



 **HarperCollins***Publishers*

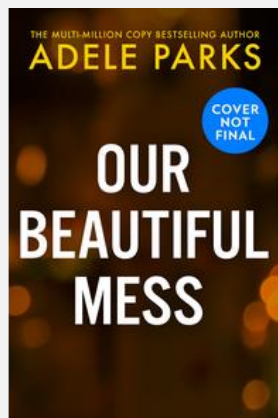
LONDON BOOK FAIR 2025

Translation Fiction Rights Guide

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COMMERCIAL



HQ

28/08/2025

HB • 384*

Editor
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N/A

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Available

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OUR BEAUTIFUL MESS

Adele's 25th book in 25 years

Adele Parks

Number one bestseller Adele Parks returns with an explosive and deeply emotional family drama which explores the lengths a parent will go to protect a child; for there's nothing stronger than a woman whose family is under threat.

Connie can't wait to have all her daughters back home for Christmas. It's not just the excitement of the girls being together under one roof; uni student Fran is bringing a new boyfriend to stay. The empty nest will once again be full of friends, family and young love.

Yet from the moment she sees Zac, Connie feels a deep unease. Zac reminds her of the worst mistake she has ever made: a man whose charm and good looks nearly destroyed her marriage. Then, Fran announces she's pregnant.

Reeling from Fran's news and terrified that her past might threaten her family's future, Connie desperately tries to navigate a path forward. But there's a much greater menace looming, because she's not the only one who has something to hide. Someone in the house has another devastating secret. A deception which will put everyone Connie loves in shocking danger, and one of them will pay the ultimate price.



© Teesside University

ADELE PARKS MBE was born in Teesside, North East England. She is the author of 24 bestselling novels, translated into 32 languages. Her books have been shortlisted for the British Book Awards. She has won two Nielsen Bestseller Awards, The Capital Crime Fingerprint Award and a Quick Read Learners' Favourite Award. She was an Executive Producer on Paramount's feature film adaptation of her novel, *The Image of You*. She is an ambassador of the National Literacy Trust and the Reading Agency: two charities that promote literacy in the UK. She's lived in Italy, Botswana and London and is now settled in Guildford, Surrey, with her husband, son and cat.

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HarperFiction

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42MP

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Material

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PASTURES NEW

Clare Balding

Where there's a will, there's a way home.

Alex has spent her entire life evading responsibility. So, when she goes home to the aged parents for Christmas and opens a letter telling her she's been left a farm in Wales, it can only be a joke. Right?

But when she ventures into Monmouthshire, home to an unheated, tumbledown farmhouse and a grumpy horse-trainer neighbour, Alex discovers a friendly pub landlord and local community who want to help. She just needs to get to the bottom of her mystery inheritance.

When the chickens come home to roost in terms of family skeletons, can Alex stick to her plan and shed her new responsibilities – or will the clear Welsh air turn one jaded journalist into a country-loving farmer?



© Owen James Vincent

CLARE BALDING grew up in the countryside surrounded by horses and dogs. Her autobiography, *My Animals and Other Family*, won the National Book Award for Autobiography of the Year. She has also written a bestselling series of children's books set around a girl and her horse.



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Material
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(Beta), Hebrew (Kinneret),
Italian (Newton Compton),
Korean (Lagom), Swedish
(Pirat)

THE SISTER SWITCH

Charlotte Butterfield

Funny and feel-good high-concept women's fiction.

Two sisters. One Bet.

And a lifetime of secrets uncovered.

Morning TV's favourite twin sisters, Alice and Edie, may share the screen, but that's where their similarities end. Their viewpoints are far from identical, and whilst their on-air clashes keep viewers hooked, off-camera, their relationship is far from picture-perfect.

After a heated argument on live television threatens their jobs, the fiery duo make a bet: neither could last a week in the other's shoes. Determined to prove each other wrong, they secretly swap lives – without telling a soul.

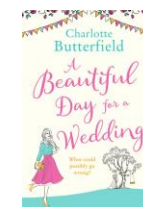
What starts as a battle of wills quickly spirals into chaos, as each sister discovers that the other's life is far more complicated than it seems. Between dodging awkward work situations, marital issues, and meddling in each other's families, Alice and Edie's rivalry turns from a competitive bet into an opportunity to help change each other's lives for the better.

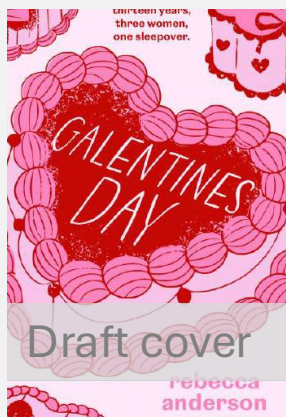
But will their relationship survive?



© Charlotte Butterfield

CHARLOTTE BUTTERFIELD, a former magazine editor, was born in Bristol and studied English at Royal Holloway. She moved to Dubai by herself on a one-way ticket with one suitcase in 2005 and left twelve years later with a husband, three children and a 40ft shipping container. She now lives in the Cotswolds, where she is a freelance writer and novelist.





Avon

15/01/2026

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Editor

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N/A

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Material

Available at a later date

Rights

Available in all languages

GALENTINE'S DAY

Rebecca Anderson

A millennial love letter to female friendship, for fans of Everything I Know About Love and One Day.

Thirteen years, three women, one sleepover.

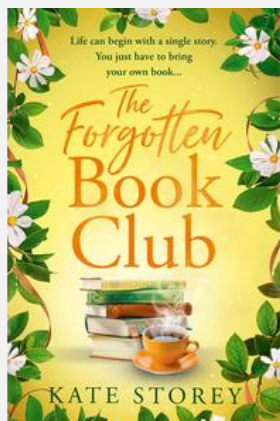
13th February 2013. Alicia, Marnie and Hannah have a sleepover on Galentine's Day, the day before Valentine's Day, for the first time. They're eighteen, single, and the world is at their feet. Tomorrow, they'll go their separate ways, to university, to a job, to a different country. But they promise that every year, they'll have their annual sleepover.

13th February 2026. After thirteen years of faithful attendance at their annual sleepover, only two women are attending this year. Their friendship has seen partying, breakdowns, marriages, kids, divorces, and everything in between, but are their best Galentine's Days now behind them?

Galentine's Day is a love letter to female friendship, that celebrates messiness, real relationships, and growing up together.

About the Author

REBECCA ANDERSON lives in Hertfordshire with her partner and beloved guinea pigs. She is a twin, has a degree in graphic design and is a practising counsellor with too many creative hobbies to list. Her writing explores sex, relationships, friendships and mental health, which she tackles with honesty and humour.



Avon

10/04/2025

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Editor
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Material
Available

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(Luitingh-Sijthoff), French (City
Editions), Italian (Newton
Compton) and Spanish
(Newton Compton)

THE FORGOTTEN BOOK CLUB

Kate Storey

Life can begin with a single story. You just have to bring your own book.

For three decades, Grace supported her husband Frank's passion for books, despite not being a reader herself. Since his passing, their shelves echo longingly, and Grace's heartache has only grown.

When Grace's grandson suggests joining Frank's old book club to feel closer to him again, Grace reluctantly agrees. Yet, upon arrival, she discovers this isn't a typical book club: here, members settle in for an hour of reading in silence.

Disappointed by the sparse attendance and confused by the lack of chatter, Grace flees. But when fellow member, Annie, convinces her to stay, Grace is determined to ensure that neither Frank - nor his beloved book club - are forgotten.

And as she breathes new life into the group, Grace might just find this is where she truly belongs. Because this next chapter of life could just be the beginning of her story.



© www.benlister.com

KATE STOREY started her career teaching English and Drama, and when she had her family, combined all three to write novels about family drama. Originally from Yorkshire, she now lives in a London suburb with her husband and two teenage daughters, so expects there's plenty more drama to come.





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Material
Available

Rights
Available in all languages

THE STAND-IN DAD

Something old, something new, someone borrowed.

Alex Summers

The Stand-in Dad is a joyful story about found family and the courage to embrace love's true colours.

Forty years ago, sixteen-year-old David was heartbroken when his family rejected him for coming out. Since then, he has vowed to always help anyone in need. So, when he finds a tearful young woman outside his flower shop, he can't just walk away.

Meg is newly engaged to the love of her life, Hannah. She should be overjoyed, but her conservative parents have made their disapproval painfully clear – leaving Meg devastated and wanting to call the whole wedding off.

But David won't let another young person be rejected. He offers to be Meg's 'stand-in dad', diving headfirst into dress fittings, cake tastings, and venue visits to make sure Meg's special day is unforgettable.

Yet Meg's parents' absence looms large – and when disaster strikes, can David save the wedding in time?

About the Author

ALEX SUMMERS is a queer and neurodivergent writer from Milton Keynes, who now lives in London with his partner. When he is not writing, he is reading or swimming. *The Stand-in Dad* is his first novel.



HarperFiction
05/06/2025
HB • 400*

A CORNISH LEGACY

Fern Britton

Escape to Cornwall this summer with the new emotional and uplifting novel from *Sunday Times* #1 bestselling author Fern Britton.

Set by the wild Atlantic coast of Cornwall comes a story about finding home in the most unlikely places. Cordelia Jago has lost everything. Her mother, her father, her career, her husband and her best friend, her trust. All she has left is a legacy she never expected – and would never have wanted.

Wilder Hoo – The Wild House – is a crumbling Cornish Manor House which she hates, full of unhappy memories for her. It is falling down to the brink of ruin. Determined to sell-up and forget the past forever, she begins to spruce up its echoing rooms – but the house seems to speak to her and to pull her back to happier times in Cornwall.

With the help of the locals, Cordelia breathes new life into the home, but will she find a way to heal her heart too?

Editor
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Material
Available

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© Liz Dawson

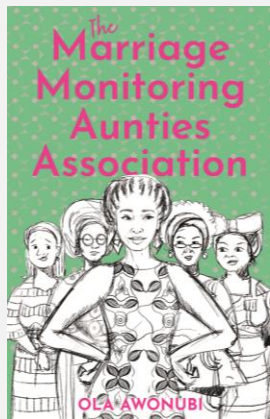
FERN BRITTON is the highly acclaimed author of nine *Sunday Times* bestselling novels. Her books are cherished for their warmth, wit and wisdom, and have won Fern legions of loyal readers.

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OMC

25/09/2025

PB • 384

THE MARRIAGE MONITORING AUNTIES' ASSOCIATION

Ola Awonubi

Current status: Friendships - fantastic. Family - getting better. Career - promotion on the cards. Romance - seriously delayed.

Sade Sadipo is ready to meet 'the one' and finally fulfil the Nigerian Dream. So far God hasn't performed that little miracle quite yet, but it'll happen this year for sure. Especially if her mother, two best friends, younger sister and all those in the unofficial Marriage Monitoring Aunties Association, have anything to say about it.

She might love her job, have great friends and even own her own home, but according to the meddling aunties, this is why she's still single at 50. Not wanting to turn into a bitter aunty herself, Sade knows it's time to get serious, but the options aren't looking great - zero potential at church, work or in her social life.

What if her prayers for the perfect man have got lost? Or maybe Sade's happy-ever-after is right on time.

Editor
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Material
Available at a later date

Rights
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© Kemi Oloyede

OLA AWONUBI was born in London to Nigerian parents. She grew up and attended school in Brighton and lived in Nigeria before returning to England in 1992. An avid reader, she enrolled in writing classes and went on to obtain an MA in Creative Writing at the University of East London. Her short stories have first prize in both the National Words of Colour competition and the Wasafiri New Writing Prize 2009.



ELISSA SOAVE

'A rebellious and uplifting tale
of punkish, middle-aged,
feminist defiance'
LUCY RICHETER



HQ

13/03/2025

HB • 320

GRAFFITI GIRLS

Elissa Soave

A sharp, empowering novel about a group of women who refuse to go quietly when society tells them they're no longer valuable beyond the age of 40, from the author of *Ginger and Me*.

Amy, Carole, Lenore and Susan have been best friends since school. Back then they couldn't wait for the future, for the amazing lives they'd have.

But things haven't worked out how they expected. Now in their forties, they're fed up with being taken for granted by their families, being passed over for promotions at work and being told that they're past their best. And they're not going to go quietly anymore.

Fuelled by female rage and their charismatic leader Amy, the four embark on a campaign of graffiti in their hometown of Hamilton, scrawling feminist slogans on the walls of local buildings.

But is Hamilton ready for the feminist revolution the Graffiti Girls have in store?

Editor
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Material
Available

Rights
Available in all languages



© Elissa Soave

ELISSA SOAVE won the inaugural Primadonna Prize in 2019. She was also a Bloody Scotland Pitch Perfect finalist 2019 and has had work published in various journals and anthologies, including *New Writing Scotland*, *Gutter*, and the *Glasgow Review of Books*. Her first novel, *Ginger and Me*, was published by HQ, HarperCollins in July 2022, and was shortlisted for the Saltire Society Scottish First Book Award 2023. Elissa was a judge on the Primadonna Prize 2022 and the Curae Prize 2023. She currently lives in South Lanarkshire.





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(Argo)

GRACIE JENKINS RUNS A MARATHON

Penny Mirren

The best adventures start with a single step.

At 72, Gracie Jenkins thought her days of adventure were behind her. Settled into the familiar rhythms of small-town life, she never imagined she'd lace up her trainers for anything more than a stroll down memory lane. But when a forgotten photograph sparks a fire within her, Gracie decides to embark on an extraordinary journey.

With nothing more than sheer determination, Gracie sets out to conquer the ultimate challenge: training for a marathon. Amidst doubts from her family and peers, she finds unexpected allies in her local running club and a newfound coach in her friend and neighbour, Jill. As Gracie's steps turn into miles, she discovers strength she never knew she had and a community she never expected to find.

But it's not just about crossing the finish line—it's about rediscovering herself along the way. Through the ups and downs of training, Gracie learns that age is just a number and that every stride forward is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

Because sometimes, the most extraordinary adventures begin with a single step.

About the Author

PENNY MIRREN is the pen name of Samantha Pennington. Sam writes light-hearted, uplifting fiction and romantic comedy. She was selected for the inaugural Kate Nash Literary Agency Mentorship program in 2020 and is a member of the Romantic Novelists Association. Sam lives in rural North Essex and when she's not writing, enjoys being second mate on her husband's tiny fishing boat and reading books for her wine club. *Gracie Jenkins Runs a Marathon* is her second book with Avon.





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Material
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(Grada) and Danish (Forlaget
Zara)

THE SANTORINI WRITING RETREAT

Eva Glyn

Secrets make the best stories.

Three women, one writing retreat, endless possibilities.

Bestselling author Jessica Rose needs to escape from a terrible secret that's robbed her of her creativity. Could leading a retreat on a gorgeous Greek island be just what she needs?

Coming home to Santorini was never in Zina's plans, but now she's determined to make her new business a success.

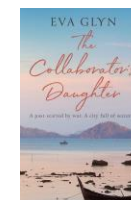
And then there's Karmela, who just wants to write her book and make her mother proud.

In the heat of their Greek island paradise, these new friends find the courage to shape their own stories and write endings they can all be proud of.



© Eva Glyn

EVA GLYN writes escapist relationship-driven fiction with a kernel of truth at its heart. She loves to travel and finds inspiration in beautiful places and the stories they hide. She also writes as Jane Cable.



HQ

12/03/2026

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Editor
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Material
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Rights
Available in all languages

MOST WANTED

Andi Osho

All Naya and Jake want is their own home. That's not too much to ask, right?

All Naya and Jake want is their own home. An island in the kitchen. A wine cooler, maybe. Nothing fancy really.

With artisanal coffee shops and microbreweries popping up on every corner, prices are skyrocketing. And as Jake and Naya tour property after property, one thing becomes clear: unless they want to share their home with black mould, they need to find a way to make the market crash. And fast.

There's only one thing for it: they're going to have to take matters into their own hands. But how far are they willing to go?



© Andi Osho

ANDI OSHO is an accomplished actor, writer, stand-up comedian and film-maker. As an actor, Andi has appeared in TV shows including *Line of Duty*, *I May Destroy You*, *Good Omens*, *Sex Education*, *Breeders*, *The Sandman*, and *Blue Lights*. *Shazam* and *Lights Out* are among her film credits.

Andi has written for Sky, Fox, BBC TV and BBC Radio and several UK newspapers and publications. She also wrote and starred in Sky Arts short, *Twin Thing*, and wrote and produced award-winning films *Brit.I.am*, *The Grid* and *Amber*.

Asking for a Friend, her debut novel, was longlisted for the Comedy Women In Print Prize 2021. *Most Wanted* is her third novel.





HarperNorth
27/03/2025
PB • 320*

THE HOTEL AT THE HEART OF THE LAKES

Ellie Wood

Sometimes a holiday can change your life.

Welcome to the Lake Island Hotel, on a small island in the centre of beautiful Derwentwater, offering an escape from it all like no other destination. With a 360-degree view of the hills, and the water lapping at your feet on the private shore, you can't help but be enchanted.

Anna bought the hotel with her husband five years ago and has lovingly transformed it from a near-ruin to a must-visit luxury destination, with its seven stylish rooms and a sister restaurant to the renowned Hesta. The guests who come here to unwind see only the stunning views and the five-star service – but behind the scenes are the team who work hard to make relaxing seem easy.

On an island this small, it's inevitable that tempers will fray, hearts will break, romances will bloom – and above all, if you think you've got a secret, it won't stay that way for long.

Editor
Genevieve Pegg

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Available at a later date

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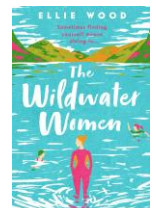
Previous rights sold: Danish
(Zara)

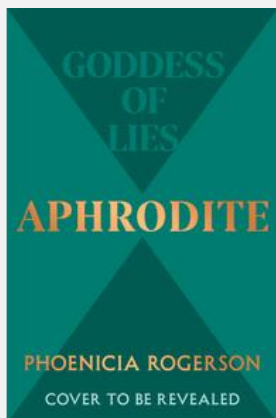


© Eloise Wood

ELLIE WOOD was born and raised in the Lake District where she still lives. Passionate about the benefits of getting out into the wild, she's swum and walked the landscape that inspires her writing since she was small.

X: @EloiseReads





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14/08/2025
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(Mediaplex), Polish
(HarperCollins) and US
(HarperCollins)

APHRODITE

Phoenicia Rogerson

The enthralling retelling of a new feminist icon for 2025, the most loved goddess and heroine of Mount Olympus and all Greek mythology.

'I'm a liar, to begin with.'

I wasn't always a goddess, you see. My only real power was my beauty - you'll have heard. It's legendary. But that was never going to be enough for me.

It took a web of lies to convince the gods of Olympus I was one of them. But I did. I was that good. Zeus gave me a title and riches and loved me. And all he wanted in return was for me to love him back.

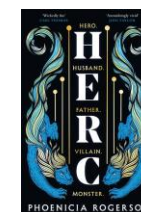
But of course, Zeus was a tyrant. (Not entirely surprising when you're ninety per cent insecurities and ten per cent raw power.) I couldn't live at someone's mercy. Really, I had no choice. I had to take on the mightiest Olympian of all. And this bit's not a lie. I intended to win.

From the award-winning author of *Herc*, this is the riveting tale of how a nobody became a goddess and then planned to take down the most powerful god of them all.



© Luke Evison

PHOENICIA ROGERSON has had two short stories published in the UCL Publisher's Prize, and she won the Somerset Maugham Award with *Herc*, her first novel. She lives and works in London.



BOOK CLUB FICTION



HQ

24/04/2025

HB • 336*

OVERSPILL

Charlotte Paradise

Tender, brutal, devastating, *Overspill* is the debut novel from incredible new literary talent, Charlotte Paradise, perfect for fans of Sally Rooney and Coco Mellors.

Sara is twenty-five. She has never used a tampon without having a panic attack.

She starts dating Miles. For three months, they don't touch. Miles respects her boundaries, though he longs for them to melt away. Sara desires Miles, but she knows her body, or rather she knows it is an unknowable thing.

Sara wants to be in love, to find a person who allows her to be herself. Someone who is happy with everything she is and everything she isn't. Miles hopes he won't hurt her.

But how do you navigate a relationship for which there is no blueprint? How do you love someone when your body is not your own, and how do you reclaim it?

Editor

Cicely Aspinall

Primary Agent

N/A

Enquiries

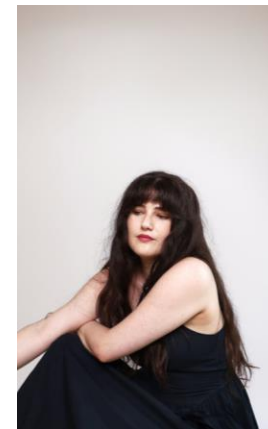
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Material

Available

Rights

Available in all languages



© Charlotte Paradise

CHARLOTTE PARADISE is a disabled author and screenwriter with an MA in Writing for Stage and Broadcast Media from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Her short films have been selected, nominated and award-winning at film festivals, including internationally. *Overspill* is her first novel.



HQ

19/06/2025

HB • 320*

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N/A

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Material
Available

Rights
Available in all languages

WILD MOON RISING

Jenny Knight

A powerful and moving debut novel about coming of age again post-marriage and post-menopause.

Claire's life isn't how she thought it would be when she moves into Hunter's Moon. Her long marriage is over, her children have flown the nest, and her work as an illustrator no longer satisfies her. She isn't sure who she is now or what she wants from her life.

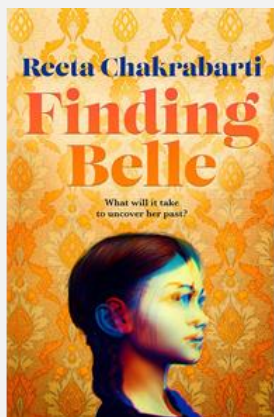
It wasn't always like this. Once, she had desires and ambitions.

When her octogenarian neighbour, Tansy, suffers a fall, Claire's solitude is broken. Under the older woman's guidance, she finds solace and a new sense of purpose in regenerating her wild garden. And as the plants grow, Claire retreads the bittersweet journey that brought her to the second half of her life.

This is a story of love. Of friendship and desire, of art and nature, of finding love for yourself and for life itself. It is a story of coming of age, once again, of giving up one's safety net and embracing a new life beyond.

About the Author

JENNY KNIGHT is a prize-winning writer of short story, fiction and memoir and a contributor to Kit de Waal's celebrated *Common People* anthology. Jenny has taught creative writing in prisons, worked with storytellers/actors for the UN/Comic Relief in Somalia/Kenya, chaired and spoken on panels, and held workshops about writing, rejection and resilience. She has a degree in English Lit & Drama and studied Creative Writing at UEA. She has also worked on farms, in pubs, factories, as a roadie, a short-term temp in the 80s music industry in London, and renovated a former pigsty.



HarperFiction
08/05/2025
HB • 368*

FINDING BELLE

Reeta Chakrabarti

What will it take to uncover her past?

A lost child. When Mivvi is young, her mother Belle is a puzzle: beautiful, troubled, and, terrifyingly, increasingly disconnected from the world. A displaced mother. Belle came to England upon her marriage, a whirlwind romance from the beaches of Mombasa to the English suburbs. But far from friends and family, her life and love affair began to crumble. A family secret.

As Mivvi grows up in the shadow of her mother's illnesses and her father's absences, she must reconnect the pieces that her mother scattered. Can she uncover the secrets clouding their past - and in doing so rewrite her own story?

Travelling from the beaches of Mombasa to the suburbs of England and then on to the teeming streets of Kolkata, a powerful story of mothers and daughters, betrayal and madness and a child who must forge her own identity.

Editor
Martha Ashby

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Material
Available

Rights
Available in all languages



© Jeff Overs/BBC

REETA CHAKRABARTI is a journalist and broadcaster who is a Chief Presenter for BBC News and has also reported extensively at home and abroad for the BBC.

X: @reetacbbc

HarperFiction

26/02/2026

PB • 432*

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Primary Agent

The Book Bureau

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Material

Available at a later date

Rights

Available in all languages

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LATE LEARNER

Ciara Geraghty

Ronda is a dreamer. But can she learn to conquer the real world?

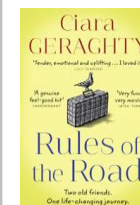
Ronda McCann lives a quiet, careful life. She cycles to her job as a care assistant in a nursing home from her childhood home, where she lives with her widowed mother, Annie, after a failed relationship.

But Ronda has a rich fantasy life. In her imagination she is brave, assertive, respected and admired, much like her sister Margo, a successful working mother and wife.

However, there's no place for a chronic day-dreamer in Margo's world. Ronda is flung out of her dream world when her sister insists that she learn to drive. Over the course of 12 lessons, Ronda will discover what she's made of, in real life.

About the Author

CIARA GERAGHTY is a bestselling Irish novelist who lives in Dublin. When she is not writing in her garret, Ciara loves reading, swimming in the sea and playing her violin and also co-hosts the podcast BookBirds.





HQ

22/05/2025

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Material
Available

Rights
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THAT TIME EVERYTHING WAS ON FIRE

Kerry Downes

A warm, funny, painfully relatable debut novel about friendship, coming of age in your thirties and finding your purpose. For fans of Anna Hope, Nina Stibbe and Holly Bourne.

Sam and Daisy have been best friends since university. Back then Daisy was a wild, Fleetwood Mac-obsessed girl descended from the Yorkshire Moors, while Sam's youth was misspent traipsing around Liverpool on shopping trips and nights out.

But as they lean against each other on a wooden bench in the tired garden of their beloved local pub, gazing out at Sam's wedding, they have no idea that their paths are about to truly diverge for the first time.

As Sam's desire to become a mother consumes her, and Daisy's inability to resist temptation haunts her, these best of friends will lose sight of themselves – and each other. With each misstep and unintentional betrayal, the gulf widens. But can they build a bridge, or will they let it burn?



© Kerry Downes

KERRY DOWNES grew up in East Yorkshire and has spent the last decade in south London, working as an NHS specialist audiologist. Her journey through fertility treatment over the last few years inspired parts of this novel. She's an alumna of Curtis Brown Creatives' selective three-month novel writing course and was shortlisted for the 2021 TLC Pen Factor prize. She lives in Brighton with her husband and son.

4thEstate
17/07/2025
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Material
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Rights
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GREAT EASTERN HOTEL

Ruchir Joshi

A rich, teeming, involving epic of war, famine, love and culture-clash in imperial Calcutta during World War Two.

The world is at war.

And at the Great Eastern, Calcutta's most luxurious hotel, amidst the feasting, dancing and laughter, we witness the metropolis in the last moments before multiple disasters strike.

The story begins in August 1941, on the day Rabindranath Tagore dies. The city has come to a standstill as thousands of people line the streets to pay their respects. Among them are: Nirupama, a student of history and a volunteer with the Communist Party of India; Imogen, a young Englishwoman whose father is an official with the Raj; Kedar, the scion of a wealthy family, who dreams of painting like Cézanne; and Gopal, a young but experienced pickpocket, who finds himself promoted into a dark, dangerous world.

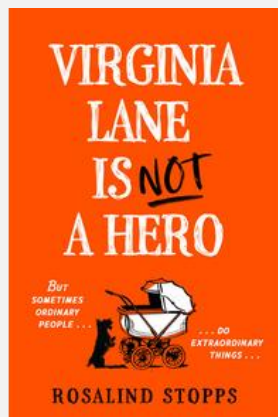
Their lives intertwine with those at the hotel: an American soldier who plays jazz at the nightclub; a genius French chef; an heiress fleeing from the nightmare in Europe; and a group of military officers running a secret intelligence operation.

Singularly ambitious and attentive, Ruchir Joshi's *Great Eastern Hotel* maps this simmering pause at a crucial juncture in history, and offers new contexts to the upheavals of our present, raising vital questions about political commitment, nationalism, love and art.



© David Levenson

RUCHIR JOSHI is the author of *The Last Jet-Engine Laugh*, a novel, and *Poriborton!*, a book about the 2011 state elections in West Bengal. He has also directed documentaries and essay films, including the award-winning *Tales from Planet Kolkata*.



HQ
24/04/2025
PB • 384*

VIRGINIA LANE IS NOT A HERO

Rosalind Stopps

A darkly comic and character-driven thriller with a surprising heroine, this is a chilling novel about protecting those who can't protect themselves.

Ever since her beloved Jed died, all Virginia wants is to be left alone. But the little girl who lives down the street is so sweet, that even in her grief-fuelled state Virginia's heart softens whenever she sees her.

And that's why Virginia knows there's something wrong in the little girl's house. So, when the mother asks Virginia to take her child far away, somewhere safe, Virginia says yes.

The last thing Virginia would call herself is a hero. She's just doing what anyone else would do, right? But when she realises how much danger the child is in, she knows she needs to do everything she can to keep her safe. Because sometimes it's the most ordinary people who do the most extraordinary things.



© Daphne Smith

ROSALIND STOPPS' short stories have been published in five anthologies and read at live literature events in London, Leeds, Hong Kong and New York. Her debut novel, *The Stranger She Knew* was shortlisted for the Paul Torday Memorial Prize, and her second novel *A Beginner's Guide to Murder* was Longlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger Award.

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MAGICAL REALISM



OMC
28/08/2025
PB • 384

THE VANISHING CHERRY BLOSSOM BOOKSHOP

Takuya Asakura

For fans of *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*, *What You Are Looking for Is in the Library*, and *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* comes an enchanting novel that will linger in your heart long after the last page is turned.

Welcome to the Cherry Blossom Bookshop, a mysterious haven for book lovers that appears only during the fleeting cherry blossom season. Nestled amidst the bloom of delicate petals, you'll find a sanctuary for those burdened by regrets and past sorrows. Here, Sakura, the enigmatic young owner, and her wise tortoiseshell cat, Kobako, patiently await the arrival of souls in need of solace and healing.

Told over four seasons, each visitor to the bookshop holds a book that bridges their past and present, guiding them towards understanding and acceptance. Within the antique charm of the shop and the soothing aroma of freshly brewed coffee, Sakura and Kobako help their guests confront their lingering sadness through the power of stories, enabling them to move forward with renewed hope.

About the Author

TAKUYA ASAKURA was born in Sapporo in 1966 and graduated from the University of Tokyo. He won the first 'This Mystery is Amazing!' Grand Prize in 2002 for *Yokkakan no Kiseki* (*The Miracle of Four Days*), which was subsequently made into a film and sold over 1.3 million copies. Takuya is also a translator and translated Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library* from English into Japanese.

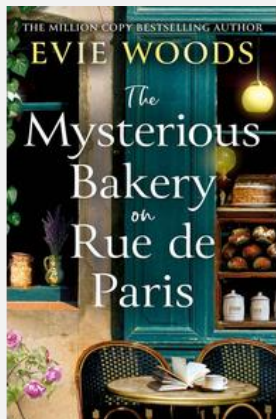
Editor
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Entertainment) and Spanish
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languages: details available
upon request.

THE MYSTERIOUS BAKERY ON RUE DE PARIS

Evie Woods

Nestled among the cobblestone streets of Compiègne, there existed a bakery unlike any other.

Rumours were whispered through the town that its pastries offered a taste of magic, chasing away the darkest of sorrows. Just one bite of a croissant might bring luck, unlock a precious memory or reveal hidden longings.

But dark clouds were looming on the horizon.

For Edie Lane, a recipe for disaster doesn't require that many ingredients. Take an unhealthy amount of wishful thinking and a sprinkle of desperation and that's how Edie left everything behind in Ireland for her dream job at a bakery in Paris. Except the bakery isn't in Paris – and neither is Edie.

This might not be where Edie intended to be, but she soon realizes it's exactly where she needs to be.



© Evie Woods

EVIE WOODS is the author of *The Lost Bookshop*, the #1 *Wall Street Journal* and Amazon Kindle bestseller, which has now sold over a million copies. Her books tread the intriguing line between the everyday and the otherworldly, revealing the magic that exists in our ordinary lives.





OMC
22/05/2025
PB • 384

THE MIDNIGHT BOOKSHOP

Amanda James

You don't choose the book. The book chooses you.

Long ago, a bookshop was born – the beating heart of all those who find hope within the pages of a book. With the words penned upon the echo of old forests, new worlds are created.

It's ready and waiting to welcome all those who know where to find it.

Strangers Jo, Adelaide and Kye are the least likely people to find themselves across the threshold of a bookshop.

But as their midnight book club shows them that a single book can change everything, all three realise that their own stories can be rewritten.

Editor

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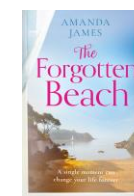
Available in all languages



© Amanda James

AMANDA JAMES, originally from Sheffield, now lives in Cornwall and is inspired every day by the wild and beautiful coastline.

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Facebook.com/mandy.james.33



ROMANCE



HarperFiction
08/05/2025
PB • 416*

COVER STORY

Mhairi McFarlane

Enemies-to-lovers and fake dating combine in a brand-new rom-com perfect for fans of Emily Henry.

Bel's joined the Manchester office of a big national paper from her award-winning podcast. There's only three of them: Bel, her relentlessly ambitious colleague Aaron and the new intern. And when the intern turns out to be a 30-something man called Connor, they get off on totally the wrong foot. She's patronising, he's hostile.

It's a terrible start.

Then Bel gets a sniff at a really big story, Connor gets caught in the crossfire and before they know it, they have to convince people they're a couple – and a couple in love at that. If they mess up, Bel's cover is blown and the biggest story she'll ever land will disappear, along with justice for its sources.

But as time goes on, who's double crossing whom – and which feelings are real?

Editor
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Primary Agent
Gunn Media

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Material
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Rights
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Knaur) and Swedish
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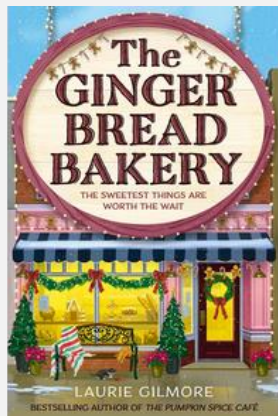
Previous rights sold in 25
languages: details available
upon request.



© Ruth Rose

MHAIRI MCFARLANE is a *Sunday Times* bestselling author whose first book, *You Had Me At Hello*, was an instant success. She's now working on her tenth book and lives in Nottingham.





OMC

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upon request

THE GINGERBREAD BAKERY

The Dream Harbor series (5)

Laurie Gilmore

A wedding in Dream Harbor can only mean one thing: everyone wants to get involved!

With Jeanie and Logan set to tie the knot, and Kira desperate to hire out her newly renovated barn at the Christmas tree farm, everything seems to be going well. Annie has agreed to bake the cake, and Mac is responsible for, well, just being Mac.

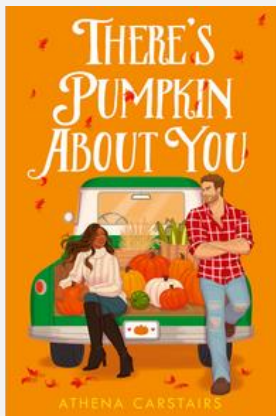
And as the whole of Dream Harbor comes together to celebrate the wedding of the year with the snow falling around them, can Annie and Mac put aside their dislike for each just long enough for the 'I Do's' or is that one request too far.



© Samantha Bailey
Photographer

LAURIE GILMORE is a *Sunday Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author who writes small-town romance. Her first novel, *The Pumpkin Spice Cafe*, won the TikTok Shop Book of the Year award in 2024.





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THERE'S PUMPKIN ABOUT YOU

Athena Carstairs

One determined party planner + one grumpy pumpkin farmer = a fall to remember.

Given the chance to plan her bestie's 30th birthday bash, Wren Southwick is determined to create an experience so big and so bold that the name of her party planning business spreads beyond the confines of her own small town.

The key to her plan? The Finch family's Goldleaf Pumpkin Farm. It's not just the perfect venue but also the perfect supply partner for the autumnal-themed bash Wren envisions. But to get what she wants – and needs – she'll have to get gorgeous grouch August Finch on board.

The table is set, and the battle is about to begin, but who will fall first?

About the Author

ATHENA CARSTAIRS is a Romance and Fantasy author living in London.

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Editor
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Rights
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YOU HAD ME AT PUMPKIN PATCH

Anita Faulkner

An autumnal romcom perfect for readers of Laurie Gilmore.

Rosie is an aspiring novelist working as a content writer when her life takes an unexpected turn after losing her job to an AI chatbot and discovering her boyfriend cheating with a sex robot. Fleeing her troubles, Rosie's car breaks down in the Cotswolds, where she's mistaken for a job applicant at Autumn Meadows Farm.

Rosie decides to stay, helping the farm owner, Agnes, plan 'pumpkin retreats' to save the property from developers. She befriends a group of local women who become her support system and finds herself attracted to Zain, the gruff but handsome farmer.

As Rosie settles into farm life, she rediscovers her passion for writing and falls for Zain. Their relationship blossoms through romantic dates and shared moments. However, their budding romance is threatened when Rosie learns Zain has been using the same AI chatbot that replaced her to plan their dates and script romantic lines.

Can Rosie and Zain overcome their differences to let love grow, and will they be able to save the farm from the threat of developers?

About the Author

ANITA FAULKNER is the author of *A Colourful Country Escape*, which was shortlisted for the Romantic Novelists' Association Debut Award, and *The Gingerbread Café* published by Sphere. She works as a copywriter and content creator and runs the busy Chick Lit and Prosecco group on Facebook for genre fans. Anita lives with her family in the Cotswolds.



HQ

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Material

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Rights

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THE SPA BREAK

Hannah Doyle

A laugh out loud rom-com, perfect for fans of Tessa Bailey and Sophie Kinsella.

A week-long spa break is just what Jess needs. She's going to be there with her best friends, Stella and Em. And the spa is so high-end it has an ethos about cleansing the mind and soul.

The laughter, gourmet food and cocktails are what every twenty-something needs. And then there's the beautiful man she spots in the pool on the first day. A perfect addition to her week.

Until Jess finds out that he's someone from her past. Someone she really should have recognized. Someone she should not find attractive. And that's when things start getting a little confusing.



© Hannah Doyle

HANNAH DOYLE is a journalist and author who writes deliciously relatable books about love and friendship. Sponsored by coffee, she spends her days writing and running around after her twin sons in Sheffield, where she lives with her husband. Previously, Hannah worked for a celebrity magazine in London and has appeared on television and radio chatting about the hot showbiz topics of the day.

HQ

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Rights
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HITWOMAN

Elsie Marks

Action meets romcom. Assassin Maisie Baxter meets her match in mysterious hitman, Agent Perseus, as the two rivals team up to uncover a conspiracy.

Maisie Baxter has a particular set of skills honed over a very successful career. She's determined not to let being the number one ranked hitman at the UK's second-best assassin agency get in the way of her having the social life of any other 30-something Londoner, but it's tough to date when your hours are extremely unpredictable and you can't share any details of your day.

So it's lucky that Maisie just met a cute guy at work. A really cute, charming guy who she can actually talk to about work. Not so lucky that he works for her rival and keeps getting to her targets before her.

When it becomes clear that these chance meetings are no coincidence and they can't trust anyone, Maisie and the mysterious (but seriously, super cute) Agent Perseus are going to have to put aside their professional rivalry - and their building sexual tension - to uncover a conspiracy that goes all the way to the top.

About the Author

ELSIE MARKS is the pen name for Louisa Burden and Neil Weaving, a writing duo from the UK now living and working in Beijing.

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14/08/2025
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Editor
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ALICE CARVER MANIFESTS HER PERFECT LIFE

Hannah Lake

Thirty years after we first met Bridget Jones, Alice is the irresistible - and irresistibly flawed - heroine for a new generation.

I manifest... The perfect man (Guy Carmichael) falling in love with me.

I manifest... Having a gorgeous flat (preferably central and cheap, or ideally free, with no rats).

I manifest... Getting a better job (more money, people bringing me coffee rather than the other way round, no one getting my name wrong, etc.).

I manifest... Respect and admiration from friends, colleagues, and family (preferably with high levels of envy, veneration of my social media output, and general sense of shame for having doubted me).

I manifest... A perfect wedding (everyone whose wedding I've had to sit through can endure mine, commenting on how beautiful a bride I am).

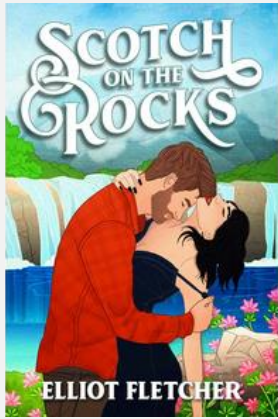
I manifest... Wiping that smug smile off Matthew Lloyd's face.

SignedAlice Carver.....

Date25th December.....

About the Author

HANNAH LAKE was born in Germany and grew up in Oxfordshire with her three siblings. Having worked and studied in Oxford, London and New York, most recently as a teacher, she now lives in the Cotswolds with her husband and three children.



HarperFiction
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Material
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languages.

SCOTCH ON THE ROCKS

Elliot Fletcher

A spicy, small-town, enemies-to-lovers romance set on the Isle of Skye in Scotland, from the author of TikTok sensation *Whisky Business*.

When you live on a tiny island, it's easy to stir up a scandal.

For Callum Macabe, there's no one better than Juniper Ross. She's razor-tongued, sarcastic, elusive. And not to mention drop-dead gorgeous.

There's just one problem: his brother got there first.

And even though Juniper and Alistair split up five years ago, Callum knows he could never break the actual bro code. Or could he?



© Freddie Freeman

ELLIOT FLETCHER is a romance writer who resides in her too-small flat in Edinburgh, Scotland, with her husband, cat and dog. You can find her on Instagram @elliottfletcherwrites.





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KILTED LOVERS

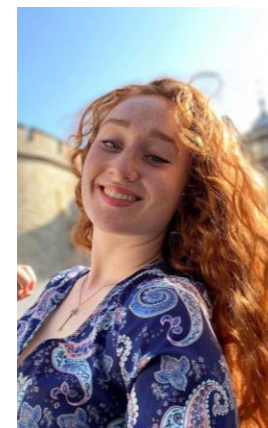
Megan Clawson

The brilliant new novel from the queen of royal-rom-coms!

All Lady Alice Walpole wants is to be swept off her feet, but she keeps finding herself on one bad date after another. And when she's caught partying too hard with her latest royal beau, her father banishes her to Balmoral to clean up her act.

Fraser Bell just wants to do his job as Piper to the Sovereign at Balmoral. He prefers tartan to tuxedos and spends his days with horses rather than dealing with people, so when he's assigned to wake Alice up to the sound of bagpipes every morning, he's less than pleased. But as her time in Scotland stretches on, Alice finds herself falling for the rugged landscape - and maybe even Fraser, too.

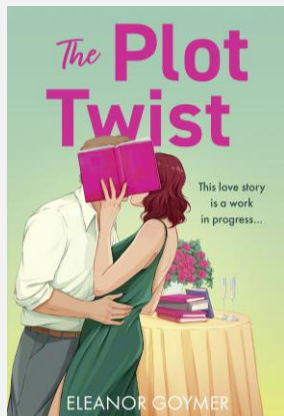
Soon, returning to her glittering but empty life in London sounds less like an escape, and more like a punishment. She wears tiaras, and he wears tartan, but for this unlikely couple, can romance ever reign?



© Megan Clawson

MEGAN CLAWSON was born and raised in Boston, Lincolnshire. A beefeater's daughter, her heart was ensnared by the city of London at a young age, and she moved to study English with Film at King's College in 2018. Whilst there, she fell in love with her own royal guard. She works as an English Tutor and a TV and film extra, alongside her writing.





OMC
13/03/2025
PB • 368

THE PLOT TWIST

Eleanor Goymer

This love story is a work in progress.

When rom-com author Allie Edwards crosses paths with bestselling crime novelist – aka publishing dinosaur – Martin Clark at a party, they discover they both have crippling writer's block, overdue manuscripts and precisely zero words to show to their respective editors.

With deadlines looming, Allie and Martin decide to switch plots and tell each other's stories. In the writing process, Allie not only gains a father-figure in Martin, but also meets gorgeous events caterer Will, the answer to the leading man-shaped hole in her life and her lack of spicy material.

Caught between love and her career, what could possibly go wrong?

Editor
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Material
Available

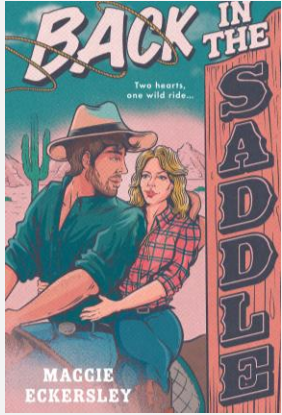
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ELEANOR GOYMER is a publishing consultant living in North Carolina. Originally from London, Eleanor has degrees from Durham University and Kings College London and spent the best part of 20 years working in the London office of HarperCollins Publishers. After relocating to the US with her family she now acts as a consultant and editor for publishers, authors and associated publishing organizations.





Avon

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BACK IN THE SADDLE

Maggie Eckersley

Two hearts, one wild ride.

Caroline swore she was done with love. Fleeing her Scottish homeland with a broken heart for fresh start in Oklahoma was supposed to be smooth riding – until a whisky-soaked night at The Rogue Scot led to a smouldering kiss with a devastatingly handsome cowboy. Hunter's charm stirs something wild in her, awakening desires she thought she'd buried for good since her divorce.

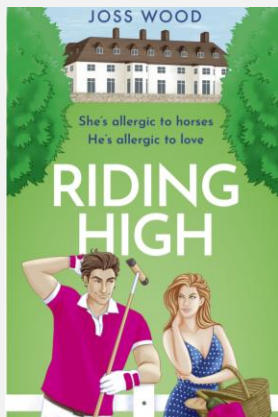
Hunter has no time for distractions. With his father's health failing and his family's ranch on the line, he has enough on his plate. But then he meets sultry, sharp-tongued Caroline. Their chemistry is electric, their connection undeniable – and that kiss? Unforgettable.

As their worlds collide in unexpected ways, Hunter and Caroline find themselves drawn together in a whirlwind of passion and longing. But secrets, doubts and past heartbreaks loom large.

Can they hold the reins steady, or will they call it quits before the dust settles?

About the Author

MAGGIE ECKERSLEY is a Polish romance author living in Scotland with her husband and two terriers. When Maggie isn't daydreaming about the next love story she wants to type out, she's studying Medicine or working as a medical writer. In 2023, Maggie won I Am In Print Award for the book that became *Back in the Saddle*. In 2024, she has been shortlisted in I Am In Print Romance competition and longlisted in Penguin Michael Joseph Undiscovered Writers' Prize with another contemporary romance novel.



OMC

05/06/2025

PB • 384

RIDING HIGH

Joss Wood

A galloping tale of love, inheritance, lies and scandal, all set against the backdrop of a stunning country estate in the beautiful English countryside.

Eden Ennis is a stranger to high society. So, when she turns up at the Elmsleigh House estate, determined to tell billionaire owner Troyden Castle that she is his niece, she is completely out of her depth.

Jed Harris is not only the star polo-player, he's Troyden's stepson, and renowned for changing partners as often as his ponies. He's also the only man she's ever fainted at the sight of – or that could just be her allergy to horses.

Can Eden reveal her true identity and rein in the elusive Jed? In the game of love, sometimes the hardest match is the one for the heart.

Editor
Helen Williams

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Material
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Rights
Available in all languages



© Joss Wood

JOSS WOOD previously worked in local economic development and business and now writes full-time from her home in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

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N/A

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Material

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CROSS MY HEART

Esha Patel

The perfect fake-dating college sports romance for fans of Bal Khabra and Hannah Grace.

May Velasco has always wanted to be a lacrosse player, and she's finally achieved her dream: joining her college team on a scholarship. But with a terrible junior season in the books, she's got to give her all to the team to keep her scholarship.

But then CJ "Colt" Bradley, her grade school nemesis, turned star of New Haven's pro lacrosse team, shows up at her college to help with training. The last thing May wants to do is take pointers from him.

When they're photographed having what looks like, but definitely isn't, an intimate moment at a bar, May's outraged. But the college is thrilled that women's lacrosse is getting press, and she knows can't do anything to jeopardize her tenuous place on the team.

So they'll pretend they're dating for a bit, the lacrosse program gets the exposure they need, then Colt will go home, and everything will go back to normal. Won't it?

About the Author

ESHA PATEL is a contemporary romance writer who loves causing drama but would never do that to real people, so she created characters to make their lives torture instead. Her previously self-published novels include *Florida's Finest*, *High Time in Texas*, *Trauma Queen*, and *Young and Dumb*.



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Material
Available at a later date

Rights
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COUPLE GOALS

The Good Game series (1)

Kit Williams

When a harsh new manager takes over the Tigresses football team, bringing a new star striker Kira with her, morale is rocked. The team’s current MVP Maeve clashes immediately with Kira – she remembers playing against her all too well in a distinctly unfriendly “friendly” last year.

Now, Kira is threatening Maeve's chances at being selected for the England squad. But despite the animosity between them, Maeve can’t help secretly admiring Kira's annoyingly perfect form. Is there more to this obsessive rivalry than they’re letting on?

Meanwhile, sunny midfielder Adriana is determined to keep the team motivated. As she gets to know the new manager’s grumpy son Jacob she spies an opportunity to boost the team’s spirits, and live happily ever after.

About the Author

KIT WILLIAMS is the pseudonym for a writer and amateur football player, based in London.

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22/05/2025

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KILN ME SOFTLY

B. B. Woods

This spicy enemies-to-lovers romantic comedy introduces TikTok's hottest book boyfriend.

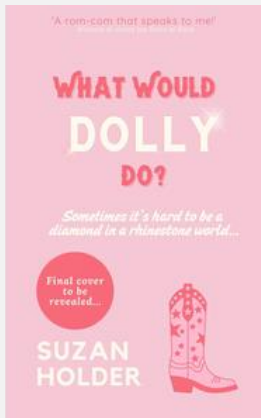
When Juniper arrives at the prestigious Royal Academy of Ceramics, she's shocked to find Aiden in her class. She and Aiden have hated each other since high school. Now, he's the most talented potter in their cohort, annoyingly arrogant – and hotter than ever.

Juniper gave up trying to mold Aiden into a decent guy a long time ago. But as a casual fling, he's already perfectly formed. When they are forced to team up on a project together, the kiln isn't the only thing that heats up fast. But as Juniper starts to see past Aiden's sculpted jawline to his softer side, secrets from their past emerge which threaten to reshape everything Juniper thought she wanted.

Time is running out and Juniper must decide: can she carve out space for Aiden in her future? And if not, will they both walk away in one piece?

About the Author

B. B. WOODS is a Kindle-bestselling author, ghost writer, freelance writer and editor, from and based in Manchester.



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WHAT WOULD DOLLY DO?

Sometimes it's hard to be a diamond in a rhinestone world.

Suzan Holder

I Will Always Love You? More like 'I'll only love you until someone better comes along'

Becky Mooney thinks her life is over when her boyfriend (and Kenny Rogers to her Dolly Parton in their tribute act) walks out on her. She knows she'll never have the confidence to sing by herself, even in her Dolly outfit. So what's a girl to do?

In this sparkling rom-com from the author of *Shake It Up, Beverley* and *Rock & Rose*, you'll find not just a love song to Dolly Parton but a wake-up call for anyone who thinks they've missed their chance.

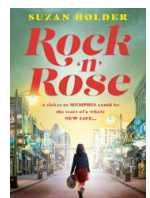
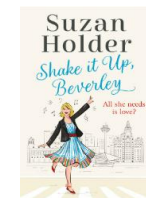
Sometimes we don't know who we really want to be - but with a little advice from Dolly, Becky is determined to learn to shine. And which of us couldn't use a bit of sparkle?



© Isabella Rubin

SUZAN HOLDER trained as a newspaper journalist before moving into TV. *Shake It Up, Beverley* was Suzan's first novel and is adapted from her original play *Shake It Up, Baby* which has been performed around the UK.

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DATE KNIGHT

The Roll for Romance series (2)

Sam Parks

A side quest he never saw coming.

Phil Owen has it all figured out. Or rather his character in his weekly role-playing game does. In real life? Not so much.

Inviting Amy Evans to join their group's campaign seemed like the kind thing to do when his best friend's younger sister returned home broken hearted six months ago, but all it's done is give her another dimension in which to tempt him.

Yet when an unwelcome character from Amy's past turns up in her present, it's Phil's spell level that saves the day. His prize? A three-month quest as Amy's fake boyfriend, and a chance to turn fantasy into reality.



© Samantha Parks

SAM PARKS is the pen name of Sam Gale. Sam was born in North Carolina but now resides in Bournemouth, UK, with her husband Alex.



HQ

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EB• 320*

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HOW CAN I RESIST YOU?

Jeevani Charika

A hilarious summer romance for fans of Emily Henry, Elena Armas and Ali Hazelwood.

Vidya isn't in Waterloo Bay for a holiday. Officially, she's visiting the beautiful, quirky seaside town for work – but unofficially, she's on a mission. One of her colleagues hooked up with her sister at a party, and as the sensible one in the family, it's her job to find out who.

But there's a catch: all she has to go on is a vague description of a shoulder tattoo.

Vidya has just two weeks to glimpse her colleagues shirtless without getting fired, but crazy hotel guests, malicious seagulls and her pesky day job keep getting in the way.

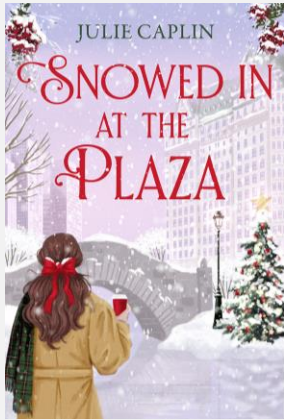
And then there's Leo, the most frustrating, patronising, handsome man she's ever met.



© Stephen Armishaw
Photography

JEEVANI CHARIKA writes multicultural women's fiction and romantic comedies. She spent much of her childhood in Sri Lanka, with short forays to Nigeria and Micronesia, before returning to England to settle in Yorkshire. All of this, it turned out, was excellent preparation for becoming a novelist. She also writes under the name Rhoda Baxter. Her books have been shortlisted for multiple awards.

ESCAPIST ROMANCE



OMC

09/10/2025

PB • 384

SNOWED IN AT THE PLAZA

The Christmas Escapes series (1)

Julie Caplin

Can Christmas in New York melt even the coldest of hearts?

The holidays have always been the season of joy for Evie Green. And this year, even though she's facing her first Christmas alone, it's not without a festive surprise from her favourite Aunt Poppy: a trip to the iconic Plaza Hotel.

Nothing can dim Evie's holiday spirit - until Noah Sanderson walks into the famous lobby complete with frosty demeanour and a heart that's seen better days. And when their paths cross, sparks fly - but not the twinkling Christmas kind!

Editor

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Primary Agent

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Material

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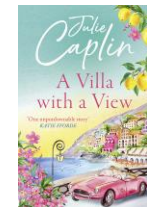
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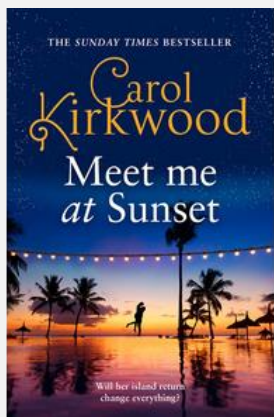
Previous rights sold in 23 languages: details available upon request.



© Julie Caplin

JULIE CAPLIN is the international bestselling author of the *Romantic Escapes* series. Her books have hit the bestseller charts in Italy, Germany, the UK and the Czech Republic and have sold over a million copies worldwide. Julie also writes romantic and historical fiction as Jules Wake.





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MEET ME AT SUNSET

Carol Kirkwood

Will her island escape change everything? The new captivating read from the bestselling author and beloved TV presenter.

Lies, seduction and secrets await under a Spanish sun. When Camille Fontaine arrives on the sun-drenched island of Majorca, she's running from a shattered love affair. But even amongst the palm trees and the golden sands, she can't forget her past. Surrounded by the glamorous and the guilty, Camille isn't the only one with secrets to hide. Is one sunseeker hiding a dark revelation?

Will a Hollywood actress risk her glittering career?

Can a broken-hearted lover take a last chance at happiness?

The sun sets on their island paradise, can they escape a lifetime of secrets?



© Mark Harrison Photography

CAROL KIRKWOOD is one of our most loved TV personalities. Millions of viewers and listeners know her for her weather reports on BBC Breakfast and Wimbledon fortnight, and for waltzing into our hearts on Strictly Come Dancing. Carol was inspired to write her first novel by her passion for travel and her love of Hollywood glamour. Off-screen, Carol can often be found ensconced in a book, singing, dancing and taking long walks in the countryside.

X: @CarolKirkwood
Facebook.com/@OfficialCarolKirkwood





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(HarperCollins)

THE FLOATING AMSTERDAM FLOWER SHOP

The Floating Shop series (1)

Annabel French

Can love blossom in a city of new beginnings?

One fresh start. One unexpected encounter. Can love bridge the gap?

When Rosie leaves behind her ordinary life in England to open a flower shop on Amsterdam's water, she expects nothing less than a fairytale.

Max, her handsome but brooding new neighbour, prefers to keep the world at arm's length – and living on the houseboat next door, he's not too thrilled about the new company.

As Rosie's business blossoms, so do her feelings for Max. But Rosie isn't sure she's ready for a relationship, and Max is still nursing a broken heart.

Then a rival in the flower market threatens her dreams, and Rosie discovers that the most beautiful things can bloom when you learn to go with the flow – and allow someone to stand by your side.

Will Rosie and Max allow themselves to be swept away by love, or is their relationship doomed to sink before it can swim?

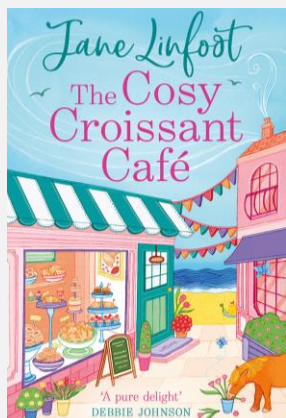
Coming soon: *The Floating Venice Bookshop* (Feb 2026) and *The Floating Copenhagen Café* (July 2026)



© Annabel French

ANNABEL FRENCH is a bestselling author of several contemporary romantic fiction stories for HarperCollins. Based in southeast England with her family, when she's not busy locked in her study writing, or daydreaming, she can be seen in the great outdoors, running after her two dogs, Wotsit and Skips.





OMC

24/04/2025

PB • 400

THE COSY CROISSANT CAFÉ

Jane Linfoot

Boathouse Cottage was meant to be a sanctuary for Betty and her beloved rescue Shetland pony, Pumpkin.

Now, as her sister's marriage implodes and the family cottage in St Aidan becomes a bargaining chip that needs to be protected, Betty finds herself facing off against her unwanted flatmate - her brother-in-law's best friend, Miles Appleton. Miles may be gorgeous and a talented pastry chef too, but she can't afford to be swayed by either his charm or his delicious croissant campaign.

Or can she? Because as Betty soon realises, there might be more to gain from aligning with the talented baker than fighting against the temptation he and his pastries pose.

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© Jane Linfoot

JANE LINFOOT writes fun, flirty fiction with feisty heroines and a bit of an edge. She lives in a mountain kingdom in Derbyshire.



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(Eksmo), Slovak (Fortuna Libri)
and Spanish (HarperCollins)

A SCOTTISH COASTAL ESCAPE

The Scottish Escapes series (9)

Julie Shackman

A new tale of romance and mystery set in the Scottish Highlands.

When romance author Rosie Winters's own fairytale romance ends with a bang, she's determined to get away from everything. Packing up her belongings she sets off for the furthest place she can think of: Scotland.

Rosie spent her summers at her late grandmother's coastal cottage in the Highlands and knows it'll be the perfect place to wallow for a while. Even better that there's a gorgeous lighthouse and dolphins in the bay.

What Rosie didn't expect was to bump into the new lighthouse keeper, Mitch. Despite her recent heartbreak, Rosie finds herself fascinated by the mysterious Mitch. As they spend more time together, is it possible that he needs Rosie every bit as she needs him.



© Trevor Graham
Photography

JULIE SHACKMAN is a former journalist and writer. She lives in Scotland with her husband and two teenage sons.





OMC

10/04/2025

PB • 384

STILL GOT IT

Claire Carver

One beautiful Greek summer and a second chance at love.

Age is just a number.

Grace Foreman never expected to find herself widowed before she turned sixty – but when she packs her bags for a summer on a gorgeous Greek island, the last thing on her mind is a holiday romance. Grace would rather take a chance on a tan, or maybe a new summer wardrobe.

But then Grace meets ex Special Forces soldier Will Lancing – and although Grace isn't looking for love, she soon finds out she's still got it when it comes to playing the dating game.

Editor
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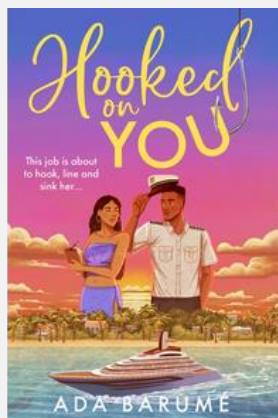
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© Trevor Graham
Photography

CLAIRE CARVER is a showbiz and interiors journalist slash novelist who has worked for several national papers and many magazines. Based in London, Claire has an MA in Creative Writing from St Mary's University, Twickenham, and still meets up regularly with her fellow writers.



Avon

10/04/2025

PB • 384

HOOKED ON YOU

Ada Barumé

The perfect enemies-to-lovers for fans of *Below Deck* and Emily Henry's *Book Lovers*.

Ore has (almost) landed her dream job as an investigative reporter for the New Yorker. There's only one catch - they'll only give her the job if she can get the scoop on working for the elusive billionaire Harrison Marigold. To write the article, she's got to spend two weeks on his luxury yacht off the coast of Australia, and convince the crew to spill the beans.

Daniel has (almost) landed his dream job as captain of a super yacht down under. There's only one catch - he has to take one last job, chartering a yacht for an eccentric billionaire, and making sure an unfairly beautiful journalist doesn't distract his crew from their work.

But making sure Ore doesn't sink his chances of staying on course by seducing his crew turns into a much harder job than Daniel expected. Ore's also finding her assignment more difficult than she ever thought, thanks to the crew's loyalty to Captain Daniel, but also, the waves of attraction towards him that keep crashing over her.

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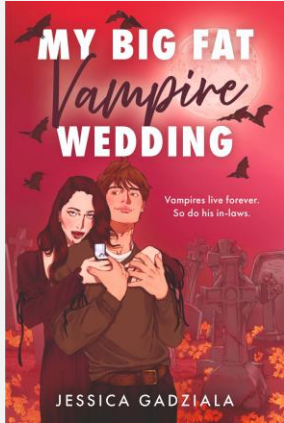
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About the Author

ADA BARUMÉ graduated with a politics degree from Cambridge University before moving to London to become a journalist, specialising in African news. In her debut novel, she draws on her own experiences of being a young, black woman looking for fun, love and adventure. When she's not working, you'll find her agonising over what outfit to wear or searching for the nearest dancefloor.



ROMANTASY



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Material

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MY BIG FAT VAMPIRE WEDDING

Jessica Gadziala

Fake wedding + vampires = happily ever after?

Pandora has real problems. She still lives with her parents, she's working a dead-end job, and, oh yeah, she's a vampire who must get married by her birthday in three months' time or she won't inherit the ancient family fortune.

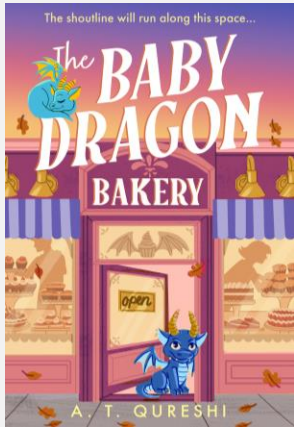
One slight catch: she's single.

But then she finds her perfect fake husband: Victor, a PhD student with mountains of student debt. She can marry him, inherit, pay off his debt, and divorce him. The only slight problems are that Victor doesn't know she's a vampire and absolutely cannot find out, and Pandora's family absolutely cannot find out the wedding is fake.

Plus, the growing attraction between them has Pandora questioning if she even wants this marriage to be fake. Can the pair survive this big fat vampire wedding?

About the Author

JESSICA GADZIALA is a *USA Today* bestselling author of over 100 romance novels. She lives in rural New Jersey. A lifelong dreamer, she's been writing stories since childhood and published her first book in 2015.



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(Vulkan), Spanish
(HarperCollins), Swedish
(HarperCollins)

THE BABY DRAGON BAKERY

The Baby Dragon series (2)

A. T. Qureshi

The perfect dual POV, friends-to-lovers cozy fantasy, with HEA guaranteed.

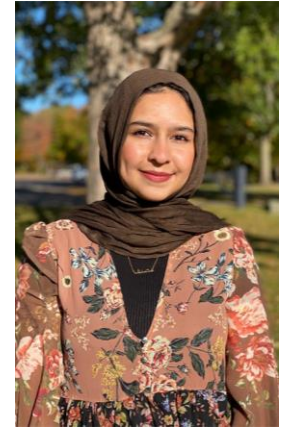
Lavinia is in love with her best friend. She knows she is, her family and friends know she is, even the dragons she works with at the Baby Dragon Cafe know she's in love with Theo.

The only person who doesn't seem to know is Theo.

Lavinia's plan to distract herself from her feelings by dating her coworker should be perfect. She and Theo can carry on with their lives, hanging out in the local Bakery, babysitting her little brother's baby dragon, and being the best of friends.

There's only one problem: Theo is secretly in love with Lavinia, too.

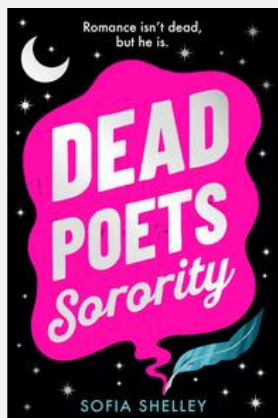
Coming soon: *The Baby Dragon Bookshop* (January 2026)



© A. T. Qureshi

A. T. QURESHI is a Pakistani, Muslim American and award-winning author of YA fantasy novel, *The Lady or the Lion*. Aamna grew up on Long Island, New York surrounded by English (for school), Urdu (for conversation), and Punjabi (for emotion). Through her writing, she wishes to inspire a love for the beautiful country and rich culture that informed much of her identity.





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Available in all languages

DEAD POETS SORORITY

Sofia Shelley

A quirky and darkly funny gothic romance x dark academia story where *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* meets *Ghosts*.

He's handsome, funny, and a real Romantic. Unfortunately, he's dead.

When intrepid student journalist Emma Reeves goes undercover to investigate the Dead Poets Sorority, she expects to find a group of bored college girls with Ouija boards. What she doesn't expect is to conjure her very own 19th century dead poet.

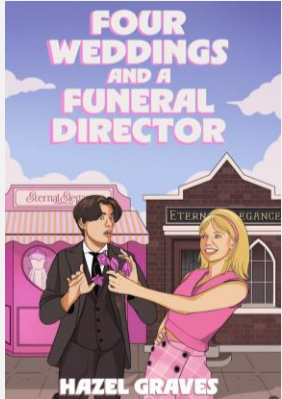
Tasked with infiltrating a sorority obsessed with long-dead poets like Byron and Shelley, Emma stumbles upon a bizarre scene: a house filled with crystals, pentagrams, and girls devoted to bringing their literary idols back from the dead. Emma manages to suppress her eye rolls until one night, fuelled by curiosity and a couple of beers, she accidentally summons the spirit of never-quite-famous poet, Nathaniel Blake.

Now, Emma's got a brooding, enigmatic, love-struck 19th-century poet following her around. Torn between the allure of a (timeless) romance and writing the article of a lifetime, she finds herself at a crossroads.

As Emma grapples with her story and her heart, she'll have to decide if she can truly keep her poet a secret or if exposing the sorority will mean losing him forever.

About the Author

SOFIA SHELLEY writes dark academia in a gothic setting and haunted dead poets who adore tailored waistcoats. As her other incarnations she writes fast-paced police romances, sizzling military units, steamy cowboys with a Montana backdrop and has an annual Christmas rom-com obsession. As acquisitions editor for *Evernight* and *Evernight Teen*, she loves discovering new romance and YA voices.



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FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Hazel Graves

One sunny wedding planner. One grumpy funeral director. And one town that can't handle the supernatural swap.

Lily's life is perfect – running her family's beloved bridal boutique and spreading joy with every wedding she plans. Mort, on the other hand, is content managing his family's funeral home, where he can keep everything orderly and dignified. But then their worlds collide in the most unexpected way.

During a particularly dramatic proposal at a local café, a woman rejects her suitor, declaring he's 'dead to her'. And when a sudden storm brews, witnessed by both Lily and Mort, who are caught in the downpour, things start to go eerily haywire. The next morning, their businesses start to swap—gradually, and then all at once. The bridal boutique's flowers wilt, dresses turn black, and cakes rot, while the funeral home becomes disturbingly festive with upbeat music and confetti cannons.

As the strange events unfold, Lily and Mort are forced to work together to manage their topsy-turvy businesses. With double bookings at the church and overlapping flower orders, there's barely room for one of them, let alone both.

About the Author

HAZEL GRAVES is an Australian author based in Southern California. She's published more than a dozen titles for young readers, including the *Warrior Fairies* series and the *Sparkle Pigs* chapter book series (writing as Kit Holliday). *The Little Coffee Shop of Terrors* was her first published book for adults, drawing upon her lifelong passion for coffee. When not writing, Hazel spends time roasting coffee with her husband or hanging out with her delightful four-year-old son.





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JINGLE SPELLS

Emily Grimoire

Perfect for fans of *Gilmore Girls* and *Bewitched*.

Delilah hates Christmas. She's a witch, for crying out loud, she has no need for cutesy traditions. She's escaped the small town of Oak Haven that she grew up with, and is off forging her own path and growing her magic. Everything was great (and not Christmassy) until she gets a text from her sister saying: the magicians are back, and they're gentrifying.

Jasper hates Christmas. The only thing he hates more than Christmas, is change. So when he ends up doing his job checking the roads of the cozy small town of Oak Haven, (which, to his human eyes, has something suspiciously mystical about it), and discovers the people (who might well be magicians) changing things up, he's determined to put a stop to it.

When all hell breaks loose Delilah and Jasper find themselves united again their common enemies: the magicians, and Christmas cheer. They should be the perfect team. Their only problem? They can't stand each other.

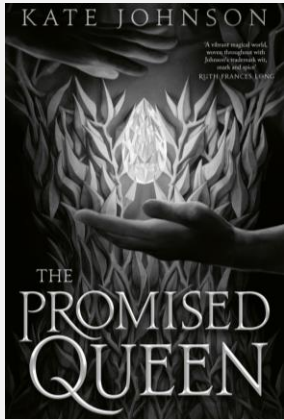
But with magic swirling and spells sending sparks flying, these two reluctant allies might just end up spellbound.

Coming soon: *Saved by the Spell* (June 2026)

About the Author

EMILY GRIMOIRE was born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut. After graduating with a degree in History from the prestigious Smith College, she found solace from the hustle and bustle of everyday life in her storytelling. In addition to her writing, Emily is known for her philanthropy and dedication to various charitable causes.





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THE PROMISED QUEEN

Kate Johnson

No good deed goes unpunished.

When thief Ember Hart saves a maiden from a murderous secret society, she finds herself sacrificed in the girl's place. Anointed 'the Promised One', Ember's prophesised arrival sets her on the path to an unholy union with the kingdom's beastly prince, but she has no intention of being a sacrificial lamb - at least, not again - so when Rhaell, the gruff captain of the guards, proposes an alliance to restore the kingdom's lost magic and then use it to send Ember home, she readily agrees.

But gathering the scattered pieces of the Heart of Yskar they need isn't going to be easy, and with her awareness of Rhaell growing with every barb and bated breath, Ember will need a bit of her own unique magic to escape this world unscathed.



© Kate Johnson

KATE JOHNSON was born in the 1980s in Yorkshire and now lives in Essex. In 2017 she won Paranormal Romantic Novel of the Year from the Romantic Novelists' Association with her novel *Max Seventeen*.





OMC

24/04/2025

PB • 416

DRAGONHART

Abbie Eaton

The dragons are gone, and the kingdoms are falling. Not even the gods can save them now.

Arla Reinhart, personal assassin to the King of Hadalyn, doesn't believe in the gods and their dragons who once served the people – not after they abandoned her when she needed them most. But when shipments start going missing and the kingdoms begin to crumble, they may be the only ones who can help.

Forced into working with the arrogant – yet unmistakably handsome – ambassador of the kingdom that killed her parents, Arla must place her hatred for Hark Stappen to one side as they journey across kingdoms, dining with royalty and fighting in taverns, and make an alarming discovery that shatters her heart and forces her to question everything – and everyone – she knows.

Editor
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Material
Available

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© Cathy Bower

ABBIE EATON lives in Derbyshire, England, and is an emerging YA author who writes stories about magic, love, and dragons.

FANTASY



OMC

14/08/2025

PB • 384

CAT DRAGON

Samantha Birch

A delightful tale that weaves a cosy spell of adventure, self-discovery, friendship and romance.

On the whole, Aloysia Papplewick was proud of this year's crop of Prattling Pumpkins; but that didn't mean that they were proud of her.

Welcome to the whimsical world of Tangleroot Valley, where magic thrives in every corner, and witch Aloysia Papplewick tends to her Prattling Pumpkin patch. But there's one thing Aloysia doesn't have - her familiar. The magical folk of the valley take flight astride and depend upon their majestic yet adorable companions - cat-dragons. Fluffy yet fierce, playful but protective, each cat-dragon is a unique blend - which is rumoured to say something about the witch or wizard it bonds with, and perhaps even predict their future. Aloysia has failed thirteen times already to bond with her own - until now - and no sooner has she done so than the two of them are whisked away on a quest to protect the valley.

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© Samantha Birch

SAMANTHA BIRCH is a British author and writer of cozy video games. She was a copywriter and a journalist for titles including *Glamour* and *Brides* before moving into fiction. This is her first fantasy novel.



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FAIREST

Mairi MacMillan

A dark taboo contemporary romance mafia retelling of *Snow White*.

Red as blood.

I never wanted to be part of his life. I am the law, and he is everything I've vowed against.

But every time I see him, I can't help but imagine what I want him to do to me.

He has a reputation. A dark possessive side.

I know he'd hurt me. But maybe that's what I want.

White as snow.

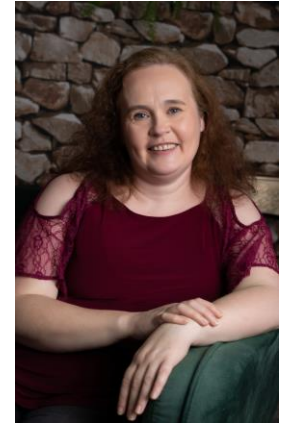
I never wanted to hurt her. She should've known to stay away from me.

But there's something about her innocence that I desire.

She's everything my fiancée is not.

But my fiancée is a jealous woman. She's also powerful.

I know where my loyalties should lie, but the taste of purity is too tempting. Just one drop and I promise, that'll be enough.



© Caroline Anne
Photography 2025

MAIRI MACMILLAN lives on the wet and windy west coast of Scotland, brewing dark tales and even darker cups of tea. She spends her days weaving romances and corrupting perfectly good characters with morally grey choices.



OMC

13/03/2025

PB • 416

THOSE WHO SURVIVE

K. N. Milde

Tomorrow is Recruitment Day. Or, as I like to call it, Sign Your Suicide Contract Day. And like all the sane people alive – who are few, both in terms of sanity and life status – I don't plan on sticking around for it.

The Sector Protection Force – SPORE – is all that stands between humanity and the infected. Like everyone else her age, fifteen-year-old Ashley is forced to join the training program to become a soldier – she just didn't think her attempt to escape recruitment would backfire so badly. Left for dead by her own friends, Ash is rescued by SPORE – the very people who killed her father. Now, not only is she stuck with a bunch of suicidal recruits who worship everything she hates about SPORE, she also owes them her life.

On the bright side, Ash is perfectly positioned to get what she's always wanted: an escape to the outside world.

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© K. N. Milde

K.N. MILDE is an Algerian writer and artist living in Germany. In 2018, she graduated university with a license degree in clinical psychology, and mental health tends to be a big focus in her writing. While most of her work has a speculative lean, whether she is writing YA or Adult, K.N. strives to write accessible work that everyone can read and enjoy no matter their background.

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RED DRAGON SONG

Rebellion flies on silent wing.

Rhian Parry

Take flight with an epic story of courage, desire and the dragons who started it all.

One land, three curses. One quest for freedom.

Cambria is a nation bound by three plagues. The first, the Coraniaid, the deadly wraith women of the mountains, hear everything the breeze touches. Their presence means the Cambrians must live only where the wind doesn't blow.

Only their second guest allows these little settlements to ever connect – the red dragons fly on silent wings, carrying messages. The third visitor to the land is the Scream. A piercing shriek which echoes out every May Day, no woman can bear a child through it, meaning all who want a family must leave on summer pilgrimages.

Arianwen does not want a husband. What she wants is freedom. As she leaves the only home she's known, she doesn't fear being alone. Until the day she meets the dragon.

About the Author

RHIAN PARRY is a writer from Wales, now living and working in London. A Wattpad award winner, with over 750,000 reads on the site, her previous work span from contemporary rom-com to romantasy.

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THE GIRL WITH THE FIERCE EYES

Sophia Vahdati

In a world segregated by eye colour, the birth of a mixed child is an unforgivable crime.

Jantsia's secret will kill her.

In the Empire of Shariza, eye colour determines wealth, status and even access to magical powers. Jantsia is an Azure, the lowest of the four oculary casts. Destined for servitude.

But what no one knows – even her closest friends – is that Jantsia is a dual-oc. A feared illegal half-breed condemned to death if discovered. She lives by the mantra – stay invisible, stay alive.

Or will the truth save them all?

But there are whispers of rebellion in the air, questions regarding the very foundation of their society. Could it be that the fiery untapped power burning inside Jantsia is a gift rather than a curse?

But who to trust when different means death?



© Andreea Marian, Diversity Photography

SOPHIA VAHDATI writes stories for those still searching for the magic hidden inside them. She holds a First-Class degree in Modern and Medieval Languages from the University of Cambridge and a Master's in International Journalism from Cardiff University.

MYSTERY

HarperFiction

21/05/2026

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Material

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A VERY DANGEROUS PURSUIT

The Richard Hannay adventures (1)

Ben Miller

Adventure can be a deadly business.

It began in the manner of all the very best adventures: in a coffee house.

When one Richard Hannay – intrepid, inquisitive, and on the hunt for intrigue – encounters an old acquaintance in Constantinople, he has an inkling that something thrilling is afoot.

Charged with an item of great mystery and import – *a washbag, no less!* – he soon finds himself in a very dangerous pursuit: from the luxurious confines of the Orient Express to the decks of the *Titanic* herself, all with the very fate of Europe in his care.

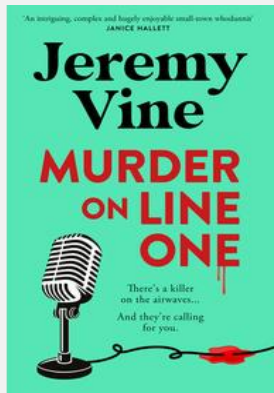
Can he slip the net of Count Schwabing, whose long arm stretches from Berlin to the Bosphorus? And what of Madame Zara, the cabaret enchantress – does she play at affection, deception, or something far more deadly?

In over his head, often a step – or thirty-nine – behind, but absolutely, resolutely determined to save the day, Hannay is about to embark on an escapade that will test his wits, his courage, and his ability to keep hold of a blasted washbag.



© David Reiss

BEN MILLER is a bestselling author, actor and director. He has written several blockbuster books for children, including *The Day I Fell Into a Fairytale* and *Once Upon a Legend*. *A Very Dangerous Pursuit* is his first adult novel.



HarperFiction
24/04/2025
HB • 400*

MURDER ON LINE ONE

Jeremy Vine

There's a killer on the airwaves and they're calling for you.

Darkness looms over sunny Sidmouth, when an unsolved murder comes to the attention of late-night radio talk show host Edward Temmis.

Recently sacked from his beloved job after a devastating tragedy, Edward is cast adrift – until he meets Stevie, whose grandmother, a devoted listener, died in a suspicious fire last year. Well, nobody hurts his listeners and helping Stevie might just give him the purpose he needs.

Joined by his old fling, Kim, they discover Stevie's grandmother wasn't the only one of his listeners targeted – this is just the tip of the iceberg.

But who is pursuing his ageing audience and why? And can Edward, Stevie and Kim get to the bottom of this mystery before it's too late?

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Material

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Rights

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© Toby Madden

JEREMY VINE is a journalist and broadcaster who reaches an audience of millions per week.

HQ

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VAL & ARBIE BOOK 3

Faith Martin

A gripping cozy golden age murder mystery from multimillion bestseller Faith Martin.

1927, gentleman ghost-hunter Arbuthnot 'Arbie' Swift Arbie is invited to Cleeves Lea Manor in Yorkshire.

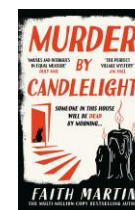
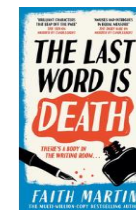
The lady of the house is an avid reader of Arbie's books, and is eager to show him off to the assembled guests. Arbie must also investigate the rumours of a 'ghost train spitting fire' for the third instalment of the increasingly popular (to Arbie's great surprise) Gentleman's Guide to Ghost-hunting.

But when the guests start dying, Arbie instead finds himself in the middle of a murder investigation. And it's up to him and his old pal Val to get to the bottom of it.



© Kate Nash

FAITH MARTIN has been writing for 30 years, under different pen names and has published over 50 novels. Having penned the *Ryder & Loveday* series set back in the 1960s in the City of Oxford, Faith Martin has now turned to the Golden Age itself, with a brand-new series set in the Cotswolds of the 1920s. She is also one of the top ten read authors in Kindle Unlimited.





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DEATH ON THE RHINE

Miss Ashford investigates (5)

Vivian Conroy

A luxury cruise. Hidden family secrets. A body on board.

A birthday trip to Bonn sees amateur detective Atalanta Ashford drawn into the scandalous will of a wealthy grandmother during a scenic cruise down along the Rhine.

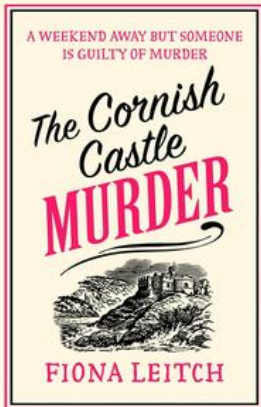
But growing tensions lead to a sudden and shocking death. Facing suspicion all around, Atalanta must unravel a deadly web of family secrets as treacherous as the river they voyage on, to find the killer.

Miss Ashford Investigates (6): *Trouble in the Alps* coming November 2025

About the Author

VIVAN CONROY is a multi-published mystery author with 25+ contracted titles. Away from writing, she enjoys hiking, crafting and spending too much time on X where readers can connect with her under @VivWrites.





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THE CORNISH CASTLE MURDER

A Nosy Parker Cozy mystery (8)

Fiona Leitch

The brand-new Jodie 'Nosey' Parker cozy mystery to escape with in 2025.

The time has finally come for former Met police officer Jodie 'Nosey' Parker to wed her fiancé DCI Nathan Withers, But their long-anticipated wedding doesn't quite go to plan.

As their guests descend on a luxurious Cornish castle for a weekend of pre-wedding activities, the happy couple look forward to spending time with friends and family. But celebrations grind to a halt when an arrow flies off-course during the archery session, and they find the body of a young woman floating face down in an ornamental pond.

With the champagne chilling and canapes assembled, and an old London adversary brought in to investigate, it's up to Jodie and Nathan to uncover the killer, before they strike again.

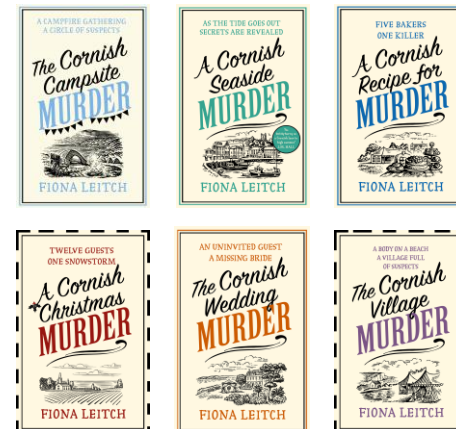
Could the murderer be on the guest list?

A Nosy Parker Cozy Mystery (9): *The Cornish Christmas Pantomime Murder* coming October 2025



© Fiona Leitch

FIONA LEITCH is a novelist and screenwriter. She's written for footballing and motoring magazines, childbirth videos and mail order catalogues; DJ'ed at illegal raves in London, been told off by a children's TV presenter during a studio debate; and was the Australasian face of a series of TV commercials for a cleaning product. All of which has given her a thorough grounding in the ridiculous and helped her to write funny stuff.



HQ

10/04/2025

EB • 304*

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(DP)

MURDER AT THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

A Violet Brewster mystery (5)

Jane Bettany

Once a peaceful, picture-perfect village in the Peak District, Merrywell has recently become the setting for more than just postcard-perfect views.

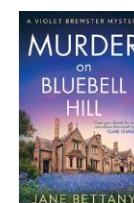
This Christmas, while the festive markets are brimming with mulled wine and holiday cheer, a shocking murder throws everything into disarray.

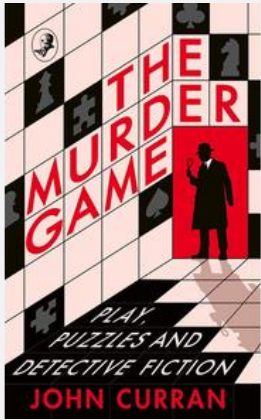
Enter Violet Brewster, a amateur sleuth extraordinaire (when she's not balancing a cup of hot cocoa and avoiding suspicious-looking mince pies). With her sharp wit and even sharper instincts, Violet must navigate the holiday chaos to solve the case before the season's spirit turns even more deadly.



© Jane Bettany

JANE BETTANY is a writer of short stories and non-fiction books and articles. Her work has been published in women's magazines in the UK (such as *My Weekly*, *People's Friend*, *Yours* and *Woman's Weekly*), as well as in literary magazines and newspapers.





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THE MURDER GAME

Play, Puzzles and Detective Fiction

John Curran

From *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* to *Magpie Murders*, and related diversions including cryptic crosswords and *Cain's Jawbone*, *The Murder Game* examines the games authors played with their readers and the importance of puzzles in Golden Age whodunits.

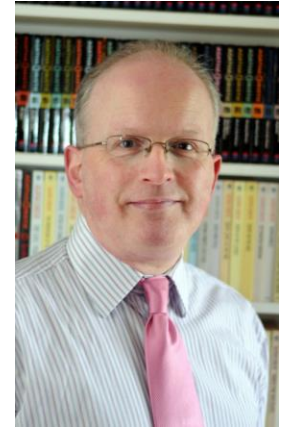
With books flourishing in the 1920s and '30s like never before, no genre was more innovative or popular than detective fiction. It was an era that saw the emergence of Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, John Dickson Carr, Ellery Queen and dozens of other authors who became household names for a generation of readers.

The Golden Age of Detection has enjoyed a great resurgence of interest in recent years, with publishers mining back catalogues to bring the best of yesteryear to very receptive new audiences.

What is it about a literary movement that took off in the 1920s that still appeals to book lovers in the 2020s?

In this authoritative new study, John Curran reveals that it is the ludic qualities of classic crime fiction that continue to intrigue. At its heart is the 'whodunit' game between writer and reader, but there is also the game between detective and murderer, between publisher and book-buyer, even between the writers themselves. Coinciding with an increase in leisure time and literacy, the Golden Age also saw the development of the crossword, the growth of bridge and Mahjong, the enduring popularity of jigsaws and the emergence of Cluedo – all activities requiring the 'little grey cells'.

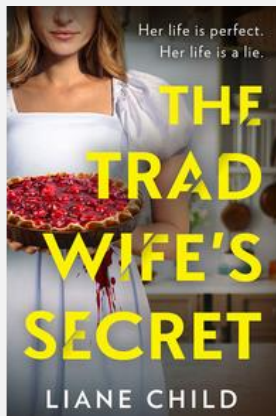
The Murder Game considers all of these, and many other sporting and competitive recreations, helping to explain the reading public's ongoing love affair with the Golden Age.



© John Ryan

Dr JOHN CURRAN is a lifelong fan of Golden Age detective fiction and one of Ireland's foremost experts on classic crime. His two volumes about Agatha Christie's notebooks won three major US mystery awards (the Agatha, Anthony and Macavity), and his history of Collins' Crime Club, *The Hooded Gunman*, was nominated for an Edgar and won the 2019 H.R.F. Keating Award for best critical book related to crime fiction.

SUSPENSE



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Norwegian (Gursli Berg),
Spanish (HarperCollins),
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THE TRADWIFE'S SECRET

Liane Child

A marriage is between two people. And their millions of followers.

Madison March is the perfect wife, with the perfect family and the perfect life.

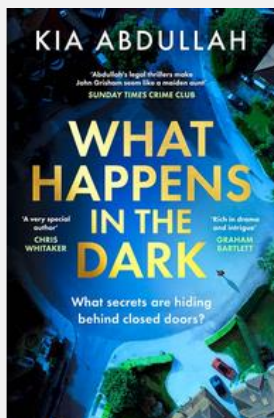
She spends her days baking cookies and picking vegetables from the garden while watching her children play in the fields surrounding her Montana homestead.

Dinner is always on the table for her husband, and they end their days sitting on the porch, watching the sun go down.

It's a life anyone would dream of. And it's all a lie.

About the Author

LIANE CHILD is a writer whose gripping thriller *The Tradwife's Secret* was inspired by influencers who advocate for traditional gender roles in marriage. When she isn't scrolling Instagram or TikTok, you can find her reading, walking her dog or baking. She has travelled extensively and now lives in London.



HQ

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and US (Putnam, St Martin's
Press)

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE DARK

Kia Abdullah

A gripping thriller and courtroom drama full of twists and turns that will keep you up at night.

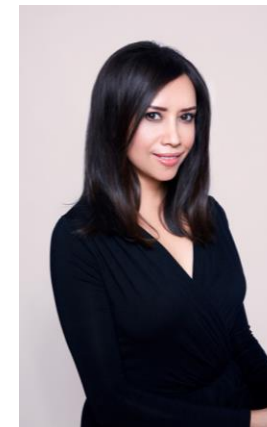
Lily and Safa were best friends growing up. Now, Lily is the nation's favourite breakfast TV presenter and Safa, once a renowned journalist, is reeling from a recent fall from grace.

When news breaks about suspicious bruises on Lily's body, Safa attempts to rekindle their old friendship. But Lily claims the bruises are nothing to worry about.

And then one night the police are called to Lily's home. Lily is strangely calm - and a body lies dead at her feet.

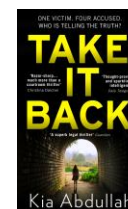
Lily pleads not guilty, and then says nothing more. Driven by her desire to give a voice to all victims, Safa begins her own investigation into what happened that night.

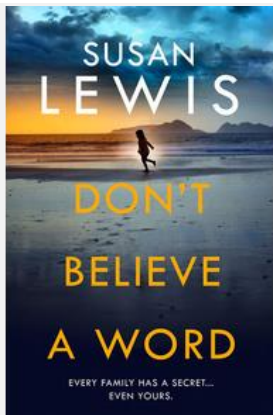
But Safa is not prepared for what her quest for justice will uncover.



© Ewelina Stechnij

KIA ABDULLAH is a bestselling author and travel writer. Her novels include *Take It Back*, a *Guardian* and *Telegraph* thriller of the year; *Truth Be Told*, which was shortlisted for the Diverse Book Awards; and *Next of Kin*, which won the Adult Fiction Diverse Book Award and was longlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger Award. *Those People Next Door* was a Waterstones Thriller of the Month pick, and Kia has also been selected for *The Times Crime Club*.





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Compton), Spanish
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DON'T BELIEVE A WORD

Susan Lewis

They raised me. Nurtured me. And lied about everything.

Sadie's childhood has always been shrouded in mystery. But there are three things she knows. She was raised by two aunts. She never knew her parents. She is convinced she was stolen.

Cristy Ward, podcast host, is gripped by Sadie's story. It's perfect for her next true-crime investigation. Yet Sadie's aunt claims it's all a fantasy.

As the evidence begins to stack up, and the lies fall apart, they all could be in a lot more danger than they thought.

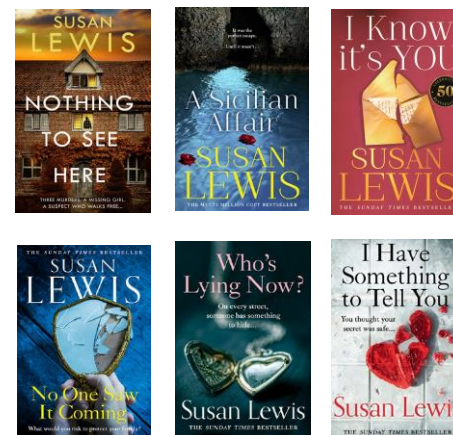
About the Author

SUSAN LEWIS is the internationally bestselling author of over fifty books across the genres of family drama, thriller, suspense and crime. Her much-loved novels have sold over three million copies (TCM) in the UK alone.

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THE PILGRIMAGE

Lisa Walker

A dark academia, psychological suspense thriller with jaw-dropping twists.

Tess enters the prestigious and exclusive Ravensthorpe Writing College with dreams of literary greatness but soon discovers that ambition comes at a cost.

Drawn into a tight-knit group with fellow writers Ethan, Theo, and Jaz, Tess's world is upended when a mysterious crime is committed. Believing someone in their circle is responsible, Tess retreats from the elite literary world.

Three years later, an enigmatic invitation to walk the Camino offers Tess a chance at revenge. Reunited with her former friends, including Ethan, now a literary star, Tess is determined to expose whoever is responsible for their shared past's dark secret.

About the Author

LISA WALKER is the author of seven novels in women's fiction and cosy crime genres, published in Australia by HarperCollins, Penguin Random House, and two small presses. Two were also published by Harper360 in the US and UK, and one has been optioned for film. Her recent cosy crime novel was shortlisted for the Australian Davitt Awards in two categories. She has also been published in *The Guardian*, *The Big Issue* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and has had a radio play produced on ABC Radio National. She is a dual Australian/British citizen, based in Australia but travelling frequently to the UK.

Avon
12/02/2026
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Material
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HOW TO CATCH A SERIAL KILLER

Antonia Grave

The best way to catch a serial killer is if you are one yourself.

Maddie Reid dedicates her life to catching 'fleas' – predatorial men that she knows will attack innocent women given half a chance.

With her own abuser dead and buried in an unknown location, Maddie is finally able to live freely. But moving on is difficult when so many predators still walk the streets. Men who follow random women home. Abusive husbands who refuse to walk away. And then there is the serial killer who is haunting the streets of Manchester and terrorising women.

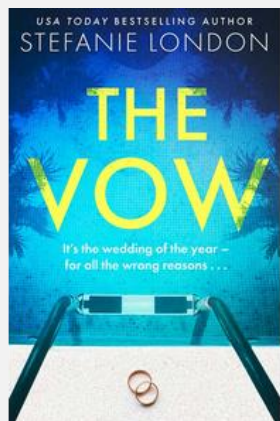
Believing that no one can catch a serial killer like she can, Maddie decides to move to Manchester to accomplish what the police have failed to. Instead of telling women not to go out alone at night, she's going to catch the man responsible. She rents the old room of the latest victim from her dodgy landlord and takes over her old job at Queen of Burgers. There she meets fellow armchair detective Sloane, who has her own reasons for wanting to catch the killer and publish her story in a tell-all book.

But Maddie doesn't just want to catch these men. She wants to kill them. And years later, sitting in the visitor's room of a prison, she will finally have the chance to explain how a victim became a killer.

Blood-pumping and addictive, *How To Catch A Serial Killer* is a dark and gritty thriller for fans of *Death of A Bookseller*, Riley Sager and Alice Feeney.

About the Author

ANTONIA GRAVE writes in a small room just outside of Manchester, England. She is the author of dark thrillers with characters who believe two wrongs can make a right. When she isn't writing you'll find her drinking too much coffee, reading, playing computer games, and spending time with her beloved pets.



Avon

19/06/2025

PB • 352*

THE VOW

Stefanie London

It's the wedding of the year - for all the wrong reasons.

I vow to make you pay for what you did.

Twelve years ago, school friends Sofia, Ellie and Rose made a vow. They promised never to talk about that fateful night. Never to tell anyone what they did.

Since then, they've all followed very different paths but as they come together to celebrate Ellie's destination wedding it promises to be a weekend to remember.

It is meant to be the event of the season, but as things start to go wrong, they suspect someone is trying to punish them.

But if the women took a vow of silence, how can anyone know? And what lengths will they be willing to go to, to get their revenge?

Editor

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Material

Available

Rights

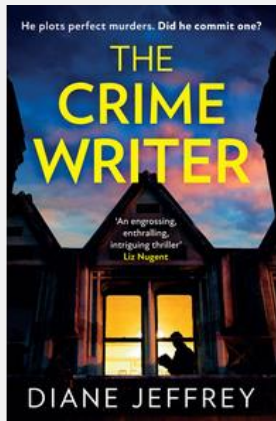
Available in all languages

Previous rights sold: Japanese
(HarperCollins)

About the Author

STEFANIE LONDON is a *USA Today* bestselling author of contemporary romance. Originally from Australia, she now lives in Toronto with her very own hero and is doing her best to travel the world. She frequently indulges her passions for lipstick, good coffee, books and anything zombie related. She has also written under the name of S.J. Short.





HQ

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EB • 288*

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Material

Available

Rights

Available in all languages

THE CRIME WRITER

Diane Jeffrey

He plots perfect murders. Did he commit one?

Leona Walsh, a 34-year-old wife and mother vanishes on a bitterly cold afternoon while out jogging on the edge of Exmoor. It's a mystery which captures public interest and ignites wild speculation. The police have a prime suspect: Leona's husband, Matthew, a renowned crime writer. He can plot the perfect crime. But is he capable of committing the perfect murder?

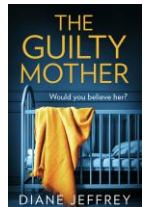
Despite extensive searches, the police find no trace of Leona and her disappearance remains shrouded in mystery. As public interest dwindles, Matthew returns to raising their two daughters, aware the cloud of suspicion is never far away.

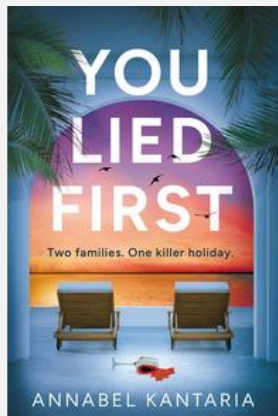
2024. Some human bones are discovered in a garden. Could they be Leona's remains? And if so, is there enough evidence to find out what really happened five years ago?

Journalist Gabriela Conti covered the news story back in 2019. The police may have stopped watching Matthew, but Gabriela hasn't forgotten him. And she is determined this case will define her career, even if that means getting close to a murderer.

About the Author

DIANE JEFFREY is a *USA Today* bestselling author. She grew up in North Devon, in the United Kingdom. She now lives in Lyon, France, with her husband and their three children, Labrador and cat. Diane is an English teacher.





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17/07/2025
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Material
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Rights
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(Crooked Lane Books)

YOU LIED FIRST

Annabel Kantaria

The truth is, everyone lies. All that matters is who lies the best.

Sara is about to spend a week in a villa with people she barely knows.

Sara's daughter Liv, her boyfriend and his parents have invited Sara on their holiday. After what happened, she'll jump at any chance to spend time with Liv.

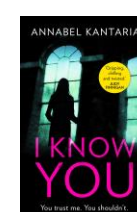
She tries to be the perfect guest, and while the Forrests seem like the perfect family, something isn't right.

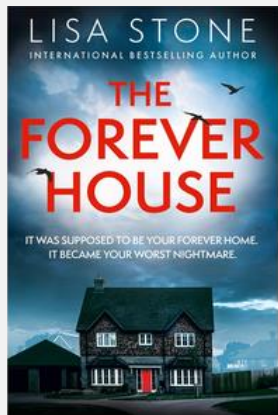
By the end of the trip, someone will be dead. Lies will tie the rest of them together. But who can lie the best?



© Vera Schoppe

ANNABEL KANTARIA is a British journalist who now lives in Dubai with her husband and children. She has edited and contributed to women's magazines and publications throughout the Middle East and returns regularly to the UK.





HarperFiction
03/07/2025
PB • 400*

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Material
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Rights
Available in all languages

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THE FOREVER HOUSE

Lisa Stone

An exciting crime thriller with a ghostly edge you won't be able to put down.

A perfect new home.

When Jasmine moves into 13 Ravens Lane with her husband and two daughters, she's excited to be finally settling into their forever home.

A tingle up the spine.

But very soon, it becomes clear that something is wrong with the house. Sudden drops in temperature, unexplained swarms of insects, plants that keep dying for no reason. It's almost like someone, or something, doesn't want them there.

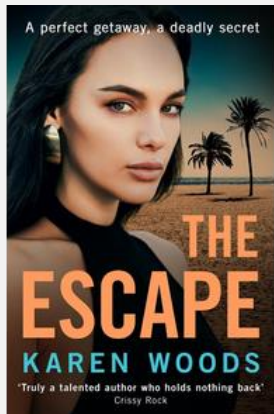
A terrifying nightmare.

It's not long before Jasmine is forced to question whether she and her family are truly safe in their new home. Or if whatever is lurking somewhere inside is going to be the death of them all.

About the Author

LISA STONE lives in England, has 3 children, and 27 books published under the pseudonym Cathy Glass, many of which have become best-sellers.





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PB • 320*

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Material
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Rights
Available in all languages

THE ESCAPE

Karen Woods

A deadly choice. A secret between friends or a stab in the back?

Four friends as close as they come. Until a girl's weekend away leaves them with a shared secret that could destroy them all. But a secret is safe among friends, isn't it?

That's what they think until in turn they all in turn receive a letter with the grim truth written down in black and white. Someone wants money for their silence - and quick.

With the clock ticking, the girls must work out who they can trust and who's been watching them. And ultimately, discover what they'd do to keep the truth among friends.



© Emma Phillipson

KAREN WOODS writes about the world she grew up in and her beloved Manchester - in all its light and shade - is in every book.

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CRIME & THRILLER



HarperFiction
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HB • 384*

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Material
Available

Rights
Available in all languages

Previous rights sold: Spanish
(HarperCollins)

THE FALL

Martin Kemp

Johnny Klein is back! The new thriller from the music, film and TV legend.

The bigger the star, the harder they fall.

Johnny Klein, fallen '80s pop icon, thinks life is finally on the up. He's basking in the luxury of the French Riviera – hoping his worst days are behind him.

But when a man falls from a window to his death in London, Jonny is forced to confront the darkest corners of his fame.

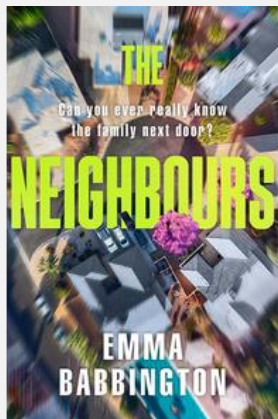
Thrust into a dangerous game of lies and betrayal, Jonny must uncover a deadly secret, before somebody else dies.



© Shirlie Kemp

MARTIN KEMP is a founding member of the iconic 1980s band Spandau Ballet. His '80s memoir *Ticket to the World* was a *Sunday Times* bestseller.





HQ

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Material
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Rights
Available in all languages

THE NEIGHBOURS

Emma Babbington

A thriller, full of family secrets and psychological suspense.

You're almost certain your daughter didn't kill the neighbour. But what if she did?

Richard Wellington is one of the country's most recognised doctors. A morning TV regular, surgeon to the elite, and scandal-proof despite a malpractice case that should have ruined him.

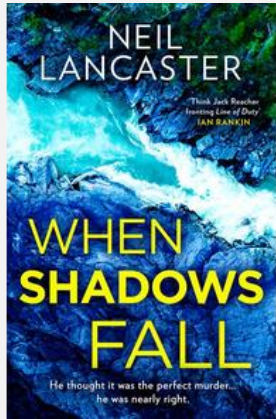
But when his body is found sprawled in a harborside park on a sweltering Sydney morning, the facade shatters. His murder dominates the headlines, and the normally quiet cul-de-sac he called home becomes a media circus, seething with speculation and unease.

For Liv Elliot, none of that matters – except for one detail: her daughter, Gracie, was at the park that morning. As the investigation heats up and dark secrets about Richard begin to surface, Liv takes steps to shield her daughter from the storm – steps that could destroy them both if the truth comes out.

How far would a mother go to protect her daughter?

About the Author

EMMA BABBINGTON is a London-born, Sydney-based journalist and is currently news editor for Australia's bestselling weekly magazine, *Woman's Day*, where she heads up the real life and crime section and co-edits the books pages.



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(HarperCollins) and Swedish
(HarperCollins)

WHEN SHADOWS FALL

DS Max Craigie series (6)

Neil Lancaster

A gripping new Scottish police procedural for crime fiction and thriller fans.

A tragic death.

When the body of Leanne Wilson is found at the bottom of a Scottish mountain, it is classified as a tragic accident. There is no evidence to suggest otherwise.

A rising body count.

Then DS Max Craigie discovers that five other women in the last year have died by falling off mountains, and something feels very wrong. They were all experienced climbers and alone when they died. This can only mean one thing: there's a killer on the loose.

A killer in the shadows.

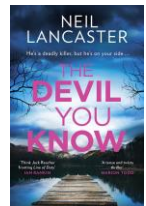
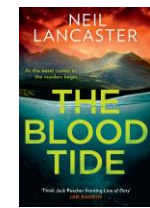
The more Max investigates, the more he believes that they are dealing with something much bigger than a lone serial killer. With five victims and conflicting clues, how do you catch someone committing the perfect crime?

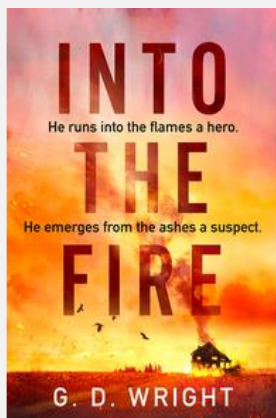


© Wonder Years Photography

NEIL LANCASTER, a former military policeman and Metropolitan Police detective, is the No. 1 digital bestselling author of both the Tom Novak and Max Craigie series. His novels *Dead Man's Grave* and *The Blood Tide* were longlisted for the McIlvanney Prize for Best Scottish Crime Book of the Year in 2021 and 2022. *The Blood Tide* also topped several eBook and audio charts and was shortlisted for Best New Series at the Dead Good Reader Awards. He also works as a broadcaster and commentator on true crime documentaries. He is an expert on two Sky Crime TV series, *Meet, Marry, Murder* and *Made for Murder*.

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Material
Available

Rights
Available in all languages

INTO THE FIRE

G. D. Wright

He runs into the flames a hero. He emerges from the ashes a suspect.

Steve thought he had left his troubled past behind. Living a quiet life with his wife and children, everything changes the night he rescues a baby from a burning house, becoming an unexpected national hero.

But as the spotlight shines brighter, so does the scrutiny, and a shocking accusation is made – that Steve is the man responsible for an unsolved murder in Beachbrook years prior.

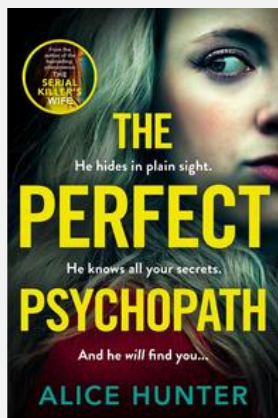
As DS Willmott investigates the truth, Steve pleads his innocence. But as Steve's world unravels, he faces a terrifying truth: the past isn't done with him yet. And when everything he loves is at risk, he'll be forced to make an impossible choice.

After all, even heroes hide secrets of their own.



© Gary Wright

GARY WRIGHT joined Kent Police at the age of 18 and worked in a variety of uniformed roles. At the age of 29, and completely out of the blue, he suffered two cardiac arrests that led to the diagnosis of a life limiting and incurable disease of the heart. Following the implantation of an internal defibrillator into his heart, he was unable to continue policing and retired at the age of 30. He bought a coffee shop in Ramsgate Harbour, and spent years looking out over the sea and dreaming up stories. He now writes full time, committing those very stories to paper. *After The Storm* is Gary's debut novel.



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Material
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THE PERFECT PSYCHOPATH

Alice Hunter

The mind is a dangerous place to hide.

Dr Eleanor Spencer is a respected forensic psychologist with a seemingly perfect life. But when a series of women start to vanish, she's haunted by the memory of her sister's disappearance, and she finds herself drawn into the chilling investigation.

As the body count rises and her paranoia deepens, Ellie is forced to delve into the mind of a monster to uncover the truth. Her work leads her to Lucas Hayne, a notorious serial killer now behind bars. But when Lucas cryptically hints that the key to the killer's identity lies buried in her past, Ellie's world begins to unravel.

Because now she faces a terrifying possibility: the real monster might just be closer than she ever imagined.

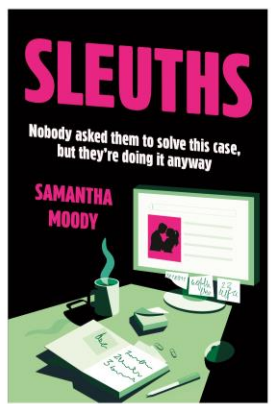
And with time running out, the price of uncovering the truth may be her own life.



© Alice Hunter

ALICE HUNTER completed a psychology degree and then became an interventions facilitator in a prison. There, she was part of a team offering rehabilitation programmes to men serving sentences for a wide range of offences, often working with prisoners who'd committed serious violent crimes. Previously, Alice had been a nurse, working in the NHS. She now puts her experiences to good use in fiction. *The Serial Killer's Wife* draws heavily on her knowledge of psychology and the criminal mind.





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Material
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Rights
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SLEUTHS

Samantha Moody

Your favourite actor has been pictured with a missing woman. What would you do?

She's a fan.

Melody has a real job, but she spends most of her time posting pictures of her favourite actor, Daniel Crohn, online to his adoring fans. But when one of the photos she posts reveals Daniel embracing an unknown woman, angry fans turn on Melody and accuse her of the ultimate faux pas: posting a *fake photo*.

He's a celebrity.

Hurt and angry, Melody enlists the help of her closest friends to prove the photo is real and their favourite actor is no longer single...until, instead of a girlfriend, they find a missing person report.

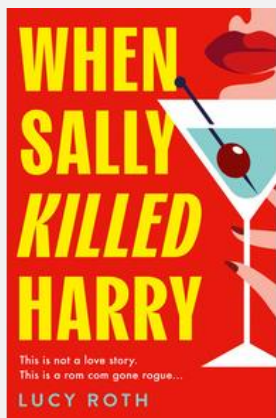
And he's kidnapped someone?

It should be a job for the authorities, but no detective will take them seriously. Armed with just her friends, and their amateur internet detective skills, Melody is going to solve the crime, and save the girl. Surely it's not that hard to be a real sleuth?

This is a laugh-out-loud, thrilling debut for fans of *Only Murders in the Building* and any Netflix true crime!

About the Author

SAMANTHA MOODY is a British-American writer living in the Cotswolds. She won the BAFTA Rocliffe TV Drama award for new writers and is a Stowe Story Labs Alumni. She started out writing custom smut romances for private commission and now has a comic in development and writes for the HappenedHere and NoSleep podcasts.



Avon

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Material

Available

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(HarperCollins)

WHEN SALLY KILLED HARRY

Lucy Roth

A wicked, whip-smart revenge thriller, perfect for fans of Katy Brent, Bella Mackie and anyone who wants to take their revenge on *The Tinder Swindler* or *Sweet Bobby*.

Say hello to Sally.

This is the story of how I killed Harry Collins. Destined to be the great love of my life – until one day I wake up in the Big Apple with the world's worst hangover, an empty bank account, and the sinking feeling that my life just nosedived. How it happened is a blur, but one thing is clear: I've been swindled and I'm not happy about it.

She's the woman of your dreams.

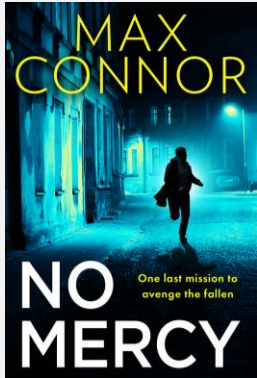
And it's all thanks to Harry – a total dreamboat and a devil in disguise. He's got charm, secrets, and a smile that screams trouble. Little did I know, Harry's not just a pretty face – he's a liar and conman.

Or is she your worst nightmare?

When I discover I'm not the only victim, I decide it's only right I take my revenge. And with a group of wronged women behind me, murder isn't on the agenda yet because Harry's in for a nightmare and I'm only just getting started.

About the Author

LUCY ROTH is an experienced writer who lives in Newcastle. Her work has appeared in the *Independent*, *NME*, *Red*, *Metro*, *Den of Geek*, *Huff Post* and many more. She is also a former columnist with comedian Sarah Millican's *Standard Issue* magazine. Her first novel, *The Twenty Seven Club* was adapted for the stage and dives into '90s nostalgia, music fandom and mental health. *When Sally Killed Harry* is her first rom-com.



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Material
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NO MERCY

Max Connor

The old unit will reunite to complete one last mission in honour of their fallen comrade. But all she wants is revenge.

When their old comrade, retired veteran and decorated Royal Marine Frankie Chapman, dies during a home invasion, the 11/06 club come back together to recover his stolen military medals. After they find out the medals have fallen into the hands of a wealthy billionaire who dabbles in human trafficking, they form a plan to steal the medals back - and Frankie's daughter, Josie, wants in on the action.

But Josie wants more than just her father's medals returned. She wants retribution, and she's out for blood.



© Wonder Years Photography

Max Connor is the pseudonym for bestselling and award-winning author Neil Lancaster. He served as a military policeman and worked for the Metropolitan Police as a detective, investigating serious crimes in the capital and beyond. As a covert policing specialist, he used all manner of techniques to investigate and disrupt major crime and criminals. He now lives in the Scottish Highlands and works as a broadcaster and commentator on true crime documentaries. He is an expert on two Sky Crime TV series, *Meet, Marry, Murder* and *Made for Murder*.



OMC
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Editor
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Material
Available

Rights
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THE BEST PLACE TO BURY A BODY

Julie Lancaster

A brand new darkly humorous serial killer thriller for fans of *How to Kill Your Family* and *The Thursday Murder Club*.

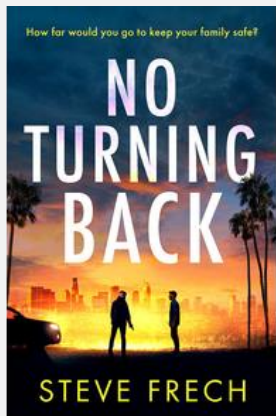
What happens when a serial killer forgets that he's a serial killer?

When Gilbert Williams, a resident at Sunset House Care Home, claims to have once killed someone, care assistant Will Cavanagh initially dismisses his claims - he's frail and vulnerable, he can't imagine him ever killing someone - but he can't seem to let his comments go. What if it's true? What if he really did kill someone and he's forgotten that he isn't supposed to tell anybody.



© Julie Lancaster

JULIE LANCASTER lives in Staffordshire and is a part-time library assistant. *The Best Place to Bury a Body* is her second novel.



HQ

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EB • 272*

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Material
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Rights
Available in all languages

Previous rights sold: Spanish
(HarperCollins) and German
(dp Digital Publishers)

NO TURNING BACK

Steve Frech

A gripping, heart-pounding action-packed thriller.

Lucas and Julia are about to become parents, but there's something Lucas hasn't told his wife. Two months ago, he lost his job and has been secretly working as a rideshare driver in a desperate attempt to make ends meet.

But that's about the be the least of his problems. One evening he picks up a passenger in the Hollywood Hills. The man, Damon, puts a gun to Lucas's head, and tells him to drive.

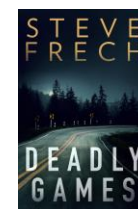
Because Damon has a list of men he intends to kill, and he needs Lucas's help. If Lucas complies, his family will be safe, but others will suffer. If he fights back, Damon will target his wife and daughter.

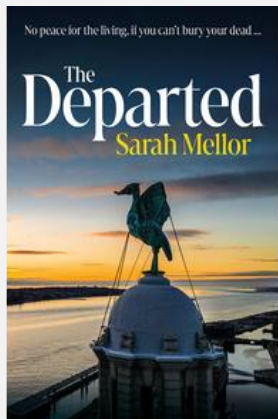
It's an impossible choice, but what's clear is that Lucas's life is about to change forever. If he survives the night.



© Dan Stermau

STEVE FRECH lives in Los Angeles. In addition to writing, he produces and hosts the *Random Awesomeness* podcast, an improv-comedy quiz show that has been performed at Upright Citizens Brigade, The Improv, iO West and Nerdist.





HarperNorth
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HB • 320*

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Material
Available

Rights
Available in all languages

THE DEPARTED

No peace for the living, if you can't bury the dead.

Sarah Mellor

'Ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath' St. Joseph, patron of departing souls – pray for me.'

Liverpool, 1979: new CID recruit Leigh Borrowdale is seconded to a disturbing murder inquiry: a mysterious death in a decaying building, where the remains of a young man have been found.

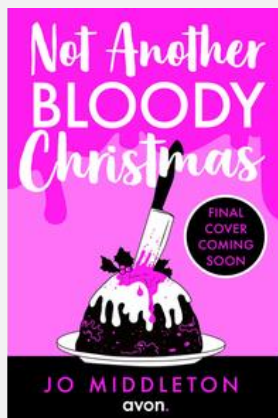
Tasked with looking into missing persons' cases to track down the identity of the victim, Leigh comes into contact with the disappeared of a city living through its darkest days of the winter of discontent. As she faces her own family demons and battles the male-dominated world at work, Leigh discovers a connection to two boys feared drowned in the Mersey and links to the murky Liverpool underworld.

Through it all her only ally is her colleague, DS Des Chung, who knows what it means to be an outsider in the police force, albeit one who takes a very different approach.

Twisting, deeply atmospheric and never losing sight of the human cost at the centre of every case, *The Departed* marks the debut of a major new talent in crime-writing.

About the Author

SARAH MELLOR is a first-time novelist and therapist in her adopted city of Liverpool, where she has lived for nearly 30 years. As a psychotherapist in the NHS, she worked daily with the people of Liverpool, mainly in the inner-city areas of Toxteth and Kensington, where many lives were affected by crime. She kickstarted the process of writing this novel by attending an Arvon crime-writing course and taking part in the Literary Consultancy's mentoring programme.



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Material
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Rights
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(Tyto Alba)

NOT ANOTHER BLOODY CHRISTMAS

Jo Middleton

An outrageously funny, festive romp which is as utterly wonderful as it is (Christmas) crackers.

When Anna decides to take her family away for Christmas to avoid a repeat of the 'dead man in the larder' debacle, she finds herself plunged into another festive fiasco when a body turns up in the library of their supposedly 'idyllic' rural retreat.

With a dubious double booking, an unexpected snowstorm and the mysterious Mrs Haddock to contend with, can Anna and her unlikely allies save Christmas or will this holiday be their last?

About the Author

JO MIDDLETON is an award-winning blogger and mum of two daughters. She lives in Somerset with her three cats, all named after fictional detectives. Jo has a passion for mysteries, loves escape rooms, and longs to capture a cave full of smugglers. She is also an author, copywriter and one half of the It's Five O'Clock Somewhere podcast. *Playgroups and Prosecco* was her first novel.





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Rights
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Spanish (Newton Compton)

COLD BLOODED KILLER

DI James Walker series (6)

Alex Pine

Snow is falling. Murder is calling.

Journalist Gordon Carver has uncovered something terrifying in his investigation into a local case. He's hurrying home from the pub, calling his contact at the police, DI James Walker, to tell him the news, when he's hit over the head from behind.

But James missed the call. And Gordon Carver never wakes up from the brutal attack.

When James is called to the scene of the murder, he quickly realizes that he was the last call from Gordon's phone. It's up to James to figure out what crime Gordon was investigating, and who would want to kill him for the investigation.

But the killer has James in their sights. Can James find the killer, before the killer finds him?



© Alex Pine

ALEX PINE was born and raised on a council estate in South London and left school at 16. Before long, he embarked on a career in journalism, which took him all over the world - many of the stories he covered were crime-related. He now lives with his wife on a marina close to the New Forest on the South Coast.



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THE CHRISTMAS TREE KILLER

DI Tom Stonem series (2)

Chris Frost

The surprise under the tree is a body.

In the dead of winter, the North Pennines are icy and treacherous. With much of the Pennine Way closed due to snowstorms, hikers have been told to stay away. But it's clear not everyone has heeded the warnings, when the partial remains of a man are discovered in the pine forest near Hadrian's Wall.

DI Tom Stonem is called in to investigate, and it's not long before more body parts appear under the trees. Each has been wrapped like a Christmas present, with gift tags addressed to a series of seemingly random local residents. Were the intended recipients of these gruesome presents involved in the murder? Or are they victims of the killer's cruel game?

As Stonem unwraps the case, the secrets of the forest get darker. But one thing's for sure: the trail to Christmas is twisty and paved with murder.

About the Author

CHRIS MCDONALD is the author the Erika Piper series, the *Stonebridge Mysteries* and *Little Ghost*. Under the name Chris Frost, he has also penned the Kindle top 20 bestseller, *The Killer's Christmas List*.



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A WASH OF BLACK

DI Erika Piper series (1)

Chris McDonald

For 2025, an unmissable, gritty police procedural thriller, from a bestselling crime author.

Film star Anna Symons is found dead on an ice rink in Manchester, recreating a scene from a blockbuster she starred in years ago. DI Erika Piper, having only recently returned to work after suffering a near-fatal attack herself, finds she must once again prove her worth as the hunt for the media-dubbed 'Blood Ice Killer' intensifies.

But when another body is found and, this time, the killer issues a personal threat, Erika must put aside her demons to crack the case or suffer the deadly consequences.

A Wash of Black is the first book in the DI Erika Piper series.

DI Erika Piper series (2): *Whispers in the Dark* coming May 2025

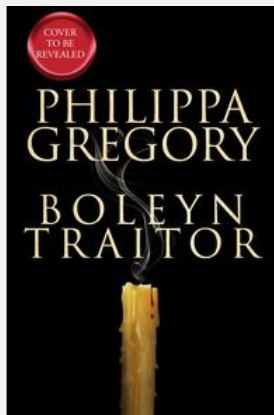
DI Erika Piper series (3): *Roses for the Dead* coming June 2025

About the Author

CHRIS MCDONALD is the author the Erika Piper series, the Stonebridge Mysteries and *Little Ghost*. Under the name Chris Frost, he has also penned the Kindle top 20 bestseller, *The Killer's Christmas List*.



HISTORICAL



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(HarperCollins)

BOLEYN TRAITOR

Philippa Gregory

The new groundbreaking Tudor historical fiction novel for 2025
from the *Sunday Times* bestselling author.

Sister. Liar. Witness. Spy. Traitor?

Her secrets shaped a kingdom. The truth will change history.

Jane Boleyn watches from the shadows of the Tudor court. Where nothing is more powerful than a secret. And power rests on the edge of a tyrant King's sword.

She wears many masks – loving wife, devoted sister, and obedient spy. It's what a woman must do to survive.

The only weapon she has is her voice.

They say Jane's whispers sealed the fate of two queens. They called her a liar and a traitor.

But the truth is far more dangerous.

Philippa Gregory brings the Boleyn traitor out of the shadows in an explosive story of one woman's survival in the deadly dance of the Tudor Court.

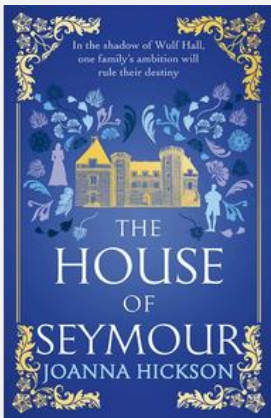


© Philippa Gregory

Dr. PHILIPPA GREGORY is an internationally renowned author of historical novels. She holds a PhD in eighteenth-century literature from the University of Edinburgh. *The Other Boleyn Girl* is now a major film, starring Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman and Eric Bana.

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THE HOUSE OF SEYMOUR

Joanna Hickson

Will one family's ambition be their destiny or their downfall?

When Isabel Williams is betrothed to John Seymour, Lord of Wolf Hall Manor, she hopes that love and respect will come, despite his cold streak of ruthless ambition.

Jess, the shepherdess, tends her flock on the wild spaces of Avebury close by, dismissing those who believe it is work for men.

Forced to flee after falling under suspicion for the disappearance of a young man, Isabel's offer of life with the growing Seymour family is the only refuge available to her.

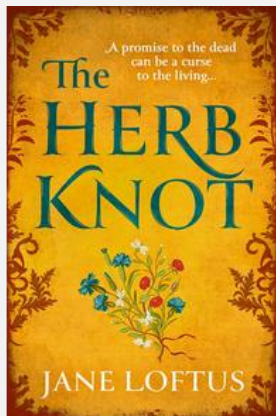
As John's ambition draws them into the orbit of the divided court of the young King Henry VI, his hunger to succeed takes on a darker edge. Isabel realises her husband will pay any price to get what he wants, even if it means destroying those he has sworn to protect.



© Joanna Hickson

JOANNA HICKSON's first published book was a children's historical novel *Rebellion at Orford Castle* but more recently she has turned to adult fiction, concentrating on bringing fifteenth century English history and some of its fascinating principal characters to life.





HQ

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THE HERB KNOT

Jane Loftus

The Hundred Years' War comes to life in this spellbinding tale of love, betrayal and conspiracy.

A quest born on the battlefield will change a young boy's destiny.

Rafi Dubois is five years old when his mother is murdered after the Battle of Crecy in 1346. Alone and lost, Rafi is given a token by the dying Englishman who tried to save his mother's life: a half-broken family seal which he urges Rafi to return one day to Winchester.

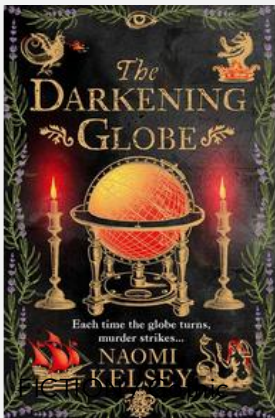
Years later, when Rafi saves a wealthy merchant's wife from a brutal robbery, he is rewarded with the chance to travel to England, taking the seal with him.

But when he reaches Winchester, Rafi finds himself in a turbulent world full of long-held allegiances, secrets and treachery. His path is fraught with danger and with powerful enemies working against him, Rafi falls in love with Edith, a market apothecary. But in doing so, Rafi unleashes a deadly chain of events which threatens to overwhelm them both.

The Herb Knot is a sweeping and passionate novel set in one of the most tumultuous times in English history, from a powerful new voice.

About the Author

JANE LOFTUS studied 16th Century European history before taking a postgraduate degree in modern political history. As a lone parent, she worked in Winchester Waterstones before taking a job in IT. This novel was written in the evenings while she was raising her son. Hugely passionate about the Middle Ages, she drew inspiration for this novel from the medieval layout of Winchester which has been painstakingly documented.



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THE DARKENING GLOBE

Naomi Kelsey

Each time the globe turns, murder strikes.

1597, London. When Beatrice's husband returns from exploring the New World, he comes home with unexpected company: a mysterious woman, and an enormous painted globe.

As Hugh refuses to explain who their female guest is, Beatrice's foreboding grows. The unwieldy globe now strikes her as sinister – a reminder of the world of secrets pervading her household. Then one night, the great, hulking globe begins to turn of its own accord.

Terrifying new illustrations appear on its face – and when untimely deaths ensue, Beatrice is convinced that the drawings are connected. Desperate to prove that she is not paranoid, Beatrice risks everything to uncover the truth.

What sinister force is behind these killings? What really happened on Hugh's excursion to the Americas? Who is the strange woman who won't leave her house? And on this otherworldly map of murders, who will be painted as the final victim?

About the Author

NAOMI KELSEY is the winner of two Northern Writers' Awards and of the HWA Dorothy Dunnett Competition 2021. Her fiction has been published in Mslexia magazine and shortlisted for several further awards including the Bridport Prize and the Bristol Prize.





OMC

28/08/2025

PB • 384

SHIP OF DREAMS

Donna Jones Alward

A poignant tale of love, choice, and survival against the odds.

Aboard the Titanic, where opulence knows no bounds and the horizon seems limitless, two women fight for the futures they dream of, fraught with secrets that could change everything.

Hannah Martin is clinging to the hope that six days on this grand ship will heal the wounds in her marriage to Charles. Beneath her poised exterior lies a desperation to mend what was shattered and conceal a secret that could upend their lives forever.

Louisa Phillips, spirited and uncompromising, is escaping her family's insistence on a passionless marriage. But this daring step could also sever the deepest bond in her life.

As the 'unsinkable' ship strikes the iceberg, amidst the chaos and icy waters, lives are changed forever. In the face of impending doom, what dreams will Hannah and Lou decide are worth saving, and at what cost?

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© Donna Alward

DONNA JONES ALWARDS is a *New York Times* bestseller who has enchanted readers with stories of happy endings and homecomings since 2006. Her books have won several awards and been translated into over a dozen languages. Donna currently lives in Nova Scotia, Canada, with her husband.

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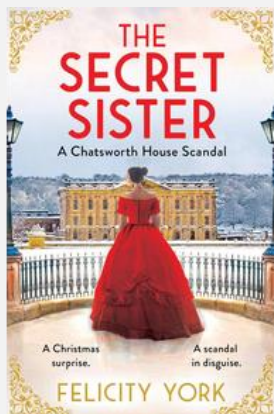
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THE SECRET SISTER

A Chatsworth House Scandal - The Stately Scandal series (3)

Felicity York

A Christmas surprise. A scandal in disguise.

1809. Eliza Courtney and Harry Cavendish lead opposite lives, except for the secret that binds them.

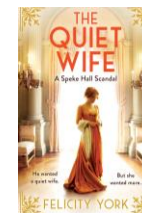
Harry's life of luxury at Chatsworth House is shaken when pressure mounts on her to marry. A dreadful selection of suitors leaves her convinced that her late mother, the Duchess of Devonshire, was right: husbands are an incomparable nuisance. Meanwhile, Eliza can't wait to marry and escape her lonely existence, as an unwanted orphan in her own well-to-do household.

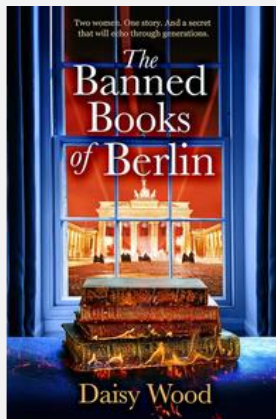
But as the season begins, all matchmaking - eager or reluctant - is interrupted by rumours of a huge family secret. A secret daughter, in fact. Will Eliza be the last to know that she is the scandal everyone's talking about?

This Christmas, romance lies around every corner. But another kind of love - sisterhood - might make this season one they'll never forget

About the Author

FELICITY YORK lives in Lancashire. A freelance further education consultant by day, she is the author of eighteen M/M Regency romance novels under the name Ruby Moone.





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THE BANNED BOOKS OF BERLIN

Daisy Wood

Another unforgettable story, tying together past and present, from the bestselling author of *The Forgotten Bookshop in Paris* and *The Royal Librarian*.

Berlin, 1933. The night skies are burning bright with huge bonfires of banned books.

The Nazi party is swelling in number and Berlin is no longer a safe place for young Freya. She can only watch on, horrified, as her beloved city falls to fascism - and the usually law-abiding Freya is forced to make a choice: continue being a bystander, or sacrifice herself to save the lives of others.

New York, present day. Maddie commutes home to her family to reset. Struggling to fully turn off from her work, she is surprised to come across a pre-war German diary amongst her Grandpa's things. And when she starts to dig into the diary, Maddie's shocked by what she finds.

And so begins a journey that will take Maddie beyond America as she searches for the truth about Freya, and how she changed people's lives across the globe.



© Claire Ballard

DAISY WOOD worked in publishing for some years before leaving to concentrate on her own writing. She has had several children's books published, both historical and contemporary. *The Clockmaker's Wife* secured the biggest international sub for a debut title Avon has seen since Mandy Robotham.





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THE FLORENCE SISTERS

Tessa Harris

Pre-order the brand-new, heart-wrenching and emotional Italian historical fiction novel from Tessa Harris, bestselling author of *Beneath a Starless Sky*.

A war-torn city. A stolen masterpiece. Two lives in the balance.

Italy, 1940. With Florence on the cusp of war, Il Scorpione, the no-nonsense Englishwomen of the city, find their genteel livelihoods under grave threat by the approach of the Nazis. Tea rooms and bookshops are closed by the Fascists, and the women are forced to join the war effort.

Desperate to help in any way that she can, Angelina Leone, expert art-historian and the half-Italian niece of Il Scorpione's founder makes a deal with the devil. To guarantee her beloved Aunt Agatha, the only family she has, safe passage across the city, Lina must authenticate the art ruthlessly stolen from Jewish families. But when she comes across a priceless portrait – one that she cannot bear to see seized by the Germans – Lina declares the masterpiece a fake. But in doing so, will she set off a chain of events with consequences more deadly than she could ever imagine.



© Tessa Harris

TESSA HARRIS read History at Oxford University and has been a journalist, writing for several national newspapers and magazines for more than 30 years. She lectures in creative writing at Hawkwood College, Stroud and is the author of nine published historical novels. Her debut, *The Anatomist's Apprentice*, won the Romantic Times First Best Mystery Award 2012 in the US.

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ZONE ROUGE

Andie Newton

Deep inside the Zone Rouge, the Sorrows wait for you.

Occupied France, 1944.

The residents of Chateau Ten, nestled on the edge of the nine villages, have always known not to answer the call of the dead soldiers from the Battle of Verdun.

Until now.

When the glamorous Gaultier couple takes up residence in the west wing of the chateau, paying in full in advance and asking only for complete privacy, proprietress Vianne feels a spark of hope for the first time since the start of this horrible war. But when ghostly voices begin to echo through the halls, a mysterious mist descends on the manor, and the dead start whispering to Vianne's beloved nephew Blaise, she discovers her secretive guests are dangerously obsessed with the pursuit of an object hidden within Zone Rouge – one that could change the tide of war and destroy her beloved France for good.

Now, to protect her family and her country, Vianne will have to enter where she's never dared, turning her nightmares to haunting reality. Because to destroy that which the Nazis seek, Vianne will have to survive the Sorrows.



© Andie Newton

ANDIE NEWTON is the *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Girls from the Beach* and *The Girl from Vichy*. All her books are fast-paced female-driven spy stories set in WWII. She holds a Bachelor degree in History and a Masters in Teaching. Andie lives in the beautiful Pacific Northwest with her husband, her two boys, and one very lazy cat.

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LAST TRAIN TO FREEDOM

Deborah Swift

To share the truth, she must survive the journey.

1940. As Soviet forces storm Lithuania, Zofia and her brother Jacek must flee to survive.

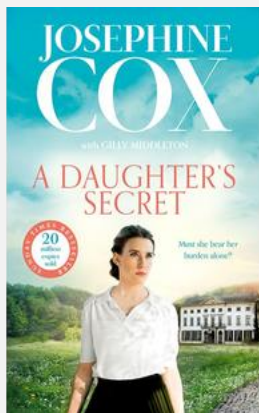
A lifeline appears when Japanese consul Sugihara offers them visas on one condition: they must deliver a parcel to Tokyo. Inside lies intelligence on Nazi atrocities, evidence so explosive that Nazi and Soviet agents will stop at nothing to possess it.

Pursued across Siberia on the Trans-Siberian Express, Zofia faces danger at every turn, racing to expose the truth as Japan edges closer to allying with the Nazis. With the fate of countless lives hanging in the balance, can she complete her mission before time runs out?

About the Author

DEBORAH SWIFT has worked as a set and costume designer for theatre and TV. She now puts her love of history and research to use in writing historical novels.

SAGA



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A DAUGHTER'S SECRET

Josephine Cox, with Gilly Middleton

Don't miss the brand-new epic family drama from the nation's favourite storyteller.

As a servant below stairs at the big house, Rose hopes to run her own teashop one day, and to keep the dream alive, carefully saves a few shillings each week.

On a visit home to see her mother and her headstrong sister, Daisy, Rose is shocked to discover that their mother's savings have disappeared, and their belongings have ended up in the pawn shop.

Discovering that a poisonous influence has taken root in their happy family, Rose feels powerless to stop it. Can she save them from disaster, before they lose everything?



© Sven Amstein

JOSEPHINE COX was born in Blackburn, one of ten children. Her strong, gritty stories are taken from the tapestry of life. Josephine says, 'I could never imagine a single day without writing. It's been that way since as far back as I can remember.'

www.josephinecox.com

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THE WARTIME LIBRARIAN'S SECRET

Molly Green

Amid the chaos of war, will a new chapter begin?

September 1942. Esme Donaldson is still grieving the devastating loss of her husband, Anthony, when she's forced out of her dream job by wartime budget cuts.

Left with few options, Esme faces an uncertain future - until a chance encounter sends her to Redcliffe Manor, a grand estate deep in the Somerset countryside. There she's offered an unexpected role as the manor's librarian.

As Esme settles in, she discovers the house is no ordinary country estate. The outbuildings have been requisitioned by American officers, while the house is sheltering a displaced girls' boarding school. While the halls echo with the feet of giggling girls, the grounds hum with whispers of top-secret activities.

When she meets a handsome American colonel, the attraction between them is instant. But Esme holds a secret that may ruin everything. Will she find the strength to face her past or be kept from the happiness she deserves?



© Natasa Stantic Brajovic

MOLLY GREEN is a seasoned author of fiction and non-fiction. She has sold lipstick in a Denver store, modelled in Atlanta, assisted the UN Narcotics Director in Geneva, chauffeured a Swiss Gnome in Zurich, assisted a famous film producer in the UK, and cooked in a sanatorium in Germany. She now lives and writes in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

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JOY FOR THE STEEL GIRLS

The Steel Girls series (6)

Michelle Rawlins

As war rages, can a new arrival bring them together?

Winter, 1941.

With the darkest nights of the Sheffield Blitz behind them, the Steel Girls are looking ahead to a new chapter. Hattie is thrilled to learn that she is expecting a bundle of joy with her husband, John. But as her father continues to fan the flames of tension at home, can she protect her baby – and herself – in such uncertain times?

Josie never dreamt that she would be raising her girls without her beloved husband, Alf. But as the war continues, she is determined to roll up her sleeves and give her daughters the strength to carry on.

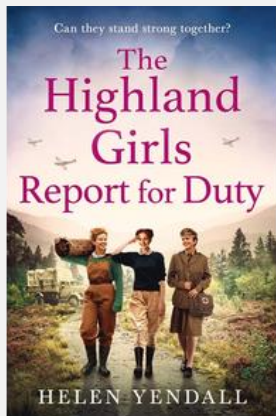
Eldest daughter Daisy has seen the war destroy everything she holds dear. But as she begins to put the past behind her, could the upcoming spring bring with it the first flush of love?

As the Steel Girls look ahead, could it be that they find joy even in the toughest of times?



© Scott Merrylees

MICHELLE RAWLINS is an award-winning freelance journalist with over 20 years' experience working in print and digital media. After learning her trade, Michelle began her freelance career writing for national newspapers and women's magazines, concentrating on real-life stories – living by the mantra: 'it's always the most ordinary people who have the most extraordinary stories'.



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THE HIGHLAND GIRLS REPORT FOR DUTY

The Highland Girls series (3)

Helen Yendall

Don't miss this poignant and heartwarming WW2 novel for fans of Rosie Clarke, Dilly Court and Rosie Archer.

Scotland, 1944.

Fearless Seffy was hoping for a transfer to England to be near Callum, the Canadian soldier she has given her heart to. Instead she is instructed to train a new group of lumberjills. Will their unhelpful attitude finally be a match for Seffy's determination and cheerfulness?

Sensible Jean is a true believer in the wartime effort. When she meets a conscientious objector can she accept that following the rules might not always define a person?

And young Missy has come all the way over from Canada to surprise her first love, Callum who is stationed as a soldier in England. But despite this grand act of love, his heart may no longer belong to her.

The Women's Timber Corps are about to have a tumultuous year.



© Helen Yendall

HELEN YENDALL has had dozens of short stories and a serial published in women's magazines over the past twenty years and now writes female-focused WW2 novels.

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