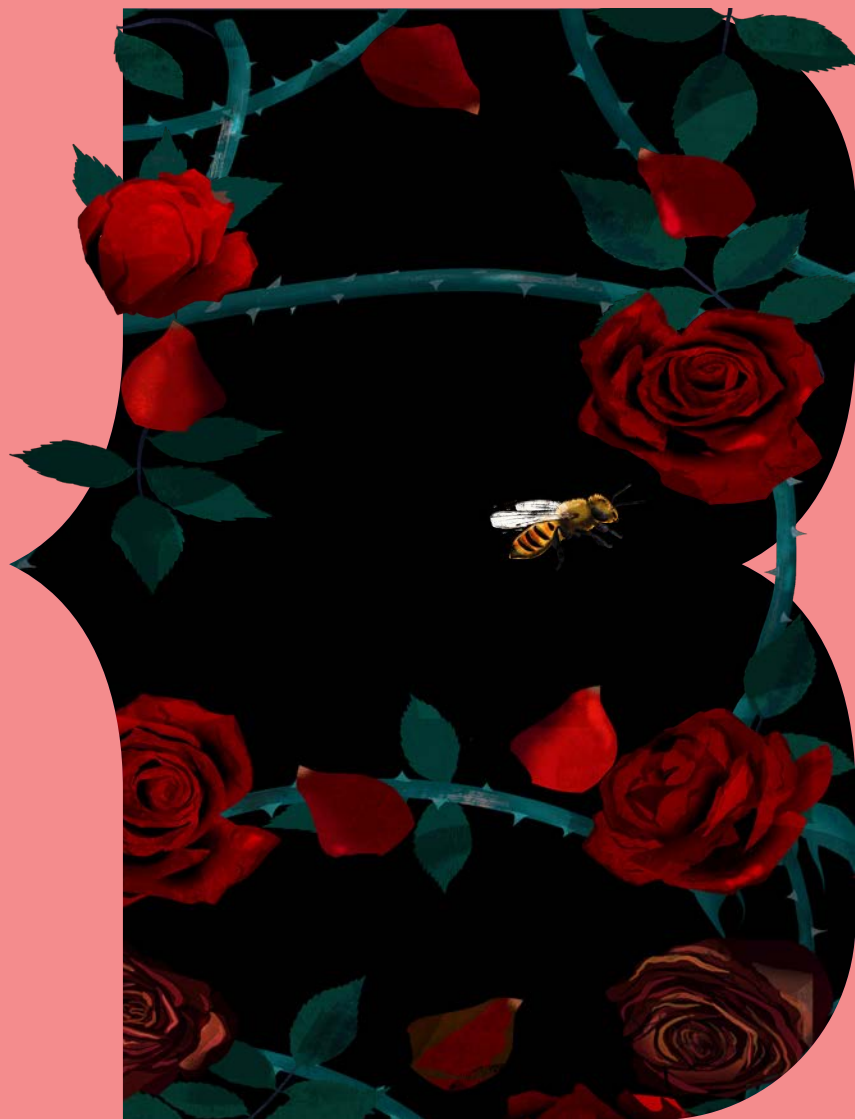


Adult Fiction Rights Guide Spring 2023



Film & television deals/options

The Tattooist Of Auschwitz by Heather Morris – Synchronicity Films/Sky TV

Snowflake by Louise Nealon – Element Pictures

This Green And Pleasant Land by Ayisha Malik – Eleventh Hour Films

The Windsor Knot by S.J. Bennett – Mammoth Productions

The Shelf by Helly Acton – Monumental Pictures

The Holiday by TM Logan – Channel 5

The Phone Box At The Edge Of The World by Laura Imai Messina
– Cattleya

Geiger by Gustaf Skördeman – Monumental Pictures

Killing It by Asia Mackay – 42 Media

The Ice Beneath Her by Camilla Grebe – New Line Cinema

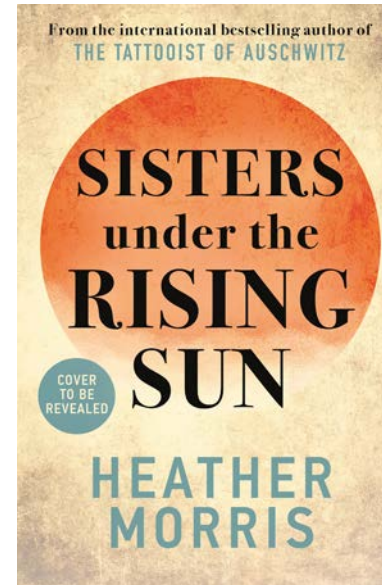
The Nine by Gwen Strauss – Kudos Film & TV

The Familiars by Stacey Halls – The Bureau

Maestra Trilogy by LS Hilton – Columbia/Sony

We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker – Disney

Z



September 2023
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: US (St. Martin's Press), Finland (under offer), the Netherlands (under offer), Ukraine (under offer)

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

HEATHER MORRIS is an international number one bestselling author who is passionate about stories of survival, resilience and hope. In 2003 she was introduced to an elderly gentleman who 'might just have a story worth telling'. Her books have sold over 16 million copies and have been translated into over 50 languages. A television series of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* is currently under production.

Sisters Under the Rising Sun Heather Morris

An astonishing story of sisterhood, bravery and friendship in the darkest of circumstances.

In the midst of WWII, an English musician, Norah Chambers, places her eight-year-old daughter Sally on a ship leaving Singapore, desperate to keep her safe from the Japanese army as they move down through the Pacific. Norah remains to care for her husband and elderly parents, knowing she may never see her child again.

Sister Nesta James, a Welsh Australian nurse, has enlisted to tend to Allied troops. But as Singapore falls to the Japanese she joins the terrified cargo of people, including the heartbroken Norah, crammed aboard the Vyner Brooke merchant ship. Only two days later, they are bombarded from the air off the coast of Indonesia, and in a matter of hours, the Vyner Brooke lies broken on the seabed.

After surviving a brutal 24 hours in the sea, Nesta and Norah reach the beaches of a remote island, only to be captured by the Japanese and held in one of their notorious POW camps. The camps are places of starvation and brutality, where disease runs rampant. Sisters in arms, Norah and Nesta fight side by side every day, helping whoever they can, and discovering in themselves and each other extraordinary reserves of courage, resourcefulness and determination.

Internationally bestselling author Heather Morris brings another triumphant and transcendent true story to life: the courage and determination to survive of the women imprisoned by the Japanese during WWII.

Fair Rosaline

Natasha Solomons



August 2023
352 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil (Pensamento), Germany (DTV), Italy (Neri Pozza), Spain (Roca), USA (Sourcebooks)

Television & Film Rights:
C&W

NATASHA SOLOMONS is the author of five internationally bestselling novels, including *Mr Rosenblum's List*, *The Novel in the Viola*, which was chosen for the Richard & Judy Book Club, and *The Gallery of Vanished Husbands*. Her novels have been translated into 17 languages.

Was the greatest love story of all time a lie?

Romeo Montague is handsome and charming. The first time young Rosaline Capulet sees him at his family's masquerade ball, she falls instantly in love. But Rosaline's story is not *that* one.

With her father determined that she join the nunnery after her mother's death, Romeo offers Rosaline the chance of a different life. Gradually he convinces her that only true love could make him feel this way, that he is enraptured by her beauty. Indeed, he cannot live without her!

And so begins the story of Romeo and Rosaline. These star-crossed lovers must keep everything hidden from Rosaline's family, at least until they are wed. But when a destitute young girl appears, claiming to be carrying Romeo's child, Rosaline starts to doubt all that she has been told. And as whispers of more girls reach her ears, what once felt like a courtship begins to feel more like a trap.

As Rosaline finally recognises Romeo for the villain he truly is, his gaze turns suddenly towards Rosaline's adored and beautiful cousin, thirteen-year old Juliet.

Can Rosaline save Juliet, who falls under Romeo's spell just as quickly as she did? Or can this story only ever end one way?

Hamnet meets *My Dark Vanessa* in this powerful and provocative untelling of Shakespeare's best known tale.

'I would be very surprised if everyone is not talking about [this book] this summer.'

Elodie Harper

'Irresistible. An excellent spin on a timeless classic.'

Jennifer Saint (*Ariadne*)

The Witches of Vardø

Anya Bergman



January 2023
464 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil (Universo dos Livros), France (Michel Lafon), Italy (Nord), Lithuania (Alma Littera), Poland (Insignis), Russia (MTS), Spain (Trini Vergara)

Television & Film Rights:
Marianne Gunn O'Connor

ANYA BERGMAN became interested in the Witch Trials of Vardø and the vivid folk tales of the North while living in Norway. Travelling to the Steilneset memorial, she became fascinated by their stories. She is currently working on her next novel, which unites the fates of two women against the backdrop of the French revolution.

They will have justice. They will show their power. They will not burn.

Norway, 1662. A dangerous time to be a woman, when even dancing can lead to accusations of witchcraft. After recently widowed Zigri's affair with the local merchant is discovered, she is sent to the fortress at Vardø to be tried as a witch.

Zigri's daughter Ingeborg sets off into the wilderness to try to bring her mother back home. Accompanying her on this quest is Maren - herself the daughter of a witch - whose wild nature and unconquerable spirit gives Ingeborg the courage to venture into the unknown, and to risk all she has to save her family.

Also captive in the fortress is Anna Rhodius, once the King of Denmark's mistress, who has been sent in disgrace to the island of Vardø. What will she do - and who will she betray - to return to her privileged life at court?

In an age weighted against them the Witches of Vardø refuse to be victims. They are stronger than even the King of Denmark. They will have their justice. All they need to do is show their power.

A Sunday Times Book of the Month 2023

'[An] utterly propulsive tale...'

Kiran Millwood Hargrave

'A passionate indictment of the patriarchy... a vibrant exaltation of the resilience of women...'

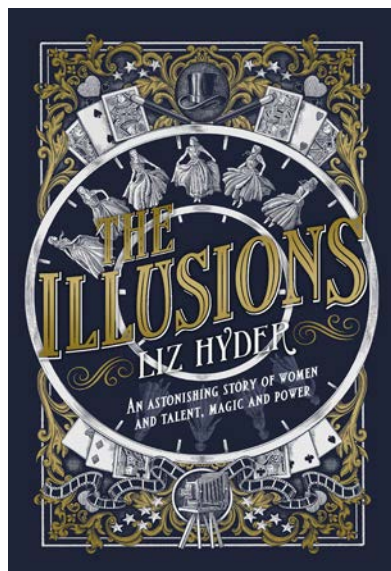
Hannah Kent

'Powerful... deeply moving.'

SUNDAY TIMES

The Illusions

Liz Hyder



June 2023
342 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Bird Literary Agency

LIZ HYDER has been making up stories for as long she can remember. *The Gifts*, her widely acclaimed debut adult novel was published in 2022. *Bearmouth*, her 2019 debut YA novel was chosen as Children's Book of the Year by *The Times*, made multiple book of the year lists and won several prizes.

An astonishing story of women and talent, magic and power.

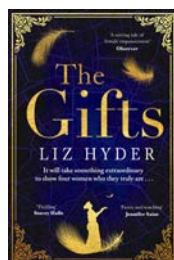
England 1896. Eadie Carleton, a pioneering early filmmaker, struggles for her talent to be taken seriously in a male-dominated world. Enter stage right the brilliant young magician George Perris, who spots this potential in moving pictures, believing it will revolutionise the world of magic forever - but in order to achieve his dreams, he must first win over Miss Carleton . . .

Used to scraping a living as the young assistant to an ageing con artist, Cecily Marsden's life is turned upside down when he suddenly dies. Believing herself to blame, could young Cec somehow have powers she doesn't yet understand?

As a group of illusionists prepare for a grand spectacle - to mark both the retirement of legendary master The Professor and the announcement of his successor - Cec, Eadie and George's worlds collide. But as Cec falls in love with the bustling realm of theatre and magic, she faces the fight of her life to save the performance from sabotage and harness the element of real magic held deep within her.

The Binding meets *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell* in this captivating novel.

'A magical tale of innovation, darkness and delight. A book to disappear into - I devoured it greedily.'
Joanne Burn (*The Hemlock Cure*)



Rights Sold for The Gifts:
Poland (Burda),
US (Sourcebooks)



April 2023
352 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

Highland-based author PHILIP PARIS is best known for his books about Orkney's famous WW2 Italian chapel. His contemporary novel *Men Cry Alone* broke new ground in raising the profile of domestic abuse against men and won the 2019 Scottish Association of Writers' Barbara Hammond trophy.

The Last Witch of Scotland

Philip Paris

Being a woman was her only crime.

Scottish Highlands, 1727.

In the aftermath of a tragic fire that kills her father, Aila and her mother, Janet, move to the remote village of Loth. Aila, who was badly burned in the fire, attracts the eye of suspicious and superstitious villagers, especially the new Reverend McNeil, a man determined to cleanse the village from evil.

Then arrives a motley troupe of travelling entertainers from Edinburgh, led by the charismatic but mysterious Jack, further unsettling peace in the village and stoking something new in Aila - a kind of hope she hasn't known since her father's death. Trouble is brewing, and if Aila and Janet aren't careful, everything may yet end in flames.

Inspired by the true story of the last person to be tried and executed as a witch in Britain, Janet Horne, this is a harrowing tale shedding light on one of the country's darkest periods in history.

'Compelling, evocative, heart-wrenching and beautifully written. Highly recommended.'
Fiona Valpy (*The Storyteller of Casablanca*)



Junction of Earth and Sky

Susan Buttenwieser

A tender, visceral voyage across time and continents charting one family's desperate pursuit of redemption.

The enduring bond between struggling drug addict Marnie and her grandmother Alice is at the heart of this debut. Moving between 1940s England, when Alice was young and in the throes of first love, to Rhode Island in the 1970s and '80s, we watch Marnie emerge into adulthood in the 1990s, plagued by a darkness that seems impossible to shake.

Shifting seamlessly between time and place, the novel charts their lives, shadowed by the consequences of cross-generational trauma, and illuminated by brief glimpses at the possibility of survival. Throughout it all, Marnie and Alice wrestle with the past whilst trying to build themselves a future. Here hope, compassion and love emerge from the darker moments they face.

In a similar vein to *The Dutch House* and *Olive Kitteridge*, this rollercoaster read is a generational story spanning two continents and six decades. At times heart-breaking, there is also joy and redemption within these pages.

SUSAN BUTTENWIESER

JUNCTION OF EARTH AND SKY



COVER TO BE REVEALED

April 2024
320 pp
Literary Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
United Agents

SUSAN BUTTENWIESER's fiction has appeared in numerous literary publications. Her first collection of short stories, *We Were Lucky with the Rain*, was published in 2020. She also contributes to news features to Women's Media Center and teaches creative writing in New York City public schools and to incarcerated women. This is her debut novel.



The Polite Act of Drowning

Charleen Hurtubise

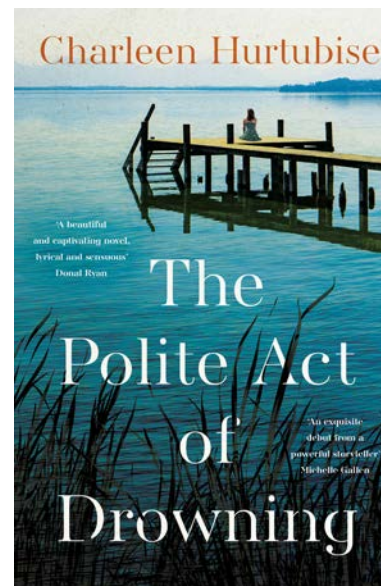
An atmospheric tale of how secrets can destroy a family, when people are lost even to themselves.

Michigan, 1985.

The drowning of a teenage girl causes ripples in the small town of Kettle Lake, though for most the waters settle quickly. For sixteen-year-old Joanne Kennedy, however, the tragedy dredges up untold secrets and causes her mother to drift farther from reality and her family.

When troubled newcomer Lucinda arrives in town, she offers Joanne a chance of real friendship, and together the teenagers push against the boundaries of family, self-image, and their sexuality during the tension of a long, stifling summer. But the undercurrents of past harms continuously threaten to drag Joanne and those around her under . . .

This is a deeply atmospheric coming-of-age debut confronting issues of generational trauma, sexual identity and mental illness.



April 2023
288 pp
Literary Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

CHARLEEN HURTUBISE has lived in Ireland for over 25 years, having emigrated there from Michigan in the USA. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from University College Dublin where she has also taught. Her short fiction, essays and poetry have appeared in various publications.

'A beautiful and captivating novel, lyrical and sensuous, a precise and faithful evocation of the tumult and trauma of family life.'

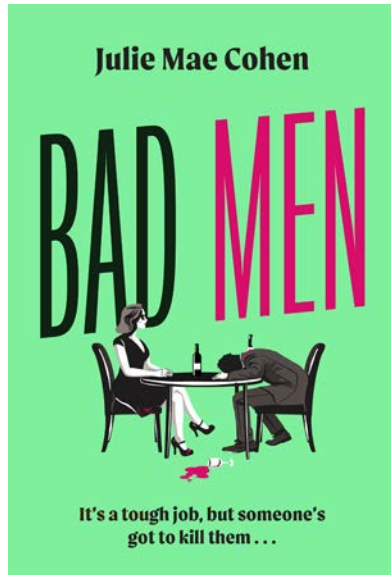
Donal Ryan

'A luminous and gripping portrait of a teenage girl coming of age in a small lakeshore community [. . .] an exquisite debut from a powerful storyteller.'

Michelle Gallen (*Factory Girls*)

Z

Bad Men Julie Mae Cohen



It's a tough job, but someone's got to kill them . . .

Saffy Huntley-Oliver is smart and rich . . . and in her spare time she's a serial killer. For the past fifteen years she's been hunting down and killing bad men: rapists, murderers, domestic abusers. But even Saffy has a heart. The problem is, it's hard to embark on a true romantic relationship when you're worried you may discover any minute that your boyfriend should be your next victim.

Having searched high and low, she's finally found a truly good man, one who even seems to share her "interests" and values. Jon Desrosiers is the creator of a hugely popular true-crime podcast investigating cold cases and helping bring murderers to justice . . . only in the traditional way. Well, no one is perfect.

So begins a tale of obsession as Saffy uses every trick in the book to get her man. When Jon becomes the suspect for a murder he didn't commit, Saffy is ready to up her game to find the truth and catch the real killer. And after all they go through, might Jon be the one who can finally understand and accept her true nature?

Even serial killers need a happily-ever-after . . .

Darkly funny, clever and outrageously provocative, this is *How To Kill Your Family* meets *Promising Young Woman*.

July 2023
368 pp
Thriller

DRAFT COVER

World Rights

Rights Sold: Germany (Heyne), Italy (Piemme), Russia (Eksmo), US (Overlook)

Television & Film Rights:
Teresa Chris

JULIE MAE COHEN is the darker, funnier side of Julie Cohen - an award-winning, million-copy bestselling author. Her previous works have been translated into seventeen languages. *Bad Men* is her first thriller.

Z

The Accident Katie McMahon



One fateful accident will change their lives forever.

Imogen has always wanted to be a doctor, but as the pressure of the job slowly takes a toll on her fragile mental state, her infatuation with an old flame twists into something darker.

Grace has her hands full as a vet and a harried mother to a recovering anorexic teenager. When circumstances force her daughter to change school, Grace's long-hidden secrets are threatened with exposure.

Zoe, a teacher, is blissfully in love with her new boyfriend, but his old friend, Imogen, still seems to be obsessed with him . . . and now her . . .

As tensions rise and secrets begin to unravel, the women move inexorably towards an event that will permanently shape their lives.

Perfect for fans of Liane Moriarty and Chandler Baker, this is an accomplished psychological drama that will take a tight hold of you, exploring the ways our formative years shape us and the resonating influence of first love.

'An escalating sense of foreboding that drew me in from page one and never let me go.'

Fiona McIntosh

July 2023
368 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

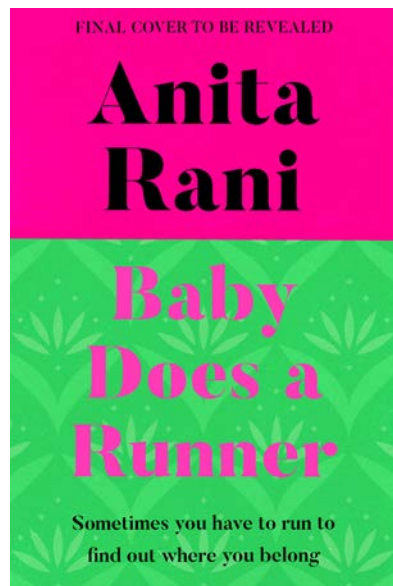
KATIE McMAHON is a medical doctor and writer. Her first novel, *The Mistake*, was published in 2021. Katie has also written articles for *The Age* and *The Quarry*. *The Accident* is her second novel.



Rights Sold for *The Mistake*:
Russia (Arkadia),
US Audio (Blackstone)

Z

Baby Does A Runner Anita Rani



Sometimes you need to run to find out where you really belong.

Baby has had it with just about everything. She's fed up with her job and her colleagues, her love life is permanently casual, she's grieving for her dad and if her mother and the aunties don't stop asking her when she's going to settle down and start having babies, she might just lose it.

When Baby finds some love letters between her grandfather and someone who is very clearly not Baby's Nana, she needs to know more. She's going to go to India, find out why her family left, find out more about the mysterious woman and find out more about herself.

What better time to do a runner?

A vibrant journey of self-discovery through uncovering lost family history, this is perfect for readers of Sandhya Menon, Sara Nisha Adams and Sara Cox.

July 2023 DRAFT COVER
336 pp
Women's Fiction

World Rights

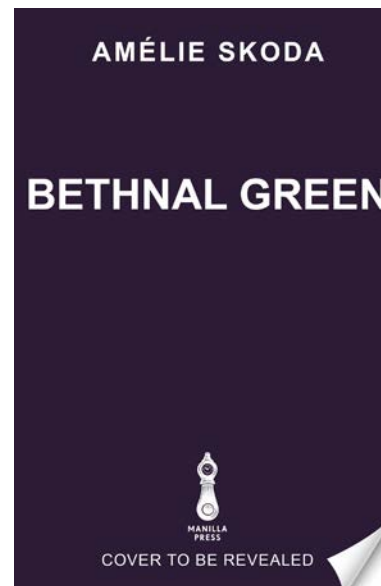
Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown

Award-winning presenter ANITA RANI is one of the most recognisable faces on British TV as well as also regularly hosting on radio shows. Her memoir, *The Right Sort of Girl* made it to the *Sunday Times* Bestseller list. This is her debut novel.



MANILLA PRESS

Bethnal Green Amélie Skoda



Balancing her new life in London with her duty to her family, one nurse must follow in her sister's footsteps to uncover her truth.

Penang, 1971. Suyin's sister returns to the family home, a stricken figure, bearing an opportunity of a lifetime, for Suyin to take her place as a trainee nurse in London's East End. With excitement and trepidation, Suyin embarks on a new adventure, but her sister's secrets are a constant reminder that she is living a borrowed life, in a strange, tough city. She finds solace in her job and through the gruelling but rewarding work of caring for the sick, Suyin stitches together a new identity.

Whilst home pulls at her heart, London gets under Suyin's skin as she learns to navigate a new country and culture. Life as a trainee nurse is tough but exhilarating, and with it comes the possibility of a new kind of freedom. The pull between past and present becomes even more complicated as Suyin uncovers the truth about what happened to her sister, and when she meets and falls in love with Robert, a British doctor.

Then a tragedy at home takes Suyin back to Malaysia, and she is faced with a dilemma: to choose between her sense of familial duty, and the new life she is beginning to forge on the other side of the world. She begins to realise that perhaps home can be a person rather than a place.

For readers of *Small Island* by Andrea Levy and *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin.

May 2024
352 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
The Good Literary Agency

AMÉLIE SKODA was born in London to French and Malaysian-Chinese parents and works as a journalist and editor. Her debut novel *Bethnal Green* was inspired by conversations with her NHS nurse mother and was shortlisted for the Mo Siewcharran Prize in 2021. Her work has appeared in various reviews and anthologies.

Small Acts of Kindness

Caroline Day



Three people will see their fortunes change as their paths intersect through small acts of kindness.

Kiki grew up in New Zealand, dreaming of one day going to the UK's most famous music festival, Glastonbury. Now, mourning the loss of her beloved Yaya - the woman who raised her - she travels to England to realise that dream. It is only when she leaves home, that she realises just how sheltered her life has been up until now.

Ned lives an active and exciting life. Well, he did until the accident. Now, he's woken from his coma, but no one knows. He can hear everything happening around him, but can't get his body to respond.

Mourning the loss of her best friend and the only person who knew how difficult her marriage was, Mrs Malley finds herself lonely and isolated with only her dog, Wordsworth, to keep her company.

All trapped in their own ways, this beautifully poignant and uplifting novel shows us the world through their eyes and highlights the power of human connection.

For readers of Claire Pooley and Libby Page.

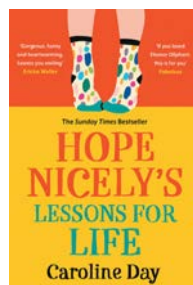
Praise for *Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life*:

'A gorgeous tale about love, acceptance, and living your best life no matter what.'

THE SUN, Pick of the Week

'This touching, uplifting debut novel oozes heart.'

DAILY MIRROR



Rights Sold for *Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life*:

Albania (Living),
France (L'Archipel),
Germany (Piper)

Winter's Wishfall

Ceri Houlbrook



She's making a list, she's checking it twice . . .

After losing her job and boyfriend just a few weeks before Christmas, Ellie Lancaster makes some resolutions:

1. Exact revenge on ex.
2. Be unborring.
3. Find a job.

With item 1 complete, Ellie manages to tick off 2 and 3 simultaneously by accepting a mysterious job on a tiny Scottish Island that doesn't seem to exist on any map.

Her new bosses – celebrity baker Clementine Jones and her straight-laced brother Cole – show Ellie the archives she'll be organising: a vast network of underground caverns, filled with scrolls dating back centuries, each document addressed to the same person, in a multitude of languages . . . Over the next year, Ellie attempts to impose a system on the chaos, while also trying to find out more about the island, the archives and who she's ultimately working for.

Then, as Christmas approaches, an apparently chance meeting with a stranger makes her question everything Clementine and Cole have told her. But will breaking their rules threaten everything that makes the island special – and what will her act of defiance mean to her newly developing relationship with Cole?

With just a few days to go before the big day itself, Ellie has just one chance to bring about a Christmas miracle of her own . . .

March 2024
Women's Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Lutyens & Rubinstein

CAROLINE DAY previously worked as a freelance journalist for national magazines and newspapers. She has now turned her hand to fiction. Her debut novel, *Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life*, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller and won the Joan Hessayon Award for New Writers.

October 2023
Seasonal Romance

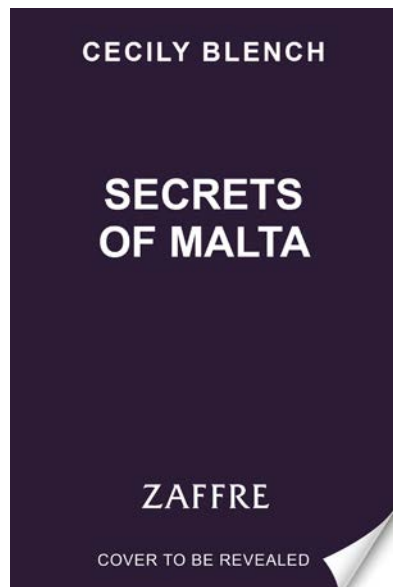
World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Julie Crisp

DR. CERI HOULBROOK is a Folklore and History Lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire. *Winter's Wishfall* is her debut novel and combines her academic interests with her love of magical realism and creative writing.

Z

Secrets of Malta Cecily Blench



Can two very different women unite to uncover the truth?

Malta, 1943. The war in the air above Malta is over, but the battle for Europe is about to begin.

Margarita, a young singer in a Valletta nightclub, has not seen her former British lover Henry Dunn since breaking off their affair. His wife Vera, an enigmatic archaeologist, arrives at the club to tell her that Henry has disappeared, presumed dead, possibly at the hands of a notorious and dangerous spy, Nero.

As an unlikely bond develops between the two women, and strange secrets emerge, an urgent quest to unmask Nero starts - before he can enact a deadly plan and turn the tide of the war.

Full of suspense, courage and love, this is a stunningly written story about two extraordinary women, a world at war and a race against time.

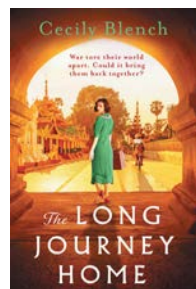
Praise for *The Long Journey Home*:

'Evocative and atmospheric.'

Wilbur Smith

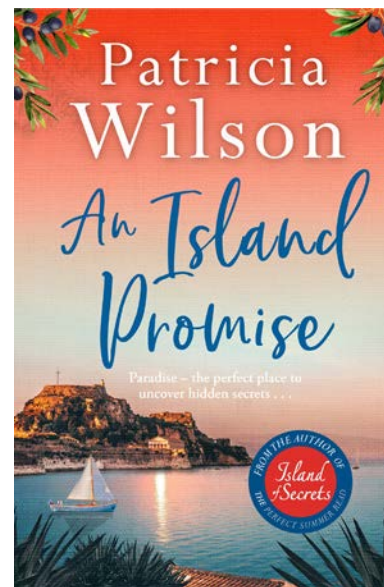
'A sweeping historical fiction masterpiece.'

MY WEEKLY



Z

An Island Promise Patricia Wilson



Paradise - the perfect place to uncover hidden secrets . . .

During the Nazi occupation of Athens, Daphne, a young Greek Jewish artist, finds her life suddenly under threat. She's in love with her Austrian art teacher, and together they must risk it all to escape his cousin, an SS officer. Pursued across Greece, their journey leads them to the island of Corfu.

In 2023, Flora has travelled to Corfu and begins painting the portrait of her charismatic grandmother Daphne, who is approaching her 100th birthday. During the sittings, Daphne recounts her love story and the story of a valuable piece of art from her youth, a masterpiece which bought her freedom but cost her everything she held dear.

Will Flora discover more than she expects as she explores the island her family took refuge on?

With her track record of over 400,000 copies sold, Patricia Wilson returns with a sweeping historical novel full of hope, intrigue and love.

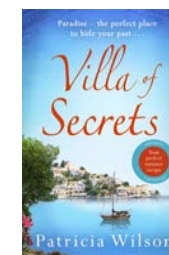
April 2023
432 pp
Women's Fiction

World Rights

Previous Rights Sold: Arabic, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Norway, Romania, Serbia

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

PATRICIA WILSON was born in Liverpool, has lived on Crete and is now settled on Rhodes. She was first inspired to write when she unearthed a rusted machine gun in her garden - one used in the events that unfolded during World War II on the island of Crete. The now elderly women involved in those events told Patricia their story, and her celebrated debut *Island of Secrets* was the result.



Z

What the Focaccia! Ginger Jones



May 2023
384 pp
Romance

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

GINGER JONES is a fiery redhead with a love for chocolate, spicy food and swimming al fresco. Most of her writing time is spent in the company of Lulu, her schnoodle who has helped and hindered in equal measure.

Escape to sun-drenched Tuscany for a taste of summer romance!

Ramona Matthews has a dream: to launch a size inclusive fashion line. She even had a plan - she was down to the final two pitching their designs at the fashion house she works for. She's a shoo-in, surely? Apparently not.

Realising she doesn't *knead* that kind of negativity, Ramona bids ciao for now to her old life and heads to Italy for inspiration (and gelato). Determined to prove herself, Ramona rents a room in a Tuscan village where the locals are sceptical - not least of all infuriating Marco, who seems to be there whenever she makes a fool of herself.

Can a year in Tuscany get her life back on track? And will Ramona ever learn to love and fly again?

The author of *You Had Me At Halloumi* is back with a brand-new foodie rom-com. This mouthwatering series is a feast for the senses - not to mention laugh-out-loud hilarious and sure to satisfy your appetite!

Praise for *You Had Me at Halloumi*:

'Sparkling with wit and warmth, this charming romance from Ginger Jones is utterly delicious.'

WOMAN'S OWN



Z

Virtual Strangers Sam Canning



February 2023
384 pp
Romance

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil (under offer),
Russia (Eksmo)

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

SAM CANNING is a Northern Ireland born and Edinburgh-based writer. *Virtual Strangers* is her debut novel. In her spare time she can be found roaming the city in search of the weirdest things she can find and desperately trying to keep her one and only plant Stanley alive. (It could be going better).

Do you believe in love at first type?

Two people. One desk. A million Zoom calls. What could go wrong?

When Ada and Fraser find themselves freelancing from the same Edinburgh café together every day they strike up a mutually beneficial friendship. Fraser saves her the best biscuits and Ada protects the best table when he's running late.

As they work side-by-side Ada can't help but notice how attractive Fraser is, and how well they get along. But then Ada signs up to an Agatha Christie fan fiction site and she starts chatting with a guy online. His interests are the same as hers, and the anonymity helps them both be more honest and open. As Ada's messages with the mystery man become deeper and more honest, she thinks she's falling for him.

Ada feels torn between Fraser and Mister-E, but can you have real feelings for someone when you're virtual strangers?

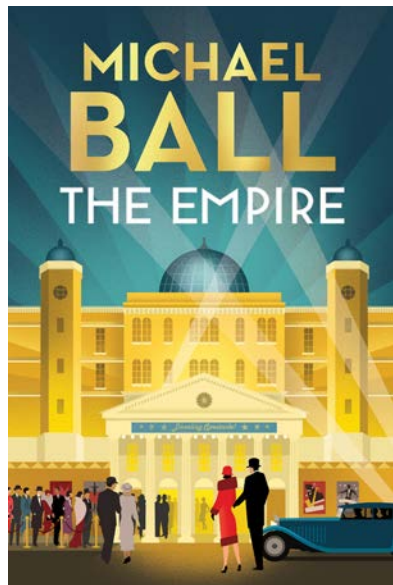
A modern *You've Got Mail* meets *The Flatshare*.

'Funny, sweet, and full of warmth.'

Beth Reekles (*The Kissing Booth*)

Z

The Empire Michael Ball



Take your seats. The show is about to begin.

1922. When Jack Treadwell first arrives at The Empire, a rehearsal is in full swing, and he is instantly mesmerised by the glitz and glamour of it all. But Jack quickly learns that the true magic of The Empire is the cast of characters – both on stage and backstage – who work tirelessly to ensure the show will go on, no matter what. Jack joins them, throwing himself into theatre life, finding an eccentric new family.

There's stunning starlet Stella Stanmore and Hollywood heartthrob Lancelot Drake; and Ruby Rowntree keeps the music playing, while Lady Lillian Lassiter, theatre owner and former showgirl, is determined to take on a bigger role. And then there's cool, competent Grace Hawkins, without whom the show would never go on . . . could she be the leading lady Jack is looking for?

When long-held rivalries threaten The Empire's future, tensions rise along with the curtain. There is treachery at the heart of the theatre and a shocking secret waiting in the wings. Can Jack discover the truth before it's too late, and the theatre he loves goes dark?

Told by musical legend Michael Ball, this is the first in a sweeping historical series full of glitz and glamour that lifts the curtain on the irresistible world of theatre in the roaring 1920s.

'A wonderful read.'

Jeffrey Archer

'A love letter to the theatre.'

The Reverend Richard Coles

October 2022
416 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

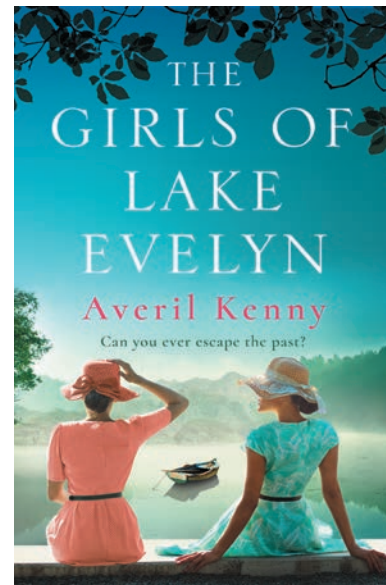
Rights Sold: Bulgaria (Prozoretz)

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown

MICHAEL BALL is Britain's leading musical theatre star and a double Olivier Award winner for Best Actor in a Musical. He has starred in musical productions in London and Broadway since the 1980s, including *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Misérables*. *The Empire* is his first novel.

Z

The Girls of Lake Evelyn Averil Kenny



The lush tropics of north Queensland reveal an irresistible story of mystery, love and small-town secrets.

Society bride Vivienne has left her groom at the altar, fleeing the most anticipated wedding of 1958. With the help of Uncle Felix, she flees to the small town of Barrington Downs in tropical north Queensland where she rents a secluded lodge. But the place she thought would be her refuge seems to house a ghostly presence, amid stories of women lured to their drowning at the local lake.

She soon befriends Owen Monash and his sister Josie, farmhand and aspiring playwright, who cares for her father and four older brothers on their dairy. Josie is determined to dispel the superstition around the lake by staging a play based on the life of the first drowning victim, the glamorous Celeste Star. Vivienne is cast in the lead role, but as the opening night approaches, a chain of dark events is set off with drama and intrigue touching everyone in the small town.

Perfect for fans of Kate Morton, Fiona McIntosh and Lucinda Riley.

'Kenny's masterful characterization and meticulous attention to detail will delight fans of historical fiction. This is a novel you can't put down.'

Andie Newton

August 2022
448 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights (excl. Germany)

Rights Sold: Norway (Kagge), Poland (Slowne)

Television & Film Rights:
Selwa Anthony

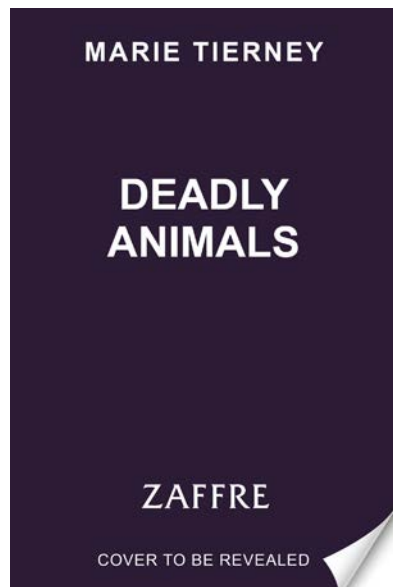
AVERIL KENNY lives in North Queensland, where the magnificent landscape inspires her evocative writing which features strong, spirited heroines. Her debut novel, *Those Hamilton Sisters*, was published in 2021.



Rights Sold for Those Hamilton Sisters:
Germany (Goldmann),
Norway (Kagge),
Sweden (Modernista)

Z

Deadly Animals Marie Tierney



Ava is not a normal child. But then finding a dead body is not a normal occurrence.

Thirteen-year-old Ava Bonney is unlike other children. Exceptionally bright, she has an obsessive interest in the rate at which dead animals decompose. The motorway she lives by regularly offers up roadkill, and in the dead of night Ava likes nothing better than to pull her latest discovery into her roadside den so she can study it.

But one night, as she arrives at the road, she stumbles across the dead body of fellow pupil, Mickey Grant.

DI Seth Delahaye is given the case – one of the darkest, most challenging of his career. He's worked some big cases before, though none like this.

But Ava is not the sort of person to step back and let someone else take charge when children like her are dying. And so she uses all her unusual skills and deep local knowledge to try to track down the serial killer in her community – whatever the cost.

This suspenseful debut has the heart of Belinda Bauer with the darkness of Mo Hayder.

February 2024
Crime/Thriller

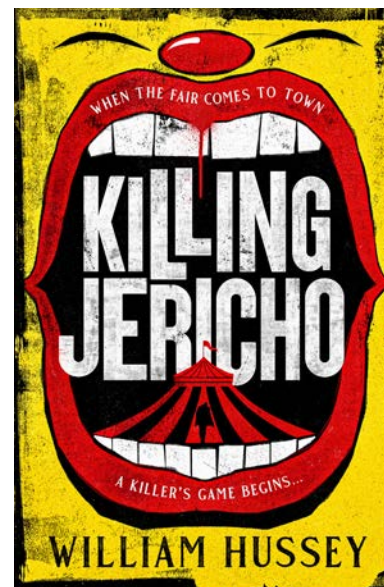
World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Luigi Bonomi

MARIE TIERNEY is a biology teacher from Birmingham. *Deadly Animals* is her debut novel.

Z

Killing Jericho William Hussey



Introducing crime fiction's first ever Traveller detective, Scott Jericho, in a helter-skelter thriller like no other!

Fresh out of prison, former Detective Constable Scott Jericho is a desperate man.

Disgraced and penniless after violently assaulting a suspect, he is forced to seek refuge with the fairground family he once rejected. Now, troubled by his failure, Jericho's brilliant mind is stagnating. That is until a series of bizarre murders reawaken his interest. Men and women with no obvious link to each other are being ritualistically slaughtered.

Slaughtered in ways that recall an old legend of the Jericho Travelling Fair.

In a race against time, he must unpick the threads of a baffling mystery. But as his investigation unfolds and the corpses pile up, a shocking truth awaits him. A revelation that will test not only Jericho's formidable intellect and sleuthing instincts but challenge the very core of his morality . . .

April 2023
384 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
David Higham

WILLIAM HUSSEY is the award-winning author of over a dozen novels, including the Crime Fest award-nominated *Hideous Beauty* and *The Outrage*. Born the son of a travelling showman, he has spent a lifetime absorbing the history, folklore and culture of fairground people, knowledge he has now put to work in his *Scott Jericho* thrillers.

Dark, evocative and furiously-paced, *Killing Jericho* foregrounds an underexplored cultural history and marks the debut of the first ever Traveller detective in crime fiction history.

'A first-class thriller.'

Chris Whitaker

'A brilliantly original investigator - Killing Jericho is an absolute cracker.'

T.M. Logan

'A distinctive detective, a striking setting, and macabre murders - what more could a reader ask for?'

John Connolly

Z

Lynda La Plante

Sunday Times Bestselling Detective Jack Warr Crime Series



Over 800,000 copies sold in the UK

April 2020 / April 2021 / March 2022 / March 2023
448 pp / 320 pp / 448 pp / 400 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold: France (L'Archipel)
Romania (Crime Scene Press)

Television & Film Rights:
La Plante Global

LYNDA LA PLANTE was born in Liverpool. She trained for the stage at RADA and worked with the National Theatre and RSC before becoming a television actress. She then turned to writing - and made her breakthrough with the phenomenally successful TV series *Widows*. With 37 bestselling novels, over 5 million copies sold in the UK alone, and a place in crime writing Hall of Fame, Lynda is truly crime fiction royalty.

PURE EVIL, the fourth and final book in the bestselling series from the Queen of Crime is coming in March

It was supposed to be a simple case: a young man arrested for armed assault. But it was just the beginning.

As Rodney Middleton awaits trial, Detective Jack Warr is warned by his mentor DCI Ridley that they have only scratched the surface of the man's crimes. Then DCI Ridley is suddenly removed from his post. No one is to contact him - and no one will say why.

As Warr digs into Rodney's past, Ridley calls pleading for help, now accused of a murder he insists he didn't commit. One of these men is a true monster, an evil soul. But which?

And what awaits Warr if he discovers the truth?

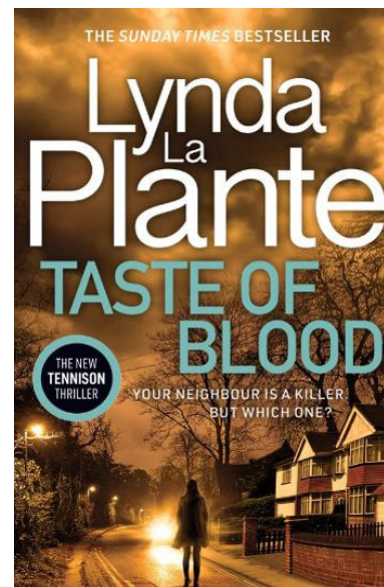
'Lynda La Plante practically invented the thriller.'
Karin Slaughter

'The UK's most celebrated female crime author.'
DAILY MAIL

Z

Tennison Series

Over half a million copies sold in the UK alone

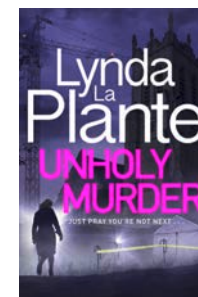


August 2023
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold: Denmark (Superlux)

Television & Film Rights:
La Plante Global



Detective Jane Tennison has made a bad choice.

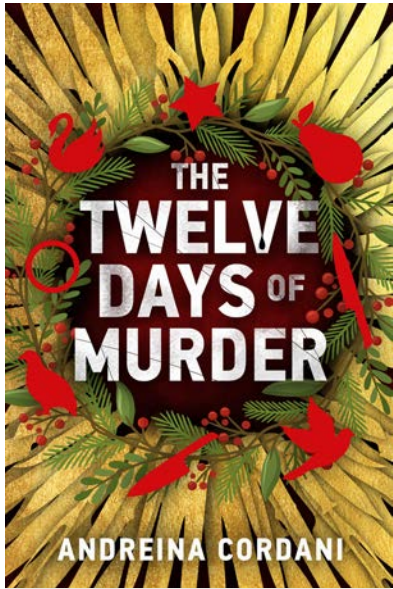
Jane was the one who put in a transfer to the quiet, local police station in Bromley, keen to escape the relentless pressure of her former West End department. Now she regrets her decision. The tedium of petty crime is making her question remaining in the force.

But then a complicated domestic assault case lands on her desk - one that might still result in a murder charge if the victim dies of his injuries. The warring neighbours who witnessed the assault intrigue her. The case has a sinister underbelly, she can sense it. Upon discovering a handsome young boy had recently disappeared after the tragic death of his girlfriend, every family in the private close becomes a suspect.

As Tennison hunts for the link between the crimes, she uncovers a truth more shocking than she could have contemplated. One that will either make her career - or break it.

Z

The Twelve Days of Murder Andreina Cordani



October 2023 DRAFT COVER
Cosy Crime

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

Before writing her first novel, ANDREINA CORDANI was a senior editor and writer for women's magazines including *Good Housekeeping* and *Cosmopolitan*. She is the author of two YA thrillers, *The Girl Who...* and *Dead Lucky*. *The Twelve Days of Murder* is her debut adult novel.

**Find the truth.
Solve the murder.
Never reveal your secret.**

Twelve years ago, eight friends formed an exclusive group at university: The Masquerade Murder Society. The mysteries they solved may have been grisly, but they were always fictional – until their final Christmas Masquerade, when one of the group disappeared, never to be seen again.

Over a decade later, the remaining members of the group receive an invitation to a reunion masquerade, to be held in a beautiful and remote hunting lodge in Northern Sweden. When they arrive they are each assigned a new identity – they become Lady Patridge or Mr Gold; Lord Leapworth or Doctor Swan. The game begins, and it feels just like old times.

Until the next morning, when Lady Patridge is found hanging from a pear tree.

It quickly becomes clear that in this game, the murder will be all too real, and the story is bringing long-hidden secrets to the surface. If they hope to win the game and survive the twelve days until Christmas morning, then they will need to face the truth about their history together, who they have become – and what really happened on that fateful night twelve years ago?

Z

The Launch Party Lauren Forry



June 2023
400 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold: Croatia (Stilus)

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

LAUREN FORRY undertook a degree in Cinema Studies and Screenwriting from New York University before later earned her MA and MFA in Creative Writing and Publishing in London, England. There she was awarded the Faber and Faber Creative Writing MA Prize for her thesis work, *Abigale Hall*.

Is this once-in-a-lifetime trip worth dying for?

Ten lucky people have won a place at the most exclusive launch event of the century: the grand opening of the Royal Artemis, the first hotel on the moon. It's an invitation to die for. As the doors seal shut behind them and their transport departs for its return to Earth, the guests take the next leap for mankind.

However, they soon discover that all is not as it seems. The champagne may be flowing, but there is no one to pour it. Room service is available, but there is no one to deliver it. Besides the ten of them, they are completely alone.

When one of the guests is found murdered, fear spreads through the group. But that death is only the beginning. Three days' journey from home and with no way to contact the outside, can any of the guests survive their stay?

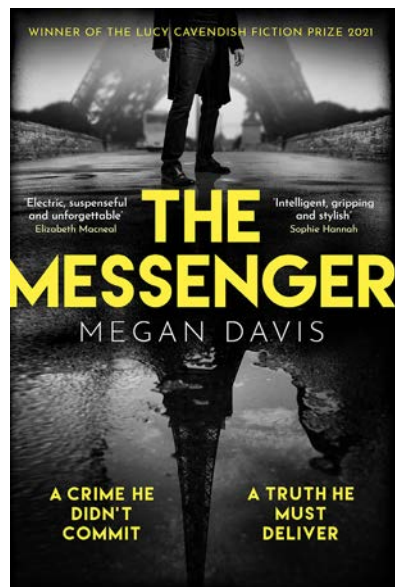
Perfect for fans of Lucy Foley, Anthony Horowitz and Hanna Jameson. Agatha Christie meets Andy Weir in this ultimate locked room mystery.

'And Then There Were None meets Black Mirror. Lauren Forry's moon-based murder mystery is heaps of fun!'
Tom Hindle (*A Fatal Crossing*)

'A truly dastardly, devilish and downright terrific murder mystery that's unputdownable.'
Jonathan Whitelaw (*The Bingo Hall Detectives*)

Z

The Messenger Megan Davis



The path to redemption will expose the dark heart of the City of Light.

Wealthy and privileged, Alex has an easy path to success in the Parisian elite his father mingles with. But the two have never seen eye to eye. Desperate to escape the increasingly suffocating atmosphere of their apartment, Alex seeks freedom on the streets of Paris where his new-found friend Sami teaches him how to survive. But everything has a price – and one night of rebellion changes their lives forever.

A simple plan to steal money takes a sinister turn when Alex's father is found dead. Despite protesting their innocence, the two friends are imprisoned for murder. Seven years later Alex is released from prison with a single purpose: to discover who really killed his father. Yet as he searches for answers and atones for the sins of his past, Alex uncovers a disturbing truth with far-reaching consequences.

In the heart of Paris, against a backdrop of corruption, fake news and civil unrest, *The Messenger* is a mind-racing new thriller that follows one son's journey to find redemption and expose the truth.

Lupin meets Rosamund Lupton in this chilling debut by an eclectic, cut-throat new voice in thriller writing.

'A strong, twisting, literary journey of revelation and redemption. Five stars.'

Janice Hallett

'A sharply written, clever and classy thrill-ride through the streets of Paris.'

Chris Whitaker

March 2023
448 pp
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

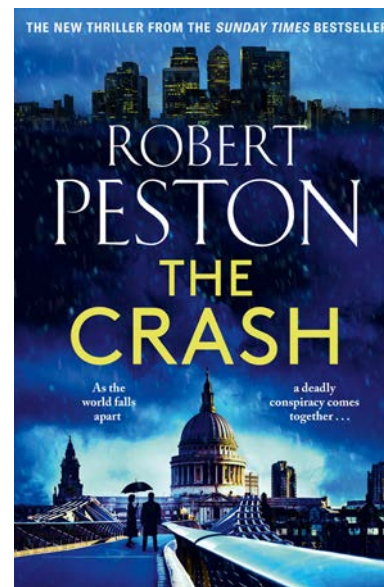
Rights Sold: US & Canada (Pegasus)

Television & Film Rights:
Rogers, Coleridge & White

MEGAN DAVIS has worked in the film industry and her credits include *Atonement*, *In Bruges*, *Pride and Prejudice* and the Bourne films. Megan is also a lawyer and is currently an associate at Spotlight on Corruption. Her debut *The Messenger* won the Bridport Prize for a First Novel in 2018 as well as the Lucy Cavendish Prize for unpublished writers in 2021.

Z

The Crash Robert Peston



As the world falls apart, a deadly conspiracy comes together . . .

London, 2007. It's summer in the City: the economy is booming, profits are up and the stock market sits near record highs. But journalist Gil Peck, now economics editor at the BBC, is a lone voice worrying it can't last. Deep in the plumbing of the financial system, he has noticed strange things happening which could threaten the whole economy. But nobody wants to hear it: not the politicians taking credit for an end to boom and bust, not the bankers pocketing vast bonuses, not even Gil's bosses at the BBC, who think it's irrelevant.

But when Gil gets a tip-off that a small northern bank has run out of money, everything changes. His report sparks the first run on a UK bank in 140 years. The next day, Marilyn Krol, a director of the Bank of England dies in an apparent suicide.

For Gil, it's personal. Marilyn was his lover: was his scoop connected to her suicide? Or is there something more sinister in her death? Still scarred by the murder of his sister ten years earlier, Gil is determined to find out.

Praise for *The Whistleblower*:

'Brilliant. Politically insightful, scary, satirical, beautifully paced.'

THE TIMES

'An engaging tale of government secrets...this debut novel is a hell of a read.'

THE OBSERVER

September 2023
Political Thriller

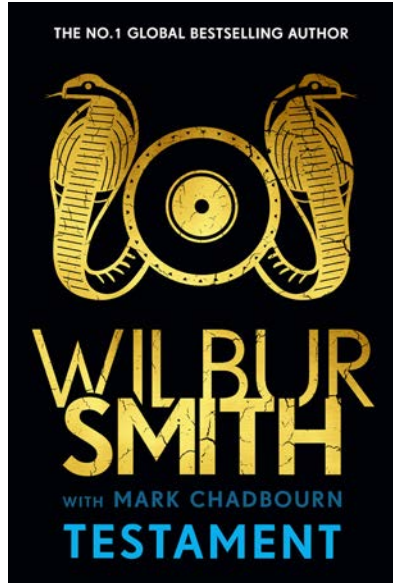
World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown

ROBERT PESTON is ITV's political editor, presenter of politics show 'Peston', founder of the education charity, Speakers for Schools and vice president of charity Hospice UK. He has written four critically acclaimed non-fiction books and has won more than 30 awards for his journalism, including Journalist of the Year and Scoop of the Year from the Royal Television Society. His debut novel *The Whistleblower* has sold over 90,000 copies.

Z

Testament Wilbur Smith



August 2023
464 pp
Historical Adventure

World Rights

Rights Sold for the Series:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, USA

Television & Film Rights:

Tibor Jones

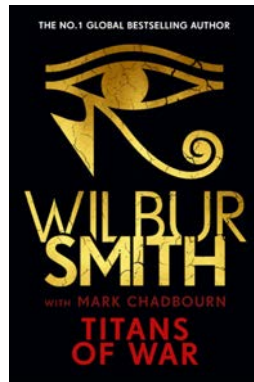
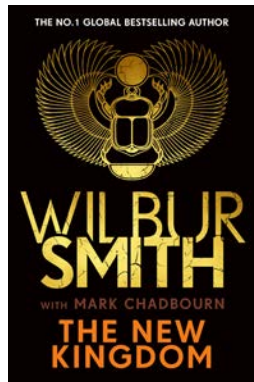
WILBUR SMITH is a worldwide phenomenon and one of the most successful novelists of our time. He is the author of over 40 international bestsellers during a 5-decade career, with sales of over 130 million books in twenty-six languages.

In the ruins of battle, a hero must rise to decide the future of Egypt.

Years of Hyksos rule have seen the ruin and suffering of a once-mighty Egypt. Though Pharaoh is now restored to his rightful throne, his power is fragile as some seek to take advantage of the ensuing chaos following the overthrowing of the Hyksos. Desperate to unite the two divided kingdoms of Egypt under Pharaoh's rule, great mage Taita sends his protégé, Piay, to discover the answer to a millennia-old riddle which has the power to secure the fate of Egypt forever.

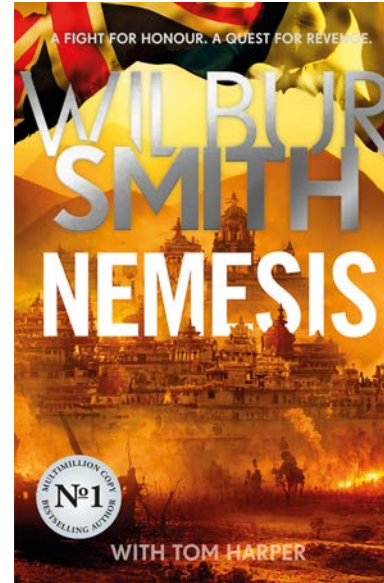
But in the chaos of war, a dark evil has thrived.

With the fate of Egypt at stake, Piay races across the desert chasing the clues from the riddle. Can he prevent their beloved land falling into the hands of those who would see its ruin?



Z

Nemesis Wilbur Smith



April 2023
480 pp
Historical Adventure

World Rights

Rights Sold: Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof), The Netherlands (Xander)

Television & Film Rights:

Tibor Jones

Three strands of the Courtney family converge in a bloodthirsty bid for revenge . . .

Paris, 1794. Crowds gather to watch the latest victims of the revolutionary reign of terror. Among them is the Marquise de Berenchy. As the crowd bay for her blood, few of them remember that she was once a girl named Constance Courtney. Anonymous and unrecognised, stands her son, Paul. As he watches his mother's execution, he knows he must avoid the same fate and hides as part of Napoleon's army.

With Europe at his feet, Napoleon dreams of conquering the east, and opening a route to Britain's possessions in India. Following victory in battle, Paul is sent up the Nile. When his regiment is attacked in the depths of the desert, he flees, deserting the army. Through a series of unimaginable events, Paul finds himself at Nativity Bay on the East Coast of Africa, destined for battle, little knowing that this is the home of his distant Courtney relatives . . .

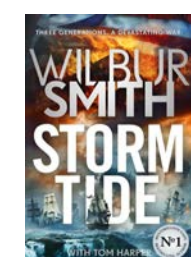
Praise for the author:

'Best historical novelist.'

Stephen King

"Wilbur Smith is one of those benchmarks against whom others are compared."

THE TIMES



Z

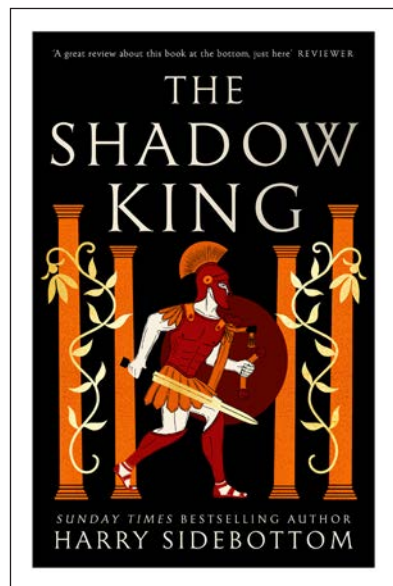
Alexander: The Shadow King Harry Sidebottom

Everybody has heard of Alexander the Great - but few really know his story. His life is the most extraordinary story of military adventure ever told.

Alexander of Macedon was just twenty years old in 334BC when he set out with a small army to challenge Persia, the largest and most powerful empire in the world. The Macedonians marched East into the unknown, won battles against overwhelming odds and stormed impregnable fortresses. In the deserts and mountains between the Aegean and India they conquered nature itself. Yet disaster was never more than a sword stroke away. Alexander's companions were riven with murderous rivalries, their loyalty contingent. The threat of treason, inspired by ambition and Persian gold, or by honour and principle, was ever present.

Alexander: The Shadow King tells this epic story from a new and unique angle through the eyes of another Alexander, a prince of the Macedonian royal house of Lyncestis. The Lyncestian was Alexander the Great's general and friend. But he was torn between that friendship and the duty to avenge his murdered brothers, and between adherence to the ways of his ancestors and the new world of empire. The Lyncestian was never safe. Others - Persians and Greeks, as well as Macedonians - saw him as a rival for the throne. For six years of conspiracy and battle, as the Macedonian army fought its way East, his life hung by a thread.

Alexander of Lyncestis was *The Shadow King*.



November 2023
Historical Adventure

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
United Agents

HARRY SIDEBOTTOM teaches Ancient History at Oxford University. His career as a novelist began with his *Warrior of Rome* series, which has sold over half a million copies.

echo

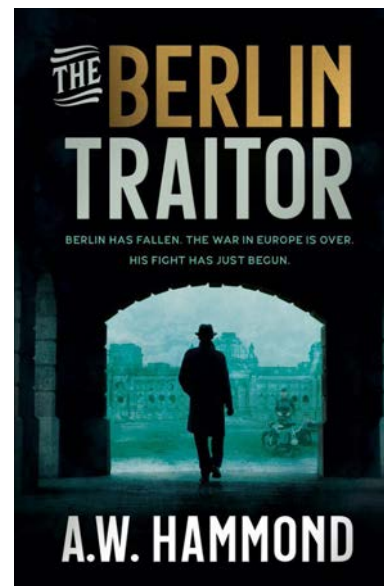
The Berlin Traitor A. W. Hammond

Time is running out in post-war Berlin as a race against the Soviets begins to retrieve a set of nuclear plans.

Former schoolteacher Auguste Duchene has survived occupied Paris, only to be accused of collaborating with the Germans. To remain in the City of Lights is to risk his life. So he reluctantly travels to bombed-out Berlin to join the Allies as they hunt for a Nazi war criminal - whom Duchene has already encountered, before the liberation of Paris.

Working with an American Military Intelligence Officer, Duchene finds himself in a race against the Soviets, who are searching for the same man. A dangerous game of cat-and-mouse begins as the precarious alliance between the Soviets and the West is threatened. As the hunt escalates toward deadly violence, Duchene discovers that his estranged wife, Sabine, is leading the Russian team.

Trapped by their past and caught between competing ideologies, they must rely on their wits, rekindled feelings and split-second decisions to survive the beginning of the Cold War.



July 2023
336 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown (Australia)

A.W. HAMMOND was born in South Africa and emigrated to Australia as a child. He currently works at RMIT University in Melbourne.



When the Needle Drops

Colin MacIntyre

A sinister plot is unfolding, holding the Isle of Mull in its grip . . .

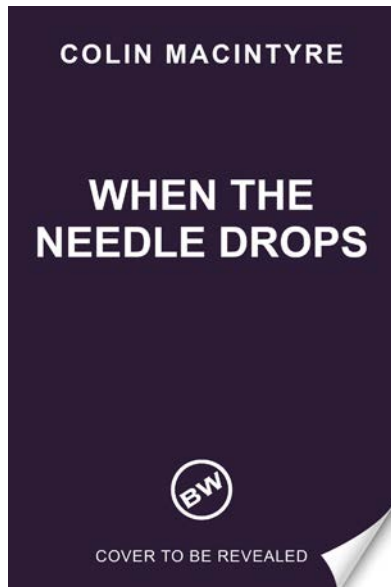
1998. Sergeant Ivor Punch is contacted by a frantic caller about a missing pilot and plane. He has vanished without a trace after taking off, impromptu and alone, in a Cessna Needle from the airfield of a local hotel.

This strange incident takes place on the tenth anniversary of the death of Punch's brother. Now aged 45, Punch is a loner who slaughters sheep to unwind and survives on a diet of whisky and *The Faces* vinyls, and the last thing he needs is to be reminded of the past.

Then a body is found, propped up on a hillside - but no plane in sight. To make matters even more frustrating, Punch - must entertain an overly-keen and bureaucratic new deputy, PC Cluny, despatched from Head Office. Then a little girl, Iris, goes missing, and soon after another body is found.

When effigies start appearing around the island, all the evidence starts to point back to the start - to the elusive Maggie May and that first phone call to Sergeant Punch . . .

Based on the perplexing and unsolved case of the Great Mull Air Mystery.



October 2023
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
SoloSon Media

COLIN MACINTYRE is a multi-award-winning musician, producer, author for adults and children, and playwright. His debut novel, *The Letters of Ivor Punch*, won the 2015 Edinburgh International Book Festival First Book Award and was shortlisted for The Guardian's Not the Booker Prize

echo

Mole Creek

James Dunbar

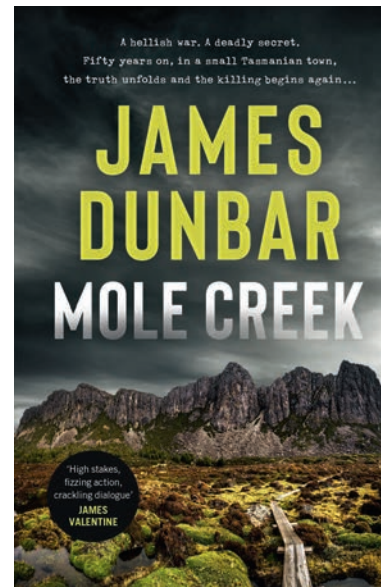
Betrayal cannot be buried forever.

In the tiny Tasmanian town of Mole Creek, retired Australian cop and Vietnam veteran Pete McAuslan has retreated to his fishing cabin to write his memoirs. In Sydney, his grandson, journalist and trashy true crime author Xander, learns that Pete has taken his own life, begging forgiveness in a suicide note.

Arriving in Mole Creek in the aftermath of Pete's death, Xander discovers that his grandfather's laptop is missing. He begins to suspect that something is wrong, refusing to accept the facts as presented. With the local police not interested in investigating an apparently open-and-shut suicide, Xander sets about uncovering the truth of what happened to his grandfather.

In the process, he discovers long-buried secrets from Pete's time serving in the Vietnam war: secrets that Pete has withheld from him and everyone else for fifty years; secrets that powerful people would prefer to stay buried. Ensnared in a web of betrayals that began a generation before, Xander finds himself on the hitlist of a clinically violent assassin. Now he must race to identify the connection between the seemingly unremarkable death of an old Australian soldier and the imminent reactivation of the most powerful and potentially destructive 'sleeper' in the history of espionage - before the truth catches up with him.

'High stakes, fizzing action, crackling dialogue . . .'
James Valentine



August 2023
304 pp
Crime/Thriller

DRAFT COVER

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown (Australia)

JAMES DUNBAR is a journalist, television scriptwriter, travel writer, university lecturer and website editor. *Mole Creek* is his first venture into the serious crime thriller and espionage genre. Published under Jimmy Thomson, he is also the author of two crime 'caper' novels and two true-crime memoirs, as well as several books about Australian army engineers (sappers) during the Vietnam War.

She Too

Eve Thomson



In a trial by media, truth is a fragile thing.

At age twenty-eight, Romola Cross is already jaded by her work as a criminal defence lawyer in Sydney. In the aftermath of her father's death, she decides to reinvent herself, and blindly accepts a position at prestigious Melbourne law firm Bassett Brown.

Patrick Payne is the only son of famed property tycoon Malcolm Payne. After years spent in his father's shadow, Patrick is trying his luck in politics. But when Patrick's girlfriend Hana is found dead in his home, the media accuse him of being an abusive partner, drawing comparisons with the death of his teenage sweetheart many years earlier. At the insistence of his father, Patrick sues for defamation.

With his reputation in tatters, Patrick becomes Romola's first client. Under the watchful eye of a narcissistic supervising partner, Romola sets out to defend his reputation. Drawn into the Paynes' life of privilege, and torn by conflicting family and client loyalties, Romola confronts the question of how to prove Patrick is a good man without sacrificing all that she holds dear.

This whip-smart legal thriller takes an unflinching look at the illusory nature of truth, guilt and innocence - and their manipulation by the media, the wealthy, and each one of us, depending on what we want to believe.

February 2023
352 pp
Thriller

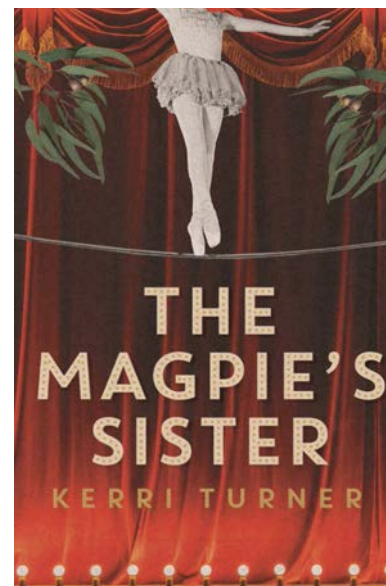
World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Cameron's Management

EVE THOMSON is a lawyer specialising in commercial litigation and defamation. This is her debut novel which was developed at the Curtis Brown Creative (London) selective six-month novel-writing course, followed by mentorship from Commonwealth Book Prize winning author Lisa O'Donnell.

The Magpie's Sister

Kerri Turner



Spotlights and sawdust, secrets and lies . . .

1911, Sydney. From the moment the tumours appeared on her face, Maggie Bright knew she would never live a normal life. Abandoned by her parents, she spent her childhood learning to become the 'Lagoon Creature': part acrobat, part clown, part circus hand. It's not a bad life - Rafferty Braun, the ringmaster, provides her with an ongoing education, and now, as a young woman, she has the kind of freedom her condition could have easily taken away from her. As much as she tries not to, however, Maggie can't help wishing for more.

Charlotte Voigt could not be more different. The talented tightrope walker is a star of the circus, with the entertainment world at her slipper-clad feet. She is also a liar.

When an opportunity arises to try on Charlotte's identity for her own, Maggie doesn't hesitate. She wants to know what it feels like to be admired, to be accepted, to be beautiful. And the circus's sudden decision to cross Australia via wagon provides her with the perfect cover.

Each new town or remote settlement brings the women closer to understanding one another. Resentments begin to fade, but in their place are secrets that could undo the delicate trust they've built.

May 2023
352 pp
Historical Fiction

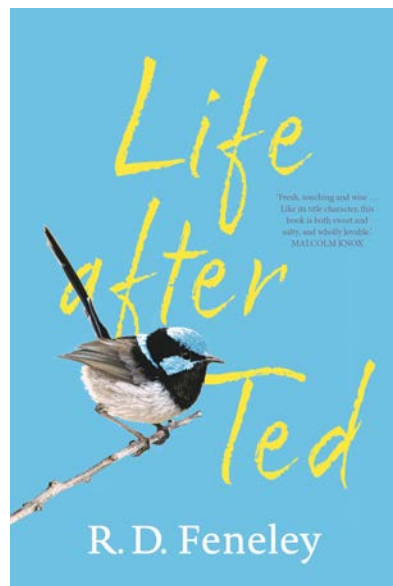
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Television & Film Rights:
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KERRI TURNER is an Australian author whose books and short stories focus on female roles throughout history that have been largely overlooked or forgotten. Her debut novel, *The Last Days of the Romanov Dancers*, was released in 2019. Her short stories have appeared in several national and international publications, and she has been a speaker for events including International Women's Day.

Life after Ted

Rick Feneley



A tragic surfing accident tests the strength of family ties.

Ted McCall is a legend among Bondi lifesavers. When he is killed in a surfing accident, his death exposes long-held family secrets and sets in motion a series of revelations and betrayals. Only one thing is certain: Ted's death is a defining moment for his loved ones. But will it make his family stronger, or break them apart?

Ted's adoring wife of forty years, Connie Blunt, witnesses the tragedy. Focused on her own grief, which plays out in unexpected ways, she is incapable of offering comfort to her son, Sebastian, who worshipped Ted.

Seb has never doubted his mother's love for his dad. Or not until three days after Ted's funeral, when he discovers her in bed with another man.

Ted's death turns an already tense mother-son relationship toxic. Seb demands answers, but Connie is not ready to reveal that she and Ted were keeping a secret from their son. For Connie, though, harder to confront will be the secret Ted kept from her.

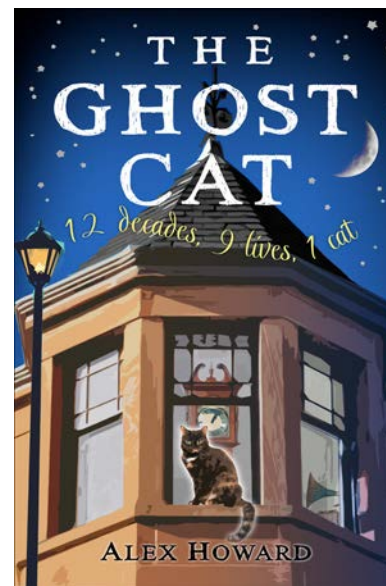
Threaded with wry humour, this is a compelling examination of family conflict. The iconic backdrop of Bondi Beach is a presence as vivid, changeable and fascinating as any of the flawed and complex characters navigating their way through grief towards hope.

May 2023
352 pp
General Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Curtis Brown (Australia)

RICK FENELEY in New South Wales, Australia, and resides at Bondi. He has been a journalist for four decades and currently works for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, where he has held editing and writing roles. His first novel, *Sly*, was published in 1995. This is his second novel.



Ghost Cat

Alex Howard

Twelve decades, nine lives, one cat.

Early morning, 1902. In a gloomy Edinburgh tenement, Eilidh the charlady tips coal into a fire grate and sets it alight. Overhearing, a cat ambles over to curl up against the welcome heat.

This is to be the cat's last day on earth. But he is going to return . . . as The Ghost Cat, a spirit-feline destined to live out his ghostly existence according to the medieval proverb of "The Cat with Nine Lives" - For Three He Plays, For Three He Strays, For Three He Stays.

Follow the Ghost Cat as he witnesses the changes of the next two centuries, purring, shuffling and sniffing his way through the fashion, politics and technological advances of the modern era alongside the ever-changing inhabitants of an Edinburgh tenement. As we follow our new spirit-feline friend, this unique story unearths some startling revelations about the mystery of existence and the human condition and provides a feel-good read full of charm for any fan of history, humour and fur-ridden fun.

May 2023
304 pp
Historical Fiction

World Rights

Television & Film Rights:
Reserved to the Author

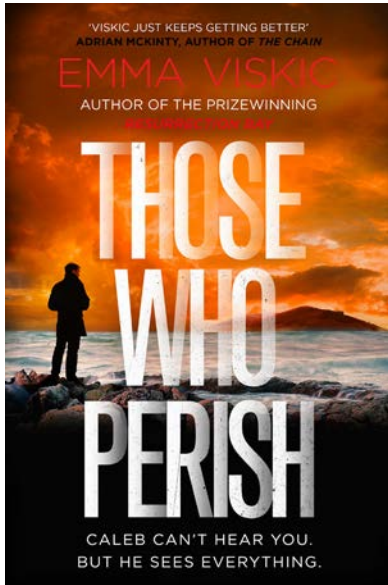
ALEX HOWARD is the winner of the Red Cross International Writing Prize and was a quarter-finalist in the Scottish Slam Championships 2012. He has had his comedy shortlisted by the BBC and previously worked as a television researcher, ghost tour guide, and tutor. His TikTok account, @housedoctoralex, has almost 300,000 followers.



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South Korea (Woongjin Thing Big)

Emma Viskic

**Resurrection Bay / And Fire Came Down /
Darkness for Light / Those Who Perish**



September 2015 / August 2017 /
December 2019 / March 2022
Crime/Thriller

World Rights

Rights Sold:

Canada (Pushkin), Czech Republic (Grada), France (Seuil), Germany (Piper), The Netherlands (Luitingh Sijthoff), Norway (Kagge), Poland (Muza), Romania (RAO), USA (Pushkin)

Television & Film Rights:

Fred & Bob Films

EMMA VISKIC has won an unprecedented number of awards for her debut novel *Resurrection Bay*. In order to write the character of Caleb Zelic, Emma learned Auslan (Australian sign language).



All he trusts is betrayal.

Deaf since early childhood, Caleb Zelic has always lived on the outside, estranged from family and friends. Then one night his addict brother Anton reappears, begging for help. A man has been murdered and it looks as though Anton will be next. Caleb vows that this time he won't let his brother down. Together, they return to the wind-punished island where Anton has been seeking treatment from a controlling doctor with a troubling past. There, Caleb finds an isolated community where secrets run deep and resentments deeper.

As Caleb hunts for the killer, any misstep will ruin his tentative reconciliation with Anton. And when body parts begin to wash up on shore, it looks as though the killer is growing more desperate. With storms pounding the coast, the brothers must rely on each other to survive.

But trust comes at a deadly price in the final book in the Caleb Zelic series . . .

- Winner of the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction and of three Davitt Awards: Best Adult Novel (twice), Best Debut and Readers' Choice.
- Shortlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger and the CWA John Creasy Award for New Blood.

Reputation

Lex Croucher



Publication: July 2021

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, USA

Mean Girls meets Bridgerton in this historical romcom for the modern woman.

Abandoned by her parents, middle-class Georgiana Ellers has moved to a new town to live with her dreary aunt and uncle. When she meets the enigmatic France Campbell, Georgiana is introduced to a new world of drunken debauchery and mysterious young men with strangely arresting hands. But the price of entry to high society might just be higher than she is willing to pay . . .

'Bridgerton crossed with Sex Education.'

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Time after Time

Louise Pentland



Publication: July 2022

World Rights

Sometimes you have to go back, to move forwards . . .

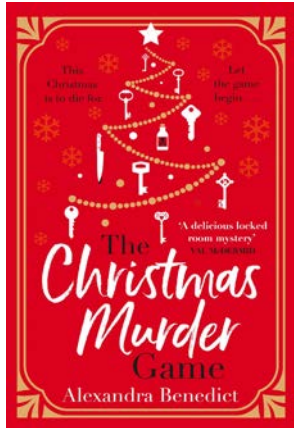
Tabitha is stuck. She still lives in the small town she grew up in . . . the town she's barely ever left.

When she meets Bea, Tabitha quickly befriends her, recognising in Bea the change she's been craving. But soon it becomes clear that more has changed than her new friend.

With the chance to reinvent herself in another time, will Tabitha finally manage to move forward?

The Christmas Murder Game

Alexandra Benedict



Twelve clues, twelve keys and twelve days of Christmas. But who will survive until the Twelfth Night?

Christie meets *Cluedo* at Christmas!

Longlisted for the CWA Dagger Award 2021

'This Agatha Christie-esque murder mystery is superbly written and so cleverly plotted.'

DAILY MIRROR

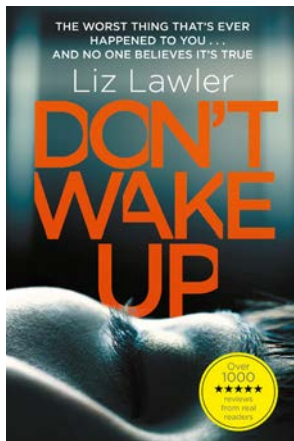
Publication: September 2021

World Rights

Rights Sold: Estonia, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, USA

Don't Wake Up

Liz Lawler



A dark and gripping debut psychological thriller with a horrifying premise and a stinging twist.

Alex Taylor wakes up tied to an operating table. The man who stands over her isn't a doctor. The choice he forces her to make is utterly unspeakable.

But when Alex re-awakens, she's unharmed - and no one believes her horrifying story . . .

Over 300,000 copies sold.

Publication: October 2017

World Rights

Rights Sold: Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Taiwan, USA

Josephine Fox Trilogy

Claire Gradidge



Publication: August 2019 / October 2021 / October 2022

World Rights

Rights Sold: Czech Republic (Beta), Spain (Libros del Seda)

Winner of the Richard & Judy Search for a Bestseller Competition

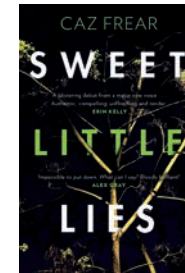
The Mitford Murders meets Maisie Dobbs in this thrilling historical crime trilogy.

'A terrific debut novel, which captures brilliantly the atmosphere of wartime Britain.'

Ann Cleeves

Sweet Little Lies | Stone Cold Heart | Shed No Tears

Caz Frear



Publication: June 2017 / June 2019 / July 2020

World Rights

Rights Sold: Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, USA

Winner of the Richard & Judy Search for a Bestseller Competition

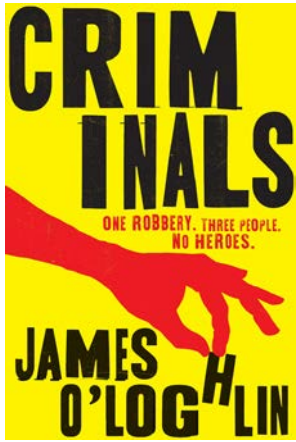
300,000 copies sold in the UK alone.

'A blistering debut from a major new voice. I couldn't put it down. Authentic, compelling, unflinching and tender and written with real verve and assurance.'

Erin Kelly

Criminals

James O’Loughlin



Publication: July 2022
World Rights

One robbery. Three people. No heroes.

Dean, a small-time thief funding a drug habit, needs to up his game, so he stages an armed robbery at the local leagues club – but not everything goes to plan. Sarah, a junior cop on extended stress leave, is working the bar when the masked men come storming in. Sitting at the bar is Mary, a former schoolteacher turned solo alcoholic, who believes she has nothing left to lose and refuses the intruders’ demands.

Now all irreversibly linked to each other, the three protagonists must decide who to betray, who to trust and who to protect. This novel examines why and how ordinary people turn to crime. Are there really good guys and bad guys – or are we all a bit of both?

Double Lives

Kate McCaffrey



Publication: October 2022
World Rights

Truth is like a lens we apply to everything we see.

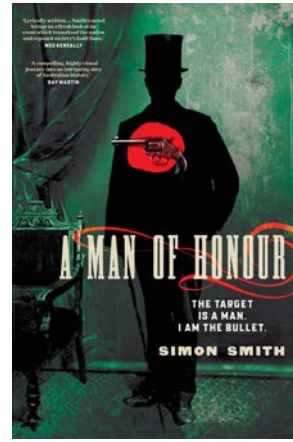
Newly returned to Western Australia, journalist Amy Rhinehart pitches a crime podcast to increase her radio station’s ratings. One case starts to haunt her and her listeners: Jonah Scott has been charged and imprisoned for life for the murder of his girlfriend, transgender woman Casey Williams

Amy believes there is something darker at the heart of this case and sets about finding the truth, investigating a world of drugs, sex, genderphobia and religious cults.

A gripping novel with a unique narrative style, incorporating podcast transcripts as a story-within-the-story, raising thought-provoking topics of our times.

A Man of Honour

Simon Smith



Publication: February 2023
World Rights

The target is a man. I am the bullet.

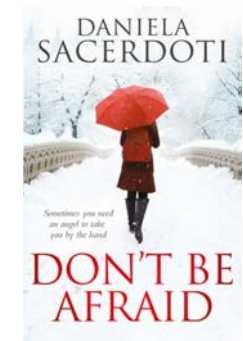
One fine March day in 1868, gunshots rang out at a society charity event in Sydney’s harbourside suburb of Clontarf. In the aftermath, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh – son of Queen Victoria – lay close to death, while the assembled crowd seized and beat his attacker, Irish-born Henry James O’Farrell.

What makes a charming, sensitive and erudite man want to arm himself and shoot the son of the world’s most powerful ruler? Is he a terrorist, a patriot, or a hero?

Drawing on contemporary newspaper articles and real-life interviews, this is a richly textured, lyrical reimagining of O’Farrell’s life.

The Glen Avich Series

Daniela Sacerdoti



Publication: November 2011 / April 2014 / March 2015 / January 2016

World Rights

Rights Sold: Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Turkey

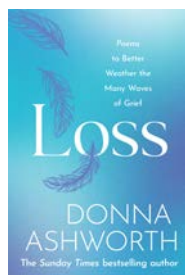
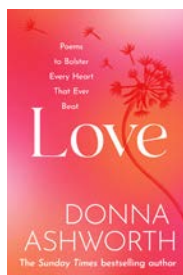
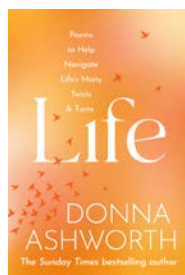
A bestselling series set in the magical and atmospheric Glen Avich in the Scottish highlands.

'Poignant, unique, one of the best novels I've read.'

THE SUN

Life, Love & Loss

Donna Ashworth



Publication: October 2022
World Rights

Over 100,000 copies sold.

Poetry collections with something for everyone.

All-encompassing, honest and relatable, *Life, Love* and *Loss* is a three-volume poetry collection which will resonate with anyone who has experienced the joy and heartbreak that travel alongside being a parent, child, partner or friend.

For anyone in need of words of wisdom or a moment of calm, Donna sheds light on the beauty in small pleasures and explores our relationships with the unique sincerity and perception that is the hallmark of her poetry.

The Lexie Byrne Trilogy

Caroline Grace-Cassidy



Publication: August 2021 / September 2022
World Rights

LEXIE BYRNE'S LAST CHRISTMAS WITH THE COOPERS

Coming in October 2023

An irresistible love story . . . delivered with sparkle and wit (in a too-tight red dress!)

Meet Lexie Byrne. The big 4-0 is looming, but she's perfectly content without a man. How else could she watch movies on repeat and eat crisp sandwiches in bed? Finally free of her love-rat ex, she's never settling again. Nothing less than 'The One' will do.

Will the unexpected love story of Lexie Byrne have a happy ending after all?

Prizes and bestsellers

2022 Petrona Crime Award
Fatal Isles by Maria Adolfsson

2022 CWA Gold Dagger Award Shortlist
The Unwilling by John Hart

2021 CWA Gold Dagger Award
We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker

Theakston's Crime Novel of The Year
We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker

Crime Writers' Association Endeavour Historical Dagger Award Winner
Stasi Child by David Young

Best Swedish Crime Novel of The Year
After She's Gone by Camilla Grebe

Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction
Resurrection Bay by Emma Viskic

Ned Kelly International Award
We Begin at the End by Chris Whitaker

Davitt Award for Best Adult Novel
Resurrection Bay by Emma Viskic
And Fire Came Down by Emma Viskic

Apple Book of the Year
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

Eason Book of the Year
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

Nielsen Gold Bestseller
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri

Nielsen Silver Bestseller
Lies by T.M. Logan
The Holiday by T.M. Logan

Aspen Words Literary Prize
The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri

Betty Trask Award
The Familiars by Stacey Halls

Irish Book Awards for Best Newcomer
Snowflake by Louise Nealon

Romantic Novelists Association Award for New Writers
Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life by Caroline Day

RNA Romantic Saga Award
Bobby's War by Shirley Mann

Portico Prize Shortlist
Mrs England by Stacey Halls

The Sunday Times #1 Bestseller
Maestra by L.S. Hilton
Wilde Like Me by Louise Pentland
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
Courtney's War by Wilbur Smith

The Sunday Times #2 Bestseller
Mothering Sunday by Rosie Goodwin
A Mother's Grace by Rosie Goodwin
Good Friday by Lynda La Plante
Wilde About The Girl by Louise Pentland
The Foundling by Stacey Halls
Blunt Force by Ollie Ollerton
Buried by Lynda La Plante

The Times Book of The Month
Resurrection Bay by Emma Viskic

The Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller
The Last Hour by Harry Sidebottom
Hitler's Secret by Rory Clements
Cilka's Journey by Heather Morris
The Familiars by Stacey Halls
The Holiday by T.M. Logan
Ghost Fire by Wilbur Smith
King of Kings by Wilbur Smith
A Maiden's Voyage by Rosie Goodwin
The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri
Wilde Women by Louise Pentland
One Enchanted Evening by Anton Du Beke
An Orphan's Journey by Rosie Goodwin
Call of the Raven by Wilbur Smith
Mrs England by Stacey Halls
A Daughter's Destiny by Rosie Goodwin
Songbirds by Christi Lefteri
Three Sisters by Heather Morris
The New Kingdom by Wilbur Smith
Unholy Murder by Lynda La Plante
Legacy of War by Wilbur Smith
Judas Horse by Lynda La Plante
Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life by Caroline Day
Trust Me by T.M. Logan
Blunt Force by Lynda La Plante
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The English Fuhrer by Rory Clements
A Lesson Learned by Rosie Goodwin

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