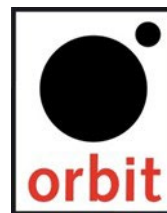
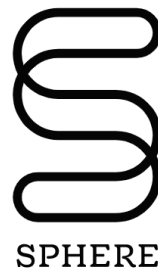
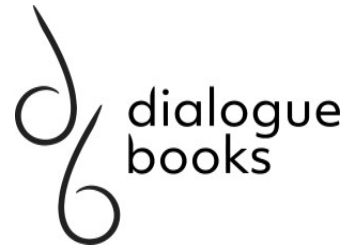


little, brown  
BOOK GROUP

TRANSLATION RIGHTS LIST

FICTION  
JANUARY 2022





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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

*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.

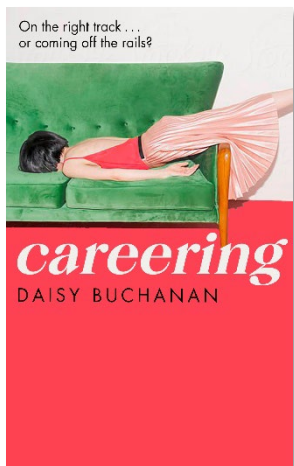
After receiving her diagnosis, Viv's family won't let her lift a finger . . . for at least a week. But once the novelty wears off, she's lucky to get a cup of tea for her trouble. In preparation for D-day, self-professed control freak Viv has made a list of essential things to do, such as decluttering 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*

**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 thirteen-year-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*.



## CAREERING

Daisy Buchanan

March 2022  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
400pp

**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*.

**Rights sold**

North American (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**



## MONOCHROME

Jamie Costello

September 2022

Atom

Young Adult Fiction

400pp

16-year-old Grace awakes one morning to find the sky leaden, the sun huge ball of ash, the clouds like threatening rubble, and reports of unexplained accidents occurring on roads and rail. These are the hallmarks of an apocalyptic movie, but it quickly becomes apparent that everything, to the rest of her family, seems normal; Grace is one of only a handful of people in the country who are seeing the world in shades of grey.

Soon, however, the whole of society is in the grip of the Monochrome Effect, or 'greyout', which eliminates the ability of humans and animals to see colour. The greyout moves from person to person, but it isn't a transmissible disease: the effect on the optic nerve can be traced from microplastics in the ocean, the result of unchecked pollution, now in all water systems.

When Grace starts to experience intermittent 'colour episodes', she is asked to join a government-run study with other teens who have seen flashes of colour since the Monochrome Effect began. She is told that she will be helping find a cure; be part of something that could save the world. But the reality is much more sinister, complex and dangerous than she could ever have imagined - colour vision is now currency, and to those in power, worth the ultimate price...

**JAMIE COSTELLO** lives in London. Under her own name, Laura Wilson, she is the author of six educational books on historical subjects for eight-to-twelve-year-olds, and thirteen critically acclaimed psychological thrillers, including the DI Stratton series. Her books have been shortlisted for many awards, including the Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger, and she has won both the CWA Historical Mystery Award and the French Prix du Polar Européen. She was the Programming Chair for the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival in 2009, and co-programmes the Killer Women Crime Writing Festival. She is also the Guardian's crime fiction reviewer.



## A COLOURFUL COUNTRY ESCAPE

Anita Faulkner

June 2022

Sphere

Contemporary Romance

368pp

### 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 . . .

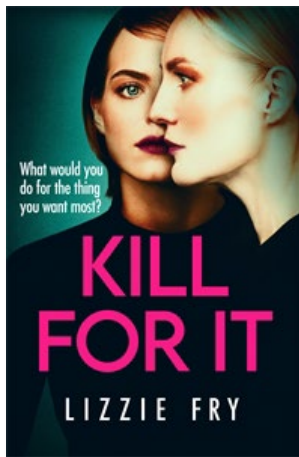
Lexie arrives at Nutgrass Hall, home of Carrington Paints, but it seems that owner Benedict Carrington is less than impressed with her arrival, and Lexie realises she'll have her work cut out for her if she's to convince stuffy "Beige Ben" to trust her with rescuing his out-of-touch business. But Ben 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.

**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

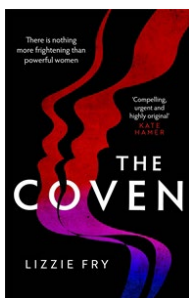
Lizzie Fry

August 2022  
Sphere  
Contemporary thriller  
368pp

### Previous publishers:

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

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.

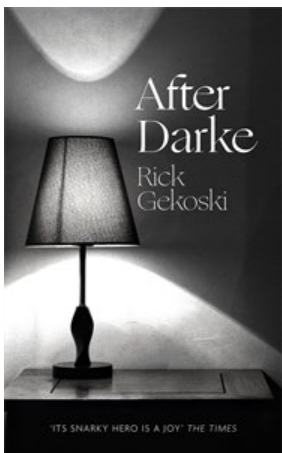
Cat Sullivan suddenly seems to have the inside scoop, she's always in the right place at the right time for the juiciest news reports.

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.



## AFTER DARKE

Rick Gekoski

July 2022  
Constable  
Contemporary Fiction  
320pp

### 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**

'Dark, thrilling' **Spectator**

### The final instalment in the Darke trilogy.

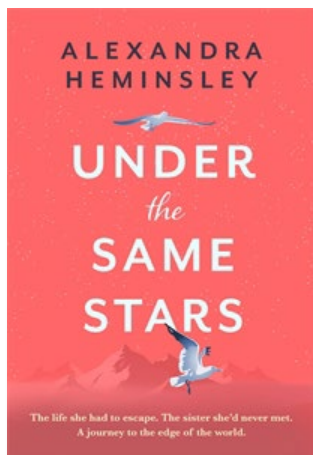
Released from prison after serving his sentence for the assisted death of his wife, his health failing and his chronic impatience exacerbated, Dr James Darke self-isolates. But on his return he understands that he is now a displaced person, lost in a new world for which his education and inclinations 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:





## UNDER THE SAME STARS

Alexandra Heminsley

July 2022  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
320pp

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

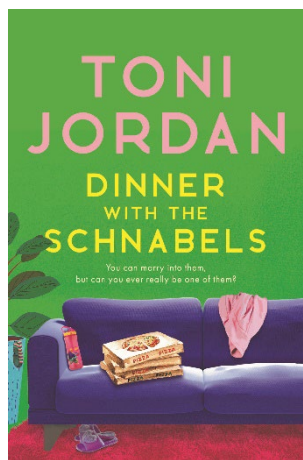
Clara Seymour is trying to find her feet in London, living away from home for the first time. Brought up by her domineering mother, treasuring time any time with her adoring father, Clara's world is brought to a standstill when her dad abruptly dies.

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

*I am sure you are aware that before I met your mother I had a previous marriage. But what we never 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 bewitching, a voyage fraught with personal and emotional danger to reveal 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  
Piatkus  
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**

**Rights sold**  
German (Thiele Verlag)

**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

Sphere

Historical Fiction

August 2021 (eBook)

August 2022 (paperback)

464pp

**Rights Sold:**

- Czech (Grada)
- Danish (ALPHA)
- German (Aufbau)
- Italian (Newton Compton)
- Norwegian (Strawberry Publishing)
- Poland (Burda Media)
- 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)
- Portuguese (Grupo Porto Editora)
- Romanian (Nemira Publishing House)
- Russian (Eksmo)
- Serbian (Laguna)

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?

# THE THREE LIVES OF ALIX ST PIERRE

September 2022 (eBook) May 2023 (paperback)

Discover a breathtaking story of love, danger, courage and betrayal, from the internationally bestselling author of **THE FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER**.

**1943.** When Alix St-Pierre's propaganda campaign to recruit women into the workforce gets her noticed, she soon finds herself recruited into America's fledgling intelligence organization, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Enlisted as a spy, Alix is sent to Switzerland, only just making it through Vichy France before the Nazis close all borders. Alix and a fellow OSS recruit are tasked with getting close to a Nazi, who may be willing to help the US or could be a double agent about to betray them. And then something goes terribly wrong. **1946.** Following the war, Alix is invited to move to Paris as a publicist for the yet-to-be-launched House of Christian Dior. She has mixed feelings about taking on the job, she has some unfinished business to attend to in Paris, but to her surprise she quickly discovers that her boss, Christian Dior, is a true and honest genius, someone she genuinely wants to help. But when a figure from the war reappears and threatens to jeopardize not only her future but the future of the House of Dior, Alix realizes that she'll need to do something drastic to right the wrongs of the past.

**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*

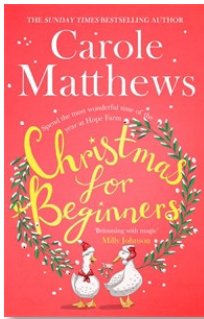
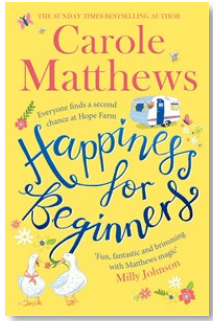
'LESTER is a master storyteller and with her latest offering she cements her place as one of Australia's best' *Daily Telegraph*

'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

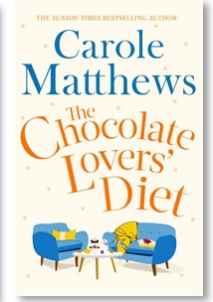
### Carole Matthews

Various  
Sphere  
Modern and contemporary fiction  
400pp

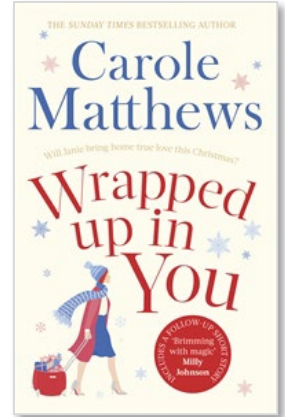
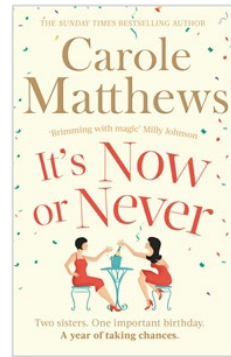
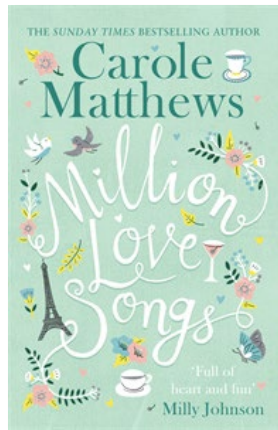
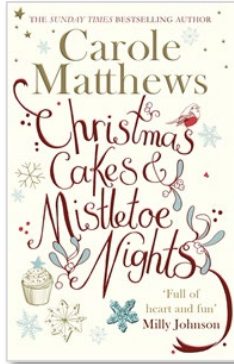
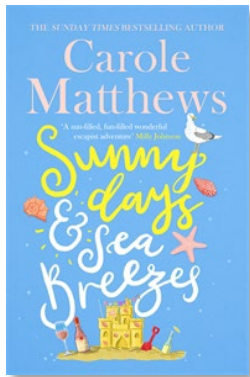
### Why do readers love Carole Matthews?

'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.

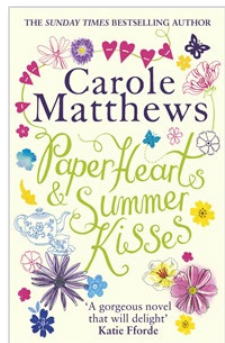


Over **five million copies** sold of all Carole Matthews titles (print and eBook)



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



# UNTITLED

Sheila Norton

October 2022  
 Piatkus  
 Romance  
 320pp

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

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

Also available:



# SEVEN MONTHS OF SUMMER

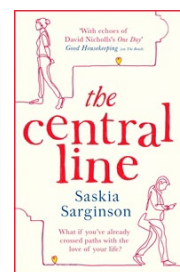
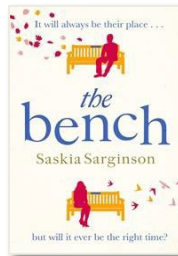
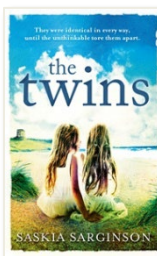
Saskia Sarginson

January 2023  
 Piatkus  
 Contemporary Romance  
 368pp

**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







## THE PATRON SAINT OF SECOND CHANCES

Christine Simon

March 2022  
Sphere  
Contemporary Fiction  
352pp

**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.

A new title by Christine Simon coming in February 2023.

The Patron Saint of Plumbing is not answering Nino Speranza's prayers. Without expensive repairs to the pipes, the water board will cut off Speranza's crumbling Italian village. All 212 inhabitants will be forced to leave.

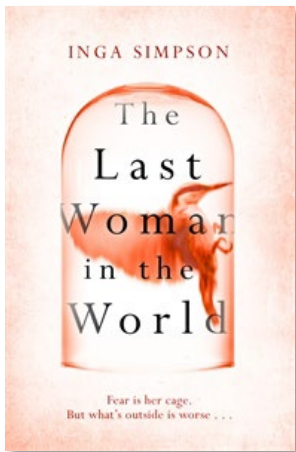
In a desperate bid to find the money to save his hometown, he starts a rumour that Italian heart-throb Dante Rinaldi is coming to town to film his next movie.

Soon, the place is teeming with fans and everyone wants to be involved: Speranza's assistant has a screenplay and the butcher will invest - if Speranza can find roles for each of his fifteen enormous sons. Even the priest is on board.

It seems the only way to give their beloved town a second chance is to actually make a movie. What could possibly go wrong?

**Praise for THE PATRON SAINT OF SECOND CHANCES:**

'A rare treasure: both hilariously funny and beautifully written.'  
**Julia Claiborne Johnson, author of *Better Luck Next Time***  
'The most charming, original and hilarious novel I have read in ages. This novel is something special. Everyone with a sense of humour must pick this up immediately.'  
**Elyssa Friedland, author of *Last Summer at The Golden Hotel***  
'A glorious romp of a book with a cast of characters to fall in love with. Gorgeous, hilarious and brimming with joy. Christine Simon's writing is just a delight.'  
**Helen Paris, author of *Lost Property***



## 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 Guardian**

**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.



## THE LOST GARDEN OF TUSCANY

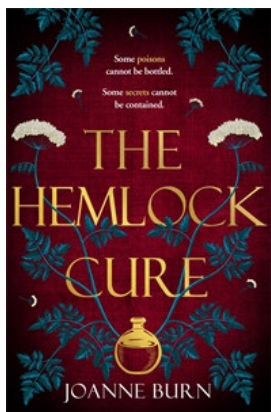
Charlotte Betts

February 2024  
Piatkus  
Historical Fiction  
400pp

A new standalone historical novel from the brilliant Charlotte Betts

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.

Also available:



## THE HEMLOCK CURE

Joanne Burn

February 2022  
Sphere  
Historical Fiction  
336pp

**Rights sold:**  
US (Pegasus)  
Portuguese in Portugal (Bertrand Editora)

### 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.

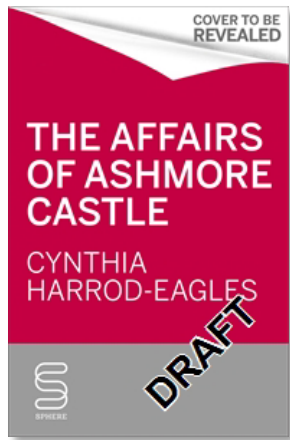
But others have secrets too. Secrets darker than any of them could have imagined.

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.



## 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

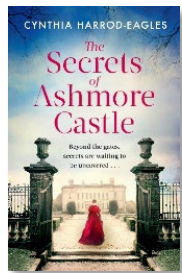
The second novel in the Ashmore Castle series, perfect for fans of *Downton Abbey*.

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

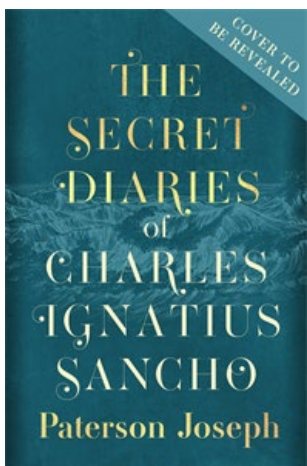
The new Earl of Stainton, struggling to bring his family's estate back to order after the death of his father, has little time to spare for his young pregnant wife Kitty. She lives in fear of her mother-in-law, who won't give up the reins of the household. Will she ever truly be mistress of Ashmore Castle?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

Meet Charles Ignatius Sancho: his extraordinary story, hidden for three hundred years, is about to be told.

*I had little right to live, born on a slave ship where my parents both died. But I survived, and indeed, you might say I did more...*

It's 1746 and Georgian London is not a safe place for a young Black man, especially one who has escaped slavery. After the twinkling lights in the Fleet Street coffee shops are blown out and the great houses have closed their doors for the night, Sancho must dodge slave catchers and worse. The man he hoped would help - a kindly duke who taught him to write - is dying. Sancho is desperate and utterly alone.

So how does Charles Ignatius Sancho meet the King, become the first Black person to vote in Britain and lead the fight to end slavery?

It's time for him to tell his story, one that begins on a tempestuous Atlantic Ocean, and ends at the very centre of London life. And through it all, he must ask: born amongst death, how much can you achieve in one short life?

**PATERSON JOSEPH** is a beloved British actor and writer. Recently seen on *Vigil* and *Noughts and Crosses*, he has also starred in *Peep Show* and *Law & Order UK*. *The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho* is his debut novel.



Cover  
coming  
soon



## THE RED BIRD SINGS

Aoife Fitzpatrick

April 2023

Virago

Historical Fiction

400pp

**Rights sold:**

Lithuanian (UAB Alma Littera)

### West Virginia, 1897

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 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.

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.

Best wishes,

Rose Tomaszewska, Editorial Director, Virago

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

## ITHACA

Claire North

September 2022

Orbit

Fantasy

400pp



**Rights sold:**

Russian (Mann, Ivanov & Ferber)

Turkish (Ithaki Yayinlari)

US (Orbit)

**Praise for ITHACA:**

"In this dazzlingly complex, twisting tale, Claire North breathes life into a cast of mythical characters from goddesses to queens to slave-women in a richly nuanced portrayal of human life. The novel is poised on a knife-edge of suspense throughout; the strength, wit and determination of the women shining through the murky politics and barely-restrained savagery of the war-torn world ruled by brutal kings and merciless men. Claire North brings a powerful, fresh and unflinching voice to ancient myth - darkly fascinating, raw and breathtaking." **Jennifer Saint, author of *Ariadne***

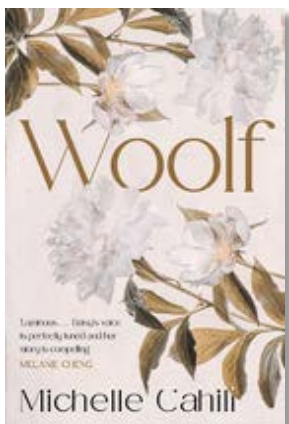
Seventeen years ago, king Odysseus sailed to war with Troy, taking with him every man of fighting age from the island of Ithaca. None of them have returned, and the women have been left behind to run the kingdom. Penelope was barely into womanhood when she wed Odysseus. Whilst he lived, her position 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.

"Like Penelope at her loom North both weaves and unweaves, teasing out the threads of Homeric myth to recombine them into something unique, wonderful and urgently contemporary." – **M.R CAREY**



## 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 co-editor 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 HERE AGAIN NOW:

*'A beautiful exploration of grief and family. Through exquisite prose, Okechukwu Nzelu delves into the lives of the complicated men at the centre of this story with compassion and tenderness. A lyrical and insightful novel' – Brit Bennett, author of The Vanishing Half*

### Praise for OKECHUKWU NZELU:

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

Also available:



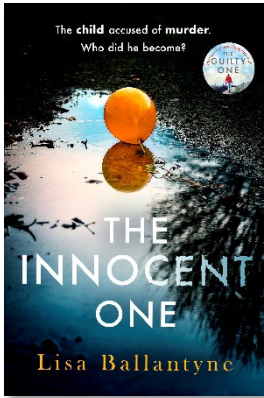
### How do you move forward when the past keeps pulling you back?

Achike Okoro feels like his life is coming together at last. His top-floor 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, Chibuiké, 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 Chibuiké 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.



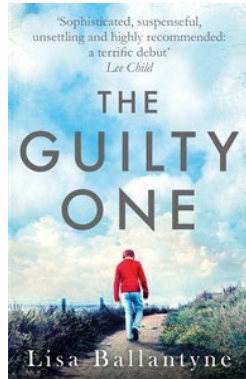
## THE INNOCENT ONE

Lisa Ballantyne

August 2022  
Piatkus  
Thriller  
352pp

Rights sold:  
Finnish (Minerva)  
US (Pegasus)

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:**

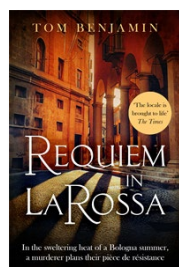
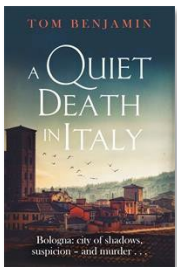
'Atmospheric and immersive' **M W Craven**

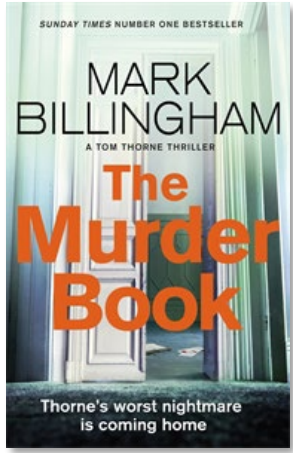
'An insider's view of life in the heart of Bologna - I felt transported there. Gripping plot and immersive description.' **Harriet Tyce, author of *Blood Orange***

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**

Also available:





## THE MURDER BOOK

Mark Billingham

June 2022

Sphere

Crime & Mystery

416pp

**Rights sold:**

US (Grove)

**Option publishers:**

Norwegian (Cappelen Damm)

Russian (Eksmo)

**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.

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

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.

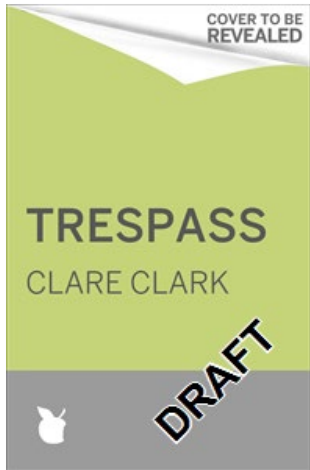
**Praise for Mark Billingham:**

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**



## TRESPASS

Clare Clark

August 2022

Virago

Crime & Mystery

320pp

When Tess is in her late teens she falls into environmental activism - and the arms of an older charismatic protester. Passionate and politically engaged the two of them are happy until Tess's unexpected pregnancy causes increasingly explosive rows.

A week before their baby, Mia, is born he vanishes. He never comes back. Tess and Mia believe they are all each other needs until, aged twelve, Mia starts asking questions about her father. Tess has questions of her own. As the facts slowly emerge, it becomes clear that he is not the man they both thought he was. They must face the horrible truth: he was never an activist. He was an undercover cop.

Dramatic, multi-plotted, page-turning, this brilliant psychological suspense explores what happens when every certainty is taken away.

**CLARE CLARK** is the author of five highly acclaimed historical novels, including *The Great Stink*, *Savage Lands* (both longlisted for the Orange Prize) *The Nature of Monsters* and *In The Full Light of the Sun* (Virago). Born in 1967, she graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge with a double first in History, and now lives in London with her husband and two children.



Cover  
coming  
Soon



CONSTABLE

# I KNOW WHO YOU WERE

N K CURRAN

April 2023  
Constable  
Thriller  
320pp

Gripping psychological thriller: everyone has a past, but not everyone has a past which justifies disappearing without telling your husband...

Alex and Morven have been happily married for 10 years and have one daughter, Poppy. A very normal life, until one day Morven never reaches her corporate retreat, and her car is found abandoned. Concern mounts, the police are called in... and then Morven's mobile is found with the message 'I know who you were' left on it. And it becomes apparent that Morven's disappearance was planned by Morven herself, to prevent those closest from finding out the real truth about her...

**N K CURRAN** won the International Media Association of Tie-In Writers award for his novel, *Shadow Of The Jaguar*, and the inaugural Lifeboat to the Stars award for *Tau Ceti* (co-authored with International Bestselling novelist Kevin J. Anderson), and has been nominated for the British Fantasy Award on multiple occasions. Writing as Matt Langley his young adult novel *Black Flag* was a finalist for the People's Book Prize 2015. His novel *Silver* was one of the Top 30 bestselling books of 2011 (Bookseller) and he's published a number of original novels with St Martins.

Cover  
coming  
Soon



PIATKUS

# ORIGINAL SINS

Caroline England

June 2022  
Piatkus  
Thriller  
304pp

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

Praise for Caroline England

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

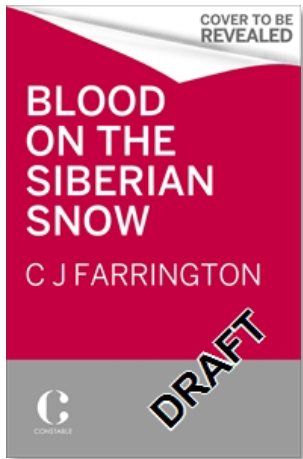
'In the very top tier of psychological thrillers' **M W CRAVEN**

'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*.



# BLOOD ON THE SIBERIAN SNOW

C J Farrington

November 2022

Constable

Crime & Mystery

416pp

**Previous publishers:**

French (Hugo et Cie)

Polish (Proszynski Media)

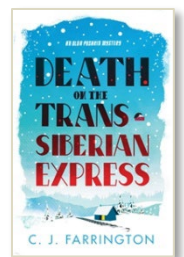
**CONOR FARRINGTON** is a writer and academic at the University of Cambridge and Hughes Hall, Cambridge, where his research focuses on the intersections of technology, science and politics. In addition to a collection of short stories (*A Countryman's Creel*, Merlin Unwin) and an academic book (*Quantified 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 SECOND STRANGER

Martin Griffin

January 2023

Sphere

Thriller

320pp

**Rights sold:**

German (Bastei Luebbe)

**A pulse-racing locked-room thriller set in the remote Scottish Highlands, where icy temperatures and a terrible blizzard prevent any escape, from a brilliant new name in crime fiction**

Remie Yorke has one shift left at the remote Mackinnon Hotel before she leaves for good. Then Storm Ezra hits.

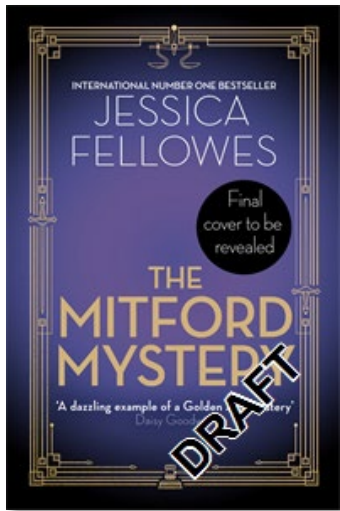
As temperatures plummet and phone lines go down, an injured man stumbles inside. PC Don Gaines was in a terrible accident on the mountain road. The only other survivor: the prisoner his team was transporting.

When a second stranger arrives, Remie reluctantly lets him in from the blizzard. He, too, is hurt. He claims to be a police officer. His name is also Don Gaines.

Someone is lying and, with no means of escape, Remie must work out who. If the cold doesn't kill her, one of these men will get there first.

**MARTIN GRIFFIN** is an exciting new voice in the crime genre. Before turning his hand to writing, he was a deputy headteacher and a doomed singer who was once asked to support The Fall on tour, a gig he had to decline having only composed two good songs. Martin lives in Manchester with his wife and daughter.





## THE MITFORD MYSTERY

Jessica Fellowes

November 2022  
Sphere  
Historical Fiction  
400pp

In the spellbinding final book in The Mitford Murders series, Louisa Cannon and Guy Sullivan discover that all is not well around Chatsworth House, home to Deborah Mitford, for a mysterious case that brings the entire Mitford family together one final time . . .

**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.

### 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**

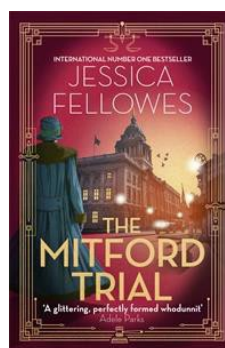
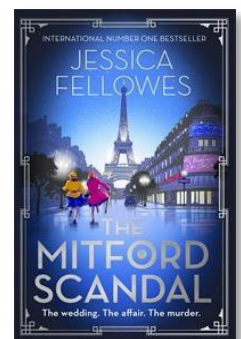
### Rights sold:

Dutch (Uitgeverij Volt)  
US (St Martin's Press)

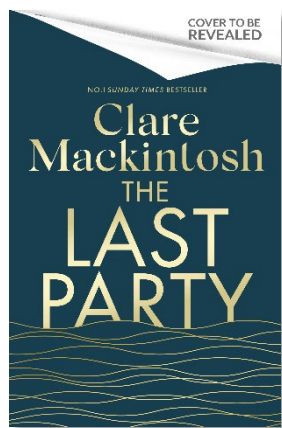
### Option publishers:

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

The previous novels in this series are:



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



Cover not final

## THE LAST PARTY

Clare Mackintosh

August 2022

Sphere

Crime & Mystery

400pp

### Rights sold:

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

**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.**

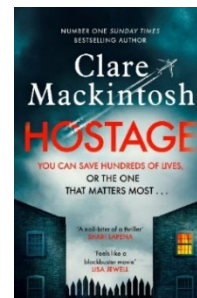
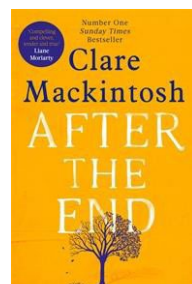
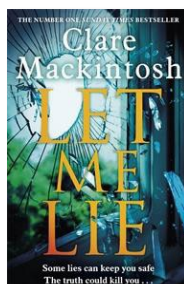
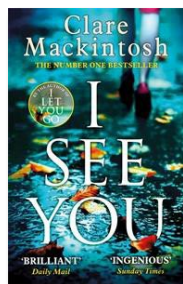
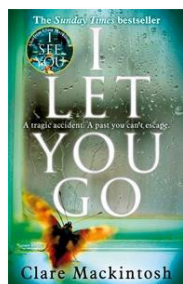
### Praise for HOSTAGE

'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 here to listen to Clare Mackintosh talking about HOSTAGE!](#)

▶ [Click to listen to an audio sample of AFTER THE END!](#)



## THE ANGELS OF VENICE

Philip Gwynne Jones

July 2022  
 Constable  
 Crime & Mystery  
 384pp

### Option publishers

Bulgarian (Era Media EOOD)  
 German (Rowohlt)

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.

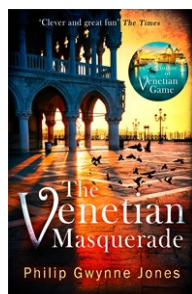
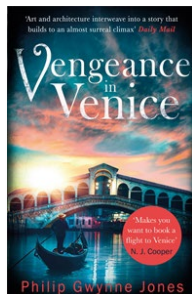
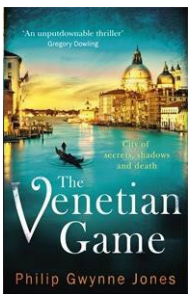
### Praise for Philip Gwynne Jones:

'Clever and great fun' **The Times**

'The Venetian setting is vividly described... good, fluid writing makes for easy reading' **Literary Review**

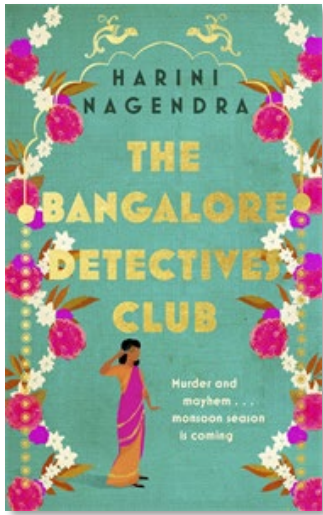
'The lively, colourful narrative scuds along as briskly as a water taxi...you'll enjoy the ride' **Italia Magazine**

Also available:



Click to listen to an audio sample of VENETIAN GOTHIC!





## 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.

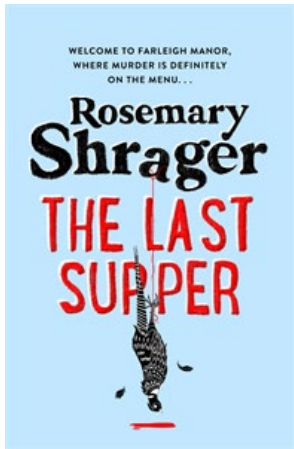
Add a jealous mother-in-law and having to wear a flowing sari into the mix, and you've got a problem.

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 LAST SUPPER

Rosemary Shrager

February 2022  
Constable  
Contemporary mystery  
288pp

Rights sold:  
Danish (Gyldendal)  
US (Mobius)

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

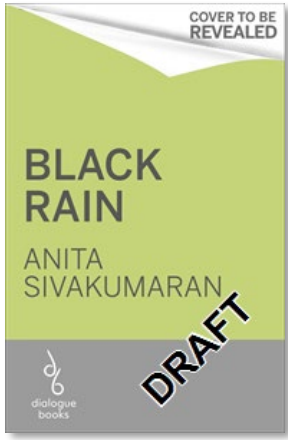
**Prudence Bulstrode, once doyenne of the celebrity chef circuit, has left London behind for a peaceful retirement in the country. . and walks straight into a murder case.**

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.



## BLACK RAIN

Anita  
Sivakumaran

August 2022  
Dialogue  
Crime & mystery  
352pp

When actor Majid Rahman's body is found in a neighbourhood allotment in Leicester, Detective Vijay Patel is one of the first on the scene, but is unable to save the man. Although his mother's house backs onto the gardens, he resolves to let the local police do their work.

But after a neighbour is kidnapped and the detective in charge doesn't want to know, Patel vows to find the killer.

When Patel uncovers a leather bag stuffed with money and a gold necklace near to where Majid's body was found, he realises this case may be a lot bigger than he'd imagined. Just as he starts to get close to the truth, the witness he was hoping to speak to is shot in front of him, and Patel must flee for his life.

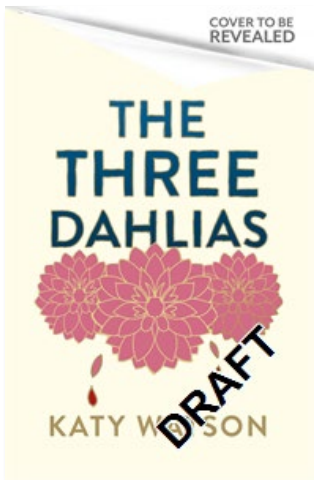
Just when Patel is finally on the killer's trail, he finds a clue that shocks him to his very core: this case may be closer to home than he ever could have imagined. Could stopping this twisted killer from stealing more lives mean paying the ultimate price for Patel?

A totally gripping crime thriller, packed with suspense and twists you'll never see coming. Fans of Ian Rankin, Abir Mukherjee and Val McDermid will be utterly addicted.

**Option publishers:**  
Russian (Eksmo)

**ANITA SIVAKUMARAN** was born in Madras and has lived in the UK since 2004. Her historical novel, *The Queen*, based on real events, has been made into a major television series. *COLD SUN* is her first novel in the DI Patel detective series.

Also available:



## THE THREE DAHLIAS

Katy Watson

July 2022  
Constable  
Crime and Mystery  
384pp

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.

Cover  
coming  
soon



## THE WITNESS

Alexandra  
Wilson

February 2023  
Sphere  
Thriller  
368pp

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

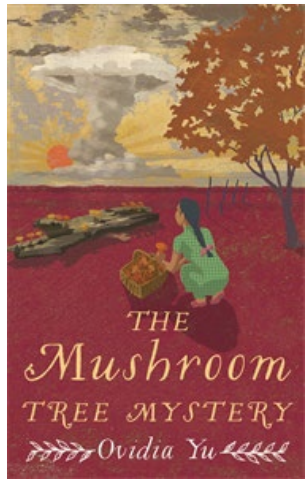
A young black man is arrested for murder. The case against him is strong - a mum and a businessman work saw him standing over a body in a park, a knife still in hand.

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.

**ALEXANDRA WILSON** is a junior barrister. She grew up in Essex and is the eldest of four children. 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. She is the author of the critically acclaimed *Black and White* (Octopus).



## 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.

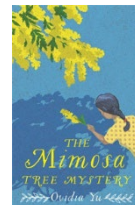
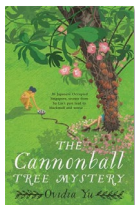
In Singapore, amid rumours the Japanese occupiers are preparing to wipe out the population of the island rather than surrender, a young aide is found murdered beneath the termite mushroom tree in Hideki Tagawa's garden and his plans for a massive poison gas bomb are missing. To prevent any more destruction 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.

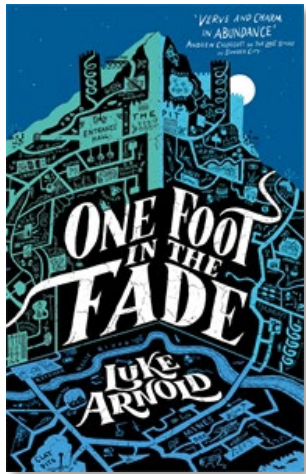


Click to listen to an audio sample of THE MIMOSA  
TREE MYSTERY!

Other titles in the series:







## ONE FOOT IN THE FADE

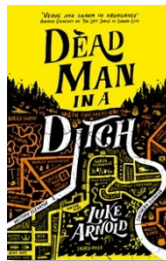
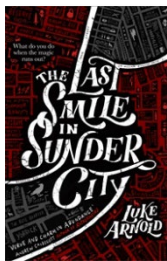
Luke Arnold

April 2022  
Orbit  
Fantasy  
464pp

**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)

Also available:



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

July 2022  
Orbit  
Sci-Fi  
512pp

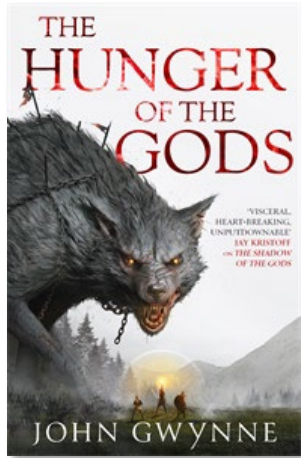
**Previous publishers**

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)



## THE HUNGER OF THE GODS

John Gwynne

April 2022

Orbit

Science Fiction

656pp

**Rights sold:**

Czech (Host)

French (Leha)

German (Blanvalet)

Spanish (Planeta)

US (Orbit)

**Option publishers:**

Italian (Fanucci)

Hungarian (Fumax)

Portuguese (Grupo LeYa)

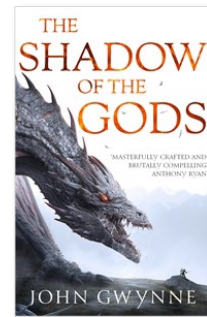
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**JOHN GWYNNE** lives in East Sussex with his wife, four children and three dogs. His debut novel *Malice* won the David Gemmell Morningstar Award in 2012.

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## BEYOND THE REACH OF EARTH

Ken MacLeod

March 2023

Orbit

Science Fiction

320pp

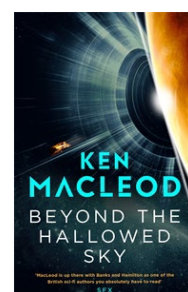
The second book in science fiction legend Ken MacLeod's Lightspeed trilogy, imagining humankind on the precipice of discovery - the invention of faster-than-light travel.

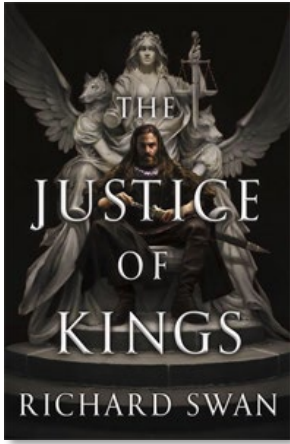
Discover this ground-breaking new space opera trilogy from multi-award winning author Ken MacLeod

**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.

He was a Writer in Residence at the ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum at Edinburgh University, and Writer in Residence for the MA Creative Writing course at Edinburgh Napier University.

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)
- Polish (MAG)
- Russian (Eksmo)
- Spanish (Trini Casa)
- 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. Villosio**

'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**

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