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LITERARY FICTION

SHRINES OF GAIETY by Kate Atkinson	
Publisher(s):	UK – Doubleday/Transworld
Publication Date:	September 2022
Material:	Manuscript available
<p>A new novel from number one bestselling author Kate Atkinson.</p> <p>Set in London and York in 1926, <i>Shrines of Gaiety</i> sees a country reeling from the Great War. But London is humming with a new nightlife, and queen of it all is the notorious Nellie Coker. The novel captures 'the uncertainty and mutability of life; of a world in which nothing is quite as it seems'.</p> <p>Praise for Kate Atkinson:</p> <p><i>'[Atkinson] occupies that rare cultural sweet spot wherein she scoops up awards for artistic excellence while also reliably hitting the best-seller lists. In her best work-a category in which her latest, <i>Transcription</i>, certainly belongs-she maneuvers the tropes of the murder-mystery genre, of historical fiction, and of privileged white Britishness into a kind of critical salvage of women's work, women's lives...'</i> —New Yorker</p> <p><i>'Atkinson never fails to take us beyond an individual's circumstances to the achingly human, often-contradictory impulses within. And, as all of Atkinson's readers know, she is an exquisite writer of prose, using language with startling precision whether she is plumbing an inner life, describing events of appalling violence, or displaying her characters' wonderfully acerbic wit. Evoking such different but equally memorable works as Graham Greene's <i>The Human Factor</i> (1978) and Margaret Drabble's <i>The Middle Ground</i> (1980), this is a wonderful novel about making choices, failing to make them, and living, with some degree of grace, the lives our choices determine for us.'</i> —Booklist (starred)</p> <p><i>'Kate Atkinson is a marvel. There aren't enough breathless adjectives to describe <i>LIFE AFTER LIFE</i>: Dazzling, witty, moving, joyful, mournful, profound. Wildly inventive, deeply felt. Hilarious. Humane. Simply put: It's one of the best novels I've read this century.'</i> —Gillian Flynn, author of <i>Gone Girl</i></p> <p><i>'A dazzling novel.'</i> —People</p> <p>Kate Atkinson's first novel, <i>Behind the Scenes at the Museum</i>, was named England's Whitbread Book of the Year in 1996. Since then, she has written twelve more ground-breaking, bestselling books. She lives in Edinburgh, Scotland.</p>	
	
<p>PUBLISHERS OF <i>TRANSCRIPTION</i>:</p> <p>Chinese Mainland – China South Booky Culture Media Co., Czech – Nakladatelstvi Argo, Dutch – Uitgeverij Atlas Contact, French – Editions Jean-Claude Lattes, German – Verlagsgruppe Droemer Knaur, Greek – Papadopoulos Publishing, Hebrew – Yedioth Books, Italian – Casa Editrice Nord, Macedonian – Ars Lamina Publications, Portuguese/Portugual – Bertrand Editora, Romanian – Grupul Editorial Art, Russian – Azbooka-Atticus Publishing Group, Spanish – Alianza Editorial, Swedish – Norstedts, Ukrainian – Nash Format</p>	

THE LIQUID EYE OF A MOON by Uchenna Awoke

Agent:	DeWitt Authors at The Shipman Agency
Publisher(s):	NA - Catapult
Publication Date:	tbc
Material:	Manuscript available

THE LIQUID EYE OF A MOON, a modern-day Nigerian *Catcher in the Rye*, is at once a coming of age story and a contemporary tale of human tabooing.

Human tabooing is a form of caste system still in practice today in the Eastern Nigeria as well as other places, one in which people whose ancestors were enslaved are still oppressed in institutionalized ways, including through marriage and land titles.

Dimkpa is a 14-year-old Nigerian boy growing up in a divided society, and Dimkpa's family is part of the discriminated group. Nonetheless, when the novel opens his father is poised to become village head following the demise of his predecessor, a status that is critical for Dimkpa to receive further education.

When Dimkpa's father is denied the position for a reason unclear to Dimkpa, the boy's curiosity to find the truth leads him to a family secret as he comes to terms with his enslaved ancestry. This discovery haunts him as he finally returns to the classroom after a long absence and develops rage toward a culture that has subjected his family to a life of deprivation. Through clashes with the forces in his community and a budding friendship with a new classmate, Dimkpa finds his way to a new understanding of himself as he moves into adulthood.

THE LIQUID EYE OF A MOON breaks silence about a hidden and dangerous contemporary caste system.

Uchenna Awoke is a fiction writer from Nsukka, Nigeria. He received fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center and the MacDowell Colony in November, 2019, and January, 2018. His short stories have appeared in *Transition*, *Elsewhere Lit*, and other places.

DEFENESTRATE by Renée Branum

Agent:	Frances Coady at Aragi, Inc
Publisher(s):	US – Bloomsbury, UK – Cape
Publication Date:	US – January 2022, UK – February 2022

A *New York Times* Book Review Editor's Choice. An exuberant, wildly inventive debut about a young woman fascinated by her ancestors' legendary "falling curse" and trying to keep her own family from falling apart.

Marta and her twin brother Nick have always been haunted and fascinated by an ancestral legend that holds that members of their family are doomed to various types of falls. And when their own family collapses in the wake of a revelation and a resulting devastating fight with their Catholic mother, the twins move to Prague, the city in which their "falling curse" began. There, Marta and Nick try to forge a new life for themselves. But their ties to the past and each other prove difficult to disentangle, and when they ultimately return to their midwestern home and Nick falls from a balcony himself, Marta is forced to confront the truths they've hidden from each other and themselves. Ingeniously and unforgettably narrated by Marta as she reflects on all the ways there are to fall—from defenestration in nineteenth century Prague to the pratfalls of her childhood idol Buster Keaton, from falling in love to falling mid-flight from an airplane—DEFENESTRATE is a deeply original, gorgeous novel about the power of stories and the strange, malleable bonds that hold families together.

Praise for DEFENESTRATE:

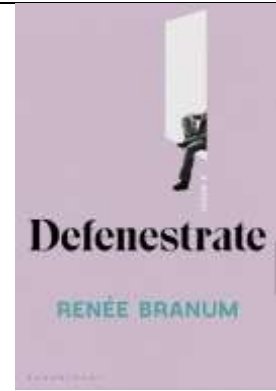
'Stylish, shimmering . . . In a feat of literary archery, Branum's lyrical prose hits its mark again and again . . . Evocative passages stud the novel like diamonds. The story cuts back and forth, brimming with suspense. It's always a joy to see a writer dig confidently into her gifts, as Branum does in DEFENESTRATE. Her characters may fear falling, but this novel soars.' — **The Washington Post**

'Renée Branum writes with exceptional wisdom and tenderness about inheritance, obsession, and the power of storytelling as a means of understanding who we are.' — **Sanaë Lemoine, author of *The Margot Affair***

'This is a fine and wonderful book.' — **Charles Baxter**

'Branum is a taut storyteller who reveals and confides with great skill, in a narrative composed of addictive passages rather than conventional chapters' — **New York Times Book Review**

Renée Branum has an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from the University of Montana and an MFA in Fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop where she was a Truman Capote Fellow. Her work has appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *Narrative Magazine*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Brevity*, and *Alaska Quarterly Review*, among others, and she has received two Pushcart nominations. She lives in Cincinnati.



RIGHTS SOLD:
Italian – Bompiani – Giunti Editore

THE RAPTURES by Jan Carson

Agent:	Wolf Literary Services
Publisher(s):	UK – Doubleday UK
Publication Date:	January 2022

From the winner of the EU Prize for Literature. When several children from the same village start succumbing to a mysterious illness, the quest to discover the cause has devastating and extraordinary consequences. Darkly funny and highly inventive and moving, THE RAPTURES is an unmissable novel of 2022.

It is late June in Ballylack and school's finally out. Hannah Adger is looking forward to eight long weeks of fun and freedom, but when her classmate Ross succumbs to a violent and mysterious illness, it marks the beginning of a summer like no other. As more children fall ill, questions about what - or who - is responsible pitch the village into conflict and fearful disarray. Hannah, ever the outsider, is haunted by guilt as she remains healthy while her friends are struck down. Isolated and afraid, she prays for help. What happens next will force her to question everything she believes. Bursting with Carson's trademark wit, profound empathy and soaring imagination, THE RAPTURES explores how tragedy can unite a small community - and tear it apart.

Praise for THE RAPTURES:

'An original and exciting work that's equal parts terrifying, hilarious and memorable... It is truly one of those books in which every piece fits together like the cogs of a watch.' – **Sunday Times Ireland**

*'Original and compelling. The gimlet eye she brings to stifling/comforting dynamics is *chef's kiss.*'* – **Marian Keyes**

'Heart-rending, hilarious . . . It's a belter.' – **Louise Kennedy**

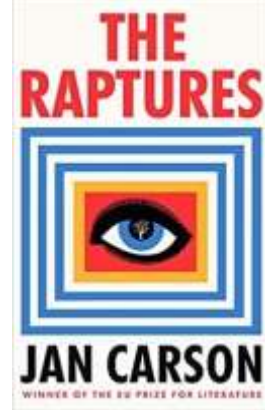
'This is a book written from the guts and from the heart.' – **Lucy Caldwell**

'Hilarious and heartbreaking in equal measure...A real gem.' – **Ruth Gilligan**

'I gobbled up THE RAPTURES. It's a delightful read - sharp, packed with wit and heart, and always utterly absorbing.' – **Lisa McInerney**

'Perfect and generous and beautifully crafted and everything I demand from a book. Brave and brilliant Hannah killed me, and I've made up a room for her in my heart forever.' – **Karl Geary**

Jan Carson is a writer and community arts facilitator based in Belfast. Her first novel, *Malcolm Orange Disappears*, was published in 2014 to critical acclaim, followed by a short-story collection, *Children's Children* (2016), and two flash fiction anthologies, *Postcard Stories* (2017) and *Postcard Stories 2* (2020). Her second novel, *The Fire Starters* (2019), won the EU Prize for Literature and was shortlisted for the Dalkey Novel of the Year Award. Her work has appeared in numerous journals and on BBC Radio 3 and 4. She has won the *Harper's Bazaar* short-story competition and has been shortlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award and the Seán Ó Faoláin Short Story Prize. She specializes in running arts projects and events with older people, especially those living with dementia.



RIGHTS SOLD:

French – Sabine Wespieser
Editeur,
Italian – Guilo Perrone
Editore

PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS:

Albanian – Toena Publishing House,
Arabic – Al Instishar Al Arabi,
Bulgarian – Perseus,
Croatian – Hena Com,
Macedonian – TRI Publishing House,
Serbian – Zavet Publishing House,
Spanish – Hoja de Lata Editorial SL,
Turkish – Kitap Vadisi

ARRIVAL by Nataliya Deleva

Publisher(s):	World – The Indigo Press
Publication Date:	February 2022

ARRIVAL is literary fiction, a story of domestic abuse; the unnamed narrator moves to London from Bulgaria to escape her abusive father, has a child and leaves the child's father after feeling bullied into a new life with him. Lyrical and moving, it is interspersed with folk tales and flashbacks.

The plot centres on the child's eye view of her mother being repeatedly assaulted by her father, with the child feeling powerless to prevent the attacks. It examines her sense of shame and guilt, and her anxiety over perpetuating the cycle of abuse/failure. The folk tales lend a universality and timelessness to the storyline, the mythical samodivi of Bulgaria representing the spirit of women everywhere fighting stereotypical perceptions of gender roles.

Praise for ARRIVAL:

'I read ARRIVAL in one rapt gulp, urged on by its unnamed narrator's need to flee her past, escape the confines of womanhood, and the stains of shame and guilt that keep repeating on her, like heartburn. The novel deals in life's hard knocks, in trauma and deracination, but in language that is sensual, languid, feline, snaking with double meaning and sly humour. Like an Sigrid Nunez novel, Arrival seems to be about everything, its canvas expanding and contracting, allowing the story's particulars to echo far and wide.' — **Marina Benjamin, author of *The Middlepause and Insomnia***

'A powerful tale about love, domestic violence, motherhood, escape, and arrival on many levels, written with sensuality and poetic force.' — **Naja Marie-Aidt, author of *Baboon, Rock, Paper, Scissors and Carl's Book***

'From the opening of ARRIVAL, Nataliya Deleva demonstrates a remarkable talent for conjuring place and moment. It sits the reader beside her unnamed narrator. Whether in the Bulgarian valleys of her childhood or inhabiting the trauma-induced void that's replaced any semblance of home, we are beside her.' — **Harriet Mercer, author of *Gargoyles***

'ARRIVAL is a book made up of fragments – fragments of love, motherhood, abuse and marriage – which form an intriguing and moving kaleidoscope narrative. A jagged, beautifully written novel which explores the shattering impact of abuse and how the past shapes the present.' — **Sam Mills, author of *The Fragments of My Father***

Nataliya Deleva was born in Bulgaria and now lives in London. Her debut novel, *Four Minutes*, was originally published in Bulgaria (Janet 45, 2017), where the book was awarded Best Debut Novel and was shortlisted for Novel of the Year (2018). It has since been translated into German (eta Verlag, 2018), English (Open Letter Books, 2021) and Polish (Wydawnictwo EZOP, 2021). Nataliya's short fiction, reviews and essays have appeared in *Words Without Borders*, *Fence*, *Asymptote*, *Empty Mirror*, *Granta Bulgaria*, and the anthology *Stories from the 90s* (ICU Publishing, 2019) among others.



PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS:
 Bulgarian – Janet45,
 German – eta Verlag,
 Polish – Wydawnictwo EZOP

DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU by Ariel Delgado Dixon

Agent:	Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – Random House
Publication Date:	February 2022

Two sisters unite to survive a traumatic upbringing – from absentee parents to a wilderness camp for troubled teens – in this “relentless and spooky” (Joy Williams) debut from an essential new voice.

“When the Juvenile Transportation Services come for you in the night in a preordained kidnapping, complete with an unmarked van and husky guardsmen you can’t outmatch, you have been sold for a promise.”

A young woman thinks she has escaped her past only to discover that she’s been hovering on its edges all along: She and her younger sister bide their time in a dilapidated warehouse in a desolate town north of New York City; their parents settled there with dreams of starting an art commune. But after the girls’ father vanishes, all traces of stability disappear for the family, and the girls retreat into strange worlds of their own mythmaking and isolation. As the sisters both try to survive their increasingly dark and dangerous adolescences, they break apart and reunite repeatedly, orbiting each other like planets. Both endure stints at the Veld Center, a wilderness camp where troubled teenage girls are sent as a last resort, and both emerge more deeply warped by the harsh outdoor survival experiences they must endure and the attempts by staff to break them down psychologically. With a mesmerizing voice and uncanny storytelling style, this is a remarkable debut about two women who must struggle to understand the bonds that link them and how their traumatic history will shape who they choose to become as adults.

Praise for DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU:

*‘What a striking literary arrival! Ariel Delgado Dixon is a prose stylist with a rare talent marked by atmospheric rhythm. This distinct tale of two sisters, crawling with tension, will carve its way into your dreams.’ –Kali Fajardo-Anstine, author of *Sabrina & Corina**

‘Two sisters navigate childhood trauma in Dixon’s chilling, complex debut. . . . The layered story lines and Fawn’s shocking actions pay big dividends. Readers will be eager to see what the author does next.’ –Publishers Weekly

*‘Eventful, complex, admirably structured, relentless and spooky.’ –Joy Williams, author of *The Visiting Privilege**

*‘Ariel Dixon is a writer of preternatural ability, and her first novel is a powerful expression of it. Her work shines a stark light on this new and dangerous world in which we find ourselves and does so with such insight, such grace. Dixon is a once-in-a-generation talent.’ –Brady Udall, author of *The Lonely Polygamist**

Ariel Delgado Dixon was born and raised in Trenton, New Jersey. This is her first novel.



THE RABBIT HUTCH by Tess Gunty

Agent:	Duvall Osteen at Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – Knopf, UK – Oneworld
Publication Date:	US – August 2022, UK – September 2022
Material:	Page proofs available

A debut novel about an odd assortment of residents living in a crumbling apartment building in the post-industrial Midwest.

Once a bustling industrial center, Vacca Vale, Indiana is now no more than another notch in the Rust Belt, and its inhabitants are no exception. In a run-down apartment building on the edge of town, commonly known as the Rabbit Hutch, a number of these people, those left behind, now reside quietly out-of-place. Apartment C2 is lonely and detached. C6 is aging and stuck. C8 harbors an extraordinary fear. But C4 is of particular interest. Here live four products of the state foster care system: three teenage boys and one girl, Blandine. Hauntingly beautiful and unnervingly bright, Blandine is plagued by her past and by the structures, people, and places that not only failed her, but actively harmed her. Now, all that Blandine wants is an escape, true bodily escape like the mystics describe in the books she reads. In *THE RABBIT HUTCH*, Tess Gunty has written a gorgeous and provocative tale of searching and longing and of pain and healing.

Praise for *THE RABBIT HUTCH*:

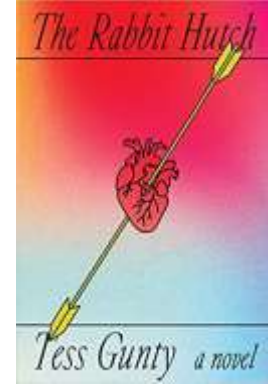
'Just when everything seemed designed for a brief moment of utility before its planned obsolescence, here comes THE RABBIT HUTCH, a wildly wise, wildly inventive, wildly wild novel whose seemingly infinite offerings will remain with you long after you finish it. Each page of this novel contains a novel, a world.' — **Jonathan Safran Foer, author of *Here I Am***

'Gunty writes with a keen, sensitive eye about all manner of intimacies — the kind we build with other people, and the kind we cultivate around ourselves and our tenuous, private aspirations.' — **Raven Leilani**

'Tess Gunty is a masterful talent with a remarkable eye for the poetic, the poignant, and the absurdly sublime...A brutal and beautiful novel that both delights and devastates with its unflinching depiction of Rust Belt decline, Gunty's debut is a tour de force that's sure to top this year's best-of lists.' — **Lauren Wilkinson, author of *American Spy***

'THE RABBIT HUTCH is philosophical, and earth, and tender and also simply very fun to read — Tess Gunty is a distinctive talent, with a generous and gently brilliant mind.' — **Rivka Galchen**

Tess Gunty was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana. She received a B.A. in English with an Honors Concentration in Creative Writing from the University of Notre Dame, where she won the Ernest Sandeen Award, and an MFA in Creative Writing from NYU. Her work was nominated for the PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers. Her fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Joyland*, *No Tokens*, *The Iowa Review*, *Flash*, *Shift*, *The Café Irreal*, *Peripheries*, and other publications. She lives in Los Angeles.



RIGHTS SOLD:
 French – Editions Gallmeister,
 German – Verlag
 Kiepenheuer & Witsch,
 Italian – Ugo Guanda Editore

THE WORLD AND ALL THAT IT HOLDS by Aleksandar Hemon

Agent:	Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – FSG, UK - Picador
Publication Date:	Spring 2023
Material:	Manuscript available

RIGHTS SOLD:
German – Ullstein

OPTION PUBLISHERS:
Bosnian – Buybook,
Italian – Crocetti,
Romanian – Black Button
Books

'Weep for the soul that cannot go home and not for the mourners hiding in a wall.' This a story of a love so strong it defeats two wars, two revolutions, two separations and two deaths.

Osman, a Muslim, and Pinto, a Jew, grow up in multilingual Sarajevo at the beginning of the twentieth century, coming of age as young men just in time to find themselves drafted into the Austro-Hungarian imperial army, then floating into World War One on a tide of mud, fear, violence and horror, eventually becoming prisoners of war in central Asia, where the waves of the Russian Revolution break over them. A baby daughter arrives, as does a ghost, and much is endured along the way - evacuations, migrations, frostbite, crossing deserts, valleys, trenches – until the haze of Shanghai is reached. And all the while they are accompanied by a noisily, wantonly absent God. Theirs is an epic story of a world in convulsion, of millions broken between war, displacement and revolution, and also of individual bonds so strong, of love so absolute, that it conquers all.

Praise for Aleksandar Hemon:

'Hemon has always played with boundaries—of places, of selves—exploring how lines that can be so porous and contingent could also matter so much . . . There's a fatalism that suffuses 'This Does Not Belong to You,' an overwhelming sense of mortality and the suspicion that storytelling might never be enough. This despair is leavened by what Hemon so beautifully and concretely conveys in 'My Parents,' with Hemon as a middle-aged son who is carefully and movingly trying to make sense of it all.' — **Jennifer Szalai, *The New York Times***

'Moving . . . Hemon at his most contemplative, whimsical, and personal. He's written autobiographical fiction and a collection of personal essays, but This Does Not Belong to You, being his most fragmented work, reflects his truest self . . . This Does Not Belong to You is Hemon looking deeply into himself, mining the recesses of his mind . . . it is, like My Parents, a joy to join in the reflection.' — **Barry Rosenthal, *Los Angeles Times***

Aleksandar Hemon is the author of *The Lazarus Project*, which was a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, and three books of short stories: *The Question of Bruno*; *Nowhere Man*, which was also a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *Love and Obstacles*. His most recent publication was the 2019 two-in-one non-fiction *This Does Not Belong to You/ My Parents: An Introduction*. He was the recipient of a 2003 Guggenheim Fellowship and a "genius grant" from the MacArthur Foundation, and the 2020 Dos Passos Prize. Hemon's work has been translated in to over thirty languages. He lives in Chicago.

MOTHERTHING by Ainslie Hogarth

Agent:	Rach Crawford at Wolf Literary Services
Publisher(s):	US – Vintage, CAN – Strange Light, UK/Comm - Atlantic
Publication Date:	October 2022
Material:	Page proofs available



A darkly funny domestic horror novel about a woman who must take drastic measures to save her husband and herself from the vengeful ghost of her mother-in-law. Perfect for fans of Ottessa Moshfegh and Rachel Yoder.

When Ralph and Abby Lamb move in with Ralph's mother, Laura, Abby hopes it's just what she and her mother-in-law need to finally connect. After a traumatic childhood, Abby is desperate for a mother figure, especially now that she and Ralph are trying to become parents themselves. Abby just has so much love to give--to Ralph, to Laura, and to Mrs. Bondy, her favorite resident at the long-term care home where she works. But Laura isn't interested in bonding with her daughter-in-law. She's venomous and cruel, especially to Abby, and life with her is hellish.

When Laura takes her own life, her ghost haunts Abby and Ralph in very different ways: Ralph is plunged into depression, and Abby is terrorized by a force intent on destroying everything she loves. To make matters worse, Mrs. Bondy's daughter is threatening to move Mrs. Bondy from the home, leaving Abby totally alone. With everything on the line, Abby comes up with a chilling plan that will allow her to keep Mrs. Bondy, rescue Ralph from his tortured mind, and break Laura's hold on the family for good. All it requires is a little ingenuity, a lot of determination, and a unique recipe for chicken à la king...

Ainslie Hogarth is the author of *The Lonely* and *The Boy Meets Girl Massacre* (Annotated). She lives in Canada with her husband, kids, and little dog.

NINETY-FIVE by Rebecca Makkai	
Agent:	Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – Viking,
Publication Date:	Spring 2023
Material:	Manuscript available in Spring 2022.
<p>From the author of Pulitzer Prize finalist <i>The Great Believers</i>, which was also a National Book Award finalist, a <i>New York Times</i> Top 10 Book of 2018, <i>Los Angeles Times</i> Book Prize winner, ALA Carnegie Medal winner, and the Stonewall Book Award winner. TV rights to <i>The Great Believers</i> has also been optioned by Amy Poehler.</p> <p>Thalia Keith. Thalia was murdered at the end of the school term and Bodie, now an adult (and a well known podcaster) still can't stop thinking about what happened. Who murdered Thalia? Her boyfriend? A guy who wanted to be her boyfriend? A teacher? A random stranger? One of these men was arrested and imprisoned for the crime and most people were sure he was guilty, that the right guy was in jail. But years later the circumstances of murder, the trial and the conviction, are still being examined and unpicked on internet. We've all seen those crimes and the years of speculation they provoke, the obsessive interest, the internet sleuths and conspiracy theorists on FaceBook and Twitter who are sure they either know the truth, or at least know which piece of evidence was faked. We've read the newspaper articles, bought the books, we've watched the DocuSeries and listened to the speculation and, hopefully, questioned our knee jerk opinions. Along the way we've had to reckon with the ubiquity of violence against women and our often voyeuristic fascination with it; with miscarriages of justice and our desire for the truth to match our understanding of the world.</p> <p>Praise for NINETY-FIVE: <i>'Rebecca Makkai's The Great Believers is a page turner... among the first novels to chronicle the AIDS epidemic from its initial outbreak to the present – among the first to convey the terrors and tragedies of the epidemic's early years as well as its course and repercussions...An absorbing and emotionally riveting story about what it's like to live during times of crisis.'</i> – The New York Times Book Review <i>'A striking, emotional journey... Makkai creates a powerful, unforgettable meditation, not on death, but rather on the power and gift of life.'</i> – Publishers Weekly (starred) <i>'Makkai knits themes of loss, betrayal, friendship and survival into a powerful story of people struggling to keep their humanity in dire circumstances.'</i> – People Magazine</p> <p>Rebecca Makkai is the author of <i>The Borrower</i>, <i>The Hundred-Year House</i>, which won the Novel of the Year Award from the Chicago Writers Association, <i>Music for Wartime</i>, and <i>The Great Believers</i>. Her work has appeared in <i>The Best American Short Stories</i>, <i>Harper's</i>, and <i>Tin House</i>, among others. She lives outside Chicago with her husband and two daughters.</p>	
<p>RIGHTS SOLD: Danish – Lindhardt og Ringhof Forlag,</p> <p>OPTION PUBLISHERS: Catalan – Edicions del Periscopi, Chinese Mainland – Beijing Fonghong Books, Dutch – Park Uitgevers, French – Les Escales, German – Julia Eisele Verlag, Hungarian – Central Kiadoi Csoport, Italian – Giulio Einaudi Editore, Polish – Wydawnictwo Poznanskie, Portuguese/Portugal – Edicoes ASA II, Romanian – Black Button Books, Russian – Livebook Publishing House, Spanish – Sexto Piso Espana, Taiwanese – China Times Publishing Company, Turkish – Salon Yayinlari</p>	

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY by Darragh McKeon	
Agent:	Frances Coady at Aragi, Inc.
Publishers:	CAN - HarperCollins, UK – Viking
Material:	Manuscript available
<p>From the author of <i>All That Is Solid Melts Into Air</i> (2014), described by Colm Toibin as “daring and ambitious”, which also describes this new novel revolving around the IRA bombing in Enniskillen on Remembrance Sunday 1987.</p> <p>Simon Hanlon is 15 years old when he and his father attend the Remembrance Sunday Parade. He survives the blast but experiences seizures which disappear only to return over thirty years later when he is living New York. As he waits for an operation that could render him unable to form memories or emotions, Simon tries to understand what links his fifteen-year-old and forty-eight-year-old selves, and what it is that has made his seizures return.</p> <p>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY questions the very notion of who we are, of what we can know, and how we struggle to understand not only our own lives but the lives of others. From New York’s China Town to the border farms of Northern Ireland Simon’s story circles the guilty secret that he has repressed, and its release will enable him to perform an act of imagination and empathy that may well save his life. What is it the novel asks that makes a person want to harm another, how can we begin to understand our capacity for violence?</p> <p>Praise for <i>All That Is Solid Melts Into Air</i>: <i>‘A startling achievement....McKeon’s characters may already have receded into history, but by imprinting their triumphs and tragedies onto the imagination with such visceral empathy, he has given them a deserving afterlife in this powerful novel.’ – Anthony Marra, New York Times Book Review</i> <i>‘This debut novel is set in 1986, the year of the catastrophe at Chernobyl, and that disaster serves as the dramatic backdrop for the unfolding of action and character.... Serious and thoughtful fiction.’ – Kirkus Reviews (starred)</i> <i>‘McKeon’s fiction serves up, without cliché, what so many futuristic dystopian novels aspire to: a reminder that human beings can bring about their own demise.’ – Publishers Weekly</i> <i>‘This startling debut novel is a love story set against the harrowing tale of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.... A promising debut; highly recommended.’ – Library Journal (starred)</i></p> <p>Darragh McKeon was born in 1979 and grew up in the midlands of Ireland. He has worked in theatre in the US And UK.</p>	
<p>RIGHTS SOLD: French – Editions Belfond</p> <p>OPTION PUBLISHERS: Dutch – Prometheus BV, Finnish – Atena Kustannus Oy, (German – Ullstein Buchverlage), Portuguese/Brazil – Editora Bertrand Brasil, Spanish – Alba Editorial, Turkish – Dogan Kitapcilik</p>	

THE NURSERY by Szilvia Molnar

Agent:	Kate Johnson at Wolf Literary Services
Publisher(s):	NA – Pantheon, UK – Oneworld
Publication Date:	April 2023
Material:	Edited manuscript due May 2022

RIGHTS SOLD:
 French – Actes Sud,
 German – Aufbau Verlag,
 Portuguese/Brazil - Todavia

For fans of Rachel Cusk and Helen Phillips’s *The Need*, THE NURSERY is at once bodily and cerebral, a transgressive novel about maternal fear and its looming madness, showing how fragile, sometimes Kafkaesque those postpartum days can be, and how vital love is to pull anyone out from the dark.

A woman – we’ll call her Miffo – finds it impossible to leave her apartment after giving birth. Normally, she’s a translator, happy to be the invisible interpreter, but at home with her newborn, she is ill at ease with this state of perpetual giving, carrying, feeding: The simple fact is that I am home alone with a baby all day. *Jag är hemma med en bebis hela dagen lång.* I’m not even sitting in solitude at my desk but standing in the middle of four walls, holding and holding on. Women have done this before me and nothing changed. And women will do this after me. This concept can’t be literature.

Miffo’s instinct to keep her baby safe abuts mental machinations of causing the baby harm, to rescue her own identity as it seems to dissolve from underneath her. Does motherhood have its own language, a mother tongue? Miffo’s husband is supportive but ineffectual; instead Miffo finds distraction and an unlikely friendship with her ailing upstairs neighbor, Peter, who either is or isn’t really visiting her during the day – either is or isn’t really hushing the baby with his oxygen tank in tow, playing the accordion, bearing strange gifts, sitting in companionable silence with her or sharing stories of his deceased wife. But they are both running out of time; something is soon to crack. Joyful early days of Miffo’s pregnancy mingle with the anxious arrival of the baby, and culminate in a painful confrontation – mostly, between Miffo and herself.

Szilvia Molnar, originally from Budapest and raised in Sweden, has worked in publishing for the past fourteen years. She is the foreign rights director at Sterling Lord Literistic and splits her time between New York City and Austin, Texas. **THE NURSERY** is her first novel.

NOBODY GETS OUT ALIVE: STORIES by Leigh Newman

Agent:	Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – Scribners, UK – John Murray
Publication Date:	April 2022

From the prizewinning, debut fiction author: an exhilarating virtuosic story collection about women navigating the wilds of male-dominated Alaskan society.

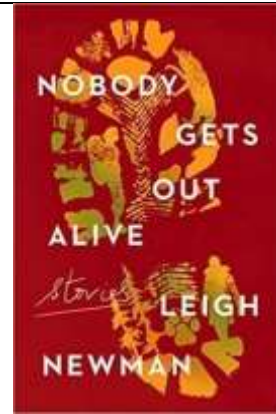
Set in Newman’s home state of Alaska, *NOBODY GETS OUT ALIVE* is a collection of dazzling, courageous stories about women struggling to survive not just grizzly bears and charging moose but the raw, exhausting legacy of their marriages and families. In “Howl Palace” – winner of The Paris Review’s Terry Southern Prize, a Best American Short Story, and Pushcart Prize selection—an aging widow struggles with a rogue hunting dog and the memories of her five ex-husbands while selling her house after bankruptcy. In the title story, “Nobody Gets Out Alive,” newly married Katrina visits her hometown of Anchorage and blows up her own wedding reception by flirting with the host and running off with an enormous mastodon tusk. Alongside stories set in today’s Last Frontier – rife with suburban sprawl, global warming, and opioid addiction – Newman delves into remote wilderness of the 1970s and 80s, bringing to life young girls and single moms in search of a wilder, freer, more adventurous America. The final story takes place in a railroad camp in 1915, where an outspoken heiress stages an elaborate theatrical in order to seduce the wife of her husband’s employer.

Praise for *NOBODY GETS OUT ALIVE*:

*‘I didn’t want *NOBODY GETS OUT ALIVE* to end – to have to leave behind its warmth and soul and glittering writing, its honesty and its laughter in the dark.’ – Jonathan Lee, author of *The Great Mistake**

*‘*NOBODY GETS OUT ALIVE* is a thrilling collection. Leigh Newman’s indelible characters chart the turbulent waters of hope and regret in an Alaskan landscape that crackles with danger and wonder. These are gritty and powerful stories, from a wildly gifted writer.’ – Laura van den Berg, author of *I Hold a Wolf by the Ears**

Leigh Newman is the author of *Still Points North*, a memoir about growing up in Alaska which was a finalist for the National Book Critic Circle’s John Leonard Prize. Her stories have appeared in *Harper’s*, *The Paris Review*, *Tin House*, *McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern*, *One Story*, and *Electric Literature*. In 2020, she was awarded The Paris Review’s Terry Southern Prize, a Best American Short Story, a Pushcart Prize, and an American Society of Magazine Editors’ Fiction Prize for her work in the *Paris Review*. Previously, she cofounded the indie press Black Balloon/Catapult where she still works as editor-at-large. Her essays, book reviews and general musings have appeared in *The New York Times*; *Bookforum*; *Vogue*; *Real Simple*; *O, the Oprah Magazine*; and other publications. Leigh is currently working on a novel *THE SURVIVALISTS*.



RIGHTS SOLD:
Italian – Mondadori

TOUCH by Olaf Olafsson

Agent:	Julia Masnik at Watkins/Loomis Agency
Publisher(s):	Iceland – Verold, US – Ecco
Publication Date:	US – August 2022
Material:	English manuscript available

A mesmerizing, panoramic story of one man’s search to find a lover who suddenly disappeared decades before.

When the pandemic hits, Kristofer is forced to shutter his successful restaurant in Reykjavik, sending him into a spiral of uncertainty, even as his memory seems to be failing. But an uncanny bolt from the blue—a message from Miko Nakamura, a woman whom he’d known in the sixties when they were students in London—both inspires and rattles him, as he is drawn inexorably back into a love story that has marked him for life. Even as the pandemic upends his world, Kristofer finds himself pulled toward an answer to the mystery of Miko’s sudden departure decades before, compelling him to travel to London and Japan as the virus threatens to shut everything down.

A heart-wrenching love story and an absorbing mystery, TOUCH delves into the secrets of the past to explore the hidden lives that we all possess, the pain and beauty of our past loves and friendships that continue to leave their mark on us. Searching and lyrically rendered by acclaimed author Olaf Olafsson, TOUCH is a stunning tribute to the weight of history and the complexities of the human heart.

Praise for Olaf Olafsson:

*‘The novel confounds our expectations, sifting through memory, as it evolves into a low-simmering psychological thriller. Recommended.’ – **Library Journal***

‘[A] gripping, masterfully constructed story toward redemption and justice.’ –

Booklist

*‘Emotionally gratifying and spiritually challenging—a compelling novel that grabs the reader’s psyche and won’t let go.’ – **Kirkus Reviews (starred)***

*‘A mesmerizing and powerful look at abuse in the Catholic Church...an astounding dénouement, delves into the balance between justice and vengeance, and the power of conviction, absolution, and redemption. This is an incisive novel.’ – **Publishers Weekly***

*‘The Sacrament is a miraculous novel. A delicate, literary page-turner, narrated by an unforgettable character whose life the reader will long remember after the last page is turned. With austere and beautiful prose, Olafsson has written a novel full of love, mystery, and regret. Fantastic.’ – **Nickolas Butler, author of Shotgun Lovesongs and Little Faith***

Olaf Olafsson was born in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1962. He studied physics as a Wien scholar at Brandeis University. He is the author of six previous novels, *The Journey Home*, *Absolution*, *Walking into the Night*, *Restoration*, *One Station Away*, and *The Sacrament*, and a story collection, *Valentines*. He spends his time in New York City, Sag Harbor, and Reykjavik.



RIGHTS SOLD:
German – Berlin Verlag,
Italian – Giulio Einaudi Editore

OPTION PUBLISHER:
Serbian – Samizdat B92

THE SWIMMERS by Julie Otsuka

Agent:	Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – Knopf, UK – Figtree
Publication Date:	February 2022

From the best-selling, award-winning author of *The Buddha in the Attic* and *When the Emperor Was Divine*, comes a novel about what happens to a group of obsessed recreational swimmers when a crack appears at the bottom of their local pool—a tour de force of economy, precision, and emotional power.

The swimmers are unknown to one another except through their private routines (slow lane, medium lane, fast lane) and the solace each takes in their morning or afternoon laps. But when a crack appears at the bottom of the pool, they are cast out into an unforgiving world without comfort or relief. One of these swimmers is Alice, who is slowly losing her memory. For Alice, the pool was a final stand against the darkness of her encroaching dementia. Without the fellowship of other swimmers and the routine of her daily laps she is plunged into dislocation and chaos, swept into memories of her childhood and the Japanese American incarceration camp in which she spent the war. Alice's estranged daughter, re-entering her mother's life too late, witnesses her stark and devastating decline. Written in spellbinding, incantatory prose, *THE SWIMMERS* is a searing, intimate story of mothers and daughters, and the sorrows of implacable loss: the most commanding and unforgettable work yet from a modern master.

Praise for *THE SWIMMERS*:

'In a time of monotony and chaos, when death is as concrete as it is unimaginable, and when cracks can and do appear in the pool for no discernible reason, 'THE SWIMMERS' is an exquisite companion. Though it doesn't answer the unanswerable, the novel's quiet insistence resonates: that it is our perfectly ordinary proclivities that make us who we are.'—**New York Times Book Review**

'Having concentrated on one family in her first novel, then eschewed individual protagonists for a collective 'we' in her second, Otsuka now blends the two approaches, shifting from an almost impersonal, wide-lens view of society to an increasingly narrow focus on a specific mother-daughter relationship . . . The combination of social satire with an intimate portrait of loss and grief is stylistically ambitious and deeply moving.'—**Kirkus (starred)**

'Here comes the new Julie Otsuka novel, so we can begin to live again'—**Colson Whitehead**

Julie Otsuka was born and raised in California. She is the author of the novel, *When the Emperor was Divine* and *The Buddha in the Attic*, and a recipient of the Asian American Literary Award, the American Library Association Alex Award, and a Guggenheim fellowship. She lives in New York City.



RIGHTS SOLD:

Dutch – Lebowski Publishers,
 French – Editions Gallimard,
 German – Mare Verlag,
 Greek – Patakis Publications,
 Italian – Bollati Boringhieri,
 Lithuanian – Baltos Lankos,
 Romanian – Pandora Publishing,
 Spanish – Duomo Ediciones,
 Swedish – Albert Bonniers Forlag,
 Turkish – Domingo Yayinevi,

PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS:

Bulgarian – Vakon Ltd,
 Croatian – Litteris d.o.o.,
 Danish – Forlaget Hr. Ferdinand,
 Dutch – Overamstel uitgevers/Dutch Media,
 Hungarian – Magveto Konyvkiado,
 Japanese – Shinchosha Publishing,
 Lebanese – Al-Markaz al-Thaqafi al-Arabi (Arab Cultural Centre),
 Lithuanian – Vaga Publishers,
 Malayalam – Samantha,
 Norwegian – Oktober,
 Portuguese/Brazil – Grua Livros,
 Romanian – Editura Polirom,
 Serbian – Mono i Manjana,
 Slovenian – Pal,
 Vietnamese – The Women Publishing House

BUCKEYE by Patrick Ryan

Agent:	Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – little Random/Random House
Publication:	Summer 2023 (tbc)
Material:	Manuscript available

RIGHTS SOLD:
French - Belfond

Full of warmth and humour, BUCKEYE can be compared to works by Larry McMurtry, Elizabeth Strout, Anne Tyler and Richard Russo.

Set in the fictitious town of Bonhomie, Ohio, a wartime affair keeps two people afloat through their less-than-ideal marriages. But in small towns nothing stays hidden forever, and on July 4th, when the town comes together to celebrate its Centennial and the 10-year anniversary of the end of the war, the firework display of personal revelations drowns out the sound of actual fireworks.

Readers will get to know empathetic Becky and her well-meant seances, Cal with his one short leg and the multiple discomforts this brings him, Everett and his furious correspondence with the President... and then there's Margaret's obsession with redecorating, and all the things in her new life that she uses to paper over the horrors of her childhood, and her husband Felix who has hidden his self away from himself. And finally, there's the question of Tom...

Praise for Patrick Ryan:

'[Ryan] displays a gift for excavating the dashed hopes and yearnings that lie beneath. He is especially adept at capturing the point of view of children, with a Salingeresque understanding of their alienation, their vulnerability, their keen powers of observation.' — **Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times***

'Patrick Ryan's characters are people who are a little more beaten down than they know. They are not introspective by default, and yet, due to circumstances, they are forced to look into themselves and find something that, in his own phrase, feels like life.' — **Literary Hub**

'The author illuminates [his] characters with pitch-perfect dialogue and period references that capture the various decades in which the stories take place. In the end, he uses a symbol of mankind's greatest achievement as an ironic yardstick for the more earthbound interactions of his sorrowful characters.' — **Publishers Weekly**

Patrick Ryan is the author of the story collection *The Dream Life of Astronauts* (2016), *Send Me* (2006), and several Young Adult novels: *Saints of Augustine* (2007), *Gemini Bites* (2011) and *In Mike We Trust* (2009). His work has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*, *Tin House*, *One Story*, *Tales of Two Cities*, *Crazyhorse*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Yale Review* and elsewhere. He is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Fiction and was chosen for Barnes & Noble's Discover Great New Writers series. He was a finalist for the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize. The former associate editor of *Granta*, Patrick Ryan is the editor of *One Story*. He lives in New York City.

CROOK MANIFESTO by Colson Whitehead

Agent:	Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – Doubleday
Publication:	Summer 2023
Material:	Manuscript available in Spring 2022

From two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author Colson Whitehead, returning to Ray Carney from *Harlem Shuffle*.

The novel follows Ray Carney in New York City in the 1970s. Pepper returns as well, and other folks.

Praise for *Harlem Shuffle*:

'A rich, wild book that could pass for genre fiction. It's much more, but the entertainment value alone should ensure it the same kind of popular success that greeted his last two novels, "The Underground Railroad" and "The Nickel Boys".' — **Janet Maslin, *The New York Times***

'Colson Whitehead has a couple of Pulitzers under his belt, along with several other awards celebrating his outstanding novels. Harlem Shuffle is a suspenseful crime thriller that's sure to add to the tally — it's a fabulous novel you must read.' — **NPR.org**

'It's a superlative story, but the most impressive achievement is Whitehead's loving depiction of a Harlem 60 years gone — 'that rustling, keening thing of people and concrete' — which lands as detailed and vivid as Joyce's Dublin. Don't be surprised if this one wins Whitehead another major award.' — **Publishers Weekly (starred)**

'Whitehead adds another genre to an ever-diversifying portfolio with his first crime novel, and it's a corker ... Following Ray as his business grows and he delicately balances the crooked and straight sides of his life, Whitehead delivers a portrait of Harlem in the early '60s, culminating with the Harlem Riot of 1964, that is brushed with lovingly etched detail and features a wonderful panoply of characters who spring to full-bodied life, blending joy, humor, and tragedy. A triumph on every level.' — **Booklist (starred)**

Colson Whitehead is the author of: *The Intuitionist, John Henry Days, The Colossus of New York, Apex Hides the Hurt, Sag Harbor, Zone One* and *The Noble Hustle*. His novel, *The Underground Railroad*, was an international and #1 *New York Times* Bestseller and won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Carnegie Medal for Fiction, the 2017 Hurston/Wright Award for Fiction, the Arthur C. Clarke Award for Science Fiction Literature. He was featured on the cover of *Time* Magazine and included in the list of the "100 Most Influential People" compiled by *Time*. His most recent novel *The Nickel Boys* won the Kirkus Prize, The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction, was a finalist for the 2020 Southern Book Prize, and was longlisted for the National Book Award, the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and the Aspen Words Literary Prize. It was a long running *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the Pulitzer Prize 2020 making him a two-time winner of the award.

OPTION PUBLISHERS:

Arabic – Kalimat Group (Rewayat)
 Bulgarian – List 2016,
 Catalan – Edicions del Periscopi,
 Chinese – Horizon Media,
 Danish – JP/Politikens,
 Dutch – Uitgeverij Atlas Contact,
 Finnish – Otava Publishing company,
 French – Albin Michel,
 German – Hanser Verlag,
 Greek – Ikaros Publishing,
 Hungarian – XXI. Szazad Kiado Kft,
 Italian – Mondadori,
 Japanese – Hayakawa Publishing,
 Korean – EunHaeng NaMu Publishing,
 Norwegian – Kagge Forlag,
 Polish – Wydawnictwo Albatros,
 Portuguese/Brazil – HarperCollins Brasil,
 Portuguese/Portugal – PRH Grupo Editorial Unipessoal,
 Romanian – SC Humanitas Fiction,
 Serbian – Laguna,
 Spanish – Literatura Random House,
 Swedish – Albert Bonniers Forlag,
 Turkish – Siren Yayincilik

UPMARKET / COMMERCIAL FICTION

THE NIGHT SHIFT by Natalka Burian

Agent:	Kate Johnson at Wolf Literary Services
Publisher(s):	NA – Park Row Books
Publication Date:	July 2022
Material:	Page proofs available

Only by traveling into the past can Jean discover a happy future...
 Hidden behind back doors of bars and restaurants and theaters and shops all over New York City are shortcuts—secret passageways that allow you to jump through time and space to emerge in different parts of the city. No one knows where they came from, but there are rules—you can only travel through them one way and only at night. When Jean’s work friend Iggy introduces her to the shortcuts, it’s to help shorten her commute between her night shifts bartending and her work at an upscale bakery. Jean is intrigued but has a hard time shaking the side effects—the shortcuts make her more talkative, more open to discussing her past and recalling memories she’s tried hard to forget. When Iggy goes missing, Jean believes it’s related to the shortcuts and his growing obsession with them. But as she starts digging into their origins, she comes to find a strange connection between herself and the shortcuts. A shimmering, propulsive novel set in New York City during the early aughts and across time, **THE NIGHT SHIFT** shows that by confronting the past can we reshape our future.

Praise THE NIGHT SHIFT:

*‘High-spirited, propulsive, and heart-wrenching, THE NIGHT SHIFT is an achingly compelling look at memory, resiliency, hope, and hustle. Burian weaves a whole new New York City—magical, strange, and free from the everyday trappings of time and space—but this story is resonant and timeless, a bittersweet beauty by a fantastically talented writer.’—Kimberly King Parsons, author of National Book Award longlisted *Black Light**

*‘THE NIGHT SHIFT is an engrossing and vibrant novel, and I loved watching my fair city shine in these pages. This is a great book for readers who love New York City after dark, and who see mysterious possibilities around every corner.’—Emma Straub, author of New York Times bestseller *All Adults Here**

*‘Natalka Burian is inviting you on the adventure of a lifetime. A wild heartbeat of a book that takes unexpected turns—literally and emotionally—and lands us in a newly discovered world of a beloved city, yes, but also a newly discovered world of ourselves. I was so impressed by the human connections on the page, and will think back often to this cast of characters as if they are friends of my own. We are lucky to have such a story.’—Chelsea Bieker, author of *Godshot* and *Heartbroke**

Natalka Burian is the cofounder of the Freya Project, a nonprofit reading series that supports community-based activism and the work of women and nonbinary writers. She is the author of *Welcome to the Slipstream*, a young adult book, and the cocktail cookbook *A Woman’s Drink*, and is the co-owner of two bars, Elsa and Ramona.



PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS:
 Korean – Golden Time

WITH LOVE FROM WISH & CO. by Minnie Darke

Agent:	Gaby Naher at Left Bank Literary
Publisher(s):	ANZ – Penguin Random House, US – Crown
Publication Date:	ANZ – August 2022, US – July 2022
Material:	Proof pages available

From the author of the international bestsellers *Star-Crossed* and *The Lost Love Song* comes a captivating novel about a young woman whose one little mix-up sets off an unexpected chain of events, with repercussions for her business . . . and her love life. **WITH LOVE FROM WISH & CO is a heart-warming novel about what we are prepared to give, and give up, in the name of love.**

One little mix-up. That's all it took . . . Marnie Fairchild is the brains and talent behind Wish & Co, a boutique store that offers a bespoke gift-buying service to wealthy clients with complicated lives. Brian Charlesworth is Marnie's most prized customer, and today she's wrapping the perfect anniversary gift for his wife, Suzanne . . . and a birthday present for his mistress, Leona. What could possibly go wrong? For years, Marnie's had her heart set on moving Wish & Co to the historic shopfront once owned by her grandfather.

When the chance to bid for the property unexpectedly arises, Marnie - distracted - makes an uncharacteristic mistake. Soon Brian is in a fight to rescue his marriage, and Marnie is scrabbling to keep her dreams alive. And with the situation so complicated, the last thing Marnie needs is to fall for Brian and Suzanne's son . . .

Praise for Minnie Darke:

'Will leave you with a warm glow... In every way a delight, Star-Crossed is so much fun, this reviewer fell head over heels for it.' — **Herald Sun on *Star-Crossed***

'This is one dazzling, versatile writer, working with impeccable skill, sharp wit and frolicsome charm.' — **Weekend Australian**

'If you are looking for a charming read, then Darke has written a beauty... Expect laughter and tears in equal measure.' — **Herald Sun on *The Lost Love Song***

Minnie Darke - Gemini with Virgo rising, Scrabble cutthroat and knitter, lover of books, freshly sharpened pencils and Russian Caravan tea - wrote *Star-crossed* to amuse herself and to entertain you. She lives with her family in Tasmania.



OPTION PUBLISHERS:

German – Goldmann Verlag,
Norwegian – Gyldendal
Norsk Forlag

Left Bank Literary is represented by The Greyhawk Agency in China & Taiwan, Tuttle Mori Agency, Inc. in Japan and Danny Hong Agency in Korea.

THE DISPLACEMENTS by Bruce Holsinger

Agent:	The Helen Heller Agency
Publisher(s):	NA – Riverhead, UK – Headline Review
Publication Date:	July 2022
Material:	Page proofs available

An adrenaline-fueled story of lives upended and transformed by an unprecedented catastrophe.

To all appearances, the Larsen-Hall family has everything: healthy children, a stable marriage, a lucrative career for Brantley, and the means for Daphne to pursue her art full-time. Their deluxe new Miami life has just clicked into place when Luna—the world’s first category 6 hurricane—upends everything they have taken for granted.

When the storm makes landfall, it triggers a descent of another sort. Their home destroyed, two of its members missing, and finances abruptly cut off, the family finds everything they assumed about their lives now up for grabs. Swept into a mass rush of evacuees from across the American South, they are transported hundreds of miles to a FEMA mega shelter where their new community includes an insurance-agent-turned-drug dealer, a group of vulnerable children, and a dedicated relief worker trying to keep the peace. Will “normal” ever return?

A suspenseful read plotted on a vast national tapestry, **THE DISPLACEMENTS** thrillingly explores what happens when privilege is lost and resilience is tested in a swiftly changing world.

Praise for **THE DISPLACEMENTS**:

‘A riveting and humbling reminder of how precarious our lives are in comparison to the power of nature, and a profound glimpse into our near future.’ —Mary

Beth Keane, New York Times bestselling author of Ask Again, Yes

‘THE DISPLACEMENTS is a gripping, full-throttle page-turner. Realistic and immediate, it puts the reader right in the eye of the emotional storm, alongside its characters. As much as this is a wake-up call about the unpredictable nature of weather and life, it is most powerfully a propulsive family drama and a provocative story of human dignity, human indignity, and the deeper meanings of home.’ —Miranda Cowley Heller, author of the #1 New York Times bestseller The Paper Palace

‘Bruce Holsinger has written a novel that succeeds in confronting the shocking realities of these times of ‘everything change’ without being either apocalyptic or pessimistic. THE DISPLACEMENTS is an urgent, powerful, unputdownable novel, filled with characters that are so vividly drawn that it is impossible not to care about them. A remarkable achievement.’ —Amitav Ghosh

Bruce Holsinger teaches at the University of Virginia and is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship.



OPTION PUBLISHERS:
 Chinese Mainland – CITIC,
 Polish – Proszynski,
 Russian – Eksmo,
 Turkish – Sola

NOT SAFE FOR WORK by Isabel Kaplan

Agent:	Duvall Osteen at Aragi, Inc.
Publishers:	NA – Holt, UK – Michael Joseph
Publication Date:	NA – July 2022, UK – August 2022
Material:	Final PDF available

Blisteringly sharp, hypersmart, and compulsively readable—meet Isabel Kaplan’s searing debut novel about a young woman trying to succeed in Hollywood without selling her soul.

From the outside, the unnamed protagonist in *NSFW* appears the vision of success. She has landed an entry-level position at a leading TV network that thousands of college grads would kill for. And sure, she has much to learn. The daughter of a prominent feminist attorney, she grew up outside the industry, better versed in gender dynamics than box office hits. But she’s resourceful and hardworking—what could go wrong? At first, the high adrenaline work environment motivates her. Yet as she climbs the ranks, she confronts the reality of creating change from the inside. Her points only get attention when echoed by male colleagues; she hears whispers of abuse and sexual misconduct. Her mother says to keep her head down until she’s the one in charge—a scenario that seems idealistic at best, morally questionable at worst. When her personal and professional lives collide, threatening both the network and her future, she must finally decide what to protect: the career she’s given everything for or the empowered woman she claims to be.

Praise for NOT SAFE FOR WORK:

*‘I read this steely investigation of workplace ambition and patriarchal complicity in one sitting, my alliances shifting with every page. Funny, insightful, and enraging in all the best ways, NSFW is a fiercely smart debut that turns its gaze back on the reader, forcing you to ask just how far you’d go—and who you’d throw under the bus—for a seat at the table.’—Julie Buntin, author of *Marlena**

*‘A frank account of leaning in and its inherent filthiness. Kaplan captures the psychological and, at times, literal gymnastics required of striving women.’—Raven Leilani, New York Times bestselling author of *Luster**

*‘Behind the glitter and the justice, everyone is tarnished and compromised—including even our narrator. Kaplan, with her sharp and nuanced eye, sees it all, and tells it brilliantly.’—Claire Messud, New York Times bestselling author of *The Burning Girl* and *The Woman Upstairs**

*‘Isabel Kaplan is as sharp-eyed and witty as they come. NSFW is a great, hilarious romp in the grand tradition of Hollywood novelists like Carrie Fisher and Bruce Wagner. Delicious and naughty and adorably bleak, much like L.A. itself.’—Elisa Albert, author of *Human Blues**

Isabel Kaplan graduated from Harvard and holds an MFA in creative writing from NYU. She is the author of the national bestselling young adult novel *Hancock Park* and a co-founder of Project 100, an organization launched after the 2016 election to support progressive women running for Congress. She previously worked in TV drama development at Fox Broadcasting Company. Isabel was born and raised in Los Angeles.



DUFFY AND SON by Damien Owens

Agent: Faith O'Grady at The Lisa Richards Agency

Publisher(s): UK – HarperCollins Ireland

Publication Date: March 2022

A heart-warming and hilarious novel about life, love, and the weight of all we leave unsaid, DUFFY AND SON is a quietly moving masterpiece from one of Ireland's most gifted comic writers. For readers of *Us* by David Nicholls.

Eugene Duffy is turning 70; his son Jim is turning 40.

For decades now, they've been running the family hardware shop and living in good-natured bachelor harmony. But time is marching on, and with thoughts of old age weighing heavily on his mind, Eugene is growing increasingly concerned about his son's future.

He resolves to help in the best way possible: by finding Jim a wife. And he's not going to let anyone – let alone Jim himself – stand in his way.

Reminiscent of Fredrik Backman's bestselling novel *A Man Called Ove*, DUFFY AND SON contains a likeable but curmudgeonly main character, wry humour, tremendous heart, as well as a strong sense of community. It is a funny and heart-warming novel which celebrates the messiness of ordinary lives and would make a perfect reading group choice.

Praise for DUFFY AND SON:

'Funny, sweet, charming and just a little bit heart-breaking' – Dara O'Briain
'Immensely enjoyable ... By turn, hilarious and heartbreaking, we rarely hear the perspective of the ageing working class man worrying about his bachelor son and I think that's why it was such a refreshing read ... It's such a tender, warmhearted portrait of a man who has always thought he'd done his best and is now suddenly faced with the notion that he might have failed. Skilfully drawn characters jump to life and the storytelling is enormously entertaining ... a universal story, told in a uniquely Irish way.' – **Liz Nugent**

Damien Owens is the author of six novels: *Dead Cat Bounce*, *Peter and Mary Have a Row*, *Married to a Cave Man*, *Duffy and Son*, *The Bright Side* and *Little Black Everything*. The latter two were published under the pen name Alex Coleman. He is also the creator and writer of *Trivia*, a television comedy/drama which ran for two series on RTÉ. He lives in Dublin with his family.



LITTLE RABBIT by Alyssa Songsiridej

Agent:	Kate Johnson at Wolf Literary Services
Publisher(s):	US – Bloomsbury
Publication Date:	May 2022
Material:	Page proofs available

***Cleanness* meets *Conversations with Friends* in this sly, sensual, daring debut novel about art, autonomy, and the thin line between power and submission.**

When the unnamed narrator of *LITTLE RABBIT* first meets the choreographer at an artists' residency in Maine, it's not a match. He thinks her serious, guarded, always running away to write. She finds him loud, conceited, domineering. But when he reappears in her life in Boston and invites her to his dance company's performance, she's compelled to attend. Their interaction at the show sets off a summer of expanding her own body's boundaries. Her body learns to obediently follow his, and his desires quickly become inextricable from her pleasure. She wants it; this must be happiness, right? Back in Boston, her roommate Annie's scepticism amplifies her own doubts about these heady weekend retreats. Combining the sticky sexual politics of *Luster* with the dizzying, perceptive intimacy of *Cleanness*, *LITTLE RABBIT* is wholly new kind of coming-of-age story about lust, punishment, the writing life, and the desires that defy the hard-won boundaries of the self.

Praise for *LITTLE RABBIT*:

"A deeply empathetic and horny novel—a love letter to bottoming and being an artist and following yourself to the end of everything." — **Carmen Maria Machado, author of *WELCOME TO THE DREAMHOUSE***

"Little Rabbit turned me inside out and left me utterly in awe. This daring exploration of the boundaries between desire and obliteration will have you asking who is in control. A fearless portrayal of a young writer shaping her life and art, even as they collide." — **Sanaë Lemoine, author of *THE MARGOT AFFAIR***

"A darkly sensuous tale of awakening that will quietly engulf you in flames." — **Ling Ma, author of *SEVERANCE***

*"Little Rabbit is a glorious debut-riveting, soulful, cerebral, and the sexiest novel I've ever read. In this story about ambition, power, art-making, and the pursuit of beauty, perfect for fans of *Luster* and *Bad Behavior*, Alyssa Songsiridej thrillingly interrogates the conflict between reason and desire, between our public and private selves. My life is richer for having read this book. Yours will be too."* — **Jessamine Chan, author of *THE SCHOOL FOR GOOD MOTHERS***

Alyssa Songsiridej is an editor at *Electric Literature*, and her work has appeared in *StoryQuarterly*, *The Indiana Review*, *The Offing*, and *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art*. Her writing has been honored and supported by Yaddo, the Ucross Foundation, the Ragdale Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, the VCCA and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



THE SCHOOL OF MIRRORS by Eva Stachniak

Agent:	The Helen Heller Agency
Publisher(s):	CAN – Doubleday, US – William Morrow
Publication Date:	CAN – March 2022, US – February 2022

A lush, engrossing tale of love, deception, and scandal in the 18th-century French court of King Louis XV.

Against the tumult of 18th-century France, King Louis XV has tired of courtly intrigues and becomes a connoisseur of innocence. On the grounds of the Palace of Versailles lies Deer Park, a hunting ground that also offers another pleasure: a mansion where his young mistresses are housed. But when these girls first arrive at Deer Park, it is under the guise of a different role. They are promised employment in the household of a count, and, eager to improve their stations, they leave their families to serve him.

Veronique is one such girl. She is introduced to "the count", and young and naive as she is, she never doubts his identity. And as he begins to bestow affection on her, she quickly becomes consumed with love for him. It is too late when she realizes who he really is, the stakes of their affair, and what she will have to give up to survive.

In vivid detail and with a breathless pace, Eva Stachniak captures the story of a fast-changing France, where the once beloved Louis XV is losing ground, his grandson the Dauphin Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette are sickening the country with their opulence and the French Revolution is stirring. It is in this France that Veronique's young daughter, Marie-Louise, will grow up searching for answers about her birth. With stirring insight and dazzling intrigue, this novel questions the true meaning of legacy.

*Praise for **The Chosen Maiden**:*

'[Stachniak] exquisitely blends fiction with fact in this novel about the remarkable ballet dancers Vaslav and Bronia Nijinsky. . . [and] brilliantly brings the story of Bronia, the lesser-known Nijinsky, to life. She has an excellent command of the period and the dance world and an ability to draw characters who will enrapture the reader.' — **Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

'Exquisite. . . . Dance fans will welcome this graceful and entrancing foray into the recent past.' — **Library Journal**

Eva Stachniak is an award-winning and internationally bestselling author of five novels, including *The Winter Palace* and *Empress of the Night*. She holds a PhD in literature from McGill University. Born and raised in Poland, she moved to Canada in 1981, and lives in Toronto.

**RIGHTS SOLD:**

German – Insel Verlag,
Italian – Neri Pozza Editore,
Polish – Spoleczny Instytut
Wydawniczy Znak
Portuguese /Portugal - Casa
des Letras

OPTION PUBLISHERS:

Chinese Mainland – Shanghai
Literature and Art

POETRY

TIME IS A MOTHER by Ocean Vuong	
Agent:	Frances Coady at Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – Penguin Press, UK – Jonathan Cape
Publication Date:	April 2022

The highly anticipated collection of poems from the award-winning writer Ocean Vuong.

*How else do we return to ourselves but to fold
The page so it points to the good part*

In this deeply intimate second poetry collection, Ocean Vuong searches for life among the aftershocks of his mother’s death, embodying the paradox of sitting within grief while being determined to survive beyond it. Shifting through memory, and in concert with the themes of his novel *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous*, Vuong contends with personal loss, the meaning of family, and the cost of being the product of an American war in America. At once vivid, brave, and propulsive, Vuong’s poems circle fragmented lives to find both restoration as well as the epicentre of the break. The author of the critically acclaimed poetry collection *Night Sky With Exit Wounds*, winner of the 2016 Whiting Award, the 2017 T.S. Eliot Prize, and a 2019 MacArthur fellow, Vuong writes directly to our humanity without losing sight of the current moment. These poems represent a more innovative and daring experimentation with language and form, illuminating how the themes we perennially live in and question are truly inexhaustible. Bold and prescient, and a testament to tenderness in the face of violence, *TIME IS A MOTHER* is a return and a forging forth all at once.

Praise for Ocean Vuong:


‘Enriching Vuong’s already sterling early career, this new collection feels abraded by both the weight of loss and of living, yet is cut with a profusion of affecting beauty and humor.’ – Library Journal

‘This fantastic book will reward fans while winning this distinctive poet new ones.’ – Publishers Weekly

‘There is a powerful emotional undertow to these poems that springs from Mr. Vuong’s sincerity and candor, and from his ability to capture specific moments in time with both photographic clarity and a sense of the evanescence of all earthly things.’ – Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times

‘Reading Vuong is like watching a fish move: he manages the varied currents of English with muscled intuition....His lines are both long and short, his pose narrative and lyric, his diction formal and insouciant.’ – The New Yorker

Ocean Vuong is the author of the critically acclaimed poetry collection *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*, winner of the Whiting Award and the T.S. Eliot Prize, and award-winning novel *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous*. His writings have also been featured in *The Atlantic*, *Harper’s*, *The Nation*, *New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. Born in Saigon, Vietnam, he currently lives in Northampton, Massachusetts, where he serves as an Assistant Professor of English at UMass-Amherst.



RIGHTS SOLD:

Danish – JP/Politikens Hus A/S,
Dutch – Hollands Diep Uitgevers,
French – Editions Gallimard,
German – Carl Hanser Verlag,
Greek – G. Dardanos C. Dardanos,
Hebrew – Asia Publishing House,
Italian – Ugo Guanda Editore,
Norwegian – Det Norske Samlaget,
Spanish – Vaso Roto,
Swedish – Natur & Kulture,
Taiwanese – China Times Publishing Company

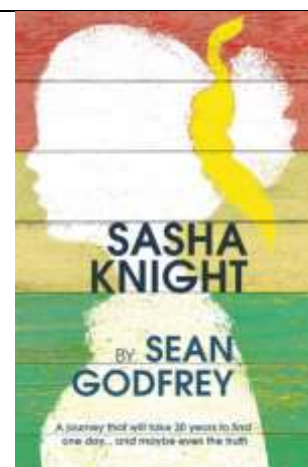
OPTION PUBLISHERS:

Bulgarian – Egmont Publishing,
Chinese Mainland – United Sky (Beijing) New Media Co.,
Croatian – Hena Com,
Czech – Albatros Media,
Estonian – Várske Rõhk,
Finnish – Schildts & Söderströms,
Hungarian – Európa Könyvkiadó,
Indonesian – PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama,
Japanese – Shinchosha Publishing,
Korean – Sigongsa Co.,
Kurdish – Balinde Poetry,
Latvian – Janis Roze Publishers,
Lithuanian – Kitos Knygos,
Macedonian – Matica Makedonska,
Polish – Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal,
Portuguese/Brazil – Editora Ayine,
Portuguese/Portugal – Relógio d’Água Editores,
Romanian – Stória Books,
Russian – Mann, Ivanov and Ferber,
Serbian – Kontrast,
Slovenian – Mladinska Knjiga Založba,
Turkish – Harfa Yayınları,
Nha Nam Publishing & Communications JSC

CRIME & THRILLERS

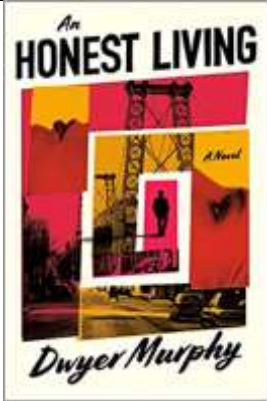
LITERARY CRIME/NOIR

SASHA KNIGHT by Sean Godfrey	
Publisher(s):	World – OWN IT!
Publication Date:	May 2022
Material:	Page proofs available
<p>A journey that will take Matthew 30 years to find one day, his best friend...and maybe even the truth.</p> <p>Alternating between past and present, shifting back and forth from Jamaica and the United States, SASHA KNIGHT picks apart the puzzle left behind when 11-year-old Sasha disappears. Everyone seems convinced that she has simply run away. Sometimes, on the good days, when she isn't talking to him, her 9-year-old best friend Matthew believes it too...</p> <p>A coming-of-age tale, portraying the perils of toxic masculinity and the damaging effects of emotional trauma. It also touches on the deep-seated class and colour divide in Jamaican society during the late 70s and 80s. A genre bending mashup that shakes the senses and tears at your heart.</p> <p>Sean Godfrey lives in Texas, and SASHA KNIGHT is his debut novel.</p>	



AN HONEST LIVING by Dwyer Murphy

Agent:	Duvall Osteen at Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – Viking
Publication Date:	July 2022
Material:	Copyedited final manuscript available



A sharp and stylish debut from the editor-in-chief of *CrimeReads* in which an unwitting private eye gets caught up in a crime of obsession between a reclusive literary superstar and her bookseller husband, paying homage to the noir genre just as smartly as it reinvents it.

After leaving behind the comforts and the shackles of a prestigious law firm, a restless attorney makes ends meet in mid-2000s Brooklyn by picking up odd jobs from a colourful assortment of clients. When a mysterious woman named Anna Reddick turns up at his apartment with ten thousand dollars in cash and asks him to track down her missing husband Newton, an antiquarian bookseller who she believes has been pilfering rare true crime volumes from her collection, he trusts it will be a quick and easy case. But when the *real* Anna Reddick—a magnetic but unpredictable literary prodigy—lands on his doorstep with a few bones to pick, he finds himself out of his depth, drawn into a series of deceptions involving Joseph Conrad novels, unscrupulous booksellers, aspiring flâneurs, and seedy real estate developers. Set against the backdrop of New York at the tail end of the analog era and immersed in the worlds of literature and bookselling, AN HONEST LIVING is a gripping story of artistic ambition, obsession, and the small crimes we commit against one another every day.

Praise for AN HONEST LIVING:

'Dwyer Murphy's debut novel, AN HONEST LIVING, is a noir love letter to New York City. It is a sublime trip through a city teeming with professional idlers, hustlers, poets, politicians, insurance scammers, and real estate developers, all vying for their share of New York's divinity.' —**Walter Mosley, author of *Blood Grove***

'AN HONEST LIVING is an electrically good time meted out in fine, sharp, crackling prose that somehow manages to be an homage, a send-up, and a reinvention all at once.' —**Tea Obrecht, author of *The Tiger's Wife* and *Inland***

'Dwyer Murphy's AN HONEST LIVING is a deliciously smart PI novel set in New York's antiquarian book world that channels Chandler and Chinatown to take us into a recent past that already feels like a bygone era.' —**Adrian McKinty, author of *The Chain***

'A witty, observant debut that's as much a love letter to New York as it is a slick noir.' —**Andrea Bartz, author of *We Were Never Here***

Dwyer Murphy is a New York-based writer and editor. He is the editor-in-chief of *CrimeReads*, *Literary Hub's* crime fiction vertical and the world's most popular destination for thriller readers. He practiced law at Debevoise & Plimpton in New York City, where he was a litigator, and served as editor of the *Columbia Law Review*.

DIRT TOWN by Hayley Scrivenor

Agent:	Grace Heifetz at Left Bank Literary
Publisher(s):	ANZ – Pan Macmillan (two-book deal), US – Flatiron, UK – Pan Macmillan
Publication Date:	ANZ – May 2022, US – August 2022, UK – June 2022
Material:	Page proofs available

When twelve-year-old Esther disappears on the way home from school in a small town in rural Australia, the community is thrown into a maelstrom of suspicion and grief.

As Detective Sergeant Sarah Michaels arrives in town during the hottest spring in decades and begins her investigation, Esther’s tenacious best friend, Ronnie, is determined to find Esther and bring her home. When schoolfriend Lewis tells Ronnie that he saw Esther with a strange man at the creek the afternoon she went missing, Ronnie feels she is one step closer to finding her. But why is Lewis refusing to speak to the police? And who else is lying about how much they know about what has happened to Esther? Punctuated by a Greek chorus, which gives voice to the remaining children of the small, dying town, this novel explores the ties that bind, what we try and leave behind us, and what we can never outrun, while never losing sight of the question of what happened to Esther, and what her loss does to a whole town. Featuring letters to the reader from the author and from Cate Paterson, Publishing Director at Pan Macmillan, DIRT TOWN is character-rich and propulsive, with a breathtakingly original use of voice and revolving points of view.

Praise for DIRT TOWN:

‘DIRT TOWN gets under your skin. A Gripping mystery told in authentic and innovative fashion, DIRT TOWN will keep you engrossed.’ – Adam Hamdy

‘Beautifully written, compassionate, with an entirely credible but heart-breaking ending. A stunning debut.’ – Ann Cleaves

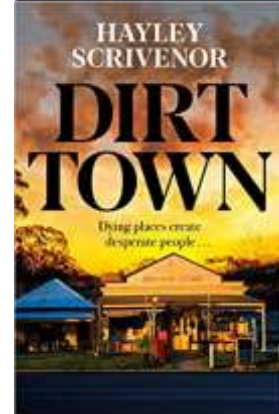
‘I loved it. Brilliantly written, evocative and touching’ – Charlotte Levin

‘Best crime in ages, Hayley Scrivenor is a major new talent. Page-turning, heart-breaking, gut-wrenching stuff. I can’t remember when I enjoyed a book so much.’ – Erin Kelly, Sunday Times bestselling author of He Said/She Said

‘A heart-wrenching mystery, Hayley Scrivenor’s remarkable sense of place brings Dirt Town to life. A stellar debut.’ – Jane Harper, author of The Dry

‘Masterful. Australian crime has a new star. The characters of DIRT TOWN are rich, raw and beautifully realized. One of the crime books of the year. Intelligent, nuanced and compassionate.’ – Chris Hammer, bestselling author of Scrublands

Hayley Scrivenor is a former Director of Wollongong Writers Festival. Originally from a small country town, Hayley now lives and writes on Dharawal country and has a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Wollongong on the south coast of New South Wales. DIRT TOWN is her first novel. An earlier version of the book was shortlisted for the Penguin Literary Prize and won The Kill Your Darlings Unpublished Manuscript Award.



RIGHTS SOLD:

German – Eichborn Verlag,
Lithuanian – Baltos Lankos,
Portuguese/Brazil – Editora Rocco

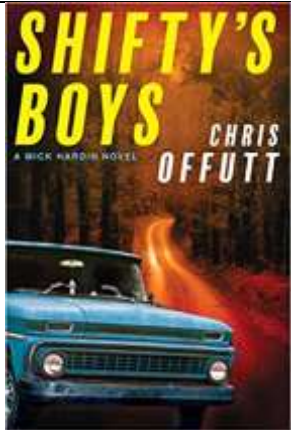
Left Bank Literary is represented by The Greyhawk Agency in China & Taiwan, Tuttle Mori Agency, Inc. in Japan and Danny Hong Agency in Korea.

THRILLERS

AFTER EVERYTHING YOU DID by Stephanie Sowden	
Agent:	Clare Coombes at The Liverpool Literary Agency
Publisher(s):	WEL – Canelo
Publication Date:	April 2022
It ends with a car crash. Two women, both maimed, their long blonde hair matted with blood.	
<p>It begins with waking up, in an unfamiliar hospital bed. Bright lights, nurses – and handcuffs. She is told her name is Reeta Doe, and that she's been in an accident. That she's in Florida. That the FBI have been following her since Mississippi. That she has brutally murdered two women. College girls, who look just like her. Two more are missing, and one survived. Reeta recalls nothing. She cannot answer the questions; all the things they want her to explain are no more familiar to her than the prison she is taken to. Her only hope is a journalist named Carol, who can follow the trail of devastation Reeta left in her wake. All the way back to Pine Ranch, and the only family she ever knew.</p>	
<p>An astonishing debut crime novel, exploring identity and nature versus nurture, with an unforgettable character at its heart. Perfect for fans of <i>Girl A</i> and <i>The Girls</i>.</p>	
<p>Praise for AFTER EVERYTHING YOU DID:</p> <p><i>'Absorbing and horrifying'</i> – Marion Todd, author of the 'Detective Clare Mackay' series</p> <p><i>'An incredible debut'</i> – Mel Sherratt, international bestselling author</p> <p><i>'Chilling and heart-breaking'</i> – Louisa Scarr, author of <i>Last Place You Look</i>, <i>Under a Dark Cloud</i> and <i>Blink of an Eye</i></p>	
<p>Stephanie Sowden grew up in Manchester and studied History and Politics at Durham University. After a brief foray into magazine journalism, she retrained in another love of hers – food – and now runs her own catering company. Stephanie took part in Curtis Brown Creative's selective novel writing course, during which she completed her first novel. She lives in South Manchester with her partner, Dave, and their little mad staffy, Butter.</p>	



DETECTIVE FICTION

SHIFTY'S BOYS (Mick Hardin #2) by Chris Offutt	
Agent:	Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	US – Grove, UK – No Exit
Publication Date:	June 2022
Material:	Manuscript available
<p>Army-CID-officer-cum-unofficial-PI Mick Hardin is up against unforeseen forces who will stop at nothing in this vividly atmospheric thriller from acclaimed novelist Chris Offutt, author of <i>The Killing Hills</i> (Mick Hardin #1).</p> <p>Mick Hardin is home on leave, recovering from an IED attack, when a body is found in the center of town. It's Barney Kissick, the local heroin dealer, and the city police see it as an occupational hazard. But when Barney's mother, Shifty, asks Mick to take a look, it seems there's more to the killing than it seems. Mick should be rehabbing his leg, signing his divorce papers, and getting out of town—and most of all, staying out of the way of his sister Linda's re-election as Sheriff—but he keeps on looking, and suddenly he's getting shot at himself.</p> <p>A dark, pacy crime novel about grief and revenge, and the surprises hidden below the surface, <i>SHIFTY'S BOYS</i> is a tour de force that confirms Chris Offutt's Mick Hardin as one of the most appealing new investigators in fiction.</p> <p>Praise for <i>The Killing Hills</i>:</p> <p><i>'Sense of place also steams off the pages of <i>The Killing Hills</i> ... Pitch-perfect in its tone and dialogue, if more interested in mood than in the business of plot, this is what Jack Reacher wants to be when it grows up.'</i> — James Owen, <i>The Times</i></p> <p><i>'The fine dark art of the noir simile springs from the amoral beauty of the Icelandic sagas, flows forward in time through the savant, poetic solecisms of Raymond Chandler, and drains into the rich, black soil of Chris Offutt's high holler novels . . . <i>The Killing Hills</i> is vividly evocative . . . A riveting, page-turning package.'</i> — Literary Hub</p> <p><i>'[A] work of rural noir whose characters' singular codes lead to constant surprises.'</i> — Wall Street Journal</p> <p><i>'It's been nearly 20 years since Offutt's <i>Out of the Woods</i> (1999), and his return to fiction will be celebrated by all readers of country noir . . . Tucker is a true existential hero, facing his circumscribed world directly and acting with unflinching determination. His story, like the work of Daniel Woodrell, is both heartrendingly painful and unsentimentally uplifting.'</i> — Booklist</p> <p>Chris Offutt is the author of the short-story collections <i>Kentucky Straight</i> and <i>Out of the Woods</i>, the novel <i>The Good Brother</i>, and three memoirs: <i>The Same River Twice</i>, <i>No Heroes</i>, and <i>My Father, the Pornographer</i>. His work has appeared in <i>Best American Short Stories</i> and <i>Best American Essays</i>, among many other places. He has written screenplays for <i>Weeds</i>, <i>True Blood</i>, and <i>Treme</i>, and has received fellowships from the Lannan and Guggenheim foundations.</p>	
	
<p>RIGHTS SOLD: Spanish – Sajalin editores</p> <p>OPTION PUBLISHERS: French – Editions Gallmeister, German – Tropen, Italian – minimum fax,</p>	

THE INTERVIEW by Gill Perdue

Agent:	Faith O'Grady at The Lisa Richards Agency
Publisher(s):	Ireland – Sandycove/Penguin
Publication Date:	March 2022

Detective Laura Shaw seems to have it all: a supportive husband, a happy two-year-old and a great career. She is her team's top victim interviewer, a genius at getting vulnerable people to open up.

That's until she meets Jenny – a 14-year-old assault victim who talks only in fairy tales. Jenny's stepfather is missing and the blood on her clothes isn't her own, so Laura's colleagues need answers fast. But Laura's strange behaviour makes the girl shut down even more, leaving her bewildered partner, Niamh, desperately trying to rescue the situation.

It seems that this case has triggered something deep within Laura, and Jenny is not the only one with secrets. As the clock ticks down, Laura teeters on the brink of disaster, grappling with the biggest question of all: Is every life worth saving?

Praise for THE INTERVIEW:

'An intense, emotional and utterly compelling narrative that deftly leads us into the dark places of ordinary lives.' – **Jake Arnott**

'Gill Perdue is a fresh, assured new voice in Irish Crime writing. Dark, angry, searing and beautifully written, THE INTERVIEW is an incredible read, impossible to put down.' – **Andrea Mara**

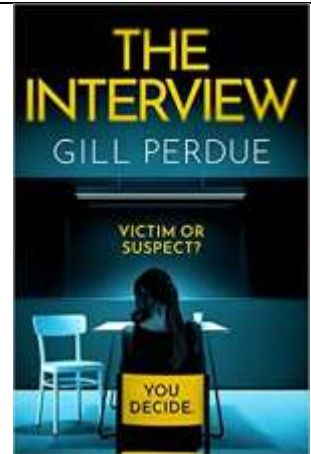
'A detective interviews a teenage girl, but is she a victim or a suspect? Who is the cat and who is the mouse? A book that chases its tail in ever decreasing circles, THE INTERVIEW is engaging, thrilling, and utterly compulsive.' – **Liz Nugent**

'Intriguing, twisty and engrossing...the depiction of Detective Laura Shaw makes this novel shine' – **Catherine Talbot**

'Heart-breaking, haunting and hypnotic' – **Patricia Gibney**

'A tightly wound plot that keeps you on your toes until the final chapters. Incredible storytelling.' – **Arlene Hunt**

Gill Perdue is a writer and dancing teacher. She worked as a primary school teacher for 15 years and has published four books for children. **THE INTERVIEW** is her first crime novel.



PSYCHOLOGICAL DRAMA

SHE STARTED IT by Sian Gilbert		RIGHTS SOLD: German – Goldmann Spanish – Grijalbo/ PRH
Agent:	The Helen Heller Agency	
Publisher(s):	US – William Morrow, UK – on submission	
Material:	Manuscript available	
<p>A twist on <i>Kill Bill</i>...with cocktails.</p> <p>Remote desert island with nowhere to hid. And no-one to help you. Check! A woman with a grudge against four school bullies who made her life a misery for years. Check!</p> <p>Who out of the blue invites them to be bridesmaids at her forthcoming wedding and asks them to come to said island for a wonderful hen party—all expenses paid! Secrets are revealed and mayhem ensues. They'll be picked off one by one until...Well of course it does! It always does. They'll be picked off one-by-one until...Well sure. That's what you'd expect.</p> <p>And that's pretty much how it starts out. Our Bride has managed to find out a lot about her tormentors' lives since they left school—stuff they'd much rather have kept quiet. She can hurt all them badly and she does. But even Righteous Avengers can be bested. It certainly looks like she may have miscalculated a bit if all that blood is to be believed. She was always weak. That was one good reason why she was bullied so unmercifully. But which Mean Girl got rid of her? Who did it? And how dangerous will she be to the others now that everyone's secrets are out there in the light?</p> <p>You see here's the thing about Mean Girls. They're bad to the bone. And reckless. And selfish. And they can turn on each other in a heartbeat. That vengefully constructed Hen Party? Only the beginning...</p> <p>SHE STARTED IT is an unexpected twist on the highly successful 'And Then There Were None' genre that's dominating the bestseller lists right now. And—unusually—there is an excellent opportunity for a sequel.</p> <p>Sian Gilbert is a teacher & history buff living in the UK.</p>		

THE LONG WEEKEND by Gilly Macmillan

Agent:	The Helen Heller Agency
Publisher(s):	US – William Morrow, UK – Century
Publication Date:	US – March 2022, UK – February 2022

Three couples. Two bodies. One secret.

Dark Fell Barn is a “perfectly isolated” retreat, or so says its website when Jayne books a reservation for her friends. A quiet place, far removed from the rest of the world, is exactly what they need. The women arrive for a girls’ night ahead of their husbands. There’s ex-Army Jayne, hardened and serious, but also damaged. Ruth, the driven doctor and new mother who is battling demons of her own. Young Emily, just wed and insecure, the newest addition of this tight-knit band. Missing this year is Edie, who was the glue holding them together, until her husband died suddenly. But what they hoped would be a relaxing break soon turns to horror. Upon arrival at Dark Fell Barn, the women find a devastating note claiming one of their husbands will be murdered. There are no phones, no cell service to check on their men. Friendships fracture as the situation spins wildly out of control. Betrayal can come in many forms. This group has kept each other’s secrets for far too long.

Praise for THE LONG WEEKEND:

‘Beautifully written and wonderfully atmospheric, THE LONG WEEKEND is an unputdownable rollercoaster of a read.’ – BA Parris

*‘Fast paced and incredibly compelling . . . this book will not let you put it down.’ – Shari Lapena, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Couple Next Door* and *Not a Happy Family**

‘THE LONG WEEKEND. A tense rollercoaster with a terrific sense of place, plenty of misdirection, a host of damaged characters and a young girl in jeopardy you will root for. Brava.’ – Sarah Vaughan

Praise for Gilly Macmillan:

*‘One of the most unsettling—and unforgettable—heroines I’ve ever met.’ – Shari Lapena on *To Tell You The Truth**

*‘A dazzling thriller with a compelling and unreliable narrator, To Tell You the Truth is fresh, bold and ferociously smart.’ – Christina McDonald, USA Today bestselling author of *Behind Every Lie* and *The Night Olivia Fell**

*‘This deliciously multilayered tale provides genuine, shocking surprises that culminate in a satisfying and unexpected conclusion. Macmillan is a master of misdirection’ – Publishers Weekly (starred review) on *To Tell You the Truth**

Gilly Macmillan is the internationally bestselling author of *What She Knew*, *The Perfect Girl*, *Odd Child Out*, *I Know You Know*, *The Nanny*, and *To Tell You the Truth*. She resides in Bristol, England.



UNDER OFFER:

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THE FAVOR by Nora Murphy

Agent:	The Helen Heller Agency
Publisher(s):	US – SMP, UK - Macmillan
Publication Date:	US – May 2022, UK – June 2022

A gripping debut domestic suspense novel, **THE FAVOR** explores with compassion and depth what can happen when women pushed to the limit take matters into their own hands.

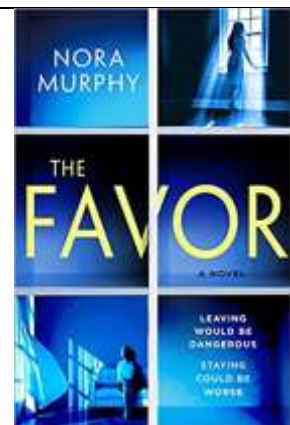
Staying is dangerous. Leaving could be worse. Leah and McKenna have never met, though they have parallel lives. They don't—ever—find themselves in the same train carriage or meet accidentally at the gym or the coffee shop. They don't—ever—discuss their problems and find common ground. They don't—ever—acknowledge to each other that although their lives have all the trappings of success, wealth and happiness, they are, in fact, trapped. Because Leah understands that what's inside a home can be more dangerous than what's outside. Driving past McKenna's house one night, she sees what she knows only too well herself from her own marriage: McKenna's "perfect" husband is not what he seems. She decides to keep an eye out for McKenna, until one night, she intervenes. Leah and McKenna have never met. But they will.

Praise for **THE FAVOR**:

'A brilliant, gripping, dark and superbly written debut. I was transfixed by Leah and McKenna and the deftly woven plot that connects them. Nora Murphy is one to watch.' — **Gilly Macmillan**

*'Taut, compelling and deliciously dark, I tore through **THE FAVOR**.'* — **B.A. Paris, New York Times bestselling author of *The Therapist***
*'Nora Murphy's **THE FAVOR** is a tense and gripping read about the tacit sisterhood between two unlikely vigilantes. At once strangers and soulmates, these women reflect one another—each trapped in a dark and spiraling descent behind the closed door of a seemingly lovely home. With echoes of *Big Little Lies* and *Strangers on a Train*, Nora Murphy's **THE FAVOR** is impossible to put down.'* — **Mary Dixie Carter, author of *The Photographer***
*'**THE FAVOR** is a page-turning debut that will have you questioning the lengths you'd go to save someone else, even though it's you that needs saving.'* — **Sandie Jones, New York Times bestselling author of *The Guilt Trip***

Nora Murphy attended law school in Washington, D.C., then worked as a judicial law clerk before transitioning to private practice. During law school, she participated in two clinics through which she represented and studied the issues facing survivors of intimate partner violence. A practicing attorney, Nora writes as much as she can, usually long before the sunrise or on her phone for brief moments when the inspiration strikes. Nora resides in Maryland with her husband, young son, and five rescue pets. When she's not working, writing, or chasing her toddler, Nora can be found contemplating her next ice cream run or reading. **THE FAVOR** is her first novel.



HORROR/GRAPHIC NOVEL HORROR

SHE EATS THE NIGHT (NIGHT EATERS #1) by Marjorie Liu, illustrated by Sana Takeda

Agent:	Duvall Osteen at Aragi, Inc.
Publisher(s):	NA – Abrams ComicArts, UK – Titan
Publication Date:	October 2022
Material:	Page proofs available

The first volume in a new graphic novel horror trilogy from Marjorie Liu and Sana Takeda—the creative team behind the *New York Times* bestselling series *Monstress*. With a similar tone to the films *Get Out* and *Sorry to Bother You*, SHE EATS THE NIGHT reflects the rise of creators of colour in the horror genre.

Chinese American twins, Milly and Billy, are having a tough time. On top of the multiple failures in their personal and professional lives, they're struggling to keep their restaurant afloat. Luckily their parents, Ipo and Keon, are in town for their annual visit. Having immigrated from Hong Kong before the twins were born, Ipo and Keon have supported their children through thick and thin and are ready to lend a hand—but they're starting to wonder, has their support made Milly and Billy incapable of standing on their own?

When Ipo forces them to help her clean up the house next door—a hellish and run-down ruin that was the scene of a grisly murder—the twins are in for a nasty surprise. A night of terror, gore, and supernatural mayhem reveals that there is much more to Ipo and her children than meets the eye.

Eisner Award-winning and bestselling author Marjorie Liu and illustrator Sana Takeda have crafted a wild and wicked tale that will leave readers hungry for more. SHE EATS THE NIGHT is the perfect start to *The Night Eaters* trilogy, which is a combination of *Monsters* by Barry Windsor-Smith and *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan.

Marjorie Liu is an attorney and *New York Times* bestselling novelist and comic book writer. Her work at Marvel includes the series X-23, Black Widow, Han Solo, Dark Wolverine, and Astonishing X-Men. She is also the cocreator of *Monstress* from Image Comics, which has won multiple Hugo Awards, British Fantasy Awards, the Harvey Award, and five Eisner Awards, making Liu the first-ever woman—and woman of color—to win an Eisner in the best writer category. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Sana Takeda is a Japanese Hugo and Eisner Award-winning illustrator and comic book artist behind the *Monstress* series. After having worked as a designer at Sega Corp., she became a freelancer. While drawing for Marvel, she also creates illustrations for games and children's books. Takeda lives in Tokyo.



HYENAS by Michael Sellars

Agent:	Clare Coombes at The Liverpool Literary Agency
Publisher(s):	WEL – Northodox
Publication Date:	June 2022
Material:	Manuscript available

Praised by British Fantasy Award-nominated author Peter Atkins as a superb spin on post-apocalyptic nightmares, HYENAS is a relentless, disturbing, and moving read with terrifying monsters, sympathetic characters, and a zombie-fighting militia led by a Beatles obsessive, as we follow Jay through a post-apocalyptic city, helped by The Book Club, a group of seven previously illiterate survivors.

The human race has devolved into a swarm of mindless, giggling brutes. Except, it seems, for 27-year-old Jay Garvey. Hiding out in a Liverpool bookshop, Jay is tempted out by the prospect of an escape from the city by boat. Enter The Book Club, a group of seven previously illiterate survivors holed-up in an old office building and led by Ellen: a young, heavily pregnant and in the mood for no nonsense. As winter moves in, Jay and The Book Club must find a way to escape and avoid death and capture by the shrieking, laughing hyenas.

Michael Sellars is a Liverpool-based horror writer, with a number of short stories published in independent magazines and anthologies, and three self-published books. His writing is firmly in the horror tradition and Liverpool-centric. As a self-published writer, and a working-class Scouser, he places a great deal of value in graft and hustling. He writes as often as he can and he's used my social media presence on Twitter to build an audience, create a brand and promote his work. He has some high-profile followers, including Guillermo del Toro, Joe R. Lansdale and Ramsey Campbell. Most of his followers are active within the horror fiction community: writers, publishers, readers and reviewers.



YOUNG ADULT GRAPHIC NOVEL

WINGBEARER by Marjorie Liu, illustrated by Teny Issakhanian	
Agent:	Duvall Osteen at Aragi, Inc
Publisher(s):	US – HarperCollins Children’s
Publication Date:	March 2022
Material:	Page proofs available
<p>Enter a world where magic takes flight.</p> <p>Zuli is an extraordinary girl—she just doesn’t know it yet. Raised by mystical bird spirits high among the branches of the Great Tree, she has no idea what awaits in the world beyond her safe haven. But when a sinister force threatens the life-giving magic of the tree, Zuli must venture out with her guardian owl, Frowly, to get to the root of it. So begins an adventure bigger than anything Zuli could have imagined – one that will bring her face-to-face with an ancient dragon, a terrifying witch queen, and most surprising of all: her own true identity.</p> <p>Praise for Marjorie Liu: <i>‘...as ambitious as George R.R. Martin or J.R.R. Tolkien...’ –The Los Angeles Review of Books</i> <i>‘Liu’s accomplishment is impressive. She’s created characters who feel larger than life, but whose motivations and values are almost always obscure.’ –NPR</i> <i>‘Monstress (Marjorie Liu, Sana Takeda, and Rus Wooten) is intense, and does not hold back on the darker elements of magic it explores.’ –Book Riot</i> <i>‘Eisner Award-winning Liu’s (Tiger Eye) expansive world, built by the stories of complicated, diverse, and strong women, rivals that of J.R.R. Tolkien and grows in complexity as Maika continues on her journey. [...] Liu and Takeda combine steampunk and Lovecraftian-like eldritch horror in a world resembling an early 20th-century matriarchal Asia.’ –Library Journal (starred)</i> <i>‘Filled to the brim with awesome.’ –Kirkus Reviews</i> <i>‘World-building on a scale rare in mainstream comics.’ –The Hollywood Reporter</i></p> <p>Marjorie Liu is the <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author of the <i>Monstress</i> series, illustrated by Sana Takeda. She also writes for Marvel Comics, including <i>Black Widow</i>, <i>X-23</i>, and <i>Astonishing X-Men</i>. Marjorie teaches comic book writing at MIT, and divides her time between Boston, Massachusetts, and Tokyo, Japan.</p> <p>Teny Issakhanian is an Armenian American illustrator, building worlds and stories as a storyboard artist and visual development artist in the entertainment industry. She has worked on a multitude of shows at animation studios including Walt Disney Animation Studios, DreamWorks Animation Television, Disney Television Animation, and the Jim Henson Company. Teny graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, and the ArtCenter College of Design. She is based in Los Angeles.</p>	



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