

# A.M. HEATH



AUTUMN  
2025

# RIGHTS LIST

# A. M. Heath

Rights List  
Autumn 2025

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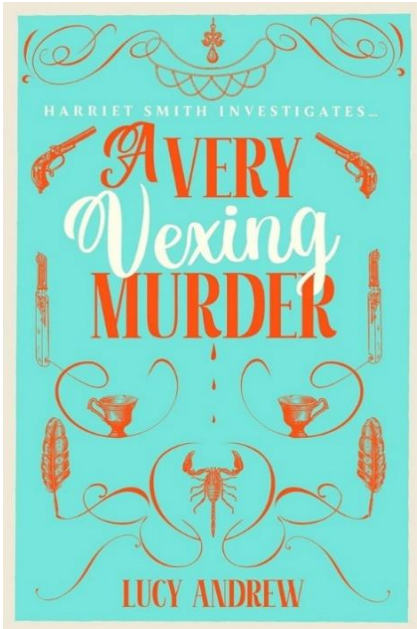
Non-Fiction: [49](#)

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[translation@amheath.com](mailto:translation@amheath.com)

Our table numbers are 7C, 7D, 8C and 8D in the LitAg

6 Warwick Court, London, WC1R 5DJ  
+44 (0) 207 242 2811  
[www.amheath.com](http://www.amheath.com)  
[Instagram: @a.m.heath](https://www.instagram.com/a.m.heath)

# FICTION



**Agent:** Euan Thorneycroft

**UKBC:** Corvus, March 2026

**US:** William Morrow, May 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 432 pages

**Film/TV:** Available

## A VERY VEXING MURDER

Lucy Andrew

*Harriet Smith investigates...*

The tyrannical Mrs Churchill is convinced someone is trying to kill her. But it's unclear whether she is more concerned about a possible murderer or the fact that Jane Fairfax has won the heart of her nephew, Frank.

Either way, she has hired the talented and devious Harriet Smith to break up this nascent relationship as well as uncover who might want her dead.

With the help of her long-suffering, sensible best friend, Robert Martin, Harriet's list of suspects soon grows – Frank Churchill, Jane Fairfax, Mrs Elton and Wakefield the butler all have means, motive and opportunity.

Will Harriet prevent the worst from happening? And will she avoid falling for the charming Frank Churchill herself?

This is murder most Austen, and Harriet Smith is just the girl to solve it!

**Dr Lucy Andrew** is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Chester, where she teaches and researches crime fiction, children's and YA fiction and creative writing. Her published research includes her academic monograph, *The Boy Detective in Early British Children's Literature*, edited collections *Crime Fiction in the City* and *The Detective's Companion in Crime Fiction*, and academic book chapters on Harry Potter, Batman and Robin, Veronica Mars, and supernatural detective fiction. She has appeared on BBC radio, the *Rippercast* podcast, crime documentary series *Murder Maps* and at the Wolverhampton Literature Festival to discuss her research on Jack the Ripper. She is a member of the Jane Austen Society UK, the Jane Austen Society of North America and Sophie Hannah's Dream Author Experience. She has also taught an undergraduate module on Jane Austen retellings.



**Agent:** Victoria Hobbs/The Naher Agency

**UKBC:** HQ, December 2025

**US:** Hachette, December 2025

**ANZ:** HarperCollins, November 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 416 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Dutch: Xander

German: Piper

Italian: Salani

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE HEIR APPARENT

Rebecca Armitage

*They would always choose the Crown over their family. It was the pact they made for the honour of wearing it.*

It's New Year's Day and Lexi Villiers is about to kiss her best friend for the very first time under the dawn light in Tasmania.

But by midnight, everything will change. Always destined to be the spare, following her estranged brother's death, Lexi will arrive in London as Princess Alexandrina, first-in-line to the British throne.

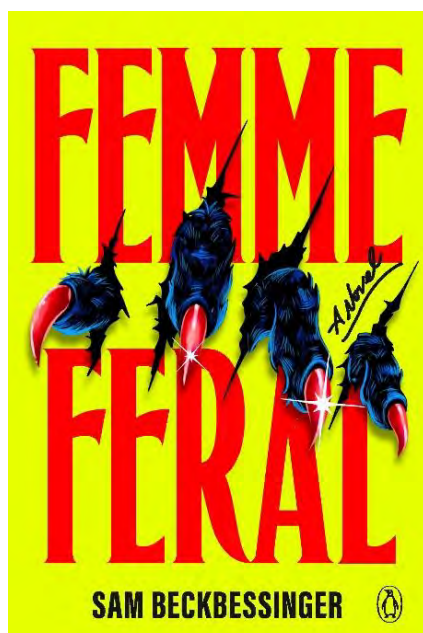
But the palace waters are treacherous, rumours are rife, and selling each other's secrets is a family tradition. And with the Crown just beyond her grasp, Lexi must choose what bonds she will keep...and what she is willing to leave behind.

*I loved it. I devoured every page of this glorious novel.* – **Holly Ringland**

*You feel like you're getting a backstage pass to all the royal secrets.* – **Natasha Leter**

*Completely addictive...I was utterly transported by the evocative, clever storytelling. Five stars!* – **Ella Ward**

**Rebecca Armitage** is the digital editor for the ABC's International Desk. She has reported extensively on the royals and became fascinated by Harry and Meghan when they chose to step away from the royal family. She was previously a multiplatform producer with the ABC's Specialist Reporting Team and a producer at 7.30. She lives in Tasmania with her husband.



**Agent:** Oli Munson

**UKBC:** Bloomsbury, March 2026

**US:** Viking, May 2026

**Material:** Proof Copies

**Length:** 384 pages

**Previous Publications:**

*Girls of Little Hope* (2023)

**Film/TV:** See Saw Films

## FEMME FERAL

Sam Beckbessinger

*Hyper-competent Ellie thinks she's going through perimenopause, but discovers she's actually turning into a werewolf in this feminist, dark-comedy debut.*

The head of a company she started from the ground-up, the worried mother of a troublingly secretive daughter, and the wife of an easy-going man who always has her picking up the slack – Ellie is already juggling too much. So, it's an inconvenient time to find herself beset by strange physical changes: hair sprouting in new places, running hot, trouble sleeping, losing time, finding bloodstains in all her clothing. And underneath it all, a boiling rage that threatens to disrupt the life she's worked so hard to build.

Her doctor diagnoses perimenopause. But it's another twenty-eight-day cycle that's taking hold, one that involves fur, teeth, and a not-insignificant amount of howling at the moon – and that gifts Ellie incredible strength and speed. Her new power's thrilling, as is releasing the anger she's suppressed for years – especially as it turns out that there are some problems that can be solved with violence: The terrible new hire who is sabotaging her careful plans. The creep who's stalking her daughter. Only, the beast within isn't easy to control, and its bloody trail is getting harder to hide. With an obsessive hunter on her trail and a growing fear of what she's becoming, Ellie must find a way to yoke her fury before she tears through the people she loves.

A deeply gratifying, highly addictive and provocative read, *Femme Feral* is an exhilarating expression of feminine rage, with a warning: If you swallow your anger, it's sure to come back with a bite.

*'A savage, witty, gory, heartfelt, utterly relatable rage fantasy and a helluva good time. Miranda July meets Stephen King.'* – **Lauren Beukes**

**Sam Beckbessinger** is the bestselling author of *Manage Your Money Like a Fucking Grownup*, which is sold in six countries and has been on the top 10 South African bestseller list for nearly two years now. She's also a cartoon scriptwriter, has published two picture books for young children, and wrote for Marvel's *Jessica Jones: Playing with Fire* on Serialbox. Sam is currently working on a web-based choose-your-own-adventure story about climate change called *Survive the Century*, and still has a blog even though it's 2025. She wrote her first novel *Girls of Little Hope* with Dale Halvorsen in 2023. She gets way too excited about gross body fluids and spreadsheets. Sam is South African, but now lives in Cambridge, UK with her cat, Sir Digby Chicken Caesar III.



**Agent:** Florence Rees

**UKBC:** Sandycove/Penguin  
Ireland, February 2026

**Material:** Proof Copies

**Length:** 272 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

German: C. Bertelsmann  
Polish: Muza

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE LIES BETWEEN US

Jen Bray

*This family lived a life before me. And now I wonder if it was what happened in that life – all those secrets – that tore this family apart... not me.*

The warring Brown sisters. Lucy. Susannah. Tara. Each is haunted – by disgrace (Lucy), vanity (Susannah) and envy (Tara). Most of all they are haunted by secrets.

Just before a dinner at their mother's idyllic holiday cottage, Susannah disappears. That same night a young woman is violently killed on a nearby beach.

Amid the confusion the next morning, Lucy discovers a link between Susannah and the murder victim. Lucy must summon all she knows from her short-lived policing career to figure out the connection and find her sister.

But tracking down Susannah means Lucy confronting her own shame. It also means resurrecting ghosts that Susannah, Tara – and their mother – desperately want to keep buried.

Even if Lucy finds Susannah, will the truth destroy them all?

*'Outstanding. An accomplished, clever thriller... the three sisters steal the show with their warring loyalties.'* – **Jane Casey**

*Jen Bray has perfectly balanced pace with heart... beautifully thoughtful storytelling. I loved it!* – **Liv Matthews**

*'Gets its books into you from the first page and doesn't let go. Tautly plotted, gripping and suspenseful.'* – **Michelle McDonagh**

*I loved how the fiendishly complicated back story unfolded and then how everything made sense in the end – so satisfying!* – **Marian Keyes**

*'Chock full of family secrets... thrilling and twisty.'* – **Catherine Kirwan**

*'Beautifully plotted and written, compelling and emotional.'* – **Vicki Notaro**

*'A page-turning tale of long kept secrets and murder.'* – **Andrea Carter**

*'So well plotted with characters who jump off the page... I was hooked from the start!'* – **Patricia Gibney**

*'By turns gripping, pacy and emotionally satisfying – blistering.'* – **Claire Coughlan**

*'Accomplished... gripping.'* – **Rosemary Hennigan**

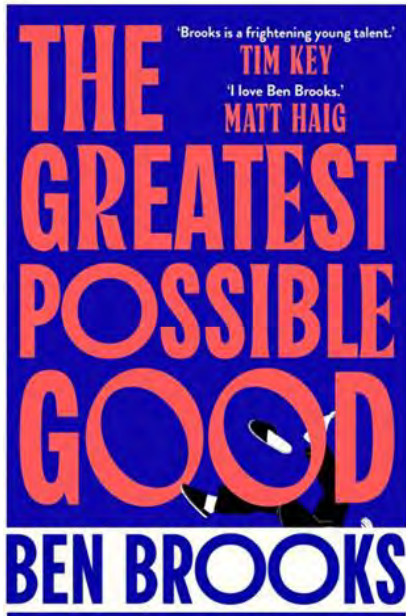
*'Intriguing... the complex relationships between the sisters are beautifully depicted.'* – **Fiona Gartland**

*'A tightly woven, twisty tale.'* – **Kitty Murphy**

*'Three sisters and a myriad of complex, volcanic secrets! Intense, twisty and gripping. I loved it!'* – **Vanessa O'Loughlin**

*'A wonderfully woven mystery.'* – **Amy Jordan**

**Jen Bray** is the Political Editor of *The Sunday Times*, having previously worked as a political correspondent for the *Irish Times* and *Irish Daily Mail* and as a general reporter in the *Sunday Tribune*. She appears regularly on Irish and UK television and radio. She lives in Dublin and works from Dáil Éireann, Ireland's parliament.



**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Scribner, July 2025

**US:** Simon & Schuster, July 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 400 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

French: Gallimard

Spanish: Blackie Books

**Selected Previous Publications:**

*Lolito* (2013), *Grow Up* (2011)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD

Ben Brooks

*How much should one person give to make the world a better place? How much can one family take?*

'I'd like you to imagine that you're walking to work one day and you come upon a child drowning in a pool of water. But imagine that someone refused to jump in after the child on the grounds that it would ruin his three-hundred-pound pair of John Lobb loafers. We'd consider them utterly immoral, would we not?'

Arthur Candlewick spends three days in a disused mineshaft with only his son's drug stash, a book on the concept of 'effective altruism' and a bottle of medium-priced Bordeaux for company. When he emerges, he has made the life-changing decision to become a good man.

Deciding to sell the family timber business and give away his wealth to charity, Arthur's family become convinced that he has lost his mind.

His university-bound daughter, Evangeline, wants to change the world but perhaps not at the cost of her own privileged life.

His son, Emil, good at maths and not much else, becomes more distant than ever.

And his wife, Yara, who arrives at airports four hours early and fears that AI and climate change will leave her children unemployed, just wants the doctor to run another brain scan on her husband.

Incisive, hilarious and unflinchingly human, *The Greatest Possible Good* asks fundamental questions about what it means to live a good life while introducing the world to one of the great families of contemporary literature.

*'Brooks is a frighteningly young talent.'* – **Tim Key**

*'I love Ben Brooks.'* – **Matt Haig**

*'Ben Brooks is a magical imp who pumps out dark nuggets of poetry and makes you snort with laughter.'* – **Noel Fielding**

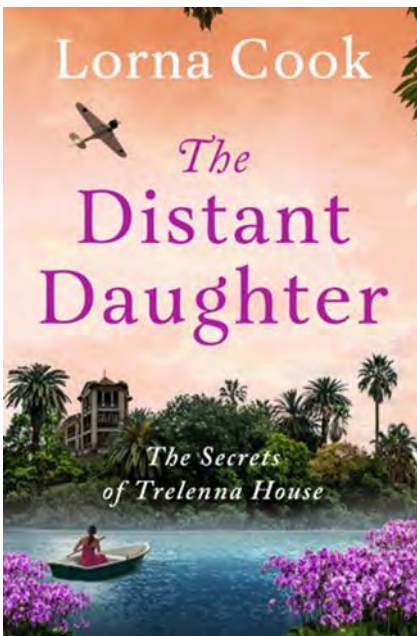
*'A sharp-witted tragicomedy about money, morality, and a family teetering on the brink. A splendidly funny novel.'* – **Jenny Jackson**

*'Brooks has the timing of a genius stand-up comic.'* – **Richard Milward**

*'Ben Brooks is a writer who genuinely excites me.'* – **3:AM Magazine**

*'A warmhearted tragicomedy about what it means to live a good life.'* – **People Magazine**

**Ben Brooks** is the author of seventeen books for children and adults, including the million-copy bestselling series *Stories For Boys Who Dare to be Different*, which has been translated into 28 languages and received a British National Book Award. He received a Somerset Maugham Award and Jerwood Fiction Prize for *Lolito*, and the Celsius 232 and Premio Torres del Agua for *The Impossible Boy*. His novels have received praise from Nick Cave, Noel Fielding, and Dennis Cooper. Having written for Series 4 and 5 of the award-winning German comedy series *Jerks*, he is now developing original TV projects in the UK and Germany.



**Agent:** Rebecca Ritchie

**WEL:** Lake Union/Amazon, October 2025

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 351 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Danish: Zara (1-4)

Dutch: De Boekerij (1-4)

Finnish: Bazar (1-4)

French: Bragelonne (1-2)

German: Goldman (1-3)

Hebrew: Tchelet (1)

Norwegian: Bastion (1-4)

Russian: Sindbad (1-2)

Swedish: Modernista (1-2)

**Previous Publishers:**

Bulgarian (Ciela), Czech

(Euromedia), Macedonian (Matica),

Serbian (Laguna)

**Previous Publications:**

*The Lost Memories* (2024), *The Hidden*

*Letters* (2023), *The Dressmaker's Secret*

(2022), *The Girl From the Island*

(2021), *The Forbidden Promise* (2020),

*The Forgotten Village* (2019)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE DISTANT DAUGHTER

Book #1 in the *Secrets Of Trelenna House* series

Lorna Cook

Singapore, 1941: Singapore City lights up with explosions as the first Japanese bombs rain down. Until now, the war has seemed a distant threat for Issey and her friends, drinking and dancing at Raffles. But with the Japanese invasion looming, Issey knows she must leave. Mysterious, handsome Alex Cartwright has sworn he will see her to safety.

Cornwall, 2025: Nursing a broken heart, Lamorna flees her life in Singapore, returning to Trelenna, her Cornish family home. With ambitious plans to save and finance the crumbling house, her sister Zennor needs Lamorna's help.

When Zach, a local archivist, suggests telling the house's story through the family archives, Lamorna discovers a battered leather diary written by Issey, a young woman living a glamorous life in 1940s Singapore.

Within its pages, she finds the gripping story of Issey's desperate escape. Fascinated by the links with her own life, Lamorna longs to know: did Issey and Alex survive the horrors of the Japanese attack on Singapore? And can their story of enduring love, strength and sacrifice inspire Lamorna to embrace a new life – and new love – at Trelenna?

*'Transporting and profoundly moving... Full of longing and mystery. The Distant Daughter is a gripping, sweeping romance to break your heart.'* – **Amanda Geard**

*'A total treat...I was transported by this beautiful tale of sisterhood, family drama, war, and love. The Distant Daughter is an unforgettable read.'* – **Jenny Ashcroft**

**Lorna Cook** is the author of six historical novels including the Kindle Number One Bestseller *The Forgotten Village*, which has sold over 150,000 copies and won the Romantic Novelists' Association Katie Fforde Debut Romantic Novel of the Year Award and the RNA Joan Hessayon Award for New Writers.



**Agent:** Euan Thorneycroft

**UKBC:** Northodox, April 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 336 pages

**Previous Publications:**  
*Rites* (2012)

**Film/TV:** Available

## **MONSTER: A Tale** **Sophie Coulombeau**

*What kind of person would take a baby, asleep in his pram?  
What kind of a person would leave him there?*

Alys Greenwood is a privileged overachiever. Hollie Nelson is a drifter and a thief. In a cinema in York, one Friday morning in August, both women make impulsive decisions that will bring their lives into collision. Hollie finds herself with the baby she never wanted – but might, somehow, need. Alys finds her deepest fear realized, and her darkest wish granted, when her son disappears.

*Monster* traces nine hours in the lives of two women, deep in crises that are both opposite and eerily alike. On the face of it, the resourceful Hollie and the fragile Alys have little in common. But they're linked in many unexpected ways. Both have troubled histories. Both stand at a crossroads in life. And both have secrets to hide from those closest to them, which tremble on the brink of exposure. As the long, hot Friday wears on – and baby Tristan's fate hangs in the balance – Hollie and Alys' moments of madness lead them on journeys of self-discovery that will change their lives forever.

**Sophie Coulombeau** is a writer of fiction and nonfiction, whose work explores love, sex, friendship, motherhood, and the trickiness of memory. Her first novel, *Rites*, won the Arts Council England Next Great Novelist Award, was translated into German for Kein & Aber, and was described by Philip Pullman as '*Terrific. Intriguing, puzzling, and entirely gripping*'. She has received funding to support her work from the Society of Authors, New Writing North, and Arts Council England. She is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of York, where she researches and teaches English Literature and Creative Writing. As a BBC/AHRC New Generation Thinker, she has presented or contributed to more than twenty features for BBC radio, and has written for the *Guardian*, the *Independent*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*.



**Agent:** Euan Thorneycroft and Oli Munson

**UKBC:** Transworld, February 2026

**US:** Soho Press, February 2026

**Canada:** HarperCollins, February 2026

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 384 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**  
French: Métaillé

**Film/TV:** Available

## A BAD, BAD PLACE

Frances Crawford

*Everyone's talking about Janey Devine...*

Glasgow, 1979. While walking her dog, twelve-year-old Janey finds a murdered woman on an abandoned railway – and her innocent childhood ends in a shocking moment of trauma.

When the victim is named as daughter of a local hardman, Janey's nana, Maggie, is distraught and deeply afraid. Janey claims she can't remember what she saw that day, but the police think she's hiding something, and they're not the only ones interested.

Maggie tries desperately to keep Janey safe but is battling long-buried secrets of her own. As fear and rumour stalk the streets of Possilpark, Maggie becomes convinced she will lose her beloved granddaughter forever – especially when Janey starts to remember exactly what happened in that bad, bad place...

*'It's a high-wire act that few seasoned writers manage to perfect. Propulsive, transportative and full of great twists, the way any brilliant crime novel should be.'* – **Tanya Sweeney**

*'Richly authentic, funny, moving and insightful.'* – **Janice Hallett**

*'I loved this book. Real people, their voices as true and unique as the time and place they inhabit. Twelve-year-old Janey Devine and her nan are so real, the horror they find themselves in so terrifying, that it feels as though you're there with them. I haven't read anything quite as unique as this since Trainspotting.'* – **Lin Anderson**

*'Gripping, gruesome, and so gritty you can smell it. A visceral and exciting debut.'* – **Belinda Bauer**

*'A moving evocation of working class lives. It's clever, honest, heart-rending and funny too. It doesn't shy away from the darkness but it also reveals the love and compassion that sustain people. And it's wonderfully twisty too.'* – **Val McDermid**

*'A tense mystery that's full of heart, warmth and humour, I adored this book. Janey Devine is one of my all-time favourite characters – an absolute triumph!'* – **Andrea Mara**

*'Janey and Maggie are probably the best unconventional protagonists in a crime novel I've ever come across.'* – **Callum McSorley**

*'A crime novel that is gripping, yet moving, compelling, yet gentle – a really wonderful read. Don't miss this one.'* – **Rebecca Philipson**

*'A Bad, Bad Place is a great, great book – my favorite kind, in fact: the kind that illuminates the dark of the past by laying a bonfire of a story at its heart. Frances Crawford, the preternaturally gifted author of this magical new novel, works bright magic here; very rarely have I felt so transported by a story.'* – **A. J. Finn**

**Frances Crawford**, a passionate advocate of lifelong learning, graduated in 2022, age 60, with MLitt (Distinction) in Creative Writing from Glasgow University. In 2023, she won the Bloody Scotland/Glencairn Crime Short Story Competition, and the first chapters of *A Bad, Bad Place* won Highly Commended in the Moniack Mhor Emerging Writer Award 2024. She has past experience in feature writing with magazines ranging from *Women's Weekly* to *Kerrang*. Frances lives in Glasgow with her family, and likes punk rock.



## THE ANSWER IS MURDER

Alys Cummings

*'If you are curious, you'll find the puzzles around you. If you are determined, you will solve them.'* – Erno Rubik

Nina is a young journalist. She is also an alcoholic and attends an alcohol recovery group, along with bossy ex-teacher Sandra, cross-word-loving ex-policeman Eric, and Mouse, a shy and desperately quiet bus-driver. The problem is that Nina is not really very sober at all most of the time.

One night, when Nina is absent, a stranger walks into one of their meetings, promptly collapses and dies.

While the top brass of the police see it as nothing more than an accident, the group discover a cryptic crossword clue hidden in the dead man's pocket – the answer to which is murder. And Nina realises that she knew the victim, a crossword setter at the paper where she works.

Determined to give the dead man back his dignity, the recovery group regulars set out to discover who killed him, and why, only to discover that Nina might not have been the only one to have known him. But with Nina's memory becoming increasingly unreliable, and her actions more erratic, can they discover who the murderer is? (Can you?)

**Alys Cummings** is a writer and journalist based on the north-east coast of England. *The Answer is Murder* is her first novel and won Pitch Perfect at the 2024 Bloody Scotland festival. She is an Emerging Creative Associate with New Writing North and a member of their North East Novelists group. As a producer and director, Alys has made documentaries for BBC *Panorama* on subjects including domestic abuse, the world of the UK's conspiracy theorists, and avoidable deaths in maternity care. Her most recent film was shortlisted for Scoop of the Year at the British Journalist awards.

**Agent:** Euan Thorneycroft

**UKBC:** Michael Joseph, Autumn 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length: Length:** 76,000 words

**Film/TV:** Available



**Agent:** Rebecca Ritchie

**UKBC:** Hodder, September 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 320 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Danish: Zara (1-2)

Dutch: Heartbeat (1-3)

Finnish: Tammi (1-3)

French: Bragelonne (1)

German: Penguin (1-3)

Swedish: Historiska (1-3)

**Previous Publishers:**

Portuguese/Portugal (Quinta Essência)

**Previous Publications:**

*A Change of Heart at the Vintage Dress Shop* (2024), *The Vintage Dress Shop in Primrose Hill* (2023), *A Winter Kiss on Rochester Mews* (2018), *Crazy in Love at the Lonely Hearts Bookshop* (2018), *True Love at the Lonely Hearts Bookshop* (2017), *The Little Bookshop of Lonely Hearts* (2016)

**Film/TV:** Available

## WRAPPED UP AT THE VINTAGE DRESS SHOP

Book #3 in the *Vintage Dress Shop* series

Annie Darling

*Falling in love is never seamless...*

Phoebe Baker has two passions in life: vintage dresses, and her French Bulldog, Coco Chanel. As the fierce and sassy manager of The Vintage Dress Shop, it's not only her job, but her calling to make sure everyone leaves her shop with their dream outfit. She doesn't need anyone or anything when she's in her frock heaven.

When an incident between Phoebe and a customer goes viral and risks damaging the reputation of the shop, Phoebe's job is suddenly on the line.

But Phoebe risks losing more than just her beloved shop; there's also Freddy, the shop's business manager, who's had enough of being second best to a bunch of second-hand dresses.

As Christmas approaches, can Phoebe stitch everything back together again, and open up her heart?

*'The sweetest, most delicious book... Such a gorgeous love story.'* – **Marian Keyes**

*'The most uplifting, sumptuously indulgent, romantic joy of a book... It tugged all my heartstrings and held me captive until the last, perfect page.'* – **Cressida McLaughlin**

*'This is the feel good book you must read... With an array of fabulous characters and the perfect ending that made me squeal with delight this warm and charming story will have you enchanted.'* – **Nina Pottell**

**Annie Darling** lives in London in a tiny flat, which is bursting at the seams with teetering piles of books. Her two greatest passions in life are romance novels and Mr Mackenzie, her British Shorthair cat.





**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Fitzcarraldo, Autumn 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 65,000 words

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE FLOATING WORLD

**Ben Eastham**

On a remote island in the Aegean, a shady corporation is constructing a utopian community beneath a giant geodesic dome. Offering its residents luxury homes, private entertainments, and a climate-controlled environment, the 'Floating World' is advertised as a refuge for the world's wealthiest people from the crises engulfing the world around them.

The book's protagonist – an editor still mourning the death of his wife – is offered a job working on the spectacular art exhibition that will inaugurate this closed society. Recognising that this is a branding exercise for an ethically dubious property development, he is nonetheless attracted by the opportunity to work with an artist he once hero-worshipped (the reclusive, semi-retired Finn Reith) and to restart a life that stopped with the loss of his wife.

At first glance, the 'Floating World' seems like a paradise, but it soon becomes clear that all is not well beneath the shimmering dome. Our protagonist's gaze is distracted from these indicators of some deeper disturbance by Selima, the uncannily familiar technical director of the exhibition, with whom he is falling in love...

What lies beneath the surface of this sanctuary from the world's problems, and how are its boundaries maintained? Who is allowed in, and what must be excluded? Can the past ever be buried, and a new reality constructed upon its ruins? And how do these questions intersect with the psychological history of the protagonist, the ways in which he sees the world and tells stories that might make sense of it? As the date of the opening of the 'Floating World' approaches, these tensions threaten to tear this fragile idyll apart.

**Ben Eastham** is an art critic and editor based in London. He is editor-in-chief of *art-agenda* and founding editor of *The White Review*, and was previously editor at *ArtReview* and associate editor at *documenta 14*. He is editor of books including *The White Review Anthology*, *Before or After*, *at the Same Time* and *Luis Camnitzer: One Number is Worth One Word*. His second book, *The Imaginary Museum*, was published by TLS Books in August 2020. He lived for a number of years in Athens, and is a scholar of Trinity College, Dublin, where he was awarded the John Henry Bernard Prize in Philosophy.



**Agent:** Jessica Lee

**UKBC:** Borough Press, Spring 2027

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 120,000 words

**Film/TV:** Available

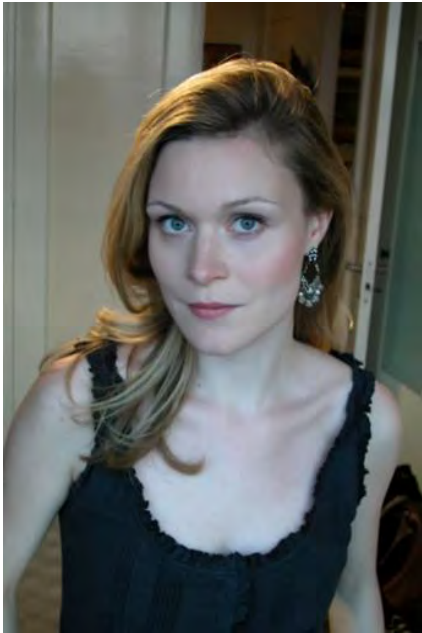
## **THIS MY IDEA OF FUN**

**Georgia Elander**

A sharp, provocative novel set during the sweltering summer of 2018. Megan feels her world shifting as friends move on – Soraya’s leaving the country, Aisling is pregnant – and she’s left wondering what’s next for her. Then, out of nowhere, she receives an email from Huxley, the man who disappeared from her life ten years ago after they met in a sex chatroom as teenagers. The two finally meet in person, and Megan quickly realizes that Huxley hasn’t been honest with her, either then or now. After a one-night encounter, Megan decides to leave the past behind.

But as the summer heats up, so does the complexity of her life. Aisling’s traumatic miscarriage pulls Megan into guilt, and her own desires lead her to rekindle a dangerous relationship with Huxley, while also meeting someone new – Simon, a quiet, reflective man who stirs something different in her. Torn between two men and two conflicting desires, Megan struggles to navigate friendships, sexuality, and adulthood in a world that feels both out of reach and tantalizingly close.

**Georgia Elander** grew up in London, which they can’t help but write about endlessly. They studied an MA in Contemporary Literature, Culture and Theory at KCL, where they wrote about sex robots, anti-deportation activism, cyborg feminism, the London Underground, and lots else. They now work in communications, and although they’ve written all sorts over the years from personal essays to speeches for politicians, this is their first attempt at fiction.



**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Jonathan Cape, Spring 2027

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 400 pages

**Previous Publications:**  
*Viper Wine* (2014)

**Film/TV:** Available

## HEADLESS YARD

Hermione Eyre

In the wild, heady days of 1990s London, a group of audacious young artists squat together in Hackney's Headless Yard, courting scandal and feasting on outrage. Now a successful establishment artist, Kate Endish looks back on that intoxicating time with a voice that is caustic, unapologetic, and surprisingly tender.

There's fiercely ambitious Saddam, basking in the limelight; well-connected Josh, obsessed with concepts; Myra, the gay icon and queen of kitsch; and Lubbock – gloriously uncompromising in her dedication to figurative painting and utterly immune to the lure of fame and money. Together, they navigate the glamour and grottness of the art world, where friendship and loyalty clash with ambition and commerce.

A dizzying portrait of art, love, and a specific moment in time, *Headless Yard* captures the YBA generation in all its mesmerizing contradictions. With brilliant wit and unflinching honesty, Hermione Eyre explores what happens when artistic vision meets the machinery of celebrity – and asks whether selling out is the inevitable price of success.

Praise for Hermione Eyre and *Viper Wine*:

*'Exuberantly inventive and intelligent... Sumptuous, strange and startlingly original.'*  
– **Mail on Sunday**

*'Using an alchemy all of her own, Eyre's postmodern take on the 17th century renders it dazzlingly fresh and contemporary.'* – **Observer**

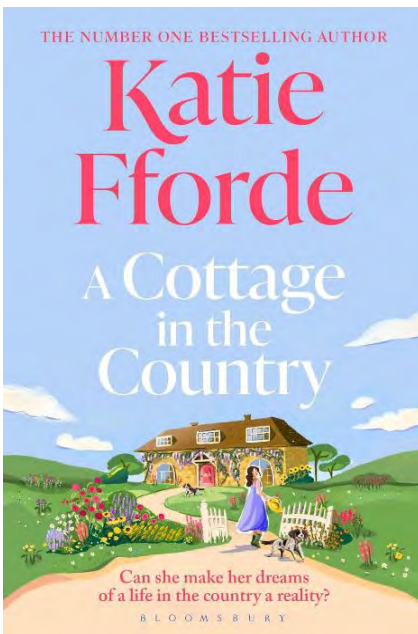
*'Playful, witty and expansive... An exceptionally clever and exhilarating excursion through Caroline high society.'* – **The Sunday Times**

*'A genre-defying debut novel... Vivid and vivacious – hats off to Eyre.'* – **Tatler**

*'Bold and wildly original, Viper Wine is an exuberantly witty play on the vanity and ghouliness of the beauty industry, and a celebration of the unfading beauty of language...'* – **Evening Standard**

*'A wickedly funny parable of today's beauty industry... Descriptive brilliance and breathtaking cleverness.'* – **The Times**

**Hermione Eyre** was born in London and read English at Hertford College, Oxford. She lives in London with her husband and daughter. As a journalist, Hermione specializes in long-form interviews and has published more than 100 cover stories. For seven years she was a staff writer on the *Independent on Sunday*, where she was appointed TV critic at the age of 27. She is now freelance, contributing to publications including *The Times*, *Independent*, *Financial Times*, *ELLE*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Christie's Magazine*, and the *London Evening Standard Magazine*, where she is Contributing Editor. In 2005 she co-wrote, with the legendary author William Donaldson, *The Dictionary of National Celebrity*. She has reported for *Night Waves* on BBC R3 and appeared as a guest on *Woman's Hour* on BBC R4. *Viper Wine*, her first novel, was shortlisted for the 2015 Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction.



**Agent:** Bill Hamilton and Rebecca Ritchie

**UKBC:** Bloomsbury, February 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 384 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Danish: People's

**Previous Publishers:**

Dutch (De Boekerij), Finnish (Bazar), German (Bastei Lübbe), Hungarian (Libri), Norwegian (Bastion), Russian (Eksmo)

**Selected Previous Publications:**

*Island in the Sun* (2024), *A Wedding in Provence* (2023), *One Enchanted Evening* (2022), *A Wedding in the Country* (2021), *A Springtime Affair* (2020), *A Rose Petal Summer* (2019), *A Country Escape* (2018), *The Christmas Stocking* (2018), *A Secret Garden* (2017), *A Summer at Sea* (2016), *A Vintage Wedding* (2015), *A Christmas Feast* (2014), *The Perfect Match* (2014), *A French Affair* (2013), *Recipe for Love* (2012), *Summer of Love* (2011), *A Perfect Proposal* (2010), *Love Letters* (2009), *Wedding Season* (2008), *Going Dutch* (2007), *Practically Perfect* (2006), *Flora's Lot* (2005), *Restoring Grace* (2004), *Paradise Fields* (2003), *Highland Fling* (2002), *Artistic Licence* (2001), *Thyme Out* (2000)

**Film/TV:** Available

## A COTTAGE IN THE COUNTRY

Katie Fforde

*She's found her dream home but can she make her dreams a reality?*

Hattie finds other people their dream homes for a living.

Surely she, of all people, has the connections and the knowledge to find her own forever home? Instead, she baffles those closest to her by choosing to pack up and move every few months from one housesitting job to the next.

Of course, that's because she knows where she wants to live. It's a beautiful house owned by a lovely old woman who'd simply love for Hattie to have it.

But nothing is ever that simple.

There's Clive who refuses to listen to his great-aunt's wishes about her house. There's Luke, Hattie's oldest friend, who just wants to see her happy. And there's Hattie herself. It might take a difficult client, an awkward teenager and a couple of dogs to help her see what really makes a house a home.

Praise for Katie Fforde:

*'The queen of uplifting, feel-good romance.'* – **AJ Pearce**

*'Another delightful read. Fforde never disappoints.'* – **Weekly**

*'Warm, brilliant and full of love.'* – **Heat**

*'With a mother-daughter relationship at its heart, this is the perfect Mother's Day read.'* – **Take a Break**

*'A joy of a read from Katie Fforde.'* – **That's Life**

*'Modern-day Austen. Great fun.'* – **Red**

*'Top-drawer romantic escapism.'* – **Daily Mail**

*'A force to be reckoned with for her uplifting tales of romance.'* – **Daily Express**

*'Deliciously enjoyable.'* – **Woman & Home**

**Katie Fforde** lives in the beautiful Cotswold countryside with her family and is a true country girl at heart. Each of her books explores a different profession or background and her research has helped her bring these to life. She's been a porter in an auction house, tried her hand at pottery, refurbished furniture, delved behind the scenes of a dating website, and she's even been on a Ray Mears survival course. She loves being a writer; to her there isn't a more satisfying and pleasing thing to do. She particularly enjoys writing love stories. She believes falling in love is the best thing in the world, and she wants all her characters to experience it, and her readers to share their stories.



## TWO LITTLE LIARS

Michelle Harrison

*What kind of kids tell lies like that?*

Erin never wanted to be her friend. When Erin was little, her mother always made her play with Bee, the unsettling, unlikeable girl from across the street. When Bee suggests they make up a lie about a local boy and what he's done to them, Erin goes along with it to tragic consequences. The girls are now the 'two little liars' to a hungry press. Child A and Child B, anonymous but vilified in the papers. Erin's family moves away, but as teenagers she and Bee meet again on a school trip to a remote tidal island with a history of witchcraft. Bee is murdered and there are many suspects.

Twenty years on, Erin has spent her life keeping a low profile, scared and paranoid. Bee's killer hasn't been caught but someone knows that Erin is Child A, the little girl who lied. When the survivors of the school trip are summoned by a threat to expose what really happened that night, Erin reluctantly decides to stop hiding and face up to the part she played. But her past – and the killer – are closer than she realises, along with uncomfortable truths about Bee that undo everything she thought she knew.

**Michelle Harrison** lives in Essex with her son, Jack, and two cats, Pepper and Marmite. Before becoming a full-time writer she had various jobs including working in a bar, a bakery and an art gallery. She later became a children's bookseller at Waterstones before working in children's fiction at Oxford University Press. Michelle is the author of thirteen novels for children and young adults, and her work has been translated into sixteen languages. Her first book, *The Thirteen Treasures*, won the Waterstones' Children's Book Prize. *The Other Alice* won the Calderdale Book of the Year Award. *Two Little Liars* is her debut adult fiction novel.

**Agent:** Julia Churchill

**WEL:** Bedford Square, Autumn 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

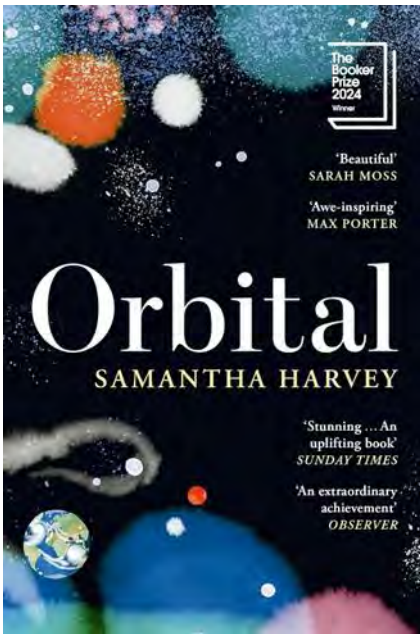
**Length:** 89,000 words

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Dutch: Ambos Anthos

German: Bastei Lübbe

**Film/TV:** Available



**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Jonathan Cape, November 2023

**US:** Grove Atlantic, December 2023

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 224 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Albanian: Dituria, Arabic: Arab Scientific, Azerbaijani: Qanun, Bulgarian: Labyrinth, Catalan: Edicions 62, Chinese Complex: Waves Press, Chinese Simplified: China Translation, Croatian: Lumen, Czech: Beta/OneHotBook (audio), Danish: Gads, Dutch: De Bezige Bij, Estonian: Varrak, Finnish: Otava, French: Flammarion, Galician: Rodolfo e Priscilla, German: dtv, Greek: Gutenberg, Hebrew: Modan, Hindi: PRH India, Hungarian: Europa, Icelandic: Uglá, Indonesian: Gramedia, Italian: NN Editore, Japanese: Hayakawa Shobo, Korean: Booksea, Malayalam: DC Books, Marathi: Krishna Publications, Norwegian: Gursli Berg, Polish: Wielka Litera, Portuguese (Brazil): DVA, Portuguese (Portugal): Infinito Particular, Punjabi: White Crow, Romanian: Polirom, Russian: Polyandria, Slovak: Tatran, Slovene: Morfemplus, Serbian: Under offer, Spanish: Anagrama, Swedish: Modernista, Tamil: Ethir Veliyeedu, Thai: Bookscape, Turkish: Kultur Yayinlari Is Turk, Ukrainian: Under offer, Vietnamese: Nha Nam

**Film/TV:** Available

## ORBITAL Samantha Harvey

WINNER OF THE BOOKER PRIZE 2024

A *New York Times* and *Booklist* Editors' Choice

Shortlisted for the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction and the Ursula K. Le Guin Prize for Fiction

A Best Book of 2023 from the *Guardian*, *New Statesman*, *Daily Mail* and *Oprah Daily*

*Life on our planet as you've never seen it before.*

A team of astronauts in the International Space Station collect meteorological data, conduct scientific experiments and test the limits of the human body. But mostly they observe. Together they watch their silent blue planet, circling it sixteen times, spinning past continents and cycling through seasons, taking in glaciers and deserts, the peaks of mountains and the swells of oceans. Endless shows of spectacular beauty witnessed in a single day.

Yet, although separated from the world they cannot escape its constant pull. News reaches them of the death of a mother, and with it comes thoughts of returning home. They look on as a typhoon gathers over an island and people they love, in awe of its magnificence and fearful of its destruction.

The fragility of human life fills their conversations, their fears, their dreams. So far from earth, they have never felt more part – or protective – of it. They begin to ask, what is life without earth? What is earth without humanity? Profound and contemplative, *Orbital* is a moving elegy to our environment and planet.

*'Orbital is as beautiful as it is profound.'* – **Emily St. John Mandel**

*'Samantha Harvey's compact yet beautifully expansive novel... offers us a love letter to our planet.'* – **The Booker Prize Judges**

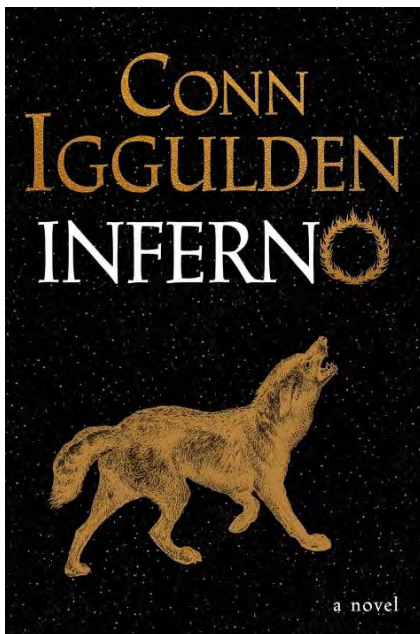
*'Ravishingly beautiful.'* – **New York Times**

*'It's a slim, profound study of intimate human fears set against epic vistas of swirling weather patterns and rolling continents.'* – **Guardian**

*'Orbital is the rarest of things, a book that satisfies both my lifelong obsession with space travel and my hunger for sentences and paragraphs that demand to be read and reread... My goodness this novel is beautiful.'* – **New Statesman**

*'In this slender novel, Harvey seems to have encompassed all of humanity... It is an extraordinary achievement.'* – **Observer**

**Samantha Harvey** is the author of five novels, *The Wilderness*, *All Is Song*, *Dear Thief*, *The Western Wind* and *Orbital*. She is also the author of a memoir, *The Shapeless Unease*. *Orbital* won the Booker Prize 2024 and the Hawthornden Prize, and was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize and the Ursula K. Le Guin Prize. *The Western Wind* won the 2019 Staunch Book Prize, and *The Wilderness* was the winner of the AMI Literature Award and the Betty Trask Prize. Samantha is a Reader in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University in the UK.



**Agent:** Victoria Hobbs

**UKBC:** Michael Joseph, May 2026

**US:** Pegasus, May 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 416 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

- Arabic: Beldash (1)
- Bulgarian: Bard (1-2)
- Czech: Albatros (1-2)
- Greek: Psychogios (1-3)
- Hungarian: Gabo Kiado (1)
- Italian: Edizioni Piemme (1-2)
- Lithuanian: Baltos Lankos (1)
- Polish: Rebis (1-3)
- Russian: Azbooka-Atticus (1)
- Spanish (1)

**Previous Publishers:**

- Slovak (Tatran), Slovene (Učila),
- Ukrainian (Apriori)

**Previous Publications:**

- Tyrant* (2025), *Nero* (2024), *Empire* (2023), *Lion* (2022), *Protector* (2021), *The Gates of Athens* (2020), *The Sword Saint* (2019), *The Falcon of Sparta* (2018), *Sbiang* (2018), *Dunstan* (2017), *Darien* (2017), *Ravenspur* (2016), *Bloodline* (2015), *Trinity* (2014), *Stormbird* (2013), *The Blood of Gods* (2013), *Conqueror* (2011), *Empire of Silver* (2010), *Bones of the Hills* (2008), *Lords of the Bow* (2008), *Wolf of the Plains* (2007)

**Film/TV:** Available

## INFERNO

### Book #3 in the *Nero* series

Conn Iggulden

*The throne is never safe... especially in Rome.*

AD 60. Rome stands at the height of its power – glittering with wealth, drowning in intrigue.

On Palatine Hill, Nero Claudius Caesar rules as Emperor, a young man adored for his beauty and brilliance, feared for his temper, intoxicated by his own power. His empire stretches from the wilds of Britain to the deserts of Parthia, yet his enemies are never far: generals who command legions, senators who whisper in corridors, a people who cheer him in the circus but curse him on the streets.

Nero has learned that power is never shared, only seized. He has seen off enemies before, not least his mother, Agrippina. Yet now Boudicca, queen of the Iceni, leads a revolt in the North. Closer to home, Gaius Julius Vindex – Roman by office but Gallic by blood – denounces Nero’s corruption and declares open rebellion against the Emperor from Gaul.

Rome is a city that devours its rulers. As the first sparks of revolt alight beyond its walls, an empire built on fire begins to burn from within...

Praise for Conn Iggulden:

*‘Brings war in the ancient world to vivid, gritty and bloody life.’ – Anthony Riches*

*‘An epic piece of historical fiction, full of political intrigue and vivid action.’ – Robert Fabbri*

*‘Breathtakingly good.’ – Bernard Cornwell*

*‘Pacy... and packed with action.’ – The Sunday Times*

*‘Iggulden tells an absolutely cracking story... the pace is nail-biting and the set dressing magnificent.’ – The Times*

*‘A gripping read from the master historical storyteller. This swords-and-sandals epic brings the clash of empires between Greece and Persia to life.’ – Daily Express*

*‘Iggulden is in a class of his own when it comes to epic, historical fiction.’ – Daily Mirror*

*‘With merciless power and back-stabbing violence, this is an enticing trilogy.’ – Woman’s Weekly*

*‘A master of the historical novel.’ – Washington Post*

*‘Breathes new life into the darkest and most dramatic of times.’ – Star*

*‘This pacy, bloody and impeccably researched novel will have you on tenter-hooks throughout.’ – iNews*

*‘Pacy and propulsive, cracking with energy, violence and stirring speeches, Iggulden chronicles power struggles, political machinations and the bloodthirsty ravages of up-close combat.’ – Daily Mail*

**Conn Iggulden** is one of the most successful authors of historical fiction writing today. He has previously written five bestselling historical series and an acclaimed fantasy series.



**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Scribner, Spring 2027

**US:** Summit, Winter 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 51,000 words

**Translation Rights Sold:**

German: btb

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE WATER HOUSE

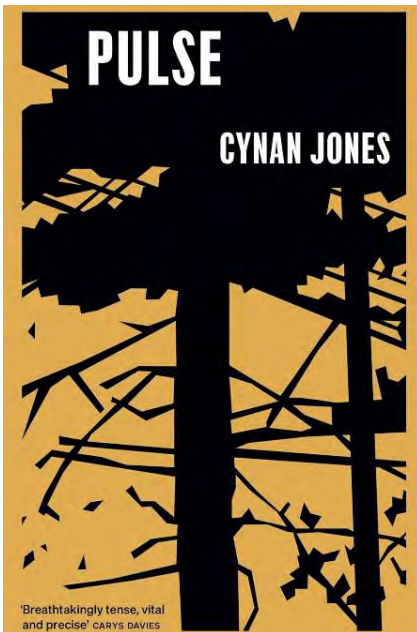
Nneoma Ike-Njoku

Celia leads a lonely life in the bustling city, trapped in a dead-end job as a typist. Her world changes when Bare Dari, a recently widowed politician, enters her life with a curious interest that both intrigues and unsettles her. Having grown up in a school for young delinquents after the tragic drowning of her brother, Ruben, Celia is drawn to Bare's attention, even as she questions his motives.

Their whirlwind courtship takes a sudden turn when Bare proposes, offering Celia a glimmer of hope in her otherwise bleak existence. But as wedding plans unfold, dark secrets resurface, and a shocking revelation about the night of Ruben's death forces him to dissolve their engagement. Heartbroken and abandoned, she finds herself with nowhere to turn.

Determined to confront her haunted past, Celia returns to the Water House – a remote and eerie home by a stagnant pond where memories of that fateful night linger. As she faces her mother and unravels the truth behind Ruben's death, Celia must confront her demons and uncover the secrets that have shaped her life. Will she find redemption in the shadows of her past, or will the 'Water House' hold onto its dark secrets forever?

**Nneoma Ike-Njoku** is a Nigerian writer. She is the recipient of a Betty Trask Award, a MacDowell Fellowship, and the DGA First Novel Prize for her novel-in-progress, *The Water House*, an excerpt of which was also longlisted for the Grindstone International Novel Prize. She is currently an English & Creative Writing PhD student at the University of Georgia, where she received the Jane Appleby Entrance Award. She holds an MFA in fiction from Cornell University, where she won the James McConkey Award, and has received grants and fellowships from the Miles Morland Foundation, Kimbilio, and the Millay Arts Foundation, among others. In 2022, she was commissioned to write an original short story for the Newman Wetlands Center, which will be produced and audio recorded on the app for hiking tours through the site. Her short fiction has appeared in *Winter Tangerine*, where it won the 2016 Prose Prize, and elsewhere.



**Agent:** Euan Thorneycroft

**UKBC:** Granta, November 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 192 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Dutch: Koppertnik

Spanish: Chai

**Previous Publishers:**

French ( Editions Joelle Losfeld),

Portuguese/Portugal (20 | 20

Editoria)

**Previous Publications:**

*Stillicide* (2019), *Cove* (2016), *The Dig* (2014), *Everything I Found on the Beach* (2011), *The Long Dry* (2006)

**Film/TV:** Available

## PULSE

Cynan Jones

A man heads into the snow to hunt down the bear that has been taking stock from farms in the valley. A father tries to make something go right for the son he no longer lives with. A partner is called to help when a cow's labour goes horribly wrong. A fierce storm threatens to bring down a tree on powerlines over a family's home.

Fear, vulnerability, tension and resolve course through these arresting and indelible stories from one of the finest British writers at work today.

*Breathtakingly tense, vital and precise. Cynan Jones has a rare gift for making us experience, moment by moment, the struggles of his characters to survive.* – **Carys Davies**

*Pellucid clinical sentences craft a loving symphony of meat and magic, mucous, mud and mire. Cynan Jones's writing is pure electric energy... Every story thrums and squirms with life. The cumulative effect is to deliver a shock to the heart of what a wild, strange and wonderful thing it is to be human.* – **Megan Barker**

*The often layered, dark subject matter of Jones' stories is belied by the clarity of his language in a fascinating way.* – **Sara Baume**

*Each paragraph reads like a beautiful, multi-layered prose poem. The crystalline language conveys, with real emotive power, the squelch and suck of mud and manure, the stink of blood, the skin-feel of drizzle. Spending time with this collection is a sensory, immersive experience.* – **Niall Griffiths**

*A master of concision and precision, Cynan Jones crafts stories as taut as steel wire, a tightrope display of careful draughtsmanship and daring language.* – **Jon Gower**

*Pulse reveals the bloody, brutal and beautiful truth of rural life. Hewn with a sparse, poetic vision, it offers an unflinching, visceral account of the often-neglected lives of those who toil the land. There is no finer nature writer than Cynan Jones.* – **Adelle Stripe**

*These six stories of characters in states of extreme jeopardy are rendered in language of relentless and precise power and the overall effect is of an almost visionary intensity. Pulse is a remarkable collection from a writer of singular gifts.* – **Tom Lee**

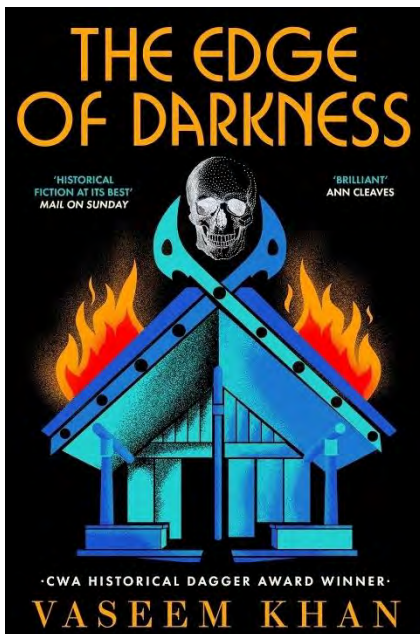
*These are stories of elemental power, which dramatise the collision of external and internal forces to thrilling and unsettling effect. Their exploration of the struggle between people and nature – both that of the world, and their own – is always riveting and frequently heartbreaking. Pulse is a magnificent collection.* – **James Scudamore**

*A force of creaturely urgency. Cynan Jones is a blast of fresh air, a stumble in the dark, and a sudden chill in the guts.* – **Tim Winton**

*Jones's prose is extraordinary, somehow managing to be simultaneously rich and spare. Each of the stories is a novel in miniature, a whole emotional landscape evoked precisely with the most minimal gestures.* – **Jessie Greengrass**

**Cynan Jones** was born in Wales in 1975. His acclaimed fiction has appeared in over 20 countries, on BBC Radio, and in numerous journals and magazines including *Granta*, *Freeman's* and the *New Yorker*. He has also written screenplays, and a collection of tales for children.

He has been longlisted and shortlisted for numerous awards internationally, and won, among other prizes, the Wales Book of the Year Fiction Prize, a Jerwood Fiction Uncovered Award, and the BBC National Short Story Award.



**Agent:** Euan Thorneycroft

**UKBC:** Hodder & Stoughton,  
January 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 336 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Finnish: Sitruuna (1-2)

Italian: Rizzoli (1-2)

Japanese: Hayakawa Shobo (1)

Russian: Everbook (1-2)

**Previous Publications:**

*The Girl in Cell A* (2025), *City of Destruction* (2024), *Death of a Lesser God* (2023), *The Lost Man of Bombay* (2022), *The Dying Day* (2021), *Midnight at Malabar House* (2020), *Last Victim of the Monsoon Express* (2019), *Bad Day at the Vulture Club* (2019), *Murder at the Grand Raj Palace* (2018), *The Strange Disappearance of a Bollywood Star* (2017), *The Perplexing Theft of the Jewel in the Crown* (2016), *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra* (2015)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE EDGE OF DARKNESS

Book #6 in the *Malabar House* series

Vaseem Khan

*The sixth rip-roaring thriller in the award-winning Malabar House novels and a perfect entry point to the series.*

India, 1951. After wilfully ignoring orders from her superiors, Persis Wadia, India's first female police detective, has been exiled from Bombay to the wild and mountainous state of Nagaland. As India's first post-Independence election looms, and tensions rise across the country, Persis finds herself banished to the Victoria Hotel, a crumbling colonial-era relic, her career in ruins.

But when a prominent local politician is murdered in his locked room at the Victoria Hotel, his head missing – a case appears quite literally on her doorstep. As the political situation threatens to explode into all-out havoc, Persis has only days to stop a killer operating at the very edge of darkness...

Praise for Vaseem Khan and the *Malabar House* series:

*'Vaseem Khan writes with charm and wit, and an eye for detail that transports the reader entirely. I couldn't love this series more.'* – **Chris Whitaker**

*'The leading character is the deftly drawn Persis Wadia, the country's first female detective. She's a wonderful creation and this is a hugely enjoyable book.'* – **Ann Cleeves**

*'A cracking mystery set in a fascinating historical era.'* – **Elly Griffiths**

*'This is historical crime fiction at its sharpest, set on the brink of independence and during a dramatic period of the subcontinent's history.'* – **The Sunday Times**

*'A beautifully complex plot and an Agatha Christie-ish denouement make for a thoroughly satisfying read, and a burning desire to see what's next for Persis.'* – **Observer**

*'Khan's distinctive new protagonist is clearly here to stay.'* – **Financial Times**

*'This is historical crime fiction at its best – a compelling mix of social insight and complex plotting with a thoroughly engaging heroine. A highly promising new series.'* – **Mail on Sunday**

**Vaseem Khan** is the author of two award-winning crime series set in India, the *Baby Ganesh Agency* series set in modern Mumbai, and the *Malabar House* historical crime novels set in 1950s Bombay. His first book, *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra*, was selected by *The Sunday Times* as one of the 40 best crime novels published 2015-2020, and is translated into 16 languages. The second in the series won the Shamus Award in the US. In 2018, he was awarded the Eastern Eye Arts, Culture and Theatre Award for Literature. Vaseem was born in England, but spent a decade working in India. In 2021, *Midnight at Malabar House* won the Crime Writers Association Historical Dagger, the world's premier award for historical crime fiction. *The Girl in Cell A* published this summer was the *Crime Time Book of the Month* in May.



**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Faber, May 2027

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 45,000 words

**Previous Publications:**  
*OK, Mr Field* (2018)

**Film/TV:** Available

## RANTER'S TRIUMPH

**Katharine Kilalea**

Leopold Leipoldt is a well-regarded psychoanalyst in a Suicide Prevention Unit in London. One day a new patient named Joyce is referred to him. Something about the young woman who cannot stop crying (the name makes him think of Joy where someone has let all the air out: Joy-sss) undoes him, and when she ends up killing herself despite his best efforts, all his former certainties crumble and he begins to doubt both his methods and his intentions. He embarks on a journey of self-destruction that will take him to South Africa where, compelled by unprofessional curiosity, he meets Joyce's father, the Corporal, who now runs a B&B on the coast.

Called before a tribunal to defend himself against accusations of malpractice (did he misinterpret a dream?) he writes a statement to cast aspersions on his colleague Goetz, whom he suspects of having sexually abused his patient, but what was supposed to clear his own name turns into an ever-growing self-denunciation. What were his real feelings for Joyce? How could he so fatally misread the situation? And why did this particular case push him over the edge, into a territory of uncertainty and self-doubt?

Praise for Katherine Kilalea and *OK, Mr Field*:

'OK, Mr Field is an enriching piece of writing... You'll want to read it in one go.' – **Daisy Hildyard**

'One of the most original, beautifully-written and convincing works of fiction I have read in a long time, with a narrative that is both mysterious yet compulsive. Utterly marvellous.' – **George Szirtes**

'OK, Mr Field is a novel brave in its own intelligence and subtlety. The writing is quietly beautiful and the narrator's voice strange and compelling.' – **Sarah Moss**

'A dazzling debut... luminous use of language... Details are observed intimately, like pin-pricks... OK, Mr Field introduces a striking new voice in fiction.' – **Economist**

'[A] bewitching debut novel...' – **Sunday Times**

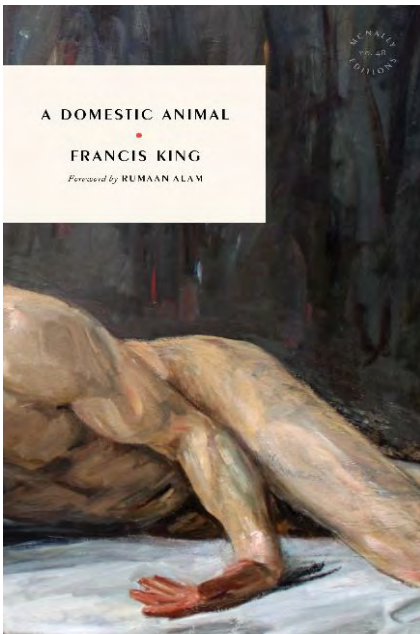
'A strange but mesmerising book, full of gaps, silences and absences... A funny and beguiling read.' – **Psychologies**

'An acute and thoroughly fascinating study of a mind on the point of collapse, OK, Mr Field is a bold and incredibly assured debut.' – **Yorkshire Post**

'Intriguing, an expansive, multi-sensory narrative which at once makes manifest the human condition and upsets that condition to vertiginous effect.' – **Splice**

'Strikingly original.' – **Guardian**

**Katharine Kilalea** grew up in South Africa and moved to the UK to study for an MA in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. Her debut poetry collection, *One Eye'd Leigh*, was shortlisted for the Costa Poetry Award and longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize for writers under 30. She worked for many years in an architecture practice and is completing a PhD at the University of Sheffield on the experience of space in poetry. Katharine's debut novel, *OK, Mr. Field*, was published by Faber & Faber in the UK, and Tim Duggan Books in the US in 2018.



**Agent:** Bill Hamilton and Florence Rees

**US:** McNally Editions, January 2026  
Originally published by Longman in 1970

**Material:** Final Proofs

**Length:** 256 pages

**Selected Previous Publications:**

*The Sunlight on the Garden* (2005), *The Nick of Time* (2004), *Dead Letters* (1997), *A Hand at the Shutter* (1996), *The One and Only* (1994), *Act of Darkness* (1983), *The Man on the Rock* (1957), *The Dark Glasses* (1954), *The Dividing Stream* (1951), *An Air That Kills* (1948), *Never Again* (1947), *To the Dark Tower* (1946)

**Film/TV:** Available

## A DOMESTIC ANIMAL

Francis King

Antonio Valli, a gifted Italian philosopher in his thirties, has left his wife and children behind in Florence while he undertakes a one-year fellowship at a provincial English university. Handsome and charming, Antonio is irresistible to men and women both; something he's not shy of using to his advantage, even if he professes to be resolutely heterosexual. One who falls helplessly under his spell is Dick Thompson, the middle-aged novelist in whose house Antonio rents a room. For the first time in fourteen years, Dick finds himself desperately, passionately in love. But Antonio's manipulative games throw Dick's previously calm, ordered life into chaos, and he spirals into a morass of covetousness, frustration and despair.

Published only three years after the decriminalization of homosexuality in the UK, and based on the author's own obsession with a younger, unobtainable man, *A Domestic Animal* is Francis King's most intimately and daringly autobiographical novel.

*No one writes better prose than Francis King.* – **Ruth Rendell**

*Witty, poignant, socially and internationally telling, it traps the tragi-comic essence of love that not merely isn't but can't be reciprocated.* – **Brigid Brophy**

*He deserves the widest possible readership.* – **Melvyn Bragg**

*King is a writer's writer, his voice is utterly convincing.* – **Beryl Bainbridge**

*A delicate and truly touching story... horribly true to life.* – **Robert Garioch**

*One of the best things he ever did.* – **Times Literary Supplement**

*Wry anguished study... of love and jealousy [that] is hard to forget.* – **Daily Telegraph**

*One of the finest and most remarkable of English novelists of our time.* – **Scotsman**

*Wryly tender and painful... He is writing about love in all its aspects of greed, devotion, happiness and loss.* – **Sunday Telegraph**

*Master of a subtle, melancholy style, rich and understated.* – **The New York Times Book Review**

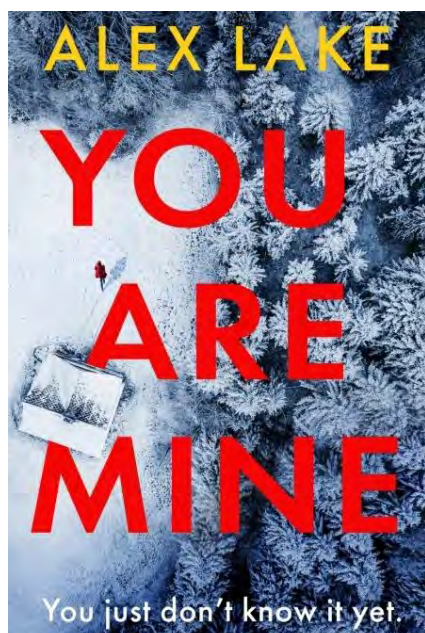
*A most accomplished writer who commands both deftness and feeling.* – **Guardian**

*Francis King commands a noteworthy talent; he is one of a number of contemporary British novelists who deserve the best attention here.* – **New York Herald Tribune Book Review**

*Few English novelists have written with more might and assurance.* – **Spectator**

*His writing is like fine china... This book's strength is its dark stab of feeling.* – **The Sunday Times**

**Francis King** (1923-2011) was born in Switzerland, spent his childhood in India, and was educated in England. During his studies at Oxford, interrupted by WWII, he completed his first novel, *To The Dark Tower*. He worked for the British Council for 15 years – in Italy, Greece, Finland, and Japan successively – and in 1966, he returned to England to become a full-time writer and critic. He published more than 50 books, the accolades for which include the Somerset Maugham Award and being twice nominated for the Booker Prize.



**Agent:** Rebecca Ritchie

**UKBC:** HarperCollins, April 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 384 pages

**Previous Publishers:**

Chinese Simplified (Yilin), Dutch (De Boekerij), German (Goldmann), Lithuania (Tyto Alba)

**Previous Publications:**

*Here One Minute* (2024), *Final Call* (2023), *Ready or Not* (2021), *The Choice* (2020), *Seven Days* (2019), *The Last Lie* (2018), *Copycat* (2017), *Killing Kate* (2016), *After Anna* (2015)

**Film/TV:** Available

## YOU ARE MINE

Alex Lake

Mary Jordan is walking along the street when she spots a sign on a lamppost.

*If you're reading this, I'm watching you.*

*You're now part of my collection.*

*If you're unlucky, that is what you will remain.*

*But if you're lucky, you will be chosen, and your life will never be the same again.*

Mary is shocked. Her skin crawls at the idea she is being watched. She searches the buildings, looking, perhaps, for a face at a window. She is terrified.

But only for a moment. There's nothing to fear. It's obviously just a harmless prank.

She is wrong...

Praise for Alex Lake and *Here One Minute*:

*'Relentlessly fast paced and an anxiety inducing finale.'* – **John Marrs**

*'I actually stopped breathing several times.'* – **Jackie Kabler**

*'This brilliant book will get under your skin.'* – **Sam Carrington**

*'A thoroughly entertaining, gripping read.'* – **Cass Green**

*'Spine-chilling and difficult to put down.'* – **Daily Mail**

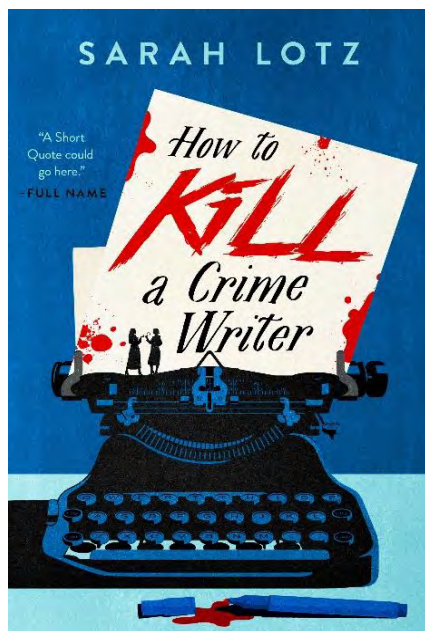
*'This taut thriller will have you racing for the finish.'* – **Heat**

*'A gripping page turner.'* – **Closer**

*'An expert at crafting chilling scenes that will instantly capture a reader's imagination.'*  
– **Woman & Home**

*'You'll find it hard to fall asleep when the lights go out.'* – **Evening Standard**

**Alex Lake** is the pseudonym of a British novelist whose first book was one of Amazon UK's top ten debuts of 2010. Alex was born in the north-west of England in the 1970s and now lives in the north-east of the US.



**Agent:** Oli Munson

**UKBC:** HarperFiction, February 2026

**US:** Berkley, Summer 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 400 pages

**Previous Publications:**

*Impossible* (2022), *Missing Person* (2019), *Reborn* (2018), *The White Road* (2017), *Pompidou Posse* (2015), *Day Four* (2015), *The Three* (2014), *Dark Harvest* (2014)

**Film/TV:** Available

## HOW TO KILL A CRIME WRITER

Sarah Lotz

*She wrote for a living.  
But who would want her dead?*

Bestselling author Annie Morrissey is dead, and her daughter Niamh knows in her *gut* there's been foul play – even if the case needs a good edit.

The village is strangely uneventful.  
The suspects are suspiciously normal.  
The leads quickly turn into dead ends...

But when Annie's final manuscript lands on the doormat, the pages humming with mystery and suspense, the lines between fiction and reality begin to blur.

This can't be a coincidence.

Because if Niamh learnt anything from her mother's crime fiction, it's that there's no such thing. And that village secrets never stay buried for long...

From the award-winning novelist & screenwriter, *How to Kill a Crime Writer* is a funny, mind-bending mystery that will stay with you long after the final page.

**Sarah Lotz** has painted outrageous frescoes for dubious casinos, written kids' cartoons and lived homeless on the streets of Paris as a teenage runaway. She's also written a lot of books on her own, and with collaborators, including the *Downside* horror series as SL Grey with Louis Greenberg, the ferocious zombie YA *Deadlands* trilogy as Lily Herne, with her 22 year old daughter, Savannah Lotz and the cheerfully sexy *Girl Walks Into...* erotica series with Helen Moffett and Paige Nick. She also writes insanely smart and creepy thrillers, crime novels and memoir under her own name. She likes scruffy dogs, fast cars and sitting in her attic making stuff up.



## THE PROJECT

Annie Lord

*A decade-defining romcom from beloved Vogue dating columnist Annie Lord.*

When Daisy wakes up next to James – the annoying, awkward guy in their friendship group – she can't believe what she's done.

The problem is there are no good men left. At least, that's what Daisy and her best friend Maya think. They're all taken. Even the average ones have beautiful, seemingly perfect girlfriends.

Fed up with modern dating, Daisy and Maya decide to start 'The Project' to create a good guy out of some frankly embarrassing raw material. And who better to start with than James, the man who once told her he's never cried in his entire life and sounded proud of that fact?

Embarking on a series of lessons, from pretentious art exhibitions to feminist book clubs, clothes shopping trips and messy house parties, Daisy takes James on a journey of discovery. But which one of them will change more?

Praise for Annie Lord and *Notes on Heartbreak*:

*'Arresting and vivid, raw and breathtaking... told with stunning originality.'* – **Dolly Alderton**

*'An electrifying debut.'* – **Caroline O'Donoghue**

*'A beautiful tender messy brilliant generous open-hearted book.'* – **Emma Gannon**

*Notes on Heartbreak is an electrifying debut from one of the most exciting young writers around.'* – **Caroline O'Donoghue**

**Annie Lord** grew up in Otley, a town on the outskirts of Leeds, and is British *Vogue's* dating columnist. Other publications that feature her work include *VICE*, *The Sunday Times*, the *Telegraph*, the *New Statesman*, *i-D*, the *Guardian*, the *Quietus* and *Dazed*. Her first book, *Notes on Heartbreak*, was published in 2022, winning a spot on multiple Must Read Book Lists.

**Agent:** Florence Rees

**UKBC:** Harvill, July 2026

**US:** HarperCollins, July 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 336 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

German: pola/Bastei Lübbe

Italian: Mondadori

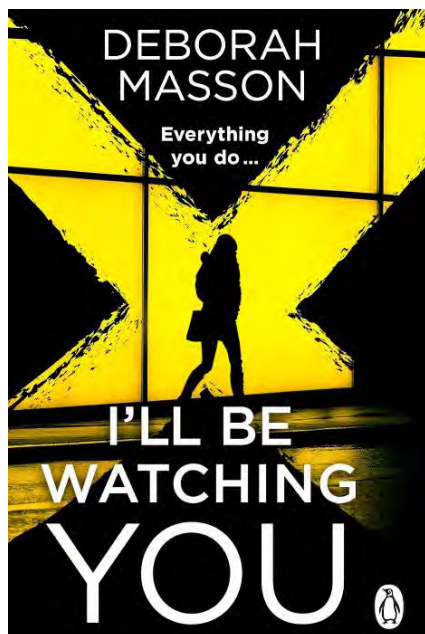
**Previous Publishers:**

Portuguese/Portugal (Infinito Particular)

**Previous Publications:**

*Notes on Heartbreak* (2022)

**Film/TV:** Available



**Agent:** Oli Munson

**UKBC:** Transworld, February 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 368 pages

**Previous Publishers:**  
German (Heyne)

**Previous Publications:**  
*From the Ashes* (2022), *Out for Blood* (2020), *Hold Your Tongue* (2019)

**Film/TV:** Available

## I'LL BE WATCHING YOU

Deborah Masson

*He watches you constantly.*

He sees everything. As a CCTV operator, Casey can travel at speed through the streets of Aberdeen and keep people safe, all from the comfort of his chair.

*He knows your secrets.*

You are one of the people he likes to follow. He keeps an eye on you, notices every detail of your body language, even in your most private moments, when you think no one is watching.

*But now he wants more.*

There's a reason he knows your routine like the back of his hand. It's because he wants revenge. And when you know as much as he does, it's easy to take advantage...

Praise for Deborah Masson:

*'Terrifying, edge-of-your-seat stuff.'* – **Emma Curtis**

*'A genuine rising star.'* – **Denzil Meyrick**

*'Taut and gripping, with a pace that never slows.'* – **Andrea Mara**

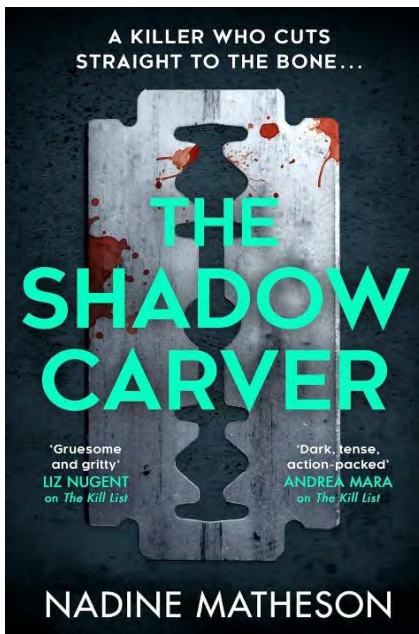
*'Unmissable and addictive, Masson delivers beautifully crafted punches and red hot twists. Neatly plotted with some stunning characterisations, this is belter of a book.'* – **Helen Fields**

*'A slickly plotted, fast paced read with a strong emotive core – I loved it.'* – **Steph Broadribb**

*'My go-to author for gripping police procedurals.'* – **Lauren North**

*'First-class crime fiction.'* – **Marion Todd**

**Deborah Masson** was born and bred in Aberdeen, Scotland. Always restless and fighting against being a responsible adult, Deborah worked in several jobs including; secretarial, marketing, reporting for the city's weekly freebie newspaper, and a stint as a Postie – to name but a few. But through it all, she always read crime fiction and, when motherhood finally settled her in to being an adult, maybe even a responsible one, she turned her hand to trying to write what she loved to read. After taking online courses with Professional Writing Academy and Faber Academy, her debut, *Hold Your Tongue* (2019), won the 2020 Bloody Scotland Debut Prize. Following that, she wrote *Out For Blood* in 2020 and *From The Ashes* in 2022.



**Agent:** Oli Munson

**UKBC:** HQ, February 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 464 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Bulgarian: Book Travel Ltd (1)  
Czech: Euromedia Group (1-2)  
Dutch: HarperCollins Holland (1-2)  
Finnish: Like Publishing (1)  
French: Editions du Seuil (1-2)  
German: Bastei Lübbe (1-2)  
Hungarian: Libri Kiado (1-2)  
Italian: Rizzoli Libri (1-3)  
Japanese: HarperCollins Japan (1)  
Polish: Publicat SA (1-2)  
Portuguese (Brazil): Nova Fronteira (1)  
Romanian: Editore Niculescu (1)  
Russian: Eksmo (1)  
Slovene: Mladinska Knjiga Založba (1-2)  
Spanish: Enciclopedia Catalana Group (1)  
Turkish: Pegasus (1-2)

**Previous Publications:**

*The Kill List* (2024), *The Binding Room* (2022), *The Jigsaw Man* (2021)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE SHADOW CARVER

Book #4 in the *Inspector Henley* series

Nadine Matheson

*A killer who cuts straight to the bone...*

A CHILLING MURDER

When a convicted killer is released and later found brutally murdered, DI Henley and the Serial Crimes Unit are pulled into a deadly investigation with links to other recent attacks – all the victims are connected by the vicious signature left behind by the killer.

A KILLER LURKS

Henley and her team begin to connect the dots between the killings, and realise the murders are part of something more sinister. Each victim has been chosen with a deadly precision, their deaths carved out with a shocking cruelty.

THE HUNT IS ON ...

As the rampage continues and the stakes are raised with each new attack, the case spirals into a terrifying hunt for a killer who is always one step ahead. Can Henley and the SCU outsmart a monster before they strike again?

Praise for Nadine Matheson and the *Inspector Henley* series:

*'Matheson's voice is exciting, urgent.'* – **A. J. Finn**

*'Crime fiction has a significant new star.'* – **Sarah Hilary**

*'Gruesomely good.'* – **Lesley Kara**

*'Move over, Hannibal Lecter, there's a new serial killer on the block in this awesome debut from Nadine Matheson. The Jigsaw Man will have you in pieces. Literally.'* – **David Jackson**

*'What a fantastic book – gruesome murders, a wonderful new detective and some hard-hitting themes explored.'* – **Chris McDonald**

*'The chilling storyline, intense characters, vivid prose, and unflinching crime scenes make Matheson the heir apparent to Mo Hayder and Thomas Harris. Smashing!'* – **J.T. Ellison**

*'The best new detective in fiction.'* – **Kit Abdullah**

*'A heart-pounding roller coaster ride.'* – **Tami Hoag**

*'For lovers of modern crime fiction, Matheson's macabre novel will hit the spot.'* – **Independent**

*'A spellbinding game of cat and mouse... with chilling echoes of Thomas Harris's The Silence of the Lambs.'* – **Daily Mail**

*'With a wit that complements her dark subject matter, Matheson writes superbly... A book to make you think, feel – and jump out of your chair.'* – **Daily Mirror**

**Nadine Matheson** was born and lives in London. She began her working life at the BBC and now practices as a criminal defence lawyer. In 2016, she won the City University Crime Writing Competition and completed the Creative Writing (Crime & Thriller Novels) MA at City University of London with Distinction in 2018.

"Her prose is economical without being austere; witty without extravagance, tense and dramatic in its development from sentence to paragraph, clean as a chime... Her intelligence and learning are dazzling."  
—Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *The New York Times*

# The Oasis

A NOVEL



MARY MCCARTHY

**Agent:** Victoria Hobbs

**UKBC:** Weidenfeld Classics,  
Autumn 2026  
Originally published by Random House in 1949

**Material:** Final Proofs

**Length:** 162 pages

**Previous Publishers:**  
Croatian (Zagrebacka Naklada),  
Italian (Minimum Fax), Norwegian  
(Aschehoug), Serbian (Laguna)

**Previous Publications:**  
*A Bolt from the Blue and Other Essays* (2002), *Intellectual Memories* (1992), *How I Grew* (1987), *Occasional Prose* (1985), *The Hounds of Summer and Other Stories* (1981), *Ideas and the Novel* (1980), *Cannibals and Missionaries* (1979), *The Mask of State: Watergate Portraits* (1974), *Medina* (1972), *Birds of America* (1971), *The Writing on the Wall* (1970), *Hanoi* (1968), *Vietnam* (1967), *The Group* (1963), *On the Contrary* (1961), *The Stones of Florence* (1959), *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood* (1957), *Venice Observed* (1956), *Sights and Spectacles: 1937-1956* (1956), *A Charmed Life* (1955), *The Groves of Academe* (1952), *Cast a Cold Eye* (1951), *The Company She Keeps* (1942)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE OASIS Mary McCarthy

Mary McCarthy's second novel is a biting funny satire set in the early years of the Cold War about a group of writers, editors, and intellectuals who retreat to rural New England to found a hilltop utopia. With this group loosely divided into two factions – purists, led by the libertarian editor Macdougall Macdermott, and the realists, sceptics led by the smug Will Taub – the situation is ripe not only for disaster but for comedy, as reality clashes with their dreams of a perfect society.

Though written as a roman à clef, McCarthy barely disguised her characters, including using her former lover Philip Rahv, founder of *Partisan Review*, as the model for Will Taub. As a result, the novel caused an absolute explosion of outrage among the literary elite of the day, who clearly recognized themselves among her all-too-accurate portraits. Rahv threatened a lawsuit to stop publication. Diana Trilling, Lionel Trilling's wife, called McCarthy a "thug". McCarthy's friend Dwight McDonald (Macdougall Macdermott) called it "vicious, malicious, and nasty".

Never one to shy away from controversy, McCarthy's portrait of her generation had indeed drawn blood. But the brilliance of the novel has outlasted its first detonation and can now be enjoyed for its aphoristic, fearless dissection of the vanities of human endeavour.

Praise for Mary McCarthy:

*'Brilliant and true and funny and beautifully written and intelligently thought and felt.'*  
– **Cyril Connolly**

*'McCarthy earned recognition for her cool, analytic intelligence and her exacting literary voice – a voice capable of moving from the frivolously feminine to the willfully cerebral, from girlish insouciance to bare-knuckled fury.'* – **Michiko Kakutani**

*'Pure delight... a veritable little masterpiece.'* – **Hannah Arendt**

*'Mary's smile is very famous. It's not what it seems at all. It's a rather sharkish smile. When most pretty girls smile at you, you feel terrific. When Mary smiles at you, you look to see if your fly is open.'* – **Dwight McDonald**

*'She thoroughly believed in offending people. She believed in provocation as incitement to thought, to reform, to life itself.'* – **Arthur Schlessinger Jr.**

*'Her prose is economical without being austere, witty without extravagance, tense and dramatic in its development from sentence to paragraph, clean as a chime... Her intelligence and learning are dazzling.'* – **New York Times**

*'The she-intellect supreme... The First Lady of American letters...'* – **Newsweek**  
*'Quite possibly the cleverest woman America has ever produced.'* – **Time**

**Mary McCarthy** (1912-1989) was born in Seattle, Washington. She was a short-story writer, bestselling novelist, essayist and an art critic. She was a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters and won the National Medal for Literature and the Edward MacDowell Medal in 1984. Her debut novel, *The Company She Keeps* initiated her ascent to the most celebrated writers of her generation, the publication of her autobiography *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood* in 1957 bolstered this reputation. McCarthy wrote more than 24 books, including the now-classic novel *The Group*, which was a *New York Times* Bestseller for two years.

**COVER TO BE  
REVEALED**

**Agent:** Oli Munson

**UKBC:** HarperNorth, April 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 88,000 words

**Film/TV:** Available

## UNTIL WE DROWN

**Ava Morwood**

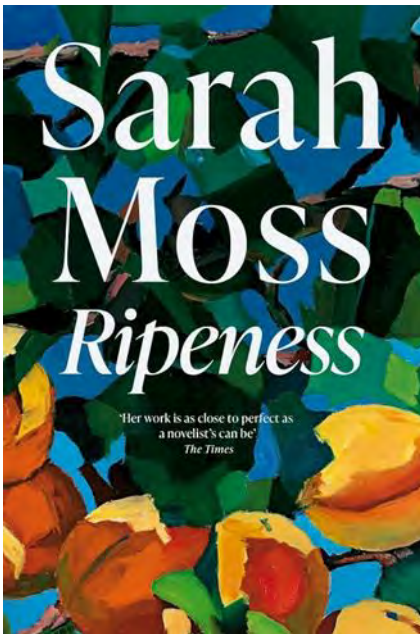
When Ellie Kellaway and her family seek a fresh start in the tranquil Peak District, they hope to leave behind the turmoil of Ethan's affair and the haunting memories of the sea. But their new home harbours dark secrets, where ancient legends of mermaids intertwine with chilling realities.

As eerie occurrences unfurl, Libby, the youngest, is drawn to a grotesque mermaid carving hidden in their house. Strange sightings of a mysterious woman outside only deepen Ellie's unease. And when their dog Jasper goes missing, the family's descent into darkness accelerates.

Haunted by the past and surrounded by ominous tales, Ellie grapples with her own doubts and fears. As the truth emerges, it becomes clear that the mermaid's curse is real, and their lives are entangled in a web of betrayal and vengeance.

In a gripping climax of sacrifice and redemption, Ellie confronts the malevolent forces lurking beneath the surface. *Until We Drown* is a spine-tingling tale of mermaid horror, where love, loss, and the lure of the water collide in a chilling crescendo.

**Ava Morwood**, a pseudonym, has authored numerous novels under her own name and as A. J. Elwood, including *The Other Lives of Miss Emily White*, a Victorian narrative exploring doppelgangers and societal constraints. Her short stories, featured in various acclaimed anthologies, earned her the 2014 Shirley Jackson Award for Short Fiction. Residing in Yorkshire with her partner and Dalmatians, Ava, a member of the Society of Authors and the British Fantasy Society, enjoys exploring folklore, drinking Earl Grey tea, and indulging in her passion for semicolons amidst her home's quirky charm.



**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Picador, May 2025

**US:** FSG, May 2025

**Material:** Finished copies

**Length:** 304 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Dutch: Orlando

Turkish: Kafka/Epsilon

**Previous Publications:**

*My Good Bright Wolf* (2024), *The Fell* (2021), *Summervater* (2020), *Ghost Wall* (2018), *The Tidal Zone* (2015), *Bodies of Light* (2014), *Night Waking* (2011), *Cold Earth* (2009)

**Film/TV:** Available

## RIPENESS

Sarah Moss

*From 1960s Italy to present-day Ireland, Ripeness is a haunting, luminous tale of love, grief, and the lifelong search for where we truly belong.*

Just out of school and teetering on the brink of adulthood, Edith is sent alone to rural Italy. Her task is simple: support her sister Lydia, a brilliant but brittle ballet dancer, through the final weeks of her pregnancy. Once the child is born, she is to make a phone call that will change all of their lives forever.

Decades later, Edith is living a contented life in Ireland, happily divorced and unexpectedly free. But when her friend Méabh receives a call from a stranger claiming to be her brother, everything shifts. As Méabh confronts a history she never knew she had, Edith is pulled back into the long-buried story of the baby she once held, and lost.

*'Throws much contemporary writing into the shade.'* – **Hilary Mantel**

*'Nothing escapes her sly humour and brilliant touch.'* – **Jessie Burton**

*'The most brilliant writer. She deserves to win all the prizes.'* – **Joanna Trollope**

*'Sarah Moss is one of the best writers working today, and this might be her best book yet. A wise and tender novel about birth, ballet and belonging, it captivated me completely.'* – **Bobby Palmer**

*'Sarah Moss's ambidextrous talent is evident on every page of this elegant novel. It is intelligent, but never disembodied; evocative, but never sentimental; honest, but never cruel. Ripeness is a book of tart and lasting pleasures.'* – **Eleanor Catto**

*'Working at the height of her mature powers, Sarah Moss is a marvel of insight and eloquence.'* – **Emma Donoghue**

*'The sublime author Sarah Moss returns with Ripeness ... Glorious.'* – **Vogue**

*'One of our very best contemporary novelists.'* – **Independent**

*'Evocative... Immensely moving – and this story feels very much like life... This novel lingers so strongly in the mind.'* – **Harper's Bazaar**

*'A brilliant mind.'* – **Guardian**

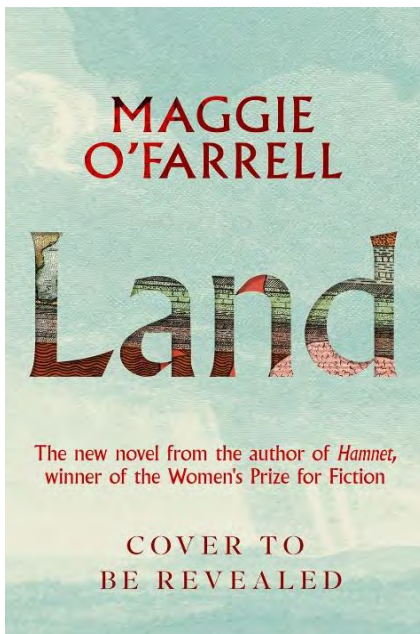
*'An expansive, expressive tale of family, history and ballet, this is illuminated by pin-sharp imagery and rueful self-awareness.'* – **Mail on Sunday**

*'Moss has quietly been putting out some of the most interesting and carefully sculpted novels of recent years.'* – **Financial Times**

*'One of the finest contemporary writers working in Britain today.'* – **Stylist**

*'Is Sarah Moss the best British writer never nominated for the Booker?'* – **Daily Mail**

**Sarah Moss** has published fiction, memoir, literary criticism and food history, including *Ghost Wall*, *Summervater*, *The Fell*, *Ripeness* and her experimental memoir, *My Good Bright Wolf*. Her books are translated into many languages. She was born in Glasgow, grew up in northern England, and after many years moving around the North Atlantic she now lives in Dublin and County Clare. She studied at the University of Oxford and wrote her doctorate on the influence of eighteenth-century voyage narratives on British Romanticism.



**Agent:** Victoria Hobbs

**UKBC:** Tinder Press/Headline, June 2026

**US:** Knopf, June 2026

**Canada:** Knopf CA, June 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 512 Pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Catalan: L'Altra

Dutch: Nijgh & van Ditmar

French: Belfond

German: Piper

Japanese: Under offer

Portuguese/Portugal: Under offer

Romanian: Trei

Spanish: Asteroide

**Previous Publishers:**

Arabic (Dar Athar), Bulgarian (Labyrinth), Chinese Simplified (People's Literature Publishing House), Croatian (Profil), Czech (Argo), Danish (Alpha), Estonian (Eesti Raamat), Finnish (Schildts & Söderströms), Greek (Psychogios), Hungarian (Europa), Icelandic (Forlagid), Italian (Guanda), Lithuanian (Baltos Lankos), Macedonian (Ars Lamina), Norwegian (Gursli Berg), Portuguese/Brazil (Intrinseca), Russian (Eksmo), Serbian (Laguna), Slovak (Tatran), Thai (Saengdao), Turkish (Domingo), Ukrainian (Vivat)

**Film/TV:** Available

## LAND

Maggie O'Farrell

*Inspired by the mapping of Ireland in the mid nineteenth century, Land, the new novel from the author of Hamnet, is at once intimate and epic: a portrait of a family navigating a legacy of upheaval and loss with love and hope.*

On a windswept peninsula stretching out into the Atlantic, Tomás and his reluctant son, Liam, are working for the great Ordnance Survey project to map the whole of Ireland. The year is 1865, and in a country not long since ravaged and emptied by the Great Hunger, the task is not an easy one. Tomás, however, is determined that his maps will be a record of the disaster.

The British soldiers in charge are due to arrive any day, expecting the work to be completed, but Tomás is unexpectedly sent off course by an unsettling encounter in a copse. His life, and those of his family, will never be the same again. Liam is terrified by the sudden change in his taciturn father. What was it that caused such cracks to open in Tomás and how is Liam, aged only ten, going to finish the mapping, and get them both home?

*Land* is a novel about separation and reunion, tragedy and recovery, colonisation and rebellion. It is a story of buried treasure, overlapping lives, ancient woodland, persistent ghosts, a particularly loyal dog, and how, when it comes to both land and history, nothing ever goes away. As spellbinding and various as the landscape that inspired it, *Land* is, above all, a story of survival, for our times, and for all time.

Praise for Maggie O'Farrell and *The Marriage Portrait*:

*'Her writing is exquisite. Immersive and compelling.'* – **Marian Keyes**

*'One of the most exciting novelists alive.'* – **Washington Post**

*'Finely written and vividly imagined.'* – **Guardian**

*'In O'Farrell's hands, historical detail comes alive.'* – **Spectator**

*'An extraordinary writer with a profound understanding of the most elemental human bonds.'* – **Observer**

*'[O'Farrell's] narrative enchantment will wrest suspense and surprise out of a death foretold.'* – **Financial Times**

*'Ingenious, inventive, humane, wry, truthful... better than her last novel.'* – **Scotsman**

**Maggie O'Farrell** is the author of *Hamnet*, winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction 2020 and the Fiction Prize at the 2020 National Book Critics Circle Awards, and the memoir *I Am, I Am, I Am*, both Sunday Times No. 1 bestsellers. Her novels also include *After You'd Gone*, *My Lover's Lover*, *The Distance Between Us*, which won a Somerset Maugham Award, *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*, *The Hand that First Held Mine*, which won the 2010 Costa Novel Award, *Instructions for a Heatwave*, *This Must Be the Place*, *The Marriage Portrait* and her latest novel, *Land*. Maggie is also the author of three books for children, *Where Snow Angels Go*, *The Boy Who Lost His Spark*, and *When the Stammer Came to Stay*. She's worked as a journalist in Hong Kong and London and also taught creative writing at the University of Warwick and Goldsmith's College. She has lived in Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Hong Kong and Italy. She now lives in Edinburgh.



**Agent:** Victoria Hobbs

**UKC:** Bloomsbury, Spring 2027

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 120,000 words

**Previous Publishers:**

Hebrew (Mirabelle), Russian (Eksmo)

**Previous Publications:**

*The Ghost Theatre* (2023), *The Ruins* (2020)

**Film/TV:** Available

## WE ARE STARTING OUR DESCENT

**Mat Osman**

*A high-stakes, propulsive novel set in the Golden House, an opulent bunker built for billionaires to ride out the end of the world in luxury.*

As society reels from worldwide gas attacks, fuelled by a mysterious viral figure known only as the Gardener, brilliant data scientist Bronte and her colleagues – boss Henry Stokenchurch, his wayward son Mallory, acid-tongued procurer Florian, and two ex-military bodyguards – race from Kinshasa to Alaska in a desperate bid to reach the bunker before the chaos overtakes them.

But inside the Golden House salvation is not what it seems. Wilder, the visionary tech mogul behind the bunker, rules over a twisted social order. While upstairs the elite still live with the decadence of Roman emperors, downstairs their support staff toil to keep the apocalypse from the door. Meanwhile, a roving band of violent survivalists – the Wolf Pack – lay siege from outside. When Bronte mounts a daring rescue mission to smuggle two orphaned children inside, the fragile balance shatters. In a fortress built for the end of days, the final test of humanity isn't survival but who we become when all rules vanish.

Praise for Mat Osman and *The Ghost Theatre*:

*'Utterly transporting.'* – **Catriona Ward**

*'For readers who like their historical fiction with imagination and flair, this book is a must-read.'* – **Allison Epstein**

*'From the first page, Osman brings the underworld of Elizabethan London to life... As a reimagining of history, The Ghost Theatre has the subversive power of The Quincunx, with an added dash of prophetic magic and fantastical extravagance. Glorious!'* – **Sandra Newman**

*'Rich and evocative with shades of Angela Carter.'* – **Ever Dundas**

*'Beautifully written, delicate and sad. I'm still haunted by it.'* – **Mariana Enriquez**

*'Vivid, beady and brilliantly staged.'* – **Stuart Evers**

*'Written with wit, invention and a luxuriantly gorgeous prose style. This is historical fiction that's larger than life and twice as much fun.'* – **Guardian**

*'Rich and evocating; the kind of story you get lost in.'* – **Independent**

*'Beautifully written and completely convincing.'* – **Observer**

*'Combining breath-taking world-building with vivid characterisation. An imaginative tour-de-force of theatre, magic, love and betrayal.'* – **The Bookseller**

*'A master storyteller, judging from his virtuoso novel. A great read [that] makes you look at a familiar historical period through fresh eyes.'* – **Mail on Sunday**

*'Wildly inventive and full of fantastical elements jostling alongside gritty realism.'* – **The Times**

**Mat Osman** is the bassist and founder member of iconic British rock band Suede and a composer of music for TV and films. He also worked as a culture journalist during the noughties, writing about art and travel for papers, magazines and online.



## 10 15

### David Parry

When FBI agent Jarett Boskovich gets called to investigate the kidnapping of a young woman in Brooklyn, he thinks it's an isolated incident: no note, no ransom, just the numbers '10 15' scrawled on her bedroom wall. But when eleven more states report similar kidnappings, and thousands across the country appear to be targeted, Jarett quickly finds himself on the case of his career. What do the numbers mean? And how are the victims connected? Meanwhile, denizen of the dark web and expert hacker Ramzi Hogan finds himself unwittingly drawn into this high-stakes game.

Taking place over four days, *10 15* is a beautifully executed high concept thriller about an audacious attempt to collapse the worldwide financial system. It imagines a new kind of terrorism in an age of wealth inequality. It asks the question: if you could bring down the financial system, how would you do it, and would you really want to?

**Agent:** Victoria Hobbs

**UKBC:** Sphere, Spring 2027

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 100,000 words

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Czech: Euromedia

Dutch: Luitingh Sijthoff

French: Hugo et Cie

German: Goldmann

Hungarian: Agave

Portuguese (Brazil): Planeta

Portuguese (Portugal): LeYa

Romanian: Trei

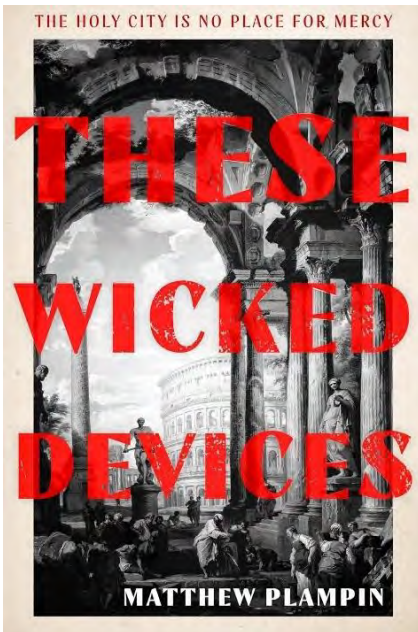
Spanish: Planeta

Slovak: Motyl

Swedish: HarperCollins

**Film/TV:** Available

**David Parry** is both Australian and British and currently lives in London, though has lived in France, Belgium, Japan, South Korea and Italy. He has a strong interest in current affairs and geo-politics which inspires his themes and concepts. Unlike Jarett, David is not an FBI agent – he is a web developer – but he interviewed a number of agents for this project, and spent time with a real team at the New York Field Office. He describes himself as a lifelong learner who enjoys researching and exploring new worlds – and he would love to set thrillers in all of them.



**Agent:** Euan Thorneycroft

**UKBC:** Borough Press, July 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 384 pages

**Previous Publications:**

*Mrs Whistler* (2018), *Will and Tom* (2015), *Illumination* (2013), *The Devil's Acre* (2010), *The Street Philosopher* (2009)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THESE WICKED DEVICES

Matthew Plampin

*The eternal city is no place for mercy.*

Rome, 1650.

The streets are teeming as thousands of pilgrims flood in for the Holy Jubilee, but behind the gilded façade of the Vatican, power is unravelling.

Donna Olimpia Maidalchini has long kept Pope Innocent X under her thumb, but as loyalties shift, her enemies close in. And her most dangerous opponents may be those she deems too weak to matter.

Two destitute nuns arrive, fleeing the ruined city of Castro and each carrying secrets that could destroy them.

Meanwhile, the assistant to the famed Spanish artist Diego Velázquez is drawn into a perilous conspiracy – one that could bring Italy to its knees, and against which his own desperate ambitions seem to count for nothing.

As the sweltering summer heat rises, survival, not salvation, becomes the ultimate goal – and in this world of sin, saints almost never survive.

*'Wickedly brilliant... a darkly fascinating, suspenseful and Machiavellian tale. So richly evoked you can almost smell the incense of Papal Rome. Highly recommended.'*

– **Anna Mazzola**

*'Absolutely loved These Wicked Devices. Rome in 1650 brought vividly to life, full of fascinating real historical figures, an utterly gripping plot and beautiful writing. I could almost feel the heat of the Italian sun when I was reading it. Fabulous stuff.'*

– **Beth Lewis**

*'Plampin's characters, knotty, ruthless and complicated, weave their intrigues and ambitions and carry dangerous secrets as they struggle to survive in a place where power shifts constantly. Gripping, immersive, at times very funny and beautifully written, this is historical fiction of the highest quality.'*

– **Elizabeth Fremantle**

*'Beautifully and fluently written, it is such an unusual and interesting story – full of brilliant characters who pulse with life and the Rome of 1650 is fascinatingly evoked.'*

– **Elizabeth Buchan**

*'Plampin weaves together the disparate strands of his plot with great skill.'*

– **The Times**

*'Matthew Plampin should rank with the best.'*

– **Sunday Times**

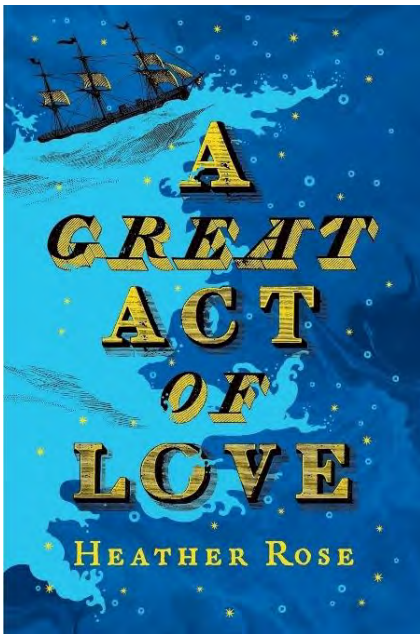
*'A tinderbox of treachery, duplicity, overweening ambition and betrayal... The historical background is excellently researched and full of intriguing details and context.'*

– **Historical Novels Society**

*'Plampin is heartbreakingly good.'*

– **The Times**

**Matthew Plampin** was born in 1975 and grew up in Essex. He read English and History of Art at the University of Birmingham and then completed a PhD at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London. He now lectures on nineteenth-century art and architecture. His first novel, *The Street Philosopher* was picked as one of Waterstones' New Voices for 2009. His second novel, *The Devil's Acre* was picked for the Channel 4 TV Book Club.



**Agent:** Victoria Hobbs/The Naher Agency

**UKBC:** John Murray, January 2026

**US:** Summit/S&S, January 2026

**ANZ:** Allen & Unwin, September 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 496 pages

**Film/TV:** Available

**Translation Rights Sold:**

German: Hoffmann und Campe

**Previous Publications:**

*Bruny* (2019), *The Museum of Modern Love* (2018), *The Butterfly Man* (2015), *White Heart* (1999)

**Film/TV:** Available

## A GREAT ACT OF LOVE

Heather Rose

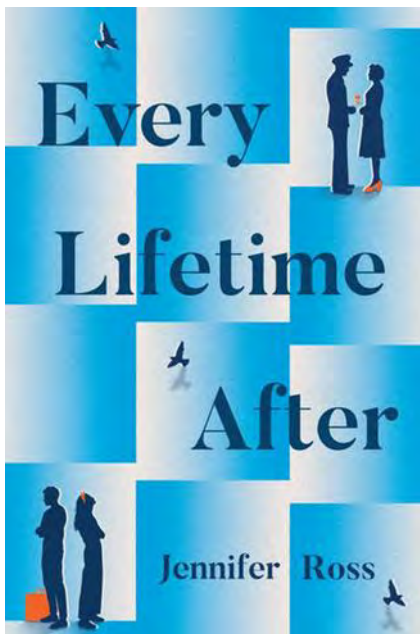
Caroline examines a stolen map. And there she finds it, at the edge of the Western Hemisphere, a black mark at the 30th latitude smaller than a flea: Norfolk Island. Her aunt thinks she's a fool for wanting to follow her father to the other side of the world. He is no longer the man who taught Caroline about philosophy, apothecary and dreamt of returning to the France of his childhood. He is a convicted murderer, mad, deported, condemned. But, when she understands that Caroline is determined, her aunt has one piece of advice: she must leave her past behind and invent a new story.

In 1839, Caroline lands in Van Dieman's Land, a young widow of means with a boy in her care. In this insular colony of exiles and opportunists, no-one talks too much about their past. Caroline leases a run-down cottage and abandoned vineyard and, on this island of extreme seasons and wild beauty, she embarks on a fearless enterprise to reclaim her father, create champagne, and rewrite her family's legacy.

Travelling from Paris to Edinburgh, London, New York and to Tasmania, *A Great Act of Love* is an epic story of hope and self-invention.

*'Rippling with rich, textural prose, A Great Act of Love thrums with secrets which reverberate through generations and across continents. It is a sensuous, captivating story of love and adventure, of new horizons, sweeping from the deepest corners of the world to the wildest territories of the heart.'* – **Lucy Steeds**

**Heather Rose** is the award-winning and best-selling author of eight novels and a celebrated memoir. Her work spans literary fiction, magical realism, fantasy, crime, and autobiography and has collectively won prizes including the Christina Stead Prize, the Margaret Scott Prize and the ABIA General Fiction Book of the Year. Her seventh novel, *The Museum of Modern Love*, inspired by the life and work of Marina Abramovic and published in the UK by W&N, won the Stella Prize in 2017 for the best book written by an Australian woman. *Bruny*, won the 2020 General Fiction Book of the Year at the Australian Book Industry Awards, was one of Australia's top 10 bestselling novels of 2020, and is currently being adapted for screen.



**Agent:** Rebecca Ritchie

**UKBC:** HQ, January 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 416 pages words

**Film/TV:** Available

## EVERY LIFETIME AFTER

Jennifer Ross

*Can they find each other in every lifetime after...?*

### **Claudia is searching for her past.**

Suffocating in the glamour of Hollywood, A-list star Claudia Baxter is desperate for an escape. But when she arrives at the Yorkshire estate of Doverley for her next project – an epic romance set in the throes of war – Claudia is astonished to find herself slipping into the story, into the life of her heroine, into time...

### **Iris can't unsee her future.**

Radio operative Iris Winterton sits in the grounds of Doverley on a moonless night, watching planes depart for Europe. Her stare is fixed on one plane in particular – inside is the man she has loved since childhood. But Iris already knows that this time he's not going to come back, and she will be the reason why.

### **Together, can they complete their story?**

Pulled together by the past and the future, Claudia and Iris begin to unravel the threads of their connection. But in doing so, will they discover a secret bigger than they could ever imagine...?

*'Like Atonement and Memphis Belle had a baby. Every Lifetime After is rich, heartfelt, and completely unputdownable. I flipping LOVED it!' – Emma Cooper*

*'[Jennifer] brings such incredible emotional depth to her writing and always manages to rip my heart out in the best way possible. I was blown away by the clever high concept plot and just know it will do so well.' – Lorna Cook*

*'This novel is sweeping, glamorous, and utterly heartfelt. I adored it' – Amanda Geard*

*'An absolute treat of a novel that you can relax and sink into, leaving worldly cares behind. With its immersive storytelling, heart-wrenching emotional scenes, and strong relatable characters in Iris and Robbie, Nick and Claudia, this is a love story for all time.' – Gill Paul*

*'This is time slip at its very best – I was utterly swept up in the story and the parallel worlds created so skilfully by the author. Impeccably researched, cleverly plotted and completely evocative, I loved every single page and was very sorry to reach the end. Readers will devour this emotional love story!' – Louise Fein*

*'A beautiful, hypnotic, emotional novel. I couldn't stop turning the pages.' – Cecilia Ahern*

**Jennifer Ross** is a British writer. She currently lives on the Sunshine Coast in Australia and is plotting her next novel, another high concept love story.

## DRAYTON AND MACKENZIE

Alexander Starritt

Longlisted for the FT and Schroders Business Book of the Year  
2025

*For the first time since university, James and Roland's paths through life – one drawn in straight lines, the other squiggled and meandering – began to cross...*

James Drayton has always found things too easy. By the time he leaves university, he's still searching for a challenge worthy of his ambitions, one that will fulfil the destiny he thinks awaits him.

Roland Mackenzie, on the other hand, is an impulsive risk-taker, a charismatic drifter with boundless enthusiasm but a knack for derailing his own attempts to get started in life.

When a chance encounter in a pub reunites these old acquaintances, it sets them on an unpredictable course through the upheavals of the 21st century, and triggers an unlikely alliance. Against the backdrop of the financial crash and its aftermath, they strive to create something that outlasts them, something that will matter.

*Drayton and Mackenzie* is a stunningly ambitious, immediately engaging and ultimately deeply moving novel both about trying to make your mark on the world, and about how a friendship might be the most important thing in life.

*'Rare and excellent.'* – **Aled Maclean-Jones**

*'It's a romp through the 21st century via two bright young people – but beyond all the money and success Drayton and Mackenzie is really about friendship.'* – **The Times**

*'This is an eyes-glinting, teeth-bared satire... but Starritt's heartbreaking conclusion cuts through all that sarcasm and cleverness.'* – **The Sunday Times**

*'Drayton and Mackenzie is simultaneously a breathtaking prospectus of the 21st century, an exciting rags-to-riches adventure and a deeply moving story of male friendship. This evolves as you'd expect – beginning in incomprehension and developing into something unbreakable – yet is so beautifully done, I'll admit my vision wasn't the clearest by the end.'* – **Financial Times**

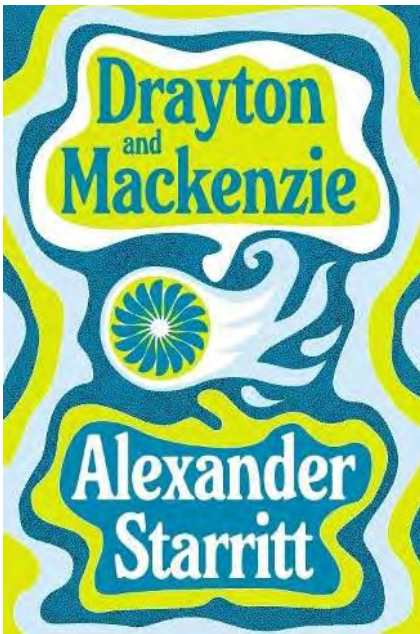
*'Powerful, poignant and frequently funny.'* – **Sunday Post**

*'One of Starritt's many skills is how he ratchets up the poignancy, creating real characters rather than caricatures... Starritt goes all out to hook the same sort of elusive male reader who lapped up Andrew O'Hagan's tear-jerking *Mayflies*. And good luck to him. He certainly hooked me.'* – **Spectator**

*'It is a novel of ideas which is also richly enjoyable; a novel that demands more than a weekly reviewer can offer, for it calls for a second reading and a slow one if its riches are to be fully grasped.'* – **Scotsman**

*'Alexander Starritt's third novel will have you hooked.'* – **The Sunday Times**

**Alexander Starritt** was born half-Scots, half-German in 1985, and grew up in the Scottish north-east. Educated in Edinburgh and at Oxford, he translates fiction, poetry and academia from German, including Stefan Zweig's *A Chess Story*. He has reviewed for *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Spectator* and *Mail on Sunday*, and his short fiction has been shortlisted for the Paris Literary Prize.



**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Swift Press, July 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 512 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

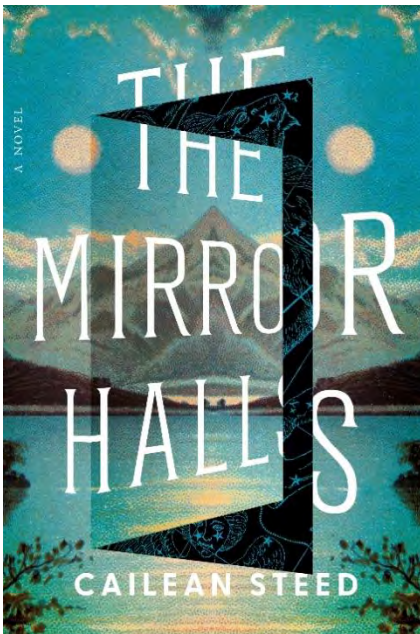
Dutch: Meridiaan Uitgevers

French: Belfond

**Previous Publications:**

*We Germans* (2020), *The Beast* (2017)

**Film/TV:** Available



**Agent:** Oli Munson

**UKBC:** John Murray, July 2026

**US:** Little, Brown, June 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 368 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

French: Lunes d'encre/Denoël

German: dtv

Portuguese (Brazil): Record

Russian: Everbook

Spanish: Urano

Swedish: HarperCollins

**Previous Publications:**

*Home* (2023)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE MIRROR HALLS

Cailean Steed

*A lost loch*

Toby, widowed and adrift, is certain of only one thing: as a child she visited a drowned village, filled with precious treasures. Haunted by this impossible memory, she ventures deep into the Scottish Highlands on a quest to find what has been lost.

*A secret house*

Ash is consumed with grief after the death of her mother until she stumbles into the mysterious Half-Way House. Here, she finds herself a caretaker of the Mirror Halls: the shadowy realm between the sleeping and the dead. As she learns to walk amongst the Dreamers, she begins to suspect that her discovery of the Halls – and the secrets they conceal – was no accident.

As the two women embark on their separate journeys to the truth, they soon find themselves entangled in a mystery far darker and deeper than either could have imagined.

*Some places are hidden for a reason...*

Praise for Cailean Steed and *Home*:

*'Such a good read.'* – **Val McDermid**

*'Absorbing, moving, and alarmingly believable.'* – **Carole Johnstone**

*'Home is a white-hot gem of a book; brilliantly researched, so gripping and propulsive you'll want to consume it in one go.'* – **Kirstin Innes**

**Cailean Steed** is based near Glasgow, Scotland. They have written one crime novel, *Home*, which was published to critical acclaim by Raven/Bloomsbury. Their writing has also appeared in several anthologies and journals on both sides of the Atlantic. Cailean is also an award-winning writer of audio drama, winning the Pen to Print 2021 Audioplay Award for *Realboy*, which was later produced with a full cast by Alternative Stories.

THE  
PERFECT  
ACCIDENT

Tess Stimson



COVER TO BE REVEALED

**Agent:** Rebecca Ritchie

**WEL:** Mountain Leopard  
Press/Headline, April 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 94,000 words

**Previous Publications:**

*The New House* (2022), *Stolen* (2021),  
*One in Three* (2020), *The Mother*  
(2019), *An Open Marriage* (2014), *The*  
*Lying Game* (2013), *The Nanny*  
(2013), *The Wife Who Ran Away*  
(2011), *What's Yours is Mine* (2010),  
*The Infidelity Chain* (2008), *The*  
*Adultery Club* (2008)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE PERFECT ACCIDENT

Tess Stimson

*Could you sacrifice one life to save many?  
What if that life was your son's?*

This year, for the first time, the high school prom will be held on a luxurious cruiser on the lake. Sisters Amy and Iris are excited to be chaperones at the event, seeing their sons all dressed up. It's a proud moment.

But, tonight, the boat will sink.

And as darkness falls, secrets unravel and the air starts to run out, one of the sisters will be forced to make a split-second decision – to save her own son and let her nephew and twenty-one other teenagers drown.

And then, a year later, one of the teenagers will wake up from her coma, ready to tell everyone what really happened at the bottom of the lake. And someone needs to keep her quiet – for good.

Praise for Tess Stimson:

*Full of atmosphere and menace, utterly gripping... with richly drawn, hugely compelling characters. Tess Stimson is master of the didn't-see-that-coming twist, mixing family drama with domestic noir to bone-chilling effect.* – **Lisa Jewell**

*'Twist, twist, twist – I loved it... Brilliant!'* – **Jackie Kabler**

*More chilling than Gone Girl and twistier than The Girl on the Train.'* – **Jane Green**

*'One in Three is just fantastic – complex, intriguing, fast-paced, with a brilliant, compelling cast. I loved it!'* – **Alex Lake**

*I devoured One in Three, with its well-drawn characters, believably complex relationships and relentlessly twisting plot that keeps the reader guessing. Plus, Tess Stimson writes beautifully.'* – **Debbie Howells**

*'What a page-turner! I couldn't put it down. It had everything I love in a thriller – a great twist (or three or four), a fantastic lead character and a set up that will strike horror into the heart of any parent.'* – **Sarah Alderson**

**Tess Stimson** is the British author of 13 novels, including top-ten bestseller *The Adultery Club*, and two non-fiction books, which between them have been translated into dozens of languages. She lives and works in Vermont with her husband, Erik, their three children, and (at the last count) two cats, three fish, one gerbil and a large number of bats in the attic.



**Agent:** Euan Thorneycroft

**UKBC:** Little, Brown, March 2026

**US:** Pegasus, March 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 352 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

German: Piper

**Previous Publications:**

*No Country for Girls* (2022)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE SHARK

Emma Styles

*Every monster has a weakness.*

At the height of Australian summer, a serial killer dubbed ‘The Shark’ stalks a beachside suburb, targeting young female swimmers whose bodies are later found on the shoreline.

Disempowered and angry at the failures of the police to protect them, two young women are hell-bent on revenge. Raych has lost someone and will go to any length to discover what happened to her, while Carmen suspects her own disturbing connection to the killer.

Together they form an uneasy alliance and, in a moment that changes the trajectory of their lives, Carmen and Raych abduct and imprison the prime suspect. Do they think they can save the day, or are their intentions darker? Can they trust one another’s agenda? And when another young woman goes missing, what stops them from going to the police?

A dark and voice-led serial killer thriller that subverts the tropes of crime fiction at every turn, *The Shark* is an unforgettably propulsive novel about victimhood, power and autonomy.

Praise for Emma Styles and *No Country For Girls*:

*‘A taut, evocative and utterly absorbing road-trip thriller about two young women on the run for their lives, both caught up in a landscape as full of threat and danger as the people who are after them. Unputdownable.’ – Jacob Ross*

*‘Fresh as hell with two strikingly original protagonists who blaze a thrilling trail through the outback. Not just a terrific debut, a terrific book full stop.’ – Trevor Wood*

*‘Bold and badass, No Country For Girls is the kind of searingly stylish, unrelenting page-turner I just adore. I burned through the twisting plot almost as fast as Charlie and Nao light up the Australian outback.’ – Chris Whitaker*

*‘A unique voice, compelling protagonists, and a dizzyingly wild and gripping ride that grabs you by the throat – this is outback Australia like you’ve never seen it and will not soon forget it.’ – Peter Papathanasiou*

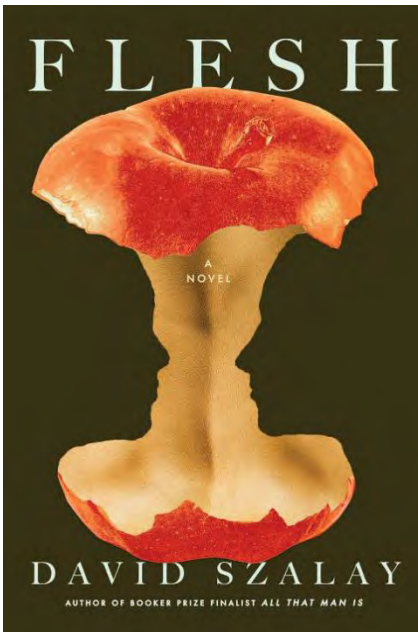
*‘Aussie noir is another on-trend fashion in publishing, and with debuts as flinty and suspenseful as Emma Styles’ No Country For Girls, it’s easy to see why.’ – Age*

*‘Styles describes the terrifying emptiness of the Outback and the drilling heat with absolute conviction. The ending is beautifully done.’ – Literary Review*

*‘A thrilling cross-country chase through remote Australia.’ – Sunday Post*

*‘Styles’s first novel starts with a bang... There are decided echoes of films such as Shallow Grave and Thelma & Louise in this bumpy road trip... The real star is the desolate outback.’ – The Times*

**Emma Styles** writes fiction inspired by the remote places of West Australia where she grew up. She loves a road trip and once sat out a cyclone on the north-west coast in a Land Cruiser Troop Carrier. Emma has worked as a vet, track-work rider and meditation teacher. She lives in London and has an MA in Crime Fiction from the University of East Anglia. She enjoys writing about young women transgressors behaving badly and she won the Little, Brown UEA Crime Fiction Award 2020 with her first novel, *No Country For Girls*.



**FLESH**  
David Szalay

Shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2025

Shortlisted for the Kirkus Prize 2025

The October choice for Dua Lipa's *Service95 Book Club*

From Booker shortlisted author David Szalay, comes a propulsive, hypnotic novel, about a man who is unravelled by a series of events beyond his grasp.

Fifteen-year-old István lives with his mother in a quiet apartment complex in Hungary. New to the town and shy, he is unfamiliar with the social rituals at school and soon becomes isolated, with his neighbour – a married woman close to his mother's age – as his only companion. These encounters shift into a clandestine relationship that István himself can barely understand, and his life soon spirals out of control.

As the years pass, he is carried gradually upwards on the currents of the twenty-first century's tides of money and power, moving from the army to the company of London's super-rich, with his own competing impulses for love, intimacy, status and wealth winning him unimaginable riches, until they threaten to undo him completely.

Spare and penetrating, *Flesh* is the finest novel yet by a master of realism, asking profound questions about what drives a life: what makes it worth living, and what breaks it.

*'This is a marvellous novel. Compelling and elegant, merciless and poignant. David Szalay is an extraordinary writer.'* – **Tessa Hadley**

*'With exquisite control and precision and insight, David Szalay renders lost men that you cannot forget.'* – **Rachel Kushner**

*'A superb novel, written with great terse authority and allure: mordant, knowing and disturbingly wise.'* – **William Boyd**

*'[A] spare, propulsive novel.'* – **Guardian**

*'Szalay's prose... is frequently brilliant, remarkable for its grace and economy. He has a minimalist's gift for the quick sketch, whether of landscapes or human relationships.'* – **New York Times Book Review**

*'It's been a long time since I've been swallowed whole by a novel the I was by this one... [There's] so much searing insight into the way we live now. It's a masterpiece.'* – **Observer**

*'A propulsive novel from the Booker-shortlisted writer about the forces that make – and break – a life.'* – **Financial Times**

*'A writer with a voice unlike any other.'* – **Spectator**

*'He is one of those rare writers with skill in all the disciplines that first rate fiction requires.'* – **Guardian**

**David Szalay** is the author of five previous works of fiction: *Turbulence*, *Spring*, *The Innocent*, *London and the South-East*, for which he was awarded the Betty Trask Prize and Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, and *All That Man Is*, for which he was awarded the Gordon Burn Prize and Plimpton Prize for Fiction, and shortlisted for the Booker prize. Born in Canada, he grew up in London, and now lives in Vienna.

**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Jonathan Cape, March 2025

**US:** Scribner, March 2025

**Canada:** McClelland & Stewart, March 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 360 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Bulgarian: Labyrinth

Catalan: Amsterdam

Dutch: Nijgh & van Ditmar

French: Albin Michel

German: Claassen

Greek: Psychogios

Hungarian: Libri

Italian: Adelphi

Korean: Booksea

Lithuanian: Under offer

Norwegian: Cappelen Damm

Polish: Under offer

Romanian: Trei

Serbian: Under offer

Spanish: Feltrinelli

Swedish: Albert Bonniers

Turkish: Under offer

**Previous Publications:**

*Turbulence* (2018), *All That Man Is* (2016), *Spring* (2012), *The Innocent* (2010), *London and the South-East* (2009)

**Film/TV:** Available

## SCENE CITY

Róisín Tapponi



**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Verso, October 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

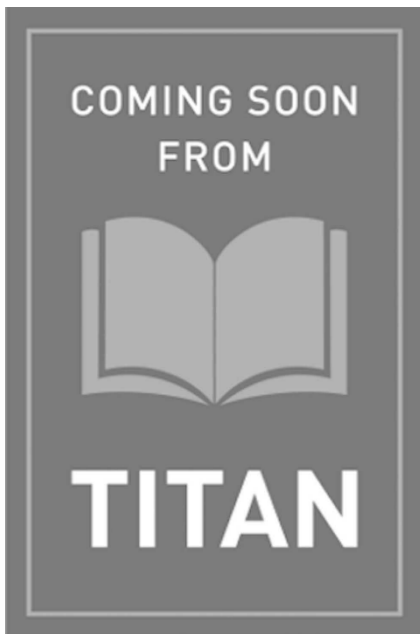
**Length:** 208 pages

**Film/TV:** Available

Romy, an art history student, glibly accepts a writing gig that tips her headlong into hollow glamour and strange air of London's art world. As she begins to document the scene, in all its decadence and debauchery, her sense of self is lost to the buzz. Soon, Romy, and her merry band of gays, find themselves in (of all things) the maelstrom of an unfolding novel.

Tapping into Lawrence Sterne as much as it does Eve Babitz and Truman Capote, this infectious, irreverent debut explores authorship and identity, and whether the pursuit of meaning can (or should) get in the way of a good time.

**Róisín Tapponi** is a writer, commentator, lecturer and film programmer based in London. She has curated film programmes at The Academy and MoMA, lectured at Oxford University, Sothebys Institute, Columbia University and UC Berkely, among others, and written for *Frieze*, *Artforum*, the *Guardian*, *Vogue* and more. In 2023, Róisín was awarded Forbes 30 Under 30 for Europe. She is Assyrian Iraqi and Irish, and founded and ran the Habibi Collective, *ART WORK Magazine* and the Independent Iraqi Film Festival (IIFF), since disbanded.



**Agent:** Oli Munson

**UKBC:** Titan, February 2027

**US:** Emily Bestler Books, Spring 2027

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 369 words

**Previous Publications:**

*Where The Dead Wait* (2023), *All The White Spaces* (2022)

**Film/TV:** Available

## MAN EATER

Ally Wilkes

*A twisting knot of historical horror about orchids, ghosts and the things that grow inside of us, from the Bram Stoker-award nominated author of All the White Spaces. Perfect for fans of T. Kingfisher and Noah Medlock.*

1901. Minerva Sandford is an adventure-seeker, a botanist – and a reluctant wife. Part of a famous family of plant-hunters, she chafes at the formality and lack of autonomy in her chilly marriage, and is horrified by her sole ‘purpose’ being to produce a male heir. She leaps on the rare opportunity to join her husband Guy and cousin Dickon in the Amazonian jungle, searching for the fabled Belladonna orchids. No matter what the cost.

But the jungle is unforgiving, and the more Minerva delves into the wilderness, the more she discovers that danger lurks in the shadows. The tight grip of a local rubber-baron rules over swathes of forest, and as her cousin begins to succumb to malaria, she finds herself unmoored and drifting closer to local plant expert, Ana.

Following a secret map left by a dead man and haunted by the recent loss of a baby, Minerva begins to see things amongst the trees – a ghostly woman in green, plants moving in all too human ways. Is she too, succumbing to an illness? Or, more terrifying, is the jungle reaching out? And if so... why does it seem so hungry?

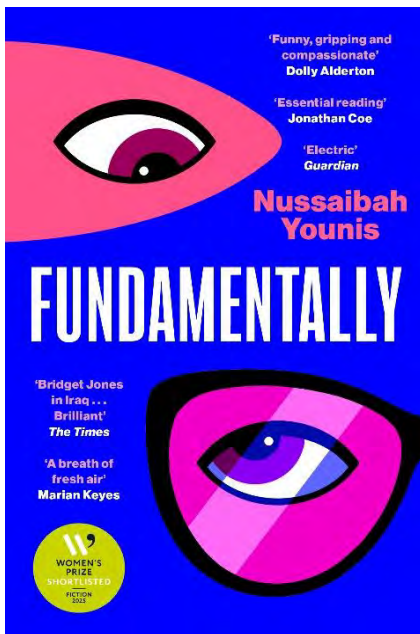
Praise for Ally Wilkes and *All The White Spaces*:

*‘All the White Spaces is a shy and unsettling gem of a book that makes for an immersive read. The storytelling is as taut as the setting is stark, and rife with creeping dread. Despite the blazing summer heat, I was chilled to the bone while reading it, and could not put it down. I loved every frostbitten word!’ – Camilla Bruce*

*‘An intricately described story of loss, self-discovery and belonging in the last gasps of empire. It was wonderfully immersive; I heard every creak and was bitten by the freezing fog.’ – Louis Greenberg*

*‘A tense, at times harrowing tale of humans under pressure, and makes the wide-open wastes of the frozen continent as claustrophobic as any haunted house.’ – Financial Times (Books of the Year)*

**Ally Wilkes** grew up in a succession of isolated – possibly haunted – country houses and boarding schools. After studying law at Oxford, she went on to spend eleven years as a criminal barrister, learning how extreme situations bring out the best (or worst) in human nature. Ally now lives in Greenwich, London, with an anatomical human skeleton and far too many books about Polar exploration. When she isn’t writing or reading horror, she can usually be found hanging upside-down (like a bat) from her aerial silks.



## FUNDAMENTALLY

Nussaibah Younis

Shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction 2025

Shortlisted for Comedy Women in Print 2025

A 'Debut of 2025' in the *Bookseller* and the *Observer*

A *Cosmopolitan* '25 Books We Can't Wait to Read in 2025' choice

A *Stylist* 'Best New Releases 2025' pick

An American Booksellers' Association Top Ten Debut of Winter/Spring

**Agent:** Florence Rees

**UKBC:** W&N, February 2025

**US:** Tiny Reparations, Spring 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 336 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

French: Christian Bourgois

German: Unionsverlag

Romanian: Alice Books

Russian: Eksmo

**Film/TV:** Under Option

Nadia is an academic who's been disowned by her puritanical mother and dumped by her lover, Rosy. She decides to make a getaway, accepting a UN job in Iraq. Tasked with rehabilitating ISIS women, Nadia becomes mired in the opaque world of international aid, surrounded by bumbling colleagues.

Sara is a precocious and swearsy East Londoner who joined ISIS at just 15.

Nadia is struck by how similar they are: both feisty and opinionated, from a Muslim background, with a shared love of Dairy Milk and rude pick-up lines. A powerful friendship forms between the two women, until a secret confession from Sara threatens everything Nadia has been working for.

A biting original, wildly funny and razor-sharp exploration of love, family, religion and the decisions we make in pursuit of belonging, *Fundamentally* upends and explores a defining controversy of our age with heart, complexity and humour.

*'Funny, gripping and compassionate; Fundamentally is a truly original novel that you won't be able to put down.'* – **Dolly Alderton**

*'I really, REALLY loved it – the voice, the setting, the plot, all of it. It's original, warm, funny and engaging. A breath of fresh air.'* – **Marian Keyes**

*'Tart, tender, trenchant, and hilarious, Fundamentally is a brilliant novel about faith and friendship that refuses to be any one single thing – because it is EVERYTHING. Nussaibah Younis is a genius.'* – **Catherine Newman**

*'Younis is a fantastic comic writer: caustic, pitiless, unafraid, with razor-sharp powers of observation. The book is laugh-out-loud funny, and many of the jokes, besides being hilarious, are jaw-dropping in their audacity... essential reading.'* – **Jonathan Coe**

*'Humane, eye-opening, with an extremely close-to-the-bone sense of humour, Fundamentally is likely the funniest book you're ever going to read about Isis brides.'* – **Vogue**

**Dr Nussaibah Younis** is a peacebuilding practitioner and a globally recognised expert on contemporary Iraq. For several years, Nussaibah advised the Iraqi government on proposed programs to deradicalise women affiliated with ISIS. She has a PhD in International Affairs from the University of Durham, and a BA in Modern History and English from the University of Oxford. Nussaibah was a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council in Washington DC, where she directed the Task Force on the Future of Iraq and offered strategic advice to US government agencies on Iraq policy and was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center. She has also published Op-Eds in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Guardian* and the *New York Times*.



## SUNBIRTH

An Yu

*A dazzlingly eerie and bewitching novel. As the sun starts slowly disappearing, the residents of a remote town in the desert find themselves undergoing shocking transformations.*

In Five Poems Lake, a small village surrounded by impenetrable deserts, the sun is slowly disappearing overhead. A young woman keeps an apprehensive eye on the sky above as she tends her family's pharmacy of traditional medicine. She has few customers, and even fewer visitors. Her father was found dead by the lake twelve years ago, in unexplained circumstances. Her elder sister, Dong Ji, works at a wellness parlour across town for those who can afford it – which, during these strange and difficult days, is not many.

The town fell on hard times long before the sun began to shrink, but now, every few days, a new sliver disappears. As the temperature drops and the lake freezes over, the inhabitants of the town realise that there is no way they can survive. But when the Beacons appear – ordinary people with heads replaced by searing, blinding light, like miniature suns – the residents wonder if they may hold the answer to their salvation, or if they are just another sign of impending ruin. Soon, Dong Ji and her sister will uncover a photograph which may offer a clue in the mystery of the Beacons, and finally help them learn what happened to their father.

*Sunbirth* honours the unique relationship between sisters, their love for each other and their desire to be free. Richly surreal and anchored by searching curiosity and wisdom, it asks how much we can ever know about the deepest mysteries of the world.

*'Evocative... vibrant despite a mounting sense of loss... thrilling and unexpected.'* – **New York Times**

*'An arresting story... Confirms Yu's mastery of the mesmerizing and strange.'* – **Publishers Weekly**

*'Enthralling and surreal... an illuminating novel about what people choose to preserve at the end of the world.'* – **Foreword Magazine**

*'Dizzying... expertly deploying speculative elements to examine identity, grief and existential longing with sublime emotional impact... richly atmospheric... Sunbirth is a surreal masterpiece to ponder with pleasure.'* – **BookPage**

*'Offers elements of magical realism and explores themes of sisterhood and grief while it unfolds an unusual premise... Yu excels at creating the setting, described in precise detail, and at crafting a character-driven reading experience.'* – **Library Journal**

**An Yu** grew up in Beijing and spent parts of her life studying and working in New York and Paris. She received her MFA from New York University, during which she wrote her first novel, *Braised Pork*. Her short stories were finalists for the Short-Story Award For New Writers from Glimmer Train and the Annual Contest from Dogwood Journal. Apart from writing, she is the co-founder of YU, a jade jewellery brand based in Hong Kong.

**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Harvill, July 2025

**US:** Grove Atlantic, July 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 304 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Arabic: Jalsa

Slovak: Columbus

**Previous Publishers:**

Czech (Paseka)

**Previous Publications:**

*Ghost Music* (2023), *Braised Pork* (2020)

**Film/TV:** Available

# NON-FICTION



**Agent:** Victoria Hobbs

**UKBC:** Penguin Press, Spring 2027

**US:** Ecco, Spring 2027

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 22,000 words

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Dutch: Nijgh & van Ditmar

French: Editions de la Table Ronde

German: S. Fischer

Spanish: Feltrinelli

**Previous Publications:**

*Sweet Dreams, the Sea* (2025)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE END

**Luke Allan**

*The End* sets out to understand a secret many of us share: reading feels harder now than it once did, perhaps more boring, less tolerable. In its attempt to understand this loss, *The End* unravels into a deeply personal double eulogy: to books, and the good life they promise, and to a mother – and former librarian – whose suicide has over-written the author’s world with unanswered questions and unanswerable mysteries. Luke Allan’s intimate and surprisingly funny attempt to reckon with these two ‘deaths’, and his effort to uncover their shared roots, illuminates a vital relationship between grief and reading, and opens an imaginative space in which having difficulty reading can be seen as more than a mere failure, and instead as something beautiful and true, a necessary turning away from stories and towards what stories describe, which is the world and the people in it.

Set between the Yorkshire Moors, the American Midwest, the fjords of Iceland, and the rolling Italian countryside, *The End* is a searching work driven by an interest in other people and the stories they live by. It resists the view of suicide as a failure of narrative and seeks instead to accept the act as a brave retaliation against the unbearable. The determination to recover suicide from taboo, ‘to find a secret field within the disgrace’, emerges as one of the book’s central quests. Yet as a son, and as a writer, the author repeatedly comes up against the limits of his language and washes up again and again on the familiar shores of mystery, regret, and gratitude – for what was, and what remains.

Writing with acuity and passion from within the problem he describes, Luke Allan’s lyrical investigations of motherhood, language, suicide, marriage, illness, shame, friendship and time build over the course of the book into a vast eccentric web of grief. What this amounts to is something like a private act of resistance, an effort to retrieve language from within. What survives the silence of the unopened book, or the gap where a suicide note should have been, is the freedom to write back.

**Luke Allan** is editor-in-chief of Oxford Poetry and the author of the chapbook *Sweet Dreams, the Sea*. His poetry and lyrical non-fiction are published in *The Times Literary Supplement*, the *Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Granta*, the *Literary Review*, the *White Review*, and elsewhere. He received the 2019 Charles Causley Prize, the 2021 Mairtín Crawford Award, the 2023 AAWP / Westerly Life Writing Prize, and the 2024 Ivan Juritz Prize, and has been shortlisted for the National Poetry Competition and the Fitzcarraldo Essay Prize. He has a Master’s in Creative Writing from the University of Oxford and an MFA in Book Arts from the University of Iowa, where he was an Iowa Arts Fellow, and is currently completing a PhD at the University of Cambridge, researching poetry and typography.

## **UNFINISHED REVOLUTION: Journeys Through the Arab Twentieth Century**

**Andrew Arsan**



**Agent:** Bill Hamilton

**UKBC:** Penguin Press, Summer 2026

**US:** Basic Books, Summer 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 135,000 words

**Translation Rights Sold:**  
Dutch: De Geus

**Film/TV:** Available

This book offers a new and original account of the Arab world in the long twentieth century, from the Arab awakening of the late nineteenth century to the 2011 Arab uprisings, and finally looking ahead to the twenty-first century.

What did the twentieth century, with its hopes and dreams, its promises and delusions, its disappointments and its nightmares, look like from Beirut and Cairo, the Rif mountains of Morocco and the new cities of the Gulf, rather than from London and Washington? To understand its history, we must understand what its people have thought and wanted.

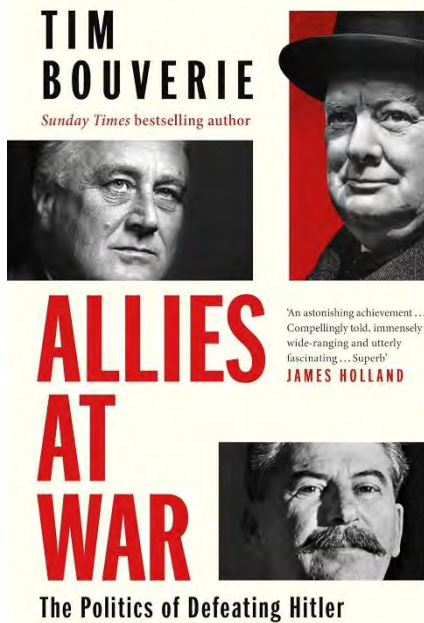
*Unfinished Revolution* draws on wide-ranging research, much of it using Arabic-language material, to bring these ideas to life, giving voice to a wide range of figures, from political leaders like the Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser and religious thinkers like the Syrian Rashid Rida to labor leaders and feminists, journalists, writers, and ordinary men and women.

The twentieth century was a tumultuous and transformative time for the Arab world. The region's people experienced global and regional war, the waxing and waning of imperial powers, the high expectations of decolonization and the often bleak realities of postcolonial statehood.

But in spite of such upheaval, the region's political life has been animated by varied and changing ideas of nation and empire, tradition and modernity, sovereignty, representation, and rights.

Written by a prize-winning scholar and teacher of Middle Eastern History, *Unfinished Revolution* will be essential reading for all those who want to make sense of the Arab world's complex and varied contemporary history.

**Professor Andrew Arsan** was born in Beirut and grew up in Lebanon, France, and Britain. He studied at Cambridge and taught at Birkbeck and Princeton before returning to Cambridge in 2012. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern History in the Faculty of History, Cambridge, and a Fellow of St John's College. In 2018, Andrew was awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize in recognition of his work on modern Arab political thought. He has appeared on ABC Radio (Australia), BBC World News, BBC Radio 4, and Monocle Radio.



**Agent:** Bill Hamilton

**UKBC:** The Bodley Head, April 2025

**US:** Crown/PRH, June 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 668 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Polish: Literackie

Portuguese (Portugal): Dom Quixote

**Previous Publications:**

*Perfect Pitch* (2021), *Appeasing Hitler* (2019)

**Film/TV:** Available

## ALLIES AT WAR: The Politics of Defeating Hitler

Tim Bouverie

*A Sunday Times Bestseller*

*A Washington Post '30 books to read this summer'*

*The Daily Mail and The Week's Book of the Week*

After the fall of France in June 1940, only Britain stood between Hitler and total victory. Desperate for allies, Winston Churchill did everything he could to bring the United States into the conflict, drive the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany apart and persuade neutral countries to resist German domination.

By 1942, after the German invasion of Russia and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the British-Soviet-American alliance was in place. Yet it was an improbable and incongruous coalition, divided by ideology and politics and riven with mistrust and deceit. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin were partners in the fight to defeat Hitler, yet they were also rivals who disagreed on strategy, imperialism and the future of liberated Europe.

*Allies at War* is a fast-paced, narrative history, based on material drawn from over a hundred archives. Using vivid, first-hand accounts and unpublished diaries, we enter the rooms where the critical decisions were made, revealing the political drama behind the military events.

*Ambitious and compelling, Allies at War offers a fresh perspective on the Second World War and the origins of the Cold War. A grand sweep of history – a brilliant narrative.* – **Antony Beevor**

*'An astonishing achievement. Compellingly told, immensely wide-ranging and utterly fascinating'* – **James Holland**

*'Quite simply, the best book to have appeared on this whole subject.'* – **Sir Noel Malcolm**

*'The best book I have ever read about the politics of the Second World War.'* – **Tim Shipman**

*'Enthralling and authoritative... deeply researched and gracefully written.'* – **Wall Street Journal**

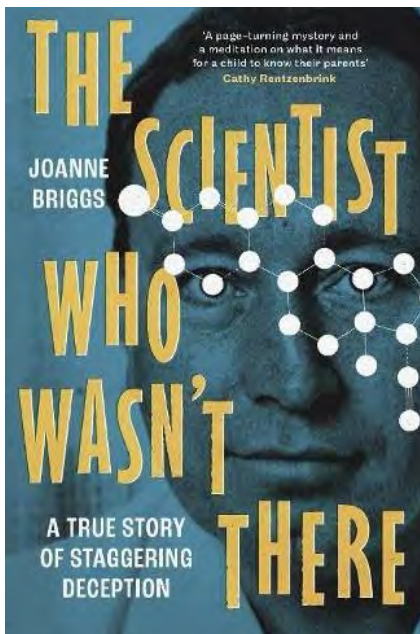
*'[A] masterful new diplomatic history of the war.'* – **Economist**

*'Terrific... Bouverie is a historian with an exceptional command of his subject.'* – **Daily Mail**

*'Impeccably researched, elegantly written, and compellingly argued.'* – **The Times**

*'A new star is born... Powerful and well researched.'* – **Independent**

**Tim Bouverie** read history at Christ Church, Oxford. From 2013 to 2017 he was a political journalist at Channel 4 News, where he worked alongside Michael Crick, as his producer, and covered all major political events, including both the 2015 and 2017 General Elections and the EU Referendum. He regularly reviews history and politics books, and has written for the *Spectator*, *Observer* and *Daily Telegraph*.



**Agent:** Euan Thorneycroft and Florence Rees

**UKBC:** Ithaka, June 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 288 pages

**Film/TV:** Under Option

## **THE SCIENTIST WHO WASN'T THERE: A True Story of Staggering Deception** **Joanne Briggs**

**Winner of the inaugural Bridport Prize for Memoir**

*What would you do to find out the truth about someone you love? A forensic, propulsive book about the line between fact and fiction.*

Renowned scientist Professor Michael Briggs was many things:

A space expert at NASA

An adviser to the World Health Organisation

A successful Big Pharma executive

But Michael Briggs had a secret.

A scandal broke out in 1986 when research he conducted was revealed to be compromised. Patients were also claiming that a pregnancy test he pioneered had caused devastating birth defects. Soon after his fall from grace, Briggs was dead, struck down by a mystery illness in a foreign country

Briggs left behind a long list of publications, patents, and inventions. But he also left behind hundreds of people who believe they are victims of his negligence and who are still fighting for justice to this day.

And he left someone else: his daughter, Joanne. After decades of wondering who her father really was, Joanne decided to investigate for herself. In hypnotic prose, she uncovers the secret that shaped her father's entire life and made his story more fantastic than any science fiction. As she discovered, Briggs's greatest invention was himself.

*'A page-turner with a mystery to solve, and a meditation on what it means for a child to know their parents.'* – **Cathy Rentzenbrink**

*'An exceptional, entirely unpredictable, real-life thriller, this is not about death but life: how it is lived and perceived, what is real and what is not. Told from the inside, where it hurts the most... far, far stranger than fiction and far more salutary.'* – **Michael Mansfield**

*'An astonishingly original memoir about truth, identity and the ethics of science.'* – **Telegraph**

*'Gripping.'* – **The Times**

**Joanne Briggs** has worked in the law for nearly four decades. She was called to the Bar in 1993 and practised mainly in family law and crime, representing clients as diverse as the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Buckingham Palace “Superhero” Fathers 4 Justice protesters, members of the Exclusive Brethren Christian separatist sect, and Angela Cannings, whose convictions for the murders of her infant children were quashed by the Court of Appeal. Joanne was appointed as a part-time judge in 2002, and has been a full-time judge in Health, Education and Social Care since 2009, specialising in mental health. Joanne is 60, and lives near the sea in East Sussex.



**Agent:** Tom Killingbeck

**UKBC:** Allen Lane, Spring 2027

**US:** FSG, Spring 2027

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 100,000 words

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Dutch: Meulenhoff Boekerij

German: C.H.Beck

Italian: Mondadori

Russian: Alpina

Spanish: Atico de los Libros

**Previous Publications:**

*The Dissolution of the Monasteries*  
(2021)

**Film/TV:** Available

## MONASTERIUM: The Making of Medieval Europe

James Clark

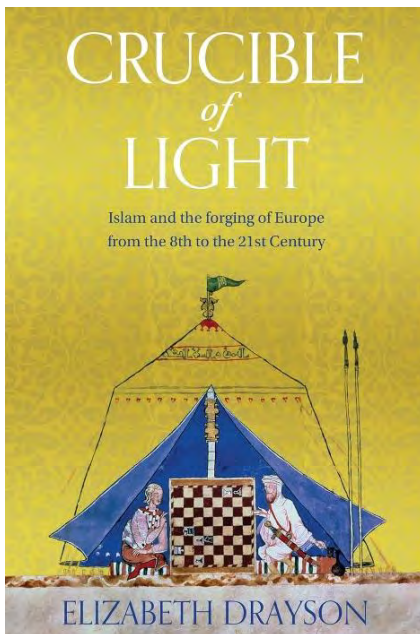
Medieval monasteries, with their enigmatic presence in isolated landscapes, captivate the European imagination. Despite the digital age's dominance, understanding their significance is crucial for grasping Europe's early history. From the post-Roman era to the Reformation, monasteries were ubiquitous, forming a vital network across Latin Christendom. To comprehend the Middle Ages, we must recognize their pivotal role and lasting impact.

*Monasterium* offers a comprehensive exploration of this topic for a general audience. With meticulous research spanning various regions and eras, it parallels the ambition of *The Silk Roads* by Peter Frankopan and exhibits the subject authority of Marc Morris's *The Anglo-Saxons* and Ian Mortimer's *Time Traveller's Guide To Medieval England*. Through nine meticulously crafted chapters, Clark dismantles the stereotype of medieval life as solely about power struggles, revealing monastic communities as hubs of diversity and innovation.

Delving into untapped sources, Clark brings monastic life to life, showcasing their role as political, artistic, and intellectual powerhouses. Monasteries were not only centers of spiritual devotion but also hotbeds of social experimentation and technological innovation. From monks traveling to distant lands to the advancement of timekeeping technology, monasteries left an indelible mark on history.

*Monasterium* not only reshapes our perception of medieval ruins but also prompts reflection on how their core values – environmental stewardship, communal living, and optimism – continue to influence modern society.

**James Clark** is Professor of History at the University of Exeter. For twenty five years he has been pursuing preserved traces of Europe's medieval monasteries across the world, from Iceland to Russia and into the Vatican Library and coast-to-coast across the USA. He has been employed as an expert in the UK by the National Trust and the Wolfson Foundation and in Europe by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). He was series consultant and on-camera contributor to BBC TV's *Tudor Monastery Farm*. His research has been the subject of news stories in the broadsheet press including the *Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph* and *The Times*. He writes for BBC *History*, *History Today*, *Medieval Worlds*, and the *National Trust Cultural Heritage Magazine*. His book *The Dissolution of the Monasteries* was published by Yale University Press in 2021 to wide critical acclaim. *Monasterium* will be his first book for a general trade readership.



**Agent:** Bill Hamilton

**UKBC:** Picador, September 2025

**US:** Pegasus, December 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 592 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Dutch: Het Spectrum

German: Aufbau

Spanish: Edaf

**Previous Publications:**

*Lost Paradise: The Story of Granada* (2021), *The Moor's Last Stand* (2017),

*The Lead Books of Granada* (2016)

**Film/TV:** Available

## **CRUCIBLE OF LIGHT: Islam and the forging of Europe from the 8th to the 21st Century** **Elizabeth Drayson**

In *Crucible of Light*, Elizabeth Drayson pulls together the epic interwoven history of the Muslim and Christian worlds over an eight-hundred-year span, taking in the conquest and re-conquest of Spain, the meteoric rise of Arabo-Norman Sicily, the Ottoman renaissance of the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries, the ebb and flow of Balkan history and the fate of contested islands like Cyprus and Malta, with their very different outcomes.

Focusing on major turning points, individual stories and key places, from Mecca to Cordoba, from Damascus to Venice, and from Vienna to Istanbul, Drayson tracks the themes that unite us – classical learning preserved in Islamic libraries, the enduring influence of Moorish architecture and design, the food we share, the goods we have traded and the continuing discourse between individuals and cultures that has permeated Europe's history and shaped its borders.

Drayson also explores the growing dialogue between Muslims and Christians across Europe today, a dialogue prefigured in the history of medieval and early modern Europe, in which harmony and enlightenment rise above perennial conflicts. These ideas challenge the way contemporary European identity is defined and point to the vital impact of Islamic civilization upon the continent.

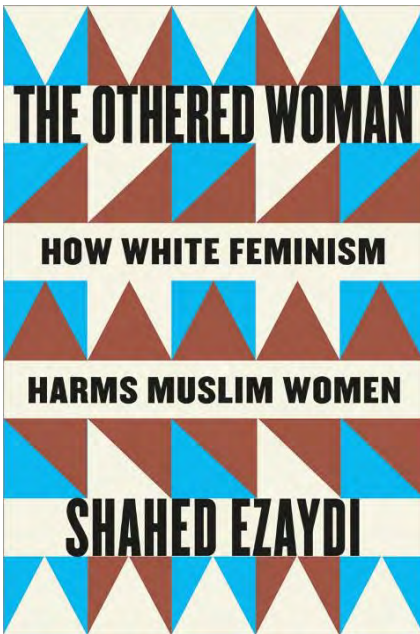
Surprisingly few people are aware of how much Europe owes to its Islamic heritage except via pockets of tourism, and this book aims to correct that while exploring the endless complexities thrown up by this vexed relationship. At a time when Islam is so narrowly identified with terrorism and migration in Europe it is a necessary corrective.

*'Absolutely fascinating. At a time when ahistorical Christian Nationalism and chauvinism are gaining ground, this book arrives as an essential corrective.'* – **Andrew Copson**

*'A treasure of a book.'* – **Rebecca Wragg Sykes**

*'Needed more than ever.'* – **Spectator**

**Elizabeth Drayson** is Emeritus Fellow in Spanish at Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, where she is a specialist in medieval and early modern Spanish literature and cultural history. The author of *Lost Paradise* and *The Moor's Last Stand*, Elizabeth has also produced the first translation and edition of Juan Ruiz's *Libro De Buen Amor* to appear in the UK. She lives in Cambridge.



**Agent:** Florence Rees

**UKBC:** Pluto Press, March 2026

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 240 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Polish: ArtRage

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE OTHERED WOMAN: How White Feminism Harms Muslim Women

Shahed Ezaydi

*An astounding insight into how white feminism is intertwined with Islamophobia, and why Muslim women are so often left out of the conversation.*

Growing up, journalist Shahed Ezaydi was asked how she could possibly call herself a feminist if she also practised her faith. By treating Muslim women as invisible and excluding them from feminist spaces, or hyper-visible with an obsession of ‘saving’ them, we are perpetuating gendered Islamophobia and white feminism. But Muslim women don’t need to be saved, and religion is not the only form of oppression.

*The Othered Woman* is the book Ezaydi wishes her younger self could have turned to, to dispel the myths of how Muslim women are oppressed and who by. It shows that these myths translate into very real harm at state level in the UK and globally, and showcases the many intersectional feminists fighting for liberation in their own way. Accessible and compelling, this is urgent reading for anyone who considers themselves a feminist.

*‘Shahed Ezaydi’s work deftly traces how both the state and white feminist practices consistently vilify and dismiss Muslim women through a kaleidoscope of Islamophobia and racism. The Othered Woman is also an important corrective, underscoring the Muslim activists and thinkers challenging these harmful narratives.’ – Koa Beck*

*‘An urgent, vital contribution to the feminist conversation – one that tears through the comfortable myth of universal sisterhood.’ – Alya Mooro*

*‘A radical, eye-opening analysis of the marginalisation that Muslim women face that leaves no stone unturned. Powerful and truth telling.’ – JJ Bola*

*‘A powerful, clear-eyed reckoning with the exclusions at the heart of white feminism. Shahed Ezaydi illuminates what so many need to see. The Othered Woman is the read we need in book clubs up and down the country – there’s so much to learn here and even more to talk about.’ – Freya Bromley*

*‘This is a necessary read that lays bare how Muslim women have been persistently sidelined by the very movements claiming to fight for our liberation.’ – Nafisa Bakkar*

*‘A brilliant read. Meticulously researched and robustly articulated’. – Samia Rahman*

*‘Shahed Ezaydi has long been a vocal critic of white feminism and is a fierce advocate of inclusivity and women’s rights. Her debut book, The Othered Woman: How White Feminism Harms Muslim Women, is an in-depth analysis of the toxic influence of white feminism and its impact on Muslim women globally.’ – Friday Magazine*

**Shahed Ezaydi** is a writer and editor, specialising in features and reporting on politics, feminism, and social issues. She was a freelance editor at *Bustle UK* and is currently working as a staff writer at *Stylist*. She’s written for a range of publications, across both digital and print, including *Dazed*, *Glamour* and *gal-dem*. Shahed is also the former deputy editor of *Aurelia Magazine* – a platform for the thoughts and feelings of marginalised genders. *The Othered Woman* is her first book.



## A RUNNING PILGRIMAGE AROUND IRELAND

**Adharanand Finn**

Standing at a crossroads after failing to achieve a major life goal, author Adharanand Finn decides to down tools and go on a long run. Following in the ancient tradition of pilgrimage, he sets off in search of meaning, adventure and spiritual nourishment, with a plan to circumnavigate the land of his ancestors: Ireland.

Starting off in Dublin, the birthplace of his mother and the home of the Doyle clan, he sets off following pilgrim trails, hiking paths and country lanes down through the Wicklow mountains to Kerry in the far south-west of Ireland, before following the Wild Atlantic Way up along the west coast to Galway, where his father was born and the home of the Finn clan. From there he continues up through Mayo and Donegal to the very northern tip of Ireland, Malin Head.

The journey in total will be around 2,000km (1,250 miles) and will take close to two months, running roughly a marathon a day. Adharanand won't be trying to break any records, but will be on a journey of discovery, stopping to meet and interact with the people and places he passes.

Rather than a stomping all-out attempt to race around Ireland, this book will be a thoughtful, contemplative study on life, running and the ancient art of pilgrimage. Along the way he will paint a portrait of the Ireland he encounters, from small village pubs, to raucous hurling matches, to epic, wild landscapes.

**Adharanand Finn** is the author of *Running With the Kenyans*, *The Way of the Runner* and *The Rise of the Ultra Runners*. The first of these was shortlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year award and he won Best New Writer at the British Sports Book awards. Adharanand is a journalist at the *Guardian* and also writes regularly for the *Financial Times*, the *Independent*, *Runner's World*, *Men's Health* and many others.

**Agent:** Oli Munson

**UKBC:** Faber, Summer 2026

**US:** Pegasus, Summer 2026

**Material:** Proposal

**Previous Publishers:**

Chinese Complex (China Times),  
French (Paulsen), German (Egoth),  
Hungarian (Gabo), Italian (Piano B),  
Japanese (Seidosha)

**Previous Publications:**

*The Rise of the Ultra Runners* (2019),  
*The Way of the Runner* (2016), *Running  
with the Kenyans* (2012)

**Film/TV:** Available

## HOMING: How Our Homes Can Transform Our Health and Happiness

Matt Gibberd



**Agent:** Tom Killingbeck

**WEL:** 4th Estate, May 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

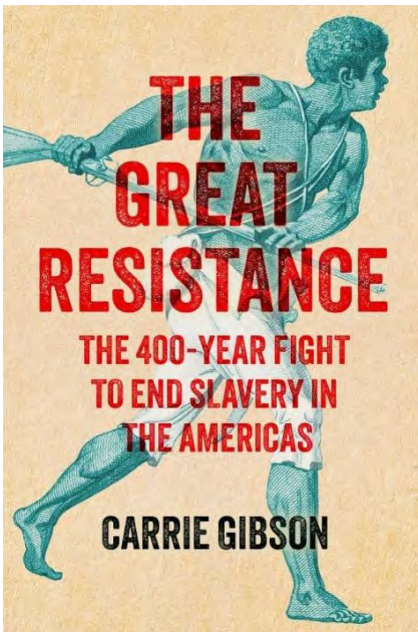
**Length:** 80,000 words

**Film/TV:** Available

Matt Gibberd has always been hypersensitive to his home environment – the only place he hasn't had a panic attack is in his own living space. This hypersensitivity has made him uniquely attuned to what makes a happy and healthy home, and as a journalist and co-creator of *The Modern House*, he's had the opportunity to nose around some of the best-designed properties in the world, and to understand what makes them so special. He sees five common themes as key: Belonging, Safety, Ritual, Identity and Comfort.

In *Homing*, Matt goes on a quest to get to grips with the ways we are shaped by our homes, and how we might shape them to make us happier and healthier. He speaks to a diverse cast of psychologists, architects, designers, philosophers and famous friends in order to understand what makes us a minimalist or a maximalist, to discover why we let renovation projects take over our lives, and to get to the bottom of psychological concepts like Place Attachment and Micro Stress Doses. From sprawling mansions to one-bed flats, he will demonstrate that we are all able to make changes to our homes that will prove transformative.

**Matt Gibberd** was formerly a Senior Editor at the *World of Interiors* and has written on design and architecture for the *Telegraph*, *House and Garden* and *Elle Decoration*. In 2005, he co-founded *The Modern House*, a pioneering design-led estate agency based in London, which he continues to grow with his business partner, Albert Hill. The pair established a new sister brand, *Inigo*, in 2021. Matt lives in the countryside with his wife, the designer Faye Toogood, and their three daughters. Their home has been published in *Vogue*, *Cereal* and the *New York Times*.



**Agent:** Bill Hamilton

**UKBC:** John Murray, February 2026

**US:** Grove Atlantic, January 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 640 pages

**Previous Publications:**

*El Norte: The Epic and Forgotten Story of Hispanic North America* (2017),  
*Empire's Crossroads: A History of the Caribbean from Columbus to the Present Day* (2014)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE GREAT RESISTANCE: The 400-Year Fight to End Slavery in the Americas

Carrie Gibson

*A major new history of the four-hundred-year fight for freedom from slavery in the Americas.*

For more than four centuries, enslaved people across the western hemisphere, from the United States and the Caribbean to Mexico and Brazil, fought any way they could to gain their freedom. From the first African revolt in 1521 on the island of Hispaniola to the eighteenth-century Maroon Wars on Jamaica, and the revolution that gave Haiti its independence, this was the most diverse ongoing insurrection the world has ever known. In *The Great Resistance*, acclaimed historian Carrie Gibson recovers their dramatic stories in one sweeping narrative. Focusing on the thousands of acts of defiance that kept the flame of freedom alive, Gibson vividly chronicles the resistance that eventually ended the slave trade and, with Brazil's abolition in 1888, the institution of slavery itself.

Intertwined with this quest for emancipation were the political revolutions that gave rise to the modern nation-state. At a time when all post-slavery societies face serious questions about social and racial inequality, Gibson provides a radical new interpretation of abolition set amid a sweeping global landscape.

With its deep scholarship and rich narrative, *The Great Resistance* is a tribute to the persistence of the human spirit to overcome even the darkest of circumstances.

Praise for Carrie Gibson and *El Norte*:

*'This is a serious book of history but also an engaging project of reading the future in the past.'* – **New York Times**

*'Gibson's sprawling work makes a major contribution.'* – **Guardian**

*'This history debunks the myth of American exceptionalism by revisiting a past that is not British and Protestant but Hispanic and Catholic. . . . At a time when the building of walls occupies so much attention, Gibson makes a case for the blurring of boundaries.'* – **New Yorker**

*'[Gibson] writes engagingly of moments of violence and injustice, deprivation and discrimination, music and muses: Her paragraphs on the early-20th-century Texas society women who bickered over how to restore the Alamo, for instance, would do justice to the pen of an Edith Wharton.'* – **Wall Street Journal**

*'A sweeping and accessible survey of the Hispanic history of the U.S... Provides a welcome and thought-provoking angle on the country's history, and should be widely appreciated.'* – **Publishers Weekly**

*'Gibson's exhaustively researched and well-written chronicle is an essential acquisition for all American history collections.'* – **Booklist**

**Carrie Gibson** did a PhD at Cambridge University, focusing on the Spanish Caribbean during the Haitian Revolution. She has worked as a journalist for the *Guardian* and contributed to other publications, as well as the BBC. She has done research across Mexico, the West Indies, and North America. She lives in South Korea.



## THE FAMILY MAN: Blood and Betrayal in the House of Murdaugh

James Lasdun

*An exploration of a shocking crime and the uncomfortable questions it raises about justice, truth, and the stories we tell ourselves.*

When prominent South Carolina lawyer Alex Murdaugh was accused of murdering his wife and son at the family's hunting lodge, the case captivated the nation. But beyond the headlines lay a labyrinth of corruption, addiction, and deceit that stretched back generations through one of the state's most powerful legal dynasties.

In *The Family Man*, James Lasdun ventures into the heart of this modern American gothic tale, grappling with the ethical complexities of true crime storytelling while pursuing the elusive truth about that fateful night at Moselle. Lasdun weaves together the tangled threads of the Murdaugh saga, from financial fraud and drug addiction to a mysterious boat crash and suspicious deaths, while confronting his own resistance to the narrative that emerged at trial.

This is not simply another true crime account, but a nuanced meditation on the nature of evil, the limits of justice, and the stories we construct to make sense of the incomprehensible. Lasdun illuminates the 'human element' that complicates legal verdicts, offering readers a reckoning with one of the most disturbing family tragedies in recent memory.

*The Family Man* stands as both a fascinating account of the Murdaugh murders and a profound exploration of how we process unthinkable acts of violence.

**James Lasdun** was born in London and now lives in the US. He has published three novels, four collections of poetry and four books of short stories, including the selection *The Siege*, which was made into a film by Bernardo Bertolucci. His essays and reviews have appeared in *Harper's Bazaar*, *Granta*, the *London Review of Books*, the *New York Times*, the *Guardian* and the *New Yorker*. His second book, *Seven Lies*, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Jonathan Cape, Spring 2026

**US:** W. W. Norton, May 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 350 pages

**Previous Publications:**

*Victory* (2019), *The Fall Guy* (2017), *Seven Lies* (2005), *The Horned Man* (2003)

**Film/TV:** Available



**Agent:** Bill Hamilton

**WEL:** Oneworld, Summer 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 80,000 words

**Translation Rights Sold:**

Spanish: Alianza

**Previous Publishers:**

Japanese (Onaku-no-Tomo sha),  
Korean (Epoch Books), Romanian  
(Baroque)

**Previous Publications:**

*Why Beethoven* (2022), *Genius & Anxiety: How Jews Changed the World, 1847-1947* (2019), *Why Mahler* (2010), *The Life and Death of Classical Music* (2007), *Maestro Myth: Great Conductors in Pursuit of Power* (2001), *The Complete Companion to Twentieth-century Music* (2000), *Who Killed Classical Music?: Maestros, Managers and Corporate Politics* (1997)

**Film/TV:** Available

## WHY MUSIC: A User's Guide

Norman Lebrecht

Where does music come from? How does it move us? Why do we feel pleasure, consolation, joy, revulsion, on hearing a certain phrase, or a particular playing of it? How much is music governed by prejudice and how much by nostalgia? Can music resist artificial intelligence? Will music always be there when we need it? Why music?

Norman Lebrecht explores a lifelong fascination with music amidst a diverse career journey. From Talmudic roots to encounters with renowned musicians, the book delves into the author's quest for meaning and self-discovery through the lens of melody. With poignant reflections and captivating anecdotes, *Why Music* offers a compelling exploration of the enduring power of music to inspire, console, and transform lives across cultures and continents.

Praise for Norman Lebrecht and *Why Beethoven*:

*'From one of our most prolific and wide-ranging writers on music, here is a connoisseur's guide to Beethoven recordings fleshed out with vivid bits of biography and memoir. Most books recommend either recordings or works. This singular book does both.'* – **Jan Swafford**

*'With these 100 reverently irreverent venerations, Lebrecht not only burnishes further the immortal legend of Beethoven but demonstrates that language need not end where music begins. An illuminating and uplifting mosaic.'* – **Gabriela Montero**

*'Norman Lebrecht, in his remarkable book, shows that Beethoven has, in his philosophical approach, as much relevance as he always had – maybe even more in these crazy times.'* – **Franz Welser-Möst**

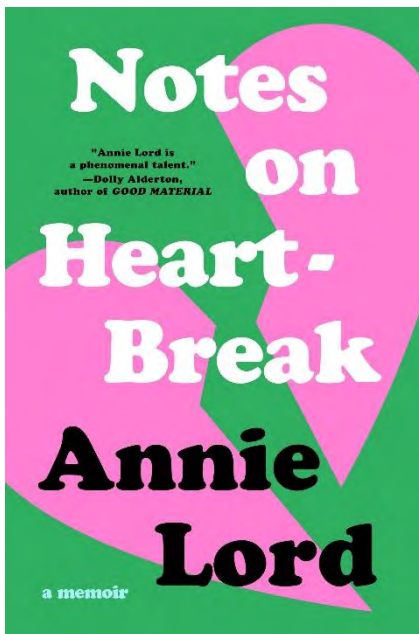
*'Norman Lebrecht has turned his attention to Beethoven, and in a way that no one has done before.'* – **John Suchet**

*'An incredibly fascinating personal search for the "core" of Beethoven's personality, his legacies and relevance of his figure nowadays. Lots of details and facts were new to me, many of the chapters provoked me to think even further, beyond the music and philosophy of this titan.'* – **Vasily Petrenko**

*'An ideal guide to the master's wondrous achievements.'* – **Kirkus Reviews**

*'Why Beethoven is a provocatively illuminating, occasionally scandalous survey of the recordings that shaped Beethoven's life. It makes for an exhilarating narrative that in its wake also raises several divisive cultural issues.'* – **Strings Magazine**

**Norman Lebrecht** is the author of 12 works of non-fiction and three novels. His international bestsellers *The Maestro Myth*, *Why Mahler* and *The Life And Death Of Classical Music* have been translated into 17 languages. His first novel, *The Song of Names*, won a Whitbread Award and has been made into a major feature film. His website, Slipped Disc, is the world's No. 1 classical music noticeboard, with 1.5 million visitors each month. In a 40-year journalistic career, Norman was a spiky columnist for the *Daily Telegraph*, presented *lebrecht.live* on BBC Radio 3 and served as Assistant Editor of the *Evening Standard*. He writes for the *Spectator* and the *Wall Street Journal*. He has taught at numerous universities, among them Yale, Syracuse, Carnegie Mellon, Peabody/John Hopkins, Tel Aviv, and the Shanghai Conservatoire of Music.



**Agent:** Florence Rees

**US:** HarperCollins, Spring 2026

**UKBC:** Trapeze, June 2022

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 304 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**

German: pola/Bastei Lübbe

Italian: Mondadori

Portuguese (Portugal): Infinito Particular

**Film/TV:** Available

## NOTES ON HEARTBREAK

Annie Lord

*Dark, fierce and raw, Notes on Heartbreak is a love story told in reverse.*

Reeling from a broken heart, Annie Lord revisits the past – from the moment she first fell in love, the shared in-jokes and intertwining of a long-term relationship, to the months that saw the slow erosion of a bond five years in the making.

Charting her attempts to move on, Annie explores the ups and downs of being newly single, from disastrous rebound sex to sending ill-advised nudes, stalking your ex's new girlfriend on Instagram and the sharp indignity of being ghosted.

This stunning exploration of love and heartbreak from cult journalist and *Vogue* columnist Annie Lord, is so much more than a book about one singular break-up. It is an unflinchingly honest account of the simultaneous joy and pain of being in love that will resonate with anyone who has ever nursed a broken heart.

It's a book about the best and worst of love: the euphoric and the painful, the beautiful and the messy.

Perfect for fans of *Everything I Know About Love*, *Conversations on Love* and *Three Women*.

*'Arresting and vivid, raw and breathtaking... told with stunning originality. Annie Lord is a phenomenal talent.'* – **Dolly Alderton**

*'A beautiful tender messy brilliant generous open-hearted book. Writing that no doubt will be a balm to anyone reeling or healing from heartbreak, or the intensity of love in any form.'* – **Emma Gannon**

*'Like a rigorous exfoliant – painful while it sloughs away the dead romantic ideals, leaving you cleansed, reborn and gorgeously satisfied.'* – **Pandora Sykes**

*'Notes on Heartbreak is a rare thing: a relatable but crucially smart read... I will recommend it to any heartbroken friend.'* – **Hannah Ewens**

*'It's hard to write a book about heartbreak that doesn't fall into clichés or a sentimentality that isolates the reader but Annie Lord has done it. She is brave and vulnerable in her writing and this book definitely made me reflect on my own heartbreak differently.'* – **Abigail Bergstrom**

*'It's good, all of this – nearly everyone knows the specific, towering grief of being walked out on by the person whose limbs they woke up tangled in in the morning, but few write about it so directly, so unblinkingly.'* – **The Times**

*'A deep meditation on the anguish of a modern heartbreak, where Lord's unique writing helps the emotions fly.'* – **Guardian**

**Annie Lord** is *British Vogue's* dating columnist. Other publications that feature her work include *VICE*, *The Sunday Times*, the *Telegraph*, the *New Statesman*, *i-D*, the *Guardian*, the *Quietus* and *Dazed*. In 2022 she presented a BBC Radio 4 documentary on dating and heartbreak. Her debut novel *The Project* will be published in Summer 2026.



**Agent:** Tom Killingbeck

**UKBC:** Gaia, June 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 352 pages

**Previous Publications:**

*Cornerstones; Wild Forces That Can Change Our World* (2023), *Orchard: A Year in England's Eden* (2021), *Rebirding: Restoring Britain's Wildlife* (2020)

**Film/TV:** Available

## WILDLANDS: In Search of the Earth's Last True Wilderness

**Benedict Macdonald**

No corner of our planet remains untouched by human influence. Yet in some remote places, a handful of Earth's natural wonders and ecosystems still stand proud. Robust, teeming, fragile, regenerating, these places offer us glimpses of how the rest of our planet once looked – and how, with better stewardship, it could look again in the future.

In the book, Benedict travels from place to place, meeting the people fighting to protect the future of these landscapes, and tells us what we might learn from these ecosystems to help rebuild species elsewhere that are so integral to our continued survival. Along the way, Benedict comes face to face with a Sumatran Tiger, follows abandoned railway tracks in Chernobyl where wolves now roam, and snorkels and dives among sealions, rays, sea turtles and white-tipped sharks in the Sea of Cortez. He speaks to a great cast of characters in the process, from filmmakers to philanthropists, local guides, farmers, ecologists and campaigners.

Mixing history, science, travel-writing and storytelling, this is a beautifully written and important book about the wildest and naturally richest places on Earth, about the urgency of rewilding, and what these places can teach us about living in harmony with nature.

Praise for Benedict Macdonald and *Rebirding*:

*'Very few writers can navigate the complexities of the interconnectedness of nature and humanity, but Macdonald achieves this with skill and impact.'* – **Sophie Pavelle**

*'One of the most revolutionary nature publications in recent times This is a read you won't regret.'* – **Gethin Jenkins-Jones**

*'It has shaped how I think about my farm, and the choices we make about our land.'* – **James Rebanks**

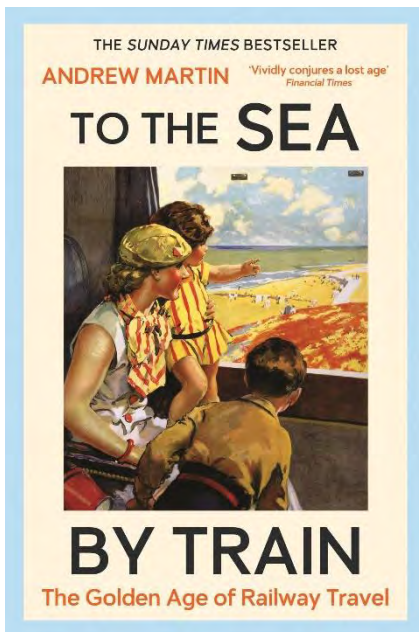
*'A wonderful book, visionary, illuminating and fascinating.'* – **George Monbiot**

*'Rebirding is beautifully written, based on deep, personal experience and a genuine love of the subject.'* – **Stephen Moss**

*'The author's great strength is in painting vivid pictures, helping us to imagine a possible future where we have more self-willed, wilder land.'* – **British Wildlife**

*'A wonderfully imaginative book, which shows how things could be with our rapidly declining areas of countryside, instead of how – despairingly – they are now.'* – **Spectator**

**Benedict Macdonald** is a writer, television producer and conservationist, whose first book, *Rebirding: Restoring Britain's Wildlife*, was the winner of the inaugural Wainwright Prize for Global Conservation and the Richard Jefferies Prize. Ben is a lifelong naturalist who perfected his storytelling skills during an award-winning career as a wildlife filmmaker. He has worked as a field director on such Emmy and BAFTA award winning series as David Attenborough's *Our Planet* (Netflix) and *The Hunt* (BBC1). In 2021, following the success of *Rebirding* and his growing influence in the UK conservation movement, he moved full time into professional nature restoration. He now works as Head of Nature Restoration for Real Wild Estates, where he manages thousands of acres back to wilderness as one of Britain's few professional rewilders.



**Agent:** Anna Webber

**WEL:** Profile, July 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 304 pages

**Previous Publications:**

*The Moquette Mystery* (2025), *Metropolitain: An Ode to the Paris Metro* (2023), *Steam Trains Today* (2021), *Powder Smoke* (2021), *Seats of London* (2019), *The Winker* (2019), *The Martian Girl* (2018), *Night Trains: The Rise and Fall of the Sleeper* (2018), *Soot* (2017), *The Yellow Diamond* (2015), *Belles and Whistles* (2014), *Flight by Elephant* (2013), *Night Train to Jamalpur* (2013), *Underground Overground* (2012), *The Baghdad Railway Club* (2012), *The Somme Stations* (2011), *The Last Train to Scarborough* (2009), *Death on a Branch Line* (2008), *Murder At Deviation Junction* (2007), *The Lost Luggage Porter* (2006), *The Blackpool Highflyer* (2004), *The Necropolis Railway* (2002)

**Film/TV:** Available

## TO THE SEA BY TRAIN: The Golden Age of Railway Travel

Andrew Martin

A *Sunday Times* Bestseller

Throughout the twentieth century, the seaside service posters of Britain's railways promised fresh air and frivolity to millions of urban dwellers with the phrase: 'To the sea by train'. A staple of modern British life, the seaside getaway was intertwined with the train, in whose compartments holidaymakers were shunted from smog-choked cities to sandy coves.

With his signature wit and anecdotal style, Andrew Martin captures an era defined by its railways: from the development of Brighton and Scarborough into pleasure resorts, and the introduction of bank holidays and two-day weekends, to the advent of cheap flights and the British coast's subsequent decline. Humorous and evocative, *To the Sea by Train* takes a charming tour through Britain's most beloved pastime.

*'Martin's whimsical little book, a feast of anecdotage, represents a memorial to the past that was not always an idyll.'* – **The Sunday Times**

*'Charming and unashamedly trainspotterish... To spread joy about what's left, [Martin] travels on lines to the coast that remain open, evoking his journeys in infectiously enthusiastic detail.'* – **Spectator**

*'Martin has a nudgingly humorous style, occasionally breaking out into the outright comedic, and a novelist's ear for dialogue. Facts are lightly applied, the quirkiest the better. [His] account of travelling through Euston and Birmingham New Street and on to the Cambrian Coast Line to Pwllheli is a standalone classic of observational comedy – I couldn't stop laughing.'* – **Country Life**

*'There is no greater chronicler of the joy – and commensurate frustration – of the great British railway experience than Andrew Martin. His latest book evocatively describes the long-bygone age of travelling by train to seaside resorts. You can almost smell the sea and ice cream as Martin wittily blends memoir and social history.'* – **Observer**

*'Andrew Martin's warm and witty new book about train travel to Britain's seaside towns is a delightful and nostalgic read.'* – **Coast**

*'There's a pleasant undercurrent of nostalgia in this clever book.'* – **Oldie**

**Andrew Martin** is the author of over thirty books, divided almost equally between fiction and non-fiction. *The Somme Stations* won the CWA Ellis Peters Award for Historical Crime Fiction in 2011. His non-fiction has sometimes had a railway theme. It includes *Night Trains: The Rise and Fall of the Sleeper* and *Metropolitain: An Ode to the Paris Metro*. His memoir, *Yorkshire: There and Back* was published in 2022. Andrew Martin also writes a column in the *Yorkshire Dalesman* magazine (even though he lives in North London), and pen pop songs under the name Brunswick Green.



**Agent:** Anna Webber

**UKBC:** Jonathan Cape, December 2026

**US:** W.W. Norton, December, 2026

**Material:** Unedited Manuscript

**Length:** 170 pages

**Previous Publications:**

*Nobody* (2019), *Falling Awake* (2016), *Memorial* (2011), *Dart* (2010), *Weeds and Wild Flowers* (2009), *A Sleepwalk on the Severn* (2009), *Woods etc.* (2008), *The Thing in the Gap Stone Stile* (2007)

**Film/TV:** Available

## INTERVIEW WITH HOMER

### Alice Oswald

In this breathtaking work of literary archaeology, acclaimed poet Alice Oswald stipulates that Homer never truly died – he lives on in street poetry and graffiti, in the rhythms of city life and in half-heard conversations down forgotten lanes.

Through a mesmerizing accumulation of images, stories, and insights, Alice Oswald reveals how the epic tradition pulses through our daily existence. *Interview with Homer* is both deeply erudite and refreshingly accessible, offering readers a completely new way of understanding the ancient oral tradition and its visceral relevance to contemporary life.

Her unique voice – hypnotic, funny, and utterly convincing – guides us through a drawn-out revelation that unfolds like the replenishing of a cup. This is poetics as you’ve never encountered it before: alive, mimetic, and gloriously immediate.

Mind-expanding and invigorating, *Interview with Homer* will subtly change how you read, how you listen, and how you move through the world.

**Alice Oswald** studied Classics at Oxford and then trained as a gardener. She worked in gardens for seven years before publishing her first book of poems, *The Thing in the Gap-Stone Stile*, which won the Forward Prize in 1996. She was writer-in-residence at Dartington Hall from 1996-8 and there wrote her long poem *Dart*, which won the T.S. Eliot prize in 2002. Other collections have won the inaugural Ted Hughes award (*Weeds and Wildflowers*), the Hawthornden prize (*A Sleepwalk on the Severn*) and the Warwick prize (*Memorial*). In 2009 she won a Cholmondeley award for her contribution to poetry. In 2016 her collection *Falling Awake* was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection 2016 and the T.S. Eliot Prize 2016 and was the winner of the Costa Poetry Award 2016. In June 2017 she was awarded the International Griffin Poetry Prize 2017. Alice was the Oxford Professor of Poetry between 2019 and 2023. She is married with three children and lives in Devon.



**Agent:** Victoria Hobbs

**UKBC:** Sheldon/John Murray,  
September 2025

**Material:** Finished Copies

**Length:** 288 pages

**Translation Rights Sold:**  
Chinese Simplified: China Renmin  
University Press  
Romanian: Trei

**Film/TV:** Available

## MY PARENT THE PEACOCK: Discovery and Recovery from Narcissistic Parenting Kathleen Saxton

The scars inflicted on childhood by a parent with narcissistic tendencies are lasting – but they don't have to define your future. *My Parent the Peacock* is a compassionate, insightful and clear-eyed guide to recovery that validates your lived experience while offering practical steps towards healing and freedom.

Demythologising some of the ideas around narcissistic behaviours, acclaimed therapist Kathleen Saxton starts by explaining what narcissism is, and isn't, and why it seems to be on the increase. She offers you support to understand how having a narcissistic parent can impact your early development, and how family constellations are shaped in such households (were you the Golden Child, or the Scapegoated Child?). Pulling everything together into practical and healing strategies for moving forward, the book also covers:

- \* Validation and self-care
- \* Setting boundaries and expectations
- \* Listening to your own voice
- \* Breaking the generational patterns

You can escape generational trauma and find freedom; take the first steps today for a healthier, happier future.

*'With clinical expertise and deep compassion, she unpacks the lasting impact of these relationships and offers a path to understanding and healing. A vital, unflinching read for anyone seeking to break the cycle and protect the next generation.'* – **Chris Sherwood, CEO, NSPCC**

*'The definitive guide to how to deal with the narcissist in your life, especially if they are your parent, and come out stronger on the other side... I finished the book feeling enlightened, uplifted, and deeply encouraged; a powerful reminder that even the most painful childhood can be the beginning of a fulfilling life.'* – **David Lancefield**

*'This book fills in this critical lacuna with research-based insight and information – a rarity in the sphere of narcissism. Recommended as THE introductory text to the topic and as an indispensable guide to further forays into the field.'* – **Professor Sam Vaknin**

*'Timely and intelligent... this book shines a light on narcissistic abuse with clarity and compassion.'* – **Stylist**

**Kathleen Saxton** is a fully qualified and accredited psychotherapist and a registered member of both the UKCP & BACP. She initially trained in Psychotherapy and Counselling at Regent's University and continued a further 4 years of study in Integrative and Humanistic psychotherapy at the renowned CCPE in London. She undertook additional training in Trauma, Complex Trauma, Anxiety, Narcissism, Couples Work, Hoarding, ADHD, Sexual Abuse, Borderline Personality Disorder and Suicide over recent years, offering trauma informed therapy as a specialism. Across the last 10 years Kathleen has practiced at The Grove, The Priory and, in 2016, she co-founded her own clinical practice called Psyched Global in London.

## **HONOURED: Survival, Strength and My Path to Politics**

**Naz Shah**

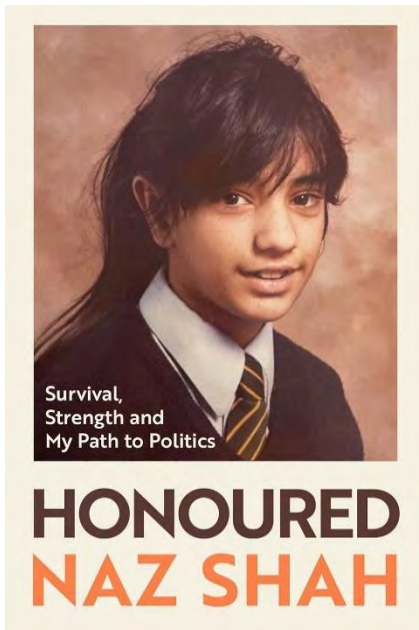
*The extraordinarily moving, inspiring and singularly unforgettable memoir of a stranger-than-fiction life lived against the odds.*

By the age of five, Naz Shah was used to the sight of her father beating her mother. At six, her father left the family for a teenage neighbour. At twelve, she was sent to Pakistan for protection from her mother's new abuser, only to be forced into marriage at the age of fifteen. Within a couple of years, her mother would be in prison, jailed for murdering the man who had subjected her to years of physical and sexual torture, and Naz and her two younger siblings would be left to fend for themselves.

For twelve years, Naz campaigned alongside Southall Black Sisters for her mother's release and was instrumental in the overturning of her life sentence. Sustained by the ever-increasing strength of her Islamic faith and guided by its values of justice and compassion, she found purpose in the fight for her family and for others who had been silenced. In 2015, she was elected to Parliament, overturning George Galloway's majority to win back Bradford West for the Labour Party in one of the most momentous battles of the campaign. In serving the very community that once turned its back on her, she has transformed betrayal into leadership.

In *Honoured*, Naz reveals how growing up against almost impossible odds lit the fire that still drives her today. This is the unflinching account of a young British Muslim woman coming of age and discovering the power of her own voice. An inspiring story of survival, faith and political awakening, it charts the making of an activist determined to speak out, stand up and claim space in a world that rarely offers it.

**Naz Shah** has been the Labour MP for Bradford West since her election in 2015 in a bruising battle with George Galloway's Respect Party. She was born in Bradford but sent to Pakistan by her mother at the age of twelve to escape the attentions of her mother's abusive partner. There, she entered an arranged marriage. When she was twenty, her mother was convicted of the murder of her partner. Naz was instrumental in campaigning and securing her mother's release from prison. *Honoured* is her first book.



**Agent:** Victoria Hobbs

**UKBC:** W&N, March 2026

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Length:** 320 pages

**Film/TV:** Available



**Agent:** Bill Hamilton

**UKBC:** Basic Books/John Murray,  
July 2026

**US:** Basic Books, July 2026

**Material:** Proposal

**Length:** 120,000 words

**Translation Rights Sold:**

German: Siedler/Penguin Random  
House

Korean: Book21

Romania: Polirom

**Previous Publications:**

*The Silver Waterfall* (2022), *Hitler's  
American Gamble* (2021), *Hitler: Only  
the World Was Enough* (2019), *Britain's  
Europe* (2017), *The Longest Afternoon*  
(2014), *Europe, The Struggle for  
Supremacy 1453 to the Present* (2013),  
*Unfinest Hour* (2001)

**Film/TV:** Available

## THE RETURN OF THE GREAT POWERS

**Brendan Simms**

The 'Great Powers' are back. They were long thought superseded by the forces of globalisation and interdependence and made irrelevant by the challenges of civil wars, complex emergencies, and world-wide threats such as climate change. Now, though, traditional great power rivalry between the most important states in the global system has returned with a vengeance. Five years ago, the US National Security Strategy spoke of the revival of 'peer competition' between the major powers, meaning the West and the Sino-Russian axis, as the main characteristic of the international system.

Today, as the world watches these tensions play out in Ukraine, and contemplates possible escalation in the Indo-Pacific, it is time to take a fresh look at who the great powers are (looking at nations, but also supra-national and non-governmental powers, the European Union and the world of "Tech"), what makes them what they are, how they shape the world we live in, and where the great power system might be heading.

Praise for Brendan Simms:

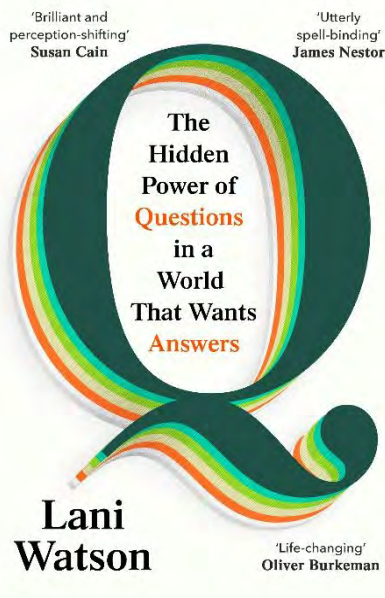
*'Brendan Simms is a historian of unusual range and ability... the reader always has the exhilarating sense of moving swiftly onwards, in a kind of turbocharged Rolls-Royce of historical argumentation... truly powerful and original.'* – **Telegraph**

*'Mr. Simms's fluent and meticulously researched narrative provides enough context to engage not only specialists, but also readers unfamiliar with the broader historical background.'* – **Wall Street Journal**

*'Entertaining and cogently argued... an eloquent argument.'* – **Financial Times**

*'There is nothing in the recent literature to match it... Not only has Simms bitten off a huge chunk of history, he has mastered it with style and an awe-inspiring command of the literature... [an] Herculean feat of synthesis.'* – **Prospect**

**Professor Brendan Simms** is Director of the Centre for Geopolitics, University of Cambridge and the author of many books on history and geopolitics. His book *Britain's Europe: A Thousand Years of Conflict and Cooperation* was Boris Johnson's summer reading in 2021 and his *Europe: The Struggle for Supremacy*, was summer reading for German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in 2022. His much-discussed *Hitler's American Gamble* (co-authored with Charlie Laderman) dealt with the mid-twentieth century culmination of great power conflict in December 1941. Simms is a frequent contributor to the *New Statesman*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Spectator*, *New York Times* and other media.



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Portuguese (Brazil): Rocco

Portuguese (Portugal): LeYa

Romanian: Publica

Russian: Eksmo

Spanish: Paidós

Turkish: Epsilon

**Film/TV:** Available

## Q: The Hidden Power of Questions in an Answer-Oriented World

Dr Lani Watson

We all ask questions. Questions are so ubiquitous and familiar that we rarely pay them any special attention, much like breathing. Yet, like breathing, questions play a vital role in how we function on a day-to-day basis. Despite this, throughout our lives we are often taught not to ask questions but to answer them. We are assessed, judged and valued based on the answers that we give, not on the questions that we ask. As a result, this essential human skill is often overlooked and almost invariably underdeveloped.

But questions are powerful. Think about how asking a question empowers the asker, not the answerer, to direct the course of a conversation, a debate, an interview, a research agenda, or even an entire political movement. This power is present in our daily lives and in our social and political institutions, including education, journalism, healthcare, law, and even military intelligence. In all of these settings, and many more, questions have a significant and often unrealized power.

In *Q*, Lani Watson argues that everyone can learn to use this power. On a journey that takes us from the death of Socrates to the dawn of AI, she demonstrates that questions have shaped our world in significant and largely unrecognised ways, from the evolution of our species to the spheres of religion, culture, and scientific progress. Most of us do not recognise this power because we are not taught to develop it at school or trained to use it in our professional lives. This means that we are living in an answer-oriented world, where the power of questions remains underappreciated, underutilised and, most importantly, unevenly distributed. Lani argues that we can change this by learning to intentionally harness the hidden power of questions in our lives, and by working together to build a question-oriented future.

Perfect for fans of Susan Cain, Oliver Burkeman, Alain de Botton and Rutger Bregman.

**Lani Watson** is a philosopher based at the University of Oxford. Her research is all about questions and questioning and is the basis and inspiration for her writing. She is fascinated by questions. What exactly are they, how do we use them, why do we ask them, and how can we harness their hidden power for good. Her research explores questioning in everyday life, in education, and in professional roles ranging from doctors, lawyers and journalists to scientists, hairdressers and magicians. She is passionate about applying her expertise to help everyone make the most of asking great questions and has worked with professional organisations including the British Army, Intradiem, and Edinburgh Zoo. Lani lives in Edinburgh with her wife and their cat, Riley – the least curious being on Earth.