# Film / TV Rights Guide





# Dramatisation Rights at PRH UK

Penguin Random House is a trailblazing publisher home to some of the world's most celebrated authors. Our books range from bestselling writers and bold illustrators, to big thinkers and political commentators, trailblazing entrepreneurs and wellbeing experts. We have seen enormous success with our books being adapted for screen.

Penguin Random House UK appointed Jenna Brown as its new Head of Media Rights in March 2021, with Hannah Weatherill covering parental leave in 2023. At a time when the demand for creative content has never been higher, Jenna focuses on finding the best possible partners to develop Penguin Random House UK authors' work into film and TV productions. She sells adaptation rights to producers around the world and currently has projects in development with studios including Netflix, Film4 and HBO Max as well as independent film and TV producers including the makers of Normal People and It's a Sin.



#### Hannah Weatherill - Head of Media Rights

hweatherill@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

Hannah joined PRH in January 2023 as maternity cover in the Head of Media Rights role, representing media rights across the adult and children's publishing divisions. Hannah has six years' experience in the publishing industry, both in scouting and literary agencies. Most recently, she held the dual role of primary literary agent and book-to-screen agent at Northbank Talent Management, securing drama and documentary options for fiction and non-fiction authors across all genres.



Keltie Mechalski - Rights Executive

kmechalski@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk

Keltie has been an integral part of the Media team since she joined PRH UK in January 2020. She was previously at Conville & Walsh where she gained experience working in the larger Curtis Brown agency in foreign and TV/Film rights as well as estates.



#### Anna On - Media Lawyer

Anna brings 10 years of commercial legal experience to the team, having joined PRH UK in March 2021 from Warner Media. She leads on our TV, Film and Stage contracts.



# **Contemporary** fiction



# The Queen of Dirt Island

#### **Donal Ryan**

Family saga / Love / Female leads

A searing, jubilant story about four generations of women and fierce love.



The Aylward women of Nenagh, Tipperary, are mad about each other, but you wouldn't always think it. You'd have to know them to know - in spite of what the neighbours might say about raised voices and dramatic scenes - that their house is a place of peace, filled with love, a refuge from the sadness and cruelty of the world.

Their story begins at an end and ends at a beginning. It involves wives and widows, gunrunners and gougers, sinners and saints. It's a story of terrible betrayals and fierce loyalties, of isolation and togetherness, of transgression, forgiveness, desire, and love. About all the things family can be and all the things it sometimes isn't. From the prize-winning author of Strange Flowers and The Spinning Heart, The Queen of Dirt Island is an uplifting celebration of fierce, loyal love and the powerful stories that bind generations together.



Donal Ryan is an award-winning author from Nenagh, County Tipperary, whose work has been published in over twenty languages to major critical acclaim. *The Spinning Heart* won the Guardian First Book Award, the EU Prize for Literature (Ireland), and Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards; it was shortlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Desmond Elliott Prize, and was voted 'Irish Book of the Decade'. His fourth novel, *From a Low and Quiet Sea*, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, shortlisted for the Costa Novel Award 2018, and won the Jean Monnet Prize for European Literature. His most recent novel, *Strange Flowers*, was voted Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards, and was a number one bestseller. Donal lectures in Creative Writing at the University of Limerick. He lives with his wife Anne Marie and their two children just outside Limerick City.

18 August 2022 Doubleday Sold in Chinese, Danish and the US



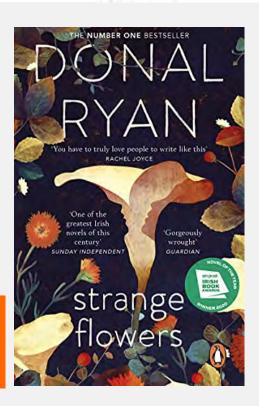


## **Strange Flowers**

#### **Donal Ryan**

#### Family drama

The number 1 bestseller - the extraordinary story of a family devastated by a sudden disappearance and transformed by a miraculous return from the award-winning author



In 1973, twenty-year-old Moll Gladney takes a morning bus from her rural home and disappears.

Bewildered and distraught, Paddy and Kit must confront an unbearable prospect: that they will never see their daughter again.

Five years later, Moll returns. What - and who - she brings with her will change the course of her family's life forever.

Beautiful and devastating, this exploration of loss, alienation and the redemptive power of love reaffirms Donal Ryan as one of the most talented and empathetic writers at work today.



Donal Ryan is an award-winning author from Nenagh, County Tipperary, whose work has been published in over twenty languages to major critical acclaim. *The Spinning Heart* won the Guardian First Book Award, the EU Prize for Literature (Ireland), and Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards; it was shortlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Desmond Elliott Prize, and was voted 'Irish Book of the Decade'. His fourth novel, *From a Low and Quiet Sea*, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, shortlisted for the Costa Novel Award 2018, and won the Jean Monnet Prize for European Literature. His most recent novel, *Strange Flowers*, was voted Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards, and was a number one bestseller. Donal lectures in Creative Writing at the University of Limerick. He lives with his wife Anne Marie and their two children just outside Limerick City.

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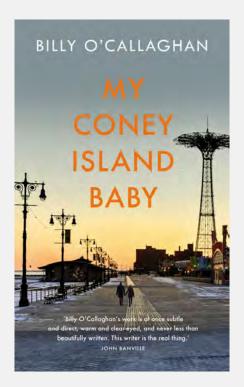


# My Coney Island Baby

#### **Billy O'Callaghan**

#### Relationship drama

A lush, precise, poetic account of a love affair that ends the way most love affairs do



On a bitterly cold winter's afternoon, Michael and Caitlin escape their unhappy marriages to keep an illicit rendez-vous. Once a month, for the past quarter of a century, Coney Island has been their haven.

These precious, hidden hours are their only nourishment. But now, amid the howling of an angry snowstorm, the shut-down, out-of-season resort feels like the edge of the world. And their lives, suddenly, are on the brink – with news of serious illness on one side, and a move to the Midwest on the other. And so, after half a lifetime spent in secret, certain long-avoided facts need to be faced, consequences examined, decisions made, and – perhaps – chances finally taken.

A quiet, intense drama of late-flowering intimacy, My Coney Island Baby condenses, within the course of a single day, the histories, landscapes, tragedies and moments of wonder that constitute the lives of two people who, although born worlds apart, have been drawn together.

O'Callaghan, a masterful prose stylist, has created a devastatingly powerful novel about two unforgettable characters and the choices they have made. This is a book full of sorrow, but also radiant with beauty, longing and breathless desire.

#### \*SHORTLISTED FOR THE ENCORE AWARD 2020\*



Billy O'Callaghan is an author of a number of critically acclaimed novels (*My Coney Island Baby* being one of them). Stories in his short-story collection *The Boatman and Other Stories* were shortlisted for the Costa Short Story Award and for Writie.ie Short Story of the Year in the An Post Irish Book Awards. He lives in Douglas, a village on the edge of Cork City.



17 January 2019 Jonathan Cape Sold in Catalan, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish, Turkish and US

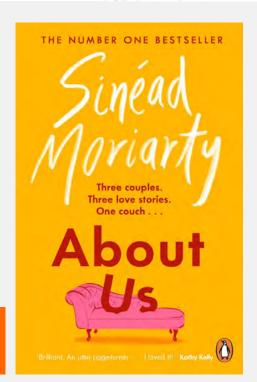


## **About Us**

#### **Sinead Moriarty**

#### Relationship drama / couple's therapy

The Irish #1 bestseller about three very different couples and how they confront their secrets in couple's therapy



Three couples. One therapist's couch ...

Alice and Niall used to be lovers, best friends and parents, in that order. Now they're no longer on the same page or even reading from the same book.

Ann thought when she and Ken retired, it would be their second spring. Instead, it feels more like an icy winter.

Orla is falling in love with boyfriend Paul, but her complicated past makes her unsure if she can ever be intimate with anyone.

Three couples find themselves telling a stranger about the most private part of their lives - their hopes, their disappointments, their awkward realisations.

Can they learn to be honest with each other? And what life-changing decisions will be made when they do?



**Sinéad Moriarty's** novels have sold over 900,000 copies in Ireland and the UK. She has won over readers and critics by telling stories that are humane, moving and relevant to modern women. In 2015 she won the Irish Book Award for Popular Fiction for her novel *The Way We Were*. She lives in her native Dublin with her husband and their three children.

15 July 2021 Sandycove Penguin Ireland



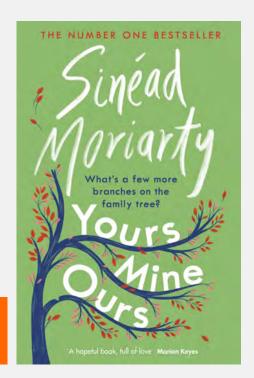


# Yours, Mine, Ours

#### **Sinead Moriarty**

#### Relationship drama / Blended families

The Irish #1 bestseller - an entertaining and thoughtprovoking story about blending two families



Things are finally looking up for Anna. Seventeen miserable years of marriage to man-child Connor have left her drained. So when they separate, she couldn't be more thrilled to move in with James, a handsome lecturer who is everything her ex-husband is not: kind, thoughtful, and above all, reliable.

But Anna and James' kids hate living with the loved-up couple. Their teenage daughters - one a studious high achiever and the other a cool rich girl - have nothing in common. And Anna's wild football-mad nine-year-old son declares war on bookish James.

Nobody said step-parenting was easy; Anna and James are about to find out exactly how complicated it can be. Do they have what it takes to make their blended family work?



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7 July 2022 Sandycove Penguin Ireland





# In the Springtime of the Year

#### **Susan Hill**

Relationship drama / widowhood

A beautiful, lyrical novel about love and loss, and grief and mourning from the author of *A Kind Man* and *The Woman in Black* 



After just a year of close, loving marriage, Ruth has been widowed. Her beloved husband, Ben, has been killed in a tragic accident and Ruth is left, suddenly and totally bereft.

Unable to share her sorrow and grief with Ben's family, who are dealing with their pain in their own way, Ruth becomes increasingly isolated, burying herself in her cottage in the countryside as the seasons change around her. Only Ben's young brother Jo, is able to reach out beyond his own grief, to offer Ruth the compassion which might reclaim her from her own devastating unhappiness.

The result is a moving, lyrical exploration of love and loss, of grief and mourning, from a masterful writer.



Susan Hill has been a professional writer for over fifty years. Her books have won awards and prizes including the Whitbread, the John Llewellyn Rhys and a Somerset Maugham, and have been shortlisted for the Booker. Her novels include *Strange Meeting*, *I'm the King of the Castle*, *In the Springtime of the Year* and *The Mist in the Mirror*. She has also published autobiographical works and collections of short stories as well as the Simon Serrailler series of crime novels. The play of her ghost story *The Woman in Black* is one of the longest running in the history of London's West End. In 2020 she was awarded a damehood (DBE) for services to literature. She has two adult daughters and lives in North Norfolk.





## **Forest Gate**

#### **Peter Akinti**

Friendship / Love / Struggle / Violence

At once personal and authentic, a story of redemptive love set in the midst of London's urban decay.



In a community where poverty is kept close and passed from one generation to the next, two teenage boys, best friends Ashvin and James, stand on top of twin tower blocks. Facing each other across the abyss of London's urban sprawl, they say their goodbyes in the final stages of a suicide pact. The boys jump together, each with a rope around his neck. Only Ashvin dies. James awakes in hospital, struggling with guilt and faced with his dysfunctional family, a well-meaning psychologist and, eventually, Ashvin's grieving sister Armeina.

Forest Gate is narrated by Armeina, a young refugee from Somalia who, with the death of her brother, suffers the loss of her entire family. As she tells the story of her brother's life and seeks to understand why he would kill himself, she finds herself drawn to James. Seeking comfort from each other, and desperate to rebuild their lives, James and Armeina form a special bond and together set out to find a place they can both call home.

Set in London, Somalia and Brazil, Peter Akinti's debut is a beautifully wrought, profoundly affecting and sometimes violent novel rich in the true history of our time. Armeina and James's journey towards life through their past is, ultimately, a powerful story of redemptive love.



Peter Akinti was born in East London to Nigerian parents. He read law at London University and worked for five years in the Legal Department of HM Treasury in Westminster. He was the founder and editor of Untold magazine. Peter now lives in New York and is working on his second novel.





## Like Heaven

#### Niala Maharaj

Relationship / Travel / Family Saga

A story which pulsates with life, is rich in character and vibrant with the sounds, smells, colours and texture of the Caribbean.



This is the story of Ved Sant, an Indian from Port of Spain, Trinidad - a ramshackle carnival culture which suddenly becomes oil and gas rich.

At an age when he might have been contemplating further education, Ved is forced to take charge of the family business. Breaking all the rules about how things should be done, Ved follows his instinctive impulses towards kindness, respect, generosity, creativity, and sees the company surgeforward.

But while success brings very tangible rewards, it also brings more than its share of heartache. Ved may be clear-sighted in his practical vision of the future, but he is unable to apply the lessons he has learned to his private life. And intense family pressures bind him tight when he needs to be free. Ved is an attractive man, and very attractive to women. But he cannot keep the one he really loves. And, as his business flourishes, he finds himself sucked into a whirlpool of politics and corruption.

In her first novel, Niala Maharaj takes us on an exhilarating journey into an island Eden, where natural, ebullient innocence has to struggle to survive under the extreme pressures of commercial development.



Born and raised in Trinidad and Tobago, **Niala Maharaj** was a leading figure in the local print media. She went on to co-produce and co-present the country's most successful weekly television series. She left Trinidad in 1987 to edit an international women's magazine based in Rome, endured a short stint with an Asian non-governmental organisation based in Hong Kong, then returned to Europe where she settled in Amsterdam.



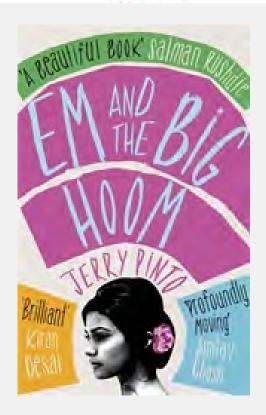


# Em and the Big Hoom

#### **Jerry Pinto**

Family Saga / Mental Illness / Quirky Humour

A brilliantly comic and almost unbearably moving portrait of a woman finding it difficult to stay sane - and what happens to those who cannot help but love her



In a tiny flat in Bombay Imelda Mendes - Em to her children - holds her family in thrall with her flamboyance, her manic affection and her cruel candour. Her husband - 'The Big Hoom' - and her two children must bear her 'microweathers', her swings from laugh-out-loud joy to dark malevolence, and her frequent wish to die.

In Em and the Big Hoom, the son begins to unravel the story of his parents: the mother he loves and hates in the same moment and the unusual man who courted, married and protected her - as much from herself as from the world.

A heartrending and deeply affecting debut: winner of the 2013 Crossword Book Award for Fiction, longlisted for the 2013 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature and shortlisted for the 2013 Commonwealth Book Prize



**Jerry Pinto** lives and works in Mumbai. He has been a mathematics tutor, school librarian, journalist and columnist. He is now associated with MelJol, an NGO that works in the sphere of child rights. His published works include a book of poems, Asylum, and Helen: The Life and Times of an H-Bomb, which won the National Award for the Best Book on Cinema in 2007. Em and The Big Hoom is his first novel.



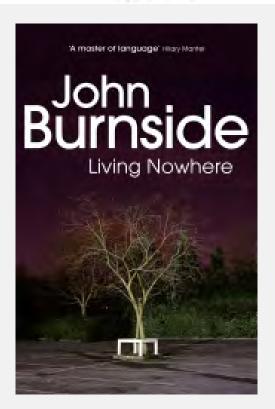


# **Living Nowhere**

#### John Burnside

Friendship / Identity / Coming of Age

A story of friendship and loss - a resonant, thrilling book that carries at its core a beautiful and terrible secret.



Corby, the industrial new town built around a vast steel works, draws many to the fires of its furnaces - in the hope of steady work, a better house, a fresh start. Amongst them are Francis Cameron, from Scotland, and his friend Jan Ruckert, the son of Latvian refugees. Alienated, intelligent and curious, they form a strong and lasting bond: two teenage boys finding their feet in a foreign place.

But violence hangs in the Corby air like the ash and the stench from the steel works, and when it comes down it is sudden and lethal - with repercussions that will last a lifetime.



John Burnside is amongst the most acclaimed writers of his generation. His novels, short stories, poetry and memoirs have won numerous awards, including the Geoffrey Faber Memorial prize, the Whitbread Poetry Award, the Encore Award and the Saltire Scottish Book of the Year. A judge for the Booker prize in 2015, he is a professor in the School of English at Saint Andrews University.



12 June 2003 Jonathan Cape Sold in French



# Crime, thriller & horror

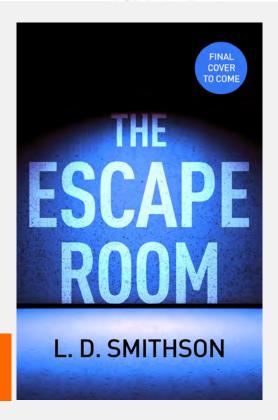


# The Escape Room

#### L D Smithson

Thriller / locked room / reality TV

Squid Game meets The Traitors, a debut thriller about a reality TV show that turns out to be a serial killer's twisted competition



Eight strangers arrive at a remote sea fort off the coast of England. They are here to take part in The Fortress, a mysterious reality TV show in which contestants have to solve a series of complex puzzles. But this is no game, and the consequences of failure are more deadly than anyone anticipated.

The show's sinister purpose becomes clear when the first person is evicted from the competition. Instead of being sent home to their family, they are left to die inside a locked room.

Under scrutiny from the watching public, the contestants soon turn one another. What are they willing to do for wealth and fame? How far will they go to survive? And who is behind it all? The only thing they know for certain is that if they want to escape, they need to win...

Are you ready to play?

**L. D. Smithson** was born in Staffordshire and now lives in Ilkley. She is an occupational psychologist and a crime writer who has published under another name.



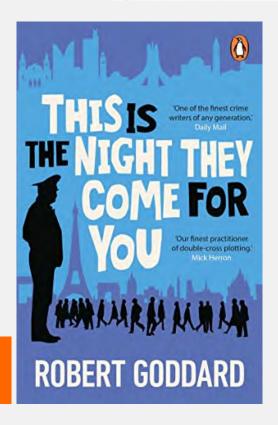


# This is the Night they Come for You

**Robert Goddard** 

Thriller / international

First in an international crime series set in Britain, France and Algeria by the bestselling and Diamond Dagger-winning author



On a stifling afternoon at Police HQ in Algiers, Superintendent Taleb, coasting towards retirement, with not even an air-conditioned office to show for his long years of service, is handed a ticking time bomb of a case which will take him deep into Algeria's troubled past and its fraught relationship with France.

To his dismay, he is assigned to work with Agent Hidouchi, an intimidating representative of the country's feared secret service, who makes it clear she intends to call the shots. They are instructed to pursue a former agent, now on the run after twenty years in prison for his part in a high-level corruption scandal. But their search will lead them inexorably towards a greater mystery, surrounding a murder that took place in Paris more than fifty years ago.

Uncovering the truth may be his responsibility, but Taleb is well aware that no-one in Algeria wants to be reminded of the dark deeds carried out in the struggle for independence - or in the violence that has racked the nation since. Before long, he will face a choice he has long sought to avoid, between self-preservation and doing the right thing.

And, ultimately, the choice may not even be his to make.





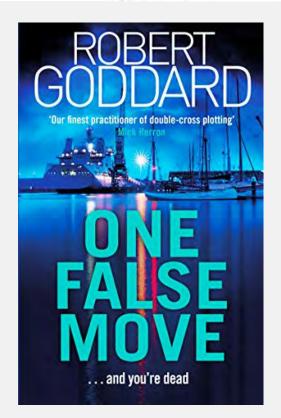


# One False Move

#### **Robert Goddard**

Thriller / international

Cornwall-set thriller with speculative edge, about a gaming company tracking down a man with the mind of a genius



What value can be put on a human mind?

How Joe Roberts does what he does is a mystery. He has a brain that seems able to outperform a computer. To a games company like Venstrom that promises big profits if his abilities can be properly exploited. So they send Nicole Nevinson to track him down and make him an offer too good to refuse.

But Venstrom aren't the only people interested in Joe. His current boss, a shady businessman, is already making serious money out of Joe's talents and isn't going to let him go without a fight. And then there are other forces, with still darker intentions, who have their own plans for him.

Almost before she knows it, Nicole's crossed an invisible line into a world where the game being played has rules she doesn't understand and where no-one can help her win.

But win she must. Because the battle now isn't just for Joe's mind, it's for Nicole's life.





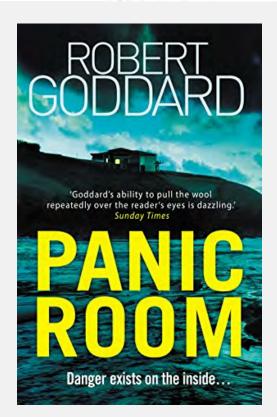


### **Panic Room**

#### **Robert Goddard**

Thriller / locked room

Locked room thriller about housesitter for rogue pharma entrepreneur in a remote Cornish mansion



High on a Cornish cliff sits a vast uninhabited mansion. Uninhabited except for Blake, a young woman of mysterious background, currently acting as housesitter.

The house has a panic room. Cunningly concealed, steel lined, impregnable – and apparently closed from within. Even Blake doesn't know it's there. She's too busy being on the run from life, from a story she thinks she's escaped.

But her remote existence is going to be threatened when people come looking for the house's owner, rogue pharma entrepreneur, Jack Harkness. Soon people with questionable motives will be asking Blake the sort of questions she can't – or won't - want to answer.

Will the Panic Room ever give up its secrets?







# The Guest Book

C.L. Pattison

**Thriller** 

A gripping psychological thriller in a classic haunted house setting about a honeymoon gone wrong



WELCOME TO THE ANCHORAGE, FOR A HONEYMOON YOU'LL NEVER FORGET . . .

Charles and Grace wanted a quiet staycation honeymoon, but when their train terminates early due to a storm up ahead, they wonder if they made the wrong decision. Forced to take shelter in the nearest seaside town, Saltwater, they discover that there is only one guesthouse left. Unlike the rest of Saltwater, The Anchorage is entirely deserted.

That night, with the storm howling relentlessly, Grace is woken by a child crying. She is haunted by the sound, until Charles convinces her it was only her imagination. But the next day, she finds a warning scrawled in the guest book: Leave now. Do not trust them.

As the storm rages on, phone lines are down, transport links cut off. Grace is desperate to leave, but Charles remains unaffected by the eerie stillness of the house. Is it just Grace's imagination or do the owners, and Charles, have something to hide?

THANK YOU FOR STAYING AT THE ANCHORAGE. WE HOPE YOU'LL BE BACK SOON...



**C. L. Pattison** spent twenty years as an entertainment journalist, before embarking on a career in the police force. She lives on the south coast of England.



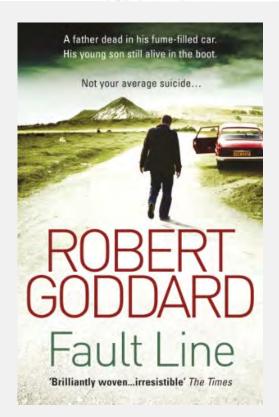


## **Fault Line**

#### **Robert Goddard**

Thriller / international

Multi-timeline thriller about personal tragedy and a mystery around an international mining company, set in the USA and Cornwall



It could be your average suicide. A man found dead in his car, engine running, parked at the end of a lonely track, a tube feeding deadly fumes from the exhaust through the window. Except for the seven-year-old boy still breathing in the boot...

A dead friend, a lost lover and a clutch of mysteries from Jonathan Kellaway's youth in Cornwall and Italy in the late 1960s come back to haunt him when he is tasked with discovering why there is a gaping hole in his employer's records - and to tempt him with the hope that he may at last learn the truth about the tragedies of those years. It is a truth that has claimed several victims before. If he pursues it hard and long enough, he may only add himself to the list.

But pursue it he will. Because the truth, he comes to realize, is the secret that has consumed his life. This time he will not stop ... until he has found it.





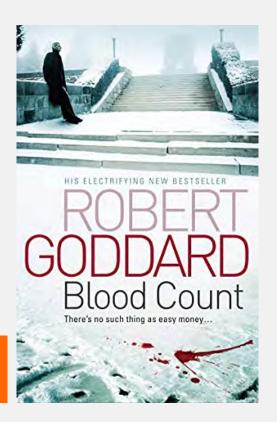


## **Blood Count**

#### **Robert Goddard**

#### Thriller / international

International thriller about a surgeon who saved the life of a Serbian gangster, and the secrets he keeps many years later



Thirteen years ago, surgeon Edward Hammond performed a life-saving operation on Serbian gangster Dragan Gazi. Now Gazi is standing trial for war crimes at the international court in The Hague. After Hammond saved his life, Gazi's men went on to slaughter thousands in the Balkan civil wars.

Now, in exchange for keeping Hammond's dirty little secret, Gazi's family want a small favour: to find the man who knows what happened to Gazi's money. But Italian financier Marco Piravani doesn't want to be found. And no sooner has Hammond tracked him down than he disappears again. Hammond has no choice but to set off across Europe in pursuit.

In *Blood Count*, every action has a consequence and every question must have an answer. Only then might Hammond be able to lay the past to rest...





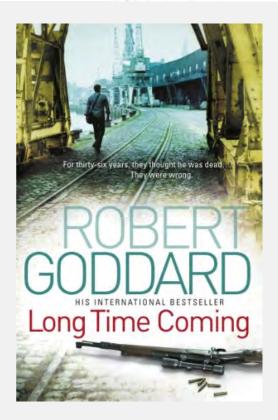


# Long Time Coming

#### **Robert Goddard**

#### Thriller / international

Thriller set between 1970s London and the Second World War, about an art dealer and the mystery behind a 36-year imprisonment



Eldritch Swan is a dead man. Or at least that is what his nephew Stephen has always been told. Until one day Eldritch walks back into his life after 36 years in an Irish prison. He won't reveal any of the details of his incarceration, insisting only that he is innocent of any crime.

His return should be of interest to no-one. But the visit of a solicitor with a mysterious request will take Eldritch and his sceptical nephew from sleepy seaside Paignton to London, where an exhibition of Picasso paintings from the prestigious Brownlow collection proves to be the starting point on a journey that will transport them back to the Second World War and the mystery behind Eldritch's imprisonment.

In 1940, he was personal assistant to a wealthy diamond dealer in Antwerp, whose collection of modern art was the envy of many. The subsequent disappearance of those paintings began a trail of murder and intrigue which was to have a catastrophic effect on Eldritch's life. But untangling the web of murky secrets, family ties and old betrayals that conceals the truth will prove to be a dangerous pursuit for Eldritch and Stephen. Before long, a mysterious enemy is doing everything possible to stop the truth emerging - at whatever cost...





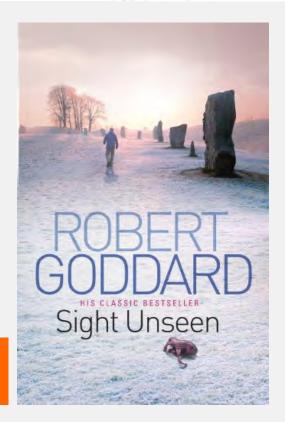


## Sight Unseen

#### **Robert Goddard**

Thriller / cold case

Cold case thriller about the unsolved mystery of a girl's abduction in Wiltshire, picked up by a retired detective 23 years later



One summer's day in 1981 a two-year-old girl, Tamsin Hall, was abducted during a picnic at the famous prehistoric site of Avebury in Wiltshire. Her seven-year-old sister Miranda was knocked down and killed by the abductor's van.

One of the witnesses to this tragic event was David Umber, a Ph.D student who was waiting at the village pub to keep an appointment with a man called Griffith who claimed he could help Umber with his researches into the letters of 'Junius', the pseudonymous eighteenth century polemicist who was his Ph.D subject. But Griffin failed to show up, and Umber never heard from him again. Tamsin Hall was never seen again either. The Hall family fell apart under the strain.

In the spring of 2004 retired Chief Inspector George Sharp receives a letter signed 'Junius' reproaching him for botching the 1981 investigation. Sharp confronts Umber, whose explanation for being at the scene of the tragedy has always seemed dubious. Obliged to accept Umber's denial of authorship of the letter, he nonetheless forces him to join in a search for the real culprit - and hence the long concealed truth about what happened 23 years previously. It is a quest that both will later regret having embarked upon. Too late they come to understand that some mysteries are better left unsolved.





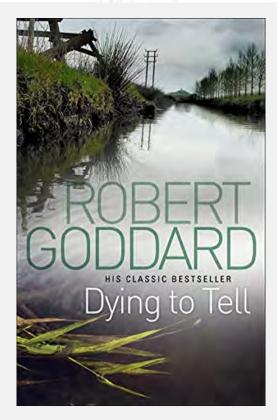


## **Dying to Tell**

#### **Robert Goddard**

Thriller / international

Thriller about missing businessman accused of fraud, reachibng from Somerset to the USA and Japan



Lance Bradley, idling his life away in Somerset, suddenly receives a call for help from the eccentric sister of his old friend Rupert Alder. Rupe appears to have vanished without trace. Reluctantly, Lance goes to London where he discovers that Rupe's employers want him tried for fraud. A Japanese businessman claims he has stolen a document of huge importance. And Rupe has hired a private detective to try and trace an American called Townley, who was involved in a mysterious death thirty years before.

No sooner has Lance decided that whatever Rupe was up to is far too risky to get involved in, than he finds that he already is involved. And the only way out is to get in deeper still. Where is Rupe? What is the document he has stolen? Who is Townley? And could the seemingly unexplainable events of the past hold the key to a secret more shocking than Lance Bradley could ever have imagined?





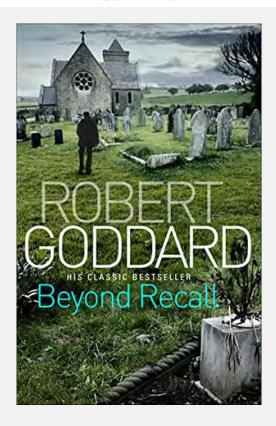


## **Beyond Recall**

#### **Robert Goddard**

Thriller / dual timeline

Cornwall-set thriller about an old mystery and a miscarriage of justice, culminating in a tragedy at a wedding



Estranged from his family for most of his adult life, Chris Napier is persuaded to return home for his niece's wedding. At the reception, he is shocked to recognise a dishevelled intruder as his childhood friend Nicky Lanyon, whose presence is a chilling reminder of a murder and subsequent trial that Chris has tried hard to forget.

When Nicky hangs himself, Chris is compelled to revisit the tragic events of 34 years ago, and the apparent justice that was served. But as present day mysteries begin to shadow his footsteps into the past, his search for the truth soon becomes a desperate struggle for his own survival.







#### **Mirror**

#### **Graham Masterton**

Horror

It is said that a mirror can trap a person's soul...



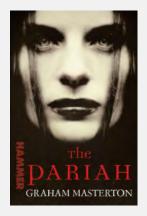
Martin Williams is a broke, two-bit screenwriter living in Hollywood, but when he finds the very mirror that once hung in the house of a murdered 1930s child star, he happily spends all he has on it. He has long obsessed over the tragic story of Boofuls, a beautiful and successful actor who was slaughtered and dismembered by his grandmother.

However, he soon discovers that this dream buy is in fact a living nightmare; the mirror was not only in Boofuls house, but witness to the death of this blond-haired and angelic child, which in turn has created a horrific and devastating portal to a hellish parallel universe. So when Martin's landlord loses his grandson it is soon apparent that the mirror is responsible. But if a little boy has gone into the mirror, what on earth is going to come out?

### **The Pariah**

**Graham Masterton** 

**Horror** 



The past is always conceal just below the surface...

The quaint seaside town of Granitehead seemed like the perfect place for John and Jane Trenton to start their life together. But disaster strikes and Jane and their unborn child are killed. John's grief is total, so when he starts to see the ghostly apparition of his wife he almost welcomes this supernatural phenomenon. Yet all is not what it seems, and this sinister spirit is not Jane, but something evil and terrifying. In a bid to rid himself of this horrific spectre he soon finds that many more in the town have been victims of unwanted visitations. And when he discovers the body of a local busybody, impossibly impaled on a still hanging chandelier, he knows something must be done.

As he searches for an explanation he uncovers a link to a mysterious ship, lost around the time of the nearby Salem witch trials. For three centuries the rotting wreck of the David Dark has lain beneath waves, but an awful secret is concealed in the chill waters...



**Graham Masterton's** debut as a horror author began with the wildly popular *The Manitou in 1976*. Altogether Graham has written more than a hundred novels ranging from thrillers and horror, to disaster novels and historical sagas, as well as four short story collections. He lives in Surrey, England.



7 July 2011 Hammer

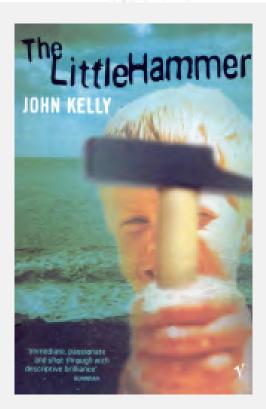


# The Little Hammer

#### John Kelly

#### Crime

A majestic and psychologically penetrative narrative, which has the reader crying then laughing from one page to the next.



'Would you believe me if I told you that I was only nine years of age when I killed him?'

In a paint-splattered room, a young and successful Irish painter confronts his shocking and murderous past- a dark day on the beach at Bundoran, Co. Donegal, when he quietly dispatched a palaeontologist with his own geological hammer.

His life is further disrupted by the beautiful Billy Maguire, an Ingrid Bergman lookalike who leads him all the way to Prague and involves him-and his beloved and devoutly paranoid grandmotherin yet another grievous crime. Struggling to keep reality and unreality apart, he wishes only to be taken seriously-as sinner and lover, artist and murderer. Featuring cameos from Elvis Presley, Shirley Temple and the Pope, the Little Hammer is a triumph of linguistic brio, dark imagination and wild wit from one of Ireland's most exciting new talents.



**John Kelly** was born in 1965 in County Fermanagh. He works as a writer and broadcaster mainly for RTE and The Irish Times. He is the author of The Little Hammer (2000) and Sophisticated Boom Boom (2003). Married with one daughter, he lives in Dublin.





#### **Murder Most Festive**

#### **Ada Moncrieff**

#### **Cosy Crime / Detective**

Downton Abbey meets Poirot in this Christmas murder mystery, perfect for fans of Gladys Mitchell and the British Library crime classics



It's Christmas at Westbury Manor and amateur detective Hugh Gaveston must unravel a fiendish mystery...

Christmas Eve, 1938. The Westbury family and assorted friends have gathered for another legendary celebration at their beautiful country house. The champagne flows, the silverware sparkles and upstairs the rooms are ready for their occupants.

But one bed will lie empty that night. On Christmas morning, David Campbell-Scott is found dead in the snow. There's a pistol beside him and only one set of footprints. Yet something doesn't seem right to amateur sleuth Hugh Gaveston. Campbell-Scott had just returned from overseas with untold wealth - why would he kill himself? Hugh sets out to investigate...

## Murder at the Theatre Royale

#### **Ada Moncrieff**

#### Cosy Crime / Detective

Murder stalks a touring stage production of A Christmas Carol in this 1930s-set festive mystery.



Murder stalks a touring stage production of A Christmas Carol in this 1930s-set festive mystery.

December 1935. Director Monty Harrison's production of A Christmas Carol has had a troubled run on its tour of regional theatres. With tensions amongst the cast running high, the company reach their final stop - London's Theatre Royale.

Catastrophe, however, strikes on opening night: Scrooge dies on stage, the result (it is presumed) of a heart attack. But the show must go on. Until, that is, a leading theatre critic - and old rival of Monty's - is killed backstage. Are those associated with the production being picked off one by one? Budding journalist Daphne King takes up the case...



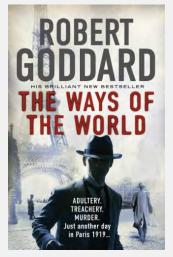
Ada Moncrieff was born in London and has lived in Madrid and Paris. She studied English at Cambridge University, and has worked in theatre, publishing and as a teacher. Murder Most Festive is her first novel.

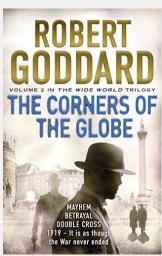




# The Wide World Trilogy

#### **Robert Goddard**

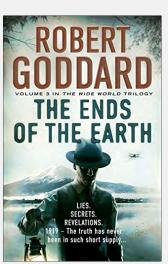




#### International thriller / Interwar

International thriller trilogy set in aftermath of World War One by the bestselling and Diamond Dagger-winning author

1919. The eyes of the world are on Paris, where statesmen, diplomats and politicians have gathered to discuss the fate of half the world's nations in the aftermath of the cataclysm that was the Great War. A horde of journalists, spies and opportunists have also gathered in the city and the last thing the British diplomatic community needs at such a time is the mysterious death of a senior member of their delegation. So, when Sir Henry Maxted falls from the roof of his mistress's apartment building in unexplained circumstances, their first instinct is to suppress all suspicious aspects of the event.



But Sir Henry's son, ex Royal Flying Corps ace James 'Max' Maxted, has other ideas. He resolves to find out how and why his father died – even if this means disturbing the impression of harmonious calm which the negotiating teams have worked so hard to maintain. In a city where countries are jostling for position at the crossroads of history and the stakes could hardly be higher, it is difficult to tell who is a friend and who a foe.And Max will soon discover just how much he needs friends, as his search for the truth sucks him into the dark heart of a seemingly impenetrable mystery.



Robert Goddard has been writing thrillers for over thirty years. His first novel, Past Caring, was an instant bestseller. Since then, his books have captivated readers worldwide with their edge-of-the-seat pace and their labyrinthine plotting. He has won awards in the UK, the US and across Europe and his books have been translated into over thirty languages. In 2019, he won the Crime Writers' Association's highest accolade, the Diamond Dagger, for a lifetime achievement in Crime Writing.

4 July 2013 3 July 2014 2 July 2015 Transworld

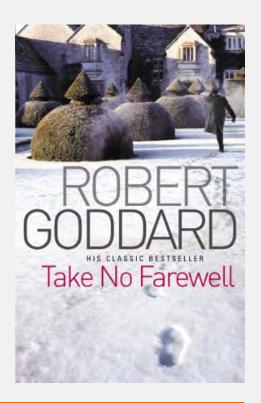




## Take No Farewell

#### Robert Goddard

Psychological thriller / 1920s setting



1920s-set thriller about man whose ex-wife is accused of murder, and his quest to discover the truth.

Geoffrey Staddon turned his back on the best things in his life. He turned his back on the beautiful house Clouds Frome, his finest achievement as an architect. He turned his back on the woman he loved, Consuela Caswell, and who loved him in return. Twelve years later, amidst the tatters of his career and marriage, he is forced to contemplate the remorse and shame of his betrayal.

But when he reads that Consuela has been charged with murder, he knows instinctively that she cannot be guilty. And when she sends her own daughter to him, pleading for help, Geoffrey cannot ignore the dangerous lure of the past any longer. He must return to Clouds Frome, and face the dark secret it holds.







# Romance & romcom



# Only Love Can Hurt Like This

#### **Paige Toon**

#### Relationship Drama / Romance

A rare epic love story with a huge gut-punching moment in the spirit of *One Day* and *Me Before You*.

Some love stories are worth risking everything for.



After witnessing the moment her fiance realises he's in love with someone else, Wren leaves home and heartbreak to spend the summer with her father and step-family on their farm in Indiana, Midwestern USA. More than anything she hopes this trip will provide a chance to heal and build bridges.

There Wren meets two brothers. Jonas is a notorious heartbreaker and Anders is still grieving the wife he lost in a tragic accident three years ago. In spite of being warned off falling for either of them, Wren is inextricably drawn to Anders.

As the harvest approaches, Wren knows her feelings are growing stronger. What Wren doesn't know is that Anders has been harbouring an earth-shattering secret, and if he acts on any feelings he has for Wren it will have serious fall-out for everyone.

Walking away from Anders will hurt Wren more than she can imagine. But how can she possibly stay once she's discovered the obstacles that lie between them?

#### Previous titles include:





















Paige Toon worked at Heat magazine as Reviews Editor before bursting onto the scene with her debut novel, Lucy in the Sky, in 2007. She is the bestselling author of fifteen adult novels and three young adult titles, and her books have sold more than half a million copies through UK BookScan alone.

30 March 2023 Century Translation rights sold to the US, Germany and Poland





## **Beach Rivals**

#### **Georgie Tilney**

Bali setting / books / enemies-to-lovers

One summer, two rivals, and a beach bookshop in Bali - the perfect romcom for fans of Emily Henry!



Clare thought that by now she would have her life figured out. Instead, she's living with her mum, working a job she hates and has absolutely no idea what she wants to do with the rest of her life.

When she sees a viral job advert for a three-month bookseller position on a Bali beach, she jumps at the chance. But it's not until she arrives in Bali that Clare realizes she won't be working in the bookshop alone.

She will be sharing the bookshop - and a flat - with a handsome but infuriating American man named Jack. Jack is Clare's opposite in almost every way, and it's not long before they're driving each other crazy. But fighting with Jack is also the most fun Clare's had in years, and it's only a matter of time before their relationship turns less than professional...

**Georgie Tilney** trained as an actress and also studied English, history and linguistics. She lives in London but grew up in New Zealand, where it's common to live and work on the beach. *Beach Rivals* is her first romcom.







## **Bloodstream**

#### **Emilee J Carter**

#### **Motorsport / romance**

A sizzling motorsport romance for fans of *Drive to*Survive



For Faith Jensen, life has always happened one small miracle at a time.

After a job offer from the CEO of a motorsport championship — a job which she didn't even apply for, her world is flipped upside down. Within weeks, she finds herself leaving her tiny London flat behind for an open-ended trip around the world with a multi-championship winning racing team. As a social media influencer, Faith's job is to share her life with the internet. That's her normal. So when her new bosses ask her to do the same for their racing drivers, she figures it's going to be easy as pie. Vlogs, captions and filters are all she knows.

However, Julien Moretz is the obstacle she never saw coming.

The Belgian God of racing hates social media, influencers and opening up. In that order. But for Jules, Faith is more than just an annoying coworker he's desperate to avoid at all costs. She's a cruel gift from the universe, sent to destroy everything he's spent ten years trying to protect himself from.



**Emilee J Carter** grew up in a seaside town in the South West of England and has remained there into her twenties, using her media degree to pursue her journey as an author. When she isn't writing or reading, Emilee can be found watching 90s and early 2000s romcoms in her pjs, with a jar of Nutella and a spoon.





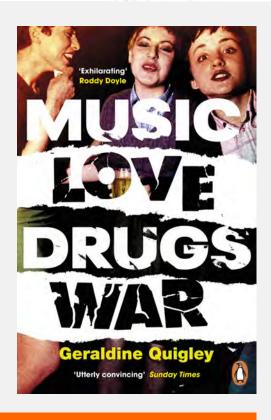
# **Period fiction**



## Music Love Drugs War

#### **Geraldine Quigley**

Friendship / Coming of Age / Comedy / Nostalgia



An electric debut novel about a group of teenagers in 1980s Derry who are only interested in punk music, booze and drugs, until a friend's tragic death compels two members of the group to make a drastic choice

School is almost over - and for Paddy, Liz, Christy and Kevin it's time to figure out what's next. But before they start the rest of their lives, these teenagers have the 'Cave' - a place to drink, smoke, flirt and listen to punk music. Somewhere to fend off the spectre of the future.

Because this is Derry in 1981, and the streets outside are a war zone. So when a friend is killed, suddenly the choices of who to be and what side to be on are laid starkly before them. New loves and old loyalties are imperiled even as whole lives hinge on a single decision . . .



Geraldine Quigley was born in 1964. She worked in retail for many years and gained a degree in Irish History and Politics at Magee College, University of Ulster, as a mature student. It was in her late forties that she began writing. She currently works and lives in Derry with her husband. Music Love Drugs War is her first novel.





#### The Paper Man

#### **Billy O'Callaghan**

**Interwar romance** *I* family secrets

A deeply moving, epic interwar romance based on a real-life unsolved mystery, from the Costa-shortlisted and bestselling Irish author



1980s Cork. Jack Shine is sorting through his mother's belongings when he discovers a shoe box full of love letters and newspaper clippings. Jack's mother, Rebekah, was a young woman when the Second World War broke out, and she came to Cork alone as a Jewish refugee from Vienna. She died when Jack was young, and he never learned of his father's identity. So, who wrote these love letters to Rebekah and why did she keep newspaper clippings about a famous Austrian footballer player? Who was 'The Paper Man'?

As Jack begins to uncover the story of his mother's life, he is transported to 1930s Vienna, a bustling, cosmopolitan city on the brink of war. At the heart of the action is Matthias Sindelar, one of the most famous footballers in the world, known to all as 'The Paper Man' because of his effortless weave across the pitch. When Sindelar unexpectedly meets Rebekah, a young woman from a small town, both of their lives are changed forever. But as war looms, they must accept that their survival will tear them apart.

Based on real people and true events, *The Paper Man* is the story of twentieth-century Europe, the Holocaust, the cost of fame, and love against the odds. It is a story that will take Jack far from Cork and all the way back to Vienna, and towards The Paper Man.



Billy O'Callaghan is an author of a number of critically acclaimed novels, including *Life Sentences* and *My Coney Island Baby*. Stories in his short-story collection *The Boatman and Other Stories* were shortlisted for the Costa Short Story Award and for Writie.ie Short Story of the Year in the An Post Irish Book Awards. He lives in Douglas, a village on the edge of Cork City.



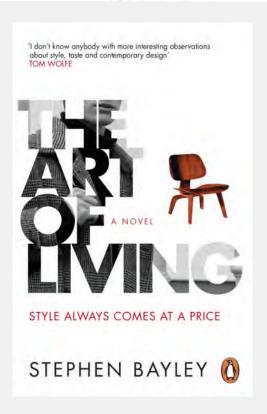


# The Art of Living

**Stephen Bayley** 

Mad Men meets the world of art and design

An epic satirical novel about the life of an enigmatic designer from the 1940s to the early 2000s, by design master Stephen Bayley



Someone once said you can find beauty anywhere. But all Eustace Dunne can see is ugliness. The buildings are grey, the people are tired and unimaginative, the food is inedible and life is drab, drab, drab.

Growing up in an England ravaged by the Second World War, Eustace resolves to make things beautiful again. A mercurial stint in art school gives him a springboard into a world that is changing so fast you have to hold on tight to keep up. And in that world, ambition, timing and a modicum of talent can transform you into anything you want to be.

Before long he's an artist, a designer, a restaurateur, an entrepreneur, a genius. But becoming a bastion of perfect taste can be a grubby business. Eustace's charm may have secured his influence on the homes and hearts of a nation, but there are still people out there who know where the bodies are buried...



Stephen Bayley was the person for whom the term "design guru" was coined. After a short and blameless period in provincial academe, he joined Terence Conran in an attempt to popularise design. This resulted in The Boilerhouse Project in London's V&A which became the most successful gallery of the eighties. The Boilerhouse evolved into the unique Design Museum, which opened in 1989. Stephen Bayley has written many books and hundreds of articles which have shaped the popular understanding of design. This is his first attempt at fiction. He is Chairman of The Royal Fine Art Commission Trust, an honorary visiting professor at the Liverpool University School of Architecture and a Chevalier de l'Ordre Des Arts et Des Lettres, France's highest artistic accolade. This is his first novel.



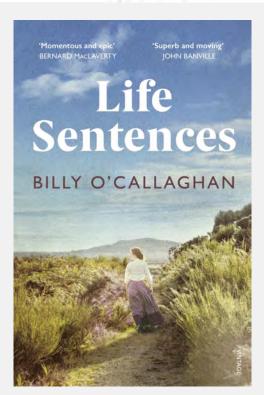


#### **Life Sentences**

#### **Billy O'Callaghan**

Intergenerational / Irish family

A deeply moving, epic tale of multiple generations of one Irish family, from the Great Famine to the 1980s



#### \*A #3 Irish bestseller\*

At sixteen, Nancy, the only member of her family to survive the Great Famine, leaves her small island for the mainland. Finding work in a grand house on the edge of Cork City, she feels irrepressibly drawn to the charismatic gardener Michael Egan, sparking a love affair that soon throws her into a fight for her life.

In 1920, Nancy's son Jer has lived through battles of his own as a soldier in the Great War. Now drunk in a jail cell, he struggles to piece together where he has come from, and who he wants to be.

And in the early 1980s, Jer's youngest child Nellie is nearing the end of her life in a council house, moments away from her childhood home; remembering the night when she and her family stole back something that was rightfully theirs, she imagines what lies in store for those who will survive her.



Billy O'Callaghan is the author of the critically acclaimed novel *My Coney Island Baby*, which has been translated into nine languages and was shortlisted for the Encore Award 2020. Stories in his collection The Boatman and Other Stories were shortlisted for the Costa Short Story Award and for Writing.ie Short Story of the Year in the An Post Irish Book Awards. He lives in Douglas, a village on the edge of Cork City.



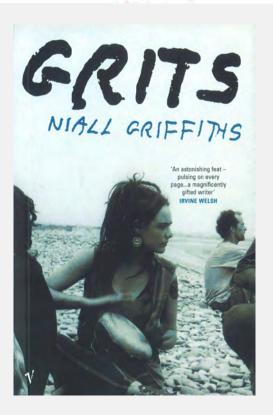


#### **Grits**

#### **Nial Griffiths**

Friendship / Coming of Age / Comedy / Nostalgia

Dubbed 'the Welsh Irvine Welsh', Griffiths offers a brilliant, scintillating tale of 1990s drug culture and social decay in a small Welsh coastal town.



In the late 1990s, a group of young drifters from various parts of Britain find themselves washed up together in a small town on the west coast of Wales, fixed between mountains and sea. Here, they both explore and attempt to overcome those yearnings and addictions which have brought them to this place: promiscuity, drugs, alcohol, petty crime, the intense and angry search for the meaning which they feel life lacks at the arse-end of this momentous century.

A novel about the dispossessed and disenfranchised, about people with no further to fall, *Grits* is also resolutely about the spirit of the individual, and each character's story is told in their own rich, powerful dialect. Through their voices, the novel charts this chapter in their lives, presenting, with humour and rage and a deep underlying sadness, a picture of the diversity and waste that is life in Britain today.

A work of power, passion and enormous originality, *Grits* describes - in language both mythic and demotic - ways of living that appear squalid but which aspire to the spiritual. As a novel that speaks for an under-class and a sub-culture, it stands comparison with Cain's Book and Trainspotting.



**Niall Griffiths** was born in Liverpool in 1966 and now lives in Wales. He is the author of six novels: Grits, Sheepshagger, Kelly + Victor, Stump, Wreckage, and Runt.

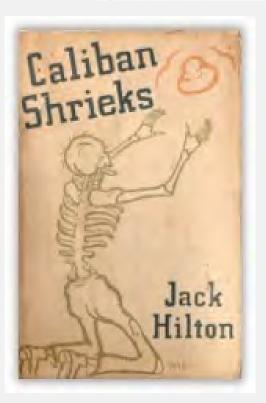


#### **Caliban Shrieks**

#### **Jack Hilton**

#### Rediscovered gem / working class

A lost masterpiece of 1930s British literature, about a young man in the post-war years, rediscovered in the Working Class Movement Library.



From a childhood of poverty but deep joy and high-flying freedom, to the hard-knock reality of physical labour, and then the ideological idiocies of life of a solider, *Caliban Shrieks* takes its readers on a lyrical tour of life as a young man born into the first days of the 20th century. However, despite gaining widespread praise and inspiring the careers of writers such as George Orwell, the novel fell out of print.

Turned out of the war a vagrant - seeing England from city to city, county to county - before being tossed back into an uncertain cycle of working-class life as it unfolds in the post-war years, Hilton's autobiographical novel is both a brash, impassioned indictment of the conditions of the working-class, as it is a bold modernist retelling of the myth of wild men, disfigured, disenfranchised, and sold into slavery.

Lost to time, only to be rediscovered again in the Salford's Working Class Movement Library in 2022, Caliban Shrieks is a masterpiece of both modernist and working class literature, and continues to speak as angrily and impassioned today, as it did on its first rave publication in 1935.

Caliban Shrieks will appeal to readers of George Orwell's *The Road to Wigan Pier* and *Down and Out in London and Paris*, Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* and Malcolm Lowry's modernist classic *Under the Volcano*.

Jack Hilton was born at the very turn of the 20th century. He grew up poor and entered work as a child, before fighting in the First World War. On his return he became a vagrant, which took him from city to city, and county to county. An active member of the National Unemployed Worker's Movement, Hilton was forced to retire from public speaking for three years after being arrested at a demonstration. He used this period of his life to pen his first novel, the autobiographical Caliban Shrieks. During his fifteen-year career as a writer he published a further four books and enjoyed the support of writers such as George Orwell. However, plastering was his trade, and after failing to publish beyond 1950 he continued to skim houses throughout the Lancashire area until his retirement, and death in the 1980s. His works have long-remained out of print, and despite several efforts, the rights to Hilton's book were thought lost until their discovery in 2022.





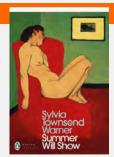
#### Selected Works of Sylvia Townsend Warner

#### Classics / Female lead / Period

Sylvia Townsend Warner (1893-1978) grew up in rural Devonshire before moving to London and pursuing her professional writting career. With her partner Valentine Ackland, she was active in the Communist Party and served in the Red Cross during the Spanish Civil War. Her novels include *Mr Fortune's Maggot, The True Heart, Summer Will Show, After the Death of Don Juan, The Corner That Held Them* and *The Flint Anchor.* 

#### **Summer Will Show**

Sophia Willoughby of Blandamer House, upstanding Victorian matriarch, has packed her errant husband off to Paris with his mistress Minna. But when tragedy throws her life off balance Sophia goes to seek him out, and instead finds herself intensely attracted to the charismatic, bohemian Minna, who leads her on a wild, chaotic adventure through a city in the throes of revolution.





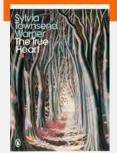
#### **The Corner That Held Them**

The nuns who enter a medieval Norfolk convent are told to renounce the world, but the world still finds ways to trouble them, whether it is through fire, floods, pestilence, a collapsing spire, jealous rivalries, a priest with a secret or a plague of caterpillars. As we follow their daily lives over three centuries, this masterpiece of historical fiction re-creates a world run by women.



Pillar of society and stern upholder of Victorian values, god-fearing Norfolk merchant John Barnard presides over a large and largely unhappy family. This is their storyhis brandy-swilling wife, their hapless offspring and their changing fortunes - over the decades. Sylvia Townsend Warner's last novel, The Flint Anchor gloriously overturns our ideas of history, family and storytelling itself.





#### **The True Heart**

Sukey Bond, a sixteen-year-old orphan, is sent to work as a servant at a farm on the remote Essex Marshes. There she falls in love with gentle, unworldly Eric, the son of the rector's wife, only for them to be separated when their relationship is discovered. But nothing will deter Sukey in her quest to be reunited with her true love, even if it means seeking the help of Queen Victoria herself.

#### **After the Death of Don Juan**

Don Juan, that notorious libertine, has disappeared. Has he been dragged down to hell by demons, as rumoured - or has he escaped? Doña Ana, the woman he tried to seduce, will stop at nothing to discover the truth. Set in a rural eighteenth-century Spain rife with suspicion and cruelty, and featuring a glorious cast of peasants, aristocrats and vengeful ghosts, this moving, surprising tragicomedy is also Sylvia Townsend Warner's response to the dark days of the Spanish Civil War.





#### **Mr. Fortune's Maggot**

The Reverend Timothy Fortune, ex-clerk of the Hornsey branch of Lloyds Bank, has found his vocation: to convert the inhabitants of the remote tropical island of Fanua to Christianity. Even when everyone except for a young boy called Lueli remains indifferent to his preaching, Mr Fortune's good spirits cannot be dampened - until one day his faith is put to a terrible test.

Penguin Press

2021 reissue as a series Penguin Classics



# Science fiction & fantasy



# The Edge Chronicles

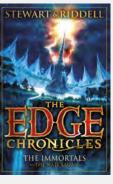
## Paul Stewart & Chris Riddell

Internationally bestselling 15-book epic fantasy series, with over 3 million copies sold in 29 languages













Epic in scale and scope, spanning a vast world and generations of heroes, Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell's internationally bestselling *Edge Chronicles* series is packed full of amazing creatures and extraordinary characters, with lives and worlds at risk in every story! The world of the Edge is visually dazzling, full of weird and wonderful landscapes, creatures and characters. With similarly ambitious quests and world-building, this is a must for fans of *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit* and *Game of Thrones*.

Published between 1998 and 2019, the series has featured on the UK and the New York Times best-seller lists and sold more than 3 million copies in more than 20 languages around the world. There are now 13 titles (ordered into 5 sagas) set in a world that is rich with extraordinary characters, exotic creatures and landscapes from the far reaches of the imagination and its own intriguing and turbulent history. Each book is a standalone adventure so you can read the *Edge Chronicles* in any order you choose.

Beyond the Deepwoods (Twig Saga book 1)

Abandoned at birth in the perilous Deepwoods, Twig Verginix is brought up by a family of woodtrolls. One cold night, Twig does what no woodtroll has ever done before – he strays from the path.

So begins a heart-stopping adventure that will take Twig through a nightmare world of fearsome goblins, bloodthirsty beasts and flesh-eating trees. Can he discover the truth about his past?

Paul Stewart is a highly regarded author of books for young readers, having written everything from picture books to football stories, whilst Chris Riddell is an acclaimed illustrator of children's books and a political cartoonist for the Observer. He was the Waterstones Children's Laureate 2015-17, and was the first person to be awarded the prestigious Kate Greenaway medal for illustration three times.





# The Hive Construct

#### **Alexander Maskill**

Sci-fi / Desert / High-tech

Award-winning sci-fi debut about a gifted young hacker fighting a computer virus that threatens to destroy her desert city



Situated deep in the Sahara Desert, New Cairo is a city built on technology – from the huge, lifegiving solar panels that keep it functioning in a radically changed, resource-scarce world to the artificial implants that have become the answer to all and any of mankind's medical problems.

But it is also a divided city, dominated by a handful of omnipotent corporate dynasties.

And when a devastating new computer virus begins to spread through the poorest districts, shutting down the life-giving implants that enable so many to survive, the city begins to slide into the anarchy of violent class struggle.

Hiding amidst the chaos is Zala Ulora. A gifted hacker and fugitive from justice, she believes she might be able to earn her life back by tracing the virus to its source and destroying it before it destroys the city. Or before the city destroys itself . . .

With its vivid characters, bold ideas and explosive action, *The Hive* is science fiction at its most exciting, inventive and accessible.



Alex Maskill was born in Watford, and grew up both there and in Eastbourne, East Sussex. He has a degree in Politics from the University of Leicester and is now a developer and game designer. *The Hive Construct* is his first novel and won the 2013 Terry Pratchett Prize.



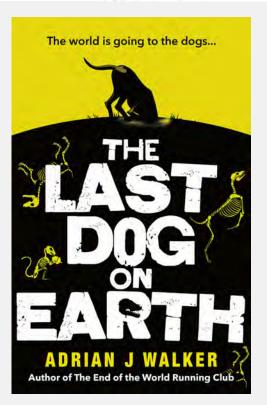


# The Last Dog on Earth

#### Adrian J Walker

Survival thriller

Survival thriller about a man, his dog, and their quest to find a child's family, for fans of *The Last of Us* 



Every dog has its day...

And for Lineker, a happy go lucky mongrel from Peckham, the day the world ends is his: finally a chance to prove to his owner just how loyal he can be.

Reg, an agoraphobic writer with an obsession for nineties football, plans to wait out the impending doom in his second floor flat, hiding himself away from the riots outside.

But when an abandoned orphan shows up in the stairwell of their building, Reg and Lineker must brave the outside in order to save not only the child, but themselves...



**Adrian J Walker** was born in the bush suburbs of Sydney, Australia in the mid '70s. After his father found a camper van in a ditch, he renovated it and moved his family back to the UK, where Adrian was raised.

Ever since he can remember, Adrian has been interested in three things: words, music and technology, and when he graduated from the University of Leeds, he found a career in software. His novel The End of the World Running Club, a post-apocalyptic running fable about hope, love and endurance, was a Simon Mayo Radio 2 book club choice.

He lives in Aberdeen with his wife and two children.



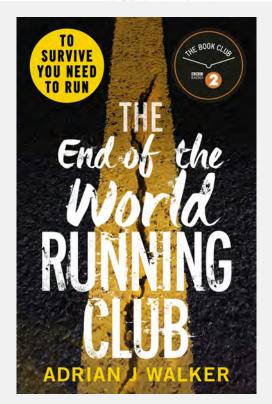


#### The End of the **World Running** Club

#### **Adrian J Walker**

Survival thriller

Survival thriller about family and long-distance running, as a man travels from Edinburgh to the south coast of England to find his family after a catastrophic asteroid strike



Edgar Hill is 35 and caught in his own headlock. Overweight slob, under-performing husband and reluctant father - for Ed, the world may as well have already ended. So when it does end in a catastrophic asteroid strike and Edgar and his family find refuge in an Edinburgh army barracks, it comes as something of a relief.

But nothing's ever that simple. Returning from a salvage run in the city, Edgar finds his family gone, taken to the south coast for evacuation by an international task force. Suddenly he finds himself facing a gruelling journey on foot across a devastated United Kingdom. Edgar must race against time and overcome his own short-comings, not to mention 100 mile canyons and a heavily flooded west coast, to find the people he loves before he loses them forever...



Adrian J Walker was born in the bush suburbs of Sydney, Australia in the mid '70s. After his father found a camper van in a ditch, he renovated it and moved his family back to the UK, where Adrian was raised.

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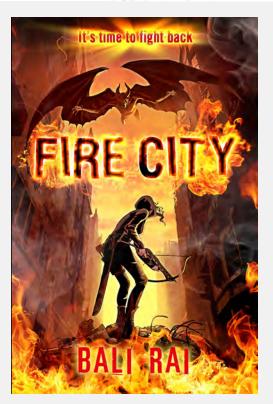


#### Fire City

#### Bali Rai

Young adult / dystopia / fantasy

Hunger Games with demons, about a young member of the resistance by award-winning fantasy author



Twenty-five years ago the world changed forever. A great war, which had raged for three years ended, and the reign of the Demons began...

Within the crumbling walls of Fire City, fifteen-year-old Martha is a member of the resistance, a small band of humans fighting for freedom in a lawless and horrifying new world. Amidst the chaos of battle arrives Jonah, a handsome stranger with a thirst for revenge and a power to destroy the Demon rulers.

As Martha and Jonah's lives collide, the future of the resistance is altered forever. The battle for humankind will now begin. An epic story of catastrophe, survival and the power of humanity.



**Bali Rai** is the author of eight young adult novels. His first, *(un)arranged marriage*, won many awards including the Angus Book Award and the Leicester Book of the Year. It was also shortlisted for the prestigious Brandford Boase first novel award. *Rani and Sukh and The Whisper* were both shortlisted for the Booktrust Teenage Prize. Bali also writes the hugely popular *Soccer Squad* series for younger readers.

He was born in Leicester, where he still lives, writing full-time and visiting schools to talk about his books.





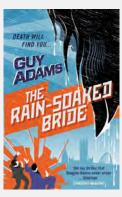
# The Clown Service Trilogy

#### **Guy Adams**

Action Adventure / Sci-Fi

A spy adventure series. dubbed the British *Men in Black* 







Guy Adams' spy series of 3 novels follow agent Toby Greene, who is part of The Clown Service, a mostly forgotten branch of British Intelligence tasked with fighting paranormal threats. A unique, comedic adventure caper with a supernatural twist.

Toby Greene has been reassigned.

The Department: Section 37 Station Office, Wood Green.

The Boss: August Shining, an ex-Cambridge, Cold War-era spy.

The Mission: Charged with protecting Great Britain and its interests from paranormal terrorism.

The Threat 1: An old enemy has returned, and with him Operation Black Earth, a Soviet plan to create the ultimate insurgents by re-animating the dead.

The Threat 2: The Rain-Soaked Bride is no ordinary assassin. Relentless, inexorable and part of a larger game, merely stopping this impossible killer may not be enough to save the day...

The Threat 3: Catching someone whose bodyguard is the relentless Rain-Soaked Bride can be a deadly game. On top of it all an internal investigation by MI6 and has dug up the past the members of the Clown Service could be compromised.



**Guy Adams** lives in Spain, surrounded by rescue animals. Some of them are his family. He isn't a spy, but he is a boy, so naturally he's always dreamed of being one. Having spent over ten years working as a professional actor and comedian, eventually he decided he'd quite like to eat regularly, so switched careers and became a full-time writer. Nobody said he was clever. Against all odds he managed to stay busy and since then he has written over twenty books.





# Contemporary non-fiction & memoir

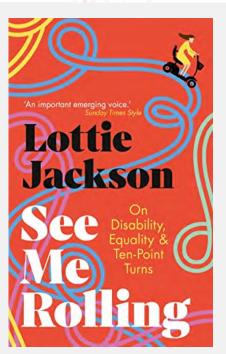


#### See Me Rolling

#### **Lottie Jackson**

Comedy / Memoir / Disability / Female Lead

A wonderfully witty, eye-opening and fiercely passionate memoir on living with disability



'The world was sadly not my lobster, it was a skimpy crayfish from a petrol station sandwich and it was on the turn.'

In this warm, thought-provoking and often hilarious memoir, Lottie Jackson reflects on her experiences of living with disability. From the difficulties of going shopping on a mobility scooter (especially when the aisles are 'tighter than a gnat's chuff'), to the headache of defining oneself on a tick-box form. The indignities of the so-called easy-pull tights aid and the intense pleasure of finally swapping a hospital gown for a slinky dress. Lottie captivatingly expresses the acute difficulties and joys of living with disability, as well as the strange everyday occurrences that abled-bodied people usually don't experience.

See Me Rolling is an insightful and moving memoir, but it is also a clarion call for greater diversity and inclusion. Inequalities in representation, access and opportunities for disabled people are breeding in silence. Too often people with disabilities are kept on the periphery and treated as a sum of their differences. In this dazzling debut, Lottie reveals why we must strive for change and how we can transform our society for the better. She has a voice that needs to be heard.



Lottie Jackson is a writer, editor and disability activist. Featured in the Sunday Times Style's Women of the Year 2020 as 'an important emerging voice', her work offers a vital dissection of the myths that beset disability. She has written for British Vogue, Elle, Guardian, The Sunday Times and Telegraph, bringing her fresh perspective on the most urgent conversations of today that strike at the heart of identity, social progress and diversity. In 2020, she was selected for Penguin Random House's award-winning WriteNow programme. Her writing redefines what it means to be disabled with nuance and wit, inspiring us to see new ways of existence.

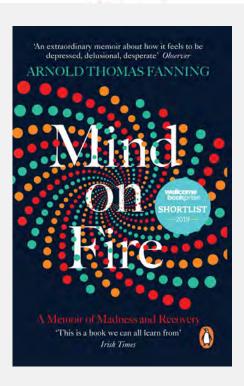




#### Mind on Fire: A Memoir of Madness and Recovery

#### **Arnold Thomas Fanning**

Mental health / Memoir



A searing, immersive account of profound mental illness, shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize 2019

Arnold Thomas Fanning had his first experience of depression during adolescence, following the death of his mother. Some ten years later, an up-and-coming playwright, he was overcome by mania and delusions. Thus began a terrible period in which he was often suicidal, increasingly disconnected from family and friends, sometimes in trouble with the law, and homeless in London.

Drawing on his own memories, the recollections of people who knew him when he was at his worst, and medical and police records, Arnold Thomas Fanning has produced a beautifully written, devastatingly intense account of madness - and recovery, to the point where he has not had any serious illness for over a decade and has become an acclaimed playwright. In a remarkably vivid present-tense narrative, Fanning manages to convey the consciousness of a person living with mania, psychosis and severe depression.

Very few people have gone through what Arnold Thomas Fanning went through and emerged alive, well, and capable of telling the tale with such skill and insight. Mind on Fire is a book anyone who has experienced mental illness, or is close to someone who is mentally ill, or who wishes to understand the workings of the disordered mind.



**Arnold Thomas Fanning** was born in London and raised in Dublin. His stage plays include the acclaimed McKenna's Fort. Mind on Fire is his first book.





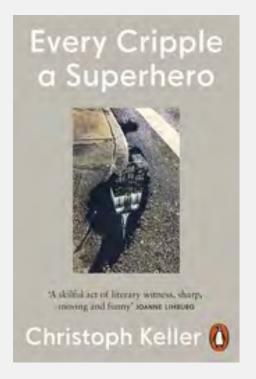


# **Every Cripple a Superhero**

**Christoph Keller** 

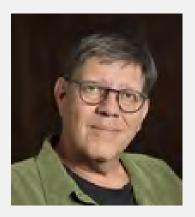
**Memoir / Disability** 

Luminary memoir of navigating the world with a progressive disability by award-winning novelist and playwright



'Most stories of disability follow a familiar pattern: Life Before Accident. Life After Accident. For Christoph Keller, it was different: his childhood diagnosis with a form of Spinal Muscular Atrophy only revealed what had been with him since birth. SMA III, the 'kindest one', allows those who have it to live a long life, and it progresses slowly. There is no cure. By the age of 25, he had to use a wheelchair some of the time. 'There were two of me: Walking Me. Rolling Me.' By 32, he could still walk into a restaurant with a cane or on somebody's arm. At 45, 'Rolling Me' took over altogether.

Intimate, absurdist and winningly frank, *Every Cripple a Superhero* is at once a memoir of life with a progressive disorder, and a profound exploration of the challenges of loving, being loved, and living a public life - navigating restaurants, aeroplanes, museums and artists' retreats - in a world not designed for you. Threaded throughout are Keller's own photographs of the unexpected beauty found in puddle-filled 'curb cuts', the pavement ramps that, left to disintegrate, form part of the urban obstacle course. Those puddles become portals into a different, truer city; and, as they do, so this book - told with humour and immense grace - begins to uncover a truer world: one where the 'normal' is not normal, where disability is far more widespread than we might think, and where there always exist, just alongside our own, the lives of everyday superheroes.



Born in Switzerland, **Christoph Keller** is a novelist, memoirist and editor. His books include the bestselling 2003 memoir-novel Der beste Tänzer (The Best Dancer) and 2019's Der Boden unter den Füßen (The Ground Beneath Our Feet; winner of the Alemannic Literature Prize). Based for many years in New York City, he now lives in St Gallen.

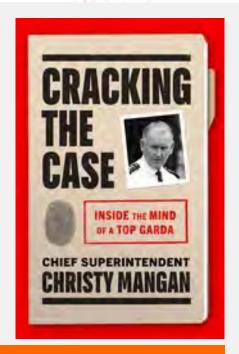
Penguin Press



# Cracking the Case: Inside the Mind of a Top Garda

#### **Christy Mangan**

True crime / memoir



A senior garda's sensational behind-the-scenes account of Ireland's most notorious murders

Solving a murder is never easy. And when a case goes cold, the chances of success are slimmer than ever.

As a top murder detective and founder of the Garda Cold Case unit, Chief Superintendent Christy Mangan has seen it all - gangland feuding, killers on the run, amateur hitmen and drug-induced mania. Cracking the Case takes a deep dive into the fascinating world of serious crime investigations. Across more than 200 murders and innumerable serious crimes, and in the midst of tragedy and mayhem, Mangan has remained empathetic and focused on securing justice for the families of the victims. He reveals the shocking details of high-profile cases, including the mysterious death of Fr Niall Molloy, the infamous 'Scissor Sisters' dismemberment case, and the brutal assassination of mother-of-three Irene White. The most senior Garda ever to put pen to paper, Mangan sets out his gripping behind-the-scenes account of some of the most dramatic cases in the history of the Irish state.

Chief Superintendent **Christy Mangan** is a retired Garda from Co Meath. He joined An Garda Síochána upon leaving school in 1980 and over the course of his forty year career, he was involved in more than 200 murder investigations, including the 'Scissor Sisters' case. He twice received the Scott Medal for valour in the performance of duty. Mangan established the Serious Crime Review Team in 2007, investigating historic cold cases.



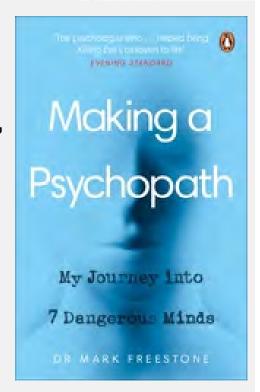




#### Making a Psychopath: My Journey into 7 Dangerous Minds

#### **Dr Mark Freestone**

True crime / memoir



A fascinating insight into what makes a psychopath, from the leading expert who helped to create *Killing Eve*'s Villanelle.

Dr Mark Freestone has worked on some of the most disturbing psychopath cases of recent times - this is his extraordinary journey with the people society would rather forget.

Danny 'the Borderline' killed his defenceless friend without explanation. Tony 'the Conman' once tried to dupe someone into buying the Eiffel Tower. Jason 'the Liar' had a fantasy life that led to vicious murders around Europe.

With its page-turning true crime storytelling and searing first-hand experience that will leave you reeling, this book opens up a window onto the unseen world of those who operate in a void of human emotion ... and asks how we will stop them.



Mark Freestone PhD is a Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Psychiatry, Queen Mary University of London. He has worked in prisons and forensic mental health services for over 15 years as a researcher and clinician, including in the High Secure Category A prison estate, which houses some of the UK's most notorious and high-risk criminals. He has also worked at Rampton and Broadmoor Special Hospitals as part of the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder (DSPD) Programme. He is a consultant to BBC America's Killing Eve, an editor of the Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology and currently an advisor to NHS England on services for men and women with a diagnosis of severe personality disorder. He has published several academic articles on personality disorder, psychopathy and violence risk, but this is his first book.

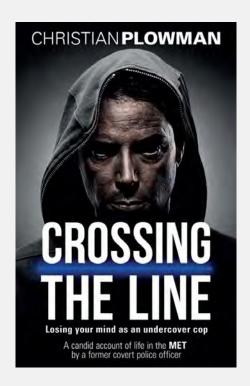




#### Crossing the Line: Losing Your Mind as an Undercover Cop

#### **Christian Plowman**

True crime / memoir



A candid account of life as an undercover policeman, as told for the first time by a former Metropolitan Police Officer

As he rose through the ranks of various departments of the Metropolitan Police, Christian Plowman dreamt of being an undercover cop. When he finally achieved his ambition, becoming one an elite group of officers, the reality of covert work turned his life into a nightmare.

To catch criminals, Christian bought and sold drugs with taxpayers' money, been beaten up, arrested at gunpoint and barricaded in a pub by a gang of marauding gypsies – all in a day's work. At one stage, he was running almost a dozen mobile phones to keep track of his different identities and had so many aliases that he nearly forgot who he was. He put his life on the line for the job but was to find that being the 'best of the best' wasn't all it was cracked up to be. The pressure became so intense that he even contemplated suicide.

Crossing the Line is a visceral, gripping account of what it really takes to be an undercover cop. It exposes how the Met conducts its business behind the scenes and reveals the harsh realities of modern covert police work.

**Christian Plowman** is a decorated ex-police officer with 16 years' investigative experience, mainly in the covert arena. A specialist in undercover operations and recruitment and management of informants, he spent years working in a variety of roles for Scotland Yard. Since leaving the police, Christian has worked in the private sector. He currently works overseas as a national security manager for a fashion company.



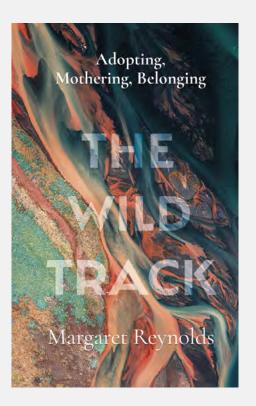


#### The Wild Track: Adopting, Mothering, Belonging

#### **Margaret Reynolds**

Literary memoir / motherhood / adoption

A moving literary memoir about a woman's five-year journey to adopt a child, and how it changes her life.



Single, in her mid-forties and having experienced a sudden early menopause, a realisation comes to Peggy quietly, and clearly: she decides to adopt a child. But the preparation is arduous and the scrutiny intense. There are questions about past lives, about capability and expectations.

Asking big questions about identity and belonging, as well as about what makes a mother - and a home - this is a beautiful meditation on how the legacies of childhood might be overcome by a mother's determination to love.



Margaret Reynolds is a writer, academic, critic and broadcaster. Her critical edition of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Aurora Leigh won the British Academy's Rose Mary Crawshay prize. Other books include The Penguin Book of Lesbian Short Stories, The Sappho Companion, Victorian Women Poets: An Anthology (with Angela Leighton) and a series of study guides on contemporary writers, Vintage Living Texts. She is Professor of English at Queen Mary, University of London and a Life Member of Clare Hall, Cambridge. She is the presenter of BBC Radio 4's long running 'Adventures in Poetry'.



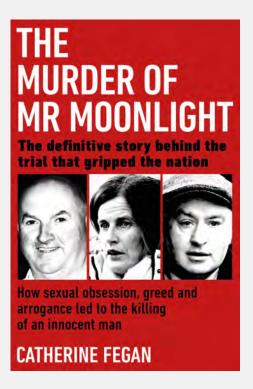


# The Murder of Mr Moonlight

#### **Catherine Fegan**

True crime / contemporary / Ireland

A gripping account of Ireland's longest-running murder trial, by the 2017 Irish Journalist of the Year



Bobby Ryan's disappearance in rural Tipperary in June 2011 mystified all who knew him. The truck-driver and part-time DJ (known as Mr Moonlight) was an easy-going fellow with no enemies. Or so everyone thought.

When Ryan's body was found 22 months later on the farm of Mary Lowry, the wealthy young widow he had been seeing, it was clear that he had met a violent end.

And the most likely person to have brought about that end? Pat Quirke, the man who had 'discovered' the body - Mary Lowry's brother-in-law, financial advisor, tenant and one-time lover.

Following the longest running murder trial in Irish criminal history Quirke was convicted of murder in May 2019. Getting to that day had taken years of exhaustive work by gardaí. The Murder of Mr Moonlight is the definitive account of their investigation as well as the compelling story of how an innocent man paid the price for another man's obsessions.



**Catherine Fegan** is a Special Correspondent for the Irish Independent. In 2017, she was named Journalist of the Year at the prestigious NewsBrands Ireland Journalism Awards.





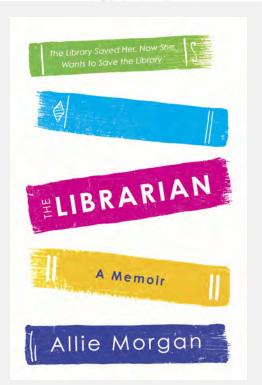


#### The Librarian

#### **Allie Morgan**

Memoir / books / community

A confessional and redemptive memoir, bursting with wry humour, of life behind the library counter from Twitter's secret librarian



The library saved her. Now she wants to save the library.

I'm a librarian. Every day I encounter people. I serve the regulars, the crime enthusiastics, the bookworms, the homeless, the eccentrics, the jobless, the teenagers, the toddlers, the aged. I know my community well. And they know me.

The library is a sanctuary for some, a place for warmth for others and, on many occassions, an internet cafe. It's not always the books that bring us together. That's why you might be surprised to hear that I've been a witness to an attempted murder, a target for a drugs gang and the last hope for people in desperate poverty. The quirks of library life. But what I didn't expect was for a simple parttime job to become a passionate battle for survivial, both for me and for the library.

I'm sharing stories from my daily life to show you that being a librarian isn't what you think it is. Libraries are falling apart at the seams and we need to start caring before its too late. So this is my eye-opening account of the strange and wonderful library that saved me and why I'm on a mission to save yours.

**Allie Morgan** is 29-year-old librarian who lives in Scotland. She runs a secret Twitter account where she tweets about the role of libraries in community life.



#### Period nonfiction & memoir

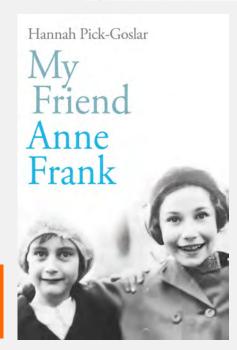


#### My Friend Anne Frank

#### **Hannah Pick-Goslar**

#### Memoir

The long-awaited, moving memoir of the Holocaust survivor Hannah Pick-Goslar, who shares an intimate look into her life and friendship with Anne Frank



Two best friends' lives were about to change for ever, neither would ever be forgotten...

When Hannah's family flee from the Nazis to Amsterdam, she soon strikes up a friendship with a girl just like her freshly arrived from Germany. Precocious and outspoken, the girl's name is Anne Frank and for seven blissful years the inseparable pair navigate school, boys and coming of age.

Then one day in 1942, as the Nazi occupation intensifies, they are separated without warning. Hannah calls on Anne and can't find a trace of her, breakfast dishes still in the sink, beds unmade. Anne and her family have seemingly vanished. They are told the Franks have fled to Switzerland.

As Hannah is tormented by the fate of her friend, hoping she is alive and well elsewhere, her own family's fate unfolds. After attempts to flee themselves, the SS finally come for them and they are taken to the transit camp Westerbork. Eventually Hannah, her father and younger sister Gabi are transported to Bergen-Belsen. Amid horrific conditions with death all around, it is during Hannah's darkest point at the concentration camp that she hears astonishing of news of Anne. Desperate to save her friend who is weak and struggling to survive, Hannah risks her life to help her.

In an incredible memoir of hope, strength and defiance, Hannah shares the intimate, loving portrait of her friendship with the young diarist who would go on to capture the hearts of millions around the world.

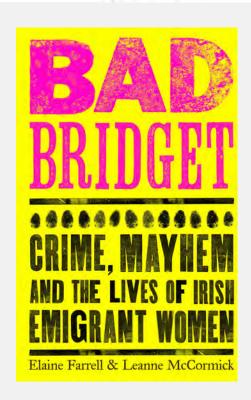
Hannah Pick-Goslar, simply Hanneli to her friends, was born in Berlin 1928, the eldest child of Jewish parents Hans Goslar and Ruth Judith Klee. In 1933, after the election of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, the Goslars moved to Amsterdam. Hannah attended the 6th Montessori School, where she became best friends with Anne Frank. Hannah is referred to as 'Lies Goosens' in some of the tales in Anne Frank's diary. In June 1943, Hannah, her father, her maternal grandparents, along with Hannah's younger sister Gabi, were arrested and sent to Westerbork transit camp, and then eventually to Bergen-Belsen. Hannah survived 14 months until the camp was liberated in 1945. She emigrated to British Mandate Palestine in 1947, shortly before it became Israel, and trained as a nurse. Once retired, Hannah enjoyed the company of her 3 children, 10 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren. She passed away in 2022 at the age of 93.





#### Bad Bridget: Crime, Mayhem and the Lives of Irish Emigrant Women

## Elaine Farrell and Leanne McCormick



True crime / Forgotten history

Pickpocketing and sex work, drunkenness and murder: the little-known story of the Irish female immigrants to the USA that history chose to forget, including serial killer Lizzie Halliday

Ireland in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was not a good place to be a woman. Among the wave of emigrants from Ireland to North America were many, many young women who travelled on their own, hoping for a better life. Some lived lives of quiet industry and piety. Others quickly found themselves in trouble - bad trouble, and on an astonishing scale.

Elaine Farrell and Leanne McCormick, creators of the celebrated 'Bad Bridget' podcast, have unearthed a world in which Irish women actually outnumbered Irish men in prison, in which you could get locked up for 'stubbornness', and in which a serial killer called Lizzie Halliday was described by the New York Times as 'the worst woman on earth'. They reveal the social forces that bred this mayhem and dysfunction, through stories that are brilliantly strange, sometimes funny, and often moving. From sex workers and thieves to kidnappers and killers, these Bridgets are young women who have gone from the frying pan of their impoverished homeland to the fire of vast North American cities.



**Elaine Farrell** is a Reader in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University Belfast, and co-creator with Leanne McCormick of the Bad Bridget project.

**Leanne McCormick** is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Arts and Humanities at Ulster University and co-creator with Elaine Farrell of the Bad Bridget project.

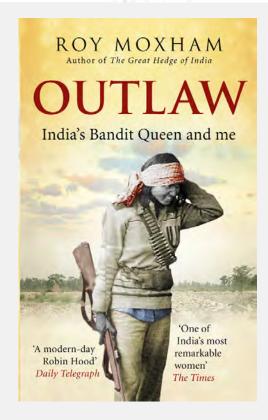


26 January 2023 Sandycove Penguin Ireland





# Outlaw: India's Bandit Queen and Me



#### **Roy Moxham**

#### 1990s India / Forgotten history

Biography of Phoolan Devi, India's 'bandit queen', hailed as a modern-day Robin Hood in the villages around Dehli

In June 1992, author Roy Moxham did a very strange thing: he wrote to a bandit in an Indian jail. Phoolan Devi was the controversial and charismatic 'Bandit Queen' hailed as a modern-day Robin Hood in the villages surrounding Delhi. In revenge for her own gang rape, her followers killed 20 high-caste Indians, which led to her surrender and imprisonment.

Struck by her story and appalled by her plight, Roy Moxham helped Phoolan Devi obtain justice, offered her encouragement when she became an MP in India on her release, and travelled with her for several years before she was finally gunned down in 2001. Based on the diaries that documented their extraordinary friendship, Moxham offers a fascinating portrait of a remarkable woman and reveals the hidden face of India.

Roy Moxham is the author of the acclaimed The Great Hedge of India and Tea: Addiction, Exploitation and Empire. He was born and brought up in Evesham, Worcestershire. After working for a while on a Herefordshire fruit farm, he went out to Africa in 1961 as a tea planter. He spent 13 years in Eastern Africa before returning to London. He became Senior Conservator of the University of London Library and also taught in the Institute of English Studies. Since 2005 he has devoted most of his time to writing and giving talks. He currently spends half of the year in London and the other half travelling, principally in India.



#### Einstein's War: How Relativity Conquered Nationalism and Shook the World

# TEPLY RESEARCHED AND PROFOUNDLY ARSORBING... AN AMAZING STORY STORY OF CHYPOLICA STORY STO

#### **Matthew Stanley**

#### True crime / Forgotten history

The true story of how a then-unknown German and an Englishman on opposite sides of WWI created a scientific revolution

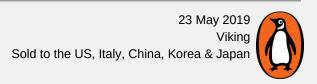
Irln 1916, Arthur Eddington, a war-weary British astronomer, opened a letter written by an obscure German professor named Einstein. The neatly printed equations on the scrap of paper outlined his world-changing theory of general relativity. Until then Einstein's masterpiece of time and space had been trapped behind the physical and ideological lines of battle, unknown.

Einstein's name is now synonymous with 'genius', but it was not an easy road. He spent a decade creating relativity and his ascent to global celebrity owed much to against-the-odds international collaboration, including Eddington's globe-spanning expedition of 1919 - two years before they finally met. We usually think of scientific discovery as a flash of individual inspiration, but here we see it is the result of hard work, gambles and wrong turns.

Einstein's War is a celebration of what science can offer when bigotry and nationalism are defeated. Using previously unknown sources and written like a thriller, it shows relativity being built brick-by-brick in front of us, as it happened 100 years ago.



Matthew Stanley is professor of the history of science at New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study. He has published two academic books and has written for Physics Today, Physics World and the Los Angeles Review of Books. He has a podcast, What the If?!?, and has appeared on documentaries on the History Channel, BBC and NPR. This is his first trade book.



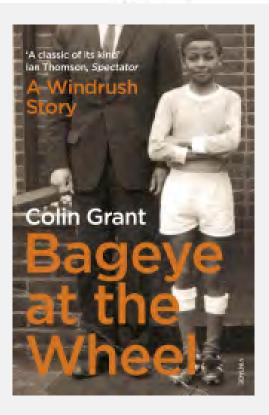


## Bageye at the Wheel

#### **Colin Grant**

Memoir / Black Britain / Comedy

A powerful prescient memoir of life in 1970s
Britain for a child of Windrush generation parents.



To his fellow West Indians who assemble every weekend for the all-night poker game at Mrs Knight's, he is always known as Bageye. There aren't very many black men in Luton in 1972 and most of them gather there: Summer Wear, Pioneer, Anxious, Tidy Boots - each has his nickname. Bageye already finds it a struggle to feed his family on his wage from Vauxhall Motors, but now his wife Blossom has set her heart on her sons going to private school and she will not settle for anything less.

This is the story of a father seen through the eyes of his ten-year-old son. It's a wry and gentle comedy about unfulfilling day jobs and late night poker games, of illegal mini-cabs and small-scale drug-dealing.

And it is also about a family struggling to belong in post-Windrush Britain and growing up in a vanished world of 1970s suburbia.



Colin Grant is a historian and author of four highly praised books: Negro with a Hat: The Rise and Fall of Marcus Garvey (2008), I and I: The Natural Mystics Marley, Tosh and Wailer (2011), Bageye at the Wheel (2012), and A Smell of Burning (2016). He is an Associate Fellow in the Centre for Caribbean Studies, and teaches creative non-fiction writing, most recently for Arvon and Sierra Nevada College.



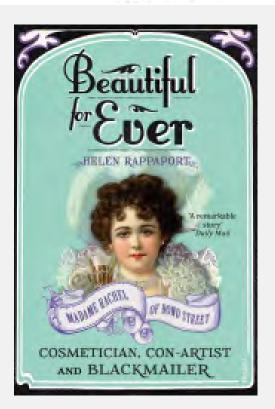


# Beautiful For Ever

#### **Helen Rappaport**

True story / Period / Female lead

The scandalous tale of Madame Rachel - celebrated beautician to the rich and famous of Victorian London, con-artist and convicted blackmailer.



Madame Rachel had everything.

A Mayfair address; the title of 'purveyor to Her Majesty the Queen'; a shop full of exotic, expensive creams and potions; and a clientele of the aristocratic, the rich - and the gullible.

Little did they suspect that Madame Rachel had once been a poor fish-fryer in a disease-ridden, grubby corner of Victorian London. Her shop in New Bond Street lured her wealthy clients in their droves, enticed by the promise of eternal beauty. What they found there was a con-woman and fraudster who made a career out of lies, treachery and the desperate hopes of women wanting to be 'beautiful for ever'.

Beautiful For Ever is a thrilling tale of love affairs, scandal, blackmail, high-profile court cases, suicide and fraud, with the extraordinary Madame Rachel right at the centre of it all.



Helen Rappaport is an historian and Russianist with specialisms in the Victorians and revolutionary Russia. A fluent Russian speaker, she has translated many classic Russian plays and was historical consultant to Tom Stoppard's National Theatre trilogy *The Coast of Utopia*. She is also a frequent contributor to television and radio documentaries.



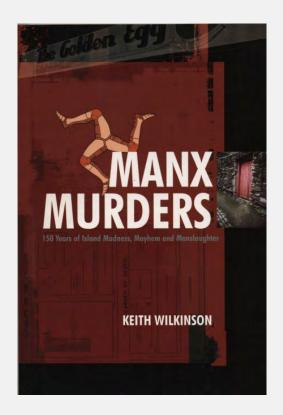


#### **Manx Murders**

#### **Keith Wilkinson**

**True Crime** 

150 Years of Island Madness, Mayhem and Manslaughter



A beautiful island lying in the northern part of the Irish Sea between England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, the Isle of Man was once a popular holiday destination. It is perhaps better known today for the TT motorcycle races held there, its tailless cats and Manx kippers. However, it also has its darker side.

Manx Murders is a collection of gripping and mysterious murder cases committed on the Island over the last 150 years, from the brutal slaying of a spinster one dark night on a lonely track near Ramsey to the infamous 'Golden Egg Murder' in central Douglas.

The cases that have caused shock and sensation throughout two centuries of the Island's history are recorded here as the author reveals the events behind the last hanging on the Island, a deathbead confession, the harrowing story of a murderous father and the cases that remain unsolved to this day. The Island's political importance as a wartime holding area for prisoners of war is also explored through the account of a bizarre, seemingly motiveless killing in 1916 and the stabbing of a Finnish prisoner during the Second World War.

Using information obtained from newspapers, inquest records and trial transcripts whenever these were available, each murder is described against the backdrop of contemporary events to give the reader a distinct flavour of life at the time of the crime. While each case is unique, all share an overwhelming sadness and tragedy that will never be forgotten.



**Keith Wilkinson** is a consultant anaethetist who has lived and worked on the Isle of Man for 20 years. He is married with three daughters.

10 April 2003 Mainstream



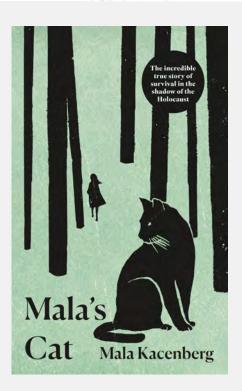


#### Mala's Cat

#### Mala Kacenberg

#### Epic journey / Survival / Memoir / Female lead

A moving Holocaust memoir about the unlikely friendship between a young Jewish girl and a stray cat and their survival against the odds



Growing up in the Polish village of Tarnogrod on the fringes of a deep pine forest, gives Mala the happiest childhood she could have hoped for. But, as the German invasion begins, her beloved village becomes a ghetto and her family and friends reduced to starvation. She takes matters into her own hands, and bravely removes her yellow star, risking sneaking out to the surrounding villages to barter for food.

It is on her way back that she sees her loved ones rounded up for deportation, and receives a smuggled letter from her sister warning her to stay away. With only her cat, Malach, and the strength of the stories taught by her family, she walks away from everything she holds dear.

Malach becomes her family, her only respite from painful loneliness, a guide and reminder to stay hopeful even when faced with unfathomable darkness. With her guardian angel by her side, Mala finds a way to navigate the dangerous forests, outwit German soldiers and hostile villagers, and survive, against all odds.

Mala Kacenberg (nee Szorer) was born in Tarnogrod, Poland in 1927. As World War II broke out, she had to fend for herself from the tender age of 12. Surviving by her wits, courage and the help of a guardian angel, her cat Malach, she was the sole survivor of her family. Mala immigrated to London with other Jewish refugees after the war, where she raised a large beautiful family, living long enough to be blessed with many grandchildren. She ran a small B&B, treating all her guests as part of her family.





# Wages For Housework

#### **Emily Callaci**

#### Scripted Drama / Documentary

The story of a feminist movement and its revolutionary campaign to change the way women's work is valued.

In the 1970s, a network of feminists around the world demanded that their governments pay them for housework. The 'Wages for Housework' movement aimed to abolish once and for all the hierarchy between work done in the marketplace for wages and unpaid work done in the home. They believed that doing so would be the first step in dismantling capitalism itself, and with it, all forms of inequality.

Wages for Housework is the fascinating international story of four women who spearheaded the movement and their battle to transform the relationship between capitalism and the labour of women. Drawing on the programme's roots in 1970s America, Italy, and the UK, and with unparalleled access to its key figures, historian Emily Callaci explores the revolutionary potential of paying women for their work in the home, and how such an idea continues to influence today's struggle for class, race and gender equality.



**Emily Callaci** is an associate professor of History at University of Wisconsin Madison and an affiliate of the Program of Gender and Women's Studies. Her articles have appeared in the Journal of African History, Urban History, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Radical History Review and The American Historical Review.

Penguin Press



### Graphic novels

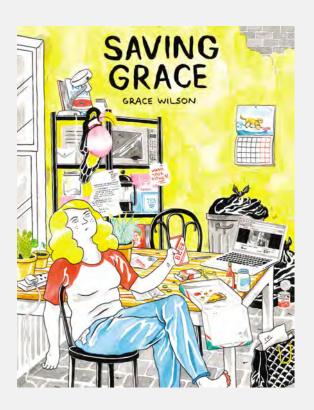


#### **Saving Grace**

#### **Grace Wilson**

Comedy / Graphic Novel / Friendship / Female Lead

Four women navigate the London rental market facing rapacious landlords and plenty of "laugh or you'll cry" moments



Saving Grace is the story of four twenty-somethings – Grace, Vicky, Jess and Maxine – who live in a ramshackle house in a rapidly gentrifying East London...until the landlord announces he's selling up and they've got four weeks to leave. New plans form effortlessly for the others, but the odds feel stacked against Grace as she struggles to find self-fulfilment, a half decent job or even a roof over her head.

AN OBSERVER BOOK OF THE YEAR 2016



**Grace Wilson** was born in 1986 and grew up in Edinburgh. She studied ceramics at Central Saint Martins and then moved to Stockholm to pursue an MFA in storytelling at Konstfack University of Art and Design. She currently lives in London.



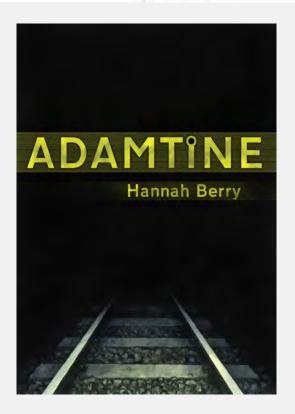


#### **Adamtine**

#### **Hannah Berry**

#### **Graphic Novel / Thriller / Speculative**

Thriller about four strangers who disappear - and what connects them



All people could do was speculate on the fate of those who vanished - strangers; seemingly random, unconnected: all plucked from their lives and never seen again. The notes found left behind, apparently describing some slender reason for their removal, were all that linked them. They were all delivered by one man.

Rodney Moon had admitted seeing those who had been disappeared and to passing the notes, but denied any involvement beyond that. Who wrote the letters, then? Moon shrugged during the trial: 'It has no name,' he said. 'It's a bogeyman. A monster.'

He was not mourned when the vengeful bereft finally found him.

Some years later, four strangers; seemingly random, unconnected, all take the last train home. But something each of them has forgotten - or is trying to forget - is catching up with them; with a terrible, inexorable purpose. The devil is in the detail, as they say.

**Hannah Berry** is the author of two highly praised graphic novels, Britten and Brulightly and Adamtine. She lives in Brighton.



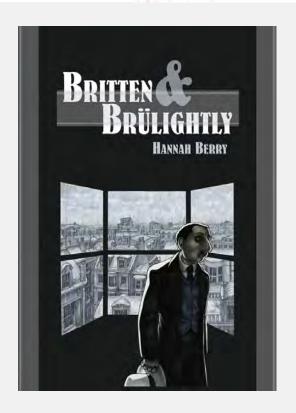


# **Britten & Brulightly**

#### **Hannah Berry**

**Graphic Novel / Crime / Detective Noir** 

Noir thriller about jaded private detective and his uncoventional partner on the trail of the truth behind an alleged suicide



'Nowadays I don't get out of bed for less than a murder. I don't get out of bed much...Until today.'

'Private Researcher' Fernández Britten is the messenger who would view being shot as a blessing. The years spent uncovering people's secret dramas and helping to confirm their darkest suspicions have taken their toll. Battered by remorse over the lives he has ruined, he clings to the hope of redemption through delivering, just once, a truth with a positive impact. It's a hope he has been clinging to for a long time.

And so Britten and his 'unconventional' partner, Brülightly, take on the case of suicide Berni Kudos. At least, suicide was the official verdict. His fiancée, Charlotte Maughton, believes his death was something more sinister.

Blackmail, revenge, murder: desperate acts are exposed, and this is no tree-lined avenue to justice. Each new revelation stirs the muddy waters of a family's dark secrets, and each fresh twist takes them further from that elusive redemption.

There are murder mysteries and there are murder mysteries, but this is a noir where nothing is black and white.

**Hannah Berry** is the author of two highly praised graphic novels, Britten and Brulightly and Adamtine. She lives in Brighton.

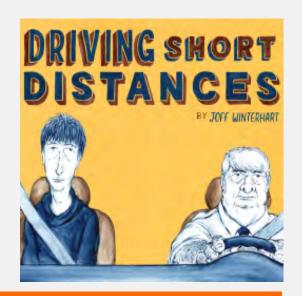




# **Driving Short Distances**

#### Joff Winterhart

#### Comedy / Friendship



A poignant and very British kind of underdog comedy exploring the anxieties of being a young adult and the repetitions of small-town life from the author of Days of the Bagnold Summer

Sam is 27 and needs to get a job.

Keith, who claims to be a second cousin of his (absent) father, offers him one.

On Keith's card it says he does 'distribution and delivery', which seems to consist of 'a lot of driving around, getting out of the car for a few minutes and then getting back in', Sam tells his mother. And so the days go by, Keith driving to a trading estate, ducking into a portakabin, all the while telling Sam stories about his first boss, Geoff Crozier, his mentor in distribution and delivery. As the weeks pass, Sam gets to know Keith's friends, flirty Hazel-Claire from whom they buy two pasties every day at lunchtime, a variety of receptionists, and a few tantalising secrets from Keith's past...

As in Days of the Bagnold Summer, Joff Winterhart is a master at depicting ordinary life in all its utterly poignant and funny mundanity.



**Joff Winterhart** is an illustrator and film-maker and plays drums in his band, Bucky. He lives in Bristol, where he walks his greyhound, Peep-Peep. He is the author of *Days of the Bagnold Summer*, which was shortlisted for the 2012 Costa Award for Best Novel and was released as a film, directed by Simon Bird and starring Rob Brydon, in 2019.





# Collecting Sticks

Joe Decie

Comedy / Family / Nature

A funny story about a family glamping trip, for fans of Days of the Bagnold Summer



Collecting Sticks is a graphic novel about a family glamping trip. (It's like camping, but much more expensive.) Loosely based on actual events, but sometimes veering unexpectedly into fantasy, the story plays with the challenges nature presents to city folk as they forage for berries, get stuck up a tree, make perilous encounters with stinging wildlife, compete to build the best fire and discover the importance of finding good sticks. Also, it rains. It's about the human desire to get back to nature. Or to return to childhood and hit things with sticks.

Funny, moving, beautifully drawn, *Collecting Sticks* can stand beside Joff Winterhart's classic graphic novel of family life, *Days of the Bagnold Summer*.



Joe Decie has been detailing family life in comic-strip form for several years, through vignettes that capture beauty in the everyday and playfully mix autobiography with the absurd.



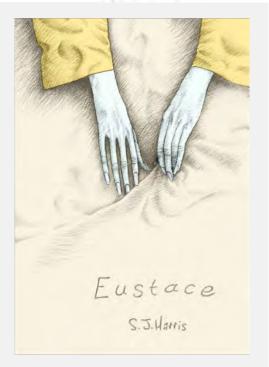


#### **Eustace**

#### S J Harris

1930s / black comedy

Surreal 1930s-set black comedy about a bedridden man who becomes the centre of a decadent world.



Poor Eustace is not very well. Convalescing in bed, his world is confined to the four walls of his grand and gloomy room. His days are spent in wild imaginings, punctuated by the occasional visit from his mother and a legion of Aunties, who fuss and smother Eustace.

But then his wicked uncle arrives in a cloud of pipe smoke, accompanied by a swelling cast of prostitutes, hoodlums, drunkards and assorted hangers-on. Suddenly Eustace finds himself transformed from invalid to the star of a glittering and decadent social scene, serving drinks and holding court from his enormous bed. That is, until his Uncle's past begins to catch up with him...

Eustace is blackly comic, surreal and exquisitely rendered. It marks the debut of a brilliant new graphic novelist.



**S J Harris** is a cartoonist based somewhere in the Twentieth Century. His subject matter, language and dress sense are largely the result of too many old films as a child. Harris's first graphic novel, Eustace, was published by Jonathan Cape in March 2013. It is a tale of salvation by corruption and has been described as 'a clapped-out car pointed straight at a brick wall.'





#### Stan and Nan

#### **S J Harris**

#### Working class / romance

Love story from the West Midlands inspired by the author's grandmother's letters about her grandfather, who died before she was born



\*An Observer Book of the Year\*

My nan wrote me many letters back in 2011. They were about the love of her life, my grandad, Stanley Burndred. I've never met him, he died long before I was born, but his drawings, paintings and ceramics have been in my life for as long as I can remember. Every wall of Nan's house would be decorated by his artworks and every windowsill bore his ceramic creations. Whenever we visited Nan in the Black Country I would study the ornaments and pictures, wondering who had made them. It wasn't until I wrote to Nan many years later, receiving in return beautiful handwritten letters detailing his life, that it became apparent that the work was his.

The letters were so beautiful I felt my nan's story had to be told. Stan and Nan is the story of an ordinary couple and the people who loved them. The narrative follows their lives from Stan's working-class background, to his premature death, through to Nan's struggle to cope, and the perils of ageing. It is a memoir about the importance of family, and about death, love, living and human connection.



Sarah Lippett is a London-based artist and author. Her first graphic novel, Stan and Nan, was awarded the Quentin Blake prize for best narrative at the Royal College of Art and was published by Jonathan Cape in 2016, becoming an Observer book of the year. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, the Guardian, and Time Out. When she's not drawing or writing, she plays bass in the band Fever Dream.





# The Vicar Woman

#### **Emma Rendel**

#### Small town / mystery / Sweden

Mystery about a missing girl in a small Swedish island town, told from the perspective of a new vicar



A female vicar arrives on a small island to take up a new post. It is a strange opportunity: the parish is brand new, and set up by the community itself, who have built themselves a church modelled on St Peter's Basilica.

The vicar is surprised and delighted by the enthusiastic welcome she receives. The church is full day after day, and the parishioners compete for her attention. Not many are interested in discussing spiritual matters however, and as she gets to know them, the vicar becomes aware of a split in the community; a terrible secret that is not spoken of, but which plagues the island, pitting neighbour against neighbour.

She hears whispers of a missing young girl whose parents died in a mysterious blaze, of secret abortions, and of a fearsome ghost.

**Emma Rendel** was born in 1976 in Uppsala, Sweden. She studied illustration and graphic design at Central St Martin's and Communication Arts and Design at the Royal College of Art. She contributes to Galago, Hjelp and Le Gun, and her illustrations have been published in Icon magazine and Time Out. Her first book, Pentti and Deathgirl, was published by Jonathan Cape in 2009.





#### **Recently optioned**

