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## BOOK GROUP

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FICTION  
FRANKFURT 2021





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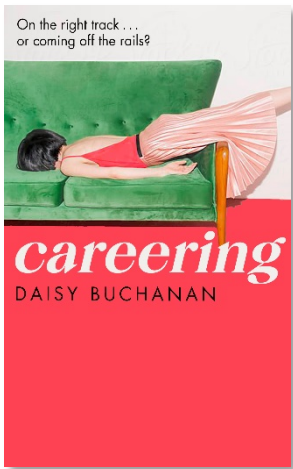
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Titles in CAPITALS are published by Little, Brown, titles in *Italics* are not.



Cover not final

## CAREERING

Daisy  
Buchanan

March 2022  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
368pp

**DAISY BUCHANAN** is an award-winning journalist and author and her fans include Marian Keyes, Nina Stibbe and Dolly Alderton. 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.

The new novel from Daisy Buchanan, the queen of the unconventional love story. What's the most toxic love story in your life... what about the one with your job?

Harri has poured her life into her job at Panache magazine, losing friendships, the love of her life, and increasingly, her sanity. She knows it will all be worth it when she gets the top job. Until she's side lined, passed over for promotion and forced into running 'a new venture', which everyone knows is code for 'being pushed out'.

Imogen has had to hustle her whole professional life to cling onto an industry that favours the privileged. When Harri offers her a job, putting an end to her constant sofa-surfing, she feels like all her dreams are coming true. But her fairy-tale ending soon sours as she finds herself putting more and more of herself into writing for a company that doesn't care if she sinks or swims.

Harri and Imogen both thought they loved their jobs, but it is becoming increasingly clear that their jobs do not love them. Together, they stage a rebellion the only way they know how. But what will the view look like from the other side? Hilarious and unflinchingly honest, CAREERING takes a hard look at the often toxic relationship working women have with their dream jobs.

**Praise for Daisy Buchanan:**

'Daisy Buchanan writes about all the chaos and conflict of being a young woman in a hard-edged, hard-faced world' *Red*  
'Buchanan is absolutely fearless' *The Gloss, Irish Times*  
'An engaging, observant writer' *S Mag*



## DEAD LUCKY

Andreina  
Cordani

January 2022  
Atom  
Young Adult Fiction  
336pp

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.

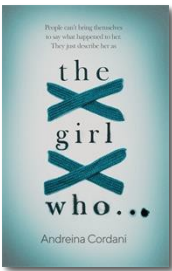
And it's gone to Xav's head.

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

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.

Also available:





# A COLOURFUL COUNTRY ESCAPE

Anita Faulkner

June 2022  
Sphere  
Contemporary Romance  
368pp

A COLOURFUL COUNTRY ESCAPE is the debut novel from an exciting new talent in commercial women’s fiction. With heart-warming and a community of colourful characters, this uplifting tale of family and friendship is the perfect escapist summer read for fans of Sue Moorcroft, Heidi Swain, Jo Thomas and Jenny Hale.

## 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.

**ANITA FAULKNER** writes warm and fuzzy romcoms from her upcycled bureau in the south west of England. She grew up sniffing books and devouring stories. And she insists it was perfectly normal to squirrel boxes of pretty stationery that felt far too magical to actually use. She's also accumulated a brave and patient husband and a strong-willed little boy who brighten up her world. This is her debut novel for Sphere



# KILL FOR IT

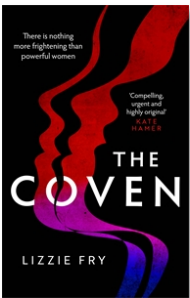
Lizzie Fry

August 2022  
Sphere  
Contemporary thriller  
384pp

### Option publishers:

- Czech (Argo spol. S.r.o)
- German (Heyne Verlag)
- Hungarian (Cartaphilus)
- Spanish (Planeta)
- Turkish (Epsilon)

Also available:



## How far would you go for the thing you want most? Would you... kill for it?

Erin Goodman is a very good reporter. Up until recently, in fact, she was the best.

Cat Sullivan suddenly seems to have the inside scoop, she's always in the right place at the right time for the juiciest news reports.

When Cat just happens to be in the area when a murder is called in, Erin can no longer ignore the long run of coincidences giving Cat's career a boost.

But Cat knows Erin is onto her. And Cat is more than happy to toy with her colleague, especially if it gets her an even bigger story to report on.

In the game of cat and mouse, there can be only one winner.

**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.



UNDER THE  
SAME STARS

Alexandra  
Heminsley

July 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*.



DINNER WITH  
THE SCHNABELS

Toni Jordan

March 2022  
Hachette Australia  
Contemporary fiction  
400pp

**A novel about marriage, love and family.**

Things haven't gone well for Simon Larsen lately. He adores his wife, Tansy, and his children, but since his business failed and he lost the family home, he can't seem to get off the couch. Simon is permanently unemployed and permanently unshaven.

His larger-than-life in-laws, the Schnabels - Tansy's mother, sister and brother - won't get off his case.

To keep everyone happy, Simon needs to do one little job: he has a week to landscape a friend's backyard for an important Schnabel family event.

But as the week progresses, Simon is derailed by the arrival of an unexpected house guest. Then he discovers Tansy is harbouring a secret. As his world spins out of control, who can Simon really count on when the chips are down?

Life with the Schnabel family is messy, chaotic and joyful, and Dinner with the Schnabels is as heartwarming as it is outrageously funny.

**Praise for Toni Jordan:**

'A wonderful, witty treat of a novel - a new Toni Jordan is always a special pleasure' **Liane Moriarty**

'Laugh-out-loud funny' **The Australian Women's Weekly**

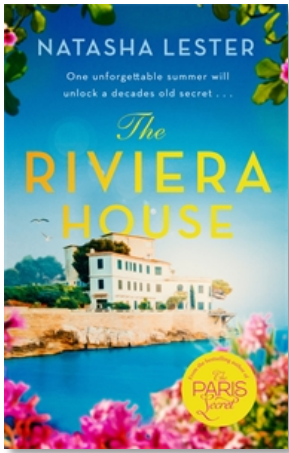
'Crisp and clever' **Saturday Paper**

'An emotionally rich domestic drama' **The Australian**

'Pitch-perfect blend of intelligence, compassion and humour' **The Guardian**

**TONI JORDAN** has worked as a molecular biologist, quality control chemist, TAB operator and door-to-door aluminium siding salesperson. She is the author of six novels including the international bestseller *Addition*, which was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Award, *Nine Days*, which was awarded Best Fiction at the 2012 Indie Awards and was named in Kirkus Review's top 10 Historical Novels of 2013, and *Our Tiny, Useless Hearts*, which was longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award. Toni has been published widely in newspapers and magazines. She holds a Bachelor of Science in physiology and a PhD in Creative Arts.





# THE RIVIERA HOUSE

Natasha Lester

September 2021 (eBook)  
July 2022 (paperback)  
Sphere  
Historical Romance  
464pp

**Rights Sold:**  
Czech (Grada)  
Danish (ALPHA)  
German (Aufbau)  
Italian (Newton Compton)  
Norwegian (Strawberry Publishing)  
Swedish (Strawberry Publishing AB)  
US (Grand Central)

**Option Publishers:**  
Albanian (Ombra GVG)  
Bulgarian (CIELA Norma AD)  
Dutch (De Fontein)  
Finnish (Gummerus)  
Greek (Dioptra)  
Lithuanian (Alma Littera)  
Portuguese (Grupo Porto Editora)  
Romanian (Nemira Publishing House)  
Russian (Eksmo)  
Serbian (Laguna)



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:**

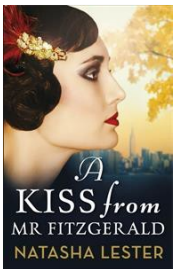
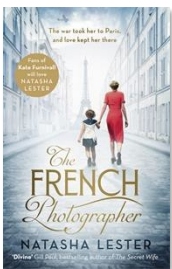
‘THE PARIS SECRET is a tearjerker, so stock up on tissues, sit in a quiet corner and don't move until you've finished this extraordinary book.’ *Marie Claire*

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

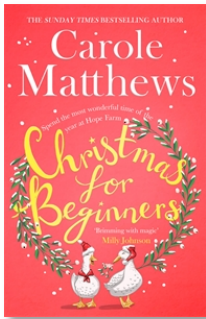
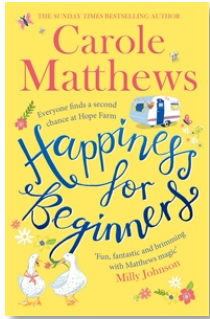
'Beautifully written and intimately researched [...] Lester adds rich layers and real depth to her characters. Magnifique!' – **Hazel Gaynor**

‘Beautiful prose and immeasurable heart’ **Erika Robuck**

Also available:







VARIOUS TITLES

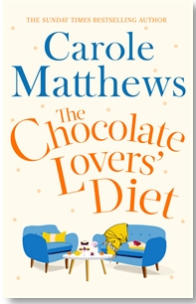
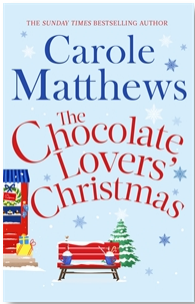
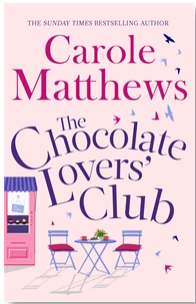
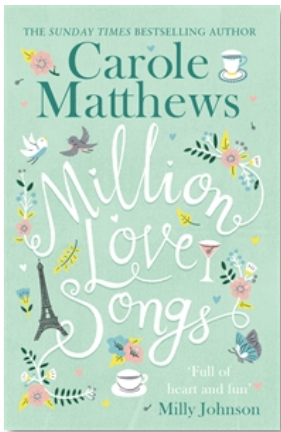
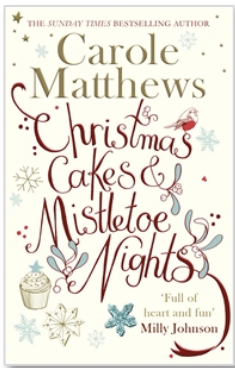
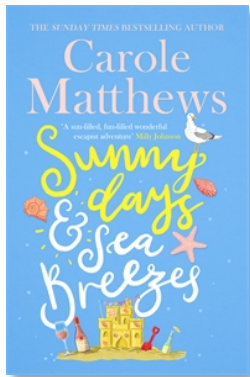
Carole Matthews

Various  
Sphere  
Modern and contemporary fiction  
400pp

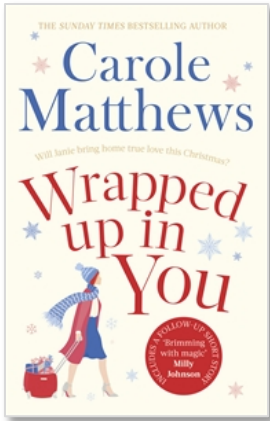
Why do readers love Carole Matthews?

'So warm' **Jenny Colgan**  
'The perfect escape' **Woman**  
'Gorgeous' **Katie Fforde**  
'I laughed and cried and marvelled'  
**Cathy Bramley**  
'Witty, funny and incredibly touching'  
**Heat**

**Eight** *Sunday Times* Top Ten bestsellers in the last five years: MILLION LOVE SONGS, PAPER HEARTS AND SUMMER KISSES, A COTTAGE BY THE SEA, THE CAKE SHOP IN THE GARDEN, THE CHOCOLATE LOVERS' WEDDING, THE CHOCOLATE LOVERS' CHRISTMAS, CALLING MRS CHRISTMAS and THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

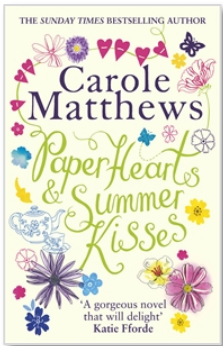


Over **five million copies** sold of all Carole Matthews titles (print and eBook)



**Titles available:**

- WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD
- THE CHOCOLATE LOVERS' CLUB
- THE CHOCOLATE LOVERS' DIET
- IT'S A KIND OF MAGIC
- ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE
- THE DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES
- TAHAT LOVING FEELING
- IT'S NOW OR NEVER
- THE ONLY WAY IS UP
- WRAPPED UP IN YOU
- SUMMER DAYDREAMS
- WITH LOVE AT CHRISTMAS
- A COTTAGE BY THE SEA
- CALLING MRS CHRISTMAS
- A PLACE TO CALL HOME
- THE CHRISTMAS PARTY
- THE CAKE SHOP IN THE GARDEN
- THE CHOCOLATE LOVERS' CHRISTMAS
- THE CHOCOLATE LOVERS' WEDDING
- PAPER HEARTS AND SUMMER KISSES
- CHRISTMAS CAKES AND MISTLETOE NIGHTS
- MILLION LOVE SONGS
- HAPPINESS FOR BEGINNERS



**CAROLE MATTHEWS** is the *Sunday Times* bestselling author of over thirty novels, including the top ten bestsellers THE CAKE SHOP IN THE GARDEN, A COTTAGE BY THE SEA, PAPER HEARTS AND SUMMER KISSES, CHRISTMAS CAKES AND MISTLETOE NIGHTS, MILLION LOVE SONGS and HAPPINESS FOR BEGINNERS. 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.

**Rights sold**

- Croatian (Mozaik Knjiga)
- Czech (Grada)
- German (Rowohlt)
- Hungarian (Cartaphilus)
- Italian (Newton Compton)
- Norwegian (Cappelen Damm)
- Slovene (HKZ)



# WINTER AT CLIFF'S END COTTAGE

Sheila Norton

December 2021  
Piatkus  
Contemporary Romance  
320pp

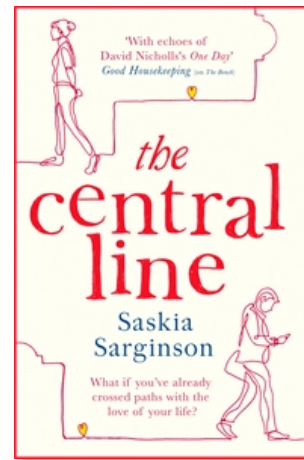
**SHEILA NORTON** has written avidly since childhood and has won prizes for her short stories that have been published, mainly in women's magazines. She is married with three grown-up daughters who provide plenty of inspiration for her books! Visit her at [www.sheilanorton.co.uk](http://www.sheilanorton.co.uk)

'The house is small but solid looking, with a grey slate roof and whitewashed walls. You can see it from quite a long way off, especially during these cold months of winter, when there's nothing but the gloomy sky and the circling seagulls interrupting the view. It's on its own, sitting up there so close to the edge.'

Cliff's End Cottage is a local landmark. Perched on the South Devon coast, its garden has begun slowly toppling into the sea, yet the elderly and infamously stubborn owner Stella refuses to leave her home. When Holly, a young journalist and single mum struggling to make ends meet, decides to interview Stella about her life, at first she's given short shrift. However, helped by a slice or two of cake and a couple of friendly cats, a tentative friendship begins to develop between the two lonely women.

Stella and Holly may live different lives, but over the cold winter nights, as Stella shares her story, the two women discover more and more in common. Time is running out for the house on the edge, but perhaps, together, Stella and Holly can find a new way forward.

A heart-warming, uplifting story full of empathy, where two women from different generations find that a new friend - no matter how late in life they may appear - can mean everything.



# THE CENTRAL LINE

Saskia Sarginson

January 2022  
Piatkus  
Contemporary Fiction  
368pp

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.

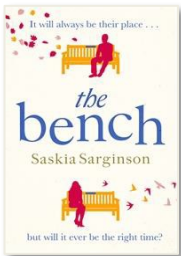
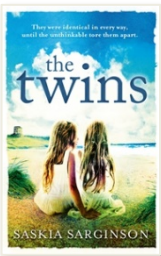
A chance encounter on the Underground brings them together. But when they fall in love, it isn't just distance that separates them, but age, culture, and a love triangle so complicated it could see both their lives fall apart.


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.

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

Also by Saskia Sarginson



 Click to listen to an audio sample of **THE BENCH!**



## THE PATRON SAINT OF SECOND CHANCES

Christine Simon

January 2022 Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
352pp

### Rights sold:

Italian (Newton Compton)  
Japanese (Hayakawa)  
US (Simon & Schuster)

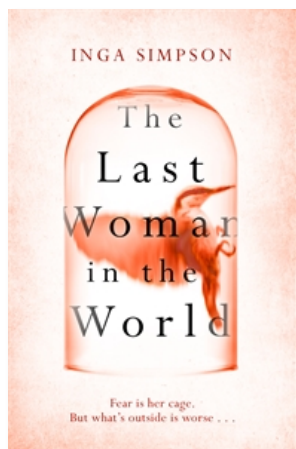
The crumbling village of Prometto needs a second chance.

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 feel-good 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.



## THE LAST WOMAN IN THE WORLD

Inga Simpson

January 2022  
Sphere  
Thriller  
352pp

Fear is her cage. But what's outside is worse...

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 everything.

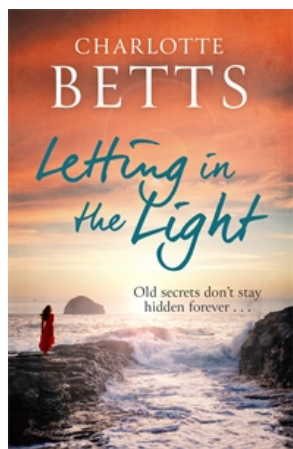
Now Rachel must face her worst fears to help Hannah, search for her sister, and discover just what terror was born of us. . . and how to survive it.

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.

Click here to listen to Inga Simpson talking about THE LAST WOMAN IN THE WORLD!





## LETTING IN THE LIGHT

Charlotte Betts

January 2022

Piatkus

Historical Fiction

384pp

**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, Betts 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.

### The second book in the SPINDRIFT TRILOGY

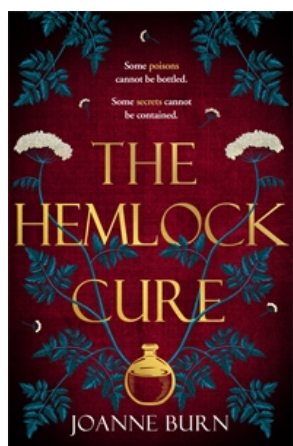
1914 Spindrift House, Cornwall

Edith Fairchild's good-for-nothing husband, Benedict, deserted her when their children were babies. Now the children are almost adult, Edith and Pascal, her faithful lover of two decades, are planning to leave their beloved Spindrift artists' community and finally be together.

But an explosive encounter between Benedict and Pascal forces old secrets into the light, causing rifts in the happiness and security of the community. Then an assassin's bullet fired in faraway Sarajevo sets in motion a chain of events that changes everything.

Under the shadow of war, the community struggles to eke out a living. The younger generation enlist or volunteer to support the war effort, facing dangers that seemed unimaginable in the golden summer of 1914.

When it's all over, will the Spindrift community survive an unexpected threat? And will Edith and Pascal ever be able to fulfil their dream?



## THE HEMLOCK CURE

Joanne Burn

February 2022

Sphere

Historical Fiction

336pp

### Praise for THE HEMLOCK CURE:

In a wholly original take on the Eyam story, Joanne Burn's elegant prose, rich in authentic detail, results in a rewarding and timely read " Sarah Burton, author of *The Strange Adventures of H*

"Lyrically written, The Hemlock Cure propels the reader into the seventeenth-century world of potions and mystery. These are not powerless women but women with their own sense of ambition and destiny." Rhiannon Ward, author of *The Quickenin*

"A beautiful, bewitching and powerful tale of brave women's lives. I absolutely loved it." Roz Watkins, author of *The Devil's Dice*  
 "The writing is exquisite, the period detail sensuous and immersive. I can't stop thinking about this beautiful story." emma carroll, author of *Frost Hollow Hall*

It is 1665 and the women of Eyam keep many secrets.

Isabel Frith, the village midwife, walks a dangerous line with her herbs and remedies. There are men in the village who speak of witchcraft, and Isabel has a past to hide. So she tells nobody her fears about Wulfric, the pious, reclusive apothecary.

Mae, Wulfric's youngest daughter, dreads her father's rage if he discovers what she keeps from him. Like her feelings for Rafe, Isabel's ward, or the fact that she studies from Wulfric's books at night.

But others have secrets too. Secrets darker than any of them could have imagined.

When Mae makes a horrifying discovery, Isabel is the only person she can turn to. But helping Mae will place them both in unimaginable peril.

And meanwhile another danger is on its way from London. One that threatens to engulf them all . . .

Based on the real history of an English village during the Great Plague, *The Hemlock Cure* is an utterly beguiling tale of fear and ambition, betrayal, self-sacrifice and the unbreakable bond between two women.

**JOANNE BURN** was born in Northampton in 1973, and now lives in the Peak District where she works as a writing coach. Her first novel, *Petals and Stones* (Legend Press), was published in 2018. The *Hemlock Cure* is her second novel.

Cover  
coming  
soon

sphere

THE AFFAIRS OF  
ASHMORE  
CASTLE

Cynthia Harrod-  
Eagles

August 2022  
Sphere  
Historical Fiction  
512pp

Option publishers

Czech (Euromedia)  
Slovak (Ikar)

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 second novel in the Ashmore Castle series, perfect for fans of *Downton Abbey*, from the author of the hugely successful MORLAND DYNASTY novels

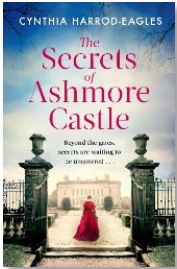
Behind the doors of the magnificent Ashmore Castle, secrets are waiting to be uncovered . . .

The new Earl of Stainton, struggling to bring his family's estate back to order after the death of his father, has little time to spare for his young pregnant wife Kitty. She lives in fear of her mother-in-law, who won't give up the reins of the household. Will she ever truly be mistress of Ashmore Castle? Perhaps if her coming child is a boy, that will change the balance of power...

Meanwhile, the Earl's younger sisters are having their first taste of romance, but not necessarily with the right people. Richard is pursuing his forbidden relationship with Molly, while Nina makes a lively new friend who leads her straight into trouble and pushes her relationship with her husband to the limit.

And below stairs, ambition, jealousy and revenge stalk the corridors, while a tragic suicide, a tender romance, and finally a mysterious disappearance challenge the Castle's residents, both high and low . . .

Also available:



Cover  
coming  
soon

dg

THE SECRET  
DIARIES OF  
CHARLES IGNATIUS  
SANCHO

Paterson Joseph

October 2022  
Dialogue  
Historical Fiction  
352pp

An illuminating and original tale of black writer and composer Charles Ignatius Sancho. Recently named as a Great Black Briton, this brilliant story charts the life of the little-known maverick and his life in Regency London in a witty polemic, we have grown to love through many great 18th Century English writers. Candid and characterful, illuminating and illustrious this is a great opportunity to revive the history of an important, engaging historical character to a wide audience.



THE HAUNTING SEASON: EIGHT GHOSTLY TALES FOR LONG WINTER NIGHTS

Various authors

October 2021  
Sphere  
Short stories  
304pp

**Rights sold:**  
Italian (Neri Pozza)  
Russia (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber)  
US (Pegasus)

**Praise for THE HAUNTING SEASON:**  
“You won’t find a more thrilling winter read this year, or a better line up of writers who have mastered the gothic and ghostly.” **SARA COLLINS**, *The Confessions of Frannie Langton*  
  
“The chilling tales of The Haunting Season will make you feel oddly cosy, in the way that only the best ghost stories can. Exquisitely crafted from some of the finest British writers, I enjoyed every word.” **FRANCINE TOON**, author of *Pine*  
  
“Gorgeous, macabre, beautifully crafted . . . a brilliant re-making of an old tradition, and this is a book destined to be read and re-read through many a long winter night” **AMANDA MASON**, author of *The Wayward Girls*

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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 snow-covered 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





# ANTIGONE

Hollie McNish

October 2021  
Fleet  
Plays  
260pp

As the daughter of Oedipus, Antigone was dealt a cruel hand at birth - even within the bounds of Grecian tragedy. When her brothers are slain fighting for the throne of Thebes, Antigone finds herself pitted against her uncle, the newly crowned King Creon. In defiance of the king, Antigone buries her brother's body, a choice she may pay for dearly.

In this new adaptation, we see Sophocles' play reignited by bestselling poet and writer Hollie McNish. Hollie's considered retelling brings Sophocles' original text to a modern-day audience, illuminating the remarkable resemblances between ancient Greek thought and the society we grapple with today.

**HOLLIE MCNISH** is an award-winning poet based between Cambridge and Glasgow. She won the Ted Hughes Award for *NOBODY TOLD ME* and has published three other collections - *Plum*, *Cherry Pie* and *Papers*.



# HERE AGAIN NOW

Okechukwu Nzelu

March 2022  
Dialogue  
Contemporary Fiction  
240pp

A novel about lovers, fathers and sons. About vulnerability, losses, love and regrets.

Achike Okoro is an up and coming actor, soon to star in the career-making film 'Here Again Now.' His friend Ekene is lost, moving from one unfulfilling relationship to another, estranged from his family and recently made redundant from his job as a drama teacher.

A few years ago, their lives had been on similar trajectories: both of them young, both Nigerian-British, both gay and living in Manchester. Ekene and Achike have always been more than just friends and now it feels like they are on the cusp of fully admitting that to one another. But beneath the façade of success, Achike is someone who is confused by affection and how to receive it. He expresses his love in acts of martyrdom, and it is this that causes him to take in his father, Chibuikwe, who relies on drink to numb his failure to connect with his son.

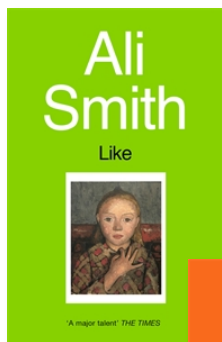
With the three of them living together in Achike's house, it is Ekene and Chibuikwe who will come together in the aftermath of a devastating event to try and make sense of the complexity of these relationships.

**KECHUKWU NZELU** is a writer and teacher. In 2015 he was the recipient of a New Writing North Award. In 2020 his debut novel, *THE PRIVATE JOYS OF NNENNA MALONEY*, won a Betty Trask Award and was shortlisted for the Betty Trask Prize, the Desmond Elliott Prize, and the Polari First Book Prize. He lives in Manchester and is a Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Lancaster.

Also available:

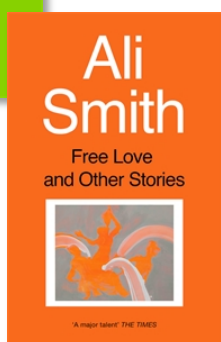


Cover not final



## LIKE / FREE LOVE

Ali Smith



August 2021  
Virago  
Contemporary Fiction  
352pp

**ALI SMITH** won the Saltire First Book of the Year award and a Scottish Arts Council Book Award for FREE LOVE (Virago 1995). She lives in Cambridge. She reviews regularly for Scotland on Sunday.

Reissues of Ali Smith's LIKE and FREE LOVE AND OTHER STORIES.

### LIKE

There's Amy and there's Ash. There's ice and there's fire. There's England and there's Scotland. Ali Smith evokes the twin spirits of time and place in an extraordinarily powerful first novel, which teases out the connections between people, the attractions, the ghostly repercussions. By turns funny, haunting and disconcertingly moving, LIKE soars across hidden borders between cultures, countries, families, friends and lovers. Subtle and complex, it confounds expectations about fiction and truths.

### FREE LOVE

A teenage girl finds unexpected sexual freedom on a trip to Amsterdam. A woman trapped at a dinner party comes up against an ugly obsession. The stories in Free Love are about desire, memory, sexual ambiguity and the imagination. In the harsh light of dislocation, the people in them still find connections, words blowing in the street, love in unexpected places. Ali Smith shows how things come together and how they break apart. She disconcerts and affirms with the lightest touch, to make us love and live differently.

*A sweetly memorable collection ... A major talent* - **THE TIMES**

*Beautifully written in precise, poetic prose that successfully evokes the love of like for like* – **OBSERVER**

*This impressive debut novel... is full of subtleties and surprises* - **SUNDAY TIMES**

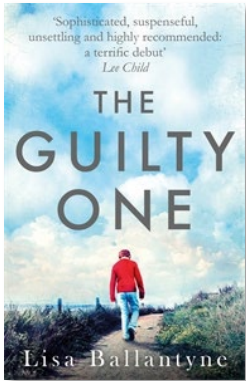


# THE INNOCENT ONE

Lisa Ballantyne

March 2022  
Piatkus  
Thriller  
352pp

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!](#)



# REQUIEM IN LA ROSSA

Tom Benjamin

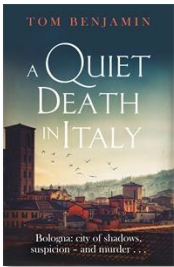
November 2021  
Constable  
Crime & Mystery  
352pp

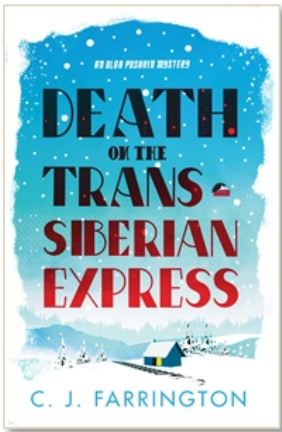
In the sweltering heat of a Bologna summer, a murderer plans a pièce de résistance...

*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. A **QUIET DEATH IN ITALY** is the first novel in his Daniel Leicester crime series.

Also available:





# DEATH ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS

C J Farrington

October 2021  
Constable  
Crime & Mystery  
336pp

**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*.

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?

Book two, *BLOOD ON THE SIBERIAN SNOW*, coming March 2022.



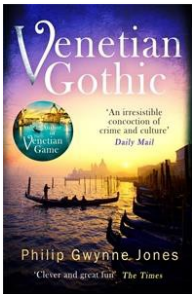
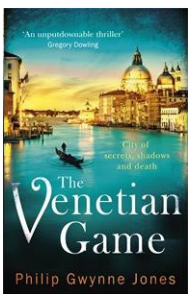
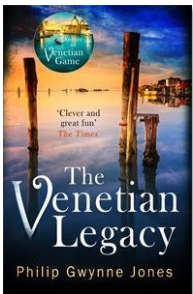
# THE ANGELS OF VENICE

Philip Gwynne Jones

July 2022  
Constable  
Crime & Mystery  
384pp

**Option publishers**  
German (Rowohlt)

Also available:



It's the night of 12 November 2019. The worst flooding in 50 years hits the city of Venice. 85% of La Serenissima is underwater. Gale force winds roar across the lagoon and along the narrow streets. And the body of Dr Jennifer Whiteread - a young British art historian, specialising in the depiction of angels in Venetian painting - is found floating in a flooded antique bookshop on the Street of the Assassins.

As the local police struggle to restore order to a city on its knees, Nathan Sutherland - under pressure from the British Ambassador and distraught relatives - sets out into the dark and rain-swept streets in an attempt to discover the truth behind Whiteread's death.

The trail leads to the "Markham Foundation", a recent and welcome addition to the list of charities working to preserve the ancient city. Charming, handsome and very, very rich, Giles Markham is a well-known and popular figure in the highest Venetian social circles, and has the ear of both the Mayor and the Patriarch.

But a man with powerful friends may also have powerful enemies. And Nathan is about to learn that, in Venice at least, angels come in many forms - merciful, fallen and vengeful...

**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*!



## NICK REVILL SERIES

### Philip Gooden

Constable  
Crime & Mystery

**History meets mystery in this gripping series set in the bustling theatrical world of Shakespeare in the reign of Elizabeth I.**

**SLEEP OF DEATH:** Nick Revill, a young actor in the newly established Chamberlain's Men company at the Globe Theatre in Southwark, is offered lodging in a mansion nearby by a melancholy black-clad youth. Learning upon his arrival that his host's father has just died and his mother has instantly remarried his uncle, Nick is naturally struck by the similarities between the man's woeful story of the Eliot family and Shakespeare's latest play for the Chamberlain's Men.

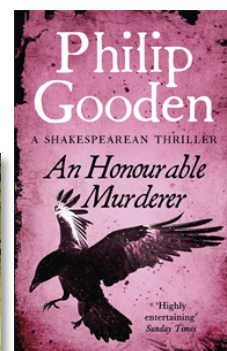
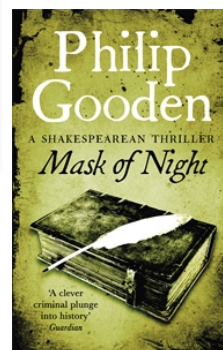
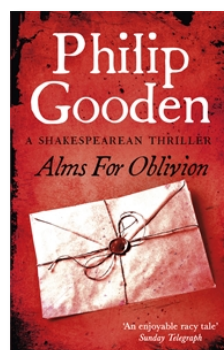
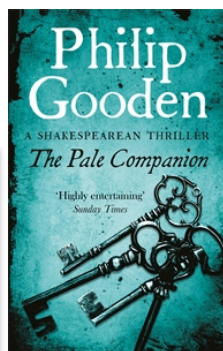
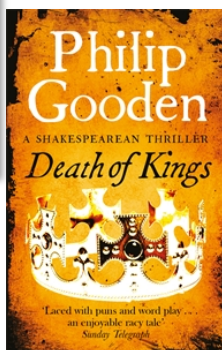
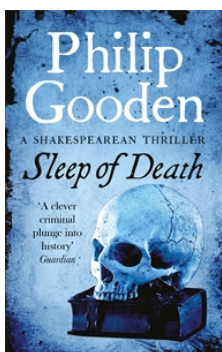
Nick suspects foul play and sets out to discover the circumstances of the old man's death. Already convinced that something is indeed very rotten in the state of the wealthy Eliot household, Nick stumbles upon evidence that proves his host's father did not die a death entirely natural. More disturbingly, the finger of suspicion points towards his employer, and Nick finds himself investigating his employer, the celebrated playwright and shareholder in the Chamberlain's Men: Mr. William Shakespeare . . .

#### Praise for Phillip Gooden:

Welcome to Elizabethan England where . . . Gooden will give you a gratifying taste of the danger and excitement of that lusty place and time - *Publishers Weekly*

[A] merry outing . . . all highly entertaining. - *Sunday Times*

The witty narrative, laced with puns and word play so popular in this period, makes this an enjoyable racy tale - *Sunday Telegraph*



**PHILIP GOODEN** is a graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford. He writes books about language as well as historical crime novels. The former include *Who's Whose? A No-Nonsense Guide to Easily-Confused Words*, *The Story of English*, and (as co-author) *Idiomantics* and *The Word at War*. He has been nominated for a CWA Ellis Peters Historical Dagger Award.



# THE MITFORD VANISHING

Jessica Fellowes

November 2021  
Sphere  
Historical Mystery  
416pp

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 .

### Praise for JessicaFellowes

A lively, well-written, entertaining whodunit - **the Times** on **THE MITFORDMURDERS**

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**

**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.

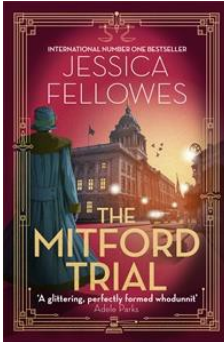
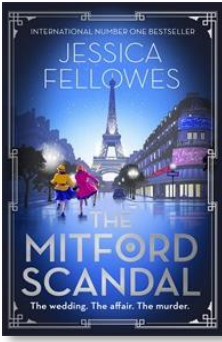
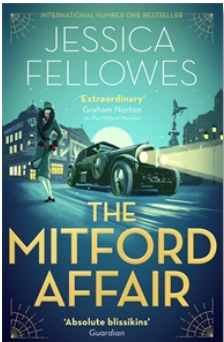
The previous four novels in this series are:

### Rights sold:

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

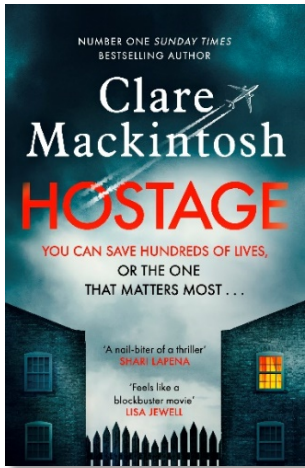
### Option publishers:

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



 Click to listen to an audio sample of **THE MITFORD TRIAL**





# HOSTAGE

Clare Mackintosh

June 2021  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
400pp

**RightsSold:**

- 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)
- Romanian (Editura Trei)
- Russian (AST)
- Spanish (PRH Grupo Editorial)
- US (Sourcebooks Inc)

**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)
- 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, ClareMackintosh.

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.

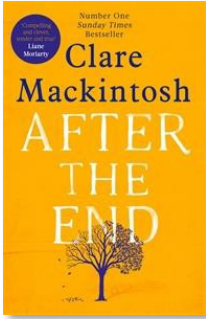
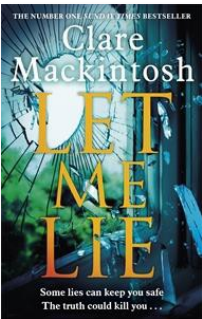
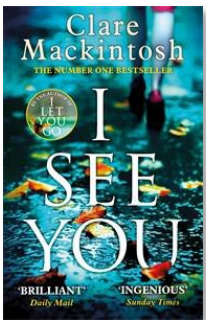
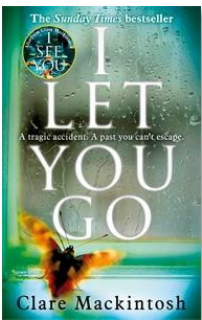
But the plane has barely taken off when Mina receives a chilling note from an anonymous passenger, someone intent on ensuring the plane never reaches its destination. Someone who needs Mina’s assistance and who knows exactly how to make her comply.

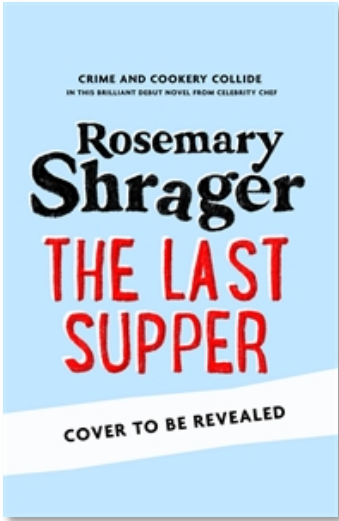
It’s twenty hours to landing.

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 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 LAST SUPPER

Rosemary Shrager

February 2022  
Constable  
Contemporary mystery  
288pp

**Rights sold:**  
Norwegian (Gyldendal)

Book two (TWO MANY COOKS) will be published in 2023 and book three (THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING) will be published in 2024.

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.

**ROSEMARY SHRAGER** is one of Britain and America's national treasures. She began her cookery career working for Pierre Koffmann at Chelsea's La Tante Claire and Jean-Christophe Novelli, gradually discovering her passion and talent for teaching. Thus her cookery school at Amhuinnsuidhe Castle off the Scottish coast was born, and in 2003 she moved to Swinton Park, a beautiful castle hotel in North Yorkshire, where for nearly a decade her courses for home cooks were a sellout.



# COLD SUN

Anita Sivakumaran

August 2021  
Dialogue  
Crime & mystery  
352pp

**Rights sold:**  
Russian (Eksmo)

Book two (BLACK RAIN) will be published in August 2022.

A superb new voice in crime fiction.

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

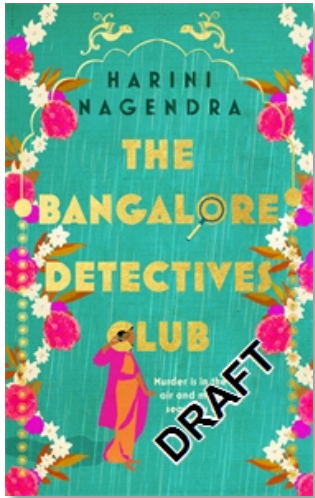
When the killer targets the British Foreign Minister's ex-wife, Scotland Yard sends the troubled, brilliant DI Vijay Patel to lend his expertise to the Indian police investigation.

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.



# THE BANGALORE DETECTIVES CLUB

Harini Nagendra

April 2022  
Constable  
Crime and Mystery  
304pp

**HARINI NAGENDRA** is a Professor of Sustainability at Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India, and the author of *Nature in the City: Bengaluru in the Past, Present and Future*. She received a 2013 Elinor Ostrom Senior Scholar award for her research and practice on issues of the urban commons, and a 2007 Cozzarelli Prize with Elinor Ostrom from the Proceedings of the US National Academy of Sciences for research on sustainability. *The Bangalore Detectives Club*, the first book in the Detective Kaveri mysteries, is her first fiction novel.

The first in a charming, joyful cosy crime series set in 1920s Bangalore, featuring sari-wearing detective Kaveri and her husband Ramu. **THE BANGALORE DETECTIVES CLUB** is perfect for fans of the Baby Ganesh Agency series, and Alexander McCall Smith.

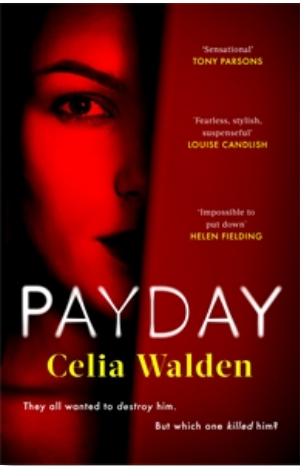
When eighteen-year-old Kaveri moves to Bangalore to marry handsome young doctor Ramu, she's long resigned herself to a quiet domestic life. At least she can go swimming and practise algebra (trying not to arouse the suspicion of her mother-in-law, who would not find them suitable hobbies for a respectable Indian bride).

But a storm is brewing and whispers of revolution against the British Raj are in the air. When Ramu is invited to an infamous party at the Century Club - a venue where Indians are free to drink and dine alongside British folk - Kaveri bears witness to something terrible. By moonlight, under a coconut tree, a murder most foul occurs.

Initially led by concern for the victim's family, Kaveri launches a private investigation to find the killer - and embarks on an unexpected adventure of her own, realising that her obsession with truth, logical mind and unflappable nerves are perfectly suited to detective work. (Having a doctor for a husband helps too.)

And she's going to need them all as the case leads her deeper into a hotbed of danger, sedition and intrigue in Bangalore's darkest alleyways . . .

Can Kaveri solve the crime before the next full moon?



# PAYDAY

Celia Walden

September 2021  
Sphere  
Thriller  
368pp

**Rights sold:**  
Portuguese in Brazil (Editora Nova Fronteira Ediouro)  
Spanish (Trini Casa Editora)

**Praise for PAYDAY:**  
'Impossible to put down' **HELEN FIELDING**  
'Fearless, stylish, suspenseful and immensely entertaining' **LOUISE CANDLISH**  
'This year's most electrifying ride' **CHANDLER BAKER**  
'Ratchets up the tension until the final couldn't-see-it-coming twist'  
**ELLERY LLOYD**  
'Sensational. The best book you'll read all year about where men and women are right now.' **TONY PARSONS**  
'I inhaled it' **JESSICA FELLOWES**

## 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 THREE DAHLIAS

Katy Watson

July 2022  
Constable  
Crime and Mystery  
304pp

Three rival actresses team up to solve a murder at the stately home of the author who made them famous - only to discover the solution lies in the stories themselves. A contemporary mystery with a Golden Age feel, perfect for fans of Agatha Christie and Jessica Fellowes.

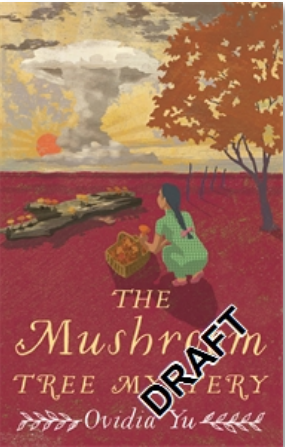
In attendance: the VIP fans, staying at Aldermere; the fan club president turned convention organiser; the team behind the newest movie adaptation of Davenport's books; the Davenport family themselves - and the three actresses famous for portraying Lettice's 1930s detective, Dahlia Lively.

National treasure Rosalind King, from the original movies. TV Dahlia for thirteen seasons, Caro Hooper. And ex-child star Posy Starling, fresh out of the fame wilderness (and rehab) to take on the Dahlia mantle for the new movie.

Each actress has her own interpretation of the character - but this English summer weekend they will have to put aside their differences, as the crimes at Aldermere turns anything but cosy.

When fictional death turns into real bodies, can the three Dahlias find the answers to the murders among the fans, the film crew, the family - or even in Lettice's books themselves?

Growing up in a family of murder mystery addicts, **KATY WATSON** learned early to look for means, motive and opportunity. After studying English Literature - with a sideline in crime fiction - at Lancaster University, she set about teaching herself to write her own stories, while also experiencing enough of the world to have things to write about. Two careers, a lot of airmiles, one husband, two children, three houses and forty five published books for children and adults later, lockdown finally gave her the means, motive and opportunity to create her own murder mystery - with the aid of her scientist husband's knowledge of poisons. Three Dahlias is the result.



# THE MUSHROOM TREE MYSTERY

Ovidia Yu

June 2022  
Constable  
Crime & Mystery  
352pp

The Allies have defeated Germany in Europe, but Japan refuses to surrender the East.

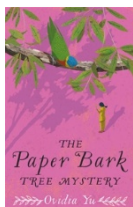
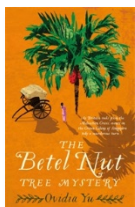
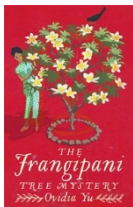
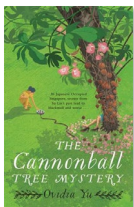
In Singapore, amid rumours the Japanese occupiers are preparing to wipe out the population of the island rather than surrender, a young aide is found murdered beneath the termite mushroom tree in Hideki Tagawa's garden and his plans for a massive poison gas bomb are missing. To prevent any more destruction it falls to Su Lin to track down the real killer with the help of Hideki Tagawa's old nemesis, the charismatic shinto priest Yoshio Yoshimo.

**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.

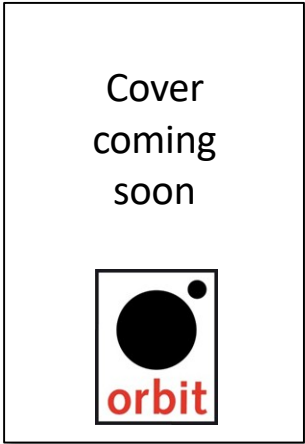


Click to listen to an audio sample of THE MIMOSA TREE MYSTERY!

Other titles in the series:







ONE FOOT IN THE FADE

Luke Arnold

April 2022  
Orbit  
Fantasy  
448pp

**Rights sold:**  
US (Orbit)

**Option publishers**  
German (Droemer)  
Italian (Triskell Edizioni S.A.S.)  
Portuguese in Brazil (Editora Nova Fronteira Ediouro)  
Spanish (Trini Casa Editora)

The third title in the **FETCH PHILLIPS** series.

AN ANGEL FALLS IN SUNDER CITY...

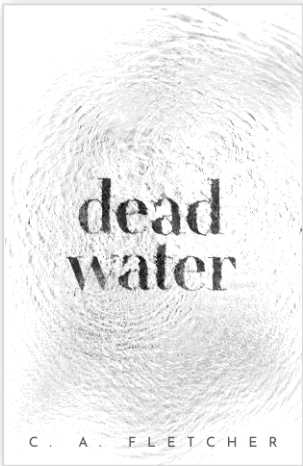
In a city that lost its magic, an angel falls in a downtown street. His wings are feathered, whole - undeniably magical - the man clearly flew, for all that he plummeted to his downfall moments after.

The mystery will set Fetch - in his quest to bring magic back to his beloved city - on a journey involving necromancers, genies and shadowy secret societies. Fetch will search Sunder's wildest forests and dingiest dive bars for the answer, and when he finds it, nothing will ever be the same again.

A world recovers from losing its magic in this brilliantly-voiced contemporary fantasy series by Luke Arnold - perfect for fans of Ben Aaronovitch, Rotherweird or Terry Pratchett's Discworld

Fetch Phillips: Man for Hire  
Bringing the magic back!  
Enquire at Georgio's café . . .

**LUKE ARNOLD** was born in Australia and has spent the last decade acting his way around the world, playing iconic roles such as Long John Silver in the Emmy-winning *Black Sails* and his award-winning turn as Michael Hutchence in the *INXS* mini-series *Never Tear Us Apart*.



DEAD WATER

C. A. Fletcher

June 2022  
Orbit  
Sci-Fi  
400pp

Cover not final

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

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)



# THE HUNGER OF THE GODS

John Gwynne

April 2022  
Orbit  
Science Fiction  
528pp

**Rights sold:**  
French (Leha)  
German (Blanvalet)  
Hungarian (Fumax Kft.)  
Spanish (Planeta)  
US (Orbit)

**Option publishers:**  
Italian (Fanucci)

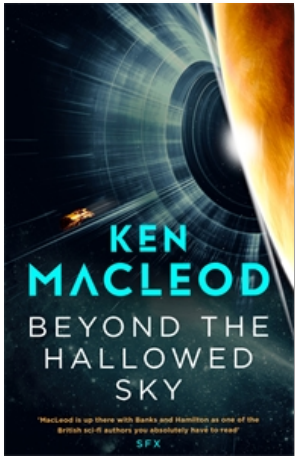
**Praise for THE SHADOW OF THE GODS**  
A masterfully crafted, brutally compelling Norse-inspired epic -  
**Anthony Ryan**  
A duly exciting start to the series - **Publishers Weekly**  
A masterclass in storytelling. - **FanFiAddict**

The second book in the **BLOODSWORN** series.

Lik-Rifa, the dragon god of legend, has been freed from her eternal prison. Now she plots a new age of blood and conquest. As Orka continues the hunt for her missing son, the Bloodsworn sweep south in a desperate race to save one of their own - and Varg takes the first steps on the path of vengeance. Elvar has sworn to fulfil her blood oath and rescue a prisoner from the clutches of Lik-Rifa and her dragonborn followers, but first she must persuade the Battle-Grim to follow her. Yet even the might of the Bloodsworn and Battle-Grim cannot stand alone against a dragon god. Their hope lies within the mad writings of a chained god. A book of forbidden magic with the power to raise the wolf god Ulfir from the dead . . . and bring about a battle that will shake the foundations of the earth.

**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.

Also available:



# BEYOND THE HALLOWED SKY

Ken MacLeod

November 2021  
Orbit  
Science Fiction  
368pp

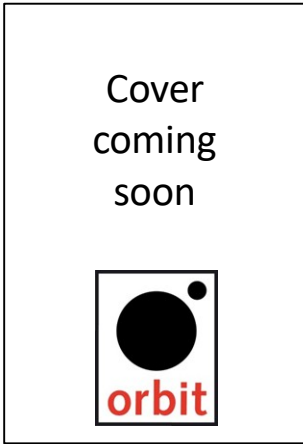
Book one of the **LIGHTSPEED TRILOGY**, a brand new space opera series.

When a brilliant scientist gets a letter from herself about faster-than-light travel, she doesn't know what to believe. The equations work, but her paper is discredited - and soon the criticism is more than scientific. Exiled by the establishment, she gets an offer to build her starship from an unlikely source. But in the heights of Venus and on a planet of another star, a secret is already being uncovered that will shake humanity to its foundations.

Science fiction legend Ken MacLeod begins a new space opera trilogy by imagining humankind on the precipice of discovery - the invention of faster-than-light travel unlocks a universe of new possibilities, and new dangers.

**KEN MACLEOD** was born on the Isle of Lewis and now lives in Gourrock, Scotland. He has a postgraduate degree in biomechanics and worked for some years in IT. Since 1997 he has been a full-time writer. He is the author of seventeen novels, from *THE STAR FRACTION* (1995) to *THE CORPORATION WARS* (2018), and many articles and short stories. He has won three BSFA awards and three Prometheus Awards, and been short-listed for the Clarke and Hugo Awards.





# ITHACA

Claire North

June 2022  
Orbit  
Fantasy  
400pp

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*

'The greatest power we woman can own, is that we take in secret . . . '

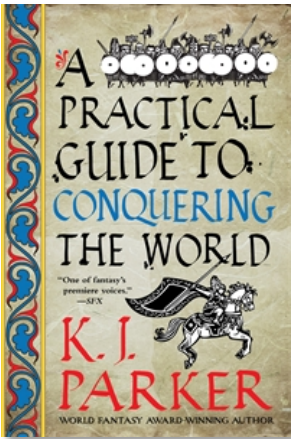
Seventeen years ago, king Odysseus sailed to war with Troy, taking with him every man of fighting age from the island of Ithaca. None of them have returned, and the women have been left behind to run the kingdom.

Penelope was barely into womanhood when she wed Odysseus. Whilst he lived, her position was secure. But now, years on, speculation is mounting that husband is dead, and suitors are starting to knock at her door . . .

But no one man is strong enough to claim Odysseus' empty throne - not yet. Between Penelope's many suitors, a cold war of dubious alliances and hidden knives reigns, as everyone waits for the balance of power to tip one way or another. If Penelope chooses one from amongst them, it will plunge Ithaca into bloody civil war. Only through cunning and her spy network of maids can she maintain the delicate balance of power needed for the kingdom to survive.

On Ithaca, everyone watches everyone else, and there is no corner of the palace where intrigue does not reign . . .

**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.



# A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO CONQUERING THE WORLD

K. J. Parker

January 2022  
Orbit  
Fantasy  
384pp

Rights sold:  
US (Orbit)

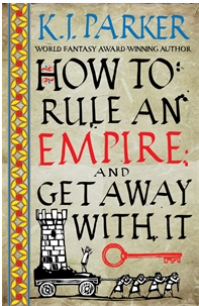
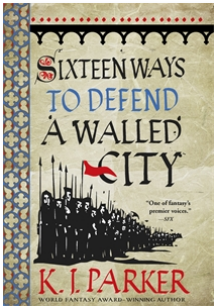
Option publishers  
Chinese (simplified) (Science Fiction World)  
German (Panini Verlag)  
Russian (AST Publishers)

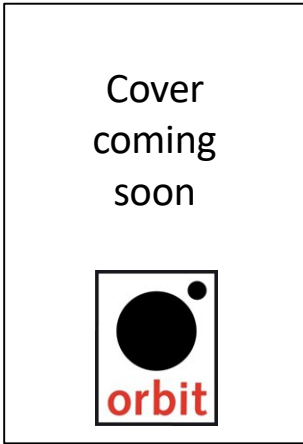
The third title in THE SIEGE book series.

Razor sharp and intelligent fantasy from K. J. Parker, set in the same world as the hugely popular *Sixteen Ways to Defend a Walled City*.

**K. J. PARKER** is a pseudonym for Tom Holt. He was born in London in 1961. At Oxford he studied bar billiards, ancient Greek agriculture and the care and feeding of small, temperamental Japanese motorcycle engines. These interests led him, perhaps inevitably, to qualify as a solicitor and emigrate to Somerset, where he specialised in death and taxes for seven years before going straight in 1995. He lives in Chard, Somerset, with his wife and daughter.

Also available:





# THE JUSTICE OF KINGS

Richard Swan

February 2022  
Orbit  
Fantasy  
432pp

**Rights sold:**

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

**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.

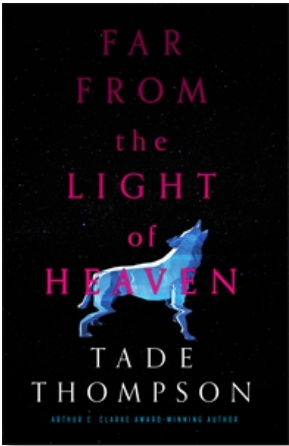
Featuring a protagonist unlike any you've seen before (think Gernalt of Rivia meets Matthew Shardlake) **THE JUSTICE OF KINGS** is an unmissable epic fantasy debut packed full of gritty intrigue, intense action and startling magic

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 JUSTICE OF KINGS** 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.



# FAR FROM THE LIGHT OF HEAVEN

Tade Thompson

October 2021  
Orbit  
Fantasy  
400pp

**Rights sold:**

French (J'ai Lu)  
US (Orbit)

**Option publishers:**

Bulgarian (Studio of A)  
German (Golkonda Publishing)  
Romanian (Nemira Publishing)  
Russian (ST Licence Agency)  
Spanish (Alianza Editorial)  
Turkish (Eksik Parca Yayincilik)

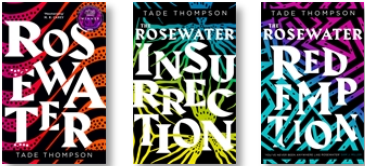
**The first in Tade Thompson's new Space Opera series.**

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.



Also by  
Tade Thompson:

Click to listen to an audio sample of  
**ROSEWATER INSURRECTION!**

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**Korea**

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