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INSATIABLE

Daisy Buchanan

February 2021 Sphere Contemporary Fiction 352pp

• Click to listen to a sample of the audiobook!

Praise for Daisy Buchannan:

You will be intoxicated by this witty and honest exploration of female desire – *Elle*

An escapist romp (with plenty of actual romps to boot) – *Cosmopolitan*

A piercing insight into the unreal demands modern women place on themselves and told with real humour and energy, we love this book so much – *Stylist*

Buchanan is an engaging, observant writer who portrays Violet's chaotic life with verve and insight. - *Sunday Express*



DEAD LUCKY

Andreina Cordani

January 2022 Atom Young Adult Fiction 272pp 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 ev₅erything from pop culture to feminism. This is her first novel.

Xav, Ed, Leni, Maxine.

They are the influencers, the lucky ones. Gifted, gilded people who have everything - fame, respect, adulation, more freebies than they can ever unbox. Their lives, loves and feuds are shared with millions of fans on the streaming platform PlayMii, and they are living the dream.

But it's broken Ed's heart.

It's crushing Maxine.

It's destroying Leni's friendships.

And it's gone to Xav's head.

Then, a masked figure walks into Xav's apartment and murders him on camera.

Also available:



As the world reels with shock, Maxine discovers Xav was sitting on a file of secrets about his fellow creators - career-destroying secrets that they'd do anything to keep hidden. And if she doesn't find the file, she could be next . . .

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.

Cover coming soon



A COLOURFUL COUNTRY ESCAPE

Anita Faulkner

April 2022 Sphere Contemporary Romance 368pp

Will an escape to the country heal Lexie's broken heart?

When vibrant but penniless Lexie is dumped by her posh boyfriend who is looking for a more financially suitable match, she decides to pack up her beloved (and aging) orange campervan Penny in search of a new path. Stumbling upon a vacancy at a family-run paint company in the Cotswolds, Lexie believes she's found her perfect match . . .

Armed with a falsified CV and campervan full of confidence, Lexie arrives at the imposing Nutgrass Hall, home of Carrington Paints, but it seems that the owner, Benedict Carrington, is less than impressed with her arrival. Crashing into wealthy Ben's colourless world with a (campervan) explosion that scares his peacocks, Lexie realises she'll have her work cut out for her if she's to convince the stuffy Benedict to trust her with rescuing his out-of-touch business. But Ben has more on his mind than just the company - his mother is determined to find him a suitable wife worthy of carrying the Carrington family name, and if he doesn't agree, she'll cut him off.

This is **ANITA FAULKNER**'s debut novel for Sphere.

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THE COVEN

Lizzie Fry

February 2021 Sphere Contemporary Fiction 448pp

• Click to listen to a sample of the audiobook!

Rights Sold:

Czech Republic (Argo) Germany (Heyne) Hungary (Cartaphilus) Spain (Planeta) Turkey (Epsilon)

Praise for THE COVEN:

A great read ... you'll be glad you picked up a copy – *Independent*

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 writing fairly fizzes off the page . . . cinematic in its vividness . . . a shrewd examination of female power and politics - Woman & Home



THE SECRETS OF ASHMORE CASTLE

Cynthia Harrod-Eagles

August 2021 Sphere Historical Fiction 512pp Behind the doors of the magnificent Ashmore Castle, secrets are waiting to be uncovered . . .

1901. When The Earl of Stainton dies in a tragic hunting accident, Giles, the eldest son of the noble Tallant family must step forward to replace him as the head of the family. But Giles has avoided the Castle and his stifling relatives for years, deciding instead to forge his own path away from the spotlight. Now, he must put aside his ambitions and honour his duty to the family.

With their world upended, the Tallants and their servants struggle to find their place in the house - and society - once again. And Giles realises that, along with the title and the castle, he's also inherited his father's significant financial troubles that threaten the security of his entire family.

In Kensington, Kitty Bayfield, the painfully shy but moneyed daughter of a Baronet, has just left school with her penniless companion Nina. Nina captures the new Earl's heart, but only Kitty can save his family from their debts, and soon Giles must choose between his duty and his heart.

The brand new series, perfect for fans of DOWNTON ABBEY, from the author of the hugely successful MORLAND DYNASTY novels.

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



THE CHARLESTON SCANDAL

Pamela Hart

April 2021 Piatkus Romance 400pp 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.

Cover coming soon



UNDER THE SAME STARS

Alexandra Heminsley

February 2022 Sphere Contemporary Fiction 400pp Clara Seymour is trying to find her feet in London, living away from home for the first time. Brought up by her domineering mother, treasuring time she can spend with her adoring father, Clara's world is brought to a standstill when her dad abruptly dies.

Then, a mystery comes to light in a letter from him.

As I am sure you are aware that before I met your mother I had a previous marriage. But what I am not sure we have ever discussed is that we had a daughter.

So begins a journey of discovery that takes Clara to remote Norway and a landscape as brutal as it is beautiful, a voyage as fraught with personal and emotional danger as the sheer cliffs and torrid seas she must cross to find out who her father really was and find the sister she's never met.

ALEXANDRA HEMINSLEY is author of three books about women, bodies and sport, including bestselling memoir *Running Like a Girl*, which has now been published in thirteen countries, and the forthcoming *Some Body to Love*. She also co-wrote Judy Murray's bestselling and William Hill Sports Book of the Year nominated *Knowing the Score*.



THE CHILDREN'S SECRET

Nina Monroe

July 2021 Sphere Contemporary Fiction 400pp *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-shatteringtragedy.

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 under that name. She has also written four adult and two young adult novels as Virginia Macgregor.

Rights sold: US (Crooked Lane)

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 RIVIERA HOUSE

Natasha Lester

September 2021 Sphere Historical Romance 464pp Rights Sold: Czech (Grada) Danish (ALPHA) German (Aufbau) Norwegian (Strawberry Publishing) US (Grand Central)

Option Publishers:

Albanian (Ombra GVG) Bulgarian (CIELA Norma AD) Dutch (De Fontein) Finnish (Gummerus) Greek (Dioptra) Italian (Newton Compton) Lithuanian (Alma Littera) Portguguese (Grupo Porto Editora) Romanian (Nemira Publishing House) Russian (Eksmo) Serbian (Laguna) Swedish (Strawberry Publishing AB)

IIII Click to listen to an audio sample of THE PARIS SECRET!

Click here to listen to Natasha Lester talking about THE RIVIERA HOUSE!

Lush, absorbing and poignant, THE RIVIERA HOUSE is the new novel from New York Times bestselling Natasha Lester.

Set in two time frames, Paris under the WWII Occupation, and present day south of France.

Paris, 1939. Éliane Dufort works at the Louvre where she and Xavier, a talented painter, son of a gallery owner, fall in love. When the Nazis invade, Xavier leaves for England. Broken-hearted, Éliane immerses herself in a secret Resistance project: to catalogue the works of art, stolen from galleries and from private ownership, that are being collected by Goering and forwarded to Germany. She is playing a dangerous game. Then a trip to a house on the Riviera plunges her into even graver danger.

The Riviera, present day: adopted Remy Lang arrives at a house she has mysteriously inherited: a stunning estate at Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. While working on her vintage fashion business, she stumbles across a catalogue of artworks stolen during WWII, and is stunned to see a painting that still hangs in her childhood bedroom. Who was her family, really? And what secrets does the Riviera House hold?

NATASHA LESTER'S fiction has sold 600,000 copies in the English language and has been translated into seventeen languages. She is the author of six novels, including the bestselling THE PARIS SEAMSTRESS and THE FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER.

Praise for Natasha Lester:

'THE PARIS SECRET is a tearjerker, so stock up on tissues, sit in a quiet corner and don't move until you've finished this extraordinary book.' *Marie Claire*

'LESTER is a master storyteller and with her latest offering she cements her place as one of Australia's best' Daily Telegraph

'Beautifully written and intimately researched [...] Lester adds rich layers and real depth to her characters. Magnifique!' – Hazel Gaynor

'Beautiful prose and immeasurable heart' Erika Robuck

Also available:











Cover coming soon



THE HOUSE ON THE EDGE

Sheila Norton

October 2021 Piatkus Contemporary Romance 320pp A cosy, heartwarming Christmas read about the blossoming friendship between a young, lonely journalist, and an old woman who lives in a house teetering on the edge of the Devon cliffs, by the bestselling author of *The Vets of Hope Green* and *The Petshop on Pennycombe Bay*.

SHEILA NORTON has written avidly since childhood and has won prizes for her short stories that have been published, mainly in women's magazines. She is married with three grown-up daughters who provide plenty of inspiration for her books! Visit her at www.sheilanorton.co.uk



BACK TO YOU

Tammy Robinson

April 2021 Piatkus Contemporary Romance 368pp

Option publishers: Czech (Grada Publishing a.s.) Polish (Wydawnictwo Iuvi 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 is torn apart just at the moment the pair 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 WOMAN, THE MINK, THE COD AND THE DONKEY

Emanuel Santos

November 2021 Sphere Parody/Humour 112pp An affectionate pastiche of *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox And The Horse,* this book features the illustrated travels of a woman looking for an open pub, along with her unlikely cohort of three animal friends

Come, dearest reader, and dive into this book. It's warm and safe in here, which you will have guessed already because it's about a human and three animals. You might not be able to remember the animals or the order they fall within the title, but that doesn't matter. The pictures will remind you that the story is about a woman, a mink, a cod and a donkey. Let us tell you a bit more about them...

The woman is embarking on an important journey. She does not know her destination, but she knows what she'll find when she gets there: an open pub. It has been a long time since she has been in one due to a strange, sad region of yester-year called 'Lockdown'.

On her travels she finds a mink. The mink is wise because he's known the cruelties of life, having been maligned because Danish minks were found to be spreading Coronavirus. The woman helps the mink forget the cruelties of life through something as old as time itself: love. The mink helps the woman withstand the journey to the pub through something else as old as time itself: wine.

As they wander on their quest, a cod and a random donkey tag along, and together they discuss their most valued life lessons, such as the value of travel insurance, and why it's always important to wear breathable pants.

What if you've already crossed paths with the love of your life?

A man and a woman live in London's vast metropolis, he at one end of the Central Line, she at the other.

A chance encounter on the Underground brings them together. But when they fall in love, it isn't just distance that separates them, but age, culture, and a love triangle so complicated it could see both their lives fall apart.

Will they ever find a way to be together, or are they destined to stay living at either end of the track?

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, Sarginson's writing experience included being a health and beauty editor on women's magazines, a ghost writer for the BBC and HarperCollins and copy-writing and script editing. Her novel THE TWINS sold into fifteen territories.

Also by Saskia Sarginson

THE CENTRAL

Saskia Sarginson

Contemporary Fiction

LINE

January 2022

Piatkus

368pp



Cover coming soon



Option publishers:

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

Click to listen to an audio sample of THE BENCH!



Cover coming soon



Rights sold: Italian (Newton Compton) Japanese (Hayakawa) US (Simon & Schuster)

THE PATRON SAINT OF SECOND CHANCES

Christine Simon

February 2022 Sphere Contemporary Fiction 352pp

The crumbling village of Prometto needs a second chance.

Self-appointed mayor and vacuum cleaner repairman, Nino Speranza is the only person who knows that - in just sixty days the water board will cut off the town, forcing all 212 inhabitants to leave. For all his searching through his Compendium of Saints, he cannot find an answer to his prayers. But he will not give up on his town, even if it means telling a little white lie...

When the locals hear that Dante Rinaldi - *the Dante Rinaldi* - is shooting his next project in town, they all want to be involved; the local butcher will even invest - if Speranza can find roles for each of his fifteen enormous sons. But just as the money is beginning to pile up, Speranza hears a different rumour. Did someone say Dante Rinaldi just checked in at the local hotel?

Funny, charming and incredibly heartwarming, this is the feelgood book we all need; a celebration of the underdog, of family and of recognising what really matters in life.

CHRISTINE SIMON grew up in a very large and very loud Italian family, where it was considered a major milestone amongst her countless siblings and cousins to surpass their nonna's towering height of four-foot, ten inches. She lives with her husband and four children, who are also extremely loud, and the crowning achievements of her life are learning to read knitting patterns and teaching her otherwise-unscrupulous miniature schnauzer to ring a bell when he wants to go out.



Not final cover

THE LAST WOMAN IN THE WORLD

Inga Simpson

January 2022 Sphere Thriller 352pp

After the fires. After the virus. They came.

It's night, and dust swirls against the walls of Rachel's home in the Australian bush. Her fear of other people has led her to a reclusive life as far from them as possible, her only occasional contact with her sister.

A hammering on the door. There stand a mother, Hannah, and her sick baby. They are running for their lives from a mysterious death sweeping the Australian countryside - so soon, too soon, after the fires.

Now Rachel must face her worst fears to help Hannah, search for her sister, and discover just what terror was born of us. . . and how to survive it.

For fans of *Birdbox* and *A Quiet Place*, this remarkable, terrifying literary horror novel comes from a multi-award-nominated writer who lived through the Australian fires.

INGA SIMPSON is the author of MR WIGG ('beautiful and absorbing' *Sydney Morning Herald*; 'Simpson is a beautiful writer' *Big Issue*). Her second novel, NEST ('[a] truly rich novel' *Sydney Morning Herald*; 'a thoroughly enjoyable, uplifting read' *Mindfood*), was longlisted in 2015 for Australia's most prestigious fiction prize, the Miles Franklin Literary Award. It was also longlisted for the Stella Prize and was shortlisted for the ALS Gold Medal.



Option publishers:

Hebrew (Matar) Italian (Corbaccio)

German (Goldmann)

Lithuanian (UAB Jotema)

Portuguese in Brazil (Record)

FREQUENCY OF US!

Russian (Azbooka-Atticus).

THE FREQUENCY OF US

Keith Stuart

March 2021 Sphere **Contemporary Fiction** 416pp

Rights sold: Vietnamese (Dinh Ti Trading) Chinese Simplified (TianJin Manyu)

Click here to listen to Keith Stuart talking about THE

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.



Not final cover

Rights sold: Italian (Neri Pozza) US (Pegasus)

THE HAUNTING SEASON: EIGHT **GHOSTLY TALES** FOR LONG WINTER NIGHTS

Various authors

October 2021 Sphere Short stories 336pp

Eight of the biggest historical writers of recent years return to the time-honoured tradition of the seasonal ghost story in this spellbinding collection of new and original haunted tales.

Long before Dickens and James popularised the tradition, the shadowy nights of winter were a time for people to gather together by the flicker of candlelight and experience the intoxicating thrill of a spooky tale.

Now eight bestselling, award-winning authors - all of them master storytellers of the sinister and the macabre - bring this tradition to life in a spellbinding new collection of original spine-tingling tales.

Taking you from the frost fens of Cambridgeshire, to the snowcovered grounds of a country estate, to a bustling London Christmas market, these mesmerising stories will capture your imagination and serve as your indispensable companion to cold, dark nights.

Featuring stories from Bridget Collins, Imogen Hermes Gowar, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Andrew Michael Hurley, Jess Kidd, Elizabeth Macneal, Natasha Pulley and Laura Purcell



EVE

Una

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

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. *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 EVE:



Option publishers:

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

Praise for EVE:

'This is a disturbing and necessary book for our times, because it leaves us with a question. In EVE, Una describes a society in crisis, a dystopia which grows ever more familiar as we turn the pages. The characters are people we know, their conversations are words we've heard, their fears and anxieties are our own. Una has held up a chilling mirror for us, and leaves us with a choice - what kind of world will we make for ourselves? It could go either way....' Jacky Fleming

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



THE GIANT DARK

Sarvat Hasin

July 2021 Dialogue Contemporary Fiction 272pp THE GIANT DARK is an award-winning debut novel about love and fame.

Aida is a rock star at her peak with a devoted cultish fanbase who follow her every move. When she disappears into a complicated love affair with an ex, they are determined to uncover her truths.

After a decade of silence, Aida and Ehsan reconnect, hoping to recreate the love they shared in their youth. When Ehsan's life unravels, he follows Aida on tour, but it becomes clear that their connection is strained by secrets and jealousies. The past blurs with their present as they follow in the footsteps of mythic lovers before them.

THE GIANT DARK is a loose retelling of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, exploring the consuming and devastating effects of using a lover as a muse.

SARVAT HASIN grew up in Pakistan and now lives in London and works at the Almeida Theatre. She studied politics and international relations at Royal Holloway and has a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of Oxford. Her first novel, *This Wide Night*, was published by Penguin India and longlisted for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature. Her second book *You Can't Go Home Again* was published in 2018 and was featured in *Vogue* India's and the *Hindu's* end of year lists. She won the Moth Writer's Retreat Bursary in 2018 and the Mo Siewcharran Prize in 2019. Her essays and poetry have appeared in publications such as Outsiders, The Mays Anthology, English PEN, and *Harper's Bazaar*.



AN ORDINARY WONDER

Buki Papillon

March 2021 Dialogue Contemporary Fiction 336pp

Rights sold: US (Pegasus)

Praise for AN ORDINARY WONDER:

AN ORDINARY WONDER blew me away [...] Deftly, wisely, Papillon weaves together strands of history and identity which are too often separated. [It] is nothing short of wonderful and anything but ordinary - Okechukwu Nzelu author of THE PRIVATE JOYS OF NNENNA MALONEY

Papillon draws on African mythology and art to create a rich, moving and uplifting story – *Stylist*

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 Otolorin. 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 parents are ashamed of Oto and are cruel 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 lives of the whole family forever.

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.

Literary Fiction



ONE NIGHT, NEW YORK

Lara Thompson

January 2021 Virago Crime & Mystery 336pp

Rights sold: Dutch (De Fontein) US (Pegasus)

Praise for ONE NIGHT, NEW YORK:

Lara Thompson's portrayal of stubborn, brave Frances is enthralling; this page-turning thriller marks her as a writer to watch - Antonia Senior, the *Times*, Best New Historical Fiction

From its breathless opening pages, ONE NIGHT, NEW YORK transports the reader to the glitter and the danger of old New York. A page-turner with style **- Erin Kelly**

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 coconspirators, 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.



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.

Praise for DAUGHTERS OF THE LABYRINTH:

Daughters of the Labyrinth is a novel about a daughter's passionate quest for the truth about what happened to her parents in Crete during the German occupation. It is also a sumptuous and sensuous evocation of Crete itself, its landscape and culture. Ruth Padel's brings a poet's eye to this world of great physical beauty and gnarled legacy - **Colm Tóibín**

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 novel is precise and contemporary, offering a poet's sense of immersion — a very present Britain and an ever-present past in Crete, both transformed by a beautiful imagination. The book is sunlit and love-drenched, magical and historical, surprising, elegant, and beautifully written. Ruth Padel's latest novel replenishes the heart.' Andrew O'Hagan, author of *Mayflies*

Cover coming soon



THE INNOCENT

ONE

Lisa Ballantyne

isticated, suspenseful, and highly recommen-

Ballantyn

a terrific debut Lee Child

THE

March 2022 Piatkus Thriller 384pp

Also by Lisa

Ballantyne:

He was the child in the headlines. Now he's on trial once again. A gripping and thought-provoking thriller from the internationally bestselling author of THE GUILTY ONE.

Innocent?

Ten years have passed, but everyone remembers the Angel Killer. Sebastian Croll was just eleven years old when accused of murdering his playmate. Criminal solicitor Daniel Hunter helped prove Sebastian's innocence in a trial that gripped the nation, and now the past is being unearthed when he gets a call from his old client.

Or guilty?

Sebastian's university professor has been murdered and everyone who knew her is a suspect. As Daniel steps in to represent Sebastian for a second time, news about the boy's past spreads like wildfire, instantly branding Sebastian as guilty. With tensions around the country rising, can Daniel prove once again that Sebastian is the innocent one? Especially when he realises it's not just Sebastian in danger, but himself

LISA BALLANTYNE is the internationally bestselling author of four novels. Her debut, THE GUILTY ONE, was a Richard and Judy Book Club bestseller, Edgar-Award nominated and translated into nearly thirty languages. Her second novel, GOOD BAD LOVE (previously REDEMPTION ROAD), was a USA Today bestseller. She lives in Glasgow, Scotland.



Click here to listen to Lisa Ballantyne talking about THE INNOCENT ONE!

In the sweltering heat of a Bologna summer, a murderer plans a pièce de résistance...

Only in Bologna reads the headline in the Carlino after a professor of music is apparently murdered after a night at the opera. English detective Daniel Leicester sets off on a trail that begins among Bologna's close-knit classical music community, and leads him to suspect there may be a serial killer at large in the oldest university in the world. And as Bologna trembles with aftershocks following a recent earthquake, the city begins to give up her secrets.

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.

Cover coming

CONSTABLE

Soon

REQUIEM IN LA ROSSA

Tom Benjamin

November 2021 Constable Crime & Mystery 352pp

Also available:







RABBIT HOLE

Mark Billingham

July 2021 Little, Brown Crime/Thriller 400pp

Option publishers US (Grove) Norwegian (Cappelen Damm)

Praise for MarkBillingham:

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

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.

My name is Alice. I'm a police officer. I'm trying to solve a murder on a psychiatric ward. But I'm also a patient...

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.

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.



Click to listen to an audio sample of CRY BABY!

Click here to listen to Mark Billingham talking about RABBIT HOLE!





THE VERDICT

C. J. Cooper

February 2021 Constable Crime/Thriller 304pp

• Click to listen to a sample of the audiobook!

Option publishers Hungarian (Nouvion)

Praise for C. J. COOPER:

Intricately plotted, this gripping thriller is written with great style and has a host of wonderful characters to be loved and hated in equal measure - Lisa Ballantyne

Immensely entertaining . . . grips and chills in equal measures - Cath Weeks

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 seventeen 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.



A WAKE OF CROWS

Kate Evans

June 2021 Constable Crime & Mystery 336pp

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 assault. Yet beyond even this, Donna hides another secret: she grew up in East Berlin, escaping across the wall in the early 1980s.

Because of 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 thirty 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.



Rights sold:

French (Hugo et Cie)

Polish (Proszynski Media)

DEATH ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS

C J Farrington

October 2021 Constable Crime & Mystery 336pp

The first in a new funny, poignant and gripping crime series.

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 ten-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?

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*.



THE VENETIAN LEGACY

Philip Gwynne Jones

April 2021 Constable Crime & Mystery 400pp

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 comes 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.

• Click to listen to an audio sample of VENETIAN GOTHIC!



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 Subramanium, 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.



THE MITFORD VANISHING

Jessica Fellowes

November 2021 Sphere Historical Mystery 400pp

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 THE MITFORD AFFAIR

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 THE MITFORD AFFAIR

Rights sold: Finnish (Otava) US (St Martin's Press) Option publishers:

Czech (Euromedia) Danish (Politikens) Dutch (Uitgeverij Volt) Estonian (Varrak) French (J C Lattés) German (Piper) Greek (Dioptra) Italian (Neri Pozza) Norwegian (Gyldendal) Polish (HarperCollins) Portuguese in Brazil (Record) Russian (Eksmo) Spanish (Roca) Swedish (Polaris) Ukraine (Family Leisure Club) A classic mystery starring the glamorous Mitford sisters and inspired real events, THE MITFORD VANISHING is the perfect story for fans of Agatha Christie.

1937. War with Germany is dawning, and a civil war already raging in Spain. Split across political lines, the six Mitford sisters are more divided than ever. Meanwhile their former maid Louisa Cannon is now a private detective, working with her policeman husband Guy Sullivan.

Louisa and Guy are surprised when a call comes in from novelist Nancy Mitford requesting that they look into the disappearance of her Communist sister Jessica in Spain. But one case leads to another as they are also asked to investigate the mysterious vanishing of a soldier.

As the two cases come together, Louisa and Guy discover that every marriage has its secrets - but some are more deadly than others. Suddenly home feels a long way away.

JESSICA FELLOWES is an author, journalist and public speaker. THE MITFORD MURDERS is her debut series as a novelist and has been nominated for awards in Britain, France, Germany and Italy, and sold into eighteen territories. Fellowes is also the author of five official companion books to *Downton Abbey*, various of which hit the *New York Times* and *Sunday Times* bestseller lists. She has written short stories for *Vogue Italia* and *L'Uomo Vogue*, and made numerous appearances on radio, podcasts and television. She lives in Oxfordshire with her family.

The previous four novels in this series are:









• Click to listen to an audio sample of THE MITFORD TRIAL!



Rights Sold:

Bulgarian (Ciela Norma) Danish (Forlaget Aronsen) Dutch (De Fontein) Estonian (Pegasus) Finnish (Gummerus) French (Marabout) German (Droemer) Greek (Metaixmio) Hungarian (Álomgyár) Italian (Societa Editrice Milanese) Lithuanian (Alma Littera) Norwegian (Cappelen Damm) Polish (Proszynski Media) Portuguese in Portugal (Particular) Russian (AST) Spanish (PRH Grupo Editorial) US (Sourcebooks Inc)

HOSTAGE

Clare Mackintosh

June 2021 Sphere Contemporary Fiction 400pp

Option publishers:

Albanian (Living) Arabic (Arabic Cultural Center), Catalan (La Campana) Chinese Complex (Emily Publishing Company) Chinese Simplified (Sichuan People's Publishing) Croatian (Mozaik Knjiga) Czech (Vikend) Hebrew (Yedioth) Hungarian (Maxim) Icelandic (Forlagid) Korean (Tornado Media) Latvian (Zvaigzne) Macedonian (Feniks) Romanian (Editura Trei) Serbian (Vulkan) Slovak (Albatros) 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

Click to listen to an audio sample of AFTER THE END!



Click here to listen to Clare Mackintosh talking about HOSTAGE!

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 two 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 fastestselling 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 LAST SUPPER

Rosemary Shrager

April 2021 Constable Historical mystery 352pp Prudence Bulstrode, once doyenne of the celebrity chef circuit, has left London behind for a peaceful retirement in the country. . . and walks straight into a murder case.

When an old television rival, Deirdre Shaw, is found dead at the Cotswolds manor house where she was catering for a prestigious shooting weekend, Prudence is asked to step into the breach. Prudence is only too happy to take up the position and soon she is working in the kitchens of Farleigh Manor.

But Farleigh Manor is the home to secrets, both old and new. The site of a famous unsolved murder from the nineteenth century, Farleigh Manor has never quite shaken off its sensationalist past. It's about to get a sensational present too. Because, the more she scratches beneath the surface of this manor and its guests, the more Prudence becomes certain that Deirdre Shaw's death was no accident. She's staring in the face of a very modern murder. . .

Cosy crime and cookery collide in this brilliant debut novel by celebrity chef **ROSEMARY SHRAGER**.



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 sculls.

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 starts asking questions, the murders begin. 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 much will your biggest mistake cost you?

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

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

But as their plan spirals out of control, and they stand to lose so much - their careers, their relationships, and their integrity - they begin to doubt themselves and each other. After all, there's more than one side to every story.

Then Jamie is found dead, apparently by his own hand. And suddenly everything is at stake.

Was it a mistake to trust each other? And just how much will one mistake cost them?

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 brought up in Paris, Walden 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 CANNONBALL TREE MYSTERY

Ovidia Yu

June 2021 Constable Crime & Mystery 320pp

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Click to listen to an audio sample of THE MIMOSA TREE MYSTERY!

Other titles in the series:







THE MEMOSA THE ANSTER THE ANSTER THE ANSTER 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 deathand 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.

Coming in 2022: THE SORROWLESS TREE MYSTERY

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.

• Click to listen to a sample of the audiobook!



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.

• Click to listen to a sample of the audiobook!



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

M.R. CAREY'S novel THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS sold over a million copies and was turned into a major film in 2016 starring Glenn Close and Gemma Arterton. Under the name Mike Carey he has written for both DC and Marvel, including critically acclaimed runs on X-Men and Fantastic Four, Marvel's flagship superhero titles.

Rights sold:

Bulgarian (Studio of A), Books 1 and 2 French (L'Atalante) German (Festa Verlag) US (Orbit)



DEAD WATER

C. A. Fletcher

January 2022 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. He is the author of A BOY AND HIS DOG AT THE END OF THE WORLD (Orbit, 2019)

Option publishers Chinese (simplified) (Guomai Culture and Media)

Not final cover

Czech (Mlada Fronta) Estonian (Tanapaev) French (Editions J'ai Lu) German (Blanvalet) Russian (AST) Spanish (Planeta) US (Orbit)



EYE OF THE SH*T STORM

Jackson Ford

April 2021 Orbit Sci-Fi 496pp 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 carcrash 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 US (Orbit)

Also available:

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**

I Click to listen to an audio sample of RANDOM SH*T FLYING THROUGH THE AIR!



Sci-Fi and Fantasy



THE SHADOW OF THE GODS

John Gwynne

May 2021 Orbit Fantasy 496pp

Rights sold: German (Blanvalet) Italian (Fanucci)

Praise for THE SHADOW OF THE GODS

A masterfully crafted, brutally compelling Norse-inspired epic - Anthony Ryan

A duly exciting start to the series - Publishers Weekly

A masterclass in storytelling. - FanFiAddict

Quintessential Gwynne honed to perfection, sharpened to a deadly edge and it does NOT disappoint.. - **The Tattooed Book Geek**

The first title in the BLOODSWORN saga.

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.



THE BROKEN GOD

Gareth Hanrahan

May 2021 Orbit Fantasy 608pp

Rights sold: Russian (Eksmo) **Option publishers:** Portuguese in Brazil (Nova Fronteira) Spanish (Trini Casa Editora) Turkish (Egitim)

Praise for THE GUTTER PRAYER:

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

US (Orbit).

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:



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THE ROSE DAUGHTER

Maria Lewis

NOTES FROM

THE BURNING

Claire North

Science-Fiction

AGF

July 2021

Orbit

464pp

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.



Rights sold: US (Orbit)

Praise for Claire North:

'North's talent shines out' *Sunday Times* 'North is an original and even dazzling writer' *Kirkus* 'An irresistible haunting thrill' Joe Hill author of *Horns* and *Locke and Key*

'North goes from strength to strength' *Guardian* 'A master of ingenious plotting and feats of imagination' Alex Marwood, author of *The Wicked Girls* 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.

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THE EMPEROR OF JUSTICE

Richard Swan

April 2022 Orbit Fantasy 432pp

Featuring a protagonist unlike any you've seen before (think Geralt of Rivia meets Matthew Shardlake) THE EMPEROR OF JUSTICE is an unmissable epic fantasy debut packed full of gritty intrigue, intense action and startling magic

Sir Konrad Vonvalt is an Emperor's Justice - a feared lawman granted the combined powers of a detective, judge and executioner. His only purpose is to uphold the law in the Emperor's name, through any means necessary. To this end, Vonvalt travels the Empire, dispensing justice by way of his sharp intellect, magical powers and - when necessary - a strong sword arm.

Yet these are dangerous times, even for a Justice. The hinterlands are rife with rebels and heretics, while in the imperial capital a powerful alliance of patricians and knights seeks to overthrow the Order of Justices and claim the Order's arcane secrets for their own.

Vonvalt cares little for imperial politics. But when he investigates the murder of a provincial noblewoman, he uncovers a startling web of lies and deceit . . . and a conspiracy that might bring the Empire of the Wolf to its knees.

THE EMPEROR OF JUSTICE is the first in Richard Swan's new trilogy. Book two will be published in 2023 and book three will be published in 2024. Rights in the first book have already sold in three territories.

RICHARD SWAN was born in North Yorkshire and spent most of his early life on Royal Air Force bases in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. After studying law at the University of Manchester, Swan was Called to the Bar in 2011. He subsequently retrained as a solicitor specialising in commercial litigation. When he is not working, Swan can be found in London with his wonderful wife Sophie, where they attempt to raise, with mixed results, their two very loud sons.

Rights sold:

Czech (Host vydavatelstvi s.r.o.) (Book 1) German (Piper Verlag GmbH) (Books 1-3) US (Orbit) (Books 1-3)

Sci-Fi and Fantasy

Cover coming soon



Option publishers: French (J'ai Lu) German (Golkonda Publishing) Romanian (Nemira Publishing) Russian (ST Licence Agency) Spanish (Alianza Editorial) Turkish (Eksik Parca Yayincilik)

US (Orbit)



Also by Tade Thompson:



Tade Thompson

FAR FROM THF

LIGHT OF

HEAVEN

October 2021 Orbit Fantasy 320pp The first in Tade Thompson's new Space Opera series.

The colony ship Ragtime docks in the Lagos system, having travelled light years from home to bring one thousand sleeping souls to safety among the stars.

Some of the sleepers, however, will never wake - and a profound and sinister mystery unfolds aboard the gigantic vessel. Its skeleton crew are forced to make decisions that will have repercussions for all of humanity's settlements - from the scheming politicians of Lagos station, to the colony planet of Bloodroot, to other far flung systems and indeed Earth itself.

Arthur C. Clarke Award winner Tade Thompson makes a triumphant return to science fiction with this unforgettable vision of humanity's future in the chilling emptiness of space.

TADE THOMPSON is the author of Rosewater, which was the winner of the 2019 Arthur C. Clarke Award, the inaugural winner of the Nommo Award and a John W. Campbell finalist. His Shirley Jackson Award-shortlisted *novella The Murders of Molly Southbourne* has recently been optioned for screen adaptation. Born in London to Yoruba parents, he lives and works on the south coast of England where he battles an addiction to books.

Click to listen to an audio sample of ROSEWATER INSURRECTION!



LEGACY OF LIGHT

Matthew Ward

August 2021 Orbit Fantasy 768pp

Rights sold US (Orbit) **Option publishers** Czech (Host vydavatelstvi)

Also available:





Warfare, myth and magic collide in LEGACY OF LIGHT, the spectacular conclusion to Matthew Ward's acclaimed Legacy trilogy.

For the first time in many years, the Tressian Republic and the Hadari Empire are at peace. But war never sleeps.

In Tregard, Empress Melanna Saranal struggles to protect a throne won at great cost.

In Tressia, Lord Protector Viktor Droshna pursues forbidden power to restore all he's lost.

As the sins of the past are once more laid bare, every road leads to war. Darkness gathers, alliances shatter and one final battle looms. What hope remains, lies within the light.

MATTHEW WARD has frequently been accused of living in worlds of his own imagination, though really he lives near Nottingham with his extremely patient wife and several attention-seeking cats.

Praise for the series:

'A hugely entertaining debut' John Gwynne

'Epic fantasy as it should be; big, bold and very addictive' Starburst

'Incredible action scenes' Fantasy Hive

'Magnificent and epic' Grimdark Magazine

• Click to listen to an audio sample of LEGACY OF ASH!

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