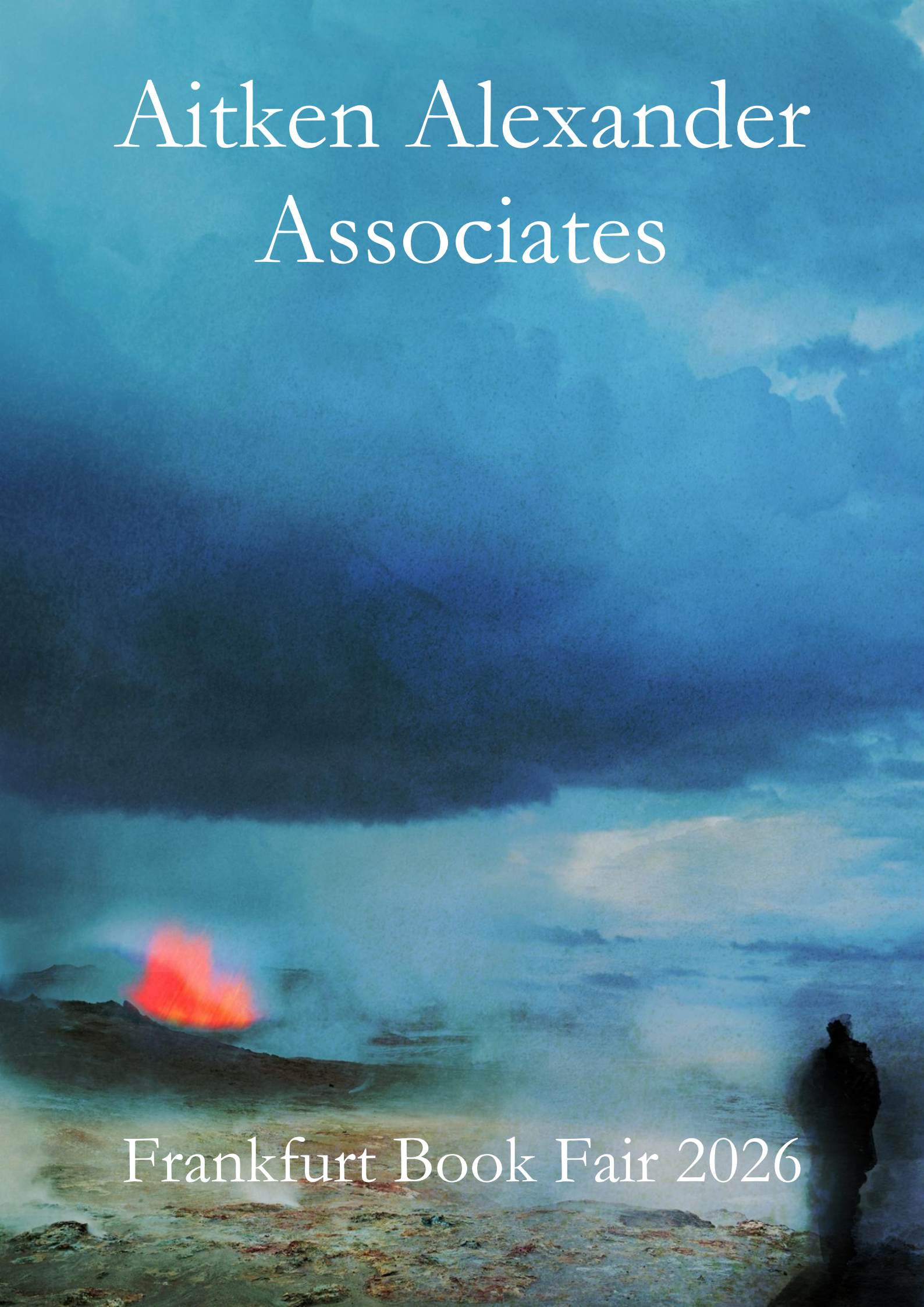


The background of the image is a dramatic, painterly landscape. The sky is a deep, dark blue with swirling, stormy clouds. A bright, intense red fire or explosion is visible on the left side, casting a glow. In the foreground, a dark, rocky shoreline is visible. On the right side, a silhouette of a person stands looking out over the scene. The overall mood is mysterious and dramatic.

Aitken Alexander Associates

Frankfurt Book Fair 2026

Frankfurt table numbers:

Lisa – 35N
Anna – 36N
Talia – 36M

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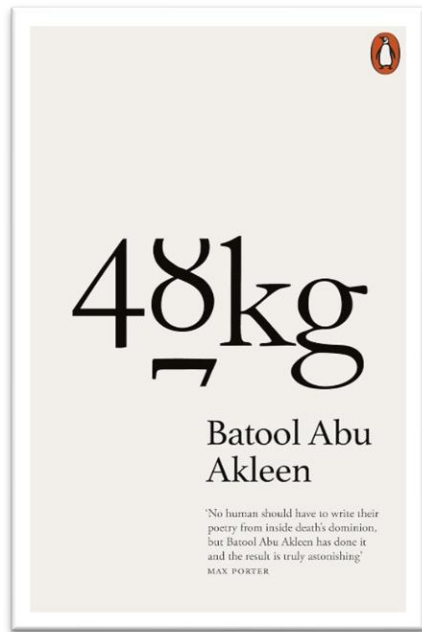
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FICTION



UK: Penguin Press (Tom Penn)
Publication date: 24th September 2026
Material available: Final PDF
Length: 128 pages
Agent: Lisa Baker

BATOOL ABU AKLEEN is a Palestinian poet and translator from Gaza City. At the age of fifteen, 2020, she won the Barjeel Poetry Prize, and her work has been translated into several languages and featured in numerous international publications. Abu Akleen was *Modern Poetry in Translation* 'Poet / Translator in Residence,' 2024, and is one of the four Gazan authors included in *Voices of Resistance: Diaries of Genocide* (Comma Press, 2025).

She has performed her poetry at the Venice Biennale, 2026, and her work has been featured as a *Palestine Festival of Literature* 'Bookshelf' selection, Summer 2025, and a *New Statesman* 'Book of the Year.' Following her evacuation from Gaza, Autumn 2025, Abu Akleen is concluding her studies at the Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris.

48kg by Batool Abu Akleen

Poems of loss and liberation, the body and the human spirit: the astonishing debut collection from Palestinian poet Batool Abu Akleen

'In this book, I am collecting the parts of myself I have found, in case there isn't anyone there to do so if I am killed.'

Each of the forty-eight poems assembled in this startling bilingual collection represents a single kilogram of a body's mass. In spare, stark language, Abu Akleen writes of a city under siege and a self under constant assault, articulating the personal and the public in the midst of unspeakable violence. *48kg* immortalizes her voice and, in doing so, reaches out for a space of shared humanity.

Praise for *48kg*:

'One of the most viscerally affecting collections of poems I have ever read. Devastatingly precise and unforgettable images emerge from every line. These are poems of fire and agony, bombing and starvation, but they are also poems of grace, cleverness, tenderness and yearning. A great international poet arrives with this collection, but it is also a landmark work of resistance. No human should have to write their poetry from inside death's dominion, but Batool Abu Akleen has done it, and the result is truly astonishing.' – Max Porter

'Written in Gaza between 2023 and 2025, Abu Akleen's poems disassemble and painstakingly reassemble the body to interrogate injustice, death and grief. These heartbreaking and risk-taking poems protest with uncompromising clarity and tenderness against continuing atrocities.' – *Guardian*

'Abu Akleen has written the impossible thing—an unbelievably hard portrayal in poems of the daily attack on Gaza while living inside it—and her poems warp and play relentlessly with language in all its rare contrariety, its entire animal ancient, while sharing the inky humour and sweetness of her own new poet's practice.' – Eileen Myles

'The most horrifying, exquisite and staggering poems I have ever read. This essential poetry of witness stares into the abyss, and we must look in the direction it looks.' – *Irish Times*



UK: Granta (Jason Arthur)
US: Transit Books (Lizzie Davis)
Canada: Knopf Canada (Kiara Kent)
Publication date: 8th April 2027
Material available: Copyedited MS
Length: 224 pages
Agent: Harriet Moore

Rights sales for previous novel, *Study for Obedience*: Albania (Aleph Klub), Arabic (Kalimat), Brazil (Record), Bulgaria (ICU), Catalan (Les Hores), French (Sous-Sol), French Canadian (Alto), Germany (Wagenbach), Greece (Dioptra), Italy (Codice), Portugal (Dom Quixote), Slovenia (HKZ), Spain (Random House), Turkey (Domingo), Vietnam (Coral).

Co-agents:
 Japan – EAJ
 Korea – KCC

SARAH BERNSTEIN is a Canadian writer and scholar who was born in Montreal and now lives in the Scottish Highlands, where she teaches literature and creative writing. Her first novel *The Coming Bad Days* was published in 2021 by Daunt. Her second novel *Study for Obedience* was published by Granta in 2023. That year, it was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

Poor Baby by Sarah Bernstein

For readers of Claire-Louise Bennett, Gwendoline Riley, and Rachel Cusk, a modern Gothic in which a woman newly arrived to a vast estate finds herself besieged by mysterious letters, resonant silences, and the uncanny persistence of history.

A woman and her partner arrive at a gamekeeper's cottage deep in the woods to begin a new life. There, they will undertake an ambitious regenerative agriculture project on behalf of the estate—observing mosses and lichens, planting birch and aspen trees, developing plans to reclaim polluted soils. They learn that soon they will also have their first child.

But even from the first happy evening of their arrival, there are spaces where the woman does not like to tread: an anteroom she passes as quickly as she can, a corner in the raised beds where nothing grows, a glasshouse where she invariably feels watched. Then Emil is called away on business, and letters begin to arrive—strange intimations about the estate, thickets of claim and counterclaim.

They came to Westermoy to get out ahead of their panic, to try to live a “good life”—to focus on what was in front of them, work with their hands, water and mulch. But neither the garden walls nor the boundaries of the estate can contain what has already taken root. The future they are building must also, unavoidably, rest on the past.

A novel of thresholds, secrets, and silences, *Poor Baby* asks what is left of the world to inherit, and whether it is possible to live ethically within a system one wishes to disavow.

Praise for previous novel, *Study for Obedience*:
 ♦ Shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2023 ♦

‘Remarkable. A beautiful, riddling tale. Bernstein’s writing is philosophically opaque, electric and elegant.’ – *Telegraph*

‘An absurdist, darkly funny novel. Bernstein’s urgent, crystalline prose upsets all our expectations. It has the uncanny charm of feeling like both a historical work and something bracingly modern.’ – Booker Prize judges

‘Made up of philosophical, rhapsodic meanderings logged in meticulous, measured prose.’ – *Guardian*



UK: Scribner (Chris White)
Publication date: 29th February 2027
Material available: First proofs
Length: 320 pages
Agent: Clare Alexander

Rights sales for previous novel, *The Sharing Economy*:
Netherlands (Uniboek).

Co-agents:
Japan – Tuttle Mori
Korea – KCC

SOPHIE BERREBI is an author, exhibitions curator and art historian, born in Paris and educated in Paris and London. An associate professor of art history at the University of Amsterdam, she is the author of many essays and books about contemporary art. Her first novel, *The Sharing Economy* appeared in 2023, published by Scribner. She lives in Amsterdam and Paris, in a constellation of personal attachments. *The Rooms* is her second novel.

The Rooms by Sophie Berrebi

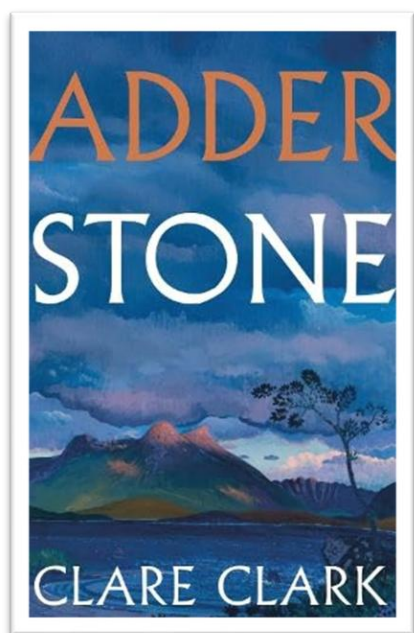
‘Who is it that said that at the age of fifty, a building is either too young or too old? For a building, as for a person, fifty is the perfect age to undergo a crisis.’

Iris arrives in Brussels to begin a fellowship at a prestigious research institute. Fleeing the disintegration of her twenty-year marriage in Amsterdam, she delves into the life of a nineteenth century Belgian art patron and mycologist, Mariette Rousseau, about whom she wants to curate a biographical period room.

Making new encounters and reconnecting with old friends Johan and Hassan, she embraces this new chapter of her life. But as she delves into her research and walks the streets of Brussels, the ghosts of her past come and go in waves, triggering anxiety about how to navigate the second half of her existence.

When Paula, a charismatic urban ecologist comes into her life, Iris feels an awakening and begins to project herself more confidently into the future. But the pull of the city is still there, a city whose history and architecture come to act as a mirror of the tremors in her body and in her mind.

Interspersed by a series of walks that intertwine the colonial past and ecological future of a city that is revealed to the reader layer after layer, *The Rooms* is a beautifully original take on the messy business of entering middle-age at this point in the 21st Century.



Adder Stone by Clare Clark

An uprooted Welsh family splinters in a brutal clash over land, belonging and identity. Driven by love and anger, they must decide what – and whom – they can bear to lose

It is 1963 and in north Wales the Jones family are being forcibly ejected from the land they have farmed for generations. Their valley is to be drowned, turned into a reservoir for the people of Liverpool. While her husband Dai is grief-stricken, Olwen Jones privately sees it as a blessing, an unforeseen chance to escape the narrow confines of the valley. But for her teenage son Emyr, Liverpool's careless arrogance is proof that Wales will never be free to decide its own future until, like Ireland, it breaks the shackles of English imperialism.

Based on true events, *Adder Stone* is an exploration of personal identity and the possibilities and limits of love. How far will we go for our child or for our country? Who are we when we lose the places and the people that define us? And how much, in the end, is it possible to forgive?

Praise for *Adder Stone*:

'A beautiful, breathtakingly written book, with shades of Claire Keegan.' – Kate Hamer

'With prose both delicate and exact, she illuminates the inner life of her characters with a touch as deceptively light as it is stunningly accurate.' – Louise Doughty

'A moving and exquisitely crafted novel.' – Sadie Jones

'Thoroughly enjoyable, vivid and evocative.' – Margaret Drabble

'Beautifully written, incredibly moving. The highest calibre of writing.' – Lottie Moggach

'Clark treats the drowning of the Tryweryn Valley – that pivotal moment in modern Welsh history – with remarkable nuance and sensitivity. *Adder Stone* is a fine, rich novel, as heartfelt as it is compelling.' – Tom Bullough

UK: Eye Books (Will Atkinson)

Publication date: 5th November 2026

Material available: Final PDF

Length: 336 pages

Agent: Clare Alexander

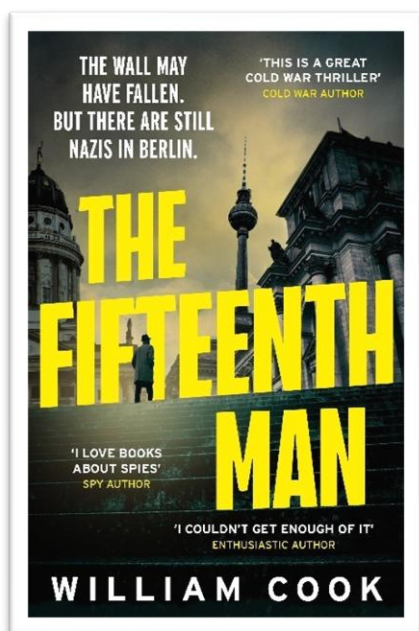
Previous publishers: US (Houghton Mifflin), Germany (Hoffmann & Campe), Italy (Newton Compton).

Co-agents:

Japan – unassigned

Korea – KCC

CLARE CLARK is the author of seven highly acclaimed historical novels, including *The Great Stink*, *Savage Lands* (both longlisted for the Orange Prize) and *The Nature of Monsters*. She now lives in Wiltshire.



UK: Viper/Profile (Miranda Jewess)

Publication date: 1st October 2026

Material available: Final PDF

Length: 329 pages

Agent: Clare Alexander

Co-agents:

Japan – EAJ

Korea – KCC

WILLIAM COOK is an Anglo-German journalist based in London. He has reported from Germany for over thirty years, for publications including the *Independent* and the *Spectator*. He was awarded the Johann Strauss Gold Medal for his reporting from Vienna. *The Fifteenth Man* is his debut novel.

The Fifteenth Man by William Cook

Wannsee, 1942.

Fifteen of the most powerful men in the Third Reich meet in secret. Their goal: the implementation of the Final Solution. This much is true.

West Berlin, 1990.

Anglo-German journalist Michael Braun makes a living tracking down old Nazis. But since the fall of the Berlin Wall, Fleet Street's interest has waned, and he needs more than another concentration camp guard or petty bureaucrat to sell a story. Then Braun is offered an improbable assignment: during the storming of the East German Stasi headquarters, files were found that show a Nazi may have been hiding in Berlin for decades. And not just another low-ranking soldier but Heinrich Müller, head of the Gestapo. The only Nazi at the Wannsee Conference whose fate is unknown since he disappeared from Hitler's bunker in 1945.

Desperate for money, Braun takes the job. But the man he's hunting – Müller or not – knows how to stay hidden. And how to protect his secrets...

Praise for *The Fifteenth Man*:

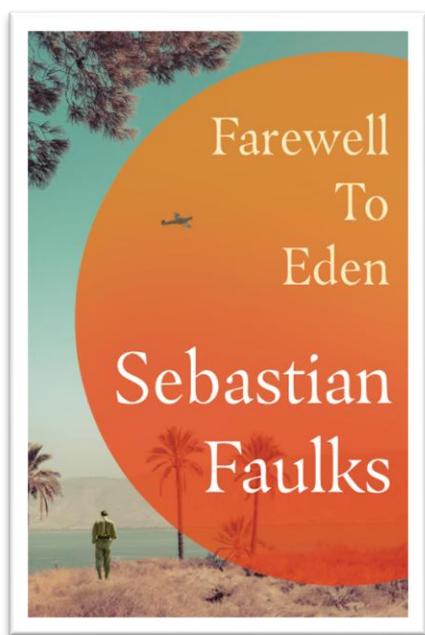
'A brilliantly taut, atmospheric Cold War thriller.' – *Bookseller* editors' choice

'Everything a Cold War thriller reader could wish for and as an added bonus it is *exceptionally* written. A stand-out debut crime novel of the year.' – Janice Hallett, author of *The Appeal*

'The perfect setting for a dark, nerve-shredding thriller.' – Rory Clements, author of *A Cold Wind From Moscow*

'Cook's writing has an unmistakable fag-ash and vodka stink of authenticity. An absolute page-turner: gritty, atmospheric and gripping.' – James Swallow, author of *Nomad*

'Dark atmospheric and chillingly believable. Readers will struggle to put it down.' – Guy Morpuss, author of *Five Minds*



UK: Hutchinson Heinemann
(Venetia Butterfield and Amy Batley)

US: Pegasus (Claiborne Hancock)

Publication date: 17th September 2026

Material available: Final PDF

Length: 368 pages

Agent: Clare Alexander

Previous publishers: Georgia (Palitra), Greece (Klidarithmos), Italy (Neri Pozza), Israel (Penn), Romania (Litera), Russia (Sinbad), Taiwan (Waves Press).

Co-agents:

Japan – Japan Uni

Korea – KCC

SEBASTIAN FAULKS has written nineteen books, of which *A Week in December* and *The Fatal Englishman* were number one in the *Sunday Times* bestseller lists. He is best known for *Birdsong*, part of his French trilogy, and *Human Traces*, the first in an ongoing Austrian trilogy. Before becoming a full-time writer, he worked as a journalist on national papers. He has also written screenplays and has appeared in small roles on stage. He lives in London.

Farewell to Eden

by Sebastian Faulks

◆ An Instant *Sunday Times* Bestseller ◆

The epic and profound new historical novel set in post-World War Two Britain, from the bestselling author of *Birdsong*, Sebastian Faulks

Philip Deval, a soldier recently returned from the beaches of Normandy, arrives in Palestine on a peace-keeping mission in the final days of the British Mandate. The Sea of Galilee glitters in the distance as war-weary troops marvel at the novelty of oranges and sun – a paradise that belies a fierce new conflict about to erupt.

Some years later, Philip begins work teaching at a school in the English countryside and meets the enigmatic music mistress, Frances Darwood. Over long evenings spent listening to records in her music room, they grow close.

But Philip is a changed man, and must confront the secrets and scars of all he has lived through – which threaten, even now, to upend his future.

Farewell to Eden is a sweeping and profound novel about faith in all its forms, and a rich portrait of an embattled post-war Britain. It asks the question: how, after great suffering, do we retain our humanity, learn to love again, and believe in the promise of a better life?

Praise for *Farewell to Eden*:

‘A novel that asks us what we might do when unavoidably faced with our own imperfection and fallibility, and is wise and sober in its refusal to trumpet answers.’ – *Guardian*

‘A timely masterpiece; a riveting story of war and love across two scarred terrains. A profound meditation on morality, faith and music with wonderful moments of lightness and wit. Both entertains and educates.’ – *The Spectator*

‘A beautifully written and deceptively deep novel of moral choices.’ – Antony Beevor

‘A fascinating, timely and densely pleasurable novel, written with measured and impressive intelligence and tremendous narrative aplomb.’ – William Boyd

‘Richly researched and deeply humane. Faulks has an extraordinary gift for showing how the sweep of history is lived through the quiet complexities of individual lives.’ – Hannah Rothschild

‘A magnificent, sprawling novel full of humane detail – you won’t want it to end.’ – *Evening Standard*



UK: Swift (Mark Richards)
US: Liveright (Gina Iaquina)
Publication date: Spring 2028
Material available: Unedited MS
Length: 76k words
Agent: Jack Fogg

Co-agents:
China/Taiwan – Grayhawk
Japan – Tuttle Mori
Korea – EYA

DUNCAN FYFE is a New Zealand-born, British writer whose non-fiction pieces on literature, mythology and culture regularly appear in the *Financial Times* magazine. He is also one of the only writers to have published fiction in the *Financial Times*. He has written for the *Guardian*, *Vice*, *Rolling Stone* and *Slate* and has been twice nominated by the New York Videogame Critics Circle for journalism.

He is a writer and designer of video games, including the BAFTA-nominated video game *Neo Cab* and *Shadows over Loathing*, and is the author of an upcoming non-fiction book about the making of the video game *The Last Express*, to be published by the Los Angeles press Boss Fight Books in 2027. He lives on the outskirts of London with his wife and two children.

DunnFogg Literary Agency

Henry Goodwolf by Duncan Fyfe

1165. Winter. On a remote and windswept island off the coast of Scotland, a small community of Benedictine monks is being picked off, one by one, by a creature of the deep.

Into the besieged priory arrives Henry Goodwolf, monster-hunter of legend and the monks' last hope. But legends can be deceiving; Goodwolf is not the man, nor monster hunter, he is reputed to be, and the monks are not sure whether he will save them, damn them, or lead them to their graves.

Kept under close watch by Brother Achardus, the priory's chamberlain who is struggling to maintain his vow of silence, Goodwolf neglects his investigation with maddening indolence – drinking, sleeping, telling profane stories, occasionally wandering the island's cliffs – while the brothers' deaths continue to mount. Achardus is horrified and fascinated by Goodwolf in equal measure, and despite his better judgment, finds himself drawn deeper into the monster-hunter's heathen world, until an unthinkable disaster befalls them both.

What follows is a reckoning with faith and courage, culminating in a revelation that reframes everything that Achardus has come to understand about his life and purpose.



UK: Faber (Angus Cargill)
Publication date: July 2027
Material available: Copyedited MS
Length: 44k words
Agent: Lisa Baker

Co-agents:
Japan – unassigned
Korea – KCC

NIVEN GOVINDEN has twice been nominated for the Gordon Burn Prize, in 2019 and 2021. His most recent novel, *Diary of a Film*, was chosen as an *Observer*, *Independent* and *Guardian*'s 'book to watch' and was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice pick.

Prove by Niven Govinden

I wanted a place that was mine, where I could finally be safe.

Topo buys a bakery in a small Sicilian town for €1. The shy young chef works through the nights and tries to ignore the initial suspicions of the locals to bring bread to a community he's sure will come around, if they will only taste it. But Topo is haunted by the spectre of the town's previous baker, as well as the fast-paced city life he left behind in Milan.

With hints of Ginzburg, Ferrante and the Italian neo-realist filmmakers, *Prove* is a shimmering, atmospheric read about the redemptive possibilities of community, work and chosen family.

Praise for previous novel, *Diary of a Film*:

♦ Shortlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize 2021 ♦

'Captures a sense of the fragility and intimacy of human endeavour, but also the silence and resilience needed to survive as a woman, a man, as lovers and as artists in a market-driven world.' – Preti Taneja, *New Statesman* Books of the Year

'A beautiful, poignant novel of love and longing.' – *Telegraph*

'A beguiling exploration of artistic obsession.' – *Guardian*

'A wise and skilfully controlled novel that can be read in an afternoon, but which radiates in the mind for much longer.' – *Financial Times*

'A master stylist. He writes exquisitely about art making, about obsession and responsibility.' – Max Porter

'With great subtlety, Govinden helps us see we are on a journey of discovery ourselves, as to who owns stories, and who has the right to tell them.' – Mendez



UK: Doubleday (Bobby Mostyn-Owen)

US: Henry Holt (Cara Reilly)

Publication date: 15th April 2027

Material available: First proofs

Length: 384 pages

Agent: Harriet Moore

Rights sales for previous title,

Piglet: Italy (Neri Pozza), Poland (Kobiece), Romania (Alice Books).

Co-agents:

Japan – Japan Uni

Korea – KCC

LOTTIE HAZELL is a writer, contemporary literature scholar and board-game designer living in Warwickshire. *Piglet*, her debut novel, was a *NYT* notable book, was shortlisted for the Barnes & Noble Discover Prize and is under option for a feature adaptation

Mothersick by Lottie Hazell

'If I had to choose, I'd rather have a sister over parents. I'd rather you over anyone.'

Mara and Nell will never be able to forget the day that their parents' marriage fell apart. They declare their family of origin wrecked, and the traditional structure to be a complete farce. From now on, all they have is each other. So in their twenties, they make a pact: no marriages, no babies and no repeating their parents' mistakes.

But a few years later, Mara does the unthinkable – she falls in love and becomes a mother, leaving Nell behind. Mara wishes that Nell could relate to her new life – its terrifying claustrophobia and unexpected joys – but Nell hardly recognizes her sister or the path she has chosen. Their pact now irrevocably broken, Nell throws herself into a relationship with an undeniable catch of a man without asking whether they want the same things, or if she's willing to compromise her hard-won independence. A cosmic fork in the road has changed everything between the sisters, and just when they need her the most, they're confronted by the shadow of their mother's absence and the secrets they've all been keeping from each other.

From the acclaimed author of *Piglet* comes a profound intergenerational family story that speaks to the life-altering question of whether to embrace, reject, or redefine motherhood. *Mothersick* explores the enduring and infuriating spell of sisterhood and the beauty, captivity, and optimism of family in its many forms.

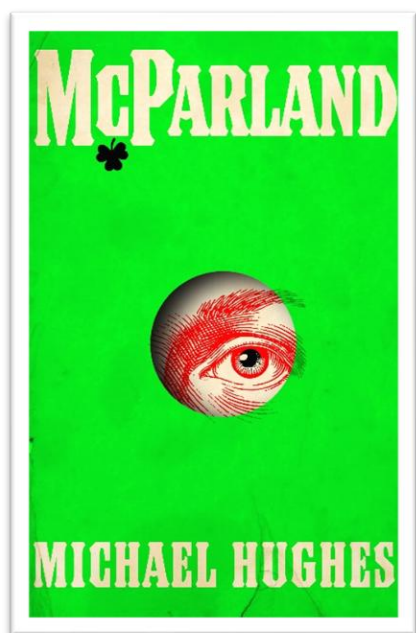
Praise for *Mothersick*:

'A gorgeous, capacious novel, a narrative as intricate and rich as the familial bonds therein. Hazell's sentences sing, and her compassion for her characters is a thing of beauty.'
– Claire Lombardo

'Hazell trains a sharp eye on female relationships and the promises we make to each other as sisters, daughters and mothers – both those we can keep and those we cannot.'
– Austin Taylor

'A beautifully messy portrait of family and motherhood, and the choices and limitations inherent in being a woman. Hazell's writing absolutely dazzles.'
– Marisa Kashino

'Hazell's characters are witty and defiant and horny and impetuous. This novel is a rich portrait of sisterhood, as well as of mothering in its kaleidoscopic forms.'
– Naomi Booth



UK: John Murray (Yassine Belkacemi)

Publication date: 22nd April 2027

Material available: First proofs

Length: 288 pages

Agent: Chris Wellbelove

Co-agents:

Japan – EAJ

Korea – EYA

MICHAEL HUGHES is an author, creative writing teacher and an actor, under the name Michael Colgan. His two previous novels, *The Countenance Divine* (2017) and *Country* (2019) were published in the UK by John Murray. *COUNTRY*, a retelling of the Iliad set in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, was a book of the year in the *Guardian*, *New Statesman* and the *TLS*, and was published in the US by Custom House (HarperCollins) and praised by the *New York Times Book Review* as “A propulsive, blood-flecked homage to the Iliad”. As an actor, Michael has recently appeared in the FX adaptation of Patrick Radden Keefe’s *Say Nothing* (in which he played the older Gerry Adams) and in Netflix’s *House of Guinness*.

McParland by Michael Hughes

Award-winning novelist Michael Hughes dives deep into his own family history to tell the extraordinary true story of the most famous detective of his time. *McParland* is a gripping novel of loyalty and betrayal, and a vivid account of ruthless capitalism in Gilded Age America.

Philadelphia, 1874.

James McParland, a young Pinkerton detective, is given a high-stakes mission. He must infiltrate the Molly Maguires, a violent secret society sworn to avenge injustice against the Irish.

Dispatched to the Pennsylvania coalfields, McParland lives under a false identity for two and a half years. As he climbs the ranks of the Molly Maguires, he's drawn ever-deeper into their murderous conspiracies.

But he knows the Irish hate nothing more than informers. How far can he go, before his comrades discover his true identity?

As the bullets fly and the bodies mount up, his employers fear he is getting too close to the men they want to hang. Whose side is he really on?

Praise for *McParland*:

‘A work of brutal, compulsive, strangely beautiful art. Outstanding.’ – Donal Ryan

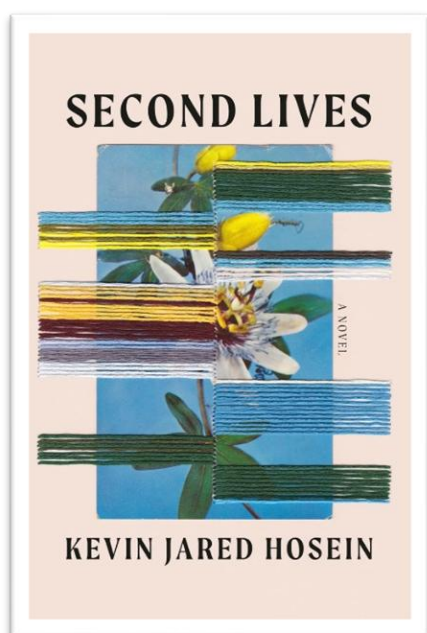
Praise for previous novel, *Country*:

◆ **Nominated for the European Union Prize for Literature** ◆

‘Daring, inventive and ambitious. The language is enough to keep you enthralled.’ – *Guardian*

‘A lively, convincing demotic that captures an Irish idiomatic flow and an echo of Homer’s formalities and hexametric lines.’ – *Times*

‘Explodes with verbal invention, rapid juxtaposition, brutality and fun. Hughes’s linguistic dexterity, his ear for dialogue, his understanding of character, the energy of his prose.’ – *TLS*



UK: Bloomsbury (Alexis Kirschbaum)
US: Doubleday (Khari Dawkins)
Publication date: 20th April 2027
Material available: First proofs
Length: 288 pages
Agent: Chris Wellbelove

Rights sales: Italy (NN Editore).

Rights sales for previous novel, *Hungry Ghosts*: Arabic (Pi Press), Croatia (Petrine Knjige), Czech (Leda), Italy (NN Editore), Netherlands (Mozaeik), Poland (Czarne), Romania (Trei).

Co-agents:

Japan – EAJ

Korea – EYA

KEVIN JARED HOSEIN is an award-winning Caribbean novelist, who's latest novel, *Hungry Ghosts*, won the 2024 OCM Bocas Prize and the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction. He was named overall winner of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize in 2018, and was the Caribbean regional winner in 2015. His writings have been published in numerous anthologies and outlets. He lives in Trinidad and Tobago.

Second Lives by Kevin Jared Hosein

A deeply resonant novel delving into the complexities of grief, healing, and identity, following a foundering poet who returns from a writers retreat to find her husband and son dead.

Lenore hasn't left the house in months. She lives in darkness, ignoring calls, surviving on delivered groceries and sending her sister proof of life updates in the form of a daily Wordle score. Numb and suspended, she has become estranged from others and from herself.

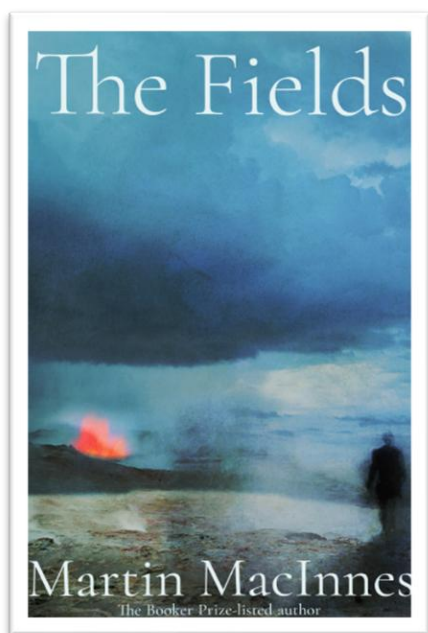
Then, her online therapist prescribes her the task of writing a letter every day for thirty days. It's through this act that Lenore begins to excavate her past – who she was, who she became and what grief has made of her. Slowly, a purpose emerges: she will attempt to finish the brutally difficult videogame her teenage son left behind. She can't explain why, only that completing it feels like a way back to meaning and, perhaps eventually, to the living.

Lyrical, devastating and fiercely original, *Second Lives* is a story of survival in the aftermath of unthinkable loss, and an ode to the enduring human capacity for connection.

Praise for *Second Lives*:

'Beautiful – a layered and intricate puzzle box of a novel that opens to reveal the wild landscape of grief, loss and the quest for closure. I will be thinking about it for a long time.'

– Kalliane Bradley, author of *The Ministry of Time*



UK: Atlantic (James Roxburgh)
US: Zando/SJP Lit (Masie Cochran)
Canada: McClelland & Stewart (Anita Chong)
Publication date: Spring 2027
Material available: Edited MS
Length: 90k words
Agent: Emma Paterson

Rights sales: Germany (Dumont), Italy (Sur), Spain (AdN).

Rights sales for previous title *In Ascension*: Arabic (Dar Kalamat), China (New Star), Croatia (Ljevak), Czech (Host), France (Actes Sud), Italy (Sur), Netherlands (Lebowski), Russia (MTS), Spain (AdN), Turkey (Yapi Kredi), Ukraine (Fabula).

Co-agents:
 Japan – EAJ
 Korea – KCC

MARTIN MACINNES is the bestselling author of three novels, most recently *In Ascension*, which was longlisted for the Booker prize, named as one of Barack Obama's ten best books of the year, and is currently being developed for film. He is the winner of the Kairos Prize, the Arthur C. Clarke Award, the Somerset Maugham Award, the Manchester Fiction Prize, the Saltire Award for Fiction, and Blackwell's Book of the Year.

The Fields by Martin MacInnes

From the Booker Prize-longlisted author of *In Ascension* come a sweeping, multigenerational novel unfurling the secrets, violences, and beauties that shape a Scottish family and our grand universe

On a remote Hebridean island, a young boy grows up on his family's croft. His father mends watches while his mother works as a cleaner at a grand holiday house, a manor filled with hidden treasures and dark secrets that will echo across the boy's lifetime. His story is one layer of a symphonic journey through the deep reaches of time. From an English family observing a rare comet in 1955 to a woman standing in an Arctic seed vault as climate chaos rages, the lives of three generations are bound by a sublime truth: we do not merely inhabit our landscapes and histories, we are made and unmade by them.

Unforgettable and elemental, *The Fields* is an astonishing portrait of family, the violence of the past, the roar of modernity, and the mysteries of time and the human heart. Through its various parts and modes, MacInnes asks: what kind of novel meets the crises—political, ecological, existential—that we find ourselves in? Where do we turn next?

Praise for *The Fields*:

'MacInnes has written a beautiful, timeless classic, inviting us to be curious about life's most sweeping mysteries—the nature of time, energy, physics, geology, and the accelerating threat of climate change. Expansive yet intimate, *The Fields* is an epic masterpiece that reminds us it is never too late to remake our world, and hope is always within reach.' – Sarah Jessica Parker

Praise for previous novel, *In Ascension*:

♦ **Longlisted for The Booker Prize 2023** ♦

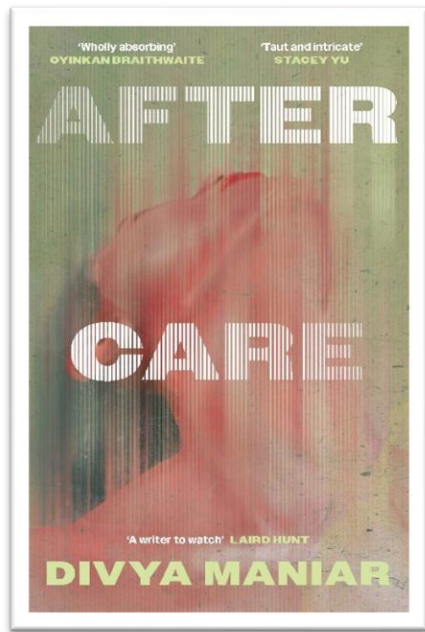
'Utterly compelling.' – *Times*, Book of the Year

'Profound and thrilling.' – *New Statesman*, Books of the Year

'Astonishing. Beautifully written, richly atmospheric.'
 – *Guardian*

'Endlessly rewarding.' – *Financial Times*, Books of the Year

'Superb. I'm in total awe.' – Douglas Stuart



UK: Verve Books (Jenna Gordon and Demi Echezona)

Publication date: 22nd October 2026

Material available: Final PDF

Length: 288 pages

Agent: Monica MacSwan

Co-agents:

Japan – EAJ

Korea – KCC

DIVYA MANIAR is a writer and dancer from Singapore. She holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature and Philosophy from Brown, and an M.Phil in English Literature from Cambridge. Her short fiction has appeared in Joyland, The Rumpus and Volume 0. *After Care* is her debut novel.

After Care by Divya Maniar

‘Poor Grace. Poor, poor Grace.’ It’s what she wanted everybody to say.

Grace is no longer famous. She sits alone in her New York apartment, endlessly watching reruns of herself on the reality TV show *Speed Daters*. Then, one evening, a man breaks in through her window. A rare, still-obsessed fan or raging incel – Grace is unsure. Before she can find out, he disappears.

That same night, the world is rocked by the news that Anoushka, Grace's onscreen rival, has taken her own life. Suddenly thrust back into the public eye, Grace is thrilled to be relevant again.

But fame is fickle, and when the fans begin to turn on her, Grace escapes with her unreliable boyfriend and *Speed Daters* co-star Cal to his isolated cabin in the woods. With nothing but each other, can they mend what's broken without destroying what little is left?

A piercing debut exposing the toxicities of reality TV and influencer culture, *After Care* is a disconcertingly recognisable portrait of reckless consumerism, spectatorship and the attention economy. Perfect for fans of Eliza Clark, Caro Claire Burke, Sarah Rose Etter and Ottessa Moshfegh.

Praise for *After Care*:

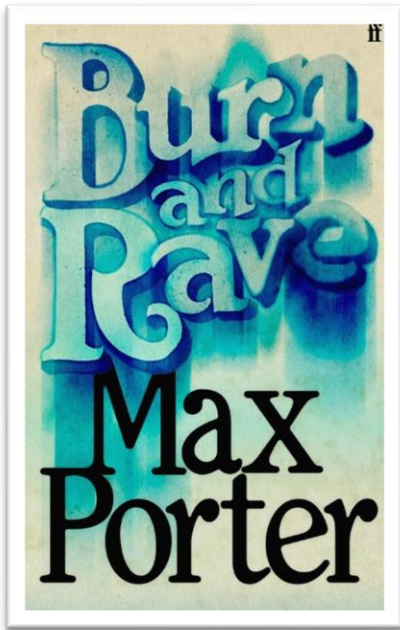
‘This biting take on reality TV and influencer culture got right under my skin. Blending social critique with an uncanny claustrophobia, *After Care* chillingly explores consumerism, the attention economy and the addictive nature of online fame.’ – *Bookseller* editors’ choice

‘Compelling and perceptive. Maniar has crafted a story I did not know I needed, but one I was deeply grateful to uncover. A wholly absorbing read.’ – Oyinkan Braithwaite

‘Bold and haunting.’ – Stacey Yu

‘Crackles with sharp insight into the human condition and wry comment on the 21st century world. Here is a writer to watch.’ – Laird Hunt

‘An edgy, ice-cool debut.’ – Sharlene Teo



UK: Faber (Alex Bowler)
US: Riverhead (Parisa Ebrahimi)
Canada: Strange Light (Jordan Ginsberg)
Publication date: 11th February 2027
Material available: First proofs
Length: 226 pages
Agent: Lisa Baker

Rights sales: Finland (WSOY), France (Éditions du Sous-sol), Germany (Kein & Aber), Hungary (Jelenkor), Italy (Sellerio), Korea (Dasan), Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Spain (Random House), Turkey (Sia).

Co-agents:
 Japan – EAJ

MAX PORTER is the author of four novels, including the *Sunday Times* #1 bestseller *Shy*, the Booker Prize longlisted *Lanny*, and the multi-award winning *Grief is the Thing with Feathers*. Porter's screen adaptation of *Shy*, starring Cillian Murphy, was released by Netflix in October 2025, and the screen adaptation of *GITTWF* starring Benedict Cumberbatch was released in November 2025.

Burn and Rave by Max Porter

From the bestselling author of *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*, the uproarious and brilliantly inventive new novel from Max Porter.

Quiet on set, please.

Enter Lynette: Actor, writer, director, showrunner, and star of her final movie in her head—is it a comedy, a tragedy, a farce, or . . . just life?

Her more recent roles include: The ex-wife (he left for a younger woman); sixty-something daughter to dead parents; sister to dead siblings (they haunt her sometimes); mother to a long-suffering daughter; furious owner of the world's best-behaved dog. Oh, and a force of nature.

Here's what else you need to know about Lynette:

It's her birthday, and she's waking up in a hotel room, hungover, in a dreary English seaside town. Outside are grey skies, crazy golf, a row of border defence huts.

She hasn't worked in a while (she hasn't been very well). But maybe you recognise her from that television drama that ran and ran? People often do.

Rising this morning, she has one thing on her mind: to meet and slay the ghosts of the past and the ills of today. And, knowing Lynette, she won't go gentle into that good night.

Praise for *Burn and Rave*:

'Swerves around the bends of the human heart, and then miraculously delivers you home. It left me inspired, consoled, and thankful.' – Samantha Harvey

'An energetic circumvention of the novel form that pushes toward the visceral and visual and arrives at a deep understanding of the art of performance.' – Kathryn Scanlan

'Brilliant and sad and audacious and bonkers. I loved it.'
 – Maggie O'Farrell

'Endlessly inventive, this is by turns a bracing, funny, heart touching story of an aging actress seeking resolution for the wounds of the past. No one writes like Max Porter and it's a thrill to watch him play with form, and to break the bounds of literature again and again.' – Douglas Stuart



Into That Dark Sea

by Anuradha Roy

‘One of India’s greatest living authors’
– *Oprah Magazine*

At a time of upheaval and rebellion in the city, a young woman is flung out of a car in a Calcutta street. Left for dead, she is rescued by a wealthy older woman who, in her mansion, shelters an unlikely family of waifs and castaways. Loire House and the bakery that bears its name, owned by the imperious and eccentric Julekha Chandra, turns by degrees into an ark sailing headlong into tidal waves of trouble.

This novel tells the stories of three singular women of successive generations running a small baking business – a microcosm of the furnace that is the city around them. Julekha, Ganga, and Meghna narrate different stories of chaotic lives that overlap and intersect.

The streets of Calcutta and the villages surrounding it come alive with a large range of characters: famine refugees, sex workers, elites sipping coffee in exclusive clubs, and rebels — upper-class as well as proletarian — baying for the blood of those who thrive on privilege.

Violence against women, the home as a place of care but also confinement, and an ethos of continuous political turmoil are the encompassing themes of this powerful and beautifully crafted novel.

Praise for previous title, *Called by the Hills*:

‘The writing rings like a mountain bell. Enchanting.’ – *Kirkus*

‘Testament to both Roy’s talent and the power of a beautiful if brutal place.’ – *Mail on Sunday*

‘In every way a beautiful book.’ – Sebastian Faulks

‘Entrancing, consoling, humorous and wise.’ – Chloe Dalton

UK: Daunt (Marigold Atkey)
US: HarperVia (Rakesh Satyal)
India: Harper Collins (Dharini Bhaskar)
Publication date: July 2027
Material available: Copyedited MS
Length: 85k words
Agent: Clare Alexander

Rights sales: France (Actes Sud).

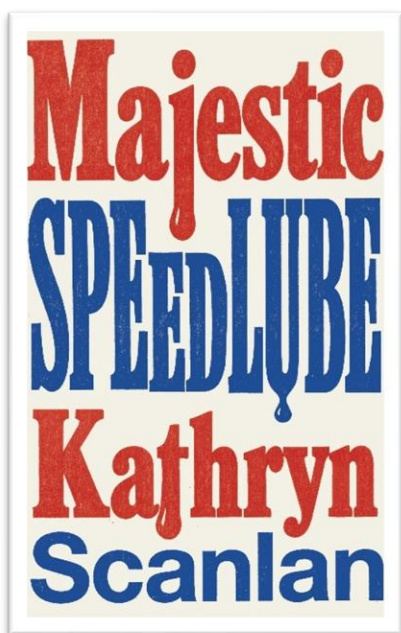
Rights sales for previous title, *Called by the Hills*: Germany (Luchterhand), Spain (Fiordo).

Co-agents:

Japan – Japan Uni

Korea – KCC

ANURADHA ROY is a writer and potter. She was born in Kolkata and grew up mostly in Hyderabad, India. She has written five novels. Her first, *An Atlas of Impossible Longing*, was translated into sixteen languages. *Sleeping on Jupiter*, her third novel, won the DSC Prize for Fiction 2016 and was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2015. *All the Lives We Never Lived* won the 2022 Sahitya Akademi Award, and was shortlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award. Her non-fiction has been published in *Guardian*, *Paris Review*, *Indian Express*, *LitHub* and elsewhere. Roy lives in Ranikhet, where she is a graphic designer at Permanent Black, a scholarly press she runs with her partner.



UK: Faber (Alex Bowler)
US: New Directions (Barbara Epler)
Publication date: 17th June 2027
Material available: First proofs
Length: 24k words
Agent: Harriet Moore

Rights sales: Catalan (La Segona Periferia), France (under offer), Netherlands (Van Oorschot).

Rights sales for previous title, *Kick the Latch*: Catalan (La Segona Periferia), France (La Croisee), Germany (CulturBooks), Italy (Il Saggiatore), Latin America (Fiordo), Netherlands (Van Oorschot), Spain (Errata Naturae).

KATHRYN SCANLAN is the author of *Aug 9—Fog*, *The Dominant Animal*, and *Kick the Latch*. She is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize, the Iowa Review Award, the Gordon Burn Prize, the Windham-Campbell Prize for Fiction, a Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and fellowships from MacDowell, the Jan Michalski Foundation and the European Capital of Culture in Chemnitz, Germany. Originally from Iowa, she lives in Los Angeles.

Majestic Speedlube by Kathryn Scanlan

A novel with its boot on the gas—a cacophonous vision of the USA as seen from the cab of a hard-working compact white pick-up truck.

Happy and Early are couriers eking out a living driving unshippable objects—a taxidermied bear, a two-hundred pound crystal, a custom tombstone—across the country in their “club-cab bed-capped” rig. The resulting linguistic joy ride, powered by Scanlan’s signature live-wire style, is a hectic confluence of billboards, user reviews, overheard conversations, receipts, bumper stickers, bills of lading, diner orders and a very talkative radio—a discordant, clanking music of simulated gunfire, bleating microwaves, squealing dry vans and trains blasting their grievous mourning horns.

Yet in the din of the novel are clearings and rest stops for bright bursts of pleasure—moments of stillness and profundity in nature, with animals, with children: a silent steel-haired couple dance a waltz, a woman saves a snapping turtle from getting crushed on the road, and light comes in “godly shafts through the trees.” Here the usual givens of the novel form are sidestepped in service to a narrative that pays precise, epiphanic and capacious attention to the vast and the infinitesimal in a feat of distilled radical empathy.

Majestic Speedlube, as it barrels along—restless and relentless, lean and prickly—hums with power and mystery, with language that’s alive and kicking. It’s at once a comedy, a lament, an ecological elegy, an account book, a pastoral, a protest song—the Great American Novel thundering with consumption, where “the whole kit of life” can be seen through busted-out windows—and a new vision of how the “pure products of America / go crazy.”

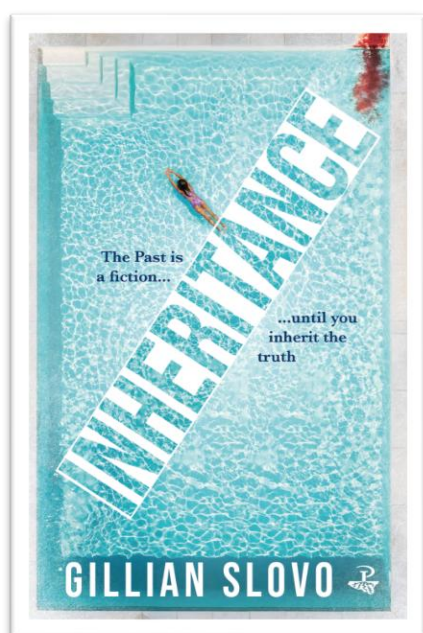
Praise for previous novel, *Kick the Latch*:

♦ **Winner of the Gordon Burn Prize 2023/2024** ♦

‘A magical act of empathic ventriloquy. This immediate, engrossing immersion in another life and world is compulsively readable.’ – Lydia Davis

‘Scanlan writes about ordinary life in extraordinary ways by compacting it radically, like pressurizing carbon into diamonds.’ – Leslie Jamison, *The New Yorker*

‘I treated this slim book almost like a holy text at the time I was reading it.’ – Ben Pester, *Granta’s* Best Books of the Year



UK: Peepal Tree (Jeremy Poynting)
Publication date: 8th October 2026
Material available: First proofs
Length: 283 pages
Agent: Clare Alexander

Co-agents:
 Japan – EAJ
 Korea – KCC

GILLIAN SLOVO is an author, journalist, playwright and the President of English Pen. Gillian has written 12 novels including *Black Orchids* and *Red Dust*, which won the RFI Temoin du Monde prize in France and was made into a film starring Hilary Swank and Chiwetel Ejiofor. Her novel *Ice Road* was shortlisted for the 2004 Orange Prize for Fiction and her family memoir, *Every Secret Thing*, was an international bestseller.

Inheritance by Gillian Slovo

**Unravelling family secrets and political shadows:
 Gillian Slovo's *Inheritance* explores truth, memory
 and forgiveness**

The novel centres on Deborah, a successful author whose life is upended by her sister Gail's suicide. The story explores the sisters' traumatic past: their father's murder in South Africa, their mother's imprisonment, and their forced relocation to England. Deborah's journey – triggered by a mysterious package and a stipulation in Gail's will – takes her back to South Africa, where she confronts long-buried family secrets, political corruption, and the complexities of memory and forgiveness. The narrative is rich with psychological depth, family drama, and the legacy of apartheid, ultimately revealing that the truth may never bring justice, but can offer self-understanding and reconciliation.

Gillian brings her signature blend of psychological acuity and political awareness to *Inheritance*. Readers are invited into a richly layered narrative that not only unravels the mysteries of a fractured family, but also probes the wider consequences of historical injustice and personal repression. With its evocative storytelling and unflinching honesty, *Inheritance* offers a compelling exploration of how the past shapes the present – challenging readers to reflect on forgiveness, resilience, and the enduring quest for truth.

Praise for previous novel, *Ten Days*:

'Cracking. An acute indictment of the power play between politicians and police.' – Louise Doughty, *Guardian*

'Tackles the dangers we all face when politics and policing collide. The result: an unputdownable Slovo read.' – Shami Chakrabar

'An extraordinary novel - a page-turner thick with greed, ambition, love and secrets, and simultaneously an incisive portrayal of power and powerlessness.' – Kamila Shamsie



UK: Picador (Andrea Henry)
Publication date: 1st July 2027
Material available: Unedited MS
Length: 95k words
Agent: Chris Wellbelove

Rights sales for previous title, *The Cut Throat Trial*: France (Gallimard).

Co-agents:
Japan – unassigned
Korea – EYA

THE SECRET BARRISTER is a bestselling author and junior barrister specialising in criminal law. They write for many publications and are the author of the award-winning blog of the same name. Their first book, *The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken*, was a *Sunday Times* number-one bestseller and spent more than a year in the top-ten bestseller list; it won the Books Are My Bag Non-Fiction Award and was shortlisted for Waterstones Book of the Year and the Specsavers Non-Fiction Book of the Year. *Fake Law: The Truth About Justice in an Age of Lies* and *Nothing But the Truth: The Memoir of an Unlikely Lawyer* were instant *Sunday Times* top-ten bestsellers on publication. *The Cut Throat Trial* was their first novel and was published in 2025.

Kill All the Lawyers by Secret Barrister

*It's not about justice.
It's about staying alive.*

Alyx is a bright young junior barrister waiting for a big case that will propel her career to the next level. One afternoon, her clerk calls with a dream offer: there's a gangland murder trial in need of a prosecution junior, and it has Alyx's name on it.

The only drawback is that Alyx is not the first junior to have been instructed. She's stepping in to replace the previous one, who has disappeared. And when the KC leading the prosecution is involved in a terrible accident, she begins to realise that the real challenge in this case isn't going to be winning the trial. It's going to be survival.

Praise for previous novel, *The Cut Throat Trial*:
'Will leave you gobsmacked.' – *Times*

'Gripping and often poignant.' – *Daily Mail*

'Both a scathing examination of the criminal justice system and an astute, empathetic and satisfyingly twisty read. I'll be thinking about this one for quite some time.' – Sarah Vaughan, author of *Anatomy of a Scandal*

'A diamond class legal thriller. Five stars.' – Janice Hallett, author of *The Tynnyford Code*

'A whip-smart courtroom drama with a killer twist.' – *The Sun*

'This book is phenomenal.' – Nicola Sturgeon



UK: Auction of 9 offers
Publication date:
Material available: Unedited MS
Length: 115k words
Agent: Emma Paterson

PRETI TANEJA's novel, *We That Are Young*, won the Desmond Elliott Prize for the UK's finest literary debut of 2018. Her second book *Aftermath*, a creative nonfiction lament on the language of prison, terror, trauma and grief following the London Bridge terror attack in November 2019, won the Gordon Burn Prize 2022. Preti is Professor of World Literature and Creative Writing at Newcastle University and in 2022 she was awarded the prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize in Languages and Literatures for her groundbreaking experimental work.

Kindness by Preti Taneja

I want to believe that this body might contain more than what it has ever been allowed to be.

A car wreck in the middle of a field. Deep, a young supermarket buyer for one of the country's largest chains, sits in the driving seat, her body crushed and her mind disintegrating. The radio plays on in the background. Time collapses.

Deep has stolen her boyfriend's car and crashed it trying to get an urgent message to her lover Amaya and Amaya's boss, Mrs M. Mrs M—the factory owner who has introduced South and East Asian snack food to the British public, and who for Deep represents an existence of community and self-determination she had not thought possible. As Deep waits and night falls, what emerges from her fractured consciousness is the devastating story of her life.

Kindness is a state-of-the-nation novel told through this prism. It is a remarkable feat to deliver both scale and intimacy in this way. Deep's indelible voice is an intermingling of terror, wit, and piercing clarity.

Praise for Preti Taneja:

'*Aftermath* is a major landmark in British narrative non-fiction. Beautiful and profoundly important.' – Max Porter

'Simply one of the most remarkable books I've ever read. Raw, brutal and yet thoroughly distrustful of easy narratives.' – Jonathan Liew, *New Statesman's* Best Books of 2022

'Stunning, poetic and urgent.' – *Publisher's Weekly* *starred review*

'*We That Are Young* is a masterpiece. Never have I read a novel so uncompromising, fierce and emotionally vast.' – Omar El Akkad

'Revelatory. Urgent and irresistible. One of the most exquisite and original novels of the year.' – *Sunday Times*

'Brilliant...finely crafted...Taneja has given us that rarest of beasts: a page-turner that is also unabashedly political.' – *Guardian*



The Hollow Ground

by Evie Wyld

‘There is no better storyteller writing fiction in Britain today.’ – Samantha Harvey

Heather is missing. Snatched from an empty car park by a figure dressed all in black shortly after leaving the pub, she’s woken in a locked container somewhere by the sea, water pouring in through the gaps around the door.

In Parkhurst Forest, off the beaten track, a dog and his walker discover an arm sticking out of the ground, the hand pointing to the sky, bright blue acrylic nails on its remaining fingers. You don’t get many murders on the island, or at least you don’t find evidence of many. Let alone bodies.

Detective Sergeant Shirley Gorse came to the Isle of Wight from London for a break from all this. For a simpler life, close to the sea, a chance to mend her relationship with Andrew and to watch Lenny grow up. A life without the cases of the missing women and the constant fear that the next body will be her sister Katherine’s. So far, her days on the island have been about investigating missing chickens and bodies on the beach who have turned out to be seals, but with Heather’s disappearance and the body in the forest things have changed. Can Gorse find Heather before one dead body becomes two? And at what cost?

Praise for previous novel, *The Echoes*:

‘Humane, ambitious, innovating, captivating, funny, clever with never, ever a hint of pretension.’ – Samantha Harvey

‘Nobody writes trauma like Evie Wyld.’ – *Guardian*

‘A masterly achievement, a work of skill and subtle empathy. It will linger with me for a very long time.’ – *Sunday Times*

‘A kind of stretchy vessel flooded with life. Rarely has trauma been approached with such clever indirection.’ – *Observer*

UK: Picador (Sophie Jonathan)
US: Knopf (Diana Miller)
Publication date: Spring 2028
Material available: Unedited MS
Length: 78k words
Agent: Chris Wellbelove

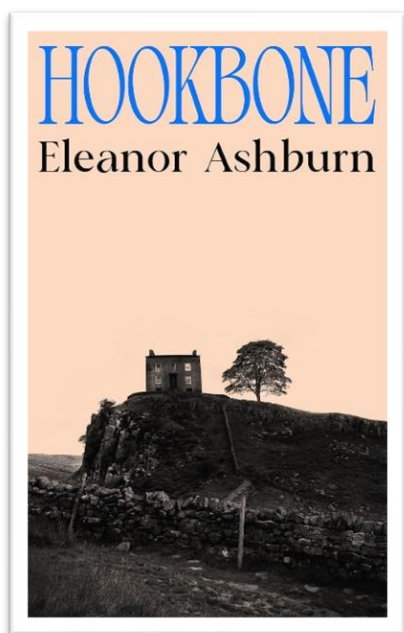
Rights sales: Germany (Hanserblau).

Rights sales for previous title, *The Echoes*: Azerbaijan (Alatoran), France (Actes Sud), Portugal (Impar), Spain (Fiordo), Turkey (Inkilap).

Co-agents:
 Japan – unassigned
 Korea – EYA

EVIE WYLD is the award-winning author of five novels and one graphic novel. She has won the Betty Trask Award, Miles Franklin Award, John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, Encore Award, Jerwood Fiction Prize and the European Union Prize. In 2013 she was included in Granta’s once-a-decade list of Best of Young British Novelists. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and runs an independent bookshop in Peckham called Review.

NON-FICTION



UK: Hutchinson Heinemann (Amy Batley)

Canada: Summit (Nicole Winstanley)

Publication date: 18th March 2027

Material available: Second proofs

Length: 368 pages

Agent: Clare Alexander

Co-agents:

Japan – Tuttle Mori

Korea – KCC

ELEANOR ASHBURN is the pseudonym of a British writer.

Hookbone by Eleanor Ashburn

A searing, lyrical literary memoir about growing up wild in the heart of an outwardly respectable English family. Told with extraordinary beauty and control, it is a story of brutality, silence, and the long shadow childhood casts over an adult life.

Hookbone is the name of a remote farm on a hill where Eleanor Ashburn spent her childhood – a world of well-bred depravity. Here, there were no rules except enunciation, manners and who could hit the hardest. One of six surviving children, she was left to roam the countryside unsupervised: washing her own clothes from a young age, navigating the volatile games of her older siblings, and learning early on that appearances mattered much more than the truth.

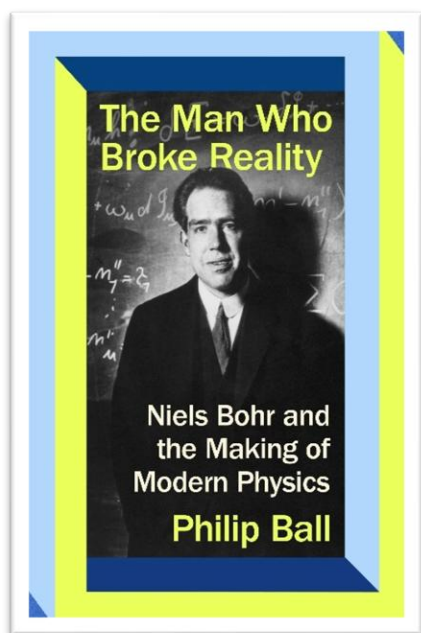
As an adult, having climbed – mostly intact – from the wreckage of her childhood, Eleanor turns detective. She combs through family lore, traces the legacy of her father's desperate faith as far as the Vatican, and confronts her mother in a long, powerfully moving interview – all in the search to make sense of the difficult legacy bequeathed by the people who raised her.

Praise for *Hookbone*:

'Profoundly moving and ferociously readable.' – Mark Haddon

'Written with such power and heartbreaking honesty.' – Pat Barker

'Beautiful and devastating.' – Sir Lenny Henry



UK: Bridge Street (Sameer Rahim)
US: University of Chicago Press
 (Karen Merikangas Darling)
Publication date: 8th October 2026
Material available: Final PDF
Length: 352 pages
Agent: Clare Alexander

Rights sales: China (CITIC), Korea (SOSO).

Co-agents:
 Japan – EAJ

PHILIP BALL writes regularly in the scientific and popular media and worked for many years as an editor for physical sciences at *Nature*. His books cover a wide range of scientific and cultural phenomena.

The *Independent* said: 'Labelling Ball a science writer sells his writing short, for its value lies above all in a range that dissolves the awkward silences between science and the larger culture of which it is part'.

The Man Who Broke Reality *Niels Bohr and the Making of Modern Physics* by Philip Ball

From the acclaimed science writer Philip Ball, a thrilling biography of Nobel Prize-winning Danish physicist Niels Bohr, the most radical quantum mechanician of all

Danish physicist Niels Bohr was one of the greatest scientists of the twentieth century.

He won the Nobel Prize in 1922 for his revolutionary contribution to quantum theory.

He was engaged in a lifelong intellectual duel with Einstein – and modern experiments have vindicated his view.

During the Second World War, he debated with Werner Heisenberg in Copenhagen about his former student's work on the Nazi atomic bomb.

He escaped Nazi-occupied Denmark and was welcomed by Robert Oppenheimer to the Manhattan Project to build the atom bomb.

He campaigned tirelessly for international arms control during the Cold War.

He was a prime mover behind the establishment of CERN, the centre for nuclear physics in Switzerland.

The Man Who Broke Reality is a compelling portrait of one of the twentieth century's most inventive and iconoclastic thinkers – a scientist whose insights continue to shape our understanding of the universe and our place within it.

Praise for *The Man Who Broke Reality*:

'A true tour de force. A fresh, authoritative, meticulously researched and utterly engaging examination of arguably the deepest thinker of the twentieth century' – Jim Al Khalili

'An exploration of the limits of scientific knowledge, as embodied in the life of one of the great figures of modern physics. With characteristic insight, Ball shows us how the quantum mysteries of the twentieth century gave rise to some of the most profound debates about the nature of human attempts to understand the universe on its most fundamental scales.' – Matthew Stanley, author of *Einstein's War*



UK: Hamish Hamilton (Hermione Thompson)

Publication date: 4th February 2027

Material available: First proofs

Length: 208 pages

Agent: Clare Alexander

ANNA BARKER is the author of *The Floating Island*, *Before I Knew Him*, *Rain Hare* and *Book of Crow*. She teaches academic writing at True North. Her next book is the family memoir, *Dipped in Ink* (forthcoming in 2027). Anna lives in Durham with her partner and daughter.

Dipped in Ink *A Family Memoir* by Anna Barker

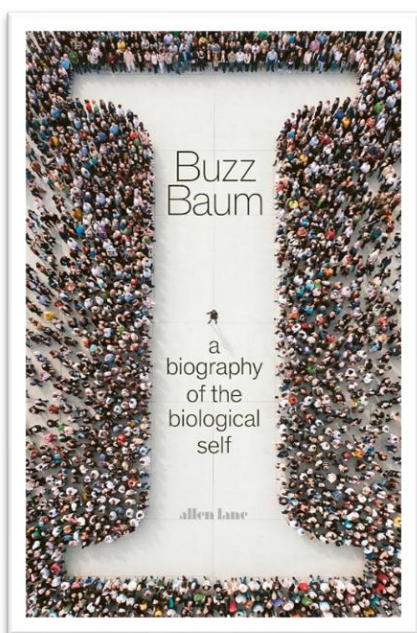
A multigenerational portrait of working-class womanhood in 20th century Britain, centring on the extraordinary family history of one of our greatest living novelists: Pat Barker

Patricia Margaret Drake was not a wanted child. Born in 1943 in the working-class north-east of England, her arrival was met with dismay by all involved. Her childhood was a solitary and often precarious one, marked by absences and unanswered questions.

Many decades later, Dame Pat Barker has defied the odds to become a bestselling and widely beloved author, a Booker Prize winner, a national treasure. But in all her years as a storyteller, Pat never shared the story of her own life with anyone – not even her own daughter, Anna.

Five years ago, following a health scare, Pat began talking to Anna about her childhood for the first time. Over many months, she revealed a complex story of secrets and parallel lives, illegitimacy and poverty, of loss and grief, labour and ambition, love and self-sacrifice, mothers and daughters. And Anna, herself also a writer, started teasing out the tangled threads which connect this vanished past to her own life.

Dipped in Ink is a literary family portrait, centring on Pat Barker and opening out, concertina-like, to reveal several generations of women who came before her. Vividly and candidly told, by turns painful and defiant, with flashes of dark humour, *Dipped in Ink* is an emotional duet between mother and daughter and a memorial to a century of foremothers whose lives were shaped and often cruelly constrained by circumstance and social expectation. Through this remarkable family history, Anna Barker reveals a much broader story of working-class womanhood in twentieth-century Britain.



UK: Allen Lane (Keith Mansfield)

Publication date: 4th February 2027

Material available: First proofs

Length: 320 pages

Agent: Ben Dunn

Rights sales: Italy (Bollati), Korea (Next Wave Media).

Co-agents:

China/Taiwan – Grayhawk

Japan – Tuttle Mori

BUZZ BAUM is one of the most eminent and highly cited cell biologists in the UK and Europe. He currently has a lab at the MRC-Laboratory of Molecular Cell Biology in Cambridge. He is a member of EMBO (the European elite biology organisation), is a panel member on the European Research Council (ERC), and he co-ran the world's most important molecular/cell biology meeting – the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) meeting - in 2020. In 2023 he co-organised the world's first Creative Science Writing workshop together with the scientist and author Mark Miodownik.

DunnFogg Literary Agency

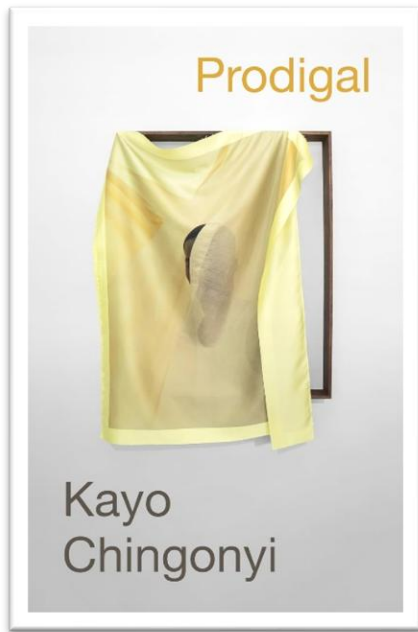
I: A Biography of the Biological Self by Buzz Baum

Each of us experiences life as a continual flood of sensations and thoughts that give us a powerful sense of being a singular individual 'I'. But defining ourselves this way misses much that is unique and extraordinary about being human.

We are the product of four billion years of evolution, shaped by the divergence and merger of different lineages. Our bodies are beautiful at every scale, down to the trillions of cells from which we are made. The unity of life on Earth becomes clear under the microscope, where many differences fall away: malaria parasites, puffballs and humans all share a common cellular organisation, parts, processes and a common language.

Zooming out, each one of us is also a small part of larger wholes – families, communities, and the natural world. This entangled web of interactions also makes us who we are and gives us identity and purpose. So, it is often more accurate to say 'we' than 'I'.

Through fact, fiction and stories drawn from life, this book offers a deeper appreciation of what it means to be human and alive and points towards ways of aligning our lives with the other creatures with whom we share this beautiful planet.



UK: 4th Estate (Kishani Widyaratna)
Publication date: 11th February 2027
Material available: First proofs
Length: 272 pages
Agent: Chris Wellbelove

KAYO CHINGONYI FRSL is a fellow of the Complete Works programme for diversity and quality in British Poetry and of The Civitella Ranieri Foundation. His first full-length collection, *Kumukanda*, won the Dylan Thomas Prize and a Somerset Maugham Award. Kayo was a Burgess Fellow at the Centre for New Writing, University of Manchester before joining Durham University as Assistant Professor of Creative Writing. He is a writer and presenter for the music and culture podcast Decode on Spotify, poetry editor at Bloomsbury, and his most recent collection *A Blood Condition* was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection, the T.S. Eliot Prize, and the Costa Poetry Award. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2022.

Prodigal *A Memoir of Healing & Return* by Kayo Chingonyi

The extraordinary memoir from Dylan Thomas Prize-winning poet, Kayo Chingonyi.

Did leaving begin to hold that writing would have over my life as I wrote into this most expansive of absences?

1993. Shortly after his father's death, six-year-old Kayo is smuggled out of Zambia onto a plane bound for Newcastle. Soon he learns that his father died from an HIV-related illness, a fate suffered by many Zambians, and later, he becomes a young carer to his mother as the virus takes her, too.

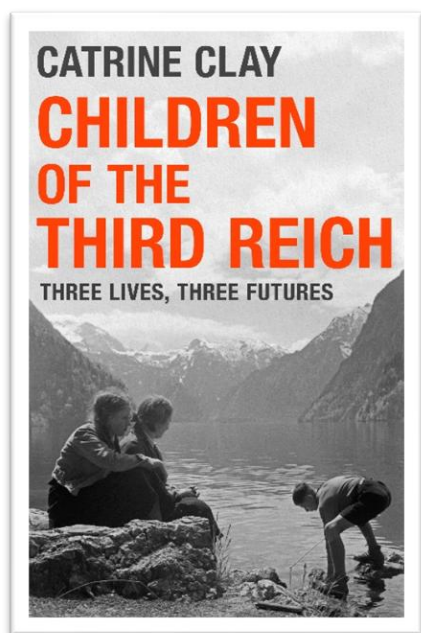
2017. Now a celebrated young poet, Kayo receives a message from a cousin in Zambia he has not heard from in almost 25 years. He realises it is time to go back.

In *Prodigal*, Kayo Chingonyi tells the story of that return and the winding journey that led him there. He reflects on the guilt and shame of the stigma of his parents' deaths, the uncertainty of a fraught coming-of-age, and reckoning with the challenge of writing his future when he didn't fully know his past. What emerges is a joyous tribute to the healing power of music, poetry and love, and a deeply moving account of how the immigrant experience is often one of filling in the gaps.

Praise for poetry collection, *A Blood Condition*:
 'Chingonyi's authentic, reined-in passions are stirring. His poems grow out of gaps, out of the moments where nothing more can be done, but a poem can be written and take its quietly powerful stance.' – *Observer*

'Chingonyi's poetic voice finds its full-throated maturity. Deep introspection becomes the vulnerable and brave heart of the book, rendered into jewel-like poems.' – *Telegraph*

'The musicality and the hard reason is just so fresh, you feel altered by it.' – Andrew O'Hagan



UK: W&N (Ed Lake)

Publication date: 9th July 2026

Material available: Final PDF

Length: 352 pages

Agent: Clare Alexander

Rights sales: Brazil (under offer).

Rights sales for previous title, *The Good Germans*: Hungary (HGV), Italy (Newton Compton), Turkey (Pan).

Co-agents:

Japan – Japan Uni

Korea – KCC

CATRINE CLAY is an acclaimed historian and documentary maker. Her books include *The Good Germans* (2020), *Labyrinths* (2016) and *Trautmann's Journey* (2010).

Children of the Third Reich

Three Lives, Three Futures

by Catrine Clay

The poignant true story of three children born during the Nazi regime – and their eventual meeting 50 years later

The Third Reich cast a long shadow, not least over those born in Germany at that time. Whether the children of Nazi perpetrators or Holocaust survivors, they all had to come to terms with their dark past, based on an inhuman racial ideology.

Renate was born in 1941, the daughter of an unknown SS General and Nazi war criminal who fathered her as part of his racial duty to produce 'A Child for Hitler.' Joe was born in 1946 in a Displaced Persons camp for Holocaust survivors. Dan was born in Haifa in 1938 to German Jewish immigrant parents. Then it was Palestine, later Israel, and Dan was a proud Israeli, until he wasn't so sure any more. All three grew up surrounded by silence and secrets, because their parents wanted to protect them from the horrors of the dark Nazi past which had devastated their lives.

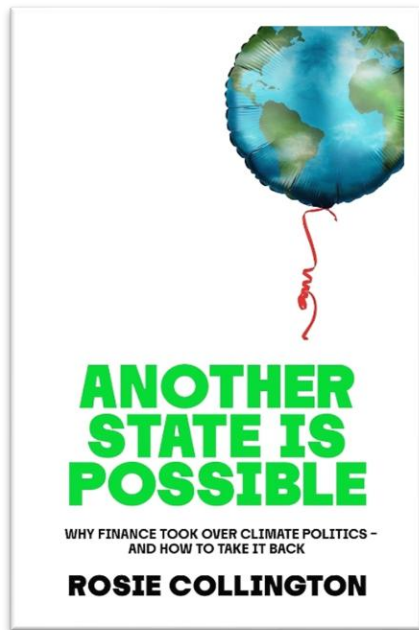
Decades later the three met, each trying to come to terms with their legacies of silence, secrets and pain. In *Children of the Third Reich*, acclaimed historian Catrine Clay traces their stories from Germany to the United States and Israel, confronting their dark pasts in order to find ways to a better future.

Praise for previous title, *The Good Germans*:

'A brilliant and deeply disturbing account of six individuals, ranging from Prussian autocrat to law student to factory hand, who risked, and in some cases lost, their lives to oppose Hitler.' – *Spectator* 'Books of the Year'

'Clay is a great story-teller who proves adept at conjuring her characters straight off the page.' – *BBC History Magazine*

'Timely, intriguing and extremely well informed.' – *Sydney Morning Herald*



UK: John Murray (Joe Zigmond)
Publication date: 6th May 2027
Material available: Edited MS
Length: 320 pages
Agent: Chris Wellbelove

Rights sales for previous title co-authored with Mariana Mazzucato, *The Big Con*: Germany (Campus), Italy (Laterza), Netherlands (Nieuw Amsterdam), Brazil (Companhia), Spain (Taurus), Poland (Heterodox), Greece (Epikentro), Japan (Keiei Kagaku), Portugal (Temas e Debates).

Co-agents:
 Japan – EAJ
 Korea – EYA

ROSIE COLLINGTON is a political economist and academic. With Mariana Mazzucato she is the author of *The Big Con*. She has appeared on BBC Radio 4, NPR's *The Takeaway*, Novara Media, Al Jazeera English and ABC. Her writing has been published in the *Guardian*, *Project Syndicate* and *Jacobin*. Rosie is currently a researcher in International Political Economy at Copenhagen Business School. She lives between London and Copenhagen.

Another State is Possible *Why Finance Took Over Politics – And How To Take It Back* by Rosie Collington

Governments aren't arresting climate change. What's stopping them? And how can they start?

The Paris Agreement was meant to mark a turning point in the fight against climate change. Yet a decade later, the world remains dangerously off track. Why have governments failed to meet their commitments? *Another State is Possible* tackles the paradox at the heart of the climate crisis: despite the renewed ambition of international agreements and a collective commitment to state action, global emissions have continued to rise.

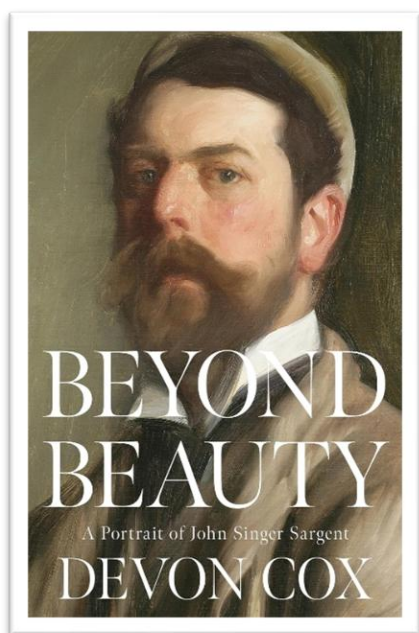
Political economist Rosie Collington presents a clear-eyed diagnosis of the systemic failures driving climate inaction. She challenges the conventional excuses of the state - pandemics, wars and economic shocks - and lays bare the real problem: the flawed logic of 'Green State Capitalism', an approach that ties environmental objectives to capitalist economic expansion. By dissecting its mechanisms, from financing and industrial policy to scientific expertise, she spotlights both the promises and flaws of state-led climate action and exposes its contradictions.

Despite their shortcomings, governments are the best vehicle for limiting global warming and preventing ecological collapse. It is only by understanding the root causes of governmental failure that we can redefine *what* and *who* the state exists for. Collington offers a vision for reshaping state structures and explores how we can work together to achieve it. The message is clear: change is within reach. Another state *is* possible.

Praise for previous title, *The Big Con*:
 'Timely...the analysis is startling.' – *Sunday Times*

'Collington and Mazzucato have provided a meticulously researched anatomy of an industry. They have explained complex ideas and processes in clear terms, and brought them to life with a rich and engaging narrative style. *The Big Con* may present itself as an exposé of the consulting industry, but behind it lies a bigger and more urgent warning to reshape social priorities in an age of crisis.' – *Jacobin*

'This book is a rallying call for these companies and governments.' – *The Times*



UK: Harper Collins (Arabella Pike)

US: Norton (Amy Cherry)

Publication date: 26th August 2027

Material available: First proofs

Length: 336 pages

Agent: Clare Alexander

Co-agents:

Japan – unassigned

Korea – KCC

DEVON COX is an American-born writer and historian currently living and working in London. He is the author of the widely-acclaimed biography *The Street of Wonderful Possibilities: Whistler, Wilde & Sargent in Tite Street* which was nominated for the William MB Berger Prize in British Art History. He has also edited *Constance Wilde's Autograph Book, 1886-1896* for the Oscar Wilde Society in 2022 and *Aesthetic Movement Satire: A Dramatic Anthology* for Bloomsbury Methuen Drama in 2024.

Beyond Beauty *A Portrait of John Singer Sargent* by Devon Cox

The first major biography of Florence-born American artist John Singer Sargent written for fifty years

John Singer Sargent (1856–1925) is one of the most famous American artists of all time, yet his personal life and character have remained elusive more than a century after his death. Today, as Sargent's reputation reaches new heights, the man—restless, deceptively daring, and shrouded in secrecy—is ripe for reappraisal.

Beyond Beauty delves into Sargent's guarded inner-life, illuminating his contradictions and complexity: an outsider born and raised in Europe; a reserved gentleman with latent passions: a celebrated painter of the rich and famous who was drawn to unconventional rule-breakers.

Devon Cox explores Sargent's visionary talent that challenged artistic and social strictures on both sides of the Atlantic, from his scandalous portrait of *Madame X* in Paris to his depictions of the Black bellman Thomas McKeller in Boston. Cox also reveals how Sargent's sumptuous portraits exposed the secret, inner lives of his subjects while his sensual landscapes and dramatic murals provided clues to his own rebellious spirit and repressed desires.

Drawing on new research and unpublished memoirs and letters, Cox also sheds light on Sargent's sexuality and intimate relationships, from his letters to and sketches of artist Albert de Belleruche, to his connection with a soldier he met while serving as an official war artist. Capturing the glamour and intrigue of the Gilded Age, *Beyond Beauty* is a fresh, unvarnished portrait of a legendary, enigmatic artist for the twenty-first century.

Praise for *Beyond Beauty*:

'Entertaining, compelling, revelatory – this is the must-read biography of the year.' – Gyles Brandreth

'An absolute delight. I have always loved Sargent's work and now I love it even more for the new insights Devon Cox brings to this masterly biography. It is as elegant and entertaining as its subject.' – Sue Prideaux

'A masterpiece. Cox's stunning biography reads like a thriller. His writing and research are without equal.'
– Joanna Lumley



The Combination Game

The Story of Football in 20 Debates

by Michael Cox

Individual brilliance or players who function within a strict team system? Domestic football or the international game? League or cup? A manager or a committee of head coach, director of football and technical director?

These questions will be familiar to any football fan, the soundtrack to coverage of the biggest sport in the world and feel specific to the contemporary game – one that is global, hyper-professional and extremely lucrative. But look back to the very beginnings of the sport and a very different story emerges...

UK: Summit (Ravi Mirchandani)
US: Holt (Andrew Miller with Tim Duggan)
Material available: Proposal
Delivery: March 2028
Agent: Chris Wellbelove

Rights sales for previous title, *Zonal Marking*: Brazil (Kasafutebol), Arabic (Makan), Germany (Suhrkamp), Greece (KPG Sport), Hungary (Jaffa), Korea (Hans Media), Netherlands (Atlas Contact), Poland (Sine Qua Non), Thailand (Live Rich Forever).

Co-agents:
 Japan – EAJ
 Korea – EYA

MICHAEL COX is a football writer at the *Athletic*, the sports section of the *New York Times*, where most of his journalism is focused on tactical analysis, a field he pioneered through his website *Zonal Marking*, which was voted the Football Supporters Federation's best website in 2011. He is the author of two books about football: *The Mixer*, a tactical history of the Premier League, and *Zonal Marking*, on modern European football.

In *The Combination Game*, Michael Cox will excavate the history of these debates to chart the development of football over its 170-year history. In taking this approach, Michael is able to relate the deep history of football to the contemporary game, to show that many of the features of the sport we take for granted today – a single manager over a committee (England didn't have a manager until 1946), global competitions (England didn't enter the first three World Cups), the use of substitutions (the first one in England took place in 1965) – were once controversial ideas that were strongly opposed.

Michael is planning to tell a rich, definitive history of football from its beginnings. He'll be consulting contemporaneous accounts of the game at its inception, mining his collection of almost 600 books about football to give the full picture of its development from niche public school pastime to the biggest sport on the planet, and focusing on the story both on and off the pitch.

Praise for previous title, *Zonal Marking*:

'An excellent recent history of European football.' – *New Yorker*

'A wonderful overview of tactical development in European football.' – *The Times*

'A fascinating assessment.' – *Observer*

'Cox, a tactics obsessive, largely ignores the soap opera of football to explain what actually happens on the field. In this book, speckled with well-told anecdotes, he traces the tactical development of the game over the last 30 years.' – *Financial Times*



UK: Bodley Head (Stuart Williams)
Publication date: Spring 2027
Material available: Edited MS
Length: 90k words
Agent: Chris Wellbelove

Rights sales: Japan (Kawadeshobo-Shinsha), Korea (Next Wave Media), Spain (Debate), Taiwan (Commonwealth).

LEWIS DARTNELL is an astrobiology researcher and professor at the University of Westminster, and an Honorary Research Associate at University College London. He is also a presenter and the author of the Sunday Times bestsellers *The Knowledge: How to Rebuild the World from Scratch* and *Origins: How the Earth Made Us*, and *Being Human: How Our Biology Shaped World History*, which was a Waterstones Book of the Year and translated in 26 languages.

Ingenious

What we can Learn from the World's Cleverest Ideas

by Lewis Dartnell

Where does ingenuity come from? In what ways has it changed the world? How can we foster it in ourselves, to bring good to our own lives?

Framed around the different routes to achieving ingenuity – from challenging assumptions and testing the rules to seeking what's in plain sight and sheer perseverance – this is a book about ingenuity in all its wondrous, diverse forms. It's crammed with astonishing ideas, infectious enthusiasm and a scientist's keen desire to get to the bottom of a subject, showcasing some of the world's most resourceful, innovative and inspiring feats of human ingenuity.

From brilliant inventions and breakthroughs in engineering to cunning strategies used in sports, from spycraft and wartime deception tricks to stunningly creative ideas in the everyday: *Ingenious* helps us train our minds to become more creative and ingenious in our personal and professional lives – and reveals that the best ideas are not necessarily the result of the endless march of technological progress.

Praise for previous title, *Being Human*:

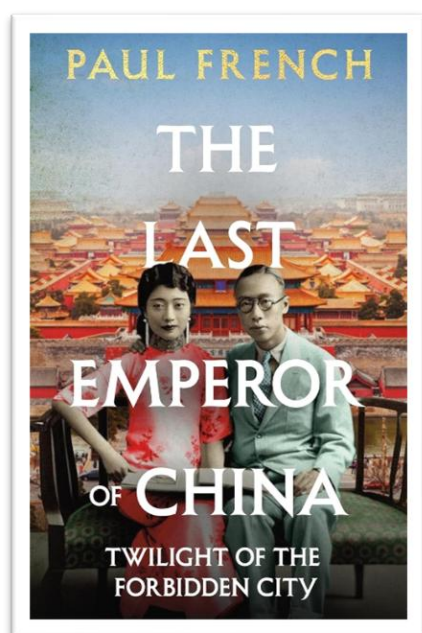
'Always an interesting and engaging writer, Dartnell finds fascinating nuggets in familiar stories.' – *Guardian*

'An illuminating journey through history using our bodies as the vehicle.' – Tim Marshall, *author of Prisoners of Geography*

'Wide-ranging, comprehensive and refreshing.' – Thomas Halliday, *author of Otherlands*

'A revolutionary account of human progress. This is history as you've never read it before: a gripping, red-blooded narrative from a master storyteller.' – Jo Marchant, *author of The Human Cosmos*

'A brilliant, super-informative and enjoyable read.' – Dr Camilla Pang, *author of Explaining Humans*



UK: Elliott & Thompson (Jennie Condell)

US: St. Martin's Press (Charles Spicer)

Publication date: 27th August 2026

Material available: First proofs

Length: 288 pages

Agent: Clare Alexander

Rights sales: China (SSAP).

Co-agents:

Japan – EAJ

Korea – KCC

PAUL FRENCH was born in London and lived and worked in Shanghai for many years. His book *Midnight in Peking* was a *New York Times* bestseller and a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week. He received the Mystery Writers' of America Edgar award for Best Fact Crime and a Crime Writers' Association (UK) Dagger award for nonfiction.

The Last Emperor of China

Twilight of the Forbidden City

by Paul French

New York Times bestselling author Paul French tells the extraordinary story of the last Emperor of China and the final two years during which he and his court occupied Peking's secretive Forbidden City.

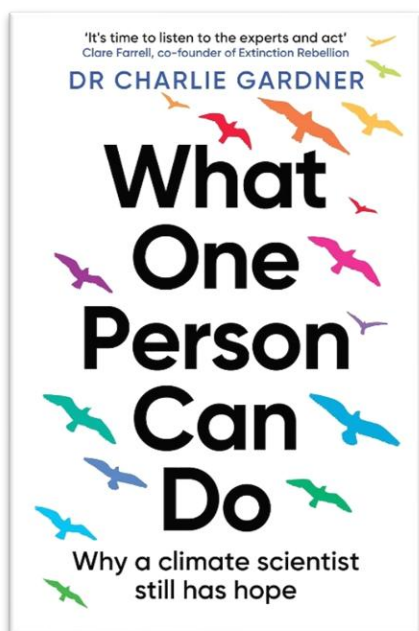
In the early 1920s, the former-Emperor of China, Puyi and his Empress, Wanrong, were sequestered inside Peking's ancient Forbidden City. Surrounded by scheming courtiers, fawning servants, and corrupt eunuchs, Puyi did not know from one day to the next whether he would experience restoration, expulsion, or assassination.

The Last Emperor of China delves into the final years of the Manchu Dynasty, beginning with China's last royal wedding. Contrary to established belief, this was not a loveless marriage between an impotent Emperor and a neglected Empress. Paul French calls upon previously unpublished letters from the Emperor's tutor and the diary of Wanrong's English teacher, her closest companion. These sources shed an entirely new light on the final days of China's last dynasty before the imperial court's brutal expulsion, revealing a loving relationship and an Emperor attempting to assert control of the Forbidden City.

More than just the tale of the royal couple, *The Last Emperor of China* is also the story of the ancient citadel itself—the Forbidden City. It was a haven prohibited to all except the imperial family and their court. It survived looting, conflagration, and bombardment. A redoubt of the old dynasty, the Forbidden City was perhaps the greatest symbol of constancy and power in China—as it remains today.

Praise for *The Last Emperor of China*:

'Paul French matches deep, original research with his unrivalled knowledge of the period to set a spark to the dust of history, conjuring into vivid life the formerly black and white figures of China's last emperor and his consort. *The Last Emperor of China* is another tour de force of historical writing and a fresh, human take on critical period of change in China.' – Simon Elegant, China Bureau Chief, *Washington Post*



UK: Gaia (Jessica Minocha)
Publication date: 21st January 2027
Material available: First proofs
Length: 320 pages
Agent: Clare Alexander

Rights sales:

Co-agents:
 Japan – unassigned
 Korea – KCC

DR CHARLIE GARDNER left his career as a conservation scientist to focus on communicating and acting on the climate emergency. He is a spokesperson for Extinction Rebellion who has been described as a public intellectual and thought leader within the global climate movement. He speaks frequently both in person and across a range of media (BBC Newsnight, Sky News, numerous podcasts, and YouTube). His writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Conversation* and *Byline Times*.

What One Person Can Do

Why a climate scientist still has hope

by Dr Charlie Gardner

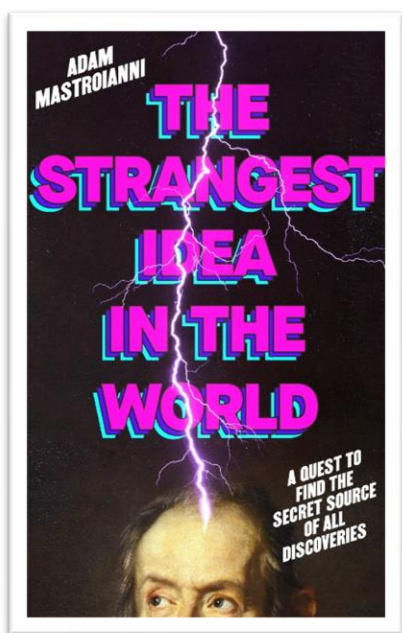
From scientist and activist Charlie Gardner, this is the guilt-free guide for anyone wanting to create a better future.

Many things feel out of our control. Energy prices are fluctuating, wars are ongoing, and big corporations are delaying our transition to a sustainable future. In the chaos of our world, the climate crisis becomes yet another big problem that leaves us feeling powerless.

But scientist Charlie Gardner offers a clear roadmap out of our environmental mess. We know what needs to be done; now we need to follow the steps. So where should we focus our efforts? And how can we get up to speed?

Packed with the latest research, this book gives you quick actionable steps to create a cleaner, thriving future. Ditching the typical advice of turning the lights off or carrying a reusable cup, these steps will energize you to make real change happen - from handling your money to building allies.

Moving from carbon footprints to active handprints, this book removes personal guilt and offers us a new vision for the future.



UK: Viking (Daniel Crewe)
US: Crown (Paul Whitlatch)
Publication date: 25th March 2027
Material available: First proofs
Length: 412 pages
Agent: Chris Wellbelove

Rights sales: Brazil (Intrinseca), Germany (Gutkind), Hungary (Corvina), Italy (Giunti), Korea (SangSang Square), Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Portugal (LeYa), Spain (Urano).

Co-agents:
 Japan – Japan Uni

ADAM MASTROIANNI is an experimental psychologist and the author of the widely read blog *Experimental History*. He holds degrees from Harvard, Oxford, and Princeton, as well as certificates of completion from nearly 200 escape rooms. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Nature*, and on late-night TV. He has taught and performed improv comedy all over the world, and he once came in second on a British cooking show, but not the famous one. He is originally from Monroeville, Ohio.

The Strangest Idea in the World *A Quest to Find the Secret Source of All Discoveries* by Adam Mastroianni

In this raucous tour of the history and psychology of innovation, one of today's most entertaining science writers unpacks the five counterintuitive mental moves behind every breakthrough—and offers inspiration for anyone who dreams of inventing something new.

Why did discovering everything take so long? Today, we're spending more time, effort, and money on making breakthroughs, so why does the data suggest that scientific progress is slowing down?

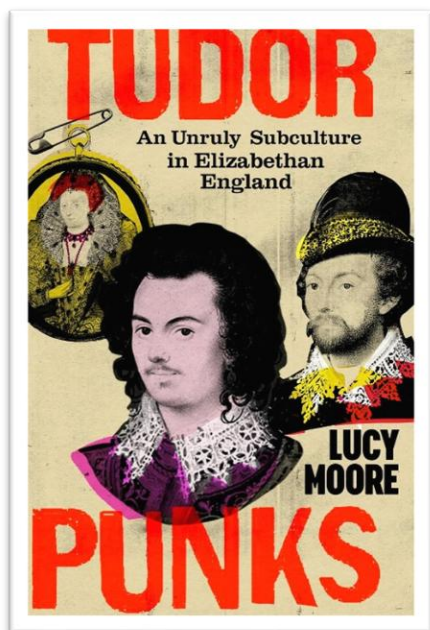
In his debut book, Mastroianni offers an answer: it's hard for humans to discover things because discovery is, in the short term, a bad idea. We didn't evolve to do it, and it's a miracle that we can at all. That's why we're still living in the Dark Ages, where countless diseases remain uncured, and where we accidentally turned up the temperature and can't figure out how to turn it back down again.

But there's good news. We can overcome our psychological hurdles and build a better world—if we embrace the strange. Mastroianni draws on the little-known backstories of discovery—from Elizabethan poop jokes to physicists who set themselves on fire—to unpack the five strange ways of thinking that lead to a breakthrough. Anyone who masters these moves can discover new knowledge, regardless of whether they're a tenured professor in a lab or a teenager in a basement. Our future depends on both.

Chock full of rabbit holes, dead ends, hidden pages, visual tricks, interactive moments, and secret endings, this book subverts expectations, busts myths about science that even scientists believe, and, most importantly, offers an antidote to despair.

Praise for *The Strangest Idea in the World*:

'Mastroianni's ingenious and delightful book explores how we have to fight our own natures to change the world for the better.' – Matt Ridley, author of *How Innovation Works*



UK: Chatto & Windus (Kaiya Shang)

Publication date: 13th May 2027

Material available: Edited MS

Length: 384 pages

Agent: Clare Alexander

Co-agents:

Japan – unassigned

Korea – KCC

LUCY MOORE is the author of nine books including *Maharanis: The Lives & Times of Three Generations of Indian Princesses* (Viking 2004); *Liberty: The Lives and Times of Six Women in Revolutionary France* (Harper Collins 2006); *Anything Goes: A Biography of the Roaring Twenties* (Atlantic 2008); and, most recently, *In Search of Us: Adventures in Anthropology* (Atlantic 2022). Over the years she has written for a variety of newspapers and magazines including *Prospect*, the *Observer*, the *Sunday Times*, *Vogue*, the *Ecologist* and *Bazaar* and reviews regularly for the *Literary Review*. Television presenter work includes the three-part series 'History of Prostitution' (Sky) in 2006 and 'Nelson' for Great Britons (BBC2) in 2002 as well as numerous talking head appearances.

Tudor Punks

An Unruly Subculture in Elizabethan England

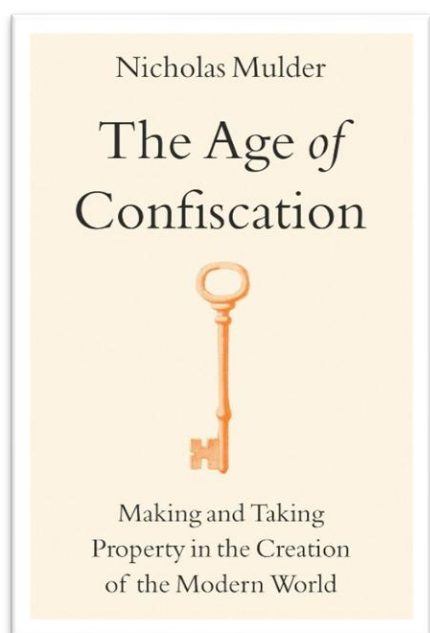
by Lucy Moore

Punk started much earlier than we think: enter the seductive subculture created by three rebellious boys navigating the sparkling world of the Elizabethan court

Three young noblemen – heirs to some of the greatest titles in the land – come of age under the watchful eye of William Cecil, the Queen's formidable advisor. Orphaned and made wards of the crown, Robert Devereux, Henry Wriothesley and Roger Manners are expected to conform, marry advantageously and secure the political order. Instead, they resist.

In *Tudor Punks*, Lucy Moore recasts these figures as rebellious, volatile and dangerously charismatic, part of a generation pushing back against a court defined by surveillance, ambition and intrigue. Moving through a world of Shakespeare, Sidney and Bacon, they inhabit a culture alive with artistic experiment, sexual ambiguity and whispered accusations of treason, witchcraft and religious dissent. The word 'punk' itself dates to this period, meaning scoundrel or whore – but these young men were also punks in the modern sense.

Following their lives from adolescence to catastrophe, culminating in Essex's doomed revolt against Elizabeth I, Moore reveals a group bound by friendship, rivalry and defiance shining a vivid, subversive and new light on a familiar period of history.



UK: Allen Lane (Tom Penn)
US: Little Brown (Morgan Wu)
Publication date: 29th October 2026

Material available: Final PDF

Length: 620 pages

Agent: Chris Wellbelove

Rights sales: Brazil (Zahar), China (Guangdong People's Publishing House), Germany (Fischer), Italy (Mondadori), Korea (Mirae), Netherlands (Alfabet), Spain (Critica), Taiwan (Acropolis).

Co-agents:

Japan – Tuttle Mori

NICHOLAS MULDER is assistant professor of modern European history at Cornell University. He is the author of *The Economic Weapon: The Rise of Sanctions as a Tool of Modern War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2022), and his writing and research has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *Foreign Policy*, *New Left Review*, *n+1*, *The Nation*, among other publications.

The Age of Confiscation

Making and Taking Property in the Creation of the Modern World

by Nicholas Mulder

A bold, revelatory history of confiscation, or the government seizure of private property, stretching from medieval Europe to World War II and illuminating its role in the biggest atrocities—and most revolutionary social advancements—of our time.

Expropriation—the act of forcibly taking property—is usually associated with dictators and unstable countries. But in fact, it has been integral to the political and economic history of the West, enabling the abolition of serfdom and slavery, the Industrial Revolution, and essential parts of the modern welfare state. For better and for worse, much of our world today was built through the coercive acquisition of property, a process that will continue to shape our future.

In this groundbreaking history, Nicholas Mulder charts a new path from the eighteenth century to the present, showing how governments of all kinds—liberal and nationalist, socialist and fascist, imperialist and anticolonial—have dissolved and redistributed property rights in the service of their ideologies and ambitions. Ranging from the French Revolution to the Russo-Ukrainian war, from railway empires to oil nationalizations, and from the confiscation of patents to financial asset freezing, *The Age of Confiscation* upends our understanding of state-building and economic development, showing how they are at their core a struggle over property: its making and unmaking, transfer and conversion, and theft and restoration.

Praise for *The Age of Confiscation*:

‘A masterful and eye-opening account. Mulder’s erudite and elegant prose opens up a whole new way of understanding the modern world system, how we got where we are, and where we might be going. A revelatory global history of struggle between rulers and subjects over who owns what.’ – *Kirkus* *starred review*

‘A major lesson for the age of climate catastrophes, a must read.’ – Thomas Piketty

‘Mulder explains with verve and intelligence that property rights were never as solid as they seemed, and sets the scene for what happens next.’ – Henry Farrell

‘Mulder’s illuminating study challenges one of capitalism’s most enduring narratives.’ – Clara Mattei



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Rights sold: Japan (Diamond)

Co-agents:
Korea – EYA

TOM NICHOLAS is a writer and filmmaker whose videos on politics, history and economics are broadcast on his YouTube channel to over 650k subscribers. His video ‘Griftonomics: Why Scams Are Everywhere Now’, has been viewed more than 1.5 million times and was named one of the best video essays of 2023 by the British Film Institute’s *Sight and Sound* magazine. His first feature-length documentary, *Boomers*, a playful and polemical look at the Baby Boomer generation, was released on creator-owned streaming service Nebula in November 2024.

Scammed

Adventures in the Grift Economy

by Tom Nicholas

When everything feels like a scam, it's probably because it is.

Getting scammed has become a defining feature of modern life. It starts with phishing emails or social media promotions. But our sense of disempowerment follows us everywhere. It lurks in soaring subscriptions, hidden fees, surge pricing and ‘free’ trials designed to be forgotten. Everywhere we turn, it feels like someone is trying to catch us out.

When Tom Nicholas set out to investigate the explosion of online grifters – get-rich-quick gurus, NFT traders and dropshipping ‘entrepreneurs’ – he thought he was exploring a strange corner of the internet. Instead, he uncovered something far more unsettling: the wholesale scamification of the global economy and the entrenchment of suspicion into our social lives and personal relationships.

Part cultural investigation, part economic exposé, *Scammed* explores how profit has become detached from value, where the line between legal commerce and outright fraud has become dangerously blurred and how distrust has become the price we all pay. Because the real scandal isn't that scams are everywhere. It's that they've become the way the world works.



In the Lap of the Gods

A History of Tibet

by Fernanda Pirie

A history of Tibet told from below—through the eyes of the nomads and pastoralists who were so crucial to its foundation and its endurance, and whose current plight tells us much about its possible future.

For almost four hundred years a reincarnate Buddhist deity ruled over the people of Tibet. With its origins in the early centuries of the first millennium, Tibetan civilization long predates the institution of the Dalai Lamas. No other mountain people has matched it in scale, longevity, and cultural resources, save perhaps the Incas of the Andes. But Tibet never developed a centralized government or integrated economy. Its rulers rarely boasted military prowess, made few attempts to expand their borders, and achieved barely any technological advances.

Over the course of two millennia, the Tibetans succumbed to invasions by Mongol warlords, suffered political interference from Chinese emperors, and surrendered to British troops, eventually being overcome by Maoist armies. But throughout most of this history Tibetan civilization survived, flourished, and revived, even under contemporary Chinese domination.

The history of Tibet is one of cultural resilience. It is also a story of the people, widely-dispersed in villages and encampments throughout a vast plateau, who forged their own civilization. United by religious devotion, language, and common cultural practices, Tibetans maintained traditions, which survived internal conflict, successive invasions, and repeated political interference.

US: Basic (Brian Distelberg)
Material available: Proposal
Agent: Chris Wellbelove

Rights sold for previous title *The Rule of Laws*: China (Folio), Italy (Salani), Japan (Kawadeshobo-Shinsha), Korea (Book21), Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Portugal (Saida de Emergencia), Spain (Critica), Turkey (Minotor).

Co-agents:
 Japan – Japan Uni
 Korea – EYA

FERNANDA PIRIE is Professor of the Anthropology of Law, at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at Oxford University. She specialises in the study of law and legalism, with a focus on Tibet. Her most recent book, *The Rule of Laws* (Profile, 2021), is a global history of law tracing the rise and the rise and fall of the world's major legal systems and compares examples of historic law-making worldwide.

This book captures the remnants of ancient lives and traditions that still lingered in the early years of this century. It weaves them back into a history of the Tibetan people to offer a glimpse of how a spectacular civilization arose and prospered against the odds in a dramatic mountain environment.

Praise for precious title, *The Rule of Laws*:

‘Richly informative and consistently thought-provoking. Pirie’s work deserves a wide readership.’ – TLS

‘Agile and convincing.’ – *Kirkus*

‘Fascinating, insightful and gripping. A triumph.’ – Secret Barrister

‘An exceptionally rich narrative.’ – *Wall Street Journal*



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Co-agents:
China/Taiwan – Grayhawk
Japan – Tuttle Mori
Korea – EYA

JAN ROSENOW is Professor of Energy and Climate Policy at Oxford University and has briefed all 27 EU energy ministers, advised the World Bank and International Energy Agency, served as Special Adviser to the UK House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee, and given expert testimony to the European and British Parliaments. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers, is listed among Stanford University's top two per cent of most-cited scientists worldwide, and has close to 190,000 followers across LinkedIn, X and Bluesky. His analysis is regularly cited by the *Financial Times*, *New York Times*, BBC, *Guardian*, *Economist* and *Wall Street Journal*.

DunnFogg Literary Agency

Electrostates

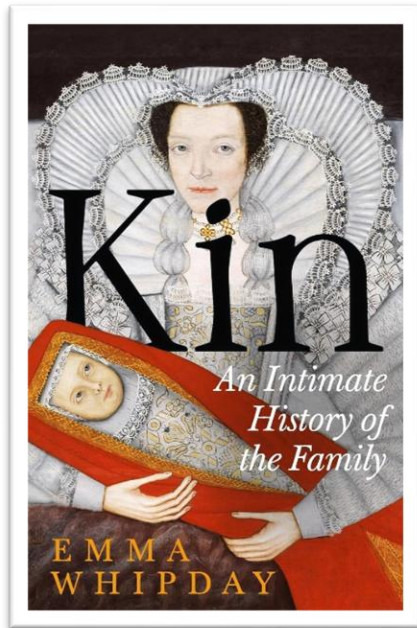
How the Race to Electrify Will Redraw the World

by Jan Rosenow

For most of modern history, controlling energy has meant controlling fuel. The countries that sat on oil and gas reserves shaped the global order; we called them petrostates. But that logic is beginning to reverse. As economies move from combustion to electricity, a new kind of power is emerging: the electrostate, a nation powered not by fuel dug out of the ground, but by domestically generated electricity.

Electrostates' central argument is simple and surprisingly radical. We have spent more than a century building economies around burning things, despite combustion being catastrophically inefficient. Electric systems, from heat pumps to EVs to industrial electrification, can deliver the same warmth, mobility and industrial output with dramatically less energy. Countries that understand this first will gain enormous structural advantages. Those that do not will be left exposed to fuel shocks, geopolitical leverage and industrial decline.

In *Electrostates*, Jan Rosenow draws on two decades advising governments, regulators and industry to transform a subject often treated as technical into a vivid, urgent story of power, politics and everyday life. The book moves from EU energy ministers in Luxembourg to gas bill shocks in ordinary homes, from Chinese industrial strategy to Scandinavian heat networks, and from the backlash against heat pumps to the race between the US and China to dominate the infrastructure of the future.



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Japan – unassigned
 Korea – EYA

EMMA WHIPDAY is Senior Lecturer in Renaissance Literature at Newcastle University, an AHRC BBC New Generation Thinker, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Kin

An Intimate History of the Family

by Emma Whipday

**Wicked stepmothers. Troublesome single mothers.
 Bloodthirsty step-siblings. Family can be a
 complicated business. But where do our assumptions
 – and particularly our belief that the nuclear family is
 best – come from?**

Before the Reformation, families were sprawling, multigenerational and bound by ties that weren't exclusively defined by blood. Step-siblings and step-parents were common; so was adoption and guardianship. But the rise of the Tudors, a new dynasty that would remake Britain in its image, transformed the family in ways that still shape our understanding today.

In *Family History*, Emma Whipday blends history with memoir, literature, mythology and cultural analysis to shed a fascinating light on a rapidly changing social institution at the heart of all our lives.

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