. In which mothers hand down power to their daughters, power that is used harmlessly and peacefully.

Then imagine that the US President is a populist demagogue who decides that all witches must be interned for their own safety, and the safety of those around them - creating a world in which to be female is one step away from being criminal...

As witches across the world are rounded up, one girl begins to discover her power. It's a dangerous force and it brings her into contact with the Sentinel, a shadowy global organisation dedicated to the destruction of all witchcraft.

Will Chloe and her helpers survive a breathless chase across Europe and the USA to find and save the source of all women's power before the Sentinel can destroy it?

**LIZZIE FRY** is the pseudonym of an internationally acclaimed author and script editor. As well as working with numerous film production companies, she is a core member of the London Screenwriters' Festival board.



# THE SECRETS OF ASHMORE CASTLE

Cynthia Harrod-Eagles

August 2021  
Sphere  
Historical Fiction  
480pp

The first novel in a brand new historical family drama series set at the turn of the twentieth century, by the author of *The Morland Dynasty* novels.

All Giles ever wanted was to be left alone to pursue his passion for archaeology. But when his father dies unexpectedly, he is summoned home from a dig in Thebes to become earl. Now Ashmore Castle, the family and the household are his responsibility, and the first irksome duty for this most private of men is to take a wife.

Meanwhile, in an academy for young ladies in Kensington, two girls - gentle Kitty and clever Nina - have reached the end of their schooldays and are ready to be launched into the world. Paths will cross and lives will be painfully entangled as Giles struggles to adjust to his new life, and Ashmore Castle gives up its secrets.

**CYNTHIA HARROD-EAGLES** is the author of the hugely popular *MORLAND DYNASTY* novels, which have captivated and enthralled readers for decades. She is also the author of the contemporary *BILL SLIDER* mystery series, as well as her new series, *WAR AT HOME*, which is an epic family drama set against the backdrop of World War I. Cynthia's passions are music, wine, horses, architecture and the English countryside.



Australian cover

# THE CHARLESTON SCANDAL

Pamela Hart

April 2021  
Piatkus  
Romance  
320pp

Readers of Natasha Lester's *A KISS FROM MR FITZGERALD* will love *THE CHARLESTON SCANDAL*. Bestselling author Pamela Hart's energetic, masterful storytelling will have you glued right until the end.

London, 1920s: Kit Scott, a privileged young Australian aiming to become a star, arrives in the city to find the Jazz Age in full swing. Cast in a West End play opposite another young hopeful, Canadian Zeke Gardiner, she dances blithely into the heady lifestyle of English high society and the London theatre set, from Noel Coward to Fred Astaire and his sister, Adele.

When Kit is photographed dancing the Charleston alongside the Prince of Wales, she finds herself at the centre of a major scandal, sending the Palace into damage control and Kit to her aristocratic English relatives - and into the arms of the hedonistic Lord Henry Carleton. Amid the excesses of the Roaring Twenties, both Zeke and Kit are faced with temptations - and make choices that will alter the course of their lives forever.

**PAMELA HART** is an award-winning author for both adults and children. She has a Doctorate of Creative Arts from the University of Technology, Sydney, where she has also lectured in creative writing. Under the name Pamela Freeman she wrote the historical novel *THE BLACK DRESS*, which won the NSW Premier's History Prize for 2006 and is now in its third edition.



# SISTER TO SISTER

Olivia Hayfield

January 2021  
Piatkus  
Contemporary Fiction  
400pp

## The battle lines are drawn...

Following the scandalous revelations about his love life, disgraced media mogul Harry Rose is searching for redemption. His daughters - bright, winsome Eliza and dark, difficult Maria - have taken over the helm at Rose Corp. But while Eliza's on study leave at Oxford, Maria embarks on a drive to rid the British media giant of sleaze. His legacy under threat, Harry wants Maria out and Eliza in. But hanging between Harry and Eliza is the unresolved death of Eliza's mother, Ana.

Eliza has a vision for Rose Corp. Along with her wildly gifted friends Will Bardington and Kit Marley, *enfants terribles* of the arts world, she plans a new golden age of British TV drama. But Maria is standing in her way. And then there's the distraction of her childhood playmate, the twinkly-eyed metrosexual Rob Studley, and a new threat, from Eliza's thorn-in-the-side Scottish cousin, the charismatic Mackenzie James.

Guided by Harry, Eliza navigates life as Rose Corp's new queen. But after a stellar start, things take a dark turn, and ultimately Eliza will have to make a choice: career, or love? It shouldn't be this hard.

Loosely based on the reigns of Tudor queens Mary and Elizabeth, *SISTER TO SISTER* is the sequel to Olivia Hayfield's *WIFE AFTER WIFE*.

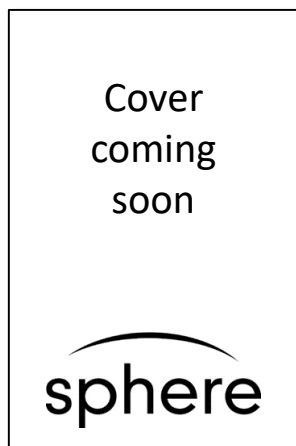
**OLIVIA HAYFIELD** is a published author and has worked as an editor for over 20 years. Born in the UK, where she lived most of her life, she now lives in New Zealand.



Option publishers:  
USA (Penguin Publishing Group)

Also available:





## UNDER THE SAME STARS

Alexandra Heminsley

July 2021  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
400pp

The stunning, emotional debut novel from Sunday Times-bestselling author, journalist and broadcaster Alexandra Heminsley sees two half-sisters who have never met before battling to survive a winter on a remote, dangerous but beautiful Norwegian island.

This is beautiful, emotional writing for readers of fantastic, character-led book club fiction by authors like Jojo Moyes, Graham Norton, Ruth Jones and Victoria Hislop, as well as newer talent such as Emma Gannon (*Olive*) and Clare Pooley (*The Authenticity Project*)

**ALEXANDRA HEMINSLEY** is the author of *Leap In* and *Running Like a Girl*, both published by Windmill, and co-author of Judy Murray's *Knowing the Score*. She is a freelance journalist and broadcaster. *Running Like a Girl* was published in thirteen countries and was a *Sunday Times* bestseller. *UNDER THE SAME STARS* is her debut novel and a major publication for Sphere in 2021.



## THE UNSTABLE BOYS

Nick Kent

January 2021  
Constable  
Contemporary Fiction  
320pp

For fans of *DAISY JONES AND THE SIX* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

In 1968 The Unstable Boys were the name on every music-biz-insider's lips. But the group weathered its share of tragedy and controversy leading to them breaking up before hitting it big.

Over forty years later a leading computer firm runs a series of ads featuring one of their songs and against all odds the band go to the top of the charts. Their former manager dismisses talk of a reunion but millionaire crime novelist Michael Martindale, an Unstable Boys fanatic as a teenager, is determined to reunite the band.

The moment Martindale invites The Boys into his house, he falls victim to an attraction that utterly overwhelms him. Unknown to Martindale though The Boys' always precarious fortunes have plummeted to an all-time low.

A Russian mob have managed to coerce them into signing away all future publishing and performance royalties.

The Boys goes on the run. The gloves are now off.

**NICK KENT** is a legendary rock critic and author of the memoir *Apathy for the Devil* (Faber) and *The Dark Stuff* (Faber) which the *Spectator* called 'a mighty tome, containing some of the best music journalism ever written'. He was also an apprentice to Lester Bangs, boyfriend of Chrissie Hynde, confidant of Iggy Pop, trusted scribe for Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones, and early member of the Sex Pistols. *THE UNSTABLE BOYS* is his first novel.



# THE PARIS SECRET

Natasha Lester

March 2021  
Sphere  
Historical Romance  
464pp

**Rights Sold:**  
Bulgarian (CIELA Norma AD)  
Czech (Grada)  
Danish (ALPHA)  
Dutch (De Fontein)  
Finnish (Gummerus)  
German (Aufbau)  
Greek (Dioptra)  
Italian (Newton Compton)  
Norwegian (Bazar Forlag AP)  
Romanian (Nemira Publishing House)  
Russian (Eksmo)  
Serbian (Laguna)  
Swedish (Strawberry Publishing AB)

A wardrobe of Dior gowns, a secret kept for sixty-five years, and the three women bound forever by war...

England, 1939: Talented pilot Skye Penrose joins the British war effort where she encounters her estranged sister, Liberty, and childhood soulmate Nicholas Crawford, now engaged to enigmatic Frenchwoman Margaux Jourdan.

Paris, 1947: Designer Christian Dior unveils his extravagant first collection to a world weary of war and grief. He names his debut fragrance, Miss Dior, in tribute to his sister, Catherine, who worked for the French Resistance.

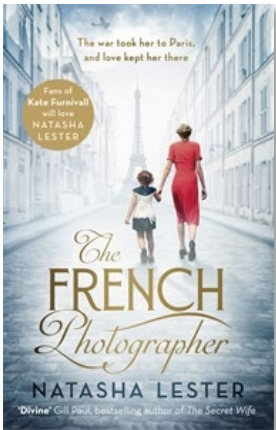
Present day: Australian fashion conservator Kat Jourdan discovers a secret wardrobe filled with priceless Dior gowns in her grandmother's vacant cottage. As she delves into the mystery, Kat begins to doubt everything she thought she knew about her beloved grandmother.

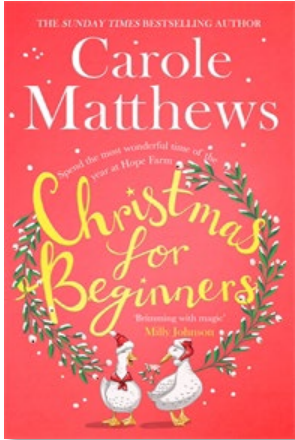
THE PARIS SECRET is an unforgettable story about the lengths people go to protect one another, and a love that, despite everything, lasts a lifetime.

**NATASHA LESTER** is the author of six novels, including the bestselling THE PARIS SEAMSTRESS and *THE FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER*.

Her next novel, THE RIVIERA HOUSE, will be published in September 2021.

Also available:





## CHRISTMAS FOR BEGINNERS

Carole Matthews

October 2020  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
416pp

**Rights sold:**  
Italian (Newton Compton)

**PRAISE FOR CAROLE MATTHEWS:**

Sparkling . . . light-hearted, laugh-packed fun - Sunday Mirror;  
Witty, funny and incredibly touching . . . perfect for lifting the  
spirits – **Heat**

Full of quirky characters and often laugh-out loud funny, it's a  
delightful read. – **Choice**

Delightful and humorous... as joyful as its cover - **Woman's Weekly**

**The gloriously festive sequel to readers' favourite and Sunday Times bestselling novel Happiness for Beginners.**

Christmas is fast approaching at the new Hope Farm and Bev has convinced a reluctant Molly to organise an open day to raise some much-needed funds ahead of the New Year. Their nativity tableau has everything they need: anti-social sheep, alpacas munching the Baby Jesus doll and a hairdresser dressed up as Santa Claus. But on Hope Farm it's going to take more than mulled wine and Christmas lights to get everyone in the festive spirit . . .

Molly is looking forward to her first Christmas with Shelby and Lucas, but with father and son continuing to clash and the arrival of Lucas's new girlfriend, it becomes all too clear that their living situation cannot last. And as Shelby plans to take his career to glamorous new heights, Molly fears that a mucky life with her on the farm may no longer be enough for him.

With tensions mounting and the nativity drawing near, Molly is being pulled in too many directions. The animals, the open day, Lucas's teenage angst and Shelby's restlessness are all pushing her to her limit. And that's without the distraction of a shockingly handsome mayor . . .

**CAROLE MATTHEWS** is the *Sunday Times* bestselling author of over thirty novels, including several top ten bestsellers. In 2015, Carole was awarded the RNA Outstanding Achievement Award. Her novels dazzle and delight readers all over the world and she is published in more than thirty countries.



## THE CHILDREN'S SECRET

Nina Monroe

April 2021  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
400pp

**Option publishers:**  
German (Goldmann)

**PRAISE FOR NINA MONROE (writing as Virginia Macgregor):**

A future classic – **Clare Mackintosh** on *What Milo Saw*

I couldn't put this insightful, compelling novel down – **Woman & Home** on *The Astonishing Return Of Norah Wells*,

A touching look at the meaning of motherhood – **Good Housekeeping** on *The Astonishing Return Of Norah Wells*.

**The Slap** meets **Big Little Lies** - a sharply suspenseful, beautifully told domestic page-turner about the ruptures in a tight-knit community following a life-shattering tragedy.

IT WAS ONLY A GAME. WE NEVER MEANT TO HURT ANYONE.

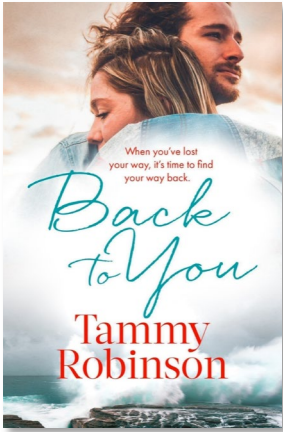
*At a children's party . . .*  
Nothing ever happens in a sleepy American town like Middlebrook. Until the shocking events of one hot Saturday afternoon when, at a back-to-school party, nine children sneak off to a barn. And one child is shot by another.

*In the media storm that sweeps the nation . . .*  
The press are asking questions. About the type of parents who let their children play unsupervised in a house with guns. About how damaged a child must be to commit this kind of atrocity.

*In the ensuing police investigation . . .*  
Two questions are the most urgent, and the most baffling. Of the nine children who were present in that barn, which one actually pulled the trigger?

And why are the others staying silent?

**NINA MONROE** moved recently from England to New Hampshire with her husband and two daughters. **THE CHILDREN'S SECRET** is her first book writing as Nina Monroe. She has also written four adult and two young adult novels as Virginia Macgregor.



## BACK TO YOU

Tammy  
Robinson

April 2021  
Piatkus  
Contemporary Romance  
384pp

**Option publishers:**  
Czech (Grada Publishing a.s.)  
German (HaperCollins Germany GmbH)  
Polish (Wydawnictwo luvi Zo.o. SP J.).

**Praise for Tammy Robinson:**

'Heart-wrenchingly romantic, this book will leave you wanting to hold your loved ones just that little bit closer' EMMA COOPER, author of *The First Time I Saw You*

'A deeply emotional story that will remind you that life is a gift, and it's never too late for love' KELLY RIMMER, author of *Me Without You*

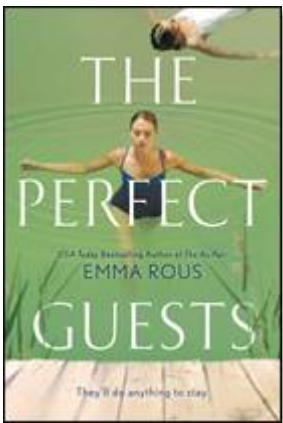
**What happens when a couple are torn apart just at the moment when they fall in love?**

When Finn Young and Zoe Henderson meet, they fall in love hard and fast. But Finn is about to go travelling for a year, fulfilling a promise to his late sister to raise money in support of her illness. It's terrible timing, but Zoe knows their feelings are strong enough to stand the test of time.

While Finn is away, however, Zoe loses her leg in a horrific car accident. And now she has to suffer the agony not only of her injury, but of wondering whether Finn will still love her when he comes home.

So she cuts all ties and disappears from Finn's life, without telling him why. And now Finn has to decide how hard he's willing to fight for the girl whose heart he's carried with him, while Zoe has to decide if she's got the strength to find her way back to the girl she once was.

**TAMMY ROBINSON** lives in New Zealand with her husband, three children and two pets. She has independently published seven novels and is currently working on the next one.



## THE PERFECT GUESTS

Emma Rous

January 2021  
Piatkus  
Contemporary Fiction  
336pp

*Not final cover*

**Rights sold:**  
Dutch (Luitingh-Sijthoff)  
Finnish (Minerva Kustannus Oy)  
Hebrew (Tchelet Books)  
US (Berkley)

**Option publishers:**  
French (City Editions)  
German (Blanvalet Verlag)  
Italian (Sperling & Kupfer Editori)  
Norwegian (Gyldendal)  
Polish (Dressler Dublin)

**From the author of *The Au Pair* comes an enthralling time-slip mystery about two women, one house and a lifetime of secrets, perfect for fans of Kate Morton.**

When Beth Soames was a little girl, she was invited to go and stay at Raven Hall, a rambling manor on the Norfolk coast. There, she ran wild with her friend Nina Averall, playing hide and seek, climbing trees, wild swimming in the freezing lake. To ten-year-old Beth, Nina had everything a child could wish for. But then Beth was invited to play a very strange game - and nothing was the same again.

Now thirty-six, Beth is a successful woman trying to put her past behind her. But when Nina swoops back into her life, Beth knows she cannot hide from her past anymore. Beth hasn't seen Nina since tragedy split their friendship twenty-five years earlier, but now Nina needs Beth to play the game with her one last time. And this time, Beth knows there's no running away . . .

**EMMA ROUS** spent her childhood in England, Indonesia, Kuwait, Portugal and Fiji, and grew up wanting to write stories and look after animals. She studied veterinary medicine and zoology at the University of Cambridge and worked as a small animal vet for eighteen years before starting to write in 2016. Emma lives in Cambridgeshire with her husband and three sons, and she now writes full time.



Cover  
coming  
soon



THE CENTRAL  
LINE

Saskia Sarginson

September 2021  
Piatkus  
Contemporary Fiction  
368pp

Four people. Two love stories. One city.

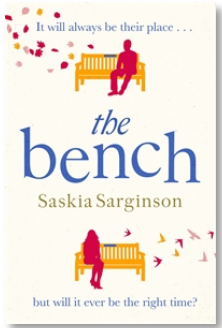
A novel about second chances, set in London.

Four characters separated by distance, age, and culture. Their unforeseen ticket to connection comes through the central line: an underground track, red on the map - colour of love and passion - running through the centre of the city.

**SASKIA SARGINSON** was awarded a distinction in her MA in Creative Writing at Royal Holloway after a BA in English Literature from Cambridge University and a BA in Fashion Design & Communications. Before becoming a full-time author, Saskia's writing experience included being a health and beauty editor on women's magazines, a ghost writer for the BBC and Harper Collins and copy-writing and script editing. Her novel *THE TWINS* sold into fifteen territories.

Option publishers:  
Czech (Fortuna Libri)  
French (Marabout)  
German (Droemer)  
Romanian (Editura Libris)  
Slovak (Libri Fortuna)

Also available:



Cover  
coming  
soon



THE PATRON  
SAINT OF MOTION  
PICTURES AND  
VACUUM  
CLEANERS (W/T)

Christine Simon

February 2022  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
352pp

In a tiny village in Italy, the self-appointed mayor (and vacuum cleaner repairman), Signore Speranza will do anything he can to save his beloved town from extinction. When he learns that the water is going to be cut off unless he can come up with some quick cash, he tries to boost tourism by spreading a harmless rumour that major movie star Dante Rinaldi is planning to film a movie in the village.

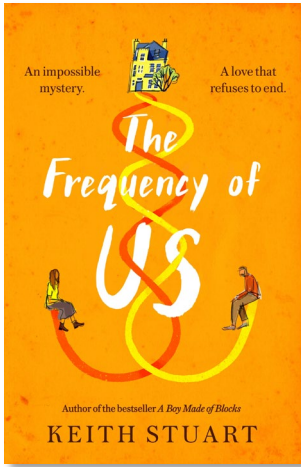
The plan works a little too well, and soon everyone wants to be a part of the fictional movie. Village butcher Signore Maestro will even invest in the film - if Signore Speranza can find roles for each of his fifteen enormous sons. He soon realizes that the only way to keep the momentum going is to actually make the movie, assuring the villagers that Dante is on his way.

As the entire town becomes involved - even the village priest invests - Signore Speranza starts to think he might be able to pull this off... until Dante Rinaldi actually shows up.

The feel-good novel we all need right now - a celebration of the underdog, of family and of remembering what really matters in life - from a joyous new voice in fiction. Perfect for fans of *The Authenticity Project*, *The Lido* and *The Keeper of Lost Things*.

**CHRISTINE SIMON** is Italian-American and this is her debut novel.

Rights sold:  
Japanese (Hayakawa)



# THE FREQUENCY OF US

Keith Stuart

March 2021  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
416pp

- Option publishers:**  
Chinese Simplified (TianJin Manyu)  
Dutch (HarperCollins)  
German (Goldmann)  
Hebrew (Matar)  
Italian (Corbaccio)  
Lithuanian (UAB Jotema)  
Portuguese in Brazil (Record)  
Russian (Azbooka-Atticus).

The new novel from the bestselling author of *A BOY MADE OF BLOCKS* and *DAYS OF WONDER*

In Second World War Bath, young, naïve wireless engineer Will meets German refugee Elsa Klein: she is sophisticated, witty and wordly, and at last his life seems to make sense . . . until, soon after, the newly married couple's home is bombed, and Will awakes from the wreckage to find himself alone. Seventy years later, Laura is a social worker battling her way out of depression and off medication. Her new case is a strange: an isolated old man whose house hasn't changed since the war. A man who insists his wife vanished many, many years before. Everyone thinks he's suffering dementia. But Laura begins to suspect otherwise . . .

**KEITH STUART** is a journalist and author of two novels, *A BOY MADE OF BLOCKS* and *DAYS OF WONDER*. His heart-warming debut novel, *A BOY MADE OF BLOCKS*, inspired by Stuart's real-life relationship with his autistic son, was a Richard and Judy Book Club pick and sold in twenty-eight territories.

**Praise for *DAYS OF WONDER*:**

So powerful, yet incredibly gentle and poignant. Utterly and completely beautiful – **Joanna Cannon**, author of *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep*

Utterly enchanting . . . a truly beautiful story – **Ruth Hogan**, author of *The Keeper of Lost Things*

A story of life, love and hope - the perfect antidote to today's world. Phenomenal – **Clare Mackintosh**, author of *I LET YOU GO*.



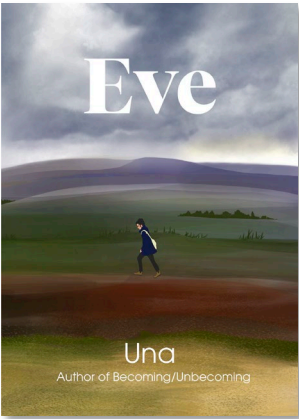
# WINTRY GHOST STORIES

Various authors

October 2021  
Sphere  
Short stories  
336pp

A collection of short wintry ghost stories from authors including Sara Collins, Bridget Collins, Natasha Pulley, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Elizabeth Macneal, Laura Purcell, Andrew Michael Hurley, Jess Kidd and Imogen Hermes Gowar.





EVE

Una

March 2021  
Virago  
Graphic Novel  
256pp, fully illustrated,  
full colour

Not final cover

**Option publishers:**  
Brazil (Nemo)  
Dutch (Soul Food Conics)  
Italian (ADD Editore)  
Spanish (Astiberri)  
US (Arsenal Pulp)

Praise for UNA:

Unflinching, heart-breaking and utterly compelling. Una's story explores how the public silencing of women's voices too often creates a private hell - **Emma Jane Unsworth**

...the illustrations are beautiful, and the words are a powerful demand to listen to women's voices – **Elle**

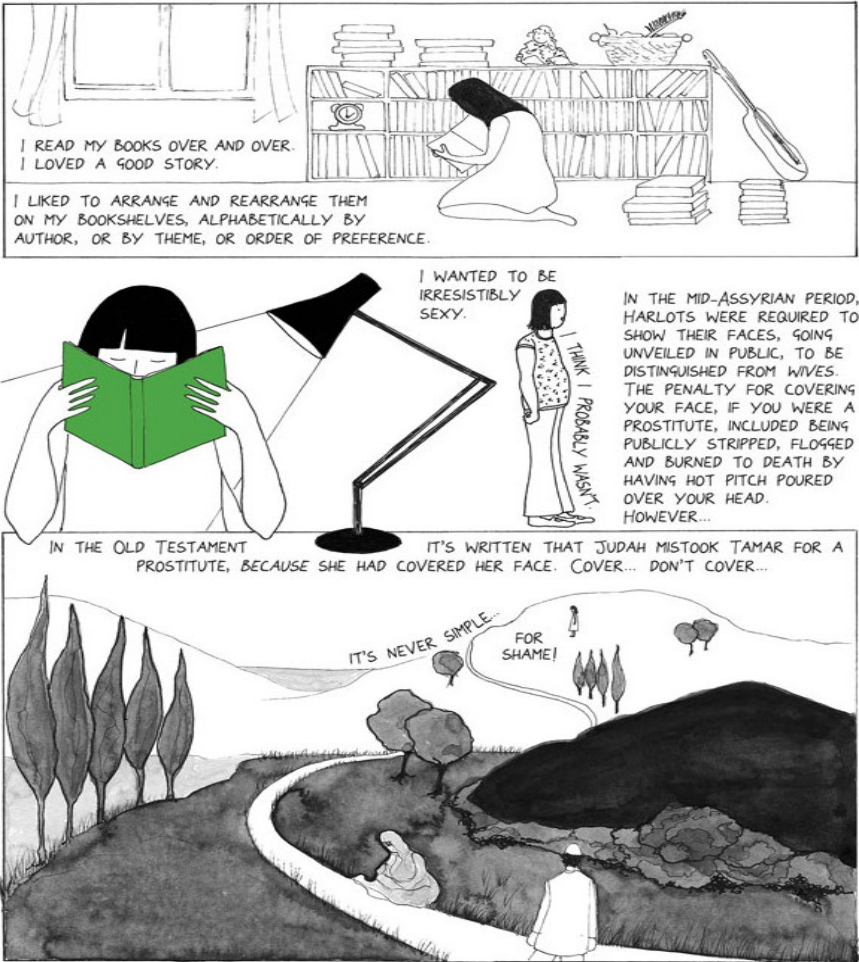
Brilliant, brave and fiercely intelligent - **Kerry Hudson, Herald Scotland Books of the Year**

EVE is the first full-length graphic novel by acclaimed graphic memoirist Una, beautifully drawn by this award-winning artist and narrated by a mother and daughter

EVE is the story of a mother and daughter struggling to survive in a post-apocalyptic world which has provocative parallels with our current political reality, and explores themes of motherhood, community and survival. In a place which has been turned upside down by 'the event', and which grows more threatening by the day, Eve feels she has no choice but to run away and try to forge a new community – and her mother, who also narrates the story, feels she cannot stop her. But when Eve discovers that she is going to become a mother herself, the dangers she faces only multiply...

UNA is an artist and writer whose work includes comics, zines, graphic novels, projects and commissions that explore life, fact and fiction through visual means; her website is Unacomics.com. Her graphic memoir Becoming Unbecoming was published by Myriad Editions in the UK in 2015 and has been translated into Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, French, Italian, and Turkish and a Canada/US edition. Becoming Unbecoming has been featured on BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour, Open Book, Newsweek, Elle, New York Times, Guardian, El Pais, and was chosen as one of Oprah.com's Best Memoirs of 2016, a Forbidden Planet Books of the Year 2015 and one of Elle's Great Feminist Books of All Time.

Art from BECOMING UNBECOMING:





## THE GIANT DARK

Sarvat Hasin

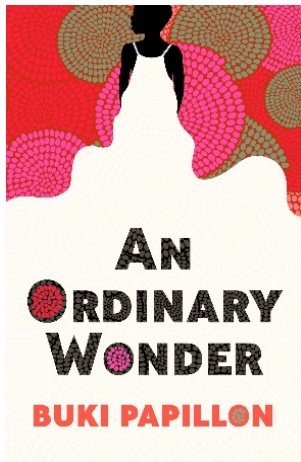
July 2021  
Dialogue  
Contemporary Fiction  
272pp

A classic retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice myth set in the modern world in which the Orpheus character, Aida, is a rockstar. It is narrated by both the characters but also by a chorus of Aida's fans, who serve as a Greek chorus.

THE GIANT DARK is a story about the destruction of love and about music. It is an interracial love story: Aida and Ehsan's different cultures influence everything about their love, relationship, friendship and families.

THE GIANT DARK is a classic retelling with echoes of *Swing Time* and it feels really relevant to contemporary life.

**SARVAT HASIN** is the winner of the Mo Siewcharan Prize for fiction 2019. All the judges, including Candice Carty-Williams, Guy Gunaratne and editor Sharmaine Lovegrove were unanimous in their decision.



## AN ORDINARY WONDER

Buki Papillon

March 2021  
Dialogue  
Contemporary Fiction  
336pp

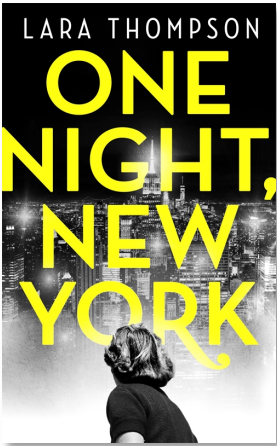
An extraordinary literary debut from a Nigerian-born author about a boy's secret intersex identity and his desire to live as a girl

*My name is Otolurin. I've been called monster. Within dark valleys of flesh I defy the given - a snake curled in upon itself, two-in-one, mythical and shunned. Yet, in that magic place between worlds, in the realm where the great mother gives milk to her offspring, I become like a goddess.*

Oto's wealthy and powerful family is ashamed of their identity and treats Oto cruelly to ensure silence. The love from Oto's twin sister wavers in a world of secrets and lies that seems determined to tear them apart, and Oto must make drastic choices that will alter the whole family's lives for ever.

Richly imagined with African mythology, art and folk tales, this moving and modern book follows Oto through life at home and at boarding school in Nigeria, and their ultimate dream of emigrating to a new life in the United States. It is a novel that explores complex desires as well as challenges of family, identity, gender and culture. AN ORDINARY WONDER takes us on a beautiful journey of what it means to feel whole.

**BUKI PAPILLON** was born in Nigeria. She studied law at Ibadan University and then moved to England for further law studies. She has since completed an MFA in Creative Writing at Lesley University in Massachusetts. She is an alumnus of the VONA Voices Workshops for writers of colour, and the recipient of several scholarships and award.



# ONE NIGHT, NEW YORK

Lara Thompson

January 2021  
Virago  
Crime & Mystery  
336pp

**Rights sold:**  
Dutch (De Fontein)

The Virago/The Pool New Crime Writer Award was set up to find an original and exciting new voice in crime fiction and received over two hundred entries in its first year. Thompson won a publishing contract with Virago as well as two hours of mentoring from Jill Dawson courtesy of Gold Dust mentoring. Val McDermid gave Thompson the award in person at the Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival in Stirling.

A delicious detective story set in 1930s New York, and the winner of the inaugural Virago/The Pool New Crime Writer Award.

One winter night in 1932, at the top of the Empire State Building, Frances and Agnes, possible lovers and co-conspirators, are waiting for a man who has done something terrible to both of them. They plan to seek the ultimate revenge.

Set over the course of a single night, with flashbacks to the weeks leading up to the potential murder, ONE NIGHT, NEW YORK is a detective story, a romance and a coming-of-age tale. It is also a story of old New York, of bohemian Greenwich Village between the wars, of floozies and artists and addicts, of a city that sucked in creatives and immigrants alike, lighting up the world, while all around America burned amidst the heat of the Great Depression.

**LARA THOMPSON** teaches film at Middlesex University, and is the author of *Film Light: Meaning and Emotion*. Born in Cornwall, she now lives in London. ONE NIGHT, NEW YORK is her first novel.



# HAG: FORGOTTEN FOLKTALES RETOLD

Various authors

October 2020  
Virago  
Folklore, myths & legends  
304pp

Dark, potent and uncanny, hag bursts with the untold stories of our isles, captured in voices as varied as they are vivid.

Here are sisters fighting for the love of the same woman, a pregnant archaeologist unearthing impossible bones and lost children following you home. A panther runs through the forests of England and pixies prey upon violent men.

From the islands of Scotland to the coast of Cornwall, the mountains of Galway to the depths of the Fens, these forgotten folktales howl, cackle and sing their way into the 21st century, wildly reimagined by some of the most exciting women writing in Britain and Ireland today.

Includes short stories by **Daisy Johnson, Eimear McBride, Emma Glass, Kirsty Logan, Natasha Carthew, Mahsuda Snaith, Liv Little, Naomi Booth, Imogen Hermes Gower, Irenosen Okojie.**

Cover  
coming  
soon



## DAUGHTERS OF THE LABYRINTH

Ruth Padel

July 2021  
Corsair  
Literary fiction  
304pp

**RUTH PADEL** is an award-winning poet, journalist and broadcaster. She lives in North London with her daughter.

*I keep thinking how to paint that glance you feel but do not see. The moment when one person is transformed by another. The gift of someone looking at you from the dark.*

*We have never thought we were immune. We have been invaded for millennia and know we need protection. Hand sanitizer or God's word at your door. A smoke cross at Easter, a sword of healing in the mosque.. Keep a goldfinch against the plague. Do what the doctor says.*

**An artist turns back to her roots and discovers they are not what she thought. Daughters of the Labyrinth is a contemporary story, for an era of instability and coronavirus, about love, loss and memory, parents and children, the fragility of life, and the forgotten Jews of Crete.**

How well do you know your mother? Ri is an artist living between two cultures. Born on the Greek island of Crete, land of myth, ancient ruins and mass tourism, she has lived and worked in London most of her life. When her English husband dies in an accident, and their daughter goes away to New York, she turns to her Cretan roots only to discover they are filled with long-hidden secrets. Her parents were teenagers during the German occupation of Crete. Unearthing their stories, their layers of loss and changed identities, transforms her relationship to them and to herself.

Poignant, gripping and surprising, set in Crete and London in 2019-2020 against a backdrop of global uncertainty, with Brexit looming in the UK, the refugee crisis in Greece still groaning from austerity, and coronavirus about to explode on the world, Daughters of the Labyrinth explores the hold of the past on the present through three intertwining lives.



# THE HUNTING SEASON

Tom Benjamin

November 2020  
Constable  
Crime & Mystery  
336pp

A gripping and atmospheric crime thriller set in the beautiful Italian city of Bologna, perfect for fans of Donna Leon, Michael Dibdin and Philip Gwynne Jones.

It's truffle season and in the hills around Bologna the hunt is on for the legendary Boscuri White, worth more than its weight in gold. But when an American truffle 'supertaster' goes missing, English detective Daniel Leicester discovers not all truffles are created equal. Did the missing supertaster bite off more than he could chew?

As he goes on the hunt for Ryan Lee, Daniel discovers the secrets behind 'Food City', from the immigrant kitchen staff to the full scale of a multi-million Euro business. After a key witness is found dead at the foot of one of Bologna's famous towers, the stakes could not be higher. Daniel teams up with a glamorous TV reporter, but the deeper he goes into the disappearance of the supertaster the darker things become. Murder is once again on the menu, but this time Daniel himself stands accused. And the only way he can clear his name is by finding Ryan Lee...

**TOM BENJAMIN** grew up in the suburbs of north London and began his working life as a journalist before becoming a spokesman for Scotland Yard. He later moved into public health, where he developed Britain's first national campaign against alcohol abuse, Know Your Limits, and led drugs awareness programme FRANK. He now lives in Bologna.

Also available:



# RABBIT HOLE

Mark Billingham

July 2021  
Little, Brown  
Crime/Thriller  
400pp

HOW CAN SHE FIND A KILLER...  
...WHEN SHE'S LOST HERSELF?

They were meant to be safe on Fleet Ward: psychiatric patients monitored, treated, cared for. But now one of their number is found murdered, and the accusations begin to fly.

Was it one of his fellow patients? A member of staff? Or did someone come in from the outside?

DC Alice Armitage is methodical, tireless, and she's quickly on the trail of the killer.

The only problem is, Alice is a patient too.

The shocking, original and completely unpredictable new novel from multi-million selling master Mark Billingham is a standalone thriller to keep readers up at night.

**MARK BILLINGHAM** has twice won the Theakston's Old Peculier Award for Crime Novel of the Year, and has also won a Sherlock Award for the Best Detective created by a British writer. Each of the novels featuring Detective Inspector Tom Thorne has been a Sunday Times bestseller.

**Option publishers**  
US (Grove)  
Norwegian (Cappelen Damm)

**Praise for Mark Billingham:**

Tom Thorne is one of the most credible and engaging heroes in contemporary crime fiction. Mark Billingham is a master of psychology, plotting and the contemporary scene - making the Thorne novels the complete package. Twenty years in and better than ever - **Ian Rankin**

Mark Billingham is one the biggest names in crime fiction and one the genre's most formidable talents - **Peter James**

Billingham is always a must read - **Harlan Coben**

Also available:







## THE VERDICT

C. J. Cooper

February 2021  
Constable  
Crime/Thriller  
304pp

You set him free. But what if you were wrong?

When Natalie finds herself on the jury of a rape trial, she is shaken when the verdict of 'not guilty' is greeted by a scream from the public gallery. As the weeks after the trial pass, she can't shake the feeling that they made a terrible mistake with their verdict; that a dangerous man could be walking free. Crossing paths with the accused man by chance, Natalie decides that she has no option but to get close to find out the truth. But as things slip increasingly out of control, the lines between right and wrong - innocent and guilty - become blurred. Just how far will she go to set the verdict right?

This is a shocking, dark and addictive thriller about obsession and revenge. Perfect for fans of *Blood Orange* and *Anatomy of a Scandal*.

**C. J. COOPER** graduated with a degree in Ancient History and Egyptology and spent seven months as a development worker in Nepal. On her return to Britain she joined the civil service, where she worked for 17 years on topics ranging from housing support to flooding. She hung up her bowler hat when she discovered that she much preferred writing about psychotic killers to ministerial speeches.

Option publishers  
Hungarian (Nouvion)



## TRUTH GAMES

Caroline England

November 2020  
Platkus  
Thriller/Suspense  
400pp

Family is everything to Ellie Wilson. She tries hard to be the perfect mother, the perfect partner, the perfect daughter - but she can't always seem to get it right.

When an old friend from university re-enters their lives, dark memories from Ellie's past begin to resurface. Memories that have been buried for a long time.

As Ellie starts to unravel some shocking and sinister realities, she realises that she must choose between keeping the family she loves - and facing the truth.

**CAROLINE ENGLAND** was born and brought up in Yorkshire and studied Law at the University of Manchester. She was a divorce and professional indemnity lawyer before leaving the law to bring up her three daughters and turning her hand to writing. Caroline is the author of *The Wife's Secret*, previously called *Beneath the Skin*, and the top-ten ebook bestseller *My Husband's Lies*. *BETRAY HER* was published by Platkus in 2019.





A WAKE OF CROWS

Kate Evans

June 2021  
Constable  
Crime & Mystery  
400pp

The first in a thrilling new police procedural series

Donna Morris has chosen to do her probationary year as detective constable in the small seaside town of Scarborough. But on her first day, a body is found in the woods: the corpse of Henrik Grünttor presents itself as that of a homeless man, dead from his own drug use. However, until recently, Grünttor had been working at the local GC HQ centre on the Russian section and the postmortem reveals the cause of his death to be uncertain.

Now in her early fifties, Donna has her own reasons for wanting to be in Scarborough, ones she would prefer to keep from her colleagues. For she's not been drawn there by the landscape or the light, or even the beach, but to be closer to her wayward daughter – a daughter serving time in the nearby prison for GBH. Yet beyond even this, Donna hides another secret: she grew up in East Berlin, escaping across the wall in the early 1980s.

Due to the circumstances of her past Donna is drawn to the dead man whose background is not dissimilar to hers... and her persistence reveals there are several people who wanted Grünttor dead -- and gathered around him in his final days like a wake of crows...

**KATE EVANS** has been a writer for over 30 years, and has been published in the *Guardian* and the *Independent*, among others. She has an MA in Creative Writing, Education and the Arts from Sussex University and her book, *The Art of the Imperfect* (Avenue Press Scarborough) was long-listed for the Crime Writers Association debut dagger in 2015.



DEATH ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS

C J Farrington

October 2021  
Constable  
Crime & Mystery  
336pp

Heartbreaking, funny, poignant - and crime fiction, we are introducing a wonderful and memorable protagonist, Olga Pushkin, who is Eleanor Oliphant but re-imagined in Siberia.

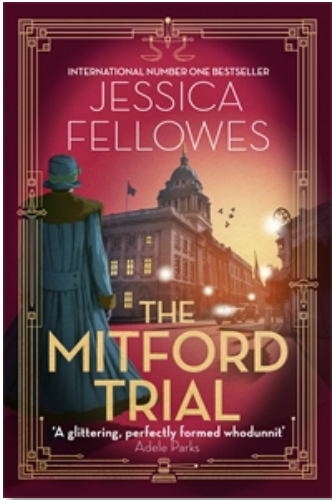
Olga Pushkin, Railway Engineer (Third Class) and would-be bestselling author, spends her days in a little rail-side hut with only Dmitri the hedgehog for company. While tourists and travellers clatter by on the Trans-Siberian Express, Olga dreams of studying literature at Tomsk State University - the Oxford of West Siberia - and escaping the sleepy, snow-clad village of Roslazny.

But Roslazny doesn't stay sleepy for long. Poison-pen letters, a small-town crime wave, and persistent rumours of a Baba Yagar - a murderous witch hiding in the frozen depths of the Russian taiga - combine to disturb the icy silence. And one day Olga arrives at her hut only to be knocked unconscious by a man falling from the Trans-Siberian, an American tourist with his throat cut from ear to ear and his mouth stuffed with 10-ruble coins. Another death soon follows, and Sergeant Vassily Marushkin, the brooding, enigmatic policeman who takes on the case, finds himself falsely imprisoned by his Machiavellian superior, Chief-Inspector Babikov.

Olga resolves to help Vassily by proving his innocence. But with no leads to follow and time running out, has Olga bitten off more than she can chew?

**Rights sold:**  
French (Hugo et Cie)  
Polish (Proszynski Media)

**CONOR FARRINGTON** is a writer and academic at the University of Cambridge and Hughes Hall, Cambridge, where his research focuses on the intersections of technology, science and politics. In addition to a collection of short stories (*A Countryman's Creel*, Merlin Unwin) and an academic book (*Quantified Lives and Vital Data*, Palgrave Macmillan), he has published features, essays and reviews in publications including the *Guardian*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Political Quarterly*, *Science*, and the *Lancet*. He has also written on classical music for publications including the *Times Literary Supplement* and *Pianist magazine* and writes CD booklets for Chandos Records and King's College Cambridge.



# THE MITFORD TRIAL

Jessica Fellowes

November 2020  
Sphere  
Historical Mystery  
368pp

A timeless whodunnit with the fascinating Mitford sisters at its heart, *The Mitford Trial* is inspired by a real-life murder in a story full of intrigue, affairs and betrayal.

It's lady's maid Louisa Cannon's wedding day, but the fantasy is shattered shortly after when she is approached by a secretive man asking her to spy on Diana Mitford - who is having an affair with the infamous Oswald Mosley - and her similarly fascist sister Unity. Thus as summer 1933 dawns, Louisa finds herself accompanying the Mitfords on a glitzy cruise, full of the starriest members of Society.

But the waters run red when a man is found attacked, with suspects everywhere. Back in London, the case is taken by lawyer Tom Mitford, and Louisa finds herself caught between worlds: of a love lost to blood, a family divided, and a country caught in conflict.

Praise for Jessica Fellowes

A lively, well-written, entertaining whodunit - **The Times on THE MITFORD MURDERS**

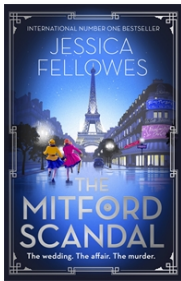
Exactly the sort of book you might enjoy with the fire blazing, the snow falling etc. The solution is neat and the writing always enjoyable - **Anthony Horowitz on THE MITFORD MURDERS**

A gripping, glamorous whodunnit - **Prima on BRIGHT YOUNG DEAD**

This accomplished, frothy, clever, historically sound and believable story with its timely reminders of the inequalities of 1920s life is huge fun to read - **Crime Review on BRIGHT YOUNG DEAD**

**JESSICA FELLOWES** is the author, of **THE MITFORD MURDERS** and **BRIGHT YOUNG DEAD**. As well as being and author, she is a journalist and public speaker, best known for her work as author of five official companion books to *Downton Abbey*, various of which have hit *the New York Times* and *Sunday Times* bestseller lists.

Also available:

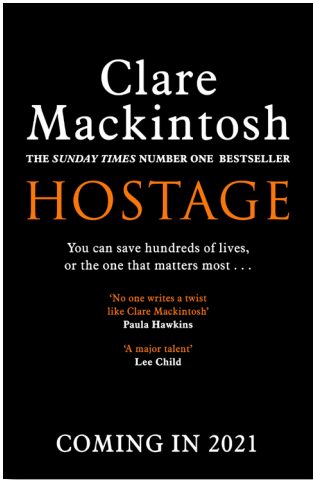


Rights sold:

- Dutch (Uitgeverij Volt)
- Finnish (Otava)
- Italian (Neri Pozza)
- US (St Martin's Press)

Option publishers:

- Czech (Euromedia)
- Danish (Politikens)
- Estonian (Varrak)
- French (J C Lattes)
- German (Piper)
- Greek (Dioptra)
- Norwegian (Gyldendal)
- Polish (HarperCollins)
- Portuguese in Brazil (Record)
- Russian (Eksmo)
- Spanish (Roca)
- Swedish (Polaris)
- Ukraine (Family Leisure Club)



## HOSTAGE

Clare  
Mackintosh

June 2021  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
400pp

**Rights Sold:**

Dutch (De Fontein)  
Finnishh (Gummerus)  
German (Droemer)  
Norwegian (Cappelen Damm)  
Frenc (Marabout)  
Estonian (Pegasus)  
Italian (Societa Editrice Milanese)  
Hungarian: *Álomgyár*  
Spanish rights under offer

**Option publishers:**

Albanian (Living)  
Arabic (Arabic Cultural Center),  
Bulgarian (Ciela Norma)  
Catalan (La Campana)  
Chinese Complex (Emily Publishing  
Company)  
Chinese Simplified (Sichuan People's US (Berkley).  
Publishing)  
Croatian (Mozaik Knjiga)  
Czech (Vikend)  
Danish (Aronsen)  
Greek (Metaixmio)  
Hebrew (Yedioth)

Hungarian (Maxim)  
Icelandic (Forlagid)  
Korean (Tornado Media)  
Latvian (Zvaigzne)  
Lithuanian (Alma Littera)  
Macedonian (Feniks)  
Polish (Proszynski Media)  
Portuguese in Portugal (Particular)  
Romanian (Editura Trei)  
Russian (AST)  
Serbian (Vulkan)  
Slovak (Albatros)  
Spanish (Debolsillo)  
Swedish (Lind & Co.)  
Thai (WeLearn)  
Turkish (Altin Kitaplar)  
Vietnamese (Phuc Minh)  
Ukraine (Vivat)

**Praise for HOSTAGE** 'Fiendishly clever. Mackintosh takes domestic suspense to new heights in this tale of a kidnapped child, hijacked plane, and two parents' desperate fight to save their family' **Lisa Gardner**

'A propulsive read—HOSTAGE will have you questioning 'what would you do?' at every turn' **Karin Slaughter**

'It felt like watching a blockbuster movie; edge of seat, nail biting, propulsive, compulsive, thrilling and just so beautifully done' **Lisa Jewell**

'When Clare Mackintosh goes high concept, she doesn't mess around . . . A true page-turner that will have producers lining up with movie offers' **Linwood Barclay**

'A nail-biter of a thriller with an unexpected gut-punch at the end – a fantastic read!' **Shari Lapena**

The stunning new novel from the number one international bestselling author of *I Let You Go*, *I See You*, *Let Me Lie* and *After The End*, Clare Mackintosh.

The atmosphere on-board the inaugural non-stop flight from London to Sydney is electric. Numerous celebrities are rumoured to be amongst the fifty-six passengers in business class and journalists will be waiting on the ground to greet the plane. Mina is one of a hand-picked team of flight attendants chosen for the landmark journey. She's trying to focus on the task in hand, and not worry about her troubled five-year-old daughter back at home with her husband. Or the cataclysmic problems in her marriage.

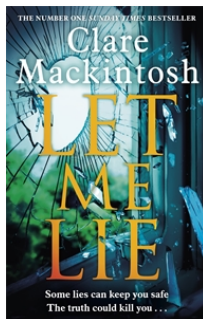
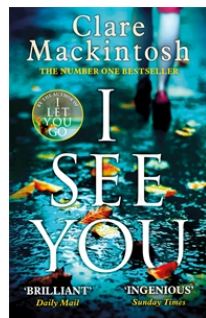
But the plane has barely taken off when Mina receives a chilling note from an anonymous passenger, someone intent on ensuring the plane never reaches its destination. Someone who needs Mina's assistance and who knows exactly how to make her comply.

It's twenty hours to landing.

A lot can happen in twenty hours . . .

With over 2 million copies of her books sold worldwide, number one bestseller **CLARE MACKINTOSH** is the multi-award-winning author of *I LET YOU GO*, which was a Sunday Times bestseller and the fastest-selling title by a new crime writer in 2015. It also won the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year in 2016. Both Clare's second and third novels, *I SEE YOU* and *LET ME LIE*, were number one *Sunday Times* bestsellers.

Also available:





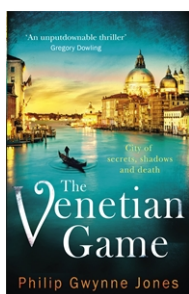
## THE VENETIAN LEGACY

Philip Gwynne Jones

April 2021  
Constable  
Crime & Mystery  
352pp

Option publishers  
German (Rowohlt)

Also available:



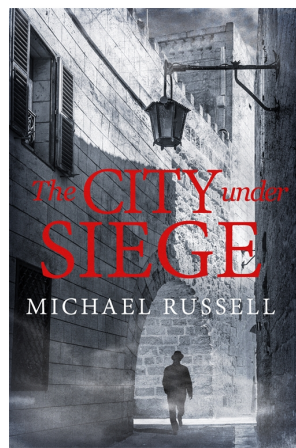
Newlyweds Nathan Sutherland and Federica Ravagnan are looking forward to weeks of sunshine and relaxation on the island of Pellestrina, in a cottage belonging to Federica's late father, Elio.

The weather is idyllic, the views across the lagoon are spectacular and the seafood is the best in Venice. But when the body of an eminent Venetian lawyer is dredged up by a fishing boat, members of the close-knit island community start to take an unhealthy interest in the two honeymooners, and whispers and rumours begin to circulate about Elio's association with a recently-deceased gang boss.

As Federica struggles to come to terms with her father's troubled legacy, Nathan finds himself dragged into the search for the missing proceeds of an unsolved jewellery heist, and the unwanted centre of attention of the Mala del Brenta - the Venetian Mafia.

Clearly Pellestrina is going to be no honeymoon...

**PHILIP GWYNNE JONES** works as a teacher, writer and translator, and lives in Venice. He enjoys cooking, art, classical music and opera; and can occasionally be seen and heard singing bass with Cantori Veneziani and the Ensemble Vocale di Venezia.



## THE CITY UNDER SIEGE

Michael Russell

July 2020  
Constable  
Crime & Mystery  
336pp

Praise for Michael Russell:

'Complex but compelling . . . utterly vivid and convincing'  
**Independent on Sunday**

'A superb, atmospheric thriller' **Irish Independent**

'A thriller to keep you guessing and gasping' **Daily Mail**

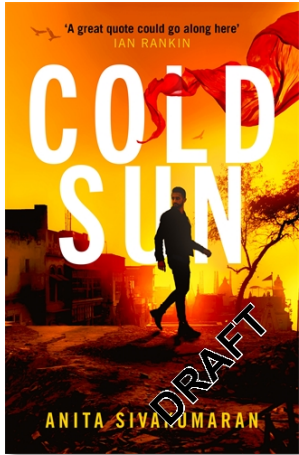
'Atmospheric' **Sunday Times**

1941, and Detective Inspector Stefan Gillespie is ferrying documents between Dublin and war-torn London. When Ireland's greatest actor is arrested in Soho, after the brutal murder of a gay man, Stefan extricates him from an embarrassing situation. But suddenly he is looking at a series of murders, stretching across Britain and Ireland. The deaths were never investigated deeply as they were not considered a priority. And there are reasons to look away now. It's not only that the killer may be a British soldier, Scotland Yard is also hiding the truth about the victim. But an identical murder in Malta makes investigation essential.

Malta, at the heart of the Mediterranean war, is under siege by German and Italian bombers. Rumours that a British soldier murdered a Maltese teenager can't go unchallenged without damaging loyalty to Britain. Now Britain will cooperate with Ireland to find the killer and Stefan is sent to Malta. The British believe the killer is an Irishman; that's the result they want. And they'd like Stefan to give it to them. But in the dark streets of Valletta there are threats deadlier than German bombs...

After a successful career as a television writer and producer, working on such series as A Touch of Frost, Midsomer Murders and Between the Lines, **MICHAEL RUSSELL** decided to write what he had always wanted to: books.





COLD SUN

Anita  
Sivakumaran

April 2021  
Dialogue  
Crime & mystery  
352pp

A superb new voice in crime fiction.

Bangalore. Three high-profile women murdered, their bodies draped in identical red saris.

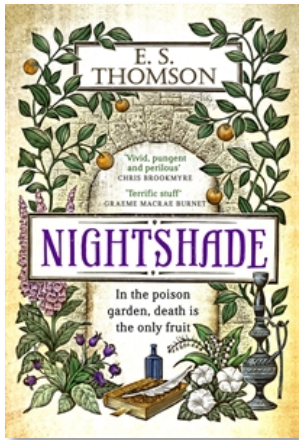
When the killer targets the British Foreign Minister's ex-wife, Scotland Yard sends the troubled, brilliant DI Vijay Patel to lend his expertise to the Indian police investigation.

Stranger in a strange land, ex-professional cricketer Patel must battle local resentment and his own ignorance of his ancestral country, while trying to save his failing relationship back home.

Soon, the killer's eyes will turn to Patel. And also to Chandra Subramaniam, the fierce female detective he is working with in Bangalore.

This breathless thriller will keep you guessing until the final, shocking revelation of the killer's identity.

**ANITA SIVAKUMARAN** holds an MA and a PhD in Creative Writing from the Universities of Lancaster and Leicester. Her novel *The Queen*, a historical novel based on real events, has been made into a web series in four languages, its trailers alone reaching 20 million YouTube views.



NIGHTSHADE

E. S. Thompson

April 2021  
Constable  
Historical mystery  
352pp

London, 1851. Restless and bored after a long hot summer, apothecary and poison expert Jem Flockhart decides to redesign her physic garden. But plans are thrown into confusion when a man's skeleton is unearthed from beneath the deadly nightshade, a smaller, child-like skeleton curled at its feet. The body bears evidence of knife wounds to its ribs and arms, and is accompanied by a collection of macabre objects: a brass bowl, a curious coin-like token, a set of tiny ivory skulls.

The police claim the victim is too long-buried for answers to be found, but for Jem, a corpse in her own garden is something that cannot be ignored. The plans to the garden, laid out some forty years earlier, reveal a list of five names.

When Jem and Will start asking questions, the murders begin. Each victim has a past connection with the physic garden; each corpse is found with its jaw broken wide and its mouth stuffed with deadly nightshade. As they move closer to uncovering the truth Jem Flockhart and Will Quartermain encounter a dark world of addiction, madness, power and death that strikes at the very heart of Jem's own history. This time, the poison is personal.

**E. S. THOMSON's** work has been longlisted for the CWA Endeavour Historical Dagger, and shortlisted for the Saltire Prize, the Scottish Arts Council First Book Award and the William McIlvanney Crime Book of the Year Award. She has a PhD in the social history of medicine, and tries to fit as much medical history into her books as possible. She works as a university lecturer by day and writes by night.



PAYDAY

Celia Walden

September 2021  
Sphere  
Thriller  
400pp

How far would you go to settle the score?

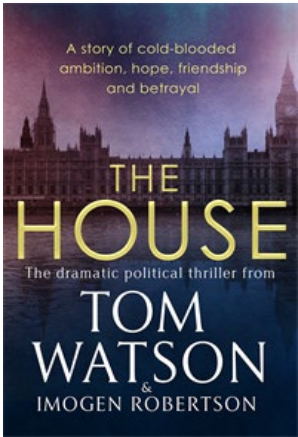
At a drunken work event, three women exchange secrets. Secrets about the co-partner and 'office golden boy' of their firm, Jamie, and how he treats his female colleagues.

Jill, Nicole and Alex - a director, a rising star, and Jamie's ex-PA - barely know each other, but now they have a common cause. If the system is against you, have to take justice into your own hands. It's time women settled the score.

But when their plan spirals out of all control, they realise things are far more complicated than they first thought. As they stand to lose everything - their careers, their relationships, and their integrity - they begin to doubt themselves and each other. After all, there are two sides to every story.

Should they have trusted the other two? Or is one of them harbouring a secret darker than any of them could have imagined?

Known for her wide-ranging articles, opinions and commentaries on everything from Fourth Wave feminism to health, beauty, fashion and motoring, *Daily Telegraph* columnist **CELIA WALDEN** has written for *Glamour*, *GQ*, *Elle*, *Porter Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar*, Net-a-Porter's The Edit, *Grazia*, *Stylist*, *Standpoint*, *The Spectator* and *Russian Vogue*. Born and raised in Paris, Celia studied at the Cambridge and now divides her time between London and LA for the past decade, where she and her husband, presenter Piers Morgan, continue to campaign against the evils of green juices and nostril waxes. **PAYDAY** is her first thriller.



THE HOUSE

Tom Watson and Imogen Robertson

October 2020  
Sphere  
Political Thriller  
384pp

In their remarkable debut political thriller, **Tom Watson**, former Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, and **Imogen Robertson** open the doors to **The House**, a place of ambition, hope, friendship . . . and betrayal.

Once allies, Labour MP Owen McKenna and Conservative Minister Philip Bickford now face each other across the House of Commons as bitter enemies. Then the reappearance of a figure from their past forces them to confront the choices that led to the tragic downfall of their former housemate, Jay.

Late one night, Owen receives a visit from a lobbyist who promises to protect him from the consequences of his actions in exchange for one, small favour - or to have his reputation and career utterly destroyed if he refuses. But that favour will sell out everything Owen believes in.

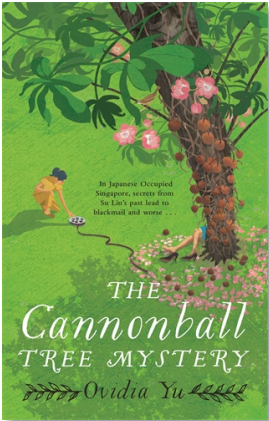
As rivals gather and whispers of wrongdoing fill the corridors of Westminster, it's clear that someone knows the truth about Jay's Icarus-like fall from grace. Now, the former friends must face one terrible truth...

Someone is responsible, and a reckoning is overdue.

**TOM WATSON** is Former Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and has been the MP for West Bromwich East since 2001. **IMOGEN ROBERTSON** is a writer of historical fiction. She is the author several novels, including the Crowther and Westerman series. Imogen has been shortlisted for the CWA Historical Dagger three times (2011, 2013 and 2014), as well as for the prestigious Dagger in the Library.

Rights sold:  
Bulgarian (BJS Ltd)





# THE CANNONBALL TREE MYSTERY

Ovidia Yu

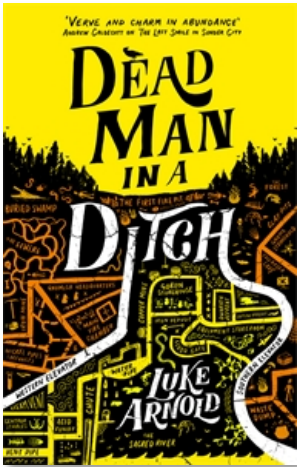
June 2021  
Constable  
Crime & Mystery  
352pp

The overpoweringly fragrant flowers, snakelike vines and deadly fruit of the Cannonball Tree are enough to keep most people away, even without the reputation of the Serpent Shrine that stands beneath it. But when a piece of expensive photographic equipment is found nearby, on closer inspection Su Lin discovers the body of Mimi, the relation who has been trying to blackmail her.

Su Lin is not the only one to realise how much easier this death- and that of the next victim found- make things for her in the new normal of life in Syonan (Japanese Occupied Singapore). But is someone really killing people on her account? Ima Fujiwara, daughter of the island's leader Col Fujiwara, suggests Su Lin's visit to the shrine summoned a Yokai demon who is now killing on her behalf.

As Su Lin contends with the fear and rancour of those around her, the resentment of former friends and a whistling demon, can she hope not only to survive but untangle the cannonball tree's secrets to prevent further deaths... and possibly turn the tide of the war?

**OVIDIA YU** is one of Singapore's best-known and most acclaimed writers. She has had over thirty plays produced and is the author of a number of comic mysteries published in Singapore, India, Japan and America.



# DEAD MAN IN A DITCH

Luke Arnold

September 2020  
Orbit  
Contemporary Fantasy  
448pp

**Rights sold:**  
German (Droemer Knaur)  
US (Orbit)  
Spanish (Trini Casa Editore)

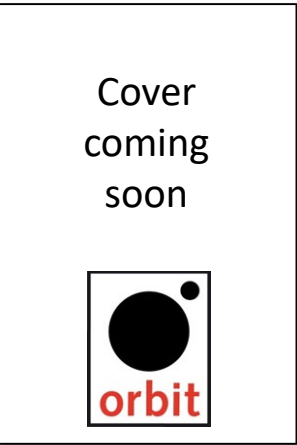
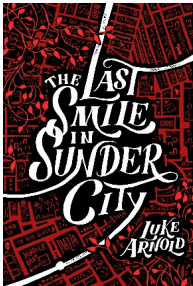
**Option publishers:**  
Portuguese in Brazil (Nova Fronteira)  
Italian (Triskell Edizioni)

The sequel to *The Last Smile in Sunder City*, and follows the adventures of Fetch Phillips - a character destined to be loved by readers of Ben Aaronovitch, Jim Butcher and Terry Pratchett's Discworld.

Like his fellow citizens in Sunder City, Fetch Philips has nothing left - no hope, no money, no magic left in the world after the war that took it all away. He has nothing left to believe in. Which is why Fetch is surprised when people begin to believe in, well, in him. Rumour has it that Fetch Philips is the man with the secret to bringing the magic back. So when a man is murdered in a way that can only be explained as magical, Fetch is brought in on the case. A case which just might unearth things best left buried...

**LUKE ARNOLD** played Long John Silver in the Emmy-winning *Black Sails*, and Michael Hutchence in the INXS mini-series *Never Tear Us Apart*. Recently he has moved into directing his own films, beginning with the upcoming short film *Gutterpunks*.

Also available:



# THE CULTURE: NOTES AND DRAWINGS

Iain M. Banks and Ken MacLeod

October 2021  
Orbit  
Sci-Fi  
320pp

**Rights sold:**  
Russian (AST)  
US (Orbit)

**Praise for the CULTURE series:**

Epic in scope, ambitious in its ideas and absorbing in its execution - **Independent on Sunday**

Banks has created one of the most enduring and endearing visions of the future - **The Guardian**

Jam-packed with extraordinary invention – **Scotsman**

Compulsive reading – **The Sunday Telegraph**.

An essential book for all Iain M. Banks fans, celebrating his Culture universe and featuring original drawings by Banks himself, with additional notes and material by Ken MacLeod

Iain M. Banks, the modern master of Sci-Fi, created many original drawings detailing the universe of his bestselling CULTURE novels. Now these illustrations - many of them annotated - are being published for the very first time in a book that celebrates Banks's grand vision, with additional notes and material by Banks's longtime friend and fellow Sci-Fi author Ken MacLeod. It is an essential addition to the collection of any Iain M. Banks fan.

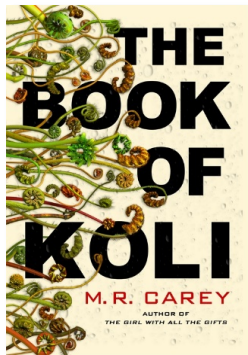
**IAIN BANKS** came to widespread and controversial public notice with the publication of his first novel, *THE WASP FACTORY*, in 1984. He has since gained enormous popular and critical acclaim for both his mainstream and his science fiction novels.

**KEN MACLEOD** is the author of twelve previous novels, five of which have been nominated for the Arthur C. Clarke Award, and two which have won the BSFA Award.

# THE RAMPART TRILOGY

M. R. Carey

Orbit  
Fantasy



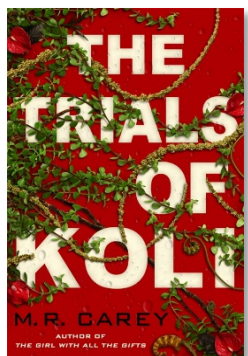
**THE BOOK OF KOLI**

April 2020

400pp

**EVERYTHING THAT LIVES HATES US . . .**

Beyond the walls of the small village of Mythen Rood lies an unrecognisable landscape. A place where overgrown forests are filled with choker trees and deadly seeds that will kill you where you stand. And if they don't get you, the Shunned men will. Koli has lived in Mythen Rood his entire life. He believes the first rule of survival is that you don't venture too far beyond the walls. He's wrong.



**THE TRIALS OF KOLI**

September 2020

480pp

**THE EARTH WANTS TO SWALLOW US WHOLE . . .**

Koli never planned to set foot outside his small village. He knew that beyond its walls lay a fearsome landscape filled with choker trees, vicious beasts and Shunned men. But when he was exiled, he had no choice but to journey out into this strange world where every moment is a fight for survival. And it's not just Koli's life that is threatened. Whole villages just like his are dying out. But Koli heard a story, once. A story about lost London, and the mysterious tech of the Old Times that may still be there. If he can find it, there may still be a way for him to change his own fate - by saving the lives of those who are left.



**THE FALL OF KOLI**

March 2021

368pp

**THE WORLD THAT IS LOST WILL COME BACK TO HAUNT US . . .**

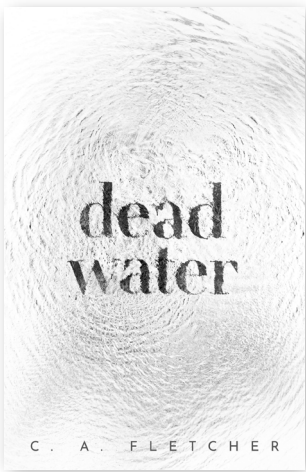
Koli has come a long way since being exiled from his small village of Mythen Rood. In his search for the fabled tech of the old times, he knew he'd be battling strange, terrible beasts and trees that move as fast as whips. But he has already encountered so much more than he bargained for. Now that Koli and his companions have found the source of the signal they've been following - the mysterious "Sword of Albion" - there is hope that their perilous journey will finally be worth something. Until they unearth terrifying truths about an ancient war . . . and realise that it may have never ended.

**Praise for THE BOOK OF KOLI:**

'A captivating start to what promises to be an epic post-apocalyptic fable . . . Narrator Koli's inquisitive mind and kind heart make him the perfect guide to Carey's immersive, impeccably rendered world' **Kirkus**

'An ingenious, dizzily provocative novel . . . Carey invents a fantastic far-future world, finding humanity in unlikely places' **Helen Marshall, World Fantasy Award-winning author**

'A thought-provoking and deeply engaging story' **C. A. Fletcher, author of A BOY AND HIS DOG AT THE END OF THE WORLD**



DEAD WATER

C. A. Fletcher

September 2021  
Orbit  
Sci-Fi  
400pp

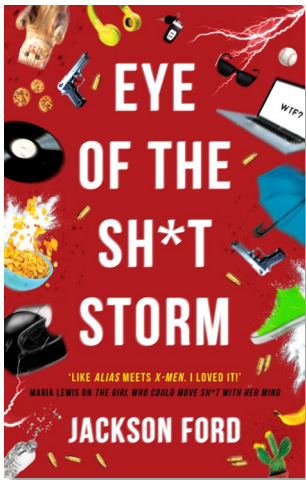
A haunting, suspenseful tale of isolation and dread within a small island community -from the author of A BOY AND HIS DOG AT THE END OF THE WORLD, perfect for fans of *The Loney* and *Station Eleven*.

A water-borne blight hits a remote community on a small island on the edge of the Northern Atlantic. The islanders are a strange mix, some island-born, some seeking a slower life away from the modern world. All have their own secrets, some much darker than others. Rumour says the illness may be a water-borne neural infection from the shellfish farm, a case of mass hysteria - or even a long-buried curse - but when ferry service fails, inconvenience grows into nightmarish ordeal as the outwardly harmonious fabric of the community is unnervingly torn apart.

C. A. FLETCHER lives in Scotland and writes for a living.

Not final cover

- Option publishers**  
Chinese (simplified) (Guomai Culture and Media)  
Czech (Mlada Fronta)  
Estonian (Tanapaev)  
French (Editions J'ai Lu)  
German (Blanvalet)  
Spanish (Planeta)  
US (Orbit)



EYE OF THE SH\*T STORM

Jackson Ford

April 2021  
Orbit  
Sci-Fi  
480pp

Teagan Frost might be getting better at moving sh\*t with her mind - but her job working as a telekinetic government operative only ever seems to get harder. That's not even talking about her car-crash of a love life . . .

And things are about to get even tougher. No sooner has Teagan chased off one psychotic kid hell-bent on trashing the whole West Coast, but now she has to contend with another supernatural being who can harness devastating electrical power. And if Teagan can't stop him, the whole of Los Angeles will be facing the sh\*tstorm of the century . . .

JACKSON FORD is a pseudonym for Rob Boffard, a South African writer currently living in Vancouver. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *Frost Files* series, about a government operative with telekinetic powers. He has released four science fiction novels under the name Rob Boffard, and was previously a journalist for over a decade, writing articles for publications and sites including the *Guardian*, the BBC, *Wired Magazine* and io9.

- Option publishers**  
German (Droemer Knaur)  
US (Orbit)

Praise for THE GIRL WHO COULD MOVE SH\*T WITH HER MIND:

Teagan is a frank and funny narrator for this wild ride . . . A fast-paced, high-adrenaline tale that manages to get into some dark themes without losing its sense of fun – **Kirkus**

Fast-paced and a lot of fun to read . . . a modern action movie that just happens to be in book form - **The Fantasy Inn**

Also available:



Cover  
coming  
soon



# THE SHADOW OF THE GODS

John Gwynne

May 2021  
Orbit  
Fantasy  
496pp

**Rights sold:**  
German (Blanvalet)  
Italian (Fanucci)

The gods are dead . . . but their power remains.

After the old gods warred and drove themselves to extinction, the cataclysm of their fall shattered the land of Vigrið.

Now a new world is rising from the ashes of the old. A world where power-hungry jarls carve out petty kingdoms, and monsters stalk the shadow-haunted woods and mountains. A world where the bones of the dead gods still hold great power, promising fame and fortune for those brave - or desperate - enough to seek them out.

As whispers of war echo over the plains and across the fjords, fate follows in the footsteps of three people: a huntress searching for her missing son, a jarl's daughter who has rejected privilege in pursuit of battle fame, and a thrall who has cast off his chains and now fights alongside the famed mercenaries known as the Bloodsworn.

All three will shape the fate of the world, as it once more teeters on the edge of chaos.

**JOHN GWYNNE** lives in East Sussex with his wife, four children and three dogs. His debut novel *Malice* won the David Gemmell Morningstar Award in 2012.

Cover  
coming  
soon



# THE BROKEN GOD

Gareth Hanrahan

May 2021  
Orbit  
Fantasy  
608pp

**Option publishers:**  
Portuguese in Brazil (Nova Fronteira)  
Russian (Eksmo)  
Spanish (Trini Casa Editora)  
Turkish (Egitim)  
US (Orbit).

**Praise for THE GUTTER PRAYER:**

A ground breaking and extraordinary novel . . . Hanrahan has an astonishing imagination – **Peter McLean**, author of *Priest of Bones*;

A gripping tale that meshes beautifully with its fascinating, darkly inventive setting – **James Islington**, author of *THE SHADOW OF WHAT WAS LOST*

Book three in the **BLACK IRON LEGACY** series.

ENTER A CITY OF DRAGONS AND DARKNESS.

The Godswar has come to Guerdon, dividing the city between three occupying powers. While the fragile Armistice holds back the gods, other forces seek to extend their influence. The criminal dragons of the Ghierdana ally with the surviving thieves – including Spar Idgeson, once heir to the Brotherhood of Thieves, now transformed into the living stone of the New City.

Meanwhile, far across the sea, Spar's friend Carillon Thay travels towards the legendary land of Khebesh, but she, too, becomes enmeshed in the schemes of the Ghierdana – and in her own past. Can she find what she wants when even the gods seek vengeance against her?

**GARETH HANRAHAN'S** three-month break from computer programming to concentrate on writing has now lasted fifteen years and counting. He's written more gaming books than he can readily recall, by virtue of the alchemical transmutation of tea and guilt into words. He lives in Ireland with his wife and twin sons. Follow him on twitter @mytholder.

Also available:





Cover  
coming  
soon



## THE ROSE DAUGHTER

Maria Lewis

April 2021  
Piatkus  
Fantasy  
320pp

**She never meant to be a hero . . .**

In fact, Dreckly Jones has made a point her whole life to be exactly not that. The daughter of a forbidden union between an earth elemental and a selkie, her rare powers have meant she has always had a target on her back.

So Dreckly – a 40-something oyster shucker according to her fake documents, 140-something sprite if you're going to get all nit-picky about it - has become an expert at many things. Chief amongst them: hiding.

When she meets a determined group of rebels who desperately need her help, she finds herself wanting to stick her neck out for the first time in a long while. Yet is she ready to be noticed? Is Dreckly willing to use her powers to stand up when it could cost her everything?

**MARIA LEWIS** has been working as a professional journalist for the past ten years. Making the switch from writing about murders to movie stars was not a difficult decision.

A former reporter at the *Daily Telegraph*, she also wrote about all things film and entertainment related as the Showbusiness Reporter for the *Daily Mail*. Her work has appeared in the *New York Post*, *Empire magazine*, *Huffington Post*, the *Sunday Mail*, *Junkee* and *BuzzFeed*, to name but a few.

Cover  
coming  
soon



## NOTES FROM THE BURNING AGE

Claire North

July 2021  
Orbit  
Science-Fiction  
464pp

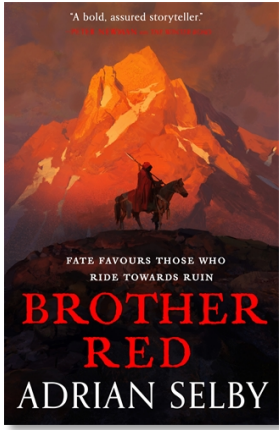
**There was a time when the world burned. And now some want to set the fire again . . .**

In Ven's world, nature is to be honoured - and feared. Because once, the spirits of the mountains, sky and sea rose up against humanity. They punished us for the crimes of the Burning Age - when we cared so little for the world that it went up in flames. And now the spirits must be appeased.

Ven was once a holy man, paying homage to these spirits of nature. It was his duty to study ancient texts from the Burning Age, and to classify those deemed heretical, for the disaster they wreaked upon the Earth. But when he becomes involved with the Brotherhood - a sinister organisation looking to use this heretical material for their own gains - the path he has chosen will lead to war . . .

**CLAIRE NORTH** is a pseudonym for Catherine Webb, a Carnegie Medal-nominated author whose debut novel was written when she was just fourteen years old. She has fast established herself as one of the most powerful and imaginative voices in modern fiction. Her first book published under the Claire North pen name was *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August*, which became a word-of-mouth bestseller and won the John W. Campbell Memorial Award.





**Rights sold**  
US (Orbit)

## BROTHER RED

Adrian Selby

January 2021  
Orbit  
Fantasy  
512pp

**A gritty and epic standalone fantasy adventure, from the author of SNAKEWOOD and THE WINTER ROAD.**

When the trade caravan Driwna Marghoster was hired to protect is attacked, she discovers a dead body hidden inside a barrel. Born of the powerful but elusive Oskoro people, the body is a rare and priceless find, the centre of a tragic tale and the key to a larger mystery... For when Driwna investigates who the body was meant for, she will find a trail of deceit and corruption which could bring down a kingdom, and an evil more powerful than she can imagine.

**ADRIAN SELBY** studied creative writing at university before embarking on a career in video game production. He is a Tolkien fanatic and an online gaming addict. His debut novel **SNAKEWOOD** is an epic and inventive fantasy about a company of mercenaries and the assassin trying to destroy them. You can find Adrian on Twitter, tweeting as @adrianlselby.



**Rights sold**  
US (Orbit)

**Option publishers**  
Czech (Host vydavatelství)

## LEGACY OF STEEL

Matthew Ward

November 2020  
Orbit  
Fantasy  
768pp

**Warfare, myth and magic collide in Legacy of Steel, the spectacular sequel to Matthew Ward's acclaimed fantasy debut, Legacy of Ash.**

A year has passed since an unlikely alliance saved the Tressian Republic from fire and darkness - at great cost. Thousands perished, and Viktor Akadra - the Republic's champion - has disappeared.

While the ruling council struggles to mend old wounds, other factions sense opportunity. The insidious Parliament of Crows schemes in the shadows, while to the east the Hadari Emperor gathers his armies. As turmoil spreads across the Republic, its ripples are felt in the realms of the divine.

War is coming . . . and this time the gods themselves will take sides.

**MATTHEW WARD** has frequently been accused of living in worlds of his own imagination, though really he lives near Nottingham.

Also available:



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