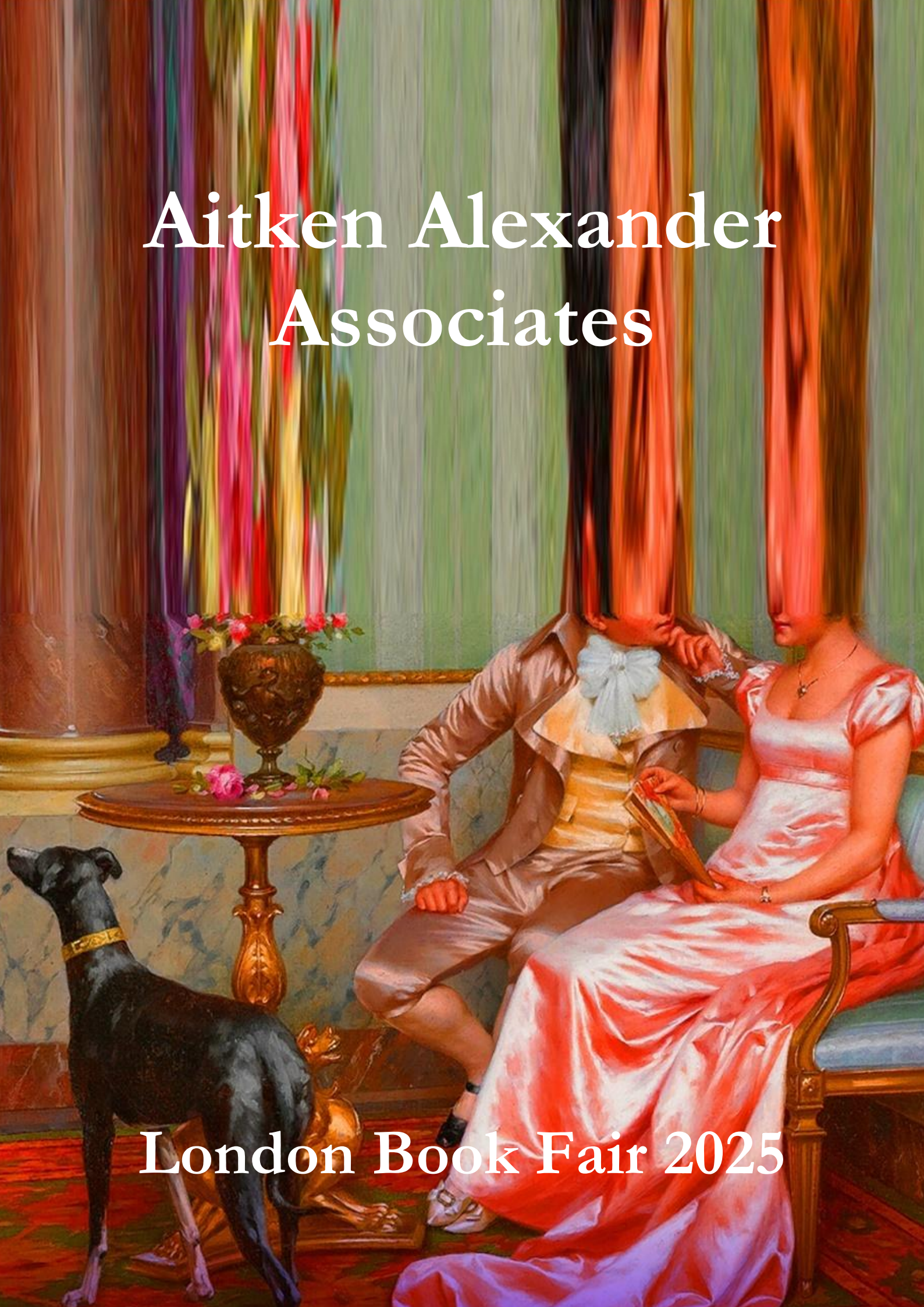


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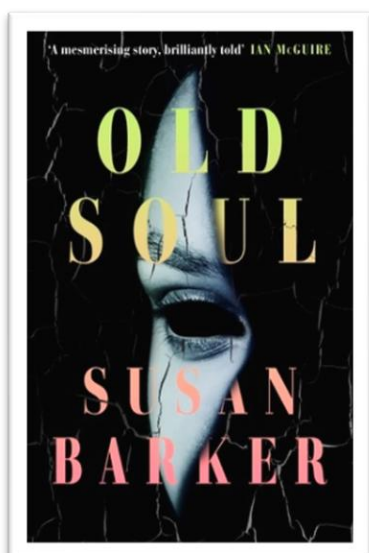
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FICTION



Old Soul by Susan Barker

◆ A *Bookseller* Editor's Choice ◆

**The woman never goes by the same name. She never stays in the same place too long. She never ages. She never dies.
*But those around her do.***

When two grieving strangers meet by chance in Osaka airport they uncover a disturbing connection. Jake's best friend and Mariko's twin brother each died, 6,000 miles apart, in brutal and unfathomable circumstances. Each encountered a mesmerising, dark-haired woman in the days before their deaths. A woman who came looking for Mariko – and then disappeared.

Jake, who has carried his loss and guilt for a decade, finds himself compelled to follow the trail set by Mariko's revelations. It's a trail that weaves across continents and centuries, leading back to the many who have died – in strange and terrifying and eerily similar ways – and those they left behind: bewildered, disbelieved, yet resolutely sure of what they saw.

And, at the centre of it all, there is the same beguiling woman. Her name may have changed, but her purpose has never wavered, and as Jake races to discover who, or what she is, she has already made her next choice. But will knowing her secret be enough to stop her?

SUSAN BARKER is the author of four books. Her third novel, *The Incarnations*, was a New York Times Editors' Choice and Notable Book, a Kirkus Reviews' Top Ten Book of the Year and shortlisted for the Kirkus Prize for Fiction. An excerpt from her fourth novel, *Old Soul*, won a Northern Writers' Award for Fiction in 2020. Susan currently lives in Manchester, where she is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University.

UK publication date: Fig Tree – 6th February 2025

Praise for *Old Soul*:

'Slow-burning tension and lush, atmospheric prose build a creeping sense of dread that lingers long after the final page. Fans of both the deeply personal speculative horror of Carmen Maria Machado and the subtle, character-driven mystery of Haruki Murakami will be enthralled.' – *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

'Barker ups the tension one bit at a time, unspooling the horrors slowly while maintaining a firm grasp on the emotional stakes within each victim's narrative... a thoroughly pleasurable read.' – *Los Angeles Times*

'An immersive, stunningly weird tale that closes like a trap round the reader.' – *Guardian*

'Barker's finely written novel is super-sophisticated horror, as indebted to literary fiction (David Mitchell, perhaps?) as it is to gothic gore. If the Booker prize judges are open to genre titles, it wouldn't be too surprising to see it on their longlist.' – *The Times*

'Sinister, mysterious and gorgeously realised.' – Kalliane Bradley, author of *The Ministry of Time*

Rights sales for *Old Soul*: UK (Fig Tree), US (Putnam), France (Editions Dalva), Germany (Suhrkamp), Greece (Psychogios), Italy (Mercurio); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency; **Film/TV rights:** A24.

Material available: Final PDF (304 pages)

Agent: Emma Paterson



The Lives of Hannah Sherman by Rebecca Birrell

A woman's tongue against the envelope's seal. Perhaps you are aware of the pleasures of this already? Alone in a room, an ordinary woman is surprised by her desires, her lips wet. What kind of letter has she written, and to whom?

Hannah is a young German Jewish painter. She rents a room of an apartment in Schöneberg, Berlin, from a vigorous landlady, Olga. Hannah's career as an artist is encouraged by her lovers, Saul, a curator at the Kaiser Friedrich Museum, and Charlotte, an ambitious but chaotic experimental dancer at a club.

When Hannah encounters a former client of her parents' tailoring shop, Elke, an art collector, at the first public showing of one of her paintings, the course of her life is set in motion. Elke buys Hannah's work and becomes her patron, extracting elaborate commissions from Hannah to paint a series of nudes of her and her female friends, the wives of SS officers. The two women grow close, and an uneasy obsession starts to grow between them.

But after Hannah finishes the commissions, she discovers that her work is being exhibited by Elke under a man's name: Answald Dietrich. The paintings have been tampered with and retitled. Hannah confronts Elke, who insists she is only trying to help her career: the market prefers men. As Hitler comes to power, the Second World War draws ever closer, and Hannah's family and friends start leaving Germany, Elke starts making even more outlandish requests.

And Hannah begins to retaliate...

The Lives of Hannah Sherman is an epic, defiant, and intoxicating history of intimacy, art, revenge, and resistance; an interrupted Künstlerroman about the life of an independent Jewish woman during the ascent of the Third Reich, which bristles both with the extinguished possibility of a generation of European Jewish women artists who had their careers destroyed and their lives ended, and the reparative force of a counter-narrative of Jewish survival.

REBECCA BIRRELL is a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow at University of St Andrews and a Research Affiliate at The Fitzwilliam Museum, where she was Curator of 19th and 20th Century Paintings and Drawings. Her first book, *This Dark Country: Women Artists, Still Life and Intimacy in the Early 20th Century* was published by Bloomsbury in 2021. It was awarded an Antonia Frazer Award for a Biography in Progress by the Society of Authors in 2019. It was a *Guardian/Observer* 'Art Book of the Year 2021'. It was also longlisted for the William M B Berger Prize for British Art History 2022 and shortlisted for the PEN Hessel Titlman Prize, 2022.

Praise for previous title, *This Dark Country*:

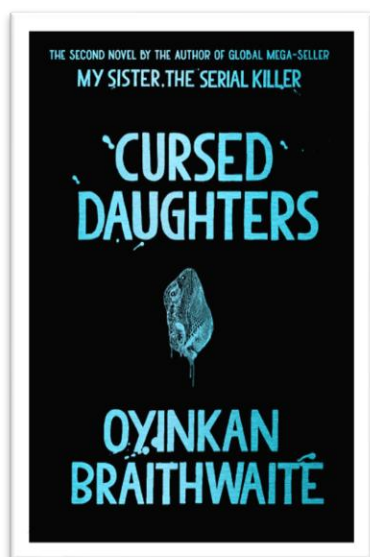
'A striking act of collective empathy.' – *Guardian*

'As seductive as it is scholarly... Riveting.' – *Financial Times*

Rights sales for *The Lives of Hannah Sherman*: UK (Picador). **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Material available: Unedited manuscript (86k words)

Agent: Harriet Moore



Cursed Daughters by Oyinkan Braithwaite

*No man will call your house his home.
And if they try,
they will not have peace.*

So goes the family curse, long handed down from generation to generation, ruining families and breaking hearts. And now it's Eniyyi's turn – who, due to her uncanny resemblance to her dead aunt, Monife, is already used to her family's strange beliefs, as well as their insistence that she is a reincarnation.

Still, when she falls in love with the handsome boy she saves from drowning, she can no longer run from her family's history. Is she destined to live out the habitual story of love and heartbreak, or can

she escape the family curse and the mysterious fate that befell her aunt?

From the author of prize-winning international bestseller *My Sister, The Serial Killer* comes a highly original story about a household of women without men, about heart and head, about young women's passions and old women's beliefs, and about things that are rational and things that we can't explain.

OYINKAN BRAITHWAITE is a Nigerian-British novelist and writer. Her first novel *My Sister, The Serial Killer* was published in 2018 to wide acclaim. It was longlisted for the Booker Prize, shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, and won the Crime and Thriller Book of the Year in the British Book Awards 2020.

UK publication date: Atlantic – 25th September 2025

Rights sales for *Cursed Daughters*: UK (Atlantic), US (Doubleday), Brazil (Kapulana), Finland (WSOY), France (Delcourt), Germany (Blumenbar), Italy (Mondadori), Netherlands (Pluim), Portugal (Quetzal); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Rights sales for previous title, *My Sister, The Serial Killer*: Arabic (Al Arabi), Brazil (Kapulana), Bulgaria (Prozorets), China (Folio), Croatia (Znanje), Czech Republic (OneHotBook), Denmark (People's Press), Estonia (Tanapaev), Finland (WSOY), France (Delcourt), Germany (Blumenbar), Hungary (Athenaeum), Iceland (Hringana), Israel (Miskal), Italy (La Nave di Teseo), Japan (Hayakawa), Korea (1000 Sentences), Lithuania (Baltos Lankos), Macedonia (Antolog), Netherlands (Pluim), Nigeria (Narrative Landscape Press), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Poland (Swiat Ksiazki), Portugal (Quetzal), Romania (Art), Russia (Exmo), Serbia (Laguna), Slovenia (Zalozba), Spain (Alpha Decay), Sri Lanka (Little House), Sweden (Bokforlaget Lind & Co), Taiwan (Spring International), Thailand (Merry Go Round), Turkey (Can), Ukraine (Potiah).

Material available: Edited manuscript (85k words)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Universality

by Natasha Brown

***Remember – words are your weapons, they’re your tools,
your currency***

On a Yorkshire farm, a man is brutally bludgeoned with a solid gold bar.

A plucky young journalist sets out to uncover the truth surrounding the attack, connecting the dots between an amoral banker landlord, an iconoclastic columnist, and a radical anarchist movement. She solves the mystery, but her viral longread exposé raises more questions than it answers.

Universality is a twisty, slippery descent into the rhetoric of truth and power. Through a voyeuristic lens, it focuses in on words: what we say,

how we say it, and what we really mean. A compellingly nasty celebration of the spectacular force of language: *Universality* dares you to look away.

NATASHA BROWN is a British novelist. Her debut novel *Assembly* was shortlisted for several awards including the Folio Prize, the Goldsmiths Prize and the Orwell Prize for Fiction. Natasha was named one of *Granta*'s Best of Young British Novelists in 2023 and one of the *Observer*'s Best Debut Novelists in 2021.

UK publication date: Faber – 13th March 2025

Praise for *Universality*:

‘A sharp, clever take on contemporary culture.’ – *Daily Mail*

‘Enormous, nasty fun. Brown is an expert at identifying the way people delude themselves.’ – *Literary Review*

‘A twisty investigation into the power of language.’ – *Guardian*

‘Brown seems to see deeply into the heart of the strangeness and hypocrisy of modern life.’ – *Observer*

‘A brilliant, unusual social x-ray of modern Britain, stylishly exposing our moral ecosystem. Brave, wry, cool, and thrilling, this is the kind of fiction that makes you sit up and feel alive.’ – Andrew O’Hagan

‘Smart and expansive, keen on the intricacies of language and class.’ – Raven Leilani

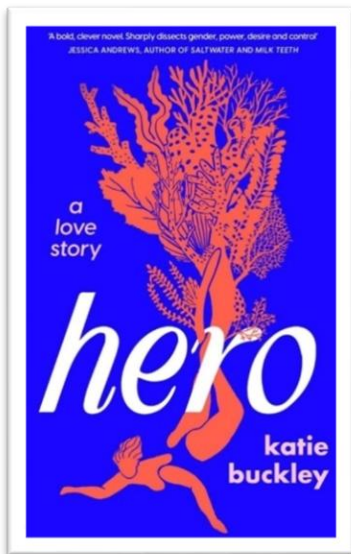
‘Piercingly sly. You could call it crime or you could call it literary fiction, but either way it outpaces its contemporaries in both genres with ease.’ – Jo Hamya

Rights sales for *Universality*: UK (Faber), US (Random House), Canada (Knopf), Denmark (Gyldendal), France (Grasset), Germany (Suhrkamp), Italy (NN Editore), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Spain (Anagrama);
Japanese co-agent: The English Agency.

Rights sales for previous title, *Assembly*: UK (Hamish Hamilton), US (Little Brown), Arabic (Fawasel), Brazil (Alaude), Catalan (L’Altra), Denmark (Gyldendal), France (Grasset & Fasquelle), Germany (Suhrkamp), Greece (Dardanos), Netherlands (De Geus), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Poland (Poznanski), Portugal (Porto), Romania (Curtea Veche), Spain (Anagrama), Sweden (Wahlstrom & Widstrand), Taiwan (Chi Ming), Turkey (Dusbaz Kitaplar).

Material available: Final PDF (35k words)

Agent: Emma Paterson



Hero

by Katie Buckley

A love story for our times: a novel that exposes the precious things women give up in order to be loved, and in order to be free

She's a waitress. He's a chef. They used to be best friends, but now they're in love and living together in a studio apartment. She's also a selkie, Odysseus, and a cowgirl called Quick Fingers. He's a really good man.

When he asks her to marry him, Hero panics. She is lots of things but one thing she doesn't want to be is anybody's wife.

This is a story about stories and what it means for women to be supporting characters in a world written by men. This is, also, a love story. How can you be yourself when you are a product of other people's imaginations? How can you love another person and be free?

KATIE BUCKLEY is a graduate of the Creative Writing MA at Royal Holloway, where she was a Principal's Masters Scholar, and was a 2021/2022 London Library Emerging Writer. She grew up in Canada and moved to England when she was 14.

UK publication date: Tinder Press – 30th January 2025

Praise for *Hero*:

'Buckley pulls no punches while challenging the limits imposed upon women... but her sombre reflections on misogyny are punctuated with playful vignettes... *Hero* is a fearless interrogation of female desire, anger and loneliness.' – *Guardian*

'This bold, clever novel sharply dissects gender, power, desire and control. Tender and acerbic, *Hero* recognises the sacrifices women must make to be the authors of our own narratives. Buckley unsettles the reader's gaze in her excavation of myth-making, asking how we might construct our own legends from the wreckage of our patriarchal history.' – Jessica Andrews, author of *Saltwater* and *Milk Teeth*

'A lyrical exploration of the love we deserve but rarely receive. Buckley's writing is alchemical, transforming myth into truth and pain into hope.' – Amy Twigg, author of *Spoilt Creatures*

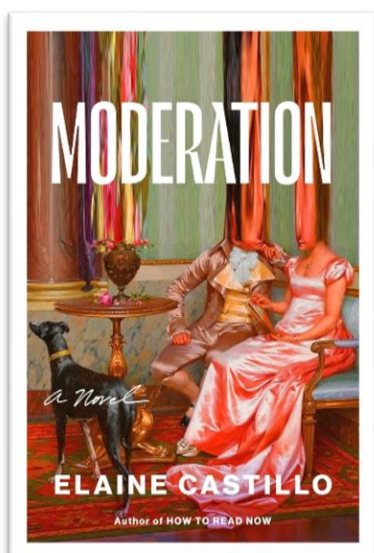
'A thrilling and dynamic debut from a daring new voice.' – Andrew McMillan, author of *Pity*

'*Hero* made my heart run hot. And cold... Buckley weaves anger with love, pain with a willingness to open up the heart again. It was a treasure.' – Joanne Burn, author of *The Hemlock Cure* and *The Bone Hunters*

Rights sales for *Hero*: UK (Tinder Press), US (Scout Press), Germany (Pola, Bastei Luebbe); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Material available: Final PDF (200 pages)

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



Moderation by Elaine Castillo

A bold and inventive novel about real romance in the virtual workplace – bringing Castillo’s trademark wit and sharp cultural criticism to an irresistible story about the possible future of love

Girlie, a thirty-something Filipinx-American, works a day job at a social-media moderation centre, flagging and removing the very worst that makes it on to the internet. She’s good at it, too – dispassionate, unflinching, maybe because she learned by necessity to cauterise all her emotions when she was still a kid - so it’s no surprise to anyone when the social-media company for which she works offers her a big pay rise and an office to start moderating its new venture: virtual-reality theme parks, stunning simulations of civilizations long-since dead.

Girlie takes the job, and it almost seems too good to be true. Almost. Sure, she signed up for having to deal with the ambient racism and misogyny of pretty much any virtual space, but as she begins to explore the intricate worlds that she moderates, she notices two deeply troubling things: that there might be something much darker built into the very code of the company, and that William, technically her new boss, a man whose barriers are as mighty as her own, might just be that long-forgotten thing... Girlie’s type.

ELAINE CASTILLO was named one of “30 of the Planet’s Most Exciting Young People” by *Financial Times* and was born and raised in the Bay Area. Her debut novel *America is Not the Heart* was finalist for numerous prizes including the Elle Award, the Center for Fiction Prize, and the Aspen Words Prize and was named a best book of 2018 by NPR, *Real Simple*, *Lit Hub*, *The Boston Globe*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The New York Post*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *The New York Public Library*.

UK publication date: Atlantic – 3rd July 2025

Praise for *Moderation*:

‘*Moderation* is a novel that refuses to do things by halves. It is a piercing, laser-precise exploration of big tech and its imperialist intentions; it is a breathtakingly funny and complex portrait of immigrant communities in America; it is a highly charged, passionate and tender love story, willing to embrace myriad forms of love. A wonderful book.’ – Kaliae Bradley, author of *The Ministry of Time*

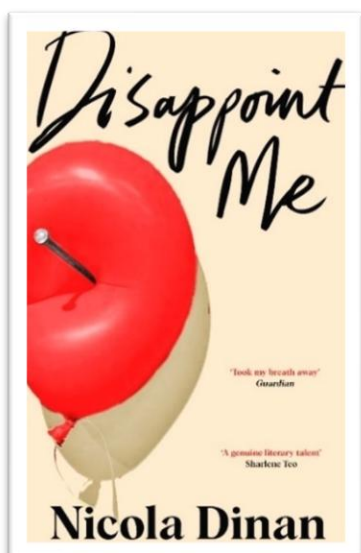
Rights sales for *Moderation*: UK (Atlantic), US (Viking); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Film/TV rights: Chris Lupo chris@lupocg.com.

Rights sales for previous novel, *America is Not the Heart*: Denmark (Gyldendal), France (Delcourt), Israel (Sendik), Italy (Solferino), Poland (Foksal), Romania (Black Button).

Material available: First proofs (90k words)

Agent: Emma Paterson



Disappoint Me by Nicola Dinan

◆ Chosen as a Best Book of 2025 by *Cosmopolitan*, *Stylist*, *Elle*, *Dazed*, *Vogue*, *Another* and *GQ* ◆

From the Polari Prize-winning author of *Bellies*, a love story that grapples with the explosive ghosts of relationships past, romantic and familial, in an exploration of millennial angst, race, trans panic, and the allure of bougie domesticity

Max is thirty, a published poet and grossly overpaid legal counsel for a tech company. She's living her best life! Or is she? The debris of years of dysphoria and failed relationships rattle around in her head. When she tumbles down the stairs at a New Year's Eve party and wakes up in hospital alone, she decides to make some changes. First things first: a

stab at good old-fashioned heteronormativity.

Enter Vincent, corporate lawyer and hobby baker. His trad friendship group may as well speak a different language to Max, and his Chinese parents never pictured their son dating a trans woman. It's uncertain terrain, but Vincent cares for Max in a way she'd long given up on as a foolish fantasy.

Yet Vincent is carrying his own baggage. On his gap year in Thailand a decade prior, he vies for the attention of a gorgeous traveller, Alex, with secrets of her own. Is Vincent really the new face of the Enlightened Man, or will the ghosts of his past sabotage his and Max's happiness?

NICOLA DINAN grew up in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur and now lives in London. *Bellies*, her debut, won the Polari First Book Prize, Diverse Book Awards and Mo Siewcharran Prize, was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award, and was longlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize and Brooklyn Public Library Book Prize.

UK Publication date: Doubleday – 23rd January 2025

Praise for *Disappoint Me*:

'A refreshingly unsentimental and moving exploration of millennial ennui, prickly friendships and toxic masculinity. It eschews essentialism by depicting modern relationships and the flow of power and secrecy with astuteness and compassion, cementing Dinan as one of the UK's most perceptive young novelists.' – Sharlene Teo, *Guardian* Book of the Day

'Nicola Dinan is able to bring an incisive wit to the big questions of modern relationships... a study of human frailty that is riveting, funny and devastating' – Shon Faye, author of *The Transgender Issue*

'A very modern love story, and Dinan is very much the woman to write it.' – *GQ*, 'Best Books for 2025'

Rights sales for *Disappoint Me*: UK (Doubleday), US (Dial Press), Spain (Urano); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Rights sales for previous title, *Bellies*: UK (Doubleday), US (Harlequin), Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof), Spain (Urano). **Film and TV rights:** Element Pictures and the author has written a pilot; **Stage Rights:** Eleanor Lloyd Productions and Kindred Partners.

Material available: Final PDF (300 pages)

Agent: Monica MacSwan



Communion by Jon Doyle

You didn't go to the seminary to become a priest, the rector had explained on their first morning. You went to learn what God was asking of you.

When Mack O'Brien left his home in Port Talbot for the seminary as a teenager, he didn't imagine he'd be back a decade later, unordained and at war with his faith. Back in his childhood bedroom, he remains committed to the idea of a moral life, but isn't entirely sure what that looks like.

He takes a job as a security guard at the local steelworks and begins an uneasy transition into the world of industry, brotherhood and community he once rejected. When the men of the steelworks organise an unprecedented strike in protest against job cuts, he goes along with it. Meanwhile, his mother watches footage of past catastrophes and prays for the dead.

The last person Mack expects to see in the local club is Siwan Roderick – the woman who appeared out of the blue at the seminary one day to make a confession and swore him to secrecy. Mack kept his word. But as the day of the strike nears, tensions in the town escalate and allegiances are tested. Mack's loyalty to Siwan and his desperation to do the right thing will change both of their lives forever.

Communion is a novel of immersive atmosphere, deep intelligence and unabashed sincerity, a powerfully confronting debut about the faultline between the preservation of an idealised past and the will to build a better future. What does it mean to lead a good life in a morally compromised world?

JON DOYLE is a writer based in Port Talbot, South Wales. He was part of Literature Wales' Representing Wales scheme in 2022/23, and won the Writers & Artists Working-Class Writers' Prize 2023. He holds a BSc and MRes in Zoology and MA in Creative Writing from Cardiff University, and a PhD in Creative Writing from Swansea University. His work has appeared in *Short Fiction*, *Hobart*, *Ploughshares Online*, *The Rumpus*, *3:AM Magazine*, *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* among other places.

UK publication date: Atlantic – Spring 2026

Praise for *Communion*:

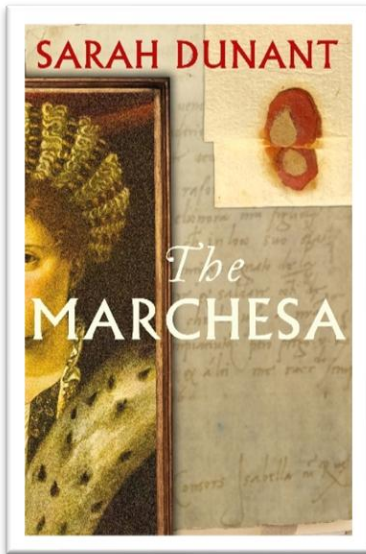
'This is such an electric piece of writing. There is an energy here that is hard to emulate. I love the descriptions, the dialogue, the way it moves. It is a wonderful, brilliant piece of work. Just brilliant. This is someone with a voice, with something to say, with a natural talent.' – Kasim Ali, author of *Good Intentions*

'Jon Doyle is a great new voice - and an important one. His work is real in the very best sense: exactly observed, often funny and unafraid of the greatest themes.' – Tom Bullough, author of *Sarn Helen* and *Addlands*

Rights sales for *Communion*: UK (Atlantic).

Material available: Unedited manuscript (65k words)

Agent: Emma Paterson



The Marchesa by Sarah Dunant

From the acclaimed author of *The Birth of Venus* and *In the Company of the Courtesan* comes a vibrant exploration of the Italian Renaissance through the eyes of Isabella d'Este, the first female art collector and patron of her time

Born in 1474, she ran a famed court, was a fashion icon and a cunning political operator. She left behind a magnificent collection of painting, sculptures, books, instruments, and curiosities. Long since lost or dispersed, all that remains is her correspondence – thousands of letters preserved in a deconsecrated church and convent, which make up the state archive of the city of Mantua.

Inside this cavernous space, the ghost of Isabella is searching for the right scholar to give voice to her story. When she finds her, through the letters, together they resurrect a remarkable life: from a precocious daughter of a Duke and the painfully young wife of the marquis of Mantua to a formidable court consort, collector, patron and political operator, guiding the state through the vicissitudes of war. A woman who unapologetically refuses to be bound by convention.

The Marchesa is Renaissance history at its most vivid, an immersive, multi-layered experience that mixes historical fiction with biography, scholarship and art, including images of both the people and the time. It is also a meditation on our attitude to history itself, challenging how far we can set aside our own values and moral certainties when it comes to understanding those in the past who grew out of very different cultural soil. *The Marchesa* brings a fresh perspective on a pivotal moment in history through the voice of one of its most compelling yet, until now, lesser-known characters.

SARAH DUNANT is a cultural commentator, award-winning thriller writer and author of five novels set in Renaissance Italy exploring women's lives through art, sex and religion. She does a monthly history program and podcast for the BBC. She has two daughters, and lives in London and Florence.

UK publication date: Whitefox – 5th June 2025

Praise for previous title, *In the Name of the Family*:

'Dunant has an enviable command of this complex political scene, with its shifting alliances and subtle betrayals...she has a special gift for attending to her female characters.' – *New York Times*

'Dunant has a storyteller's instincts for telling detail and the broad sweep of history. This, and her glorious prose, make Dunant's version [of history] irresistible.' – *Times*

'Identifying historical blurrings and myths about the period, Dunant's Italian novels are an enthralling education.' – *Guardian*

Rights sales for *The Marchesa*: UK (Whitefox).

Rights sales for *Borgia* series (*Blood and Beauty* & *In the Name of the Family*): Brazil (Record), Croatia (Beta), France (Balland), Germany (Insel), Hungary (Athenaeum), Italy (Neri Pozza), Macedonia (Matica), Netherlands (Orlando), Poland (Czarne), Romania (Humanitas), Russia (Exmo), Serbia (Laguna), Ukraine (Hemiro).

Material available: First proofs (364 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Jean

by Madeleine Dunnigan

Set in 1976 over one sweltering summer, *Jean* follows seventeen-year-old Jean as he navigates the perils of adolescence, his burgeoning sexuality, and the increasing demands of his erratic mother

When Tom comes up to Jean at Compton Manor, a rural alternative boarding school for boys with ‘problems’, it seems as if Jean’s world might change. Dyslexic, antisocial and prone to violent outbursts, Jean has been kicked out of every school he has ever been to. Compton Manor is his last chance, but even here, despite the unconventional teaching methods, Jean is marked by difference. Having broken the rules several times, Jean is on thin ice. But there is only one summer to get through.

Then Tom – confident, charming, buoyed by years of good breeding and privilege – asks Jean to smoke, and he isn’t alone anymore. And when things turn romantic, Jean is tipped into a heady, overwhelming infatuation. Now Jean skips class to venture into the woods, or sneaks across the moonlight fields to see Tom. Fishing, swimming, hiking, their relationship is entwined with the landscape around them. But the differences between Tom and Jean – where Tom is fee-paying, Jean is on a grant; Tom social, Jean reclusive – create too wide a chasm to cross, and things quickly turn sour. Jean’s propensity toward violence combined with his complicated past sexual encounters and Tom’s ambivalence makes him lash out, leading, ultimately, to his expulsion.

Meanwhile, there is the problem of Rosa, Jean’s mother, whose loneliness spills through the telephone. She is desperate to love her strange, beautiful son. He has never easily made friends, yes, but what used to be sweet is now rude. She cannot understand why he is so distant. And it is beyond Jean to reveal the things that she missed, and which now return to him, threatening to drown him. The thought of returning to her is unbearable, leaving Jean with what he feels is his only option: to disappear.

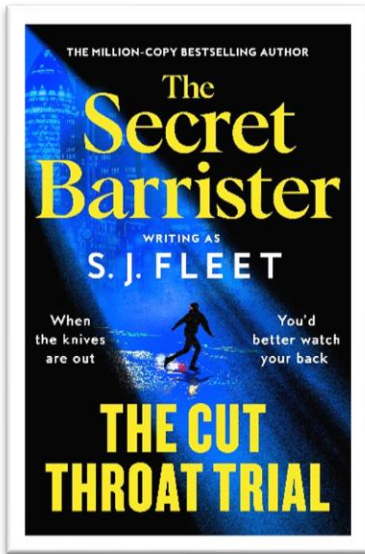
MADELEINE DUNNIGAN is a writer from London. She was the Jill Davis Fellow on the New York University Fiction MFA (2022-24), where she was taught by Jeffrey Eugenides, Katie Kitamura, Jonathan Safran Foer, Brandon Taylor and Raven Leilani. She was a finalist for the Axinn Fellowship in 2024. Her short fiction has been longlisted for the Brick Lane Bookshop Short Story Prize 2021 and the Bridport Prize 2021.

UK publication date: Daunt – January 2026

Rights sales for *Jean*: UK (Daunt), US (Norton).

Material available: Edited manuscript (60k words)

Agent: Emma Paterson



The Cut Throat Trial by S. J. Fleet

The first novel from the million-copy bestselling Secret Barrister, writing as S. J. Fleet

In the early hours of New Year's Day the police find the body of a seventy-four-year-old man lying in an alleyway, a large knife sticking out of his chest. Three teenage boys, each caked in the victim's blood, are arrested and charged with murder. Each defendant denies it. Each points the finger at the other two. Each has their own story to tell, and a barrister at their side to help them tell it.

As the boys and witnesses swear to tell nothing but the truth and testimonies crumble under cross-examination, an edge-of-your-seat drama unfolds. Lies will be told, evidence excluded, and key witnesses

kept hidden. When every player has a stake in the game, who will you believe? And will your verdict match the jury's?

Launching a brilliant new voice in crime fiction, with an incomparable insider's knowledge, *The Cut Throat Trial* is The Secret Barrister at their very best.

S. J. FLEET is the bestselling author also known as The Secret Barrister, a 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* is their first novel.

UK Publication date: Picador – 11th September 2025

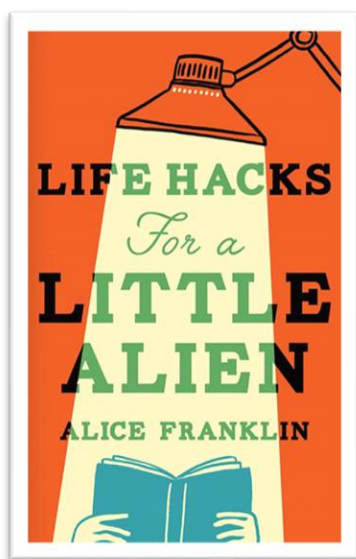
Rights sales for *The Cut Throat Trial*: UK (Picador); **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Material available: First proofs

Agent: Chris Wellbelove

Life Hacks for a Little Alien

by Alice Franklin



Climb up here, Little Alien. Sit next to me. I will tell you about life on this planet. I will tell you how it goes.

Little Alien lives with her mum and her dad in the South-East of England. Her mum has a 'how-to' guide for every situation, and her dad is always kind and always right. And there is her best friend Bobby, who coincidentally has a bob.

But it is only when Little Alien sees a documentary about the Voynich Manuscript – a mediaeval codex written in an unknown language and script – that she begins to suspect that there are other people who feel just like her. Convinced that translating this manuscript will offer the answers she needs, she sets out on a journey that will change her life forever.

Perfect for fans of *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* and *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, a charming, witty and profoundly moving novel about what it feels like to grow up neurodivergent.

ALICE FRANKLIN lives and works in London. She has an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia. *Life Hacks for a Little Alien* is her debut novel. The characterisation of Little Alien is partly informed by her own experience with autism.

UK publication date: riverrun – 13th February 2025

Praise for *Life Hacks for a Little Alien*:

'It's heartbreaking reading...Thought-provoking.' – *Daily Mail*

'Franklin certainly deserves to be mentioned in the company of Mark Haddon and Gail Honeyman, while having found her own, entirely distinctive voice.' – *BookBrunch*

'Franklin delightfully renders her neurodivergent protagonist's attempt to make sense of what's "normal" and to understand how language works... This has plenty of heart.' – *Publisher's Weekly*

'One of the most memorable and charming characters I've ever come across.' – Jyoti Patel

'Wise and playful and tender and beautiful.' – Bobby Palmer, author of *Isaac and the Egg*

'Beautiful, moving, life-affirming... Totally addictive and brilliant.' – Aimee Walsh, author of *Exile*

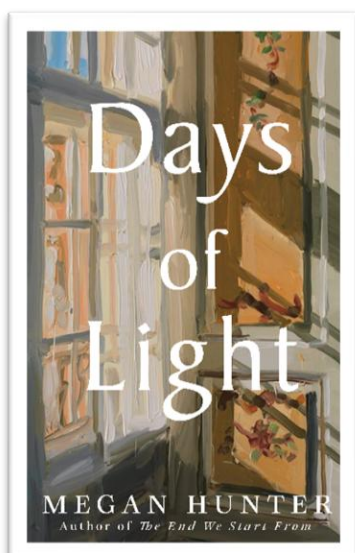
'This is one of those rare books that is so brilliant, so original and lovely and funny, that it reminds you of the point of reading, and renews your faith in fiction.' – Rebecca Wait, author of *I'm Sorry You Feel That Way*

'A hymn to language, human uniqueness, and our fundamental need to connect... Immersive, moving, and fizzing with humour, I couldn't put this book down.' – Paula Lichtarowicz, author of *The Snow Hare*

Rights sales for *Life Hacks for a Little Alien*: UK (riverrun), US (Little Brown), Germany (DTV), Italy (Garzanti); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Material available: Final PDF (304 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Days of Light by Megan Hunter

Ivy would never be able to say, even to herself, what made this light so different from all those she had seen ever before. It was an animal, she would have said, if she knew of any animal that moved or looked anything like it. It was a creature from elsewhere, she felt, without asking herself what that meant. It was visiting.

Easter Sunday, 1938. Ivy is nineteen and ready for her life to finally begin. In the idyllic Sussex countryside, her sprawling, bohemian family and their friends gather for lunch, awaiting the arrival of a longed-for guest. It is a single, enchanted afternoon that ends in tragedy.

Days later, at a funeral, Ivy is kissed by the man she will marry, and grieves with the woman who will become the love of her life. And this is only the beginning...

Chronicling six pivotal days across six decades, *Days of Light* moves through the Second World War and the twentieth century on a radiant journey through a life lived in pursuit of love and in search of an answer. A sweeping, gorgeous story for fans of *Mothering Sunday* and *The Hours*.

MEGAN HUNTER is a prizewinning novelist, dramatist and screenwriter. Her first novel, *The End We Start From* (2017) was shortlisted for Novel of the Year at the Books Are My Bag Awards, longlisted for the Aspen Words Prize, was a Barnes and Noble Discover Awards finalist and won the Forward Reviews Editor's Choice Award. She lives in Cambridge, UK.

UK publication date: Picador – 17th April 2025

Praise for *Days of Light*:

'Think *One Day* written by (and starring) Virginia Woolf...a lyrical and captivating book.' – *Observer*

'Sublime. Wielding tremendous emotional power, it is both raw and reverent.' – Hannah Kent

'Restrained but with so much momentum, an exacting turn of phrase and the ability to make the hair on your arms stand up through beauty and also something much darker.' – Evie Wyld

'A radiant, absorbing novel, intensely alive to the beauty and mystery of the everyday... like the work of Graham Swift, shows us how the world can change in a moment.' – Joanna Quinn

'A jewel of a novel. Brimming with heart and compassion.' – Elizabeth Macneal

'Wonderful, luminous, radiant. Channels Woolf and Mansfield but feels completely fresh.' – Mark Haddon

'The words themselves seem lit up from within. A luminance in the prose itself.' – Cynan Jones

'Liquid, incandescent prose...this is [Hunter's] best book yet.' – Jamie Quatro

Rights sales for *Days of Light*: UK (Picador), US (Grove), France (Les Escales), Germany (Beck), Italy (Sellerio), Russia (Gayatri); **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Material available: Final PDF (70k words)

Agent: Emma Paterson



Wolf at the Door

by Daisy Johnson

A powerful new novel about motherhood, language, community and hope, by the Booker-shortlisted author of *Everything Under*

When Ori was small Ruth would tell her about the island – how one day they'd move there and finally be safe. But when that day comes Ruth disappears and so Ori grows up without her, always wondering what happened. Much later, when Ori has a child of her own, she finds herself exhausted, isolated, desperate. Unable to cope with her new reality, Ori escapes to the past, dreaming of the island and the life it promised. If she tried it again, but this time did it properly, might everything be different? Might everything be better?

DAISY JOHNSON is the author of *Fen*, *Everything Under* and *Sisters*. Her short story collection *Fen* was the winner of the 2017 Edge Hill prize. In 2018 she became the youngest person ever to be shortlisted for the Booker Prize for *Everything Under* and in 2022 she was a finalist for the Women's Prize for Fiction Futures initiative. She lives in Oxford by the river with her partner and children.

UK publication date: Jonathan Cape – Spring/summer 2026

Praise for previous title, *Everything Under*:

◆ **Shortlisted for the 2018 Man Booker Prize and Longlisted for the 2019 Desmond Elliot Prize** ◆

'A force of nature... Iris Murdoch wrote that "the mythical is not something 'extra'. We live in symbol and myth all the time". In *Everything Under*, Johnson carries on this grand tradition by making something very old uncannily new.' – *New York Times Book Review*, 'Notable Book'

'A stunning debut... Blending a deep understanding of character and storytelling examination... the result reminds me of Iris Murdoch... Johnson's affinity for the natural world is extraordinary.' – *Guardian*

'Harrowing, singular...A stunning fever dream of a novel.' – *Publisher's Weekly*, starred review

'Entrancing...passages of exquisite creepiness.' – *New Yorker*

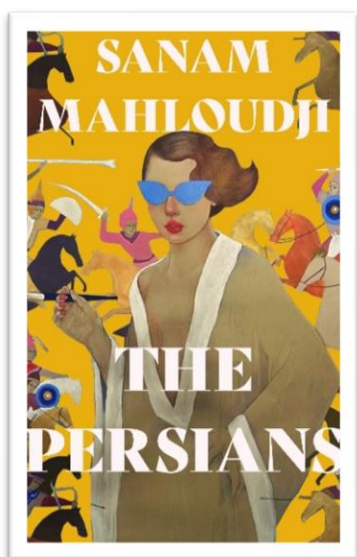
'A deeply involving, unsettling novel that pulls the reader into a uniquely eerie yet recognisable world.' – *Sunday Times*

Rights sales for *Wolf at the Door*: UK (Jonathan Cape), US (Riverhead); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Rights sales for previous title, *Everything Under*: Arabic (Dar Al Mada), China (Shanghai Literature and Art), Denmark (Screaming Foundation), Germany (btb), Greece (Kastaniotis), Italy (Fazi), Netherlands (Koppennik), Poland (Swiat Ksiazki), Russia (Exmo), Serbia (Strik), Spain (Periferica de Libros), Turkey (Eksic Parca).

Material available: Unedited manuscript

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



The Persians

by Sanam Mahloudji

◆ Longlisted for the Women's Prize 2025 ◆

**Meet the Valiat family. In Iran, they were somebodies.
In America, they're nobodies.**

First there is Elizabeth, the regal matriarch with the famously large nose, who remained in Tehran despite the revolution. She lives in a shabby apartment, paranoid and alone. Except when she is visited by Niaz, her Islamic-law-breaking granddaughter. Elizabeth's daughters wound up in America: Shirin, a charismatic-yet-outrageous event planner in Houston, who considers herself the family's future; and Seema, a dreamy idealist-turned-housewife languishing in the chaparral-filled hills of Los Angeles. And then the other granddaughter, Bitá, the self-righteous-but-lost law student in New York.

When an annual vacation in Aspen goes wildly awry and Shirin ends up being bailed out of jail by Bitá, the family's brittle status quo is cracked open. Shirin embarks upon a grand but half-baked quest to restore the family name. But what does that even mean in a country where the Valiats never mattered? Can they bring their old stories into a new tomorrow?

These five women are pulled apart and brought together by revolution. By turns satirical and philosophical, traveling from 1940s Iran into a splintered 2000s, *The Persians* is a darkly funny, heartbreakingly sad, and profoundly searching portrait of a family in crisis at the turn of the century, an American saga reinvented.

SANAM MAHLOUJJI was born in Tehran grew up in Los Angeles after leaving Iran during the Islamic Revolution. She now lives in London with her husband and two children. Sanam was nominated for a 2018 PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers for her first published story. She won a Pushcart Prize for her story "Slut Days", first published in the Idaho Review.

UK publication date: Fourth Estate – 30th January 2025

Praise for *The Persians*:

'Mahloudji writes with a wisdom and confidence rarely seen in a debut, and her sharp observations are humorous and poignant...Multigenerational stories of family anguish and upheaval remain as popular as ever, from Abraham Verghese's beautiful *The Covenant of Water*, to the quiet excellence of Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko* and Elif Shafak's stunning exploration of generational trauma, *The Island of Missing Trees*. *The Persians* earns a place alongside these heavyweights. It is as funny as it is moving, as perceptive as it is pithy.'
– *Guardian*

'Full of outrageous laughter, retaining its fire even in tender moments, and relishing the challenge of locating beauty and complexity within outright gaudiness.' – *Observer*

'Exuberant, whip-smart, infused with melancholy, tragicomic, huge-hearted and sharp-toothed...[A] swirling portrait of an emigre family, glinting with read-out-loud sentences. A joy of a debut novel by the real deal.' – David Mitchell

Rights sales for *The Persians*: UK (Fourth Estate), US (Scribner), Croatia (Fraktura), Germany (Piper), Hungary (Europa), Netherlands (Ambo Anthos), Romania (Polirom); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Material available: Final PDF (384 pages)

Agent: Emma Paterson



Ever Since We Small

by Celeste Mohammed

A family saga which covers a sweeping landscape from the days of British Raj in India, to multicultural modern Trinidad

Written in a blend of Standard English and several flavours of Trinidad kriol, the book follows the bloodline of a young woman, Jayanti, after her decision to become a girmitiya, an indentured labourer in the Caribbean. Jayanti's grandson, Lall Gopaul, seeks to escape the rural village where he was born, but becomes seduced and corrupted by urban life. His son, Shiva, is forced to take a child-bride, Salma, but never recovers from the guilt. Heartache follows for their three children – Anand, Nadya and Abby – who must each find a way to accept and yet move past their parents' failed example.

Along the journey in these ten interconnected stories, the alchemy necessary to turn the Gopaul's inheritance into a 'generation of gold' requires intervention by the living and dead, the 'real' and the mythical, the mundane and the magical, the secular and the sacred.

CELESTE MOHAMMED is a Trinidadian lawyer-turned-writer and the author of *Pleasantview* which won the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the 2022 CLMP Firecracker Award for Fiction, and was a finalist for the UK Society of Authors McKitterick Prize for Fiction. Celeste holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Lesley University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her short stories have won numerous awards including a 2018 PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize. She was also awarded the 2019 Virginia Woolf Award for Short Fiction, and the 2017 John D Gardner Memorial Prize for Fiction.

UK publication date: Jacaranda – 16th October 2025

Praise for *Ever Since We Small*:

'An evocative exploration of survival passed through generations... Through beautifully observed, steely writing sheathed in velvet... Mohammed captures the fragmented inheritances of life and culture from India.' – Ira Mathur, author of *Love the Dark Days*

'A book of great candour and compassion... Mohammed weaves a compelling saga in lyrical and luminous prose, replete with the colour and cadence of the Caribbean. I couldn't put it down.' – Cherie Jones, author of *How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps her House*

'A skilfully woven set of connected stories, teeming with characters so lively they jump off the page.' – Eleanor Shearer, author of *River Sing Me Home*

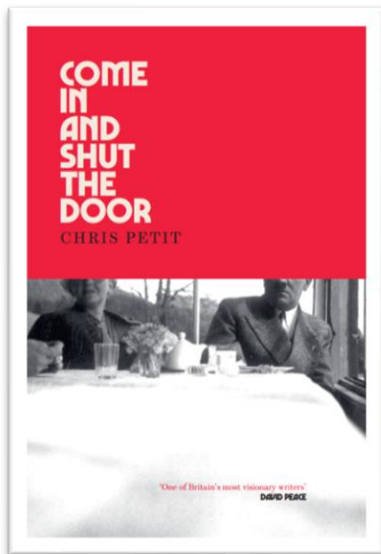
'An important and spell-binding odyssey of indenture.' – Priya Hein, author of *Riambel*

'Masterfully weaves together myth, history, and memory to illuminate the inner lives of Caribbean women whose spirits are tested but never broken by hardship.' – Kevin Jared Hosein, author of *Hungry Ghosts*

Rights sales for *Ever Since We Small*: UK (Jacaranda).

Material available: First proofs (250 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Come in and Shut the Door by Chris Petit

The final days of Adolf Hitler are shrouded in mystery. What really happened in that Berlin bunker? And what happened next?

When Parker loses his faith and drops out of the seminary, he finds himself back in London and looking for work. Unable to find anything more respectable, he accepts an offer to work as amanuensis to a man of dubious character called Robinson. Robinson lives in a big house in Kilburn where he earns a living as a collector of historical objects. He specialises in Russian Icons, old newspapers and other items of more dubious provenance.

One of Parker's duties involves meeting people who have an interest in purchasing the kinds of artefacts in which Robinson specializes. While carrying out his assignments, he comes to realise that his grandfather and Robinson's father both have controversial war records. In fact, the more immersed he becomes in Robinson's world in fact, the more he comes to realise that he is the inheritor of a personal history that leads into the darkest corners of 20th Century history.

With a cast of corrupt police officers, the Russian Mafiosi, Catholic priests, Second World War bomber pilots, David Bowie, Eric Burdon from The Animals, Eva Braun, Heinrich Himmler and Adolf Hitler, *Come in and Shut the Door* is a bold, brave and scatological masterpiece by one of our best and most original writers.

CHRIS PETIT has written a trio of acclaimed 'beyond black' political thrillers covering a serial killer operating in sectarian Northern Ireland (*The Psalm Killer*); dirty money in World War II (*The Human Pool*); and terror, arms trading and the bombing of a civilian aircraft (*The Passenger*); as well as *The Butchers of Berlin* which also features the characters Schlegel and Morgen. He is also an internationally renowned filmmaker.

UK publication date: Scribner – 27th March 2025

Praise for *Come in and Shut the Door*:

'Chris Petit is a master of the dark thriller arts. *Come in and Shut the Door* pushes open a clandestine entrance into another dimension, a Visconti-like world beyond the edge of night.' – Nicholas Shakespeare

Rights sales for *Come in and Shut the Door*: UK (Scribner).

Material available: First proofs (430 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Prairie Oyster

by Sophie Robinson

I could tell you everything I drank and it wouldn't tell you anything

Pearl is a thirty-something filmmaker with a drug and alcohol problem, balanced precariously on the edge of a breakdown. But when she is invited to interview her idol and crush, lesbian cult filmmaker Mitch Meyer, her stilted life is quickly upended.

Buoyed and seduced by their interest in her and her work, Pearl resolves to get sober and join Mitch for a summer in New York, while researching the project she has been toying with for years: a film about Veronica

Lake, a 1940s film star who drank herself into oblivion.

As Pearl investigates Veronica's life, obsessions and addictions, it seems that the two women's stories are running in parallel. With Mitch alternately attentive and then cold, Pearl starts to come undone: is she simply swapping one addiction for another? When the lines between Pearl and Veronica's lives start to blur, it becomes increasingly clear how alone Pearl really is, and how much she still has to lose.

Through the lives and loves of Pearl and Veronica, across three countries, three generations and a hundred years of cinema, *Prairie Oyster* explores what the cost of wanting too much can be.

SOPHIE ROBINSON'S debut poetry collection *Rabbit* (Boiler House Press, 2018) was the Poetry Book Society Wild Card Choice. Her work has been published in *Granta*, the *Guardian*, *BOMB Magazine*, *The Believer*, *N+1*, *The Poetry Review* and *The White Review*. *Prairie Oyster* is her first novel.

UK publication date: Fleet – February 2026

Praise for Sophie Robinson:

'Sophie Robinson's lush and detailed dive into this flayed-open femme heart is irresistible – wild, cringey, addictive, relatable. The ride to hell and back is real, and so perversely enjoyable you emerge sweaty, wanting to go back for more. Sophie is an icon of unrestrained messy girl truth-telling.' – Michelle Tea

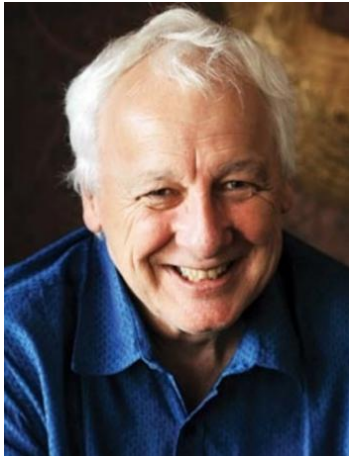
'Nothing excites me more than a novel by the lurid, comic and wise Sophie Robinson. Her poems dazzle us because they are dirty little lanterns filled with specks of story. Now those stories can unfurl. I am Sophie's biggest fan, I swear.' – Eileen Myles

'Sophie Robinson's work is unflinching, unexpected, radical, lyrical, and wholly original. Sometimes bleak, always beautiful, she writes like nobody else.' – Sophie Mackintosh

Rights sales for *Prairie Oyster*: UK (Fleet).

Material available: Edited manuscript (50k words)

Agent: Lisa Baker



Frame 37 by Nicholas Shakespeare

1981. A house party in Michigan. Upstairs, the well-connected young host, Malcolm Levigne, commits an unspeakable crime that is witnessed by three guests. One of these is an English graduate student, John Dyer, who is amazed that Levigne is not brought to justice.

Forty years on, Levigne – now a Pennsylvania senator with a new name – is selected as his party's candidate for the US presidency, following the late-stage withdrawal of the favourite. The party 'elders' need to make sure their new presidential hope has no skeletons in his past.

When they discover the nature of his historical crime, the decision is taken not to remove Levigne from the race but to eliminate the three surviving witnesses.

Only John Dyer knows of the evidence that will derail Levigne's political ambitions. But can Dyer get hold of this evidence before he himself becomes a victim?

Frame 37 is an intense thriller in which we re-encounter Dyer from Nicholas Shakespeare's prize-winning *The Dancer Upstairs* (adapted into a 2001 film by John Malkovich, starring Javier Bardem, and chosen by the American Library Association as Best Novel 1997). In a complex web of events that moves from America to Argentina, Tasmania and the north shore of Lake Superior, it's a novel as heart-stopping as tomorrow's headlines.

NICHOLAS SHAKESPEARE was born in 1957. He is the author of seven novels, including *The Vision of Elena Silves* (winner of the Somerset Maugham Award and Betty Trask Award); *The High Flyer*, for which he was selected as one of *Granta's* Best of Young British Novelists, 1993; and *The Dancer*. He has also written several non-fiction books. He has been longlisted for the Booker Prize twice and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. His books have been translated into twenty-two languages.

UK publication date: Harvill Secker – Autumn 2025

General praise for Nicholas Shakespeare:

'One of the best English novelists of our time.' – *Wall Street Journal*

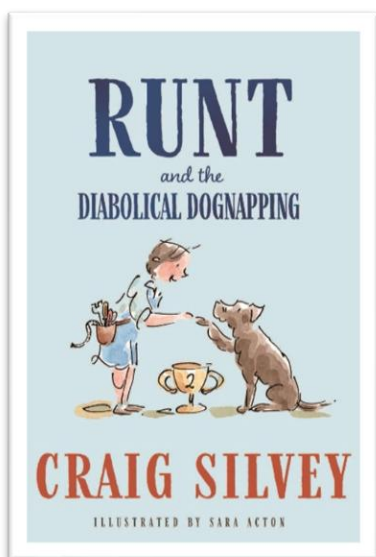
'[*The Sandpit* is] a remarkable contemporary thriller – with shades of Graham Greene and Le Carré about it – but also a profound and compelling investigation of a hugely complex human predicament. Brilliantly observed, captivatingly written, grippingly narrated – a triumph.' – William Boyd

His biography of Ian Fleming was called 'Definitive' in the *Financial Times* and 'Monumental' in the *Sunday Times*.

Rights sales for previous title, *The Sandpit*: UK (Harvill), Germany (Hoffman & Campe); **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Material available: Unedited manuscript (400 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping by Craig Silvey

The sequel to *Runt*, the phenomenal bestseller and family favourite, by the award-winning Australian author Craig Silvey

When Annie Shearer's beloved dog, Runt, goes missing from the family farm, Annie immediately suspects something is wrong.

Runt's doghouse looks ransacked, there's a mysterious fish lying dead nearby, and a strange shriek heard the night prior is cause for concern.

Then the ransom notes start showing up on the community noticeboard...

It's up to Annie and her brother Max – now an intrepid cadet reporter with the Upson Downs Speculator – to rescue Runt before it's too late.

Beyond the diabolical dognapping, the mayor of Upson Downs has announced that the town will be hosting an international canine Tournament of Champions, with Annie and Runt being the star attractions. But without Runt by her side, Annie Shearer must find a very different way to win.

Utterly charming, heart-warming and hilarious, *Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping* is also an engrossing mystery that keeps the reader guessing right to the end, with many surprising twists along the way. A gorgeous, follow-up to a hit novel and hit film.

CRAIG SILVEY is a best-selling award-winning author and screenwriter from Fremantle, Western Australia. He is the author of three critically acclaimed adult novels: *Rhubarb* (2004), *Jasper Jones* (2009) and *Honeybee* (2020). *Runt*, Craig's first novel for younger readers was first published in September 2022, and has sold almost 200,000 copies across all editions in Australia to date. *Runt* has won multiple awards including Book of the Year for Younger Children, ABIAs, 2023, Best Children's Book and overall Book of the Year at the Indie Book Awards 2023, and Book of the Year: Younger Readers at the CBCA Awards 2023. The film adaptation which Craig also wrote was released by StudioCanal in Autumn 2024 and spent months at the top of the box office charts.

Australia & NZ Publication date: Allen and Unwin – September 2025

UK Publication date: Simon & Schuster – 2026

Praise for previous title, *Runt*:

'Writing beautiful stories about unique characters that move people has become a trademark of Silvey's.'
– *Sunday Telegraph*

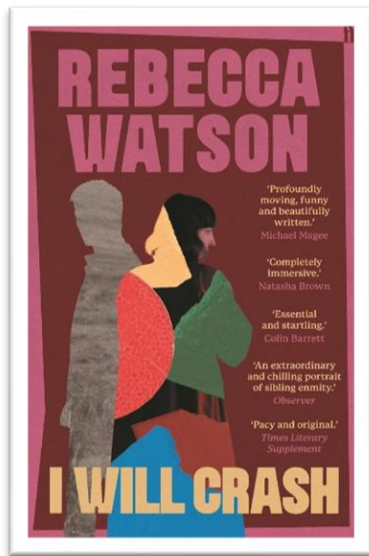
'One of those gorgeous, feel-good stories you are just going to want to read and re-read to your kids, who will cheer and cheer! It's like Babe in that respect, full of kindness and resilience.' – *The Weekend Australian*

Rights sales for *Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping*: UK (Simon & Schuster), Australia/NZ (Allen and Unwin); **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Rights sales for previous title, *Runt*: UK (Simon & Schuster), US (Knopf), Australia/NZ (Allen and Unwin), Japan (Say-Zan-Sha), Korea (Miseghy), Turkey (Gez Yayincilik), Vietnam (Dong A).

Material available: Unedited manuscript (275 pages)

Agent: Lesley Thorne



I Will Crash

by Rebecca Watson

◆ Longlisted for the Dylan Thomas prize 2025 ◆

*It was a peace offering, I knew that
you don't appear on someone's doorstep uninvited,
saying Alright
unless you want to make amends*

It's been six years since Rosa last saw her brother. Six years since they last spoke. Six years since they last fought. Six years since she gave up on the idea of having a brother.

She's spent that time carefully not thinking about him. Not remembering their childhood. Not mentioning those stories, even to the people she loves.

Now the distance she had so carefully put between them has collapsed. Can she find a way to make peace – to forgive, to be forgiven – when the past she's worked so hard to contain threatens to spill over into the present?

From the acclaimed author of *little scratch*, this is a moving, powerfully honest novel about how we love, how we grieve and how we forgive.

REBECCA WATSON is part-time Assistant Arts Editor at the *Financial Times* and one of the *Observer's* ten best debut novelists of 2021. She has been published in the *TLS*, *Granta* and the *Guardian*. In 2018, she was shortlisted for *The White Review* Short Story Prize. In 2021, her debut novel *little scratch* was shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize and the Desmond Elliott Prize and was adapted into a play at Hampstead Theatre and New Diorama.

UK publication date: Faber – July 2024

Praise for *I Will Crash*:

'A one-of-a-kind storyteller gifted with a winningly refreshing mix of traits: unorthodox in form yet compulsively readable, playful and mischievous in spirit while seriously thoughtful.' – *Observer*

'Watson integrates the raw strangeness of the present moment with the dagger-bright flash of memories that will not be eradicated. Once again, her free-form approach allows the reader a uniquely personal experience of the novel's spaces.' – *Guardian*

'Watson has a Woolfian ability to capture the cacophony of the present moment.' – *TLS*

'The devastating tale of estranged siblings that explores grief, forgiveness and love in her unique, compelling style.' – *Financial Times*

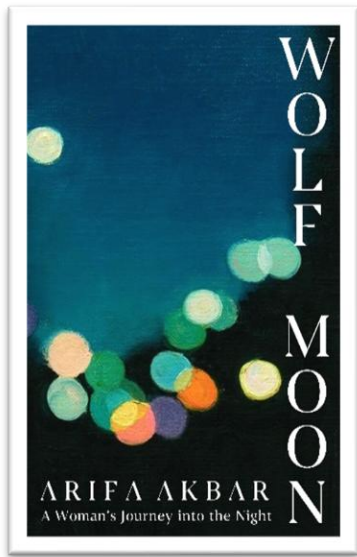
'Completely immersive. An unforgettable ghost story.' – Natasha Brown

Rights sales for previous title, *little scratch*: UK (Faber), US (Knopf Doubleday), France (Grasset), Netherlands (Nijgh & Van Ditmar), Spain (Barrett).

Material available: Final PDF (300 pages)

Agent: Chris Wellbelove

NON-FICTION



Wolf Moon

A Woman's Journey into the Night

by Arifa Akbar

The night is a time of darkness and nightmares, fear and vulnerability, especially for women. And, yet, it is also another world, full of beauty and possibility.

After the sun goes down, insomnia and sleep paralysis threaten. But some have always walked the nocturnal landscapes, with more or less confidence. Others have worked night shifts or other hidden night work: people like nurses, security guards or sex workers. And some have found solace in the darkness, from queer rave culture to religious pre-dawn traditions.

From childhood Arifa's family would walk the night streets of North London rather than stay home in their cold flat, while her parents would tell her and her siblings tales of Djins and witches.

A life-long insomniac, in her new book Arifa elegantly explores how the night shapes our bodies, minds and cultures. Now, as a theatre critic she is accustomed to being out in the dark, and in *Wolf Moon* she has written a personal and artistic journey from fear into hope, embracing the dark before bringing us, once more, into the light.

A rich and insightful journey through the night – and all its meanings – from acclaimed writer and critic Arifa Akbar.

ARIFA AKBAR is chief theatre critic for the *Guardian*. She has previously been literary editor at the *Independent*, as well as a news reported and arts correspondent. She has served as a trustee on the boards of the Orwell Foundation and English PEN. She is currently a fellow of the London Centre for the Humanities. Her first book, *Consumed: In Search of my Sister*, was shortlisted for the Costa Book Awards, PEN Ackerley Prize and Jhalak Prize, and it was longlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize.

UK publication date: Sceptre – 3rd July 2025

Praise for previous title, *Consumed*:

'I loved this haunting, beautiful exploration of sisterhood, love and loss.' – Rachel Clarke

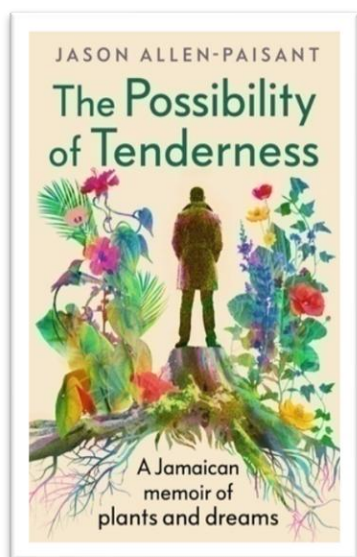
'If her moving, engrossing, elegantly written memoir does not win prizes, there really is no justice in the literary world.' – *Sunday Times*

'A vivid and insightful portrait of sisterhood...Insightful and often lyrical.' – *Guardian*

Rights sales for *Wolf Moon*: UK (Sceptre).

Material available: First proofs (250 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



The Possibility of Tenderness

A Jamaican Memoir of Plants and Dreams

by Jason Allen-Paisant

A cross-pollinating book about the transformative power of plants, the legacy of dreams, and the lessons they offer for living with the earth

The Possibility of Tenderness is a personal history narrated through the lens of the ‘grung’ and plants of Jamaica. It’s also a people’s history of the land, a family saga, an archival detective story through time. It’s the migration tale of a young scholar who arrives in Britain from rural Jamaica to study at Oxford to achieve ‘upward social mobility’ and who now lives in Roundhay Leeds, of how after a long journey away from the green of his childhood, a journey of class aspiration towards city spires, the plants and people of his native district, Coffee Grove, begin

to pull at something inside him again, offering different ways of living, alternative dreams, and the possibility of tenderness and the permission to roam England.

Marrying the local and the familial with global history and unfolding as a timely and immersive tale of land, environment, and the world of plants, *The Possibility of Tenderness* reveals how the history of a tiny rural village in a mountainous region of Jamaica is interlinked with that of modern Britain. And, also what the rural village can teach us about leisure, land ownership and reclamation today.

JASON ALLEN-PAISANT is a Jamaican writer, multi-award-winning poet, and academic who works as an associate professor of Critical Theory and Creative Writing at the University of Manchester. He is the author of two critically acclaimed books of poetry. *Thinking With Trees* won the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize for Poetry and was shortlisted for the Michael Murphy Memorial Prize. His sophomore book of poems, *Self Portrait as Othello*, a Poetry Book Society Choice, won the Forward Prize and T.S. Eliot Prize in 2023. He has recently edited the Penguin Modern Classics edition of Aimé Césaire’s *Return to my Native Land* and written the introduction to the work. His other books include the philosophical treatise *Engagements with Aimé Césaire: Thinking with Spirits* (Oxford University Press).

UK publication date: Hutchinson Heinemann – 20th March 2025

Praise for *The Possibility of Tenderness*:

‘An extraordinary, necessary book...a luminous and loving prose, attentive both to exclusion and reciprocity.’ – Robert Mcfarlane

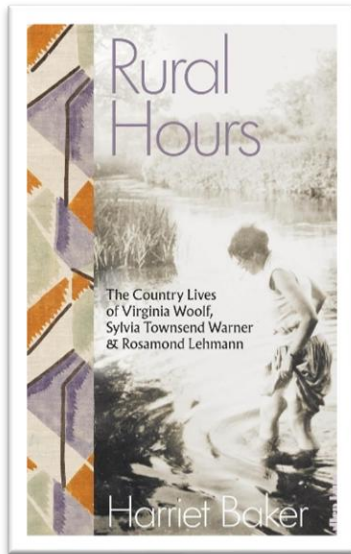
‘Allen-Paisant’s work unfolds with a sense of spirit, sensibility, memory and intellectual acuity to give us what is, no doubt, a beautiful and urgent work of productive experimentation and philosophical reckoning,’ – Kwame Dawes

‘In today’s time of a climate emergency, Allen-Paisant has written a timely and relevant book which joins the dots between the enclosures and clearances of common land in the British Isles and the colonisation of islands and continents elsewhere. I found this book strangely restorative and tenderly written. Hold it in your hands and then dream of the green world.’ – Monique Roffey

Rights sales for *The Possibility of Tenderness*: UK (Hutchinson Heinemann), US (Milkweed Editions); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Material available: Final PDF (70k words)

Agent: Harriet Moore



Rural Hours

*The Country Lives of Virginia Woolf, Sylvia
Townsend Warner & Rosamond Lehmann*

by Harriet Baker

◆ Shortlisted for the Sunday Times Charlotte Aitken Young
Writers Award ◆

◆ A *Times* book of the year 2024 ◆

◆ A Foyles Top Ten read ◆

**The stories of three very different women, each of whom moved
to the countryside and was forever changed by it**

In *Rural Hours*, we encounter these three women at quiet moments – pausing to look at an insect on the windowsill; jotting down a recipe; or digging for potatoes, dirt beneath their nails. Slowly, we start to see

transformations unfold: Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Townsend Warner, and Rosamond Lehmann emerge before us as the passionate, visionary writers we know them to be.

Following long periods of creative uncertainty and private disappointment, each of Baker's subjects is invigorated by new landscapes, and the daily trials and small pleasures of making a home; slowly, they embark on new experiments in form, in feeling and in living that would resonate throughout the rest of their lives. In the country, each woman finds her path: to convalescence and recovery; to sexual and political awakening; and, above all, to personal freedom and creative flourishing.

In graceful, fluid prose, Baker vividly recreates these overlooked episodes, revealing how 'rural hours' defined the lives of three pioneering writers. In the end, she shows, their example is an invitation to us all: to recognize the radical and creative potential of rural places, and find new enchantment in the rituals of each day.

HARRIET BAKER has written for *London Review of Books*, *Paris Review*, *New Statesman*, the *TLS*, *Apollo* and *Frieze*. She read English at Oxford and holds a PhD from Queen Mary, University of London. In 2018, she was awarded the Biographers' Club Tony Lothian Prize. She lives in Bristol.

UK publication date: Allen Lane – 4th April 2024

Praise for *Rural Hours*:

'*Rural Hours* is a page turner - lively, inspiring and beautifully crafted. It's a reminder of the value of rural living and quiet observation for the imagination. Most literary biographers struggle to get the right balance between life writing and critique, but Baker has achieved it seamlessly with this astonishingly confident debut. She has made literary criticism exciting again.' – *Sunday Times*

'Beautifully written, gorgeously produced, absorbing and full of insight.' – *Guardian*

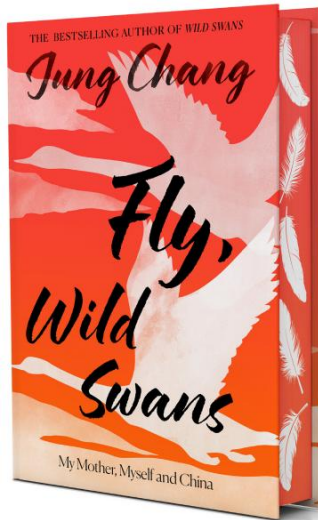
'An outstanding piece of literary scholarship.' – *Financial Times*

'Immensely readable... Baker is extremely good at finding significance in the ordinary.' – *Literary Review*

Rights sales for *Rural Hours*: UK (Allen Lane).

Material available: Final PDF (380 pages)

Agent: Harriet Moore



Fly, Wild Swans

My Mother, Myself and China

by Jung Chang

The long-awaited sequel to *Wild Swans*, the multi-million copy international bestselling sensation

Jung Chang's *Wild Swans* was a book that defined a generation, an epic personal history of Jung, her mother and grandmother – 'three daughters of China'. The book opens with her grandmother's birth – and foot binding – in 1909, when China was under the last emperor, through Mao Zedong's rule and the Cultural Revolution during which Jung's parents were subject to unbelievable ordeals. It finishes in 1978 when the Mao era officially ended, and Deng Xiaoping started the post-Mao 'Reforms'. Jung, at that propitious juncture, became one of the first Chinese to leave Communist China for the West.

Nearly half a century on, China has risen from a decrepit and isolated state to a world power, the challenger to the United States' dominant position in the world. Through those decades, Jung's life has been intimately entwined with her native land. Her experiences in those years were rich and complex - especially so because all her books were (and are) banned.

Fly, Wild Swans is the follow-up to *Wild Swans* and brings the story of Jung's family – along with that of China – up to date. The book is in many ways Jung's love letter to her mother. It is inevitably also about her grandmother and father both of whom died tragically in the Cultural Revolution, but they are often recalled in this book. In fact, the past is never far away in Jung's subsequent life. It has shaped her, and moulded the present China, and what's more, it promises to herald the future.

China is now at another watershed moment: Chairman Xi Jinping is seeking to turn the country back towards the old Maoist days and build a Communist state with capitalist features. This new Xi era is greatly affecting the lives of Jung and her mother. Through the arc of their respective lives, she gives an immersive, deeply moving and unforgettable account of what it is like to live in a communist dictatorship and the threats modern China poses to the international world order. It is family history at its best.

JUNG CHANG is an internationally bestselling author, whose books have been translated into more than 40 languages. During the Cultural Revolution, she worked as a 'barefoot' doctor, a steelworker and an electrician, before becoming a student and leaving China for Britain in 1978. She was subsequently awarded a scholarship by the University of York, where she obtained a PhD in Linguistics in 1982 – the first person from the People's Republic of China to receive a doctorate from a British university. Since then, she has written *Wild Swans*, which has sold more than 15 million copies, and a groundbreaking trilogy of the history and personalities of modern China. In 2024, she was awarded a CBE for services to literature and history.

UK publication date: William Collins – 16th September 2025

Publishers for *Wild Swans* (Historic and Current): Arabic (Dar Al-Saqi), Brazil (Companhia das Letras), Catalan (Circe), Croatia (Algoritam), Czech (Euromedia), Denmark (Gyldendal), Estonia (Kupar), Finland (Otava), France (Plon), Germany (Droemer Knaur), Greece (Hestia), Hungary (Europa), Iceland (Forlagid), Italy (Mauri Spagnol), Japan (Kodansha), Korea (Kachi), Lithuania (LWUP), Netherlands (Meulenhoff), Norway (Gyldendal Norsk), Poland (Znak), Portugal (Quetzal), Romania (Curtea Veche), Russia (MIF), Serbia (Alfa Narodna), Slovakia (Ikar), Spain (Circe), Sweden (Raben Prisma), Thailand (Nanmee), Turkey (Inkilap Kitabevi), Ukraine (Knigolove), Vietnam (Nha Nam); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Material available: Edited manuscript (100k words)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Another State is Possible

Why Governments Put Profit Before Planet – And How They Can Change

by Rosie Collington

2015 was meant to mark a turning point in the fight against climate change. Yet a decade after the landmark Paris Agreement, the world remains dangerously off track. This is 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, and meaningful progress remains alarmingly slow.

Drawing on years of research and first-hand interviews, political economist Collington offers a clear-eyed diagnosis of the systemic failures driving climate inaction. She challenges the conventional excuses of the state – pandemics, wars, economic shocks – and lays bare the real problem: the flawed logic of what she terms ‘Green State Capitalism’, an approach that ties environmental objectives to capitalist economic expansion.

By dissecting the mechanisms of green state capitalism, from financing and industrial policy to scientific expertise, Collington spotlights both the promises and flaws of state-led climate action and exposes its contradictions. Her journey takes her from Chile, a nation celebrated for its renewable energy advancements yet ecologically devastated by mass deforestation, to Ireland, where a 45.8% growth in renewable energy sources is almost entirely undermined by the building of new data centres that consume 18% of the country’s total electricity. We’re living in an ‘age of stasis’, she argues, stuck in a cycle of failure that is standing in the way of radical transformative action.

This book offers no easy answers or false optimism. Instead, it argues that 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 pave the way for genuine change and redefine *what* and *who* the state exists for.

Another State Is Possible 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.

ROSIE COLLINGTON is a political economist and academic. With Mariana Mazzucato she is the author of *The Big Con*, published by Allen Lane in the UK, Penguin Press in the US and in nine other territories. She has appeared on BBC Radio 4, NPR, 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.

Rights sales for *Another State is Possible*: UK (John Murray). **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Material available: Proposal; **Delivery:** December 2026

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



Cage-Bird *A Woman and her Choices* by Sophie Elmhirst

The extraordinary story of an evangelical Christian cult, a narcissistic cult leader; forcible imprisonment in a lunatic asylum; Victorian morality and social expectation; courtroom dramas and madness and faith. And at the heart of it all, one woman trying to defy the conventions of her time and live her chosen life.

This is the true story of Louisa Jane Nottidge, an English woman, born in 1802, who at the age of forty-four, followed her sisters into an eccentric Christian cult in Somerset.

Over the next ten years Louisa was rescued from the cult by her brothers, then told her family she wanted to return to the cult; was declared insane by doctors, imprisoned in a lunatic asylum by her mother, escaped the asylum to return to the cult, was recaptured and re-imprisoned in the asylum, released from the asylum when it was decided she was not insane, and then, in a high-profile London court case covered by all the national newspapers, sued her family for her false imprisonment - and won.

Yet despite the extensive reports of the men involved: brothers, vicars, doctors, lawyers, journalists, Louisa's own voice is absent. From the moment she was born, Louisa was supposed to be passive, pious and acquiescent.

Sophie Elmhirst, author of the Nero-winning biography *Maurice & Maralyn*, uncovers the choices and actions of a woman fighting to live her chosen life, and asks: who or what decides how our lives unfold? Is it our parents, our siblings, our peers, our class, our sex, our race, our society and its expectations? Or is it ourselves?

Praise for previous title, *Maurice and Maralyn*:

◆ Winner of the Nero Book Award for Non-Fiction ◆

◆ *Waterstones* 'Book You Need to Read in 2024', *Observer* Best Nonfiction of 2024, *Economist* Book of the Year 2024, *Guardian* Book of the Year 2024 ◆

'Captivating and fitfully claustrophobic.' — *Guardian*

'Speeds along like a novel... The pacing, not to mention the detail, is remarkable.' — *Telegraph*

'Riveting, told in illuminating detail with neat turns of phrase... This is a remarkable story that needed rescuing.' — *Sunday Times*

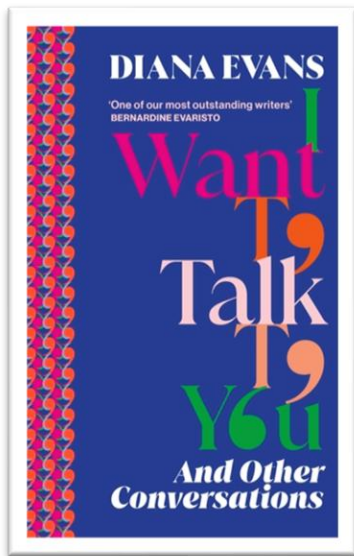
'Superb... Elmhirst is good at evoking an era that feels both familiar and like deep history... You really do hang on to her every word.' — *Spectator*

Rights sales for *Cage-Bird*: UK (Chatto & Windus).

Rights sales for previous title, *Maurice and Maralyn*: UK (Chatto), US (Riverhead), Czech Republic (Euromedia), France (Editions Paulsen), Germany (Goldmann Verlag), Hungary (Corvina Kiado), Lithuania (Alma Littera), Portugal (Livros Zigurate), Romania (Act si Politon); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni. **Film and TV rights:** Meduza Meduza Ltd with BBC Film.

Material available: Proposal; **Delivery:** December 2026

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



I Want to Talk to You

And Other Conversations

by Diana Evans

Crafted over twenty-five years, *I Want to Talk to You* invites you into a conversation about literature, art and music, identity, grief and everything in between

As a young journalist, Diana Evans was catapulted overnight into the role of culture editor, going on to interview a roster of stars including Lauryn Hill, Viola Davis, Alice Walker and Edward Enninfu.

In these portraits of contemporary icons, the author remains the observer. Alongside them, in pieces collected here for the first time, we also see her turning the lens on herself. We watch as she dances on stages in London and travels through Cuba. We sit beside her desk as

she develops her voice as a writer, shaped by her love for Jean Rhys, James Baldwin and Toni Morrison. We walk by her side as she navigates the world – her family and the midlife sandwich, reflections on fashion, yoga, the British monarchy and lockdowns, and the lasting impact of George Floyd and Grenfell.

DIANA EVANS is the author of the novels *26a*, *The Wonder*, *Ordinary People* and *A House for Alice*. She was the inaugural winner of the Orange Award for New Writers for *26a*, which was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel, the *Guardian* First Book, the Commonwealth Best First Book and the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. *Ordinary People* won the 2019 South Bank Sky Arts Award for Literature and was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Rathbones Folio Prize, the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction, for which *A House for Alice* was also a finalist. A former dancer, she is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. She lives in London.

UK publication date: Chatto & Windus – 6th February 2025

Praise for *I Want to Talk to You*:

‘There is a depth and integrity to Diana Evans’s writing; every piece feels beautifully sewn together and complete.’ – Bernardine Evaristo

‘The most succinct and accurate distinction between the modes of journalism and fiction that I have encountered.’ – *Observer*

‘A pleasure and an invigoration.’ – *Guardian*

‘Entertaining, instructive and often moving, her writing is witty and seductive. A glorious gallimaufry of a book that grabs you by the lapels and insists on you listening.’ – *Financial Times*

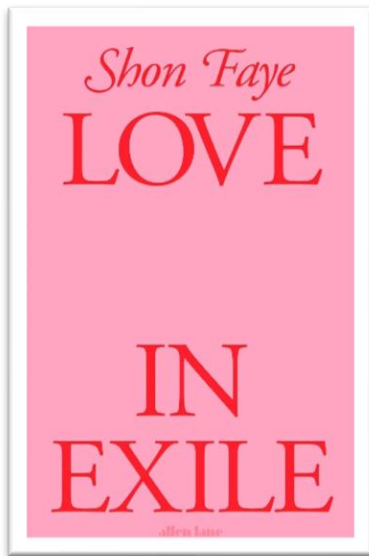
‘An intimate and moving meditation on the mysteries of writing and the pleasures of reading.’ – Ekow Eshun

Rights sales for *I Want to Talk to You*: UK (Chatto & Windus), US (Pantheon).

Rights sales for previous title, *26a*: Denmark (Aronsen), France (Editions Robert Laffont), Germany (BTB Verlag), Israel (Matar), Italy (Terre di Mezzo), Netherlands (Arena), Norway (Schibsted), Poland (Muza), Portugal (Aletheia), Serbia (Laguna).

Material available: Final PDF (256 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Love in Exile by Shon Faye

◆ A *Sunday Times* Bestseller ◆

With heartfelt vulnerability, confronting rigour and sharp wit, *Love in Exile* combines life writing and political writing to consider what it means to long for love in a lonely age

Love, in its many forms, is supposedly attainable for us all. But for most people, especially women, success with “love” – the yardstick we use to measure our value across romance, parenthood, sex, religion, and friendship – can feel out of reach, an experience frequently ascribed to personal failing. This sense of unworthiness is, according to Shon Faye, “a form of *exile*: an intentional, punitive banishment that serves political ends.” Faye, a trans woman in her thirties, has felt isolated from love

as long as she can remember. So after the devastation of her first heartbreak, she figured it was time to find out why.

The resulting investigation, *Love in Exile*, boldly reframes love’s elusiveness as a collective question. Conversationally frank and intellectually ambitious, these eight voice-driven essays unpack the norms that govern love in our time with the insight of a shrewd outsider. Here, Faye examines her breakups with cis men alongside lessons from Lana Del Rey and Alain de Botton, explores the lovelessness that fuelled her time as an addict, tackles the relationship between feminine self-worth and motherhood, and finally attempts to discover genuine self-acceptance.

SHON FAYE is a writer, presenter and the author of the award-winning *Sunday Times* bestseller *The Transgender Issue*, which was published in 2021 and has since been or is due to be published in seven languages. She also hosted the critically acclaimed LGBTQ+ history podcast, *Call Me Mother*. She is a co-presenter on Novara Media’s news programme and writes an advice column at US Vogue.

UK publication date: Allen Lane – 6th February 2025

Praise for *Love in Exile*:

‘Uncommonly wise and honest. *Love in Exile* flooded me with a sense of continuity and hope. A masterpiece, from start to finish.’ – Maggie Nelson

‘A brilliantly perceptive manifesto on love in all its forms.’ – *Independent*

‘A book that for lovers in this era will be both a comfort and a sword.’ – Torrey Peters

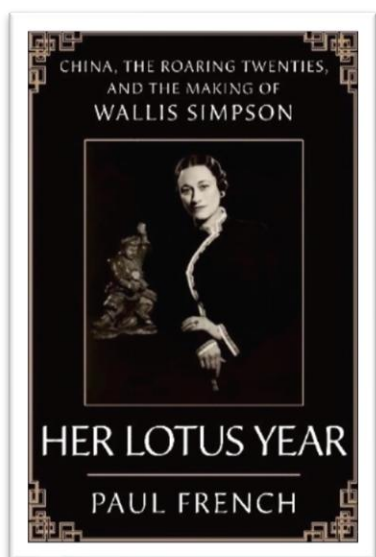
‘This is a memoir but is also a kind of self-help book. Like [bell] hooks, Faye is prepared to mine every experience, and share every hard-won lesson to try and get her reader to love in better ways. Her writing will shake your illusions about love, but remind you of the value of even attempting it.’ – *Guardian*

‘Smart, searching, and moving. Both disarming and self-possessed. I found it as thought-provoking as I found it helpful.’ – Katherine Angel

Rights sales for *Love in Exile*: UK (Allen Lane), US (FSG), Germany (Hanser), Italy (Edizioni Di Atlantide), Spain (Blackie Books); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Material available: Final PDF (200 pages)

Agent: Emma Paterson



Her Lotus Year

China, the Roaring Twenties, and the Making of Wallis Simpson

by Paul French

***New York Times* bestselling author Paul French examines a controversial and revealing period in the early life of the legendary Wallis, Duchess of Windsor – her one year in China**

Before she was the Duchess of Windsor, Bessie Wallis Warfield was Mrs. Wallis Spencer, wife of Earl “Win” Spencer, a US Navy aviator. From humble beginnings in Baltimore, she rose to marry a man who gave up his throne for her. But what made Wallis Spencer, Navy Wife, the woman who could become the Duchess of Windsor? The answers lie in her one-year sojourn in China.

In her memoirs, Wallis described her time in China as her “Lotus Year,” referring to Homer’s Lotus Eaters, a group living in a state of dreamy forgetfulness, never to return home. Though faced with challenges, Wallis came to appreciate traditional Chinese aesthetics. China moulded her in terms of her style and provided her with friendships that lasted a lifetime. But that “Lotus Year” would also later be used to damn her in the eyes of the British Establishment.

The British government’s supposed “China Dossier” of Wallis’s rumoured amorous and immoral activities in the Far East was a damning concoction, portraying her as sordid, debauched, influenced by foreign agents, and unfit to marry a king. Instead, French, an award-winning China historian, reveals Wallis Warfield Spencer as a woman of tremendous courage who may have acted as a courier for the US government, undertaking dangerous undercover diplomatic missions in a China torn by civil war.

Her Lotus Year is an untold story in the colourful life of a woman too often maligned by history.

PAUL FRENCH was born in London, and lived and worked in Shanghai for many years. He is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling and Edgar Award-winning *Midnight in Peking*, *Carl Crow* and *Through the Looking Glass*

UK publication date: Elliot & Thompson – 12th November 2024

Praise for *Her Lotus Year*:

‘A fascinating and very fun read.’ – Lisa See, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lady Tan’s Circle of Women* and *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*

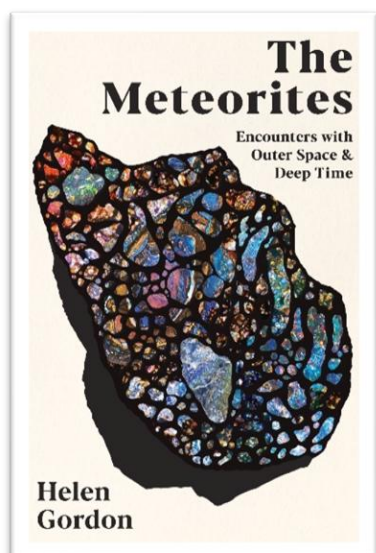
‘Riveting and fascinating, Paul French has put flesh on the bones in his detailed account of what Wallis really did in her ‘Lotus Year.’ – Anne Sebba, *New York Times* bestselling author of *That Woman*

Rights sales for *Her Lotus Year*: UK (Elliot & Thompson), US (St Martin’s Press), China (SSAP).

Rights sales for previous title, *Midnight in Peking*: Brazil (Editora Fundmento Educacional), China (SSAP), France (Belfond), Italy (Einaudi), Japan (Engine Room Co), Norway (Oktober), Poland (Czarne), Portugal (Bertrand), Spain (Platoforma), Taiwan (Locus), Vietnam (1980 Books).

Material available: Final PDF (320 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



The Meteorites

Encounters with Outer Space and Deep Time

by Helen Gordon

From the acclaimed author of *Notes from Deep Time*, an exploration of meteorites and how they impact our own lives

From your window you can see the stars and distant planets: light years away, it's easy to think that our existences and theirs will never intersect. Yet meteorites – mysterious, irregular rocks of sometimes immense value – connect us with the vastness of the universe. They may have brought the first life to our planet, and today they still reveal extraordinary scientific insights.

Helen Gordon reveals the fascinating stories of fallen meteorites and the lives they've touched – from collectors to kings, scientists to farmers. She meets amateur astronomers and gem dealers, goes meteorite hunting across rooftops and learns what objects moving through space can tell us about the fragility of life on Earth.

HELEN GORDON is a writer and natural historian. Her books include *Being a Writer* and *Notes from Deep Time*, and a novel, *Landfall*. She has written for the *1843* magazine, the *Guardian* and *Wired*, and teaches Creative Writing at the University of Hertfordshire.

UK publication date: Profile – 6th February 2025

Praise for *The Meteorites*:

'Performs a similar trick to Samantha Harvey's recent Booker-winning novel *Orbital*, flipping our perspective so that we see our individual, terrestrial lives through the lens of deep space and deep time... *The Meteorites* conjures a small epiphany about our own place in the universe.' – *Sunday Times*

'Dazzling... One of the richest seams in *The Meteorites* is in fact more folkloric than scientific ... a book in which there is an infinite amount to explore, chafing against the difficulties of space and deep time, but it's Gordon's eye for these human tales that keeps *The Meteorites* in focus.' – *Financial Times*

'The real strength of [Gordon's] book is the compelling case that meteorites illuminate something else entirely, the human spirit.' – *TLS*

'Gripping, deft and riveting. Gordon moves with total mastery from the human to the cosmic and back again.' – Noreen Masud, author of *A Flat Place*

'A brilliantly engaging tour of meteorites.' – Travis Elborough, author of *Atlas of Unexpected Places*

'An absolutely fascinating read.' – Mark Haddon, author of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

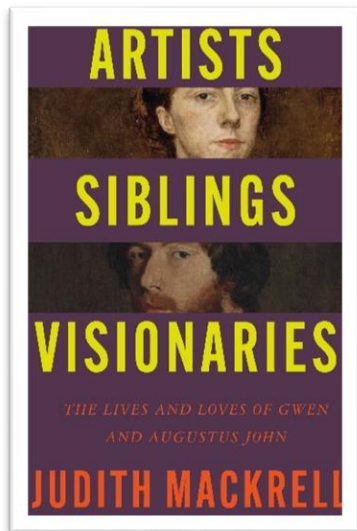
'An engrossing blend of the scientific and the human.' – *Observer*

Rights sales for *Meteorites*: WEL (Profile); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Rights sales for previous title, *Notes from Deep Time*: UK (Profile), China (Tsinghua University Press), Italy (Codice), Korea (Kachi), Netherlands (Meulenhoff), Switzerland (Quanto), Turkey (Yeditepe).

Material available: Final PDF (288 pages)

Agent: Lisa Baker



Artists, Siblings, Visionaries

The Lives and Loves of Gwen and Augustus John

by Judith Mackrell

Acclaimed biographer Judith Mackrell turns her attention to British brother and sister artists, Gwen and Augustus John

In many ways they were polar opposites.

Augustus was the larger of the two; vivid, volatile and promiscuous, he was a hero among romantics and bohemians, celebrated as one of the great British talents of his generation.

As a woman, Gwen's place in the art world was much smaller, and her private way of working and reserved nature meant it was only long after her death that her tremendous gifts were fully acknowledged. But her temperament was as turbulent as her brother's. She formed passionate attachments to men and woman, including a long affair with the sculptor Rodin.

And there were other ways in which the two Johns were remarkably alike, as Mackrell vividly reveals. The result is a powerful portrait of two prodigiously talented artists and visionaries, whose experiments with form and colour created some of the most memorable work of the early twentieth century.

JUDITH MACKRELL is the critically acclaimed author of *The Unfinished Palazzo* and *Flappers*. She is also a celebrated dance critic, and her biography of the ballerina Lydia Lopokova, *Bloomsbury Ballerina*, was short-listed for the Costa Biography Award. She also coauthored *The Oxford Dictionary of Dance*.

UK publication date: Picador – 19th June 2025

Praise for previous title, *Going with the Boys*:

‘An immersive and revealing group biography...Sparkling quotations from the reportage are woven throughout, and colourful biographical details shed light on the correspondents’ defiance of conventions...A rousing portrait of women who not only reported on history, but made it themselves.’ – *Publishers Weekly*

‘They were not just reporters; they were also pioneers, and Judith Mackrell has done them proud.’ – *Spectator*

‘An exhilarating read packed with emotion and genuine humanity.’ – *Kirkus*

‘This is a book that manages to be thoughtful and edge-of-your-seat thrilling.’ – *Mail on Sunday*

Rights sales for *Artists, Siblings, Visionaries*: UK (Picador); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Rights sales for previous title, *Going with the Boys*: Germany (Insel), Italy (EDT), Portugal (Leya).

Material available: Final PDF (450 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Meal Time

by Rebecca May Johnson

What do we dream of when we sit down to eat? What do frankfurters and potato salad have to do with political activism? Who makes and serves dinner in utopia? How might we construct a politics from the table outwards?

Meal Time takes the reader on a quest in pursuit of a good meal and its consequences for life and imaginations of the future, making a passionate case for meal time as vital to our politics and pleasure.

A meal can be an interruption in the working day through which we express our desires in a tangible form. Desire to eat, yes, but also desire for time taken back for ourselves, for friendship, for sex, for life away from work, and for world-making. The feeling of being hungry is an existentially critical moment, and in *Meal Time* Rebecca May Johnson positions meal time as a method to enquire into it. To ask the reader: what would it take to feel satisfied? What future can we construct from the dream of a good meal? To claim meal time as a space for dreaming and to plot revolution.

Inspired by a picaresque spirit, *Meal Time* unfolds as a journey through four acts as Rebecca seeks a better future through a good meal: the diner, the waitress, the menu, and the table. From positioning the meal as our first relationship with the world and the means through which the world first comes to us, and waitressing work as a politicising experience, to conceptualising the menu as a form of manifesto and the table as a starting point for the complete reconstruction of society, *Meal Time* is an investigation into the political ideas that might be gleaned from the utopian yearning that is also called hunger.

REBECCA MAY JOHNSON is a writer and a co-editor of trailblazing online publication Vittles. Her first book *Small Fires: an Epic in the Kitchen* was first published in August 2022 by Pushkin Press in the UK, and in June 2023 in the US. *Small Fires* was shortlisted for Foyles Nonfiction Book of the Year in 2022, was Foyles Paperback Nonfiction Book of the Month in September 2023 and a Guardian Paperback of the Month in September 2023; it is widely admired by writers from all disciplines from Nigella Lawson to Olivia Laing to Bee Wilson.

UK publication date: Jonathan Cape – 2026

Praise for previous title, *Small Fires*:

‘A manifesto for reclaiming cooking as an intellectual.’ – *Sunday Times*

‘An intense thought-provoking enquiry into the very nature of cooking.’ – Nigella Lawson

‘Brave enough to hurt feelings, delicious enough for no one to care.’ – *New York Times*

‘Revolutionary... wakes up the reader’s senses.’ – *Times Literary Supplement*

‘One of the most original food books I’ve ever read, at once intelligent and sensuous, witty, provoking and truly delicious.’ – Olivia Laing

Rights sales for *Meal Time*: UK (Jonathan Cape); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Material available: Proposal and 10,000-word sample

Agent: Harriet Moore



Pure Presence
A History of the Female Body
by Erin Maglaque

A history of the female body that interweaves the archival and the personal to reimagine both our bodies and the genre anew

Sex and abortion, pregnancy and birth, feeding and rocking and washing: these are embodied practices with a past, the domain of history. But the history of the female body is largely unknown – even unimaged. In this exhilarating book Erin Maglaque sets out to write this history of the desiring, labouring, caring female body. It is an encounter between vitality and the archive which jettisons old tools to undertake a search for an

ambitious new frame to understand the female body, and to set it free.

As Erin experienced the transformations of pregnancy, abortion, birth, and care-giving, the contemporary images, language, and methods that she had used to organise her understanding of the body – and her practice as a historian – began to disintegrate. She found herself reaching instead to the premodern past, a period when the strange rubbed up against the strikingly recognisable, when people accepted both levitation and the smallpox vaccine, witchcraft and universal gravitation; a time when understandings of the body and its capacity for thought were more expansive, and more unruly.

What might we learn if the history of the female body, and its vulnerabilities, pains, joys, and desires were figured differently? Are there other ways of knowing the past, ways that were eclipsed by the long shadow of the Enlightenment? Can physical experience become a source of knowledge about the past, and can the past become a source for our future feminist politics? *Pure Presence* charts a new method for writing history, one that begins equally in scholarly research of the past, and in the sensing, vital, thinking archive of the body.

ERIN MAGLAQUE is a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books*, the *New York Review of Books* and the *New York Times Book Review*. Her essays range across history, gender, feminism, art, and culture, and have been translated into multiple languages. Erin teaches history at the University of Sheffield. She received her DPhil from Oxford in 2015. *Pure Presence* is her first book.

UK publication date: Jonathan Cape – Spring 2026

Rights sales for *Pure Presence*: UK (Jonathan Cape), US (Astra House). **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Material available: Unedited manuscript (85k words)

Agent: Harriet Moore

DunnFogg Literary Agency

While the Music Lasts

A Memoir of Music, Grief & Joy

by Emily MacGregor



'It's curious that we don't really understand why music is able to tip us over the edge. If you want to feel totally overpowered by grief, reach for some music. If you want to feel close to the person who's died, there's music that will take you there. That's because music is a thing we inhabit ... And it's seriously powerful. But it's not always desirable. It starts to feel like you can come apart anywhere.'

An illuminating, witty and highly moving story of making and listening to music and its role and impact on grief.

After her jazz guitarist father's sudden death, Emily MacGregor, a music historian and trombonist, finds herself unable to listen to, let alone play, study or enjoy, music. It is only when she starts to work through the pieces left behind on her father's music stand – a journey from tangos to Handel, Cádiz to Coltrane – that she begins to understand why her body and mind are rejecting the thing that bound them, and she is able leave the numb silence behind and find joy in sound once again.

EMILY MACGREGOR is a music historian with a doctorate in music from Oxford University. She works at King's College London, having held previous positions in Berlin, at Royal Holloway, and at Harvard, and she appears regularly as a music expert on BBC Radio 3's Record Review and Free Thinking, where she has recently spoken about research on music and bereavement, and discussed her experiences of grief.

UK publication date: September Publishing – 27th March 2025

Praise for *While the Music Lasts*:

'Winningly accessible, warm, funny and real...as finely tuned as the best orchestras' – Alice Vincent

'Combines the grace and erudition of a great essayist with the deep and howling humanity of a proper novel. It's the best book I've read on grief.' – Oskar Jensen

'Profound, erudite and moving...A mediation on what it means to be human – constantly witty, wistful and stimulating.' – Tobias Jones

Rights sales for *While the Music Lasts*: UK (September/Duckworth); **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Material available: Copyedited manuscript (95k words)

Agent: Ben Dunn



We Are Movement

A Beginner's Guide to Physical Thinking

by Wayne McGregor

For millennia, we have undervalued the wisdom of our bodies. As the last century dwindled, spurred by the advancement of technology, researchers came to recognise the staggering breadth of the body's knowledge. Cognitive scientists, psychologists, philosophers, and linguists dismissed what was once considered gospel: that the mind and body are separate entities. Today, it is widely accepted that our thinking is physical—it occurs through, and with, the body.

Wayne McGregor started dancing at the age of seven, taking Latin and Ballroom classes in Stockport, driven by the joy of moving freely and of being creative. Over the next 43 years, through setting up his own company, writing numerous ballets and working on film sets, he has become increasingly curious about what it means to be physically fluent, about what the dancers he works with have that the rest of us might have lost. As we age, we become alienated from our bodies, an alienation increased in an age where we use technology to monitor our bodies (step counts, smart watches etc.) at the expense of *feeling* what it's like to be in our bodies. How can we reconnect? And what might that reconnection lead to?

Driven by these questions, Wayne has expanded his practice to work with neuroscientists, cognitive therapists, anthropologists and economists. Together they analyse the non-verbal and the instinctive, those things that we do that aren't clearly conscious, those things that make dancers that bit freer and more creative than the rest of us. But Wayne believes, and his research shows, that creativity can be taught if we pay attention to our bodies and harness our physical thinking.

In *We Are Movement*, Wayne breaks down physical thinking, using stories from his practice and his research projects to provide a roadmap for how we can become more physically fluent. Using simple steps, from being aware of our body language to conquering fear, he will show us how to unlock our potential to become better communicators, more creative thinkers, and, ultimately, to live fuller lives. As Wayne says “we all think physically, we've just not been paying attention.”

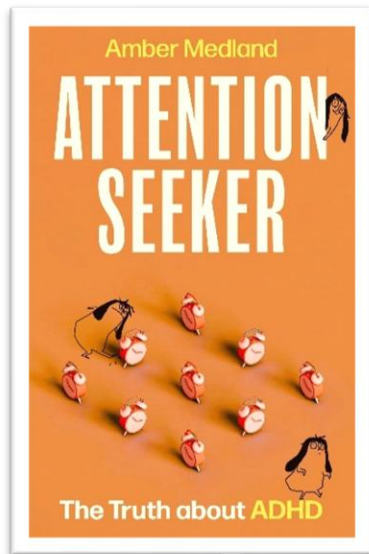
SIR WAYNE MCGREGOR is Resident Choreographer at the Royal Ballet and Artistic Director of Studio Wayne McGregor, and was Dance Director of the Venice Biennale until the end of 2024. He is regularly commissioned by and has works in the repertoires of the most important dance companies in the world. In total, he has written more than 30 ballets, most recently *MaddAddam* with Margaret Atwood, worked on films including *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, *Mary Queen of Scots* and *Cats*, as well as on music videos with Radiohead and Chemical Brothers. He has held positions as Research Fellow at the Department of Experimental Psychology at Cambridge, and Innovator in Residence at the University of California, San Diego. He has ongoing artificial intelligence, virtual reality and robotics projects with Google and Random International. His TED talk on physical thinking has had more than 1 million views.

UK publication date: Bloomsbury – January 2026

Rights sales for *We Are Movement*: UK (Bloomsbury). **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Material available: Unedited manuscript (75k words)

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



Attention Seeker

The Truth About ADHD

by Amber Medland

What does it mean to live in a world that punishes distraction, but profits from our attention?

Attention Seeker is a groundbreaking, unfiltered exploration of ADHD – how it shapes lives across race, gender, and class, and why so many people are left undiagnosed and misunderstood.

Why do so many ADHD individuals not feel at home at school or in the workplace? What does it really feel like to grow up, learn, work, and exist in a world that wasn't built for your brain? Why are so many of us struggling with shame, burnout, and – statistically speaking – a suspicious number of parking tickets?

Drawing on research, lived experience, and the realities of navigating ADHD in the UK today, Medland cuts through the myths and misinformation to uncover the truth. From education to employment, from addiction to the criminal justice system, *Attention Seeker* reveals how ADHD intersects with power, privilege, and oppression – and what needs to change.

Ending with a bold anti-capitalist manifesto, Medland challenges everything we think we know about ADHD. The book asks: In a society obsessed with productivity and perfection, what can everyone learn from those who think differently?

Attention Seeker is the first book of its kind – equal parts eye-opening, urgent and authoritative – this is a call to rethink ADHD, not just as an individual diagnosis, but as a political issue.

AMBER MEDLAND is a writer based in the UK. Having read English Literature at Cambridge University, she moved to New York to study for an MFA at Columbia University where she was awarded a Teaching Fellowship. Her debut novel *Wild Pets* was published by Faber in 2021. Since then, she has written for various publications including *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review* and the *London Review of Books*.

UK publication date: Dialogue – 26th June 2025

Rights sales for *Attention Seeker*: UK (Dialogue).

Material available: First proofs (368 pages)

Agent: Emma Paterson



A Sicilian Man

*Leonardo Sciascia, the Rise of the Mafia and the Struggle
for Italy's Soul*

by Caroline Moorehead

'I hate Sicily, I detest her to the same degree that I love her... I was born here and am condemned to love her, but there are times when I am overcome with the longing to at least die elsewhere.'

– Leonardo Sciascia

Leonardo Sciascia was born in 1921, in western Sicily, shortly before Mussolini took power. The span of his life coincided with the most troubled years of Italy's history, when social turmoil and corruption were endemic and the mafia's reach came to extend to all corners of the country.

In his books – detective novels, historical investigations, plays, essays, reviews and journalism – he explored and defined the malaise that gripped not just Sicily, but Italy. *The Day of the Owl*, his first giallo, translated into 40 languages, is universally accepted to have been the first serious portrayal of the mafia in fiction and an uncannily prescient warning of the perils of ignoring it.

Sciascia relished research, sought out overlooked and forgotten historical anomalies and delighted in digging up new information to contradict given truths. He became a crusader against state malfeasance and corruption, and above all against the mafia and its deep-rooted and intricate connections to politics and state institutions. For Sicilians, through the turbulent years, Sciascia became their moral lodestar, a lethal critic of the inefficient, tainted system of Italian justice, never afraid to take positions that put his own life in danger. "We have to understand everything", he would repeat, quoting Hannah Arendt, "especially evil. Only then will we have the weapons to fight it".

Prize-winning biographer Caroline Moorehead uses the life of this man of honour, one of Italy's best loved writers and several times nominated for the Nobel Prize, to tell the story of a complicated country in its most amoral of times.

CAROLINE MOOREHEAD is the biographer of Bertrand Russell, Freya Stark, Iris Origo, Martha Gellhorn and Edda Mussolini. Her book on the French Resistance, *Village of Secrets*, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller and was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize in 2014. *A Bold and Dangerous Family* was shortlisted for the Costa Biography Award. She lives in London.

UK publication date: Chatto & Windus – March 2026

Praise for previous title, *A House in the Mountains*:

'Gripping...The narrative is told with such verve that I frequently had goosebumps.' – *Guardian*

'A wonderfully vivid and moving portrait of the women of the Italian Resistance.' – *Sunday Times*

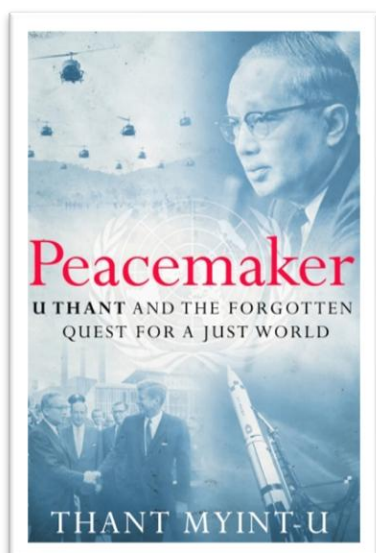
'A brilliant overview of the war in Italy.' – *Spectator*, 'Best Books of 2019'

Rights sales for *A Sicilian Man*: UK (Chatto & Windus); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Rights sales for previous title, *A House in the Mountains*: Arabic (Dar Al-Saqi), China (Social Sciences Academic Press), Italy (Bollati).

Material available: Unedited manuscript (100k words)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Peacemaker

U-Thant and the Forgotten Quest for a Just World
by Thant Myint-U

There was once a faith in a new internationalism, an internationalism that could remake the world after empire, bring about a permanent peace and create a fairer global economy. This book is the story of a man and a portrait of that time.

We live in a world created by the hyper-capitalist and US-dominated globalisation of the past four decades. The right-wing turn which led to the creation of this world required the defeat of Communism, but it also required the defeat of an alternative globalism; not just denigrating and belittling its achievements but actively and aggressively forgetting them. It required forgetting a time when the Global South led the UN, and New York was the centre of truly global politics.

This biography revives the pivotal role of U Thant, whose decade as Secretary General of the United Nations revealed the global body's initial promise to navigate a peaceful world order. His colleagues, among them the first generation of non-white peacemakers on the world stage, likewise are almost entirely forgotten.

A Burmese diplomat and the first non-European to lead the UN, Thant was a central figure in averting nuclear catastrophe during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and faced down powerful nations over conflicts in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Towards the end of his tenure, he became a strident advocate for environmental protection and a critic of what he considered unsustainable consumerism, and in one of his last acts he helped prepare the groundwork for the first Earth Summit in Stockholm.

Through hitherto untold stories, Thant Myint-U brings to life an extraordinary alternative world, which connected people from Jawaharlal Nehru and Kwame Nkrumah to Eleanor Roosevelt, John D Rockefeller, and Martin Luther King.

UK publication date: Atlantic – 9th September 2025

Praise for *Peacemaker*:

‘A wonderful subject, beautifully written, evoking a world startlingly like and unlike our own – a reminder of paths tragically not taken, of idealism and cynicism – of how much the United Nations offered and could still offer. Essential reading for anyone interested in the origins and possibilities of our current global crisis.’
– Rory Stewart, author of *Politics on the Edge*

‘Beautiful, gripping, and indispensable. Thant Myint-U rehabilitates almost forgotten aspirations for a postcolonial world beyond endless war and enduring hierarchy. These dreams revisited in this eye-opening and uplifting book have an enormous claim on the attention of Americans at a crossroads in their relation to global affairs.’ – Samuel Moyn, Yale University

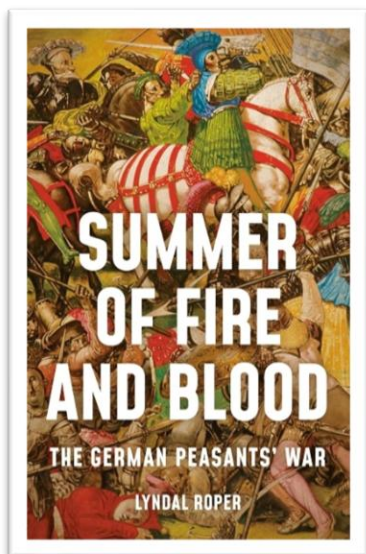
‘A gift. A primer of that era and the foreshadowing of conflicts we face today.’ – Elizabeth Becker

‘With empathy, care, and scholarly rigor, Thant Myint-U reminds us that the truly courageous never abandoned their struggles for justice, even in the darkest of times.’ – Kevin Boyle

Rights sales for *Peacemaker*: UK (Atlantic), US (Norton); **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Material available: Edited manuscript (100k words)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Summer of Fire and Blood

The German Peasants' War

by Lyndal Roper

From a preeminent historian, the definitive history of the sixteenth-century uprising that revolutionized Europe

The German Peasants' War was the greatest popular uprising in Western Europe before the French Revolution. In 1524 and 1525, it swept across Germany with astonishing speed as well over a hundred thousand people massed in armed bands to demand a new and more egalitarian order. The peasants took control of vast areas of southern and middle Germany, torching and plundering the monasteries, convents, and castles that stood in their way. But they proved no match for the forces of the lords, who put down the revolt by slaying somewhere between seventy and a hundred thousand peasants in just over two months.

In *Summer of Fire and Blood*, the first history of the German Peasants' War in a generation, historian Lyndal Roper exposes the far-reaching ramifications of this rebellion. Though the war's victors portrayed the uprising as naive and inchoate, Roper reveals a mass movement that sought to make good on the radical potential of the Protestant Reformation. By recovering what the people themselves felt and believed, *Summer of Fire and Blood* reconstructs the thrilling, tragic story of the peasants' fight to change the world.

LYNDAL ROPER is the first woman to hold the prestigious Regius Chair at Oxford University. She is one of the most respected scholars of early modern history on both sides of the Atlantic. She is the winner of the Gerda Henkel Prize (2016), and her previous books include *Witch Craze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany*; *Oedipus and the Devil: Witchcraft, Religion, and Sexuality in Early Modern Europe*; *The Witch in the Western Imagination*; and *The Holy Household: Women and Morals in Reformation Augsburg*.

UK publication date: Basic Books – 13th February 2025

Praise for *Summer of Fire and Blood*:

‘Engrossing new history of the upheaval...One of the many merits...is how Roper – a despite being the author of a luminous biography of Luther – shifts the focus away from the face-off between Luther and Müntzer and back onto the peasants themselves, dealing resourcefully with the fact that few of them left any written record of their time in the sun.’ – Thomas Meaney, *New York Times* ‘Editors Pick’

‘Roper never tries to hide her fondness for the brotherhood of peasants and their ideals. It’s refreshing to read a historian unafraid to discuss feelings.’ – *Times*

‘A balanced, comprehensive survey of the uprising, gripping in its narrative and perceptive in its assessments...easily the most accessible study in English for a general readership.’ – *Financial Times*

Rights sales for *Summer of Fire and Blood*: UK (Basic Books), US (Basic Books), Germany (Fischer); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Rights sales for previous title, *Luther*: Brazil (Companhia Das Letras), China (Ginkgo), Germany (Fischer), Korea (The Blessed People), Netherlands (Ambo Anthos), Poland (Uniwersytet Lodzki), Spain (Debate).

Material available: Final PDF (550 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



A Wild Flowering in the Himalayas by Anuradha Roy

*Chance brought us to it, when for three days it had drizzled,
then pelted so hard that the roar of water was the only sound.
Clouds pressed us down, white mists hung in the trees.*

*People claimed it had one of the finest views of the high
Himalaya. After several trips here without a glimpse, I was
sceptical. No matter. The forests were deep and thrilling. The
murmur of raindrops on a tin roof, the dry spells when the hills
were honey-coloured in the newly washed air: what more could
you ask for?*

And then early one morning we awoke to long ribbons of sunlight streaming in. R said, 'Look. Look up . . . higher.' In place of flat old sky were peaks – shining white and blue, and rising miles above.

When Anuradha Roy and her publisher-husband find a derelict cottage in the Himalaya, they decide to renovate it, create a garden from a rubbish-strewn hillside and begin a new life there with their several unruly dogs.

This intimate exploration of the mountains is not about climbing high peaks but about living within a rural community on the very edge of the forest.

Anuradha paints it and writes about it as she discovers a fascinating world: alien and beloved, fulfilling and frustrating, terrifying and beautiful and increasingly under threat from climate change.

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, among India's highest literary honours, 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.

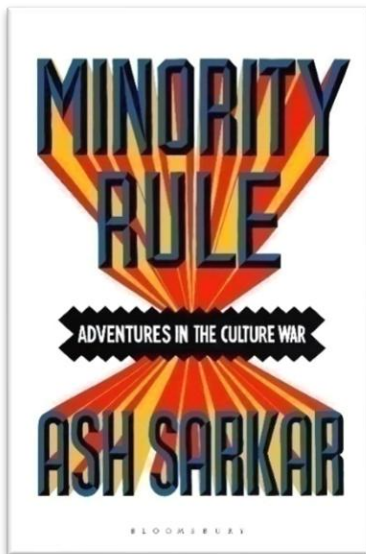
UK publication date: Daunt – January 2026

Rights sales for *A Wild Flowering in the Himalayas*: UK (Daunt), India (Hachette).

Rights sales for previous title, *The Earthspinner*: USA (HarperVia), India (Hachette), France (Actes Sud), Germany (Luchterhand), India (Hachette).

Material available: Unedited manuscript (36k words)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Minority Rule
Adventures in the Culture War
by Ash Sarkar

◆ A *Sunday Times* Bestseller ◆

The explosive debut from political commentator Ash Sarkar, *Minority Rule* breaks down how the power of ordinary people is under attack by an elite minority – and how we can redirect our energy to the real problem at hand

How did the Conservative Party under Boris Johnson, and the Republicans under Trump, successfully reinvent themselves as the parties of the ‘left behind’ and advance ever-more establishment and authoritarian goals? For Ash Sarkar, the roots of this are to be found in the years since the 2007 financial crisis, a period of huge social and economic shift, which has been

central to the right’s dangerous political strategy of constructing reactionary electoral majorities. She has named this the Minority Rule project.

In this ground-breaking book, Ash Sarkar explores how the Minority Rule project has taken over our politics by stoking fear and panic in our media landscape: how liberal elites are silencing the ‘forgotten’ working class, how the urban young are waging war on the nation’s cultural institutions, and how cancel culture is threatening free speech. Powerful, insightful and ultimately hopeful, *Minority Rule* breaks down how the right has misrepresented true victimhood and aims to redirect outrage to those who deserve it.

ASH SARKAR is a writer, lecturer and broadcaster based in London. She is a Contributing Editor at Novara Media, where her work focuses on current affairs, popular culture, politics and social issues. Her by-lines have also appeared in the *Guardian*, *Huffington Post UK*, and the *Independent* amongst others. She is a frequent presence on UK broadcast media, and has appeared on *Question Time*, *Good Morning Britain*, and Radio 4’s *Moral Maze*.

UK publication date: Bloomsbury – 27th February 2025

Praise for *Minority Rule*:

‘A brilliantly bracing polemic.’ – Nigella Lawson

‘More panache and punchiness, more hilarity, than is usual from the dour quarters of British political punditry. Sarkar’s hyper-caffeinated prose and acid observations are unquestionably a joy to read.’ – *Observer*

‘One of the boldest and most exciting thinkers of her generation. Agenda-setting.’ – Naomi Klein

‘A timely investigation...essential reading – and time is short!’ – Ken Loach

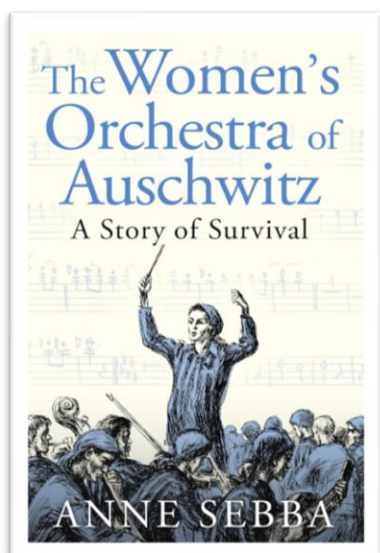
‘A clear, concise, and characteristically witty deconstruction of the culture wars by one of best communicators on the British left.’ – Grace Blakeley

‘Fearless and clear-eyed...a necessary and welcome salvo.’ – *GQ*

Rights sales for *Minority Rule*: UK (Bloomsbury), Czech (Alarm), Japan (Toyo Keizai).

Material available: Final PDF (320 pages)

Agent: Emma Paterson



The Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz *A Story of Survival* by Anne Sebba

◆ **Bookseller's Best Non-fiction & Editor's Pick March 2025** ◆

The first book on the Auschwitz women's orchestra by the bestselling historian of twentieth-century women's lives

In 1943, German SS officers in charge of Auschwitz-Birkenau ordered that an orchestra should be formed among the female prisoners. Almost fifty women and girls from eleven nations were drafted into a hurriedly assembled band that would play marching music to other inmates, forced labourers who left each morning and returned,

exhausted and often broken, at the end of the day.

While still living amid the most brutal and dehumanising of circumstances, they were also made to give weekly concerts for Nazi officers, and individual members were sometimes summoned to give solo performances of an officer's favourite piece of music. It was the only entirely female orchestra in any of the Nazi prison camps and, for almost all of the musicians chosen to take part, being in the orchestra was to save their lives.

What role could music play in a death camp? What was the effect on those women who owed their survival to their participation in a Nazi propaganda project? And how did it feel to be forced to provide solace to the perpetrators of a genocide that claimed the lives of their family and friends? In *The Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz*, award-winning historian Anne Sebba traces these tangled questions of deep moral complexity with sensitivity and care.

ANNE SEBBA is one of Britain's most distinguished biographers. Formerly a Reuters correspondent based in London and Rome, she has written ten works of non-fiction, mostly about iconic women, and presented BBC radio documentaries. She is the author of the international bestsellers including *That Woman*, an acclaimed biography of Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor, and *Ethel Rosenberg*.

UK publication date: W&N – 27th March 2025

Praise for *The Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz*:

'Rigorously researched and elegantly written, this is the biography we need. Magnificent.' – Kate Mosse

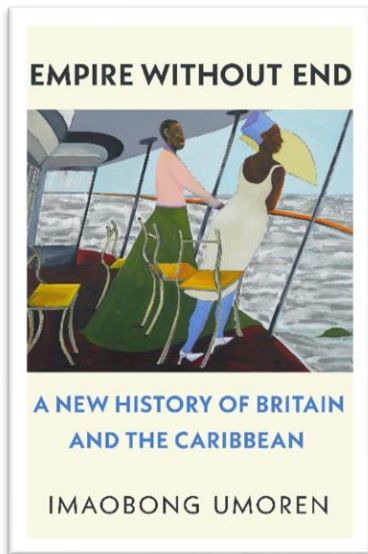
'Sebba tells this harrowing story with tremendous rigour and care, capturing both the complex horror of the women's situation and the dignity and bravery with which they faced it. An impressive, important, deeply moving book.' – Sarah Waters

'A testimony to the strength of female solidarity in the most wretched circumstances.' – *Independent*

Rights sales for *The Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz*: UK (W&N), US (St Martin's Press), Italy (Newton Compton), Netherlands (Mozaiek), Poland (Znak), Portugal (Planeta), Romania (Librex), Russia (Individuum), Spanish (Planeta Mexico); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Material available: Final PDF (400 pages)

Agent: Clare Alexander



Empire Without End
A New History of Britain and the Caribbean
by Imaobong Umoren

This book is not just written to enlighten. It is written with the optimism that it may contribute to a willingness to dismantle unsustainable 500-year-old hierarchies.

After five long centuries, the roots of colonialism still run deep.

This is a powerful new reckoning with Britain's imperial legacy, its transformative effects on Britain and the Caribbean and its enduring role in systemic racism today. And it is a call for us all to learn from the challenges and failures of history and to play our part in creating a blueprint for the future.

We cannot change the past. But we can repair the present.

IMAOBONG UMOREN is an associate professor of International History at the London School of Economics where she specialises in histories of racism, women and political thought in the Caribbean, Britain and US in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. *Empire Without End* received the 2020–2021 British Library Eccles Centre and Hay Festival Writer's Award.

UK publication date: Fern Press – 5th June 2025

Rights sales for *Empire Without End*: UK (Fern Press), US (Scribner).

Material available: Copyedited manuscript (115k words)

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



I Wanna Be Loved by You

Marilyn Monroe in 100 Outtakes

By Andrew Wilson

We all think we know the story of how poor Norma Jeane transformed herself into screen goddess Marilyn Monroe. But now, on the 100th anniversary of her birth, it's time for a reassessment of the star by acclaimed biographer and novelist Andrew Wilson

Using a treasure trove of unpublished archival material - including unheard audio tape interviews with Marilyn's friends, family and lovers – *I Wanna Be*

Loved by You presents a revelatory new portrait of the film icon.

Written as a series of snapshots from her extraordinary life, the book illuminates hidden aspects of Marilyn's life and brings to the fore previously neglected episodes and delves deep into her unique character, including her struggles living with sexual abuse, her battles with mental health and her continuing issues with addiction. The book also addresses the swirl of conspiracy theories surrounding her death in 1962 at the age of thirty-six.

The resulting portrait presents Marilyn as she has never been seen before – sensitive, intelligent, transgressive and a woman before her time.

ANDREW WILSON is an award-winning author and journalist. He was shortlisted for the Whitbread biography prize in 2003 and won both an Edgar Allan Poe award for biography in 2004 and a LAMBDA Literary Award in 2003. His journalism has appeared in a wide range of newspapers.

UK publication date: Simon & Schuster – June 2026

Praise for previous biography, *Alexander McQueen*:

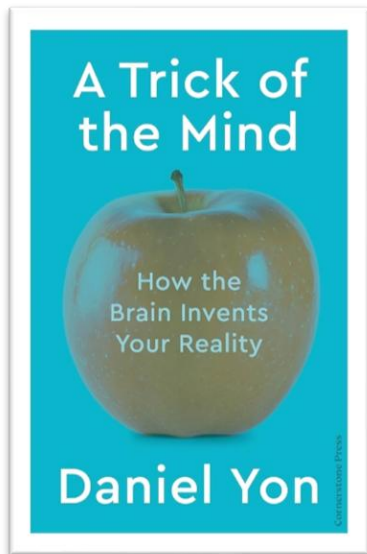
'Wilson's insights offer a sensitive take on a troubled soul.' – *Times*

'This is a deeply intelligent, fascinating book, full of insights and perceptions... McQueen has got in Wilson the biographer he deserves.' – *Independent*

Rights sales for *I Wanna Be Loved by You*: UK (Simon & Schuster), US (Grand Central).

Material available: Unedited manuscript (135k words)

Agent: Clare Alexander



A Trick of the Mind

How the Brain Invents Your Reality

by Daniel Yon

How does your brain decide what it's seeing, from the physical world to other people? For decades, scientists have tried to understand how our brains work, not realising that the answer lies much closer to home than it seems.

The latest research in neuroscience and psychology suggests that the brain is doing the same thing that the scientists are: using past experiences to build theories of how the world works, and using these models to predict and make sense of it. Through this process, your brain constructs the reality that you live in.

In this book Daniel Yon takes the research one step further, uncovering how your brain colours your perception of the world, the judgements you make about other people and the beliefs you form about yourself. With transformative applications for how we engage with other communities and approach mental illness, *A Trick of the Mind* will revolutionise the way you think.

DANIEL YON is an experimental psychologist, cognitive neuroscientist and director of The Uncertainty Lab at Birkbeck, University of London. He received his PhD in 2018, took up his first academic post in 2019 and joined the faculty at Birkbeck in 2021 - where he is now Associate Professor (Reader) in Cognitive Neuroscience. In 2023 he was made a Visiting Fellow of the Paris Institute for Advanced Study and in 2024 he was awarded the Experimental Psychology Society's EPS Prize for distinguished, independent and original contributions to experimental psychology.

UK publication date: Cornerstone – 26th June 2025

Praise for *A Trick of the Mind*:

‘This book will profoundly change the way you consider your own mind’ – Lewis Dartnell, bestselling author of *The Knowledge*, *Origins* and *Being Human*

‘You will not find a more up-to-date or more compelling account of how a mind emerges from the brain’ – Chris Frith, Emeritus Professor of Neuropsychology at University College London

‘An engaging, informative, and genuinely entertaining guide to the many weird ways in which our brains create the world we live in’ – Dean Burnett, author of *The Idiot Brain*

Rights sales for *A Trick of the Mind*: UK (Cornerstone), US (Grand Central), China (China Science and Technology Press), Japan (Hayakawa), Korea (Wisdom House), Netherlands (Atlas Contact), Russia (MIF), Spain (Urano).

Material available: First proofs (280 pages)

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