

Frankfurt Book Fair



HARDMAN & SWAINSON

Fiction Rights Guide



2025

Table of Contents

Literary Fiction

Havoc by Rebecca Wait
Hagtale by Sally O'Reilly

Book Group Fiction

Pretty Ghastly by Nathalie Buscombe
The Eternal Life of Albert Money by David Lyons
The Artful Anna Harris by Tracy Maton
Very Smug, Very Sorry by Holly Platt-Higgins
Something's Got to Give by Sarah Turner

Contemporary Commercial Fiction

The Cherry Blossom Boathouse by Laura Bloom
And Then There Was You by Miranda Dickinson
Thirty Love by Lorraine Brown
The Christmas Express by Isla Gordon
Right Place, Right Time by Ali McNamara
Love and Lattes at Pumpkin Hollow by Victoria Walters
Picnic and Promises at Strawberry Fields by Victoria Walters
Christmas at The Second Chance Supper Club by Caroline Roberts

Historical Fiction

The Storyteller's Secret by Sophie Austin
The Queen's Necklace by Adrienne Chinn
Book of Forbidden Words by Louise Fein
The Vintain Series by Michael Jecks
The Greek House by Dinah Jefferies

Crime and Thriller

Adrift by Elle Blair
Moth to the Flames by Tracy Buchanan
Watch Your Back by Emma Christie
Twisted Lies by Lisa Cutts
Connie by Charlotte Duckworth
Watching You by Helen Fields
Dead of Night by Lisa Gray
Medlock by S.G. Hartnell
The Secretary's Secret by Elizabeth James
Helle's Hound by Oskar Jensen
What I Told My Friends by Alice Leigh
The Drop by S.R. Masters

Table of Contents

Hooked Up by Fiona Sussman
The Treehouse by B.P. Walter
The Memory Foundation by Amanda West
The Games We Play by Claire Quinn

Crime Series

The Kitt Hartley Mysteries by Helen Cox
DI Callanach Series by Helen Fields
The DS Lucy Golden series by Martina Murphy
The Cora Lael Mystery series by MJ White

Epic Fantasy

A Time of Dragons, Book 2 & The Echoes Saga
by Philip C. Quintrell

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[Cover image: from Helle's Hound, Viper Books]



REBECCA WAIT

Rebecca Wait is an author and teacher. She grew up in the Oxfordshire countryside and studied English at Oxford University. She wrote her first novel, *The View on the Way Down*, the year after graduating, while working as a teaching assistant. After qualifying as a teacher, she spent more than a decade teaching English in London secondary schools while continuing to write novels. Rebecca has also taught creative writing courses for adults alongside her secondary school teaching. She now lives in Buckinghamshire and writes full time.



UK Publisher: Riverrun / Quercus
US Publisher: HarperCollins
Editor: Jon Riley
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: July 2025
Material: MS
Page count: 400 pages

Rights sold:
 Russian - Phantom Press

Option Publishers:
 French - Editions Phébus
 German - Kein & Aber
 Ukrainian - Laboratory

Havoc

The Secret History meets *Derry Girls*, *Havoc* is the perfect tragicomedy. Brimming with humour and ringing with bite, this is Rebecca Wait at her very best.

Fleeing Scotland in the wake of family disgrace, 16-year-old Ida Campbell secures a scholarship at a failing girls' boarding school on a remote part of the south English coast. Despite the eccentricities of her new Headmistress, who warns her of the dangers of the Cold War and the ever-present threat of *the bomb*, St Anne's seems like a refuge to Ida. But all this is about to change. For a start, her new room-mate is the infamous Louise Adler, potential arsonist and hardened outcast.

Meanwhile, the geography teacher Eleanor Alston, in her late thirties, a disastrous love affair in her wake, faces the new term with weary resignation. But the fragile ecosystem of the school is disrupted by the arrival of a new teacher, Matthew Langfield. Eleanor has an uneasy feeling he is not who he says he is.

And things only get worse when a mysterious sickness starts to spread throughout the school, causing strange limb jerks and seizures among the pupils. **What is happening to the girls of St Anne's? Could there be a poisoner among them? Is Ida's scholarship really an escape, or is it instead a new nightmare?**

PRAISE FOR *I'm Sorry You Feel That Way*

Selected by *The Times* as a best fiction book of 2022
 Selected by *The Guardian* as a best fiction book of 2022
 Selected by *Good Housekeeping* as a best fiction book of 2022
 Selected by *Culture Whisper* as a favourite book of 2022
 Shortlisted for the *Nota Bene Prize 2023*
 Selected for the Dawn O'Porter Recommends bookclub

'Acutely and movingly written.'

Alice Snape, *Cosmopolitan*, 'The new books you need in your life'

'Brutally funny and whip smart.'

Hannah Beckerman, author of *The Impossible Truths of Love*

'Rebecca Wait's highly entertaining fourth novel is a masterclass in familial tensions, told with razor-sharp dialogue, wit and emotional insight.'

The Observer

'This sharp, wise comedy explores difficult family dynamics, from all-too-relatable emotional patterns to the inexplicable agonies of mental illness; yet it's also one of the funniest novels you'll read this year.'

The Guardian, 'Summer reading: the 50 hottest new books for a great escape', June 2022

'You'll struggle to find a better opening sentence in fiction this year... Things happen, big dramatic things, and there's love and anguish and good people making terrible mistakes... It's a warm book and a touching one. And did I mention it's funny? Just read it. You'll see.'

Susie Goldsborough, *The Times*



Literary Fiction



SALLY O'REILLY

Sally grew up in Stoke-on-Trent and now lives in Sheffield. She's published two contemporary novels (as Sam O'Reilly) with Michael Joseph/Penguin. Her historical novel *Dark Aemilia* (Myriad Editions/Picador US) was nominated for the Kirkus prize. *How to be a Writer*, her guide to making a living as an author, is published by Piatkus/Little, Brown. Sally has worked as a senior creative writing lecturer for the University of Portsmouth and The Open University and her journalism has been published in *The Guardian*, *Sunday Times* and *New Scientist*. She is a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Aston University.



Hagtale

A hagtale, a dark fable, a story told around winter's fires and known to Shakespeare but never written down. Until now.

In eleventh-century Scotland, feral wolf-child Wulva is brought up by witches and then sent to live at a Scottish castle, where she falls under the spell of cruel, ambitious Lord Macbeth.

Three hundred years later, gentle Brother Rowan goes on a strange and perilous journey to a remote and ancient monastery to write a history of the Scottish king-line.

Misfits in their own time, seekers after truth, Wulva and Rowan are deeply connected despite the centuries that separate them.

Hagtale explores the power of stories lost and found, their transformative potential, and who gets to be the owner of the tale

UK Publisher: Scribe
Agent: Joanna Swainson
 Publication: November 2025
Material: Final pdf
 Page count: 240 pages

Option Publisher:
 Italian - Sonzogno

Book Group Fiction



NATHALIE BUSCOMBE

Nathalie Buscombe is an actor and award-winning audiobook narrator. Credits include *Red 2*, *Brave New World*, *Endeavour* and *Father Brown*. As a voiceover artist she has narrated over 70 audiobooks and is an Earphones Award winner. She has an MA in Law from the University of Cambridge and an MA in Acting from Guildhall School of Speech and Drama. She lives in Buckinghamshire with her husband and two young children.

Pretty Ghastly

UK Publisher: On submission
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Material: Manuscript

A witty and insightful riot of a novel for fans of *Fleabag*.

Thirty-seven year old Scarlet Banks has it all. Well, not all. But a lot more than most could wish for. So why, in the words of her best friend Daisy, can't she just enjoy being a rich bitch?

For one thing, her mother has entirely outdone herself, getting engaged without so much as mentioning her paramour, let alone introducing him. For another, Scarlet's friends keep disappearing behind motherly net curtains. Then there's the whole aging thing and the fact that everyone else's careers have gone to plan and hers... hasn't.

But she's only in her thirties. All right, her late-ish thirties. So she has bags of time, right? She won't be left on the periphery forever. Right?!

Then, lo and behold, the appearance of a grey pube: the beginning of the end. And suddenly, everyone's picture perfect lives seem dangerously close to imploding, including, concerning, her own. Can she do her usual and ostrich it out? Or will she have to, god forbid, try and be brave? If she's honest about it Scarlet isn't coping as well as she might.



DAVID LYONS

David Lyons is an award-winning journalist, bestselling self-published author of a number of thrillers – a book club love story being a new direction for him – and is currently writing his debut screenplay for an Emmy-winning production company. He lives in Birmingham with his wife, Kerry, and daughter, Lola.

The Eternal Life of Albert Money

UK Publisher: On submission
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Material: Manuscript

Matt Haig meets David Nicholls in this novel which asks the heart stopping question: If you had to spend eternity as one age, which would you choose?

Liverpool 1962: Albert Money meets Lily Connors at an early Beatles gig. With her gorgeous red hair, amber eyes and sparky nature it's love at first sight. They soon marry and start making their way in the world, with all the giddiness and excitement young love entails.

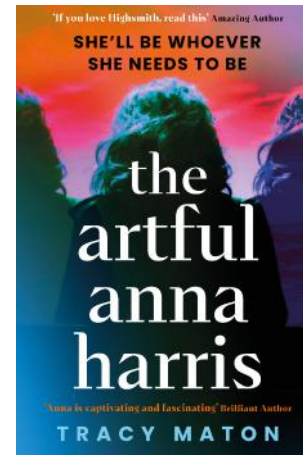
London 1987: Albert Money gets stuck in a lift with Antoinette Bellaforte. Now in their 40s, adrift and each a little bruised by life, they're drawn to each other but wary. It's not love at first sight but little by little their relationship develops into something deeply meaningful and loving.

Present day: Bulfin Care Home. Albert Money draws his last breath. At the gates of the Afterlife he is told he cannot go through until he has chosen one age in which to exist for all eternity. But how can he make that decision when he lived two different lives with two different wives? When he adored both differently, but equally?



TRACY MATON

Tracy Maton has worked in copywriting, marketing and project management. She is a huge fan of Patricia Highsmith and was inspired her to write her debut novel, *The Artful Anna Harris*, by her love of *The Talented Mr Ripley*. She currently lives in Bristol with her husband.



UK Publisher: Viper
Editor: Miranda Jewess
North American Publisher: Penguin Canada
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Material: First proofs
Publication: March 2026

The Artful Anna Harris

'You are quite the chameleon, aren't you? You could wear anything, do anything, and yet you choose plain, plain, plain. Is it all a front for a secret life?'

Full of sharp observations and shocking twists, *The Artful Anna Harris* is perfect for readers looking for the next *The Talented Mr Ripley*.

Anna Harris is a chameleon. She has always known how to blend in, to be whoever she has to be to get by. But this survival strategy has somehow landed her in a quaint, sleepy village, swallowed into the lives of her boyfriend and in-laws. She's not unhappy, but this isn't the life she remembers choosing.

When the vivacious Sofia Carstairs moves to the village, Anna is reminded of the freedom she once had. She used to be carefree and rebellious. But is she willing to throw away her future for some fun? Perhaps leading two lives is more enticing than one. After all, Anna's not a bad person. She just wants to try it out...



HOLLY PLATT-HIGGINS

Holly Platt-Higgins lives in London and works in communications. She graduated from Cambridge in 2019 and has worked as an intern at Heat Magazine and a Features journalist for Secret London.

Very Smug, Very Sorry

UK Publisher: On submission
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Material: Manuscript

“Why can it never just be easy? Why is it always that booze gives you liver disease and pastry makes you fat and national treasures are pedos?”

Very Smug, Very Sorry is a dark romantic comedy – think Monica Heisey meets Fleabag – that blends complex female characters and biting humour to explore the more painful parts of life and love in an entertaining yet heartfelt way.

The novel follows Ali, in the wake of her recent break-up, as she navigates the final year of her twenties, the contemporary dating scene, and a quarter life crisis, watching her friends and family get married, grow up, and have babies.

But as new love interest, Otto, and long-standing best friend, Rory, throw their hat in the ring for Ali's attention, something much more prickly sits at the novel's heart. Themes of confession and loss gradually come to life as we realise Ali's self-destructive behaviour is spurred on by something painful buried in her past.

Smart, bold and very funny, for fans of Dolly Alderton, *Very Smug, Very Sorry* looks at how the things we suppress not only seep into our present, but often define the lives we're able to lead and who we are able to love.



SARAH TURNER

Sarah lives in Devon with her husband and three sons. After university, she dabbled in careers in finance, then higher education before a 'warts and all' parenting blog, *The Unmumsy Mum*, gathered unexpected momentum and writing became her full-time job. She has since written three *Sunday Times* bestselling non-fiction titles. Her debut novel, *Stepping Up*, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller and was a 2023 Richard and Judy Bookclub pick. Sarah likes bookshops, walks on Dartmoor and pretends to like running. She doesn't like coffee, films with sharks in or writing about herself in the third person.

Something's Got To Give

UK Publisher: Transworld
Editor: Imogen Nelson
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Publication: May 2026
Material: Edited MS due November

Option Publishers:
Brazilian/ Portuguese - Verus
Chinese - CCTP
Croatia - Znanje
Czech Republic - Dobrovsky
Russian - Everbook

Blending her trademark laugh-out-loud humour and heartfelt raw emotion. She'll make you cry...a lot. No one writes a messed up family quite like Sarah Turner. Perfect for fans of Marian Keyes and Beth O'Leary.

You can't have it all. But what if you could?

Fran is tired of trying to have it all.

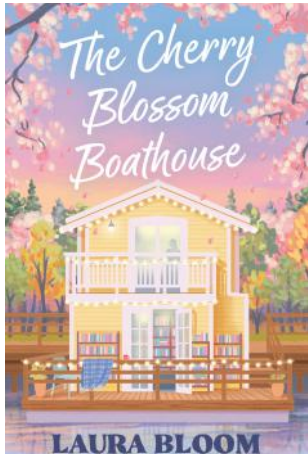
No matter how many lists she makes or how often she pledges to get on top of life, things keep falling through the cracks. Shy of cloning herself, or freezing time, she can't work out how to be a good mother, partner, employee, friend and keep up to date with the recycling. There are simply not enough hours in the day.

When something unexpected changes what's on Fran's plate, she is faced with a dilemma. If she's honest, she will continue to drown in the multiplying and often conflicting demands of her life. If she bends the truth, she will solve one problem but risk creating another. With the help of friends old and new, Fran is about to learn that being all things to all people could just be the opportunity of a lifetime ... and a recipe for disaster.



LAURA BLOOM

Laura Bloom is a British author who writes swoon-worthy stories full of heat, heart and a healthy dose of emotional chaos. When she's not wrangling characters on the page, she's wrangling construction jargon as a content and PR specialist for the building industry, meaning she spends a lot of time surrounded by burly men in hi-vis. She lives in the UK with her husband and daughter.



The Cherry Blossom Boathouse

The Cherry Blossom Boathouse is a steamy small-town romance featuring a sunshine optimist, a grumpy boatbuilder, and enough heat to steam up those lakeside windows.

Dumped by her boyfriend and her job for being 'too safe', Londoner Sophie Bennett does what any sensible person would do: drink wine and launch a joke crowdfunding campaign called 'Help a Boring Girl Buy a Bookshop.'

To her horror, suddenly she's gone viral with enough donations to actually buy the ramshackle boathouse in Solace Springs, USA. But residents of the sleepy town have other plans, starting with Luke, the scowling, sinfully attractive boatbuilder who seems to exist solely to point out everything wrong with Sophie's renovation ideas. But as spring's cherry blossoms begin to fall, he finds himself drawn into Sophie's renovation project.

As Sophie and Luke clash over paint samples and structural integrity, the temperature rises between them. But when Sophie's viral fame threatens the tranquility of Solace Springs and Luke's carefully constructed walls begin to crack, they'll have to decide if their unexpected connection is worth fighting for.

UK Publisher: Piatkus
UK Editor: Elena Torres
US Publisher: Dell / PRH
US Editor: Lizzie Poteet
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: May 2026
Material: Unedited manuscript available, copyedited ms due November 2025

(Draft cover)

Rights sold:
 Dutch - Luitingh-Sijthoff
 German - Blanvalet
 Italian - Newton Compton



MIRANDA DICKINSON

Miranda has always had a head full of stories. Following a Performance Art degree, she began to write in earnest. She is also a singer-songwriter. Her novels, *Fairytale of New York*, *Welcome To My World*, *It Started With A Kiss*, *When I Fall In Love* and *Take A Look At Me Now*, have all been *Sunday Times* bestselling titles. Miranda tweets @wurdsmth.



And Then There Was You

A novel of second-chances and finding yourself. Miranda is the go-to author for heart-warming, uplifting romance. A story about music, connection and having the courage to chase your dreams. Perfect for readers of Jill Mansell and Beth Moran.

Merryn Rowe adores her life in St Ives. The café she owns and the community she serves are her much-needed second chance after a heart-breaking divorce. But as she gazes out at the Cornish Sea, she begins to long for more.

Zach Trevelyan is not where he expected to be. His surfing career in tatters following an injury, he finds himself in St Ives without a home, a job, or a path ahead.

When Merryn discovers an abandoned piano, it evokes long-lost memories of someone who left her life without a word - her much-loved stepfather. Impulsively, she gives the piano a home in the courtyard of her café. And late one night, when a familiar song comes through her window, Merryn discovers a striking man huddled at the piano.

Who exactly is the midnight musician? And why can't she stop thinking about him... and his beautiful melody?

UK Publisher: HQ
Editor: Priyal Agrawal
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Publication: August 2025
Material: Final pdf
 Page count: 384 pages

Option Publisher:
 Swedish - Blue publishing



LORRAINE BROWN

Lorraine is the author of four romantic comedy novels, with her debut *The Paris Connection* shortlisted for the RNA's Debut Romantic Novel Award. She writes screenplays alongside her novels and her romance movie *The Love Issue* is currently available to stream on Amazon Prime in the US. Lorraine previously trained as both an actress and a psychodynamic counsellor and currently works at a university delivering counselling sessions to medical students. She lives in London with her partner and their son. Lorraine is on Instagram @lorrainebrownauthor

Thirty Love

UK Publisher: Amazon
Editor: Victoria Pepe
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Material: Edited MS due November
Publication: April 2026

A rich, tantalisingly chemistry-filled romance about reluctant love and two people from different worlds who find it impossible to resist the pull towards each other, despite all the reasons to not get attached.

Ava Whitfield, freelance journalist on a mission to net the high-profile gigs she's dreamed of, has been struggling since her fiancé dumped her the week before their wedding.

So when her best friend Zoe tells her that the glossy magazine she works for is looking for someone to write an in-depth profile on controversial British tennis star Marcus Taylor, who the public love to hate, Ava is torn. Ava finds herself en route to Monte Carlo where she'll begin to shadow Marcus over a series of summer tournaments. True to his reputation, Marcus is snippy and dismissive from the off. But as the two of them arrive at Nice airport, the paparazzi snap a photo of them together. Suddenly, it seems, Marcus has a new love interest. And public opinion of him slowly starts to change. With Ava by his side, the public starts to warm to him. So an idea is proposed— let the public think they're an item over the summer between now and Wimbledon.

But can broken-hearted Ava manage a summer of pretending to be in love with somebody else? And can angry and frustrated Marcus bear to put up with a tagalong journalist by his side?

Praise for *The Paris Connection*

‘A magical modern love story, I've fallen head over heels for Paris again!’
Helly Acton

‘A wonderfully engaging tale of love and self-discovery that paints such an enchanting picture of Paris you'll be booking a seat on the Eurostar before you turn the final page!’
Mike Gayle

‘A gorgeous, romantic book packed full of joy. I mean, who doesn't need to be whisked away to Paris.’
Laura Pearson

‘A charming, romantic read, which gave me a real hankering for croissants!’
Sophie Cousens

‘Plotted to perfection and teeming with the rich sensory romance of Paris’
Kirsty Capes

‘With its sliding doors and picture postcard tour through Paris, *Uncoupling* is fresh, funny and just the tonic for dark winter nights’
Zoe Folbigg



Option Publishers:

Bulgarian - Soft Press
Danish - Jentas

Estonian - Ersen
Finnish - Jentas

Polish - Kobieco
Swedish - Jentas



ISLA GORDON

Isla Gordon lives on the Jurassic Coast of England with her T. rex-sized Bernese Mountain Dog. *A Season in the Snow* was her first novel, inspired by life with an ever-growing puppy, and when researching the book in snowy Switzerland she fell in love with the country. *The Wedding Pact*, *A Winter in Wonderland*, *A Snowfall by the Sea*, and *A New York Winter* have followed. Isla also has five romantic comedies published under the name Lisa Dickenson, and two under Lucy Dickens.



The Christmas Express

The perfect festive romance set across a breathtaking winter wonderland and filled with cosy hot chocolate and a will-they-won't-they romance. A festive treat for fans of Sarah Morgan and Heidi Swain.

The perfect festive romance to settle down with this Christmas

When six ex-friends are invited to a winter wedding in Canada, the last thing they want is a reunion. There's a surprise in store: bride-to-be Bryn hasn't booked them flights, instead she's bought non-refundable tickets for the cross-Canada Christmas train.

Four days trapped together in a cosy train cabin, travelling through snow-topped mountains, frozen lakes and glistening Christmas trees, over the most magical time of the year. It's a trip like no other and Bryn hopes it will end their feud just in time for the wedding.

But tensions on board are fraught. Cali and Luke are each other's One Who Got Away, Joss and Joe are the ultimate sibling rivals, and Sara is stuck with the people who always left her out. Not to mention Ember, Bryn's ex, who wasn't even invited and is on her way to crash the wedding. Then a snowstorm hits and stops them - literally - in their tracks. Will they make it to the wedding? And will it be together?

UK Publisher: Sphere / L,B
US Publisher: Avon US
Editor: Elisha Lundin
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Publication: November 2024
US publication: September 2025
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 336 pages

Rights sold:
 Italian - Newton Compton

Praise for Isla Gordon

'Heart-warming and full of hope'
Heidi Swan

'The most beautiful, heart-warming story. Gorgeously cosy, uplifting . . . utterly lovely book'
Holly Martin

'Dogs + snow + romance = Sunday afternoon bliss!'
Fabulous

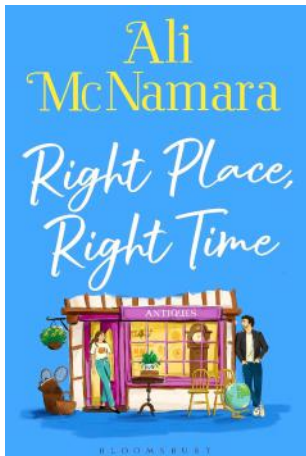
'An escapist festive read...'
Women's Weekly





ALI McNAMARA

Ali McNamara lives in Cambridgeshire with her family and her beloved Labrador dogs. In her spare time she likes to visit antique shops, listen to audio books and people watch, more often than not accompanied by a good cup of coffee! Ali suffers with two chronic illnesses: M.E./CFS and UCTD and is a disability and invisible disability advocate.



UK Publisher: Bloomsbury
Editor: Darcy Nicholson
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Publication: June 2025
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 368 pages

Rights sold:
 Italian - Newton Compton
 Spanish - Newton Compton Editores

Right Place, Right Time

Reader favourite Ali McNamara returns with a new love story, an antiques shop in Cambridge and a decades old secret to unravel. Charming and thought-provoking for readers of Jenny Colgan and Katie Fforde.

Could this be the moment they've both been waiting for?

Eve has always loved antiques.

She loves the way an item from the past can offer a glimpse of another world, of another time. It's why she painstakingly researches the stories behind every item in Rainy Day Antiques, her little Cambridge shop, to share with their new owners. It's her way of honouring the past and cherishing the present.

Adam is firmly focussed on the future.

He's only in town to sort his late grandfather's affairs. When he discovers that his grandfather hired Eve to manage his house clearance, he can only hope her methods don't delay his return to London.

What neither of them know is that Adam's grandfather chose Eve for a reason. It's finally the right place and the right time for the two of them to meet. But what did he have planned for them?

Author overview

Total Titles: 14 Published

Total Sales: +450,000 copies

Highest-selling Title: *The Little Flower Shop by the Sea* +100,000 copies
Letters from Lighthouse Cottage nominated for the Romantic Novel of the Year

Rights Sold/Option Publishers

Czech - Euromedia

Danish - Jentas

Estonian - Eesti Raamat

Italian - Newton Compton

Russian - Eksmo

Swedish - Lavender Lit

Spanish - Newton Compton Editores

Praise for Ali McNamara

'An enchanting escape. Pure magic!' **Heidi Swain**

'Fun and endearing' **Katie Fforde**

'Perfect easy reading' **Sun**

An irresistible, feel-good story infused with infectious humour' **Miranda Dickinson**

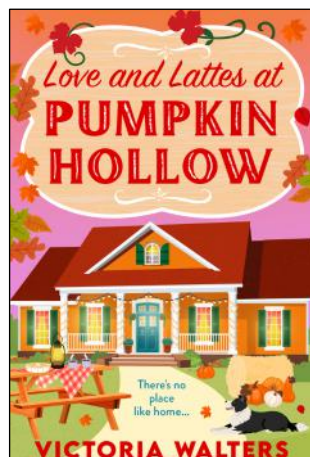
'Funny and light-hearted' **Heat**





VICTORIA WALTERS

Victoria Walters is the author of both cosy crime and romantic novels, including the bestselling Glendale Hall series. She has been chosen for WHSmith Fresh Talent, shortlisted for two RNA awards and was picked as an Amazon Rising Star. Victoria is a full time author. She lives in Surrey with her cat Harry and has an active and engaged social media following, which keeps her very busy. She can be found on Instagram @vickyjwalters and Twitter @vicky_walters.



Love and Lattes at Pumpkin Hollow

The first in a brand new series and perfect for fans of The Pumpkin Spice Café. A cosy, small-town romance full of autumn vibes and opposites-attract chemistry The perfect blend of cosy comfort and spice. Perfect for fans of Laurie Gilmore, Lucy Score and Carrie Elks

Willow Connor has one shot to save her family's farm – turning it into Birchbrook's first ever pumpkin patch. There's just one problem: she has exactly zero pumpkins and only six weeks to make it happen.

Enter Dylan Henderson, a hotshot property consultant with a clipboard full of reasons why selling is the smarter choice. Determined to stand her ground, Willow makes him a bold offer – stay and watch her turn the farm around. To her surprise, he agrees.

Now, as Willow throws everything into making her pumpkin patch a success, she also finds herself learning a thing or two from Dylan – about business, about ambition... and maybe about love?

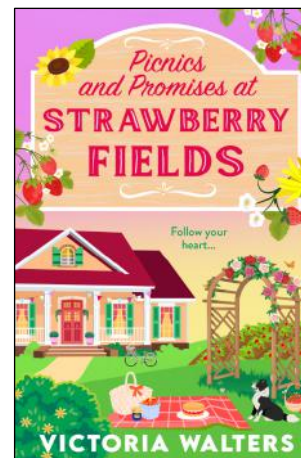
Will she save the farm and prove everyone wrong? And when the deal is up, will Dylan walk away – or has he found something worth sticking around for?

Birch Tree Farm Book 1

UK Publisher: Boldwood Books
Editor: Emily Yau
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Publication: August 2025
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 304 pages

Rights sold:
 Italian - Newton Compton

Option Publishers:
 Danish - North Audio
 Dutch - De Fontein
 Finnish - Bouq
 Swedish - Polaris



Picnics and Promises at Strawberry Fields

The second book in the Birch Tree Farm series, although can be read as a standalone. With a brand new heroine but the same small town. A feel-good romance about fresh starts, found family, and that slow-burn spicy chemistry.

Strawberries and second chances

It's the last place Daisy Connor expects to spend her wedding day, but after ditching her fiancé at the altar, she's fled to Birch Tree Farm for some much-needed thinking room. Her cousin Willow's farmhouse is the last place Daisy truly remembers being happy – and herself.

Blake Daniels is nursing his own broken heart after discovering his girlfriend's betrayal, and he's retreated to the same quiet farm for solitude, hoping to figure out his next move.

With the strawberry pick-your-own season upcoming, there's no shortage of things to do to keep their anxious minds distracted – and if the success of Willow's pumpkin patch is anything to go by, there'll be plenty of visitors coming expecting something magical.

The last people Daisy and Blake expect to see are their exes, turning up uninvited, demanding answers. It's a split-second decision, but it seems to make sense at the time: if Daisy and Blake fake a relationship, it'll get the two of them off their backs. But what starts as a harmless cover story soon gets complicated. And as sparks fly, lines begin to blur. Is this just pretend, or could something real be growing between them?

Birch Tree Farm Book 2

UK Publisher: Boldwood Books
Editor: Emily Yau
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Publication: January 2026
Material: Edited MS due November

Option Publishers:
 Danish - North Audio
 Dutch - De Fontein
 Finnish - Bouq
 Swedish - Polaris

Contemporary Commercial Fiction

The Glendale Hall series by Victoria Walters

Total Sales: 83,000 copies sold

Highest-selling: *Coming Home to Glendale Hall* 35,000 copies sold



‘A gorgeous feel-good story...I’m already looking forward to the next one!’

Jessica Redland, author of *Finding Love at Hedgehog Hollow*

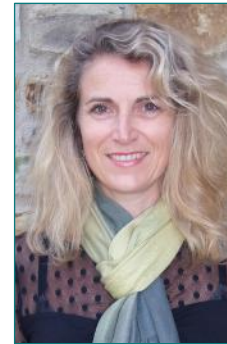
‘Emotional, moving, funny, heartwarming - this novel has got it all. Highly recommended!’

Samantha Tonge, author of *The Winter We Met*

The Dedley End Mysteries by Victoria Walters



Contemporary Commercial Fiction



CAROLINE ROBERTS

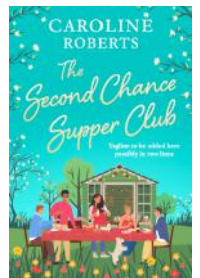
Caroline Roberts lives in the wonderful Northumberland countryside with her husband, and has two children. She credits the sandy beaches, castles and rolling hills around her as inspiration for her novels. She enjoys writing about relationships; stories of love, loss and family, that explore how beautiful and sometimes complex love can be.



UK Publisher: HQ Digital
Editor: Georgina Green
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Publication: 23rd October 2025
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 320

Christmas at The Second Chance Supper Club

Discover the healing power of Christmas and community in this second chance romance later in life. Perfect for fans for Sarah Morgan and Milly Johnson.



The snow-dusted village of Tildale comes alive at Christmas. Twinkling lights and carol singers make it the perfect setting for laughter, friendship, and the unexpected joys of the festive season. But heartbroken Cath doesn't feel like she is sparkling. Finding herself falling for Will, a widowed former firefighter with whom she shares a history, Cath had been hoping for their budding romance to bloom. But with Will still caught in the depths of his grief, could this relationship be star-crossed before it even begins?

Determined to bring some happiness to herself and to the community, Cath decides to hold a village Christmas lunch, and with a little help from her supper club friends, brings everyone together.

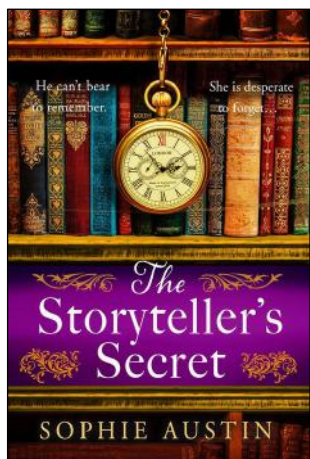
But whilst they warm the hearts of their neighbours, can Cath and Will find their way back to each other during the most magical time of the year ...?

Book 2 in The Second Chance Supper Club series



SOPHIE AUSTIN

Sophie was born in Kent and she earned her Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from King's College London in 2013. After spending five years working in marketing, Sophie moved to Sweden in 2017 to focus on her novel writing and gain her Masters in Transnational Creative Writing at Stockholm University. Now, Sophie works as a Creative Writer for Minecraft, the best-selling video game of all time. When she's not writing YouTube scripts for millions of viewers, she retreats to the turn of the century and writes historical novels.



The Storyteller's Secret

The brand new heart-warming and romantic historical novel from the best-selling author of *The Lamplighter's Bookshop*.

Drawn together — two souls bound by secrets ...

At the Penny Farthing Theatre, Ava Adams is The Storyteller, using hypnotism to draw forgotten memories from the lost and lonely. Taught by her late mother, Ava once believed in her gift — until heartbreak shattered her confidence.

Damien Carter is running from disaster when he sees Ava's face on a faded poster. It feels like he's been waiting for her all his life.

But as dark forces conspire to break them, can they reach beyond the prison of their memories to find redemption together?

UK Publisher: HarperCollins
US Publisher: HarperCollins
Editor: Kate Bradley
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: April 2026
Material: Edited MS
Page count: 384 pages

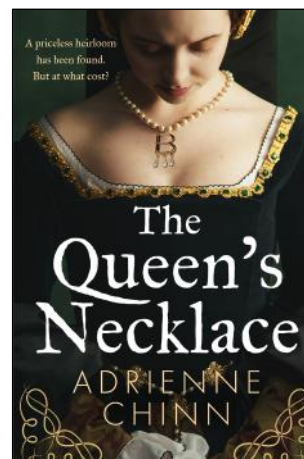
Option publishers:

Czech - Vikend
 Dutch- Luitingh-Sijthoff
 Hebrew - Tchelet
 Italian - Salani
 Romanian - Storia
 Russian - MIF
 Swedish - Louise Bäckelin Förlag



ADRIENNE CHINN

Adrienne grew up in rural Quebec, spent her teenage years in Montreal, and, after taking a MA in English Literature in Windsor, Ontario and a brief tenure as an editor on a textile machinery trade magazine, retraced her English father's footsteps back to England. She found work as a freelance film and TV researcher, before retraining as an interior designer, and has run an interior design business in London for the past 20 years.



The Queen's Necklace

The most famous necklace in the world has finally been found...

Anne Boleyn's 'B' necklace is almost as famous as the woman herself, a symbol of her sharp rise and dramatic fall, and an enduring legacy of her short tenure as Queen of England. For centuries it's been lost, but it's about to be found by the most unlikely of heirs...

Actress Bryher Finch's life isn't just a disaster, it's a catastrophe that she and her career seem destined never to recover from, until a chance invitation to chart her family tree sends her on a new course. Now, as Bryher discovers the ancestry she never knew about, she stumbles on the discovery of the century. But she's not the only one who wants the necklace, and if she wants to emerge triumphant, she'll have to take a page out of Anne Boleyn's book — risking everything she has left.

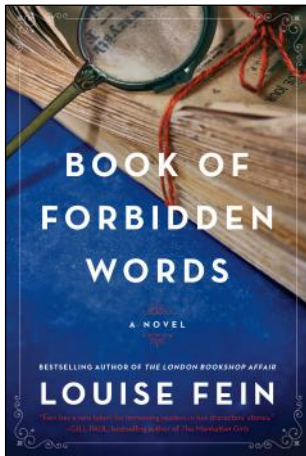
UK Publisher: One More Chapter
Editor: Charlotte Ledger
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: September 2025
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 384 pages

Historical Fiction



LOUISE FEIN

Louise is the author of *The London Bookshop Affair*, *The Hidden Child*, and the international bestseller, *Daughter of the Reich*, which has been published in thirteen territories. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from St Mary's University. She lives in Surrey, UK, with her family.



US Publisher: William Morrow / Harper Collins
Editor: Liz Stein
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: February 2026
Material: Edited manuscript
Page count: 384 pages

Rights sold:
 French - Bragelonne
 German - Goldmann
 Italian - Mondadori
 Russian - Azbooka-Atticus

Option Publishers:
 Romanian - Nemira
 Serbian - Laguna

Book of Forbidden Words

An encrypted manuscript that unleashes a chain of consequences across 400 years, set in a world of banned books, fear of new ideas, and the dangers of censorship, perfect for fans of *The Briar Club* and *Weyward*.

Three bold women. One daring manuscript. A timeless struggle across four centuries.

1552, Paris: Against a backdrop of religious turmoil and paranoia, the printing press is quickly spreading new ideas, threatening the power of church and state and unleashing a wave of book burning and heretic hunting. When frightened ex-nun Lysbette Angiers arrives at Charlotte Guillard's famous printing shop with a manuscript, neither woman knows just how far the powerful elite will go to prevent the spread of Lysbette's audacious ideas.

1952, New York: Milly Bennett, lonely and unmoored, is a seemingly ordinary housewife with a secretive past. She finds her life taking an unexpected turn as conspiracies spread amidst the paranoid clamors of McCarthy's America. When a relic from her past presents her with a 400-year-old manuscript to decipher, she is pulled into a vortex of danger that threatens to shatter her world.

Historical Fiction



Praise for *Book of Forbidden Words*

'Louise Fein is brilliant at creating an atmosphere of creeping menace. I love her courageous characters, her immersive writing, and the vivid descriptions of printing and coding techniques. *The Book of Forbidden Words* is a stunning achievement.'

Gill Paul, bestselling author of *A Beautiful Rival*

'A powerful and beautifully crafted story about the importance of the written word. I loved it!'

Nicola Gill, author of *Swimming for Beginners*

'How I wish I'd written this thrilling and often terrifying story about women across the centuries. I was gripped from the first page to the last. This book is both important and engrossing - a rare combination.'

Maggie Brookes, author of *The Prisoner's Wife*.

'Bold, brave and beautifully told, *The Book of Forbidden Words* is an incredible achievement of imagination and research, reminiscent of Kate Mosse's *Labyrinth*.'

Hazel Gaynor, NYT bestselling author of *Before Dorothy*

'*Book of Forbidden Words* is a daring, intelligent story about daring, intelligent women. Impeccable in its research, incredible in its scope, imperative in these times. I loved it.'

Amanda Geard

'Louise Fein always delivers compelling and unique stories that completely capture me as I read, and *The Book of Forbidden Words* is no exception. This is exactly the kind of story the world needs right now.'

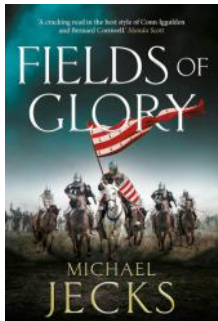
Kelly Rimmer



MICHAEL JECKS

Michael is a prolific international novelist with over forty titles published or commissioned, six more collaborative novels, and many contributions to anthologies. In 1994 he began to write his first novel. That led to his internationally acclaimed Templar series, at thirty-three titles the longest crime series by any living author. He is the author of The Vintaine Series, a modern day spy thriller and the enormously popular Bloody Mary series. Michael lives in Dartmoor with his wife and two children. His main hobbies and pastimes are: water colouring, walking with his dogs (a Rhodesian Ridgeback and Dalmation), home brewing and Morris dancing.

The Vintaine Series

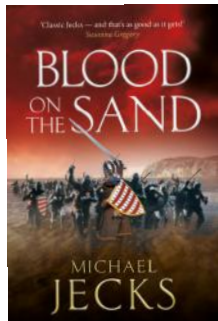


Book 1: Fields of Glory

#1 in Medieval Historical Fiction

1346, France. King Edward III is restless. Despite earlier victories the French crown remains intact. Determined to bring France under his own rule, Edward has devised a new plan of attack - one which he believes will finally bring the French army to its knees: a final, cataclysmic battle...

Berenger Fripper, Vintener of a pox-ridden mob of sixteen who make up the Vintaine of Sir John de Sully, storms the beaches of Normandy to bring victory to their king. But the French are nowhere to be seen... And so Berenger leads his Vintaine through France and onward to battle - the Battle of Crécy - one which will both bond and break his men and be a decisive turning point in the Hundred Years' War.



Book 2: Blood on the Sand

Calais, 1346. Berenger Fripper and his men are stationed in the ancient port city, a city under English control and surrounded by enemies. They are here to defend their newly won territory from the French and their allies the Genoese.

Enemies are all about them, but there is also trouble within. Someone in the vintaine is leaking vital information to the French, jeopardizing not only the safety of the men but also the future of the war, and Berenger must find out who.

And when the vintaine is attacked at sea and captured by the Genoese it looks as though their luck has run out. Can Berenger defeat the enemies that surround him and keep the English victorious?

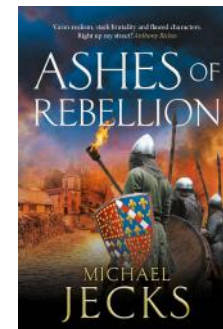


Book 3: Blood of the Innocents

France, 1356: Ten years have passed since the battle of Crécy, and the English fighters are still abroad, laying siege to cities, towns and even small villages. Meanwhile the Prince of Wales raids across France to draw King John into a battle for sovereignty.

Berenger Fripper, having lost everything to the plague, is now captain of a company of mercenaries, but treachery and deceit dog him. And then his path crosses that of Prince Edward and his men as they embark on their latest chevauchée to bring death and disaster to the King of France's subjects.

Enlisted as Vintener under Sir John de Sully, Berenger finds himself drawn into a new struggle. Can the English defeat the much larger French army, or will they find themselves finally overcome...



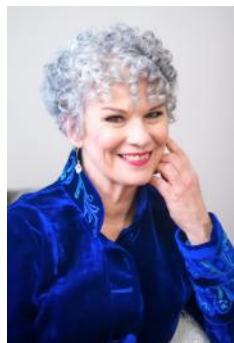
Book 4: Ashes of Rebellion

1358, Northern France. In a land ravaged by war, King John II is the prisoner of the King of England. His son, the teenaged Dauphin, must battle to impose control over the fractured kingdom. But King Charles of Navarre wants to wrestle power for himself. He leads Parisians and the Jacquerie to open rebellion, upending the social order, pitting noble against commoner in a brutal struggle for power.

From the smouldering ruins of small French villages, to the blood-soaked battlefields, their journey is fraught with danger, dogged by a mysterious enemy intent on revenge. As they face the harsh realities of medieval warfare, their bonds are tested, and their fates intertwined with the destiny of a nation

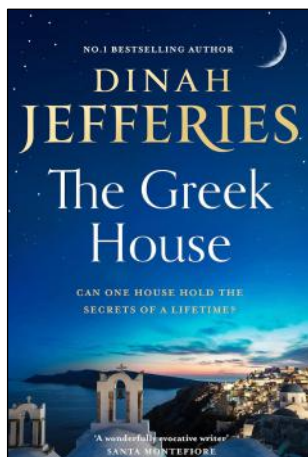
UK Publisher: Boldwood Books
Editor: Vic Britton
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Material: Final PDFs

Historical Fiction



DINAH JEFFERIES

Dinah was born in Malaysia and moved to England at the age of nine. She went to live in Tuscany where she worked as an au-pair for an Italian countess, and there was even a time when Dinah lived with a rock band in a 'hippie' commune in Suffolk. In 1985, the death of her fourteen year old son changed everything and she now draws on the experience of loss in her writing. After five years in Northern Andalusia, she now lives close to her family in Gloucestershire along with two crazy Maine Coon cats.



The Greek House

Escape to Corfu with the emotional, gripping new novel from the Sunday Times bestselling author

Can one house hold a lifetime of secrets?

Corfu, 1934

The moment Thirza Caruthers sets foot on Corfu, memories flood back: the scent of jasmine, the green shutters of her family's home - and her brother Billy's tragic disappearance years before.

Returning to the Greek house, high above clear blue waters, Thirza tries to escape by immersing herself in painting - and a passionate affair.

But as webs of love, envy, and betrayal tighten around the family, buried secrets surface.

Is it finally time to uncover the truth about Billy's vanishing?

UK Publisher: HarperCollins
Editor: Lynne Drew
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: April 2025
Material: Final pdf
Page count: 432 pages

Rights sold:
 Czech - Vikend
 Dutch - HarperCollins Holland
 Italian - Newton Compton

Historical Fiction

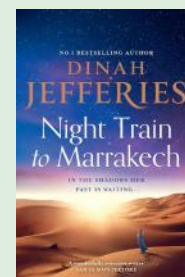
Author Statistics

Sunday Times Bestseller Ranks: #1 *The Tea Planter's Wife*; #6 *The Silk Merchant's Daughter*; #5 *Daughters of War*; #8 *The Missing Sister*

3 Richard & Judy Bookclub Picks

Total Copies Sold: +1,200,000

Highest-selling: *The Tea Planter's Wife*



Option Publishers:

Croatian - Mozaik
 Danish - People's Press
 French - Bragelonne
 Hebrew - Yedioth
 Latvian - Zvaigzne
 Lithuanian - Baltos Lankos
 Norwegian - Vigmostad & Bjorke
 Swedish - Polaris
 Portuguese - 2020
 Romanian - Nemira
 Russian - Azbooka Atticus



ELLE BLAIR

Elle has just finished her Crime Fiction MA at UEA with distinction. Before that she studied film and television at Warwick University and is now a secondary English teacher in Newcastle for teenagers who have been excluded from education. She is a mum of three and brings a fresh take on the juggle of being a parent, a professional and a person to the police procedural.

Deep Water

UK Publisher: HQ Digital
Editor: Georgina Green
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Publication: July 2026
Material: Unedited manuscript

A destination locked-room mystery police procedural debut. Feisty and funny single mum DI Rachel Harlow, currently suspended from the police, gets dragged into suspicious goings on aboard her family cruise ship holiday. A fresh blend of Motherland meets Happy Valley.

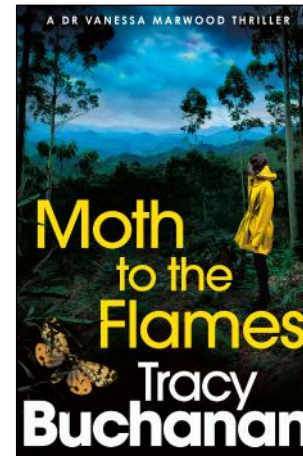
Suspended detective Rachel Harlow is dragged on a make-or-break cruise holiday with her dysfunctional family. As she suspected, cruises are for three types of people: newlywed, overfed or almost dead. And she's a thirty-something single mum who can't stand all-you-can-eat food. She's desperate to escape for a week and repair her strained relationships, but, unfortunately, miles from land, with no police jurisdiction, a cruise ship is a killer's wet dream and her family are in grave danger.

The family, aided by Lennon, quickly become embroiled in a murderous conspiracy below deck when crew members' drug smuggling operation turns violent. In deep water, both personally and professionally, Rachel discovers that sometimes you need to be set fully adrift before you find your anchor.



TRACY BUCHANAN

Tracy lives in the UK with her husband, their daughter and a very spoilt Cavalier King Charles Spaniel called Bronte. Before becoming a full-time author, Tracy worked as a travel journalist, visiting and writing about countries around the world. She has also produced content for the BBC and the Open University, and worked at a London PR firm. Tracy now spends her days writing with her dog on her lap or taking walks in forests. Tracy tweets @TracyBuchanan.



UK Publisher: Embla / Bonnier
Editor: Martina Arzu
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: March 2025
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 256 pages

Option Publisher:
 Russian - Exmo

Moth to the Flames

Dr Vanessa Marwood Crime Thriller Book 3.

Vanessa is chasing the ghosts of her past: what if she catches up with them?

Forensic entomologist **Dr Vanessa Marwood** isn't in Sydney for the sights. She's hunting answers - and Detective Finn Harper, renowned cult expert might have them. His expertise could be the key to exposing a shadowy organisation with ties to Vanessa's hometown and the glittering elite of New York.

But a few days into her stay, a shocking crime rocks New South Wales - seven bodies are found in an abandoned warehouse, cocooned in expensive Muga silk. It's macabre and ritualistic, and everything points to the insect-obsessed cult Finn has made it his life's work to bring down. Could they be capable of something this sophisticated?

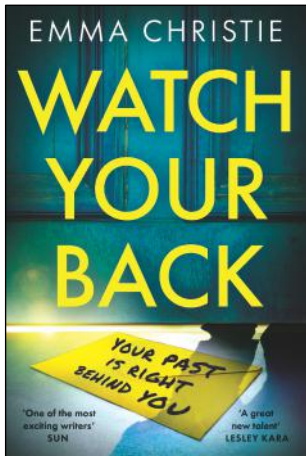
Then, three more cult members go missing, and soon the clock is ticking on this unique and horrific case.

As the media and police force reach a frenzy, Finn and Vanessa must pool everything they know - and risk their own safety - to find whoever is behind these sick, statement murders, that are only the beginning...



EMMA CHRISTIE

Emma grew up in Cumnock, an Ayrshire coal-mining town. Emma studied English literature and medieval history at Aberdeen University. She then spent five years working as a crime, court and local government reporter with one of the UK's top-selling regional daily newspapers, *The Press and Journal*. When Emma's not writing she works as a tour director and lecturer in history, culture and politics across Spain, France and Portugal. *The Silent Daughter* was shortlisted for the McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Book of the Year 2021, and the Scottish Crime Debut of the Year 2021, and longlisted for the Crime Writers Association John Creasey (New Blood) Dagger Award 2021. She tweets @theemmachristie.



Watch Your Back

A pacy, twisty thriller about secrets and betrayal, set amongst the historic streets of Edinburgh. Perfect for fans of B.A. Paris and C.L. Taylor.

Jo has always kept her head down and surrounded herself with strangers who know nothing about her mum's murder. But fifteen years after the killing she receives a box of unopened letters addressed to her – sent from the prison.

But before she can read them, they're stolen, and soon Jo realises that someone must have a terrible secret to hide.

Determined to protect her new life from the violence of her past, she embarks on a mission to find out the truth.

But can Jo find the sender, before they find her?

UK Publisher: Welbeck
Editor: Jenni Edgecombe
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: October 2025
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 384 pages

Option Publishers:
Polish - Arkady
Romanian - RAO



LISA CUTTS

Lisa Cutts retired after twenty-five years with Kent police. She spent most of that time investigating murders for a living and the last ten years of her service, writing crime fiction alongside her full-time job. *Never Forget*, her debut, was long listed for the *Waverton Good Read Award* 2013 and the winner of the *Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award* 2014 for Best Thriller. Lisa writes a monthly column, *Behind the Tape* for *Writing Magazine* answering police procedural questions from other writers. As well as being on BBC Radio 4's *Open Book*, Lisa has twice appeared on *This Morning* to chat about TV crime dramas *Broadchurch* and *Line of Duty*.



Twisted Lies

One lie was never enough to keep her safe.

After the end of her marriage, Avril Benham has returned to Kent where she lives alone in a cottage. One evening she finds an injured man, terrified, on the roadside and calls for help. Once the ambulance has taken him away, she goes home to discover her cottage has been broken into. A woman, Rena Hargreaves, whom Avril assumes is a neighbour, turns up, searches the house for intruders and leaves.

Once the police come, it transpires that Rena is a disgraced former police sergeant, recently released from prison for perverting the course of justice. Why was she in Avril's cottage? Shortly afterwards a body is found in a house two doors from Avril's who it turns out was one of the jurors on Rena's trial. Police warn Avril that Rena is dangerous but Avril feels a pull towards her.

At the same time, Avril is hiding secrets from her own past. She knows what it's like to be caught up in the crimes others have committed. She knows she is being watched and that enemies old and new have found her.

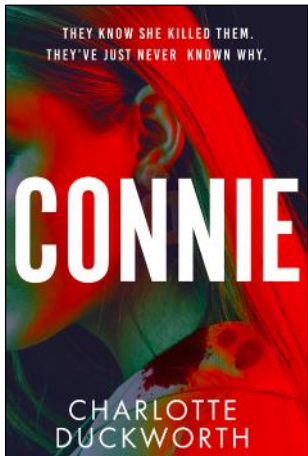
UK Publisher: Bloodhound books
Editor: Tara Lyons
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: May 2025
Material: Final pdf
Page count: 280 pages



CHARLOTTE DUCKWORTH

Charlotte Duckworth is a USA Today bestselling author of psychological suspense novels published by Quercus. She also writes contemporary bookclub fiction under the pen name Charlotte Rixon.

She started her career working as an interiors and lifestyle journalist, writing for a wide range of consumer magazines and websites. Charlotte lives in Surrey with her partner and their daughter.



UK Publisher: Quercus
Editor: Cassie Brown
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: January 2026
Material: Page proofs
Page count: 464 pages

Connie

The brand new psychological thriller from the USA Today bestselling author of *The Perfect Father* and *The Wrong Mother*, perfect for fans of *The Silent Patient* and *Sweetpea*.

They know she killed them. They've just never known why.

Connie Cross was a trusted pharmacy assistant when she was arrested for the gruesome murders of at least seven strangers.

Now, she's serving a whole-life order for the shocking crimes she refuses to explain.

Olivia Lang never forgot Connie, the awkward teenager from a south London estate she first met while working for the police.

Twenty years later, Olivia is desperate to understand what made Connie turn into a murderer.

But as she begins to uncover the truth about the UK's most notorious female serial killer, Olivia risks revealing secrets she's kept hidden for years . . .



Praise for *Connie*

‘*Connie* is a haunting, intricately drawn portrait of trauma and female rage. I devoured it. Duckworth has never been better.’

Emily Freud

‘*Connie* is a thriller which brilliantly combines emotional depth of character with a savage motive for murder. The result is unnerving but hugely satisfying. Duckworth’s best novel yet’

LV Matthews

‘This is Charlotte Duckworth at her peak’

Lizzy Barber, author of *Be Mine*

‘*Connie* is a brilliant portrayal of a fictional female serial killer. Insightful, thoughtful and emotionally heartbreaking, this is my favourite of Charlotte’s books so far and I was glued to every page’

Nikki Smith

‘Absolutely enthralling. Both uncompromising in its message and compassionate, *Connie* grabbed me from page one. Highly recommend.’

Emma Curtis



HELEN FIELDS

Helen is a former criminal barrister, but now writes full time. With a background as both a prosecutor and defence counsel, Helen Fields has a depth of knowledge about crime that lends a fierceness to her writing. From Courts Martials to care proceedings, the Coroner Courts to the Crown Court, Fields draws on her professional years to make her writing jump off the page. After a spell in California, Helen and her husband now live in West Sussex with their three children and two dogs.



Watching You

The Million-copy international bestseller returns with a gripping, edge-of-your-seat serial killer thriller

A face in the crowd. A killer in the shadows...

On the dark streets of Edinburgh, a killer is waiting. When a body is found, it is only the beginning. Soon there will be seven more.

In the city's hospital, renowned surgeon Beth Waterfall is grieving.

Her beloved only daughter fell prey to a vicious stalker a year previously - and now he's coming for her too.

Edinburgh's police are desperate.

After one body comes another, and then another.

The brutal deaths are all seemingly unconnected, and yet DS Lively and forensic profiler Dr Connie Woolwine know they are dealing with a serial killer - they just need to prove it. But time is running out, and The Watcher is already set on making Beth Waterfall his next victim...

Option publishers:

Bulgarian - Benitorial

Danish - Politikens

Italian - Newton Compton

Lithuanian - Jotema

Norwegian - Cappelen Damm

Slovakian - Albatros

Spanish - Jentas

Swedish - Storytel

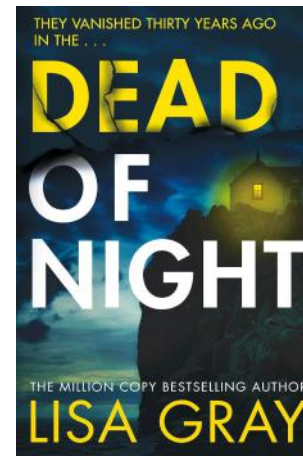
UK Publisher: Avon / HarperCollins
Editor: Helen Huthwaite
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: August 2025
Material: Final pdf
Page count: 352 pages

Rights sold:
 Czech - Albatros
 Dutch- Ambo Anthos
 Finland - Bouq
 German - DTV
 Polish - Bouq



LISA GRAY

Lisa Gray is an Amazon #1, *Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author and has sold over one million books. She has been longlisted for the McIlvanney Prize and is an ITW Thriller Awards finalist. Lisa previously worked as the chief Scottish football writer at the Press Association and was the books columnist for the *Daily Record Saturday Magazine*. She is the author of the bestselling Jessica Shaw series and standalone thrillers *The Dark Room*, *To Die For*, *The Final Act* and *Dead of Night*. Lisa lives in Glasgow and writes full-time.



Dead of Night

A crime writer. A cold case. Will she survive to tell the story?

Since the sudden and tragic death of her partner, bestselling crime author Serena Winters hasn't written a word. With deadlines looming, she packs up her grief and escapes from New York City to a secluded clifftop house in small-town California, hoping the change of scenery will cure her writer's block.

But as news of her arrival spreads, Serena finds herself facing strange accusations that she's here to cash in on the house's history. When she uncovers the chilling story of a young family who mysteriously vanished from the very same house thirty years earlier, she can't help asking more questions.

Someone in the local community doesn't want the past dug up, though. Someone willing to push Serena to the limits of her sanity to keep the truth buried. Caught in a spiraling campaign of intimidation, and harboring a dark secret of her own, Serena soon finds herself in the kind of danger she usually only writes about...

Publisher: Thomas & Mercer
Editor: Victoria Haslam
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: May 2025
Material: Final pdf
Page count: 267 pages

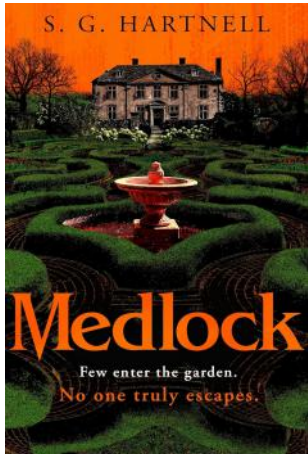
Rights sold:
 Italian - Newton Compton

Option Publisher:
 German - HarperCollins
 Germany



S.G. HARTNELL

S.G. Hartnell is a pen name of the thriller writer B P Walter. B P Walter was born and raised in Essex. After spending his childhood and teenage years reading compulsively, he worked in bookshops then went to the University of Southampton to study Film and English followed by an MA in Film & Cultural Management. He is an alumni of the Faber Academy and previously worked in social media coordination for Waterstones in London.



Medlock

A contemporary gothic suspense and page-turning mystery.

Mrs. Medlock has been a housekeeper at a large Oxfordshire manor house for many years, working for the Ashton family. Throughout the decades, she has endured a lot, observed a lot and kept many secrets hidden - secrets that involve her employers, the house and the people who visit it. But when she is left in sole charge of the house, in charge of three strong-minded children, the horrors of the past refuse to remain buried and her life begins to unravel in ways she could never have imagined. Horrors that concern little bones buried in a secret garden hidden behind a stone wall.

Medlock draws on elements of much-loved classics such as *The Secret Garden*, *The Turn of the Screw* and *Rebecca* and mixes them with the propulsive elements of a contemporary thriller to produce an unforgettable page-turning mystery.

UK Publisher: Sphere
Editor: Cal Kenny
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: October 2025
Material: PDF proof
Page count: 352 pages

Rights sold:
 Russian - Everbook



ELIZABETH JAMES

Elizabeth's varied background spans careers in fashion journalism, acting and psychodynamic counselling, as well as a decade-long job working in a school office, which served as excellent inspiration for her debut psychological suspense novel, *The Secretary's Secret*. She has also written three screenplays, most recently *The Baby My Husband Lied About*, a thriller movie produced by Lifetime and currently available to stream on Apple TV in the US. Elizabeth lives in London with her partner and their son.

The Secretary's Secret

UK Publisher: On submission
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Material: Manuscript

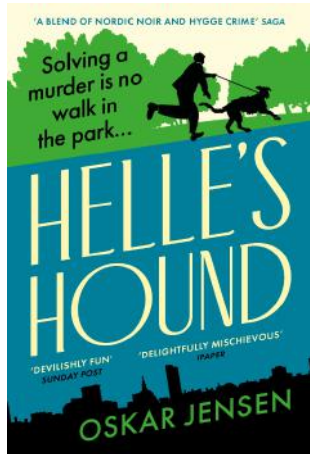
Pacy and unnerving commercial thriller set in a claustrophobic private school and following the outsider secretary as she takes on her new position there. *The Housemaid* meets *Big Little Lies* and for fans of Claire Douglas.

A put-upon school secretary secretly gets revenge when she begins to meddle in the lives of the most obnoxious parents at the exclusive Wildwood Prep. Until somebody gets seriously hurt, that is, and she knows she's taken things way too far. But bad things keep on happening to people. Much worse things. It's like somebody's taken over where she left off. But who? And why?



OSKAR JENSEN

Oskar is a historian and writer of fiction and non-fiction. He has been widely published in UK and US journals and collections and presented his work at over sixty academic events internationally. He is the author of two historical novels for children with Hot Key Books, has contributed articles to the *New Statesman*, appeared on BBC1's *Who Do You Think You Are?*, on BBC Radios 3 and 4, and acted as historical advisor to the ITV/Amazon production of *Vanity Fair*.



Helle's Hound

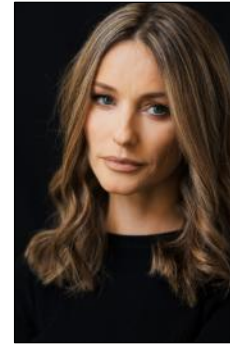
A dead art historian. Cold war skulduggery. An extremely hungry dog.

Dame Charlotte Lazerton - eminent art historian and former mentor of Danish academic Torben Helle - is dead. To make it worse, she was found partially eaten by her own pet dog. While the metropolitan police believe that she died of natural causes, Torben becomes convinced that Dame Charlotte was murdered, although as usual no-one pays any attention to him. That is, until he gains the confidence of a detective inspector who has watched one too many Nordic Noir dramas, and is ready to listen to any Scandinavian in an extremely woolly jumper.

Aided - often grudgingly - by his old friend Leyla, Torben soon realises that there are plenty of people who might have wanted Dame Charlotte dead, from her competitors for a prestigious academic chair, to old enemies from her time in intelligence during the Cold War. One thing is for sure: Torben Helle is woefully unqualified to catch a killer, and the killer knows it...

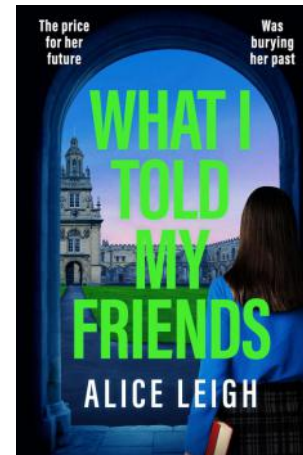
UK Publisher: Viper
Editor: Miranda Jewess
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: January 2025
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 352 pages

Option Publisher:
 Russian - Everbook



ALICE LEIGH

Alice is a writer and novelist. She is the author of two psychological thrillers and two women's fiction titles, under the name Michelle Adams. She also contributed to the anthology about motherhood, *The Best Most Anful Job*, with an essay entitled, Learning To Be A Mother, an account of her experience of adoption. To date her novels have sold in twenty territories, and she has also written for the *Guardian* and the *Daily Mail*. Alice is British, but now lives in Cyprus with her husband and their children.



What I Told My Friends

Chloe is seventeen when she arrives at the elite all-girls boarding school High Hill Manor on a musical scholarship. It is a fresh start for her, and a chance to forget what happened at her previous school.

Chloe quickly forms a close bond with a group of girls, but the influence of an enigmatic professor leads her down a dark and dangerous path, compelling her to carry the deadliest of secrets that will change the rest of her life.

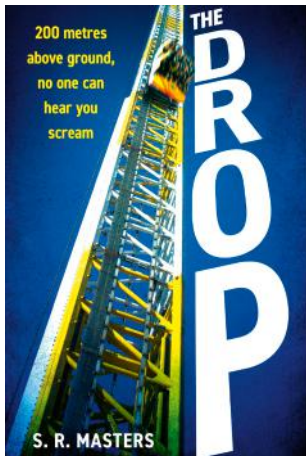
For twenty years she has been running from what happened at High Hill Manor, but now she must face up to the events that took place there, and ask herself whether she ever really knew her friends.

UK Publisher: Canelo
Editor: Louise Cullen
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: February 2026
Material: Final pdf
Page count: 327 pages



S.R. MASTERS

S.R. Masters grew up around Birmingham in the UK. After receiving a Philosophy degree from Cambridge University, he moved to Oxford to study public health. He's worked across a variety of areas in the health service, including clinical trials. His debut novel *The Killer You Know* was released by Sphere in the UK, and Red Hook in the USA. It was the *Irish Independent's* Book of the Week, while *Publishers Weekly* called Masters "a writer to watch".



The Drop

Only the bravest dare to ride the highest roller coaster in the world, *Hysteria*...

You're a thrill seeker who loves an adrenaline rush.

You're offered the chance to ride a roller coaster. The highest one in the world. A once in a lifetime opportunity, after hours queuing, no restrictions.

But then the roller coaster stops. 200 metres above ground.

You realise no one is around. No one can hear your scream.

You're stranded. There is no help coming. How will you escape?

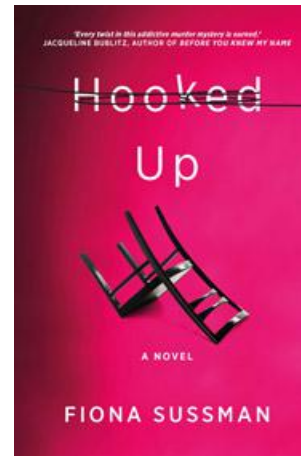


UK Publisher: One More Chapter/HarperCollins
UK Editor: Jennie Rothwell
US Publisher: Sourcebooks
US Editor: Shana Drehs
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: December 2025 (UK), April 2026 (US)
Material: Proof pages
Page count: 400 pages



FIONA SUSSMAN

Born in South Africa and living in New Zealand, former family doctor, Fiona Sussman, hung up her stethoscope in 2003 to pursue another long-held dream, to write. Now the author of four novels and multiple short stories, Fiona's writing has garnered a number of awards, including the NZ Booklovers Award for Best Adult Fiction, the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Crime Novel, and the Sunday Star Times Short Story Award. Her short story, *A Breath, A Bunk, A Land, A Sky*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize from over five thousand entries.



Hooked Up

A Bandara & Stark novel from the bestselling author of *The Doctor's Wife*.

When Detective Sergeant Ramesh Bandara is asked to head up a homicide investigation in the small New Zealand town of Mangawhai – a rugged holiday destination known for its surf swell and Saturday farmer's market – he has no idea he's stumbled into serial murder territory.

With little to go on, the investigation is frustratingly slow to get off the ground but it's Bandara's unconventional colleague, Hilary Stark, who spots similarities with a case she worked years earlier. The detective duo's suspect list expands overnight to include cast and crew of a beleaguered match-making reality TV show, Handpicked, that had aired ten years previously. Someone is holding a grudge. Another body turns up and they soon find themselves working against the clock to prevent more murders.

NZ Publisher: Bateman Books
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: September 2025
Material: Final pdf
Page count: 294 pages

Option Publisher:
 French - Mera
 Swedish - Landa



B P WALTER

B P Walter was born and raised in Essex. After spending his childhood and teenage years reading compulsively, he worked in bookshops then went to the University of Southampton to study Film and English followed by an MA in Film & Cultural Management. He is an alumni of the Faber Academy and previously worked in social media coordination for Waterstones in London.



The Winter Visitor

The perfect family Christmas. The perfect murder...

In a snow-covered manor with views of the icy loch, the Weyman family gather for Christmas. A fire is roaring, presents are wrapped and carols play on the radio. And the Weyman brothers each have a fake smile on their faces...

Because George, Ken and Ralph are united by a terrible secret. And they are all desperate to know why their grandmother has summoned them. Playing happy families at Christmas has never been a Weyman tradition... especially after what happened twenty years ago.

Then, out of the whirling storm, a stranger knocks at the door. He has bright blue eyes and an impossible accusation.

George lies. Ken argues. Ralph hides. The secret they've kept hidden for so long is about to come out.

But in the morning, the winter visitor is dead, a gold ornament through his heart.

One of them is a killer. Trapped in a storm, huddled by the fire, will they uncover the truth? Or bury it for ever?

UK Publisher: Bookouture
Editor: Ruth Tross
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: September 2025
Material: Final pdf
Page count: 288 pages

Rights sold:
German - Digital Publishers

Option Publishers:
Czech - Dobrovsky
Italian - Newton Compton



Sunday Times Bestseller

Over 100k paperbacks of *The Dinner Guest* sold

Praise for B P Walter

'If you aren't reading B P Walter yet, now's the time'

A.J. Finn

'Accomplished, dark and stylish: I will read anything B P Walter writes'

Gillian McAllister

'A dark, stylish and pitch-perfect revenge thriller'

Michael Wood

'Stayed up till past 2am to finish this! Well done, B P Walter – immensely gripping!'

Sophie Hannah

'Day one of my holiday lost to B P Walter and his intriguing thriller. If you like Peter Swanson, this will be right up your dark, twisted alley'

John Marrs

'Dark and devilishly clever! Characters that get under your skin and keep you racing through the story'

L. C. North

'The king of complex characters is back... A compelling tale of money, power and revenge – perfect for Saltburn aficionados'

Lizzy Barber



AMANDA WEST

Amanda West is a pseudonym for Amanda Reynolds' speculative fiction. Amanda lives in the Cotswolds with her husband and their Golden Retriever. Her debut psychological suspense novel, *Close To Me*, published in 2017 and the TV series based on the book is now on Channel 4, starring Connie Nielson and Christopher Eccleston. It has now been longlisted for the TV choice awards. She is the author of further psychological suspense novels such as *Lying To You*, *The Assistant*, *Her Husband's Lie* and *The Hidden Wife* and is a Mentor for the Novelry.

The Memory Foundation

US Publisher: Crooked Lane
Editor: Marcia Markland
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: May 2026
Material: Edited manuscript
Page count: 320 pages

A high-octane high-concept destination thriller for fans of Jo Callaghan and Ruth Ware

Natasha Walker has always been proud of her job as an investigative journalist. But now she's looking at playing an entirely new role; single mum after a one-night stand. She throws herself at an anonymous tip-off about The Memory Foundation. Situated in an abandoned, brutalist old cable car building, nestled high above a ravine in a mountain range, a scientist and his volunteers seek to find a cure for memory loss.

Lydia Hunter has long called The Memory Foundation her home, working with her husband, Wade, a brilliant scientist who is about to revolutionise the way the world understands memory. But to achieve their goal, the pair are about to bring in a select group of wealthy guests to experience their 'memory flights' for the first time.

But with new visitors comes the potential for their downfall. Lydia and Wade have buried their own secrets in the aftermath of an avalanche. With the weather taking a turn for the worse, the snow beginning to fall, power outages and growing suspicion and paranoia, it becomes clear that none of those staying at the Memory Foundation will ever be the same again.



CLAIRE QUINN

After studying Law at King's College London, Claire returned home to the North West. She worked in Manchester for an international law firm for over fifteen years before making a switch to country life in the Cotswolds. Claire's work has been longlisted for both the Cheshire Novel Prize and the Exeter Novel Prize.

The Games We Play

Publisher: Harper North
Editor: Megan Jones
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: Summer 2026
Material: Unedited manuscript

With Ali's wedding fast approaching, her friendship with Erin and Sophie threatens to implode with deathly consequences when a twisted teenage game comes back to haunt them.

As teenagers, Ali, Erin and Sophie are bonded by a secret, and a promise to protect each other. Years later, Ali's wedding is looming when the three women set off for their annual couples' trip, unaware that one final drunken game and a weekend of secrets and revelations will bring their teenage promise back to haunt them.

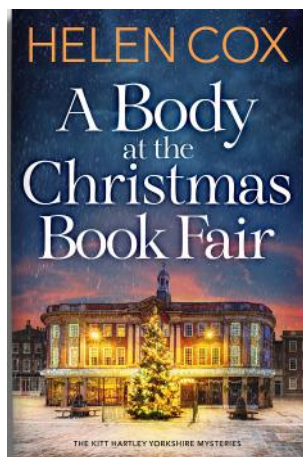
As the truth begins to creep out, making headlines that threaten to pull their lives apart, it puts their friendship to the ultimate test – has it been love or fear holding them together, and if one of them cracks, will any of them survive?

With themes of girlhood, loyalty, and toxic insecurity, *Game On* explores the complex dynamics of a three-way friendship group from every beautiful and poisonous angle.



HELEN COX

Helen is a book-devouring, photo-taking, film-obsessed novelist. If forced to choose one, Helen's *Mastermind* specialism would be Grease 2. After completing her MA in creative writing at the University of York St. John Helen found work writing for a range of magazines, websites and blogs as well as writing news and features for TV and radio. She tweets @helenography.



A Body at the Christmas Book Fair

Kitt Hartley Yorkshire Mysteries Book 9

While making merry at the York Christmas Book Fair, Kitt Hartley finds herself drawn into a murder mystery with a festive twist. The victim is Leonard Bell, a festival volunteer who suddenly drops dead during his performance of *A Christmas Carol*.

The next day, police identify the cause of death as an unknown toxin. Fearing for his own life, Bell's lab partner Kevin Ripley enlists Kitt's help to track down the killer - before it's too late.

As Kitt and her team begin to investigate the poisoning, they uncover a twisting web of long-held grudges and stolen antidotes. But even with surprise help from some very old friends, can Kitt unravel the truth? Or will the invisible assassin escape unpunished?

UK Publisher: Quercus
Editor: Stefanie Bierwerth
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: November 2025
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 368 pages

Rights sold:
 Dutch - De Fontein
 Italian - Piemme



The Kitt Hartley Mysteries Overview

Kitt Hartley, a trilby-wearing librarian with a skill for detecting, investigates crimes of passion and misdeeds in the picturesque town of York and surrounding countryside.

The series is populated with a brilliant cast of characters from Kitt's best friend Evie, whose boyfriend is found stabbed with a fountain pen at the start of the series, to the magnetic Detective Halloran and 'psychic' Ruby, a library regular, who always pops up when chaos strikes.

Never without a smart quip and a feminist stance, Kitt Hartley is delighting readers with her no-nonsense wit, fierce friendships and her ability to solve murders by drawing on her extensive bookish knowledge.

UK Publisher: Quercus Books
Editor: Stefanie Bierwerth
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Books in Series: 8
Total sales: 260,700
Highest selling: *Murder by the Minster* 56,500 copies

Option Publishers:
 Danish - Zara Forlaget
 Dutch - De Fontein
 Estonian - Eesti Raamat
 Italian - Piemme
 Norwegian - Cappelen Damm
 Swedish - Polaris

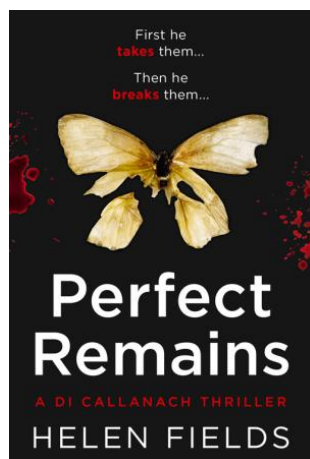
The DI Callanach Series by Helen Fields

‘Must read! With nail-biting twists at every turn, [Perfect Remains] will have readers gripped from start to finish’ *Closer*

‘Read it in two sittings. I literally had no choice. A fast and enthralling thriller, pitting a new, very human hero against one of the scariest psychos I’ve yet encountered in crime fiction’ *Sunday Times* bestseller, **Paul Finch**

‘Without doubt, this is one of the best first detective series I have read’ *Woman’s Way Magazine*

Book 1: Perfect Remains



UK Publisher: Avon / HarperCollins
Editor: Helen Huthwaite
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: January 2017
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 416 pages

A gripping crime thriller that will leave you breathless, from the million-copy international bestseller.

On a remote Highland mountain, the body of Elaine Buxton is burning. All that will be left to identify the respected lawyer are her teeth and a fragment of clothing. In the concealed back room of a house in Edinburgh, the real Elaine Buxton screams into the darkness.... Detective Inspector Luc Callanach has barely set foot in his new office when Elaine’s missing persons case is escalated to a murder investigation. Having left behind a promising career at Interpol, he’s eager to prove himself to his new team. It’s not long before another successful woman is abducted from her doorstep and Callanach finds himself in a race against the clock. Or so he believes....

The real fate of the women will prove more twisted than he could have ever imagined. Fans of Angela Marson, Mark Billingham and M. J. Aldridge will be gripped by this chilling journey into the mind of a troubled killer.



The DI Callanach Series Statistics

UK Publisher: Avon
US Publisher: HarperCollins
Editor: Helen Huthwaite
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Titles in Series: 7
Total Sales: +680,000 copies
Highest-selling: *Perfect Remains* 239,000+
Global Sales: Over 1 million

Rankings / listings:

Top 10 Bookseller Heatseekers
Perfect Remains #1 on Audible
Perfect Prey #1 eBooks on publication day
Perfect Prey #1 Bookseller’s Weekly e-rankings
Perfect Death #11 Kindle chart
Perfect Silence #1 Kindle chart
 Twice long-listed for the McIlvanney
 Scottish Crime Book of the Year
 Long-listed for the CWA Steel Dagger

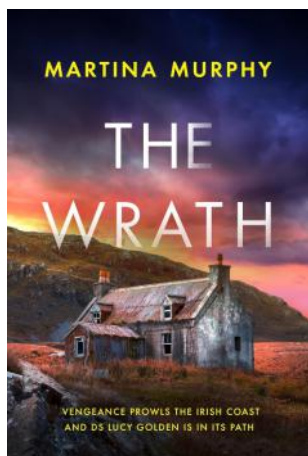
Option publishers

Bulgarian - Benitorial
 Complex Chinese - Marco Polo/Spring
 Czech - Albatros
 Danish - Politikens
 Dutch - Ambo Anthos
 Finnish - Bouq, Tammi
 Hungarian - Muvelt Nep
 Italian - Newton Compton
 Lithuanian - Jotema
 Macedonian - Knigholicari
 Norwegian - Cappelen Damm
 Polish - Bouq
 Russian - Ripol
 Slovakian - Albatros
 Spanish - Jentas
 Sri Lankan - Bookrack
 Swedish - Storytel
 Thai - Wara
 Turkish - Egitim



MARTINA MURPHY

Martina trained as a drama teacher and has written YA fiction, as well as adult novels under the name Martina Reilly, with Hachette Ireland and Little, Brown. *Something Borrowed*, was long-listed for an Impac award. Martina has also written features and comic pieces for the *Irish Independent*, *The Evening Herald* and the *Kildare Times*. Martina lives with her husband and two children in Kildare, Ireland.



The Wrath

DS Lucy Golden Book 5

You will not know the day, or the hour, but I am coming for you...

When DS Lucy Golden discovers an abandoned car showing signs of a recent and bloody escape, the race is on to find the injured occupant, who must be somewhere close by on the Irish island of Achill. But when an anonymous threatening note is found in a pool of blood, the search team is briefed to look for a body, rather than a survivor.

Once the victim is revealed as a retired police officer, Lucy and her team are on edge... was the brutal killing an act of personal revenge? Or is the killer making a statement against the wider Gardaí?

Tensions rise as bizarre clues, conflicting witness testimony, viral videos and family feuds send Lucy and her partner Detective Dan Brown across Ireland on the hunt for a vicious murderer. They're feeling the pressure at work and at home... Lucy's son Luc is in a stormy relationship with a wannabe social media influencer, Dan's mother-in-law is conducting a steamy affair under his roof, and Lucy fears that a recent case that got a little too personal could be the cause of her boss DI William's noticeable coldness towards her.

UK Publisher: Constable / L&B
Editor: Krystyna Green
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: January 2026
Material: Final manuscript

Option Publisher:
Czech - Albatros
Finnish - Bouq
Swedish, Danish and Dutch - Storytel

Book 6 under contract

The DS Lucy Golden series



Praise for the DS Lucy Golden Series

‘She writes with confidence and efficiency as she tells a gripping and well-written story with believable and rounded characters’

Irish Examiner

‘A twisty mystery, a moody setting and a troubled cop on a tricky case.

What more could you want?’

Peterborough Evening Telegraph

‘A tense, fast-paced, and deftly plotted thriller, which kept me guessing right to the end.

I’m already looking forward to the next outing for Detective Sergeant Lucy Golden and her crew!’

Andrea Carter

‘An engaging mystery, set against an equally engaging background, packed with engrossing subplots’

Myles McWeeney, Irish Independent

‘Well plotted and page turning’

Patricia Gibney

‘A novel that raises the bar for crime procedurals.... Artful, measured and gripping’

Shots Magazine



M.J. WHITE

M.J. White is the pen name of million-copy selling *Sunday Times* bestselling author, Miranda Dickinson. Her debut crime series featuring Dr Cora Lael begins with *The Secret Voices*. A huge fan of crime fiction and particularly police procedurals, Miranda wrote *The Secret Voices* largely in secret and is chuffed now to finally share Cora, Acting DS Rob Minshull and the detectives of South Suffolk CID with the world! Miranda is also the host of weekly Facebook live show Fab Night In Chatty Thing- and it was reading extracts of *The Secret Voices* for her viewers that convinced her and her agent to send out the book to publishers.



UK Publisher: Hera
Editor: Keshini Naidoo
Agent: Hannah Ferguson
Publication: November 2025
Material: Final pdf
Page count: 384 pages

The Stolen Dead

Cora Lael Mysteries Book 6

A gripping, fast-paced crime thriller series starring educational psychologist Dr Cora Lael as she's reluctantly called in to work with the police on solving their most puzzling and twisted cases. For fans of James Oswald and LJ Ross.

A victim stabbed through the heart sets off a deadly chain of events that will plunge Cora into her most personal case yet.

The first victim was found on a shingled Suffolk beach, his life extinguished by a single stab through the heart, a pile of pebbles, seaweed and sand carefully arranged onto his body. When DS Rob Minshull and Dr Cora Lael stumble across the body while out on a run, South Suffolk CID are quickly thrown into a perplexing murder case.

Then another victim is found on another beach, the body and objects around it carefully posed. As the media whips up a frenzy for the killer dubbed 'The Beachcomber', the pressure is on for South Suffolk CID to find the murderer, fast.

Cora Lael Mystery series by M.J. White

'Cora is a character you won't forget'
Steve Cavanagh, author of *The Devil's Advocate*

'An unusual premise and an engaging cast of characters. I flew through it'
Mari Hannah, author of *Her Last Request* and *Without a Trace*

'A corker of a debut with a brilliantly drawn main character'
Simon Toyne, author of *Solomon Creed*

'Touchingly compassionate, desperately exciting and aching well-written... a superlative crime novel'

Rob Parker, author of *Far From The Tree*



Epic Fantasy



PHIL QUAINIRELL

Philip C Quaintrell is a thirty year-old self-proclaimed king of the geeks. He grew up in Manchester and studied nursing in Leicester. After giving six years to the NHS, he finally decided to relieve some of the pressure in his imagination and make it work for him. Philip is the author of the epic fantasy series *The Echoes Saga*, *A Time of Dragons* and *The Ranger Archives*, as well as the *Terran Cycle* sci-fi series. Amazon now puts Philip's sales figures in the top 1.8% of self-published authors worldwide.

In the Shadow of Kings (A Time of Dragons Book 2)



Only one can end the war. He stands between the two worlds, a saviour and a destroyer to both. Dragons and aegres will fall. But one can turn the tide.



One who stands *in the shadow of kings*. Such has been seen by the doomed. The weight of ten thousand lives and all the realm besides now sits on Joran's shoulders. So much has already been sacrificed to bring him to the ancient doors of Drakanan, where he might take on the mantle of Dragon Rider and usher in a new age of heroes.

Publisher: Independently published
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: July 2024
Material: Final PDF
Page count: 883 pages

Option Publishers:
 Italian - Mondadori
 Russian - AST

But a *time of dragons* is not all that has been seen... *The days are shadowed by approaching night. The war to devour all wars has come again. He who lies entombed in the dark will rise and the fires with him. Death cannot hold him.*

And so the few, those who would be heroes, must take the road to madness if they are to prepare for the inevitable war. It is not a road they can all survive...

Epic Fantasy

THE ECHOES SAGA, 9 BOOKS



The Echoes of Fate, a prophecy uttered unto the world a thousand years ago, cannot be denied...



1 million copies sold

Classic
Tolkein-esque fantasy



THE RANGER ARCHIVES, 3 BOOKS



