



# little, brown

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### **Fiction List, June 2022**

OUR IMPRINTS



# Arranged by publication date

**Titles in capitals were published by Little, Brown Book Group; titles in italics were not.**

## **THE PROOF IN THE PUDDING by Rosemary Shrager**

Cosy crime | February 2023 | Constable | 336pp

**The next irresistible cosy crime novel from celebrity TV chef Rosemary Shrager!**

Preparing a midwinter's feast for all hundred residents of the little Yorkshire village of Scrafton Busk is exactly the kind of challenge Prudence Bulstrode adores. A chance to show off her braised-neck of Moorland mutton, Wensleydale tart - and, of course, her famous figgy pudding - is just the thing to shake off the winter blues.

But on the night of the feast, local vagabond Terry Chandler is found dead - his body entombed in the pristine snowman standing pride of place on the village green. Who could have wanted Chandler dead? Why would they stow his body in such strange circumstances? And what is the meaning of his last enigmatic message, directing his brother to Mystery Hills, a place of which no-one has ever heard?

**Crime and cookery continue to collide as Prudence and her long-suffering sidekick, granddaughter Suki, get drawn into another mystifying murder . . .**

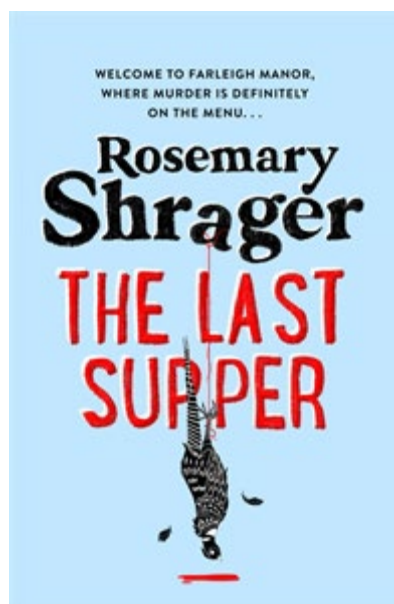
## **THE LAST SUPPER by Rosemary Shrager**

Cosy crime | February 2022 | Constable | 288 pp

**An irresistible debut novel (the first in a series) where cosy crime and cookery collide**

Prudence Bulstrode, once doyenne of the celebrity chef TV 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 in the rhubarb patch 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 for the fairly ghastly, posh Rupert Prendergast and his utterly ghastly wife. Prudence's useless teenage niece, Suki, joins her.



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 sensational 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.

**The second novel in this series, PROOF IN THE PUDDING, will be published in February 2023, and the third, TOO MANY COOKS, in February 2024.**

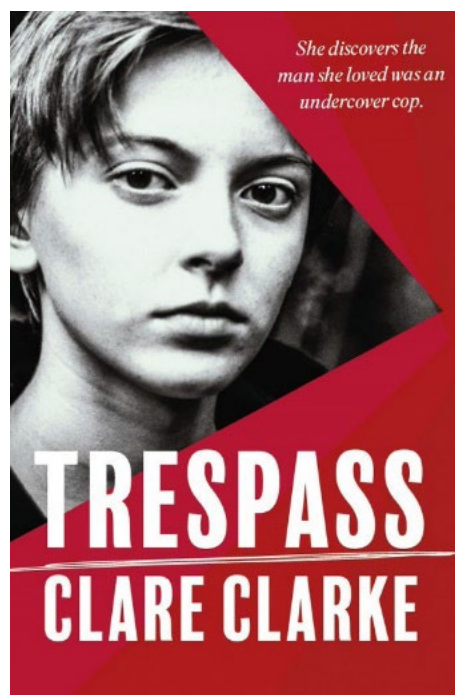
**Rosemary Shrager** is one of Britain and America's national treasures. She began her cookery career working for Pierre Koffmann at Chelsea's La Tante Claire and Jean-Christophe Novelli, gradually discovering her passion and talent for teaching. Thus her cookery school at Amhuinnsuidhe Castle off the 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. She is the star of television series such as the cult series *Ladette to Lady* (ITV) and *Rosemary, Queen of the Kitchen* (Discovery). In 2007, her television career took a great leap forward when she became ITV's *Alan Titchmarsh Show*'s resident cook. More recently she

has appeared in - and won! - *I'm a Celebrity*, *The Real Marigold Hotel*, *The Big Family Cooking Showdown* for the BBC and for Netflix, *The Best Leftovers Ever*. Coming later this year is *Five Go Fishing*, on Channel 5. Find out more here - <https://www.rosemaryshrager.com/about>

## TRESPASS by Clare Clark

Literary thriller / book club | August 2022 | Virago | 320 pp

**A brilliant and hugely topical psychological suspense novel about the ultimate trespass. A young woman discovers that the man she shared her life with was an undercover cop.**



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.

## MONOCHROME by Jamie Costello

YA thriller | September 2022 | Atom | 200 pp

**A gripping and prescient debut thriller set in a world drained of its colour, in which a group of young people must fight against the forces that threaten the natural world, and their very lives.**



Sixteen-year-old Grace awakes one morning to find the sky leaden, the sun a 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.

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, it's 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 children, 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.

## THE TOLL HOUSE by Carly Reagon

Ghost story | October 2022 | Sphere | 260 pp

**A superbly chilling debut novel, perfect Halloween book: a terrifying original ghost story for fans of *The Haunting of Hill House* and Susan Hill, which Little, Brown won in a fierce-three-way auction.**



Kelda has found the perfect home for her and her son, Dylan: an old toll house, still full of period features, and situated in haunting rural beauty. When Dylan uncovers a death mask hidden in the walls, a series of inexplicable events unfold. Kelda can't shake the feeling of being watched. Dylan insists he sees figures in his room at night. As Dylan's behaviour becomes increasingly erratic, Kelda begins investigating the house's disturbing history. And only then does she realise how much danger she is really in. As they begin to piece together the dark events that took place in the house in the 1800s, the reader is drawn into the fevered mind of the man who witnessed them first-hand two centuries previously.

**Carly Reagon** completed a six month course at Curtis Brown Creative and was shortlisted for the Lucy Cavendish College Fiction Prize in 2019. Her writing is inspired by her love of the Welsh countryside where she lives with her husband and three children. She works as a senior lecturer at Cardiff University, is a keen runner and singer, and has an interest in anything historic.

## THE SECOND STRANGER by Martin Griffin

Thriller, suspense | January 2023 | Sphere | 320 pp

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

In the remote highlands of Scotland, Remie Yorke begins her last night shift at the MacKinnon Hotel. She has booked a one-way flight tomorrow and she's never coming back. Or so she thinks.

Then Storm Ezra hits. The roads are unpassable, the phone lines are down and visibility is poor. As the icy temperatures plummet further, an injured man stumbles into the hotel from the blizzard. PC Don Gaines was in a horrific accident on the mountain road and none of his colleagues made it out alive. But there is one other survivor: a dangerous prisoner who is now at large and could be heading their way.

Then a second injured visitor arrives, also introducing himself as PC Don Gaines. Both men are strangers. Both claim to want to protect Remie and the hotel's remaining guests. Both are convincing.

Remie doesn't know who to trust. She must endure a deadly night before dawn breaks, and if she doesn't succumb to the cold, one of these men will kill her 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. He lives in Manchester with his wife and daughter. His second suspense novel will be published in February 2024.

## **SEVEN MONTHS OF SUMMER** by Saskia Sarginson

Contemporary romance | January 2023 | Piatkus | 368pp

**A sweeping love story about sliding doors and heart-breaking near misses, set during a hazy summer on the Suffolk coast. Perfect for fans of One Day and The Notebook.**

1993. When Kit meets Summer on the backpacking trip of lifetime, he falls head over heels in love. He is sure what they have is much more than just a holiday romance. On returning home, Kit is certain he'll be able to find the magical girl he met. But when he follows the clues of what Summer told him about her life, the girl he thought he knew doesn't seem to exist. Heartbroken that she lied to him, Kit moves to the Suffolk coast for a fresh start. Little does he know, Summer is living just a few miles away - and is incapable of forgetting Kit too. But as the months pass, Kit and Summer's paths never collide. Their lives move on and a hazy, sun-drenched summer begins. By the time they meet, will it be too late to start again?

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

## **OBSESSED** by Liza North

Thriller, suspense | May 2023 | Constable | 320 pp

**A stunning debut psychological thriller about desire, jealousy and the far-reaching consequences of betrayal**

*One more night together. Then I'll end it . . .*

Laura has everything she ever wanted: an adoring husband, beautiful children, a happy home. Then one day, at her daughter's nursery, someone walks back into her life who she knows will shatter everything.

Alexis was her first love. A love so exhilarating, it is impossible to resist. But as they rekindle their passionate affair, Laura knows it's only so long before the dark events in their past catch up with them.

**Liza North** is an academic, writer, and former journalist. She has a BA from Oxford University and a PhD in Philosophy from University College London and has written for the *Financial Times* and *Guardian*. A keen cyclist, walker and lover of fancy gin, she lives in Edinburgh with her husband and two daughters.

## **THE VENETIAN INHERITANCE** by Charlotte Betts

Historical fiction | February 2023 | Piatkus | 400pp

**From the bestselling author of *The Apothecary's Daughter* comes a gripping, and wonderfully evocative novel about family secrets and the price of love. Perfect for fans of Natasha Lester, Tracy Rees and Santa Montefiore.**

**Venice, 1911.** Seventeen years ago, the grand Venetian Palazzo degli Angeli was Phoebe Wyndham's home; now, the neglected walls of the palazzo are just a haunting reminder of all she has lost. When tragedy strikes and her aunt unexpectedly dies, the recently widowed Phoebe is forced to return to Italy – only to discover she has inherited the palazzo she grew up in. All she wants to do is sell the property and return home. However, when Aunt Ada's diary exposes a dark family secret, the shocking deception rocks Phoebe to her very core, and she vows to not leave The Floating City without first unravelling the truth from the lies. As Phoebe searches for answers, she finds herself growing closer to two very different men, despite her promise to never risk her heart again. But, when her camera catches something more sinister than the faded grandeur of Venice, Phoebe begins to question who she can really trust and whether her aunt's death was an accident after all...

**Charlotte Betts** began her working life as a fashion designer in London. A career followed in interior design, property management and lettings. Her debut novel, *The Apothecary's Daughter* 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.

## Untitled novel by Celia Walden

Suspense | April 2023 | Sphere | 400 pp

### **Everyone knows Sam, the IT guy. Everyone loves him. But does anyone really *notice* him?**

Sam has been the IT guy for the residents of Addison Square for as long as anyone can remember. When Jason's wife cuts out and his wife Amelie smashes her iPhone, it's Sam who comes to the rescue. When the square's oldest resident, Sylvia, loses her husband, it's Sam who promises to wipe clean and dispense of his old devices. Charlotte – the square's committee head - couldn't have planned the London garden square's lavish bicentenary party without Sam's help. He's in their computers, tablets and iPhones; inside their homes, lives and heads: a life-saver when needed, but otherwise invisible - and instantly forgotten.

But Sam has had enough of being ignored until he's needed. He stokes the friendship between Amelie and the 'house husband' across the square. He takes remote control of her phone and sending through invitations for playdates, then, drink dates. As his little virtual 'nudges' build their own momentum and an affair blossoms, Sam grows bolder in his puppeteering. When Charlotte's son becomes involved in an extremist online forum, Sam intervenes.

The more strings Sam pulls, the more he *can* pull. Only these aren't virtual characters he's toying with but real lives, and as his string-pulling builds to a snapping point on the night of the square's bicentenary party, Sam's puppeteering results in... well, you had better read the book.

**Celia Walden** is known for her wide-ranging articles, opinions and commentaries on everything from current affairs to health, fashion and motoring. She is a columnist for the *Daily Telegraph*, and has written for *Glamour*, *GQ*, *Elle*, *Porter Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar*, Net-a-Porter's *The Edit*, *Grazia*, *Stylist*, *Standpoint*, *The Spectator* and *Russian Vogue*. Born and brought up in Paris, she studied at the University of Cambridge. She and her husband, Piers Morgan, divide their time between London and L.A. Her first novel, *PAYDAY*, was published by Sphere in 2021.

## **THE RED BIRD SINGS by Aoife Fitzgerald**

Historical fiction | April 2023 | Virago

### **AN AWARD WINNER BEFORE IT WAS EVEN PUBLISHED. A FEMINIST GOTHIC SUSPENSE THAT WILL KEEP YOU UP ALL NIGHT.**

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 spiritualists 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.

**Aoife Fitzpatrick** is the winner of the Lucy Cavendish Prize, which previously discovered the likes of Gail Honeyman, Sara Collins and Laura Marshall.

## **THE CURSE OF LOVE** by Keith Stuart

Fiction | April 2023 | 400pp | Sphere

**Following the author of the 200,000-copy R&J bestseller *A Boy Made of Blocks* and BBC Two *Between the Covers* and Radio 4 Book at Bedtime hit *The Frequency of Us* comes the imaginative, soaring story of a family cursed to always lose their true love, told over 150 years.**

A single sentence, that was all it took to define Cammy's life. They came as her beloved artist aunt was dying, a teenage Cammy standing by her bedside: 'Did your mother ever tell you about the curse?'

Cammy is warned that the women in her family are destined always to lose the one they love. She thinks nothing of it - until the day when, in her late twenties, her new boyfriend is hit by a car. Convinced she is to blame, Cammy begins to investigate the one-hundred-and-fifty-year story of a family that is both ordinary and remarkable, tragic and beautiful.

But is the curse real, or is there an answer lurking in the letters, diaries and paintings of generations of women whose hearts were broken?

**Keith Stuart** is an author and journalist. His heart-warming debut novel, *A Boy Made of Blocks*, was a Richard & Judy Book Club pick and a major bestseller, and was inspired by Keith's real-life relationship with his autistic son. Keith has written for publications including *Empire*, *Red* and *Esquire*, and is the former games editor of the *Guardian*.

## **I KNOW WHO YOU WERE** by N. K. Curran

Thriller | April 2023 | 320 pp | Constable

**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 ten years and have an adored 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 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 many 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 (*Glass Town*, *Coldfall Wood*, *White Peak*), and with Titan (*Parallel Lines*, *Murder at Sorrow's Crown*), Akashic Books (*Sunfail*), Severn House (*The Memory Man* and *The Black Shepherd*). Curran lives in Sweden and works for an enormous Chinese gaming company.

## **KHANS** by Shehan Karunatilaka

Literary fiction | April 2023 | 320 pp | Fleet

**A satirical ensemble comedy about advertising, commerce and the lengths we go for meaningless pursuits.**

Set in 2008, before the end of the Sri Lankan civil war, and just after the birth of social media and the smartphone, KHANS is a satirical ensemble comedy about advertising, commerce and the lengths we go for meaningless pursuits. The story is centered around an iconic Colombo dive bar and the infantile industry types who come there to drink, plot and pontificate.

*Karunatilaka has a real lightness of touch. He mixes humour and violence with the same deftness with which his protagonist mixes drinks* - Tishani Doshi on *Chinaman*, the *Observer*; *The strength of the book lies in its energy, its mixture of humour and heartwrenching emotion, its twisting narrative* - Kamila Shamsie on *Chinaman*.

**Shehan Karunatilaka's** first book, *Chinaman*, won the Commonwealth Book Prize, the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature and the Gratiaen Prize.



## **THE WITNESS by Alexandra Wilson**

Thriller, suspense | June 2023 | Sphere | 368 pp

**The remarkable debut thriller by prominent young mixed-race British barrister and author Alexandra Wilson is a unique, twisty 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 prejudice, 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, and is the start of a new series.

**Alexandra Wilson** is 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 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 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. Alongside her paid law work, she helps to facilitate access to justice by providing legal representation for disenfranchised minorities and others on a pro-bono basis.

## **DEAR NEIGHBOUR by Jane Claire Bradley**

Contemporary fiction | June 2023 | Sphere | 320pp

**Five strangers. Four weeks. One letter that will change everything...**

Alice is working hard to provide for her daughter, Mollie. But it's a challenge juggling her job alongside her duties as a single Mum in Leeds: a city she barely knows. Her neighbours keep to themselves and as much as she longs for a friend to rely on, she knows that things don't work out that way. Bill has lived on Leodis Street for eighty years. It's where he was born, began his married life and eventually cared for his wife in her final days. Since Sally's death, Bill's home is a place of solitude, his talisman against an unrecognisable world. When the residents of Leodis Street are threatened with eviction, Alice knows that she needs to make a stand. As she reaches out to her neighbours and learns about their lives, she is surprised to discover that she might already live next door to the friends she has been yearning for. Perhaps together they can build a community to be proud of and discover the true meaning of home.

**Jane Claire Bradley** is the founder of For Books' Sake, delivering Write Like a Grrrl workshops across the North and North-West of England, and was longlisted for the Mslexia Novel Competition, the Lucy Cavendish Prize for Fiction and a Young Enigma Award.

## THE WINTER SPIRITS by Various

Short stories/historical fiction | Autumn 2023 | Sphere | 384pp

**Twelve of the biggest names in historical and gothic fiction join forces to bring you a dazzling collection of Christmas ghost stories.**

Featuring new and original stories from:

**Bridget Collins** *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Binding* | **Imogen Hermes Gowar** *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Mermaid and Mrs Hancock* | **Kiran Millwood Hargrave** *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Mercies* | **Andrew Michael Hurley** *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Loney* | **Jess Kidd** International award-winning author of *Things in Jars* | **Elizabeth Macneal** *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Doll Factory* | **Natasha Pulley** *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street* | **Laura Purcell** Award-winning author of *The Silent Companions*/ **Susan Stokes Chapman** *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Pandora*/ **Laura Shepherd-Robinson** Award-winning author of *Blood & Sugar*/ **Stuart Turton** International bestselling author of *The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle*/ **Catriona Ward** Bestselling author of *The Last House on Needless Street*

From Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* to the ghost stories of M.R. James, the tradition of a haunted tale at Christmas has flourished across the centuries. The twelve stories of *The Winter Spirits* are all centred around Christmas or Advent, boldly and playfully re-imagining a beloved tradition for a modern audience. Taking you from a haunted Tuscan villa to a remote Scottish island with a dark secret, and drawing inspiration from festive traditions from all around the globe, these vibrant haunted stories are your ultimate companion for frosty nights.

So curl up, light a candle, and fall under the spell of Christmases past . . .

## BECAUSE SHE LOOKED AWAY by Alison Bruce

Crime | February 2024 | Constable | 352 pp

**A brilliant new crime novel from the author of the critically acclaimed DC Gary Goodhew series set in Cambridge**

Fifteen-year-old Bethany Trent vanishes without a trace from a sunny Cambridge park, and for the next four years her sister Claire holds onto the hope of finding her alive, fighting to keep the case in the public eye. But when Claire inherits her mother's house, she discovers a body in the garden which the police had already searched.

Meanwhile, detective Ronnie Blake reluctantly relocates to Cambridge to live with her brother Alex. Although she prefers to work alone, she is put in charge of the small but disorderly missing persons' team which first investigated Bethany's disappearance. As Ronnie begins to uncover the clues in the original case notes and the secrets kept by Bethany's family, she realises that the killer is playing a complex and deadly game. Ronnie needs to use her wits and unite her dysfunctional team to discover why Bethany had to die.

**Praise for Alison Bruce** - 'Alison Bruce always delivers. Her latest is **tense, twisty, terrific**' Ian Rankin; '[Bruce] has written a **superior thriller, full of suppressed menace**' *The Times Crime Club*; '**A powerful and absorbing story** [...]. A writer at the top of her game' Elly Griffiths; '**Unpredictable, challenging and compelling**' Sophie Hannah; 'Alison Bruce has long been **one of the most adroit crime fiction practitioners**' Barry Forshaw, *Financial Time*; 'As always, Bruce produces a **rewarding read**' *The Times*; '**One of our most interesting crime writers**' *Daily Mail*

**Alison Bruce** is the author of nine crime novels and two non-fiction titles. Her first novel, CAMBRIDGE BLUE (2008), was described by Publishers Weekly as an 'assured debut' and introduced both detective, DC Gary Goodhew, and her trademark Cambridge setting. She went on to write six further novels in the DC Goodhew series before writing the psychological thriller I DID IT FOR US (2018). She has also written two true crime books and a selection of short stories. In 2013 and 2016, she was short-listed for the Crime Writers' Association Dagger in the Library Award. She was awarded a first in BSc (Hons) in Crime and Investigation at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge which included subject areas such as: crime scene investigation, policing practice, major investigations, mass fatality incidents, fire investigation, forensic pathology and forensic anthropology.

## **THE LIBRARY THIEF** by Kuchenga Shenje

Historical fiction | February 2024 | Sphere | 400pp

### **The spellbinding debut for fans of *The Miniaturist* and *The Binding***

1897. Florence knows what it's like to keep secrets. Her father brought her home from Jamaica as a baby, and as a young woman he covered up her hair - and her heritage with it. But when Florence brings a new threat of scandal to his door, the bookbinder throws her onto the streets. Lord Henry Cole is her last hope. Intercepting her father's commission to restore his rare books, Florence talks her way into Breakstone House. Each morning the widower lets her into the astonishing library, and each morning he locks the door behind her. Then one night, someone breaks into the library - but they escape unseen, and apparently without taking a single book. Until Florence discovers a singed diary in the fireplace and realises with horror that this is the secret diary of Henry Cole's wife . . . and the clue to her mysterious fate.

**Kuchenga** is a writer, journalist and speaker with work on many media platforms including Gal-Dem, British Vogue and Netflix. She has contributed short stories and essays to several anthologies, most notably *It's Not OK to Feel Blue (And Other Lies)*, *Who's Loving You* and *Loud Black Girls*. Owing to a lifelong obsession with books and the written word, Kuchenga studied Creative Writing at The Open University. Her work is focused on the perils of loving, being loved and women living out loud throughout the ages. She currently resides in Berlin where she is determined to continue living a life worth writing about.