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TRANSLATION RIGHTS LIST

FICTION DECEMBER 2021









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2

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C O N T E N T S

Contemporary Fiction

Highlights THE RIVIERA HOUSE (page 9) THE PATRON SAINT OF SECOND CHANCES (page 12) 5

Historical Fiction Highlights THE HEMLOCK CURE (page 14)	14
Literary Fiction HERE AGAIN NOW (page 17)	17
Crime, Mystery and Thriller Highlights THE MURDER BOOK (page 19) THE LAST PARTY (page 22) THE THREE DAHLIAS (page 26)	18
Sci-Fi and Fantasy Highlights ITHACA (page 30) THE JUSTICE OF KINGS (page 31)	28

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



THE VERY LAST LIST OF VIVIAN WALKER

Megan Albany

February 2022 Hachette Australia Contemporary Fiction 288pp

MEGAN ALBANY is a proud First Nations woman of Kalkadoon and European heritage who has worked as an editor, scriptwriter, songwriter/composer and journalist. She has written for publications including The Guardian (UK), Metro (Ireland), Irish Echo, Illawarra Mercury and the Koori Mail. The Very Last List of Vivian Walker, her first novel, was shortlisted for The Banjo Prize in 2020 and highly commended in the Australian Society of Authors 2020 Award Mentorship Program. Megan lives with her thirteenyear-old son, her husband and their moodle in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales. She is currently writing an album to accompany THE VERY LAST LIST OF VIVIAN WALKER. Now that I've got cancer, I know I should be letting go and just being in the moment with my child but, seriously, what mother has got time to spend with their kids?

Vivian Walker's life is exceptionally ordinary. Average husband, check. Darling son, check. Refrigerator in a state of permanent disarray, check. Everything is thoroughly and frustratingly routine, even being terminally ill.

After receiving her diagnosis, Viv's family won't let her lift a finger . . . for at least a week. But once the novelty wears off, she's lucky to get a cup of tea for her trouble. In preparation for D-day, self-professed control freak Viv has made a list of essential things to do, such as decluttering the playroom and preparing her taxes. She doesn't expect to become spiritually enlightened or have any outlandish last-minute successes. All she wants is to finish her unfinished business.

As her final days unfold, Viv realises her life has become a love letter to the mundane but she still manages to keep her wicked sense of humour and cynical take on life unapologetically intact. The Very Last List of Vivian Walker will make you ugly cry, snort tea out your nose with laughter and want to embrace humanity in all its selfishness, beauty and awkwardness.

Praise for THE VERY LAST LIST OF VIVIAN WALKER:

'This novel has humour and pathos in spades – I laughed and cried' – Cindy MacDonald, Saturday Paper



CAREERING

Daisy Buchanan

March 2022 Sphere Contemporary Fiction 400pp

Rights sold

US (Penguin Random House Canada)

Praise for CAREERING:

'CAREERING is, quite simply, the funniest novel I've read all year... CAREERING should be essential reading for anyone who's ever sat in a badly-lit media office and wondered what the hell they're doing with their life.' **Nell Frizzell**

'There is no writer out there who can make you laugh and cry quite like Daisy Buchanan... I cannot recommend it highly enough.' **Lucy Vine**

'Hilarious, acutely observant and completely engrossing' Issy Suttie

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.

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*.



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.

Falling in love isn't always black and white . . .

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 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...

Lexie arrives at Nutgrass Hall, home of Carrington Paints, but it seems that owner Benedict Carrington is less than impressed with her arrival, and Lexie realises she'll have her work cut out for her if she's to convince stuffy "Beige Ben" 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, or she'll take the business from him.

As Lexie sets to work on injecting some life colour into Carrington Paints, Ben allows himself to be set up with Tewkesbury's finest ladies. But the more time the pair spend together, the more they realise their feelings for each other aren't so black and white. Will Lexie be able to brighten into Ben's colourless world before it's too late?

Let yourself be whisked away with A COLOURFUL COUNTRY ESCAPE and fall in love with the cosy Cotswold charm, the colourful characters and some heart-stopping romance. Perfect for fans of Heidi Swain, Jo Thomas and Bella Osborne.

Also available:





A COLOURFUL COUNTRY ESCAPE

Anita Faulkner

June 2022 Sphere Contemporary Romance 368pp

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

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.

Previous publishers:

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

Also available:



Cover coming soon

AFTER DARKE

Rick Gekoski

July 2022 Constable Contemporary Fiction 320pp

The final instalment in the Darke trilogy.

Released from prison after serving his sentence for the assisted death of his wife, his health failing and his chronic impatience exacerbated, Dr James Darke self-isolates. But on his return he understands that he is now a displaced person, lost in a new world for which his education and inclinations have not prepared him.

Irascible, misanthropic, intensely bookish, fastidious in his tastes and rich enough to indulge them, Darke is a happy shut-in, busily writing oppositional pamphlets and composing a literary hoax. But his daughter and the Bulgarian housekeeper she hired to look after him have other ideas.

After Darke is a moving, witty reflection on grief, ageing and love in all its forms, and James Darke is one of the most memorable, exasperating yet loveable characters of contemporary fiction.

Also available:



Option publisher: Italy (Bompiani)

RICK GEKOSKI is a novelist and writer of non-fiction, a rare bookseller and former academic, publisher, bibliographer, literary journalist and broadcaster. A Booker Prize Judge in 2005, Chair of Judges for the 2011 Man Booker International Prize, a life-time Vice President of English PEN and former board member of the Arvon Foundation, he has some fifty years of experience of the English literary scene.

Praise for Darke:

'Gekoski puts words together with a sure touch and deep craftsmanship' Philip Pullman 'Wondrous' Sebastian Barry

'I have never laughed as much at a book that made me weep so copiously' **The Scotsman** 'A moving meditation on loss and redemption' **Mail on Sunday** 'An original and bleakly funny portrait of grief' **Economist**

An original and bleakly funny portrait of grief

'Dark, thrilling' Spectator



Cover not final

UNDER THE SAME STARS

Alexandra Heminsley

July 2022 Sphere Contemporary Fiction 400pp The stunning, emotional debut novel from Sunday Timesbestselling author, journalist and broadcaster Alexandra Heminsley sees two half-sisters who have never met before battling to survive a winter on a remote, dangerous but beautiful Norwegian island.

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*.

TONI JORDAN DINNER WITH THE CONNERLES WITH THE CONNERLES

DINNER WITH THE SCHNABELS

Toni Jordan

March 2022 Hachette Australia Contemporary fiction 400pp

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. 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**



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 (Bazar Forlag) US (Grand Central)

Previous Publishers:

Albanian (Ombra GVG) Bulgarian (CIELA Norma AD) Dutch (De Fontein) Finnish (Gummerus) Greek (Dioptra) Lithuanian (Alma Littera) Portguguese (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

Natasha Lester's next title, THE THREE LIVES OF ALIX ST PIERRE, publishing in September 2022 (eBook)/May 2023 (paperback)

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)







Carole Matthews & Cares & Mistletoe //ights Fall of Mistletoe

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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) Danish (People's Press) Finnish (Minerva) Hungarian (Cartaphilus) Italian (Newton Compton) Norwegian (Cappelen Damm) Slovene (HKZ) Swedish (Printz Publishing)



WINTER AT CLIFF'S END COTTAGE

Sheila Norton

December 2021 Piatkus Contemporary Romance 352pp

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

Praise for Sheila Norton: 'Thoroughly enjoyable' Katie Fforde

'A truly lovely read with delightful characters' Phillipa Ashley

'A charming read. Made me want to move to the country and buy a cottage with roses around the door' **Sarah Morgan**

'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.

A new title coming October 2022.



THE LONG WEEKEND

Fiona Palmer

December 2021 Hachette Australia Contemporary fiction 336pp

Before becoming an author, **FIONA PALMER** was a speedway driver for seven years and now spends her days writing both women's and young adult fiction, working as a farmhand and caring for her two children in the tiny rural community of Pingaring, 350km from Perth. The books Fiona's passionate readers know and love contain engaging storylines, emotions and hearty characters. Her novels are consistently Top 10 national bestsellers. Coming together for a writing workshop with bestselling author Jan Goldstein, four strangers converge upon a luxury forest retreat. But along with their notepads and laptops, each of the participants has brought some emotional baggage.

Beth is a solo parent and busy career woman haunted by a tragic car accident. Simone, the youngest at 26, is a successful Instagram star but she's hiding behind a facade. Jamie is the only man. He's a handsome personal trainer – but he looks out of place with a pen in his hand. Finally, Alice is a wife and mum recovering from post-natal depression. She and Jamie soon realise they are not

such perfect strangers after all.

Only one thing is for sure: on this creative getaway, nothing will go according to script.

Praise for THE LONG WEEKEND:

'There's an honesty to Palmer's characters that transports you into the heart of their worlds' – **The Australian Women's Weekly** 'Her books are tear-jerkers and page-turners' – **Sydney Morning Herald**



THE CENTRAL

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



New title, SEVEN MONTHS OF SUMMER, publishing in Jan 2023.

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



THE PATRON SAINT OF SECOND CHANCES

Christine Simon

March 2022 Sphere Contemporary Fiction 352pp

The crumbling village of Prometto needs a second chance.

Local vacuum cleaner repairman and self-appointed mayor Nino Speranza is in trouble. Without the thousands of euros in taxes that he could never bring himself to collect from his neighbours, the water board will cut the town off. All 212 inhabitants will be forced to leave.

His usually reliable Compendium of Saints yields no answers to his prayers. So, in a desperate bid to save his hometown, he starts a rumour that major movie star Dante Rinaldi is filming his next movie in the village.

Soon, all the locals want to be involved: Speranza's assistant has written a screenplay and the local butcher will invest - each of his fifteen enormous sons is given a role. It seems the only way to save the town is to actually make the movie.

And Nino Speranza starts to think he might have created the second chance they all needed... until word of the production reaches Dante Rinaldi himself.

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

A new title by Christine Simon coming in February 2023.

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

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.

12



THE LAST WOMAN IN THE WORLD

Inga Simpson

February 2022 Sphere Thriller 352pp

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

Praise for THE LAST WOMAN IN THE WORLD:

Simpson's page-turner, about a recluse living in the aftermath of bushfires and pandemic, makes us see the world anew as it meditates on the importance of companionship – **The Guadian**

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

It's night, and the walls of Rachel's home creak in the darkness of 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 *Station Eleven, Birdbox* and *A Quiet Place*, this remarkable, frightening yet ultimately hopeful novel holds a mirror up to the world we live in today..

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.

Historical Fiction



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 third 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?

Also available:

A new standalone novel coming in

February 2023.



Sure point Can be build. Sure reasons and THE HEMLOCK CURE DOANNE BURN THE HEMLOCK CURE

Joanne Burn

February 2022 Sphere Historical Fiction

Rights sold:336ppUS (Pegasus)Portuguese in Portugal (Bertrand Editora)

Tortuguese in Fortugal (Dertrand Editor

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 Quickening* "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. Her next novel, THE BONE HUNTERS, publishes in early 2024.

Historical Fiction



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*.

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:



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.

Historical Fiction



West Virginia, 1897

THE RED BIRD SINGS

Aoife Fitzpatrick

April 2023 Virago **Historical Fiction** 400pp

Rights sold: Lithuanian (UAB Alma Littera)

After the sudden death of young Zona Shue only a few months after her impromptu wedding, her mother Mary Jane has a vision - she was killed. And by none other than her new husband, Trout, the handsome blacksmith beloved in their small Southern town

Mary Jane, known for casting off her corsets, following famous mediums and for criticising Zona when she was alive, is shattered by her conviction. Yet no-one believes her. Her only ally is the eccentric Lucy Frye - an unmarried woman who always suspected Trout's power over her friend.

As the trial raises to fever pitch and the men of Greenbrier County stand aligned against them, Mary Jane and Lucy must decide whether to play with fire and reveal Zona's greatest secret. But it's Zona herself, from beyond the grave, who still has one last revelation to make.

Based on a real trial and masterfully playing with the tropes of the Southern Gothic, Aoife Fitzpatrick delivers a searing feminist history like no other. It is a first Best wishes, novel of rare and dazzling brilliance to be read with your heart in your mouth and chills down your spine to the final, haunting page.



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

Various authors

Rights sold: German (DuMont Buchverlag) Italian (Neri Pozza) Polish (Zysk) Portuguese in Brazil (Intrinseca) Russian (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber) Spanish (Ediciones Urano, S.A.) US (Pegasus)

October 2021 Sphere Short stories 304pp

Dear friends,

I can't remember a meeting quite like it. I presented THE RED BIRD SINGS hoping that a couple of people may have had time to read a little of the 97,000-word manuscript over the weekend. I loved it, but would anyone else fall for the clever Gothic tricks, the menacing tension, the bravura ghostly climax?

I was blown away. After my breathless pitch, there was a moment's pause, and then everyone began speaking. They loved it. They compared it to huge bestsellers. They had stayed up all night. They talked of their favourite characters, the most exciting moments, pressed their hands to their ears if they hadn't yet reached the end.

In the afternoon, I spoke with Aoife Fitzpatrick, and for the second time I was knocked off my feet, by her intelligence, the fire she had for her subject, the stories behind her research. Not only that - the idea for her next book was deliciously compelling, one that I cannot wait to read.

I'm thrilled that Virago is selling World rights in THE RED BIRD SINGS. A heart stopping Gothic suspense, it nods back to our favourites like Sarah Waters' Fingersmith and Margaret Atwood's Alias Grace and looks to a future star of historical fiction with a powerful feminist vision. It tells an important story with page-turning tension; it portrays historic women with no two-dimensional feistiness but with tenderness and profound insight. We'll be publishing in Spring 2023 as our major debut lead.

And the story behind the novel is just as fascinating. Taking a real court case from 1897 West Virginia as its starting point, it dramatises the first time the testimony of a ghost was admitted as evidence in an American murder trial. Aoife Fitzpatrick brings it to life in the voices of two women close to the victim with a haunting power and desperate tension.

I wish you goosebumps. I wish that tears come to your eyes as you read that moment with the letter, and that moment in the courtroom. And I wish you the same breathless rush as you pitch THE RED BIRD SINGS to your teams and feel with all your heart, like I did, that this book has to be yours.

Rose Tomaszewska, Editorial Director, Virago

****SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER!****

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

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

Fiction iterary



WOOLF

Michelle Cahill

May 2022 Hachette Australia Literary Fiction 304pp

MICHELLE CAHILL is the author of fiction, essays and three collections of poetry, notably Letter to Pessoa, a short story collection that won the NSW Premier's Literary Awards (UTS Glenda Adams Award) and was shortlisted for the Steele Rudd Queensland Literary Award; and Vishvarupa which was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. Born in Kenya, she attended primary school in London before migrating to Australia. She lives in Sydney, where she graduated in Medicine and Arts. She is editor of the online literary magazine Mascara and coeditor of the anthology Contemporary Asian Australian Poets. Michelle was awarded the 2020 Red Room Poetry Fellowship.

'Property. Territory. Dominion. Dreadnought. Empire. A room of one's own, for Englishwomen exclusively . . . I wanted some clue to Peter Walsh and Daisy Simmons: how they meet; why it so happens that she falls perilously in love with him; what eventuates after he leaves India. Does she leave her husband and elope with him?'

Daisy Simmons, a minor character in Virginia Woolf's Mrs Dalloway, is the Eurasian woman whom Anglo-Indian Peter Walsh plans to marry. But what happens to her?

She disappears from the pages, her story unfinished – she does not warrant a voice in the novel, nor a footnote in any of the admiring Woolf scholarship that follows.

Australian author Mina, herself of mixed ancestry, decides to write Daisy's story. Travelling to England, India and even China, freelancing and researching, she has to navigate cultural and race barriers, at great personal cost. Like Woolf, her writing both sustains and overwhelms her. But in releasing the character Daisy from her fictional destiny, Mina finds the stubbornness and strength to also break free.

Praise for WOOLF:

'Her deftness and linguistic grace masks her purpose, until she reveals a shocking glimpse of the price that art can exact' - Hilary Mantel



HERE AGAIN NOW

Okechukwu Nzelu

March 2022 Dialogue **Contemporary Fiction** 304pp

Praise for OKECHUKWU NZELU:

'Effortlessly captured the tricky nuance of life, love, race, sexuality and familial relationships... I haven't been able to put it down.' Candice Carty-Williams,

'A magnificent novel, full of wit, warmth and tenderness.' Andrew McMillan

'Witty confidence... Smart, serious and entertaining.' Bernardine Evaristo



Also available:

How do you move forward when the past keeps pulling you back?

Achike Okoro feels like his life is coming together at last. His topfloor flat in Peckham is as close to home as he can imagine and after years of hard work, he's about to get his break as an actor. He's even persuaded his father, Chibuike, to move in with him, grateful to offer the man who raised him as a single parent a home of his own.

Between filming trips, Achike is snatching a few days in London with Ekene, his best friend of twenty years, the person who makes him feel whole. Achike can put the terrible things that happened behind him at last; everything is going to be alright. Maybe even better.

But after a magical night, when Achike and Ekene come within a hair's breadth of admitting their feelings for each other, a devastating event rips all three men apart. In the aftermath, it is Ekene and Chibuike who must try to rebuild. And although they have never truly understood each other, grief may bring them both the peace and happiness they've been searching for...

OKECHUKWU 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.



Rights sold: Finnish (Minerva) US (Pegasus)

THE INNOCENT

Lisa Ballantyne

August 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!

Cover coming Soon

ITALIAN RULES

Tom Benjamin

November 2022 Constable Crime & Mystery 336pp

The next book in the Daniel Leicester crime series.

When a canister containing an old movie goes missing from Bologna's Cineteca - one of Europe's leading centres of film restoration - Daniel Leicester is called in to investigate. He finds out that the film in question had been considered lost until recently.

As he looks deeper into the mystery, he begins to suspect the outtakes from the missing film might expose the culprit of an unsolved murder from the past. As part of his investigation, he joins an exclusive Buraco club where they play the traditional card game to 'Italian rules' and he suspects the murderer may be among the membership.

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.

Praise for TOM BENJAMIN:

'Atmospheric and immersive' M W Craven

'An insider's view of life in the heart of Bologna - I felt transported there. Gripping plot and immersive description.' Harriet Tyce, author of *Blood Orange'*

Loved it - an engaging hero, sharp dialogue and an ingenious plot that grips from the start. It'll make you want to visit. - Philip Gwynne Jones 18

Also available:





Option publishers: Norwegian (Cappelen Damm) Russian (Eksmo)

THE MURDER BOOK

Mark Billingham

June 2022 Sphere Crime & Mystery 400pp

Rights sold: US (Grove)

TOM THORNE IS BACK . . . AND SO IS HIS WORST NIGHTMARE

Tom Thorne takes an old nemesis in the stunning new novel from multiaward-winning Sunday Times bestseller Mark Billingham.

Tom Thorne has it all.

In Nicola Tanner and Phil Hendricks, Thorne has good friends by his side. He finally has a love life worth a damn and is happy in the job to which he has devoted his life...

Hunting the woman responsible for a series of grisly murders, Thorne has no way of knowing that he will be plunged into a nightmare from which he may never wake.

A nightmare that has a name.

Finally, Thorne's past has caught up with him and a ruinous secret is about to be revealed. If he wants to save himself and his friends, he must do the unthinkable.

Tom Thorne has it all.... to lose.

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. SLEEPYHEAD and SCAREDY CAT were made into a hit TV series on Sky 1 starring David Morrissey as Thorne, and a series based on the novels IN THE DARK and TIME OF DEATH was broadcast on BBC1.

Also available:





Praise for Mark Billingham:

A gripping, twisting murder mystery and a blackly comic indictment of the way we treat psychological illness today. At the very least it should reach the shortlist of this year's Booker prize - **The Times on RABBIT HOLE**

A gripping murder mystery with a streak of black humour - Sunday Times on RABBIT HOLE (Books of the Year 2021)

When the solution comes it's perfectly satisfying. My guess, though, is that what most readers will remember more intensely is . . . Alice's voice: by turns funny, broken, chatty, defiant, bewildered-but always utterly convincing and compelling - **Readers Digest on RABBIT HOLE**

Unusual and ambitious - written with immense sympathy, but also glorious jet-black humour - Daily Express on RABBIT HOLE

When the solution comes it's perfectly satisfying. My guess, though, is that what most readers will remember more intensely is . . . Alice's voice: by turns funny, broken, chatty, defiant, bewildered-but always utterly convincing and compelling - **Readers Digest on RABBIT HOLE**



BLOOD ON THE SIBERIAN SNOW

C J Farrington

November 2022 Constable Crime & Mystery 416pp

Previous publishers: 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*.

Winter has come early to the tiny Siberian village of Roslazny, but for Olga Pushkin, aspiring writer and Railway Engineer (Second Class), it only makes leaving the harder. Olga is being forced overseas by her jealous superior, and now faces two years in exile from her beloved rail-side hut, her white-breasted hedgehog Dmitri, and Vassily Marushkin, sergeant-in-charge at the tiny Roslazny police station.

Fate seems to intervene when Olga's train crashes outside Roslazny, shutting the line and killing two on board - local celebrity Danyl Petrovich and his wife, Anoushka. But Vassily Marushkin soon discovers that the Trans-Siberian locomotive was derailed on purpose. As the weather closes in, trapping the villagers - and the suspects - inside, Vassily begins a murder investigation in which Olga and her long-lost friend, Nevena Komarov, soon become closely involved.

But murder and extreme weather isn't all Olga has to deal with. Recalcitrant publishers, haunted police stations, and embarrassing online exposés combine to make this early winter a particularly challenging one - with the threat of a forced departure still looming as soon as the weather lifts. Can Olga find out who killed the Petroviches, secure the release of her book, exorcise the ghost, and save her job, all at the same time?

Also available: Book one (DEATH ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS, and book three coming November 2023.



The next unputdownable dark domestic suspense from ebook bestselling author Caroline England

Praise for Caroline England

'Stunning . . . dark undercurrents and sinister twists' AMANDA ROBSON

'In the very top tier of psychological thrillers' **M W CRAVEN**

'The duchess of dark domestic noir strikes again' HELEN FIELDS

'Powerful . . . psychological menace and dramatic plot twists' **DAILY MAIL**

'Truly terrific!' MARTINA COLE

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



Cover coming

ORIGINAL SINS

Caroline England

June 2022 Piatkus Thriller 304pp



THE MITFORD VANISHING

Jessica Fellowes

November 2021 Sphere Historical Mystery 416pp

Praise for Jessica Fellowes

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

A gripping, glamorous whodunnit - *Prima* on THE MITFORD AFFAIR

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**

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

Fellowes has plausibly transformed Louisa from amateur to professional sleuth. Maisie Dobbs fans will be pleased. **Publishers Weekly on THE MITFORD VANISHING**

Rights sold:

Dutch (Uitgeverij Volt) Finnish (Otava) French (Éditions J C Lattès) Italian (Neri Pozza) US (St Martin's Press)

Option publishers:

Czech (Euromedia) Danish (Politikens) Estonian (Varrak) German (Piper) Greek (Dioptra) 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.

Book six, THE MITFORD MYSTERY, will be published in November 2022.

The previous four novels in this series are:



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



THE LAST PARTY

Clare Mackintosh

August 2022 Sphere Crime & Mystery 400pp

Cover not final

On New Year's Eve, Rhys Lloyd has a house full of guests.

His holiday homes on Mirror Lake are a success, and he's generously invited the village to drink champagne with their wealthy new neighbours. This will be the party to end all parties.

But not everyone is there to celebrate. By midnight, Rhys will be floating dead in the freezing waters of the lake.

On New Year's Day, DC Ffion Morgan has a village full of suspects.

The tiny community is her home, so the suspects are her neighbours, friends and family - and Ffion has her own secrets to protect.

With a lie uncovered at every turn, soon the question isn't who wanted Rhys dead . . . but who finally killed him.

In a village with this many secrets, a murder is just the beginning.

Rights sold:

Bulgarian (Ciela Norma) Finnish (Gummerus) 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) Danish (Forlaget Aronsen) Dutch (De Fontein) Estonian (Pegasus) French (Marabout) German (Droemer) Greek (Metaixmio) Hebrew (Yedioth) Hungarian (Maxim) Icelandic (Forlagid) Italian (Societa Editrice Milanese) Korean (Tornado Media) Latvian (Zvaigzne) Lithuanian (Alma Littera) Macedonian (Feniks) Norwegian (Cappelen Damm) Polish (Proszynski Media) Portuguese in Portugal (Particular) Romanian (Editura Trei) Russian (AST) Serbian (Vulkan) Slovak (Albatros) Spanish (PRH Grupo Editorial) Swedish (Lind & Co.) Thai (WeLearn) Turkish (Altin Kitaplar) Vietnamese (Phuc Minh) Ukraine (Vivat)

Praise for HOSTAGE

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

'A propulsive read—HOSTAGE will have you questioning 'what would you do?' at every turn' Karin Slaughter 'It felt like watching a blockbuster movie; edge of seat, nail biting, propulsive, compulsive, thrilling and just so beautifully done' Lisa Jewell

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

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













THE ANGELS OF VENICE

Option publishers Bulgarian (Era Media EOOD) German (Rowohlt)

Philip Gwynne Jones

July 2022 Constable Crime & Mystery 384pp

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.

Praise for Philip Gwynne Jones:

'Clever and great fun' The Times

'The Venetian setting is vividly described... good, fluid writing makes for easy reading' Literary Review 'The lively, colourful narrative scuds along as briskly as a water taxi...you'll enjoy the ride' Italia Magazine

Also available:













Rights sold:

Danish (Gyldendal)

THE LAST SUPPER

Rosemary Shrager

February 2022 Constable Contemporary mystery 288pp

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

COST ANITA SIVAKUMARAN

Rights sold:

Russian (Eksmo)

COLD SUN

Anita Sivakumaran

August 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.

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

24



THE BANGALORE DETECTIVES CLUB

Harini Nagendra

April 2022 Constable Crime and Mystery 304pp

Rights sold: US (Pegasus)

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.

Book one in the Bangalore Detectives Club series.

Solving crimes isn't easy.

Add a jealous mother-in-law and having to wear a flowing sari into the mix, and you've got a problem.

When clever, headstrong Kaveri moves to Bangalore to marry doctor Ramu, she's resigned herself to a quiet life.

But that all changes the night of the party at the Century Club, where she escapes to the garden for some peace - and instead spots an uninvited guest in the shadows. Half an hour later, the party turns into a murder scene.

When a vulnerable woman is connected to the crime, Kaveri becomes determined to save her and launches a private investigation to find the killer, tracing his steps from an illustrious brothel to an Englishman's mansion. She soon finds that sleuthing in a sari isn't as hard as it seems when you have a talent for maths, a head for logic and a doctor for a husband.

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 . . .



THE THREE DAHLIAS

Katy Watson

July 2022 Constable Crime and Mystery 34pp 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?

Rights sold: Russian (AST)

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 WITNESS

Alexandra Wilson

February 2023 Sphere Thriller 368pp

Alexandra Wilson is a junior barrister. She grew up in Essex and is the eldest of four children. Her mother is White British, her father is Black British and her paternal grandparents were born in Jamaica and came to England as part of the Windrush generation. She studied at the University of Oxford and was awarded two prestigious scholarships, enabling her to research the impact of police shootings in the US on young people's attitudes to the police. She went on to study for a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) and her Master of Laws at BPP University in London. Wilson was awarded the first Queen's scholarship by the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, a scholarship awarded to students showing exceptional promise in a career at the Bar. The remarkable debut thriller by prominent young mixed-race British barrister Alexandra Wilson is a unique and shocking novel for the 21st century.

SHE SAW IT ALL BUT SHE CAN NEVER TELL

A young black man is arrested for murder. The case against him is strong - a mum and a businessman work saw him standing over a body in a park, a knife still in hand.

But his up-and-coming barrister Rosa - a black woman who is herself fighting prejudice - knows how people prejudge, but most of all, she knows the accused: he's a friend of her younger brother, and this kid... he's a good boy, wouldn't ever have done this. So she begins to dig...

As Rosa discovers secret upon terrible secret, she moves closer to finding a testimony that could win the case - or bring the whole establishment down on her.

THE WITNESS is a frightening thriller about how we judge guilt, about the strength of a young woman, and is the start of a groundbreaking new series.



THE MUSHROOM

Ovidia Yu

June 2022 Constable Crime & Mystery 352pp

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

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.

Other titles in the series:



Sci-Fi and Fantasy



ONE FOOT IN THE FADE

Luke Arnold

April 2022 Orbit Fantasy 448pp

Also available:

Rights sold: US (Orbit)

Option publishers

German (Droemer) Italian (Triskell Edizioni S.A.S.) Portuguese in Brazil (Editora Nova Fonteira 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

DEAD WATER

C. A. Fletcher

July 2022 Orbit Sci-Fi 512pp

Previous 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)



Rights sold: Czech (Host) French (Leha) German (Blanvalet) Spanish (Planeta) US (Orbit)

THE HUNGER OF THE GODS

John Gwynne

April 2022 Orbit Science Fiction 656pp

Option publishers:

Italian (Fanucci) Hungarian (Fumax) Portuguese (Grupo LeYa) Russian (Mann Ivanov & Ferber)

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 Ulfrir 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:



Praise for THE SHADOW OF THE GODS

A masterfully crafted, brutally compelling Norse-inspired epic - Anthony Rvan A duly exciting start to the series - Publishers Weekly

A masterclass in storytelling. - FanFiAddict



ITHACA

Claire North

September 2022 Orbit Fantasy 400pp

Rights sold:

Russian (Mann, Ivanov & Ferber) Turkish (Ithaki Yayinlari) US (Orbit)

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 Medalnominated 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.

Sci-Fi and Fantasy



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO CONQUERING THE WORLD

K. J. Parker

January 2022 Orbit Fantasy 384pp

Rights sold:

Chinese (simplified) (Science Fiction World) US (Orbit)

Option publishers

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

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.

No man is above the law.

The Empire of the Wolf simmers with unrest. Rebels, heretics and powerful patricians all challenge the power of the imperial throne. Only the Order of Justices stands in the way of chaos. Sir Konrad Vonvalt is the most feared Justice of all, upholding the law by way of his sharp mind, arcane powers and skill as a swordsman. In this he is aided by Helena Sedanka, his clerk and protégé, orphaned by the wars that forged the empire. When the pair investigate the murder of a provincial aristocrat, they unearth a conspiracy that stretches to the very top of imperial society. As the stakes rise and become ever more personal, Vonvalt must make a choice: will he abandon the laws he's sworn to uphold in order to protect the empire?

Introducing an unforgettable protagonist destined to become a fantasy icon, THE JUSTICE OF KINGS is an unmissable debut where action, intrigue and magic collide.

Praise for THE JUSTICE OF KINGS:

'Riveting . . . Swan crafts a strong, dynamic character in Vonvalt, and the twists will keep readers turning the pages' **Publishers** Weekly

'A stunning piece of modern fantasy writing' **RJ Barker** 'A marvellously detailed world with an engrossing adventure from a unique perspective' **K. S. Villoso**

'Swan has built a dark and gritty world, filled it with beautifully written characters and lays out a master-crafted story to create an incredible book that you can't put down' **FanfiAddict**



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)

-III---

Click to listen to an audio sample of ROSEWATER INSURRECTION!

FAR FROM THE LIGHT OF HFAVFN

Tade Thompson

October 2021 Orbit Fantasy 400pp

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:





30

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