

Argylle

The Explosive Spy Thriller That Inspired the new Matthew Vaughn film starring Henry Cavill and Bryce Dallas Howard

Elly Conway

The globe-trotting spy thriller that inspired the upcoming action blockbuster *Argylle*, featuring a star-studded cast including Henry Cavill, Bryce Dallas Howard, Samuel L. Jackson, and John Cena, directed by Matthew Vaughn of *Kingsman* trilogy fame.

One Russian magnate's dream of restoring a nation to greatness has set in motion a chain of events which will take the world to the brink of chaos. Only Frances Coffey, the CIA's most legendary spymaster, can prevent it. But to do so, she needs someone special.

Enter Argylle. His life came to a crashing halt as a teenager. Since then he has been treading water, building barriers between himself and the world. Until one moment of compassion and brilliance will bring him to the attention of the most powerful woman in the secret world.

Coffey knows all about Argylle's dark past. She knows it haunts him. But she also knows it may give him the skills to join the team going up against one of the most powerful men in the world. His crash course in espionage will take him from the jungles of Thailand to the boulevards of Monaco, from the monasteries of Mount Athos to a forgotten cavern buried deep in the mountains.

It is a deathly rollercoaster ride that will either make him - or break him...

Elly Conway was born and raised in upstate New York. She wrote her first novel about Agent Argylle while working as a waitress in a late-night diner.



January 2024
9781787635913
Royal Octavo
£18.99 : Hardback
384 pages

Piglet

The must-read literary fiction book of 2024 to discuss at your book club

Lottie Hazell

A claustrophobic novel - like a pot boiling over - *Piglet* charts the gap between how people see themselves and want to be seen.

Her life is so full, so why is she hungry?

'A high-wire exploration of control, pleasure and desire' Chloë Ashby

'A book that tears at the surface of things to reveal the vast, messy truth of a body with a beating heart' Catherine Newman

For Piglet – an unshakable childhood nickname – getting married is her opportunity to reinvent. Together, Kit and Piglet are the picture of domestic bliss – effortless hosts, planning a covetable wedding ... But if a life looks too good to be true, it probably is.

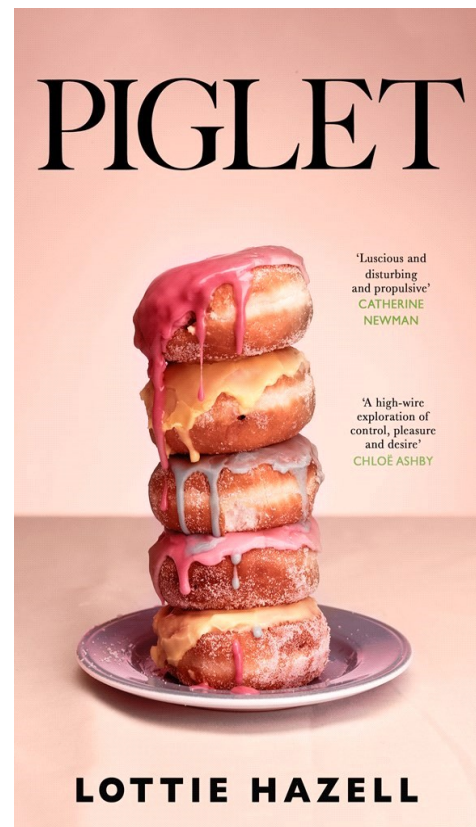
Thirteen days before they are due to be married, Kit reveals an awful truth, cracking the façade Piglet has created. It has the power to strip her of the life she has so carefully built, so smugly shared. To do something about it would be to self-destruct. But what will it cost her to do nothing?

As the hours count down to their 'big day', Piglet is torn between a growing appetite and the desire to follow the recipe, follow the rules. Surely, with her husband, she could be herself again. Wouldn't it be a waste for everything to curdle now?

Piglet is the searing, unforgettable and original debut which is set to take readers by storm in 2024.

'It takes audacity, all kinds of courage to produce a novel as ferocious as *Piglet*. It made me so hungry' Lamorna Ash

Lottie Hazell is a writer, contemporary literature scholar, and board game designer living in Warwickshire. She holds a PhD in Creative Writing from Loughborough University and her research considers food writing in twenty-first century fiction. *Piglet* is her first novel.



January 2024

9780857529565

£16.99

Demy Octavo : Hardback
304 pages

Relight My Fire (The Stranger Times 4) C. K. McDonnell

The fourth instalment in C K McDonnell's hugely original, fast-paced, fun and very funny Manchester-set series revolving around the investigations of *The Stranger Times* newspaper into the weird and the supernatural!

STOP PRESS! *The Stranger Times* wins the 2023 British Fantasy Award for Best Audio Work!

Some comebacks can be murder . . .

Stella is enjoying life as an almost student, or at least she is until a man falls from the sky right in front of her, leaving a big old hole in the pavement for Manchester Council to fill. The obvious question of how he ended up in the sky in the first place has no obvious answers, which is where *The Stranger Times* come in.

But this isn't just the hunt for another story. Dark powers think Stella might have been involved and the only way she and the team can prove her innocence is to find out what the hell is really going on. And what have dodgy gear, disturbed graves and a decommissioned rock star got to do with all this?

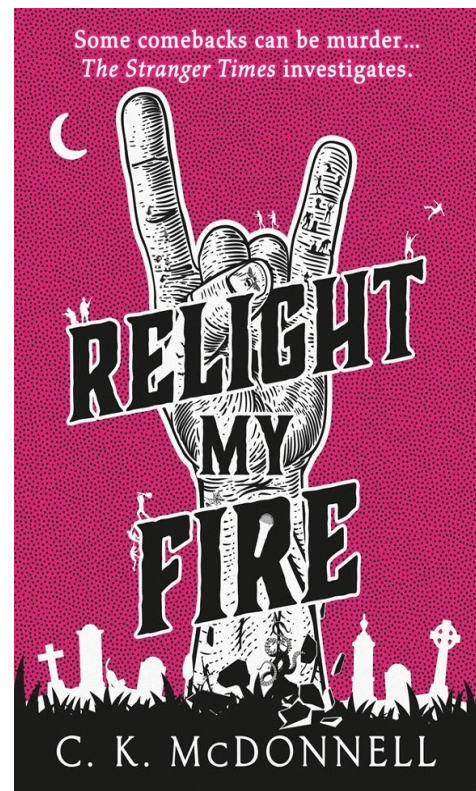
Vincent Banecroft has problems of his own in the form of a tall, dark but-definitely-not-handsome man dressed like a funeral who has been sent to make the paper's editor atone for his sins. Once he finds out exactly what that entails, Banecroft is not keen. Being banished to a Hellscape for all eternity looks like being no fun at all, not least because he has that pale Irish skin that burns really easily . . .

All that plus territorial ghouls, homicidal felines, eternal (and seemingly unstoppable) gnomes and a celebrity *Who's Who* that'd put a royal wedding to shame, and you're looking at a wild few days for *The Stranger Times*.

Relight My Fire is the fourth book in the acclaimed and brilliantly funny *Stranger Times* series.

Born in Limerick and raised in Dublin, C K (Caimh) McDonnell is a former stand-up comedian and TV writer. He performed all around the world, had several well-received Edinburgh shows and supported acts such as Sarah Millican on tour before hanging up his clowning shoes to concentrate on writing. He has also written for numerous TV shows and been nominated for a Kid's TV BAFTA.

His debut novel, *A Man With One of Those Faces* - a comic crime novel - was published in 2016 and spawned *The Dublin Trilogy* books and the spin-off *McGarry Stateside* series. They have been Amazon bestsellers on both sides of the Atlantic. As C. K. McDonnell, he is the author of *The Stranger Times* series contemporary comic fantasy series. Caimh lives in Manchester. To find out more, visit whitehairedirishman.com



January 2024

9780857505354

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528 pages

The Spy Coast

The unmissable, brand-new series from the No.1 bestselling author of *Rizzoli & Isles* (Martini Club 1)

Tess Gerritsen

***Killing Eve* meets *The Thursday Murder Club* in this exhilarating thriller, introducing retired spy Maggie Bird.**

Gerritsen is a born storyteller, and this new series showcases her talents more than ever. Irresistible and highly recommended!' **LEE CHILD**

'I loved it. A hugely entertaining read!' **ANN CLEEVES**

Maggie Bird is many things. A chicken farmer. A good neighbour. A seemingly average retiree living in the seaside town of Purity. She's also a darned good rifle shot. And she never talks about her past.

But when an unidentified body is left on Maggie's driveway, she knows it's a calling card from old times. It's been fifteen years since the failed mission that ended her career as a spy, and cost her far more than her job.

Step forward the 'Martini Club' - Maggie's silver-haired book group (to anyone who asks), and a cohort of former spies behind closed doors. With the help of her old friends - and always one step ahead of the persistent local cop - Maggie might still be able to save the life she's built.

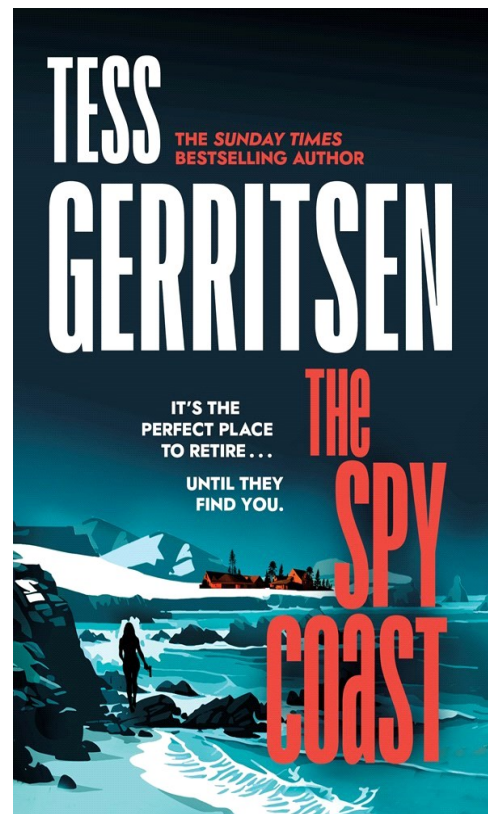
***The Spy Coast* is the first novel in the Martini Club series.**

'Action-packed pages, G-force twists and turns, and a platoon of fascinating characters' **DAVID BALDACCI**

International bestselling author **TESS GERRITSEN** began to write fiction whilst on maternity leave as a physician. She published her first novel in 1987 and has since sold over forty million copies of her books in forty countries.

Her series featuring homicide detective Jane Rizzoli and medical examiner Maura Isles inspired the television series *Rizzoli and Isles*, starring Angie Harmon and Sasha Alexander.

Now retired from medicine, she lives in Maine and writes full time.



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368 pages

John O'Farrell

'John O'Farrell couldn't be unfunny if he tried' Alan Johnson
'A touch of self-deprecation and a sense of humour... John O'Farrell has these qualities in spades' *Guardian*
'O'Farrell is a consistently humorous writer with an acute ear for the absurdities of middle class pretension' *Mail on Sunday*

But for proud and high-profile left-wingers Emma and Eddie Hughes, the return of their only child is a far greater challenge than they ever could have anticipated. Young Dylan had warned them there was something personal he needed to tell them, but nothing could have prepared his right-on parents for the shocking revelation he delivers. Their son is a Conservative.

John O'Farrell's first book *Things Can Only Get Better* about his years spent helping the Labour Party lose elections at every level was a number one best-seller. Two decades later he published the sequel *Things Can Only Get Worse*. In between his two comic memoirs, he published five novels, including *The Best A Man Can Get*, *May Contain Nuts* and *The Man Who Forgot His Wife*; two funny history books (*An Utterly Impartial History of Britain* and its sequel) plus three collections of his satirical columns from *The Guardian*. His books have been translated into over thirty languages and adapted for TV and radio. Formerly a comedy scriptwriter for shows such as *Spitting Image* and *Have I Got News For You*, he more recently co-wrote the movie *Chicken Run 2* and two Broadway musicals; *Something Rotten!* and *Mrs Doubtfire*.

February 2024
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304 pages

The Book of Doors

Prepare to be transported by 2024's most magical, mind-blowing debut

Gareth Brown

These books are like weapons. And possession is power. . . With a perfect combination of dark magical books, unforgettable characters, and a storyline that grabs the reader and simply doesn't let go, this is the heart-stoppingly exciting contemporary fantasy debut of 2024.

'A stunning fever dream of a story.' LEE CHILD

'A clever and beautiful novel about the power of book.' SUNYI DEAN

'A real page-turner - incredibly ambitious and inventive.' ROSIE ANDREWS

Because some doors should never be opened.

New York bookseller Cassie Andrews is not sure what she's doing with her life. She lives quietly, sharing an apartment with her best friend, Izzy. Then a favourite customer gives her an old book. Full of strange writing and mysterious drawings, at the very front there is a handwritten message:

This is the Book of Doors. Hold it in your hand, and any door is every door.

Cassie is about to discover that the Book of Doors is a special book - a magic book. A book that bestows extraordinary abilities on whoever possesses it. And she is about to learn that there are other magic books out there that can also do wondrous - or dreadful and terrifying - things.

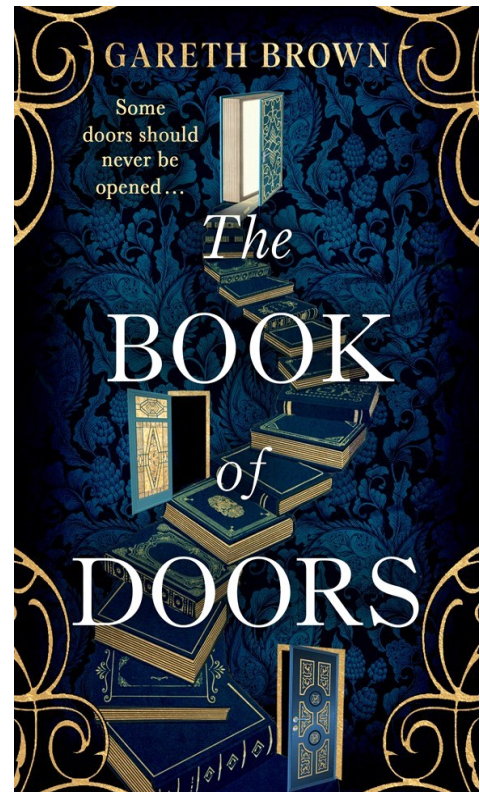
Because where there is magic there is power and there are those who will stop at nothing to possess it.

Suddenly Cassie and Izzy are confronted by violence and danger, and the only person who can help them is Drummond Fox who has a secret library of magical books hidden in the shadows for safekeeping, a man fleeing his own demons. Because there is a nameless evil out there that is hunting them all . . .

Because this book is worth killing for.

Addictive, brilliantly written and utterly irresistible, *The Book of Doors* is the spell-binding, mind-bending, heart-pounding new adventure that is perfect for fans of *The Binding*, *The Midnight Library* and *A Discovery of Witches* . . .

Born in Falkirk, **Gareth Brown** wanted to be a writer from a very young age. He wrote his first (unpublished) novel when in his teens and short stories while at university. For the last twenty years he has worked in the UK Civil Service and is currently Director of Screening for NHS Scotland. An inveterate traveller, he particularly relishes the experience of arriving somewhere new: those first few hours of culture shock and noise and bustle in an unfamiliar city - a passion that influenced the writing of *The Book of Doors*. Gareth Brown lives just outside Edinburgh.



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416 pages

Knife Skills for Beginners

The first novel in a gripping new cosy crime series. In this cookery school, murder is on the menu

Orlando Murrin

A locked-room cosy crime novel with a culinary twist, from a MasterChef semi-finalist. Perfect for fans of Richard Osman, Robert Thorogood and S. J. Bennett.

Richard Osman meets MasterChef. In this cookery school, murder is on the menu...

'Delicious fun!' **Tess Gerritsen**

'*Knife Skills for Beginners* is a joy.' **S. J. Bennett**

'A deliciously dark slice of murder and mystery.' **Chris Whitaker**

'If Ruth Rendall had teamed up with Delia Smith they'd have produced something like this.' **J. M. Hall**

'Dazzlingly sharp with a wit that sparkles off the page.' **Jane Corry**

A recipe for disaster.

When chef Paul Delamare takes a job teaching at an exclusive residential cookery school in Belgravia, the only thing he expects his students to murder is his taste buds. But on the first night, the unthinkable happens: someone turns up dead...

The school rests on a knife-edge.

The police are convinced Paul is the culprit. After all, he's good with a blade, was first on the scene – and everyone knows it doesn't take much to push a chef over the edge. To prove his innocence, he must find the killer. Could it be one of his students? Or the owner of the school – a woman with secrets and a murky past?

It all boils down to murder.

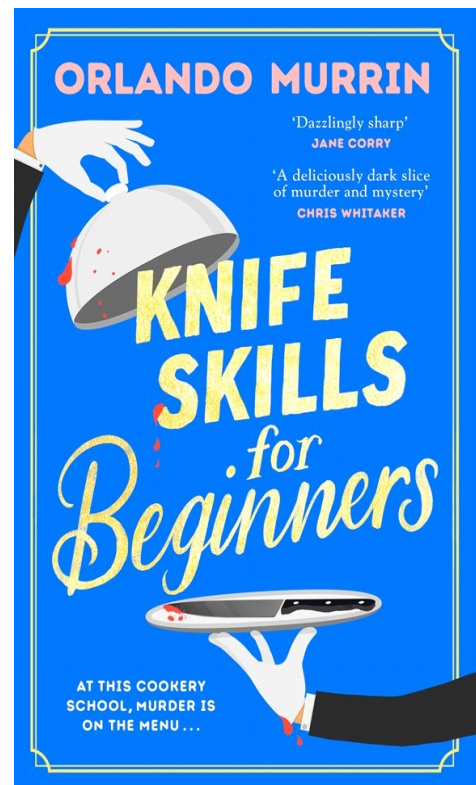
If Paul can't solve the mystery fast – as well as teach his students how to make a perfect hollandaise sauce – he'll be next to get the chop.

After being flung into the culinary limelight as a semi-finalist on *Masterchef*, Orlando Murrin edited *Woman and Home*, *BBC Good Food* and founded *Olive* magazine; then he switched track to become a chef-hotelier in SW France and Somerset.

He has written six cookbooks and is President of the Guild of Food Writers. An ever-popular guest on TV and radio, he presents the *BBC Good Food Podcast* with Tom Kerridge.

From his grandfather, a Met detective who rose to become a crack MI5 interrogator, he inherited a fascination with crime and mystery. He lives in domestic bliss in Exeter, Devon, and *Knife Skills For Beginners* is his debut novel.

You can find Orlando on Twitter @orlandomurrin, Instagram @orlandomurrinauthor or on Facebook. His website is www.orlandomurrin.com.



February 2024

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£14.99

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336 pages

The Escape Room

Squid Game meets The Traitors, a gripping debut thriller about a reality TV show that turns deadly

L. D. Smithson

A reality TV show turns into a serial killer's twisted competition. Can eight contestants solve the puzzle before it's too late?

Everything is a clue.

Bonnie arrives on a remote sea fort off the coast of England to take part in a mysterious reality TV show. Competing against seven strangers, she must solve a series of puzzles to win the prize money, but this is no game - and the consequences of failure are deadly.

No one leaves.

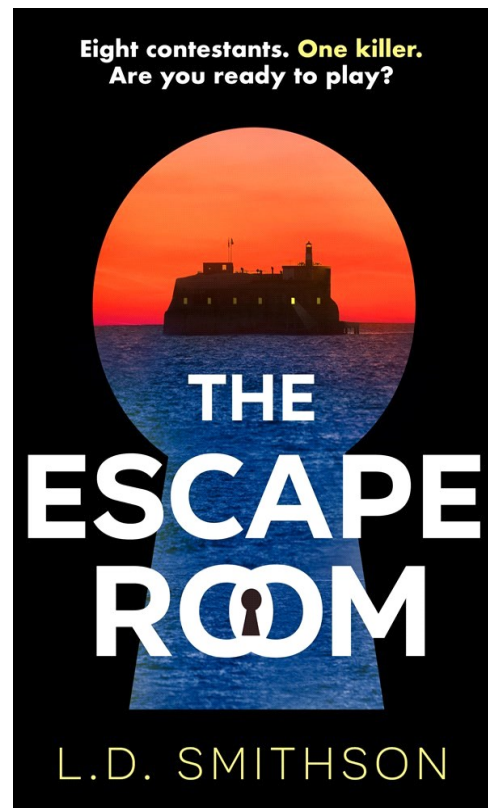
Under scrutiny from the watching public, the contestants quickly turn on one another. Who will sacrifice the most for wealth and fame? And why can't Bonnie shake the creeping sense that they are not alone?

The only way out is to win.

When the first contestant is found dead, Bonnie begins to understand the dark truth at the heart of this twisted competition: there's a killer inside the fort, and anyone could be next. If Bonnie wants to escape, she needs 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.



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432 pages

Mona of the Manor

Armistead Maupin

The long awaited tenth instalment in the internationally bestselling *Tales of the City* series.

Mona is the eccentric Lady of Easley House, running a bed and breakfast to keep her inherited English manor afloat.

Wilfred is Mona's 26-year-old adopted son who spends his weekends in London, looking for love in the gay bars of Soho while pining after his pen pal, **Michael 'Mouse' Tolliver**.

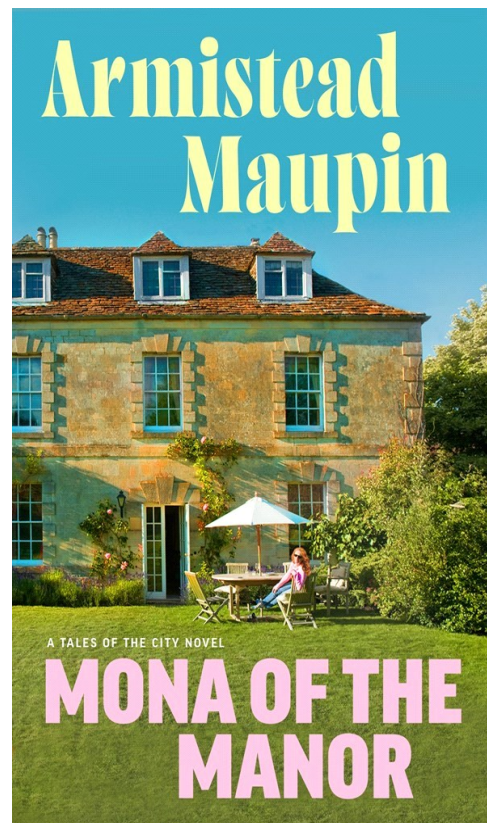
The current guest of the manor is **Rhonda**, a straight-laced southern belle who has left her abusive husband and has no idea what to do next, especially in the company of the free-spirited Mona and Wilfred.

Mona of the Manor, the tenth self-contained *Tales of the City* chronicles, is a sharply witty comedy about identity, assumptions and finding a logical family in 1980s Thatcherite Britain.

Armistead Maupin is the author of *Tales of the City*, *More Tales of the City*, *Further Tales of the City*, *Babycakes*, *Significant Others*, *Sure of You*, *Maybe the Moon*, *The Night Listener*, *Michael Tolliver Lives*, *Mary Ann in Autumn*, *The Days of Anna Madrigal* and *Mona of the Manor*. He also wrote an acclaimed memoir, *Logical Family*.

Three television miniseries starring Olympia Dukakis and Laura Linney were made from the first three *Tales* novels. *The Night Listener* became a feature film starring Robin Williams and Toni Collette. Maupin lives in London with his husband, Christopher Turner.

For more information on Armistead Maupin and his books, see his website at www.armisteadmaupin.com



March 2024
9780857527073
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256 pages

Listen for the Lie

She has no idea if she murdered her best friend – and she'd do just about anything to find out...

Amy Tintera

The dark comedy and whip-smart voice of *You* elevates the twisty suspense of Lisa Jewell's *None of This is True* in this read-until-four-am mystery thriller.

Am I a murderer? You tell me . . .

You probably already know my name. Lucy Chase, the woman who doesn't remember murdering her best friend.

Even though they couldn't find enough evidence to charge me, I know you all think I did it. That's OK. I realise being found wandering the streets the next day covered in her blood wasn't a great look.

Believe me, I'm as frustrated as you are. I'd love to know if I'm a murderer – it's the sort of thing you really *should* know about yourself, isn't it?

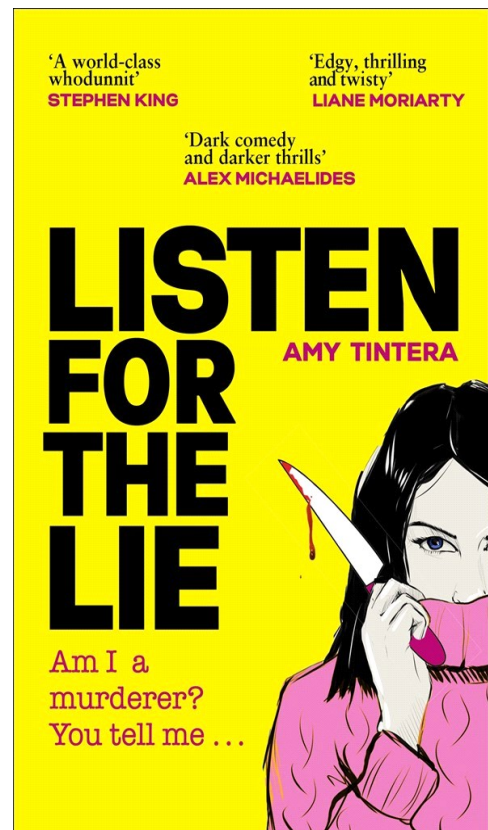
And now, thanks to true-crime podcast *Listen for the Lie*, I finally have the chance to find out. But will I be able to live with myself if it turns out it was me?

And if it wasn't, will digging into the secrets of the night I forgot make me the next target of whoever did?

Perfect for fans of None of This is True by Lisa Jewell and Murder in the Family by Cara Hunter.

Amy Tintera is the *New York Times* bestselling author of numerous novels for young adults. Her novels have been translated into 16 languages and sold into more than 20 territories. *Listen for the Lie* is her adult debut.

She earned degrees in journalism and film and worked in Hollywood before becoming an author. Raised in Austin, Texas, she frequently sets her novels in the Lone Star state.



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384 pages

The Island of Mists and Miracles

From the bestselling author of *The Mad Women's Ball*
Victoria Mas

From the author of the international bestseller, *The Mad Women's Ball*, a hugely atmospheric novel for fans of Elizabeth Strout and Annie E Proulx.

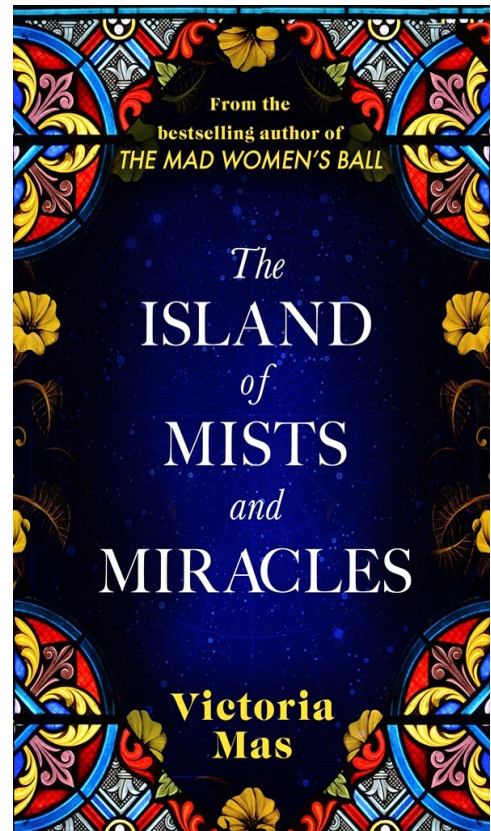
Sometimes the truth lies in the things you cannot see.

In 1830 a young novice called Catherine Labouré was granted a vision of the Virgin Mary. Nearly 200 years later, Sister Anne is also waiting for a sign. Which is why she accepts a mission to go to a tiny community on an island just off the coast of Brittany. Her only companion there is a sceptical, chain-smoking older nun who just wants to be left in peace.

On the island she meets Hugo, the son of a devout family who prefers to look for the meaning of life amid the stars; Madenn, a grandmother whose daughter was killed in a crash and who finds meaning in routine; Isaac, Madenn's grandson, an otherworldly teenager who doesn't fit in but who befriends Hugo, and Julia, a sickly child. If anyone needs a miracle, it is her.

But it is not Sister Anne who receives a vision. Instead it is Isaac who is found on a promontary, transfixed, unable to utter more than the words 'I see'. The event soon becomes headline news and the world descends on the small island, opening old wounds and unleashing a chain of events none of them could have foreseen.

The Mad Women's Ball, Victoria Mas's debut novel, has won several prizes in France (including the Prix Stanislas and Prix Renaudot des Lycéens) and was the bestselling debut of the year. Victoria has worked in film in the United States, where she lived for eight years. She graduated from the Sorbonne in Contemporary Literature. *The Mad Women's Ball* is now an Amazon Prime Video Original Film starring Mélanie Laurent and Lou de Louage.



March 2024
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Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
224 pages

Medea

A brand-new spellbinding and gripping mythical retelling for 2024

Rosie Hewlett

A dark and epic feminist retelling that boldly reclaims the myth of the most formidable and feared witch in Ancient Greece

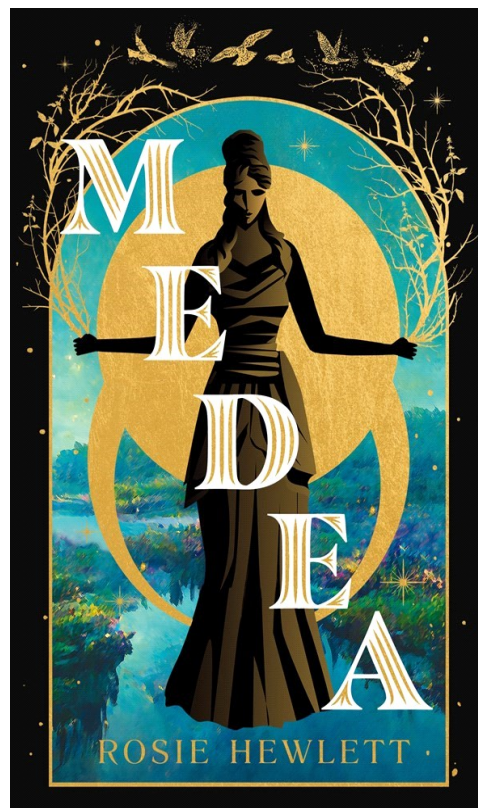
Medea longs for a different life. Since childhood, she has been separated from her sister, shunned by her mother, and persecuted and tormented by her brother and father. All because of a unique and dangerous gift: witchcraft.

But when a dashing young hero, Jason, arrives to claim the famed Golden Fleece that her father protects, Medea sees her opportunity to escape. Her offer to help Jason overcome the trials set by her father sets in motion a journey that will test every ounce of her strength, magic and loyalty; a journey that will see her battle monsters, dethrone kings and fall in love.

But when faced with the ultimate betrayal, Medea is driven to an act of desperation so brutal it rips apart the lives of everyone involved...

Having secured a First Class Honours degree in Classical Literature and Civilisation at the University of Birmingham, Rosie Hewlett has studied Greek mythology in depth and is passionate about unearthing strong female voices within the classical world. Rosie now works in the film industry where she spends her days bringing stories to life in a different way.

Her self-published debut novel, *Medusa*, won the Rubery Book of the Year award in 2021.



March 2024
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Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
432 pages

The Curse of Pietro Houdini

Derek B. Miller

The compelling and heartrending new novel from the award-winning author of *Norwegian By Night* and *How To Find Your Way In The Dark*

We will lie, cheat, steal, fight, kill, and sin our way to Napoli. We will trust no one but each other, and we will remember that in this place, at this time, there is no way to tell friend from foe.

The bombing of Rome in 1943 leaves fourteen-year-old Massimo orphaned and with no choice but to set out on a perilous journey to find his remaining family in Naples. A chance meeting with the mysterious and charismatic Pietro Houdini will deliver both of them to the doors of the monastery of Monte Cassino, a centuries-old haven of contemplation, learning and art.

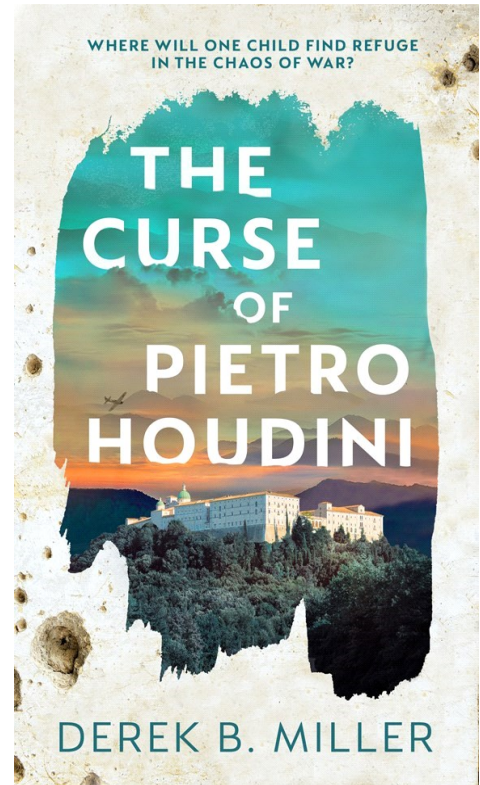
But the abbey is in the path of the relentless Allied advance to Rome. Pietro and Massimo need a plan to survive the coming onslaught and that means out-manoeuvring the Germans who are as interested in the abbey's art collection as in the murder of two of their officers in the town below.

For their plan to work, they must dissemble, disguise, and outwit two armies using skills that Pietro has in spades, but as war edges ever closer, it becomes clear that Massimo is not without a surprise or two either...

***The Curse of Pietro Houdini* is a sweeping tale of resilience, hope and survival which is at once an action-packed adventure heist, an imaginative chronicle of forgotten history and a philosophical coming-of-age story.**

Derek B. Miller is an American novelist, who worked in international affairs before turning to writing full-time. He is the author of five previous novels, all highly acclaimed: *Norwegian by Night*, *The Girl in Green*, *American by Day*, *Radio Life* and *Quiet Time* (an Audible Original). His work has been shortlisted for many awards, with *Norwegian by Night* winning the CWA John Creasey Dagger award for best first crime novel, an eDunnit Award and the Goldsboro Last Laugh Award. *How to Find Your Way in the Dark* was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award and a New York Times Best Mystery of 2021.

Miller is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College (BA), Georgetown (MA) and he earned his Ph.D. in international relations from The Graduate Institute in Geneva. He is currently connected to numerous peace and security research and policy centres in North America, Europe and Africa, and previously worked at the United Nations for over a decade. He has lived abroad for over 25 years in Israel, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Switzerland, Norway and Spain.



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384 pages

Quickly, While They Still Have Horses

Jan Carson

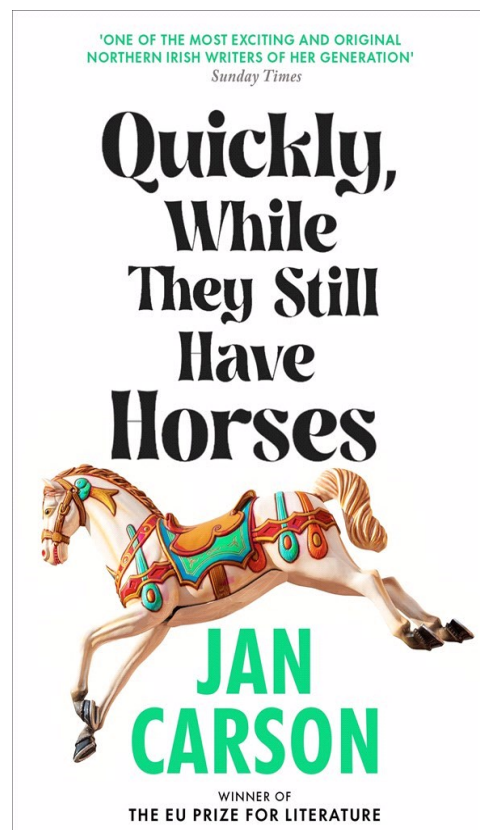
The dazzling new collection from the multi-award-winning author of *The Raptures*; bold, tender, surprising stories of youth and innocence, age and experience - and all the spaces in between.

In sixteen sparkling stories, Jan Carson introduces us to worlds and characters that feel real enough to touch. All of life is here: the thrill of growing up, the grief when youth is over; first love, mature love, parenthood and loss - all shot through with profound compassion, warm wit, and boundless imagination.

In 'A Certain Degree of Ownership', a distracted couple on a beach fail to notice their baby crawl perilously towards the sea. In 'Troubling the Water', a rumour spreads at a public swimming pool and chaos ensues. In 'Fair Play' a dishevelled father loses his two sons in an adventure park.

Every so often, an irresistible suggestion of the other world will surprise and delight, reaffirming Carson as a thrillingly original and audacious talent, and making *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses* the perfect introduction for readers new to her work.

Jan Carson is a writer and community arts facilitator based in Belfast. Her first novel, *Malcolm Orange Disappears*, was published in 2014 to critical acclaim, followed by a short-story collection, *Children's Children* (2016), and two flash fiction anthologies, *Postcard Stories* (2017) and *Postcard Stories 2* (2020). Her second novel, *The Fire Starters* (2019), won the EU Prize for Literature and was shortlisted for the Dalkey Novel of the Year Award and her third novel, *The Raptures* (2022) was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards Novel of the Year and the Kerry Group Novel of the Year. Her work has appeared in numerous journals and on BBC Radio 3 and 4. She has won the *Harper's Bazaar* short-story competition and has been shortlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award, the An Post Irish Short Story of the Year, and the Seán Ó Faoláin Short Story Prize. She specializes in running arts projects and events with older people, especially those living with dementia.



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272 pages

Take a Chance on Me

the most romantic, escapist and heart-breaking romcom of 2024

Emily Houghton

An escapist, swoon-worthy and emotional opposites attract romance - perfect for fans of Mhairi McFarlane and Beth O'Leary.

He throws caution to the wind.

Jacob Green decides where he should travel to next by a roll of the dice. He's been handing his life over to destiny for nearly five years now and has no intention of stopping.

She's likes to be in control.

Olivia Jackson wants to control everything. Living life as one big to-do list, her whole world is a series of predetermined steps to success. But after her sister tragically dies Olivia throws caution to the wind and goes travelling (albeit with a meticulously organised itinerary).

Do opposites really attract?

What Olivia doesn't plan for, however, is meeting Jacob. At first, he is infuriating. Then, to her surprise, she finds herself wishing that the only plan she cares about is when they'll meet again. But unfortunately for Olivia, the only plan Jacob is willing to make is to throw the dice and let destiny decide.

As they part ways to go on their separate journeys, two questions remain...will they ever meet again? And, when it comes to love...should matters of the heart really be left to fate?

Emily Houghton was a digital specialist, but is now a full-time creative writer. She originally comes from Essex but now lives in London. Emily is a trained yoga and spin teacher, completely obsessed with dogs and has dreamt of being an author ever since she could hold a pen.



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B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
416 pages

Clickbait

L. C. North

The darker the secret, the brighter the spotlight . . .
***Clickbait* is a sharp, propulsive thriller about ruthless ambition and the dark side of fame.**

'We're not famous anymore. We're notorious.'

For over a decade, the Lancasters were celebrity royalty, with millions tuning in every week to watch their reality show, *Living with the Lancasters*.

But then an old video emerges of one of their legendary parties. Suddenly, they're in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons: witnesses swore they'd seen missing teenager Bradley Wilcox leaving the Lancaster family home on the night of the party, but the video tells a different story.

Now true crime investigator and YouTuber Tom Isaac is on the case. He's determined to find out what really happened to Bradley - he just needs to read between the Lancasters' lies . . .

Because when the cameras are always rolling, it won't be long until someone cracks.

L.C. North studied psychology at university before pursuing a career in Public Relations. Her book club thrillers - *The Ugly Truth* and *Clickbait* - combine her love of psychology and her fascination with the celebrities in the public eye. When she's not writing, she co-hosts the crime thriller podcast, *In Suspense*. She lives on the Suffolk borders with her family. L.C. North is the pen name of Lauren North. Readers can follow her on Twitter @Lauren_C_North and Facebook @LaurenNorthAuthor.



April 2024
9781787637481
Royal Octavo
£14.99 : Hardback
400 pages

The F**k It! List

The uplifting, hilarious novel that proves the best things can come from disaster!

Melanie Cantor

Uplifting, funny and heartwarming: the story of a woman finding herself let down and alone at 40 and deciding to make some of life's big choices on her own terms.

Daisy Settle has it all. A successful interior design firm, a happy relationship, a beautiful house and adoring friends and family. The only piece left to complete the puzzle is a baby. And even that finally seems within reach. That is, until she finds her boyfriend is a cheat.

Now Daisy is 40, alone and in a world that seems built for couples.

Time for a F*** It List!

Witty and moving, this is the joyous story of a woman taking on the world on her own terms ...

Melanie Cantor worked for many years in PR and as a celebrity talent agent. She also dabbled in interior renovations, which led to her hosting the Channel 4 series *Making Space*, in which she tidied up people's messy houses. She has since concentrated on writing. Her first novel, *Life and Other Happy Endings*, was published in 2019. She has two grown-up sons and lives in Dorset and London with her dog, Mabel.



April 2024
9781529176797
B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
432 pages

The Night in Question

Susan Fletcher

**When life becomes a mystery, it's never too late to turn detective...
An absorbing whodunnit which also looks at - and celebrates - one woman's extraordinary and inspiring life.**

'A novel to treasure. Glorious – in both writing and spirit – it moved me to tears time and time again. I adored it.' Emylia Hall, author of *The Shell House Detectives*

Florence Butterfield has lived an extraordinary life full of travel, passion and adventure. But, at eighty-seven, she suspects there are no more surprises to come her way.

Then, one midsummer's night, something terrible happens - so strange and unexpected that Florrie is suspicious. Was this really an accident, or is she living alongside a would-be murderer?

The only clue is a magenta envelope, discarded earlier that day.

And Florrie - cheerfully independent but often overlooked - is the only person determined to uncover the truth.

As she turns detective, Florrie finds herself looking back on her own life . . . and a long-buried secret, traced in faded scars across her knuckles, becomes ever harder to ignore.

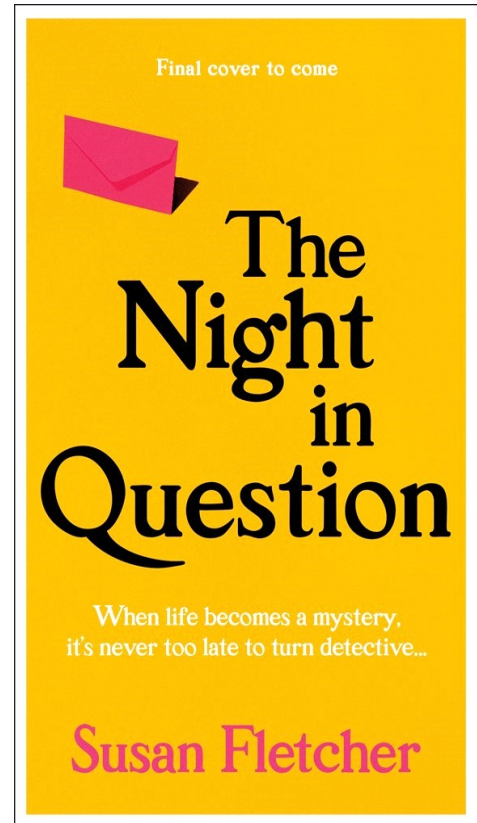
Prize-winning author Susan Fletcher's *The Night in Question* is an absorbing and uplifting whodunnit with a uniquely loveable protagonist at its heart.

'[Fletcher's] prose is extraordinarily lyrical . . . and her themes are profound.' ***Sunday Times***

'A gifted storyteller' ***Independent***

'Fletcher unpeels with delicacy and insight the complex layers of the human heart.' ***Guardian***

Susan Fletcher was born in Birmingham and studied English Literature at the University of York. Whilst taking the MA in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, she began her first novel, *Eve Green*, which won the Whitbread First Novel Award (2004) and Betty Trask Prize (2005). Since then, Susan has written seven novels - whilst also supplementing her writing through various roles, including as a barperson, a cheesemonger and a warden for an archaeological excavation site near Hadrian's Wall. Most recently, she has been a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at the University of Worcester. She lives in Warwickshire.



April 2024

9781787637412

£14.99

Demy Octavo : Hardback

448 pages

Spitting Gold

An irresistible gothic novel about sisterhood, seances and sapphic love

Carmella Lowkis

An atmospheric, irresistible gothic historical debut set in 19th century Paris, following two con-artist sisters who pose as gifted mediums to pull off one last job . . .

'A compelling and atmospheric story of sisterhood and female agency, SPITTING GOLD is an evocative gothic tale where nothing is quite what it seems.' - Susan Stokes-Chapman, author of *PANDORA*

Paris, 1866. When Baroness Sylvie Devereux receives a house-call from Charlotte Mothe, the sister she disowned, she fears her shady past as a spirit medium has caught up with her. But with their father ill and Charlotte unable to pay his bills, Sylvie is persuaded into one last con.

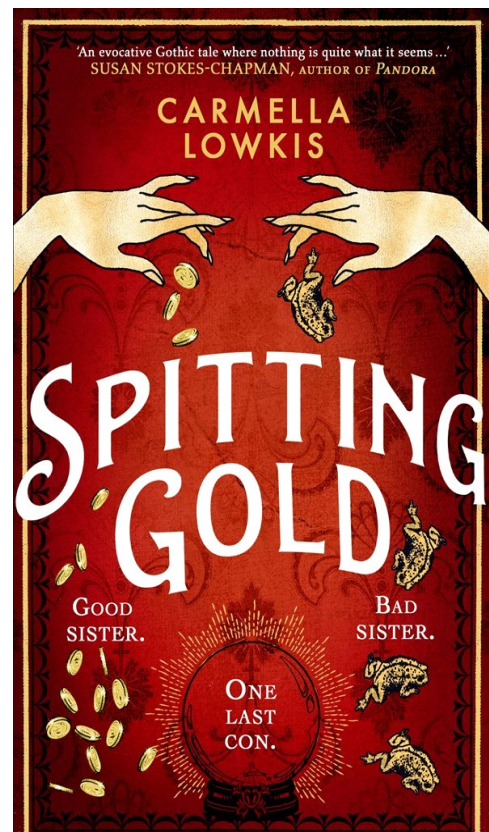
Their marks are the de Jacquinots: dysfunctional aristocrats who believe they are haunted by their great aunt, brutally murdered during the French Revolution.

Sylvie and Charlotte will need to deploy every trick to terrify the family out of their gold – until they experience inexplicable horrors themselves.

The sisters start to question if they really are at the mercy of a vengeful spirit. And what other deep, dark secrets threaten to come to light...?

***Spitting Gold* is a darkly atmospheric and propulsive historical debut that twists and turns, blending gothic mystery with a captivating sapphic romance**

Carmella Lowkis grew up in Wiltshire and has a degree in English literature and Creative Writing from the University of Warwick, where she was mentored by *Sunday Times* bestselling author Sarah Moss. After graduating, she worked in libraries, before moving into book marketing. Carmella lives in North London with her girlfriend. You can follow her on Twitter @carmellalowkis. *Spitting Gold* is her first novel.



April 2024
9780857529466
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
336 pages

Goodbye Birdie Greenwing

Ericka Waller

From the author of *DOG DAYS*, a funny, emotional novel about three women made lonely by circumstance, made rich by new friends. For fans of *Lenni and Margot* and the novels of Joanna Cannon.

Birdie, Ada and Jane are all lost. Life has not turned out as they planned, and all three of them are scared to ask for help, to say yes - or to say no. To take a chance on someone else.

Birdie Greenwing has been at a loose end ever since her beloved twin sister and husband passed away eight years previously. Too proud and stubborn to admit she is lonely, Birdie's world has shrunk.

Jane Brown hoped moving to Brighton would be a new start, away from her overbearing mother. While she finds it hard to stand up for herself, her daughter Frankie has no problem telling people what she does and doesn't want.

Ada Kowalski thought training to become an Oncologist in England would be a dream come true. In reality she is isolated, exhausted, the professional detachment she has had to develop now threatens to take over her life.

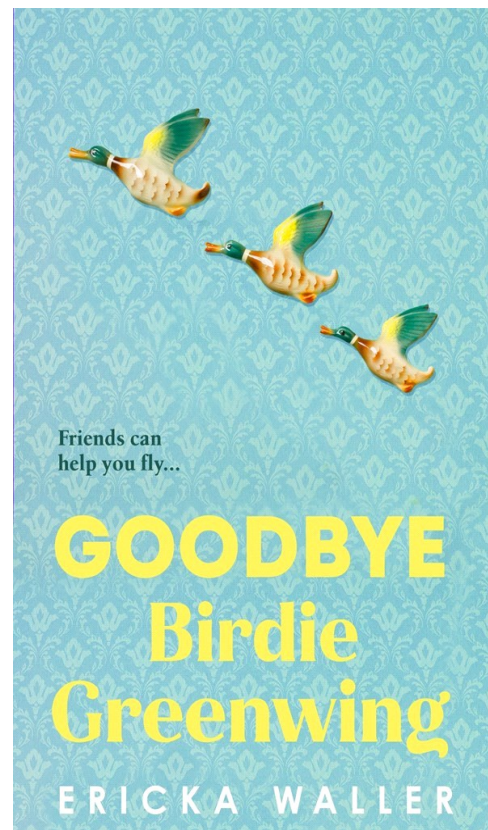
When a series of incidents brings their lives crashing together, these three unlikely allies find that there's always more to a person than meets the eye.

Goodbye Birdie Greenwing celebrates female relationships in all their forms. It explores what being a mother means. It is a story about the choices we make and how we justify them. About finding out who we are, not who other people think we should be.

Ericka Waller lives in Brighton with her husband, three daughters and dogs. Previously, she worked as a blogger and columnist. Her first novel, *Dog Days*, was widely praised by authors and reviewers alike. *Goodbye Birdie Greenwing* is her second novel.

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Website: www.erickawaller.com



April 2024
9780857527257
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
320 pages

Love In Provence

Jo Thomas

The *perfect* escape to take you away from it all – sunshine, food and romance among the lavender fields of Provence. Jo Thomas' new summer novel is a follow-up to her no.1 bestseller *Escape to the French Farmhouse*.

In the beautiful lavender fields of Provence, harvest season – the busiest time of the year – is about to start. Del is looking forward to a new group of pickers arriving from all over the world to help out at her little lavender farm. But just as they're due to appear, some bad news turns her world upside down.

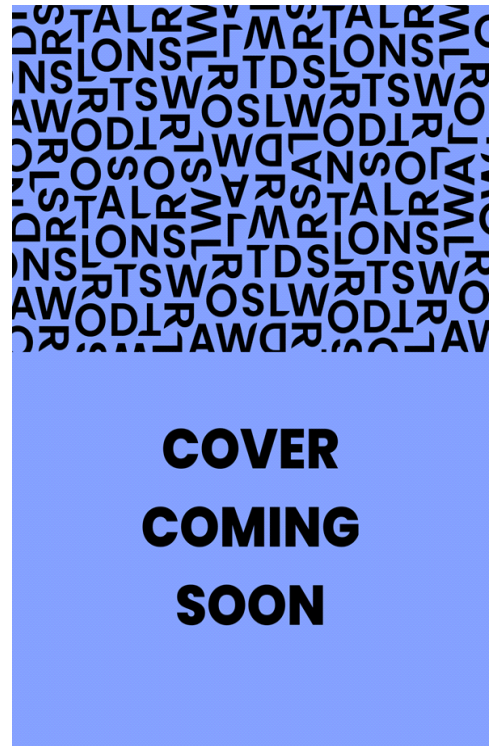
Then Del's partner Fabien is given the chance to rejoin his old band for one last tour – and Del wants him to seize the day. But is sending him away the right decision?

As the pickers arrive and the harvest gets underway, Del feels the mounting pressure of trying to keep everyone happy. Even her cooking – the thing she loves best – is suffering. Until the pickers, missing home and keen to find comfort through a home-cooked meal, share their recipes with her . . . and a supper club is born.

After all that's happened, will the community come together once more? And when Fabian makes an unexpected return, will Del finally get her happily ever after?

Jo Thomas worked for many years as a reporter and producer, including time at Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* and Radio 2's *The Steve Wright Show*.

Jo's debut novel, *The Oyster Catcher*, was a runaway bestseller and won both the RNA Joan Hessayon Award and the Festival of Romance Best eBook Award. Her recent book *Escape to the French Farmhouse* was a #1 bestselling eBook and in every one of her novels Jo loves to explore new countries and discover the food produced there, both of which she thoroughly enjoys researching. Jo lives in Pembrokeshire with her husband and three children, where cooking and gathering around the kitchen table are a hugely important and fun part of their family life.



April 2024
9780857505781
Royal Octavo
£20.00 : Hardback
364 pages

The Other Tenant

Lesley Kara

The *Queen of the killer twist* is back in this gripping closed-circle thriller about an unusual home full of strangers, with a murderer in their midst . . .

THE TWISTY NEW THRILLER FROM THE *SUNDAY TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE RUMOUR*

'DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE'

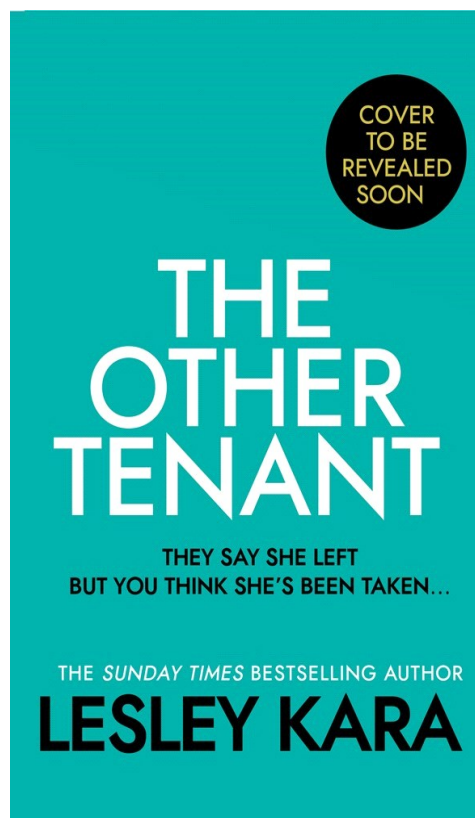
Marlow has always lived in unusual places. But when she accepts a vacancy as a property guardian, she finds herself moving back to a place she swore she'd never return to.

Right from the start, she knows it's a terrible mistake. Something sinister is happening on the site - the previous tenant, Hayley, has disappeared without warning, and Marlow suspects the other guardians know far more than they're letting on. She's determined to find out what happened to Hayley, but which of these strangers can she trust?

And what secrets from Marlow's own past are about to make things even worse?

Lesley Kara is the *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Rumour*, *Who Did You Tell?*, *The Dare* and *The Apartment Upstairs*. *The Rumour* was the highest selling crime fiction debut of 2019 in the UK, and a Kindle No.1 bestseller. Lesley is an alumna of the Faber Academy 'Writing a Novel' course. She lives in Suffolk.

You can follow Lesley on Twitter @LesleyKara or visit her website at www.lesleykara.com



April 2024
9781787636125
Royal Octavo
£14.99 : Hardback
352 pages

How to Age Disgracefully

The funny and uplifting new novel from the bestselling author of *The Authenticity Project*
Clare Pooley

When age makes you invisible, secrets are easier to hide

Lydia imagines her new job running a Senior Citizen's Social Club three afternoons a week will involve drinking tea while playing gentle games of cards, listening to The Beatles and reminiscing about food rationing and The Blitz.

She does not expect to find a failed actor addicted to shoplifting, a woman who's been hiding from a mysterious and very chequered past, and a prolific yarn-bomber. It turns out that their ideas about how to spend their afternoons are very different.

After a tragic accident means the council threatens to sell the community centre, the Social Club, aided by their friends in the nursery next door and a geriatric orphaned mongrel, set out to save it.

They might not be able to save the hall, but they might just save each other - if their pasts don't catch up with them first...

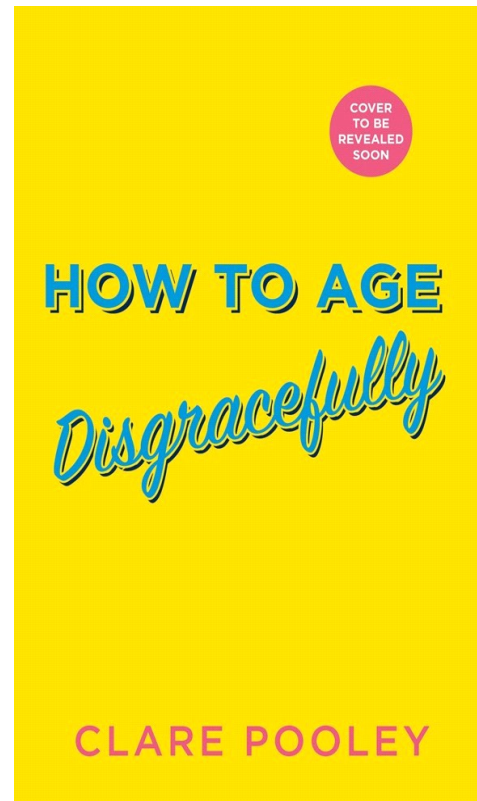
Clare Pooley graduated from Newnham College, Cambridge and spent twenty years in the heady world of advertising, before becoming a full-time writer.

Clare's dark but hilarious memoir, *The Sober Diaries*, has helped thousands of people around the world to quit drinking.

The Authenticity Project, Clare's debut novel, was a BBC Radio 2 bookclub pick, a *New York Times* bestseller, the winner of the RNA debut novel award and a Babelio award. It's been translated into 29 languages.

The People on Platform 5 is Clare's second novel, inspired by her fascination with inventing stories about her fellow passengers on her commute to work.

Clare lives in Fulham, London with her husband, three children and two border terriers.



April 2024

9781787637146

£14.99

Demy Octavo : Hardback

364 pages

Earth

John Boyne

From internationally bestselling author John Boyne, an inescapably gritty story about one young man whose direction in life takes a vastly different turn than what he expected.

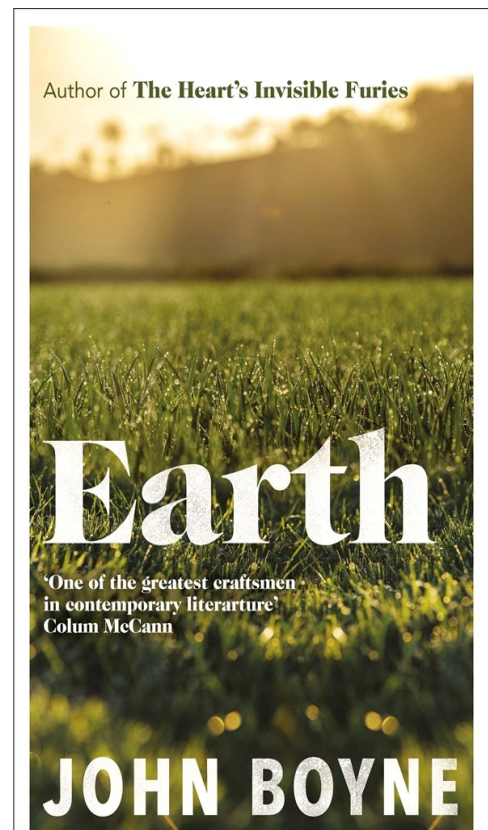
It's the tabloid sensation of the year: two well-known footballers standing in the dock, charged with sexual assault, a series of vile text messages pointing towards their guilt.

As the trial unfolds, Evan Keogh reflects on the events that have led him to this moment. Since leaving his island home, his life has been a lie on many levels. He's a talented footballer who wanted to be an artist. A gay man in a sport that rejects diversity. A defendant whose knowledge of what took place on that fateful night threatens more than just his freedom or career.

The jury will deliver a verdict but, before they do, Evan must judge for himself whether the man he has become is the man he wanted to be.

John Boyne is the author of fourteen novels for adults, six for younger readers, and a collection of short stories. His 2006 novel *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* has sold more than 11 million copies worldwide and has been adapted for cinema, theatre, ballet, and opera. His many international bestsellers include *The Heart's Invisible Furies* and *A Ladder to the Sky*. He has won four Irish Book Awards, including Author of the Year in 2022, along with a host of other international literary prizes. His novels are published in fifty-eight languages.

Twitter: @JohnBoyneBooks
Instagram: @JohnBoyneAuthor



May 2024
9780857529831
Demy Octavo
£12.99 : Hardback
176 pages

The Big House

Lissa Evans

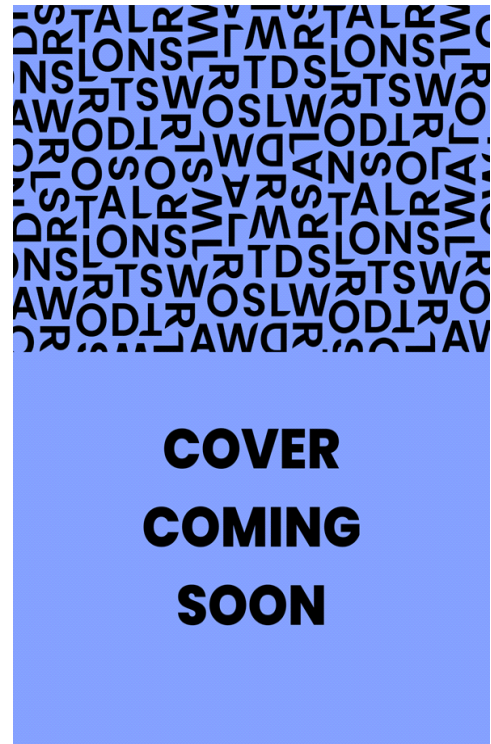
The newest novel by the brilliant Lissa Evans, a historical fiction tale about a family and their country house needing to change with the times in the aftermath of the Second World War.

It's 1945, there's a brand-new Labour government, and Valentine Vere-Thissett, aged 23, is returning home from an undistinguished war, spent in the ranks. But following the death of his heroic older brother, and to his horror, Valentine is now *Sir* Valentine, seventh Baronet and extremely reluctant heir to Dimperly Manor, a gigantic liability, devoid of income, sodden with debt and half-filled with stuffed animals and dependent relatives – the latter intent on clinging to an impossibly outdated way of life.

Despite Valentine's efforts, it takes an outsider to finally work out that Dimperly can only be saved when the inhabitants accept that the world has changed irrevocably, and that they must make at least a tiny attempt to change with it...

Brilliantly plotted and deeply touching, *The Big House* is a both a love story and a sharply-observed portrait of era of seismic change, which will delight all those fans who have loved *Old Baggage*, *V for Victory* and *Their Finest Hour and a Half*.

Lissa Evans has written books for both adults and children, including the bestselling *Old Baggage*, *Their Finest Hour and a Half*, longlisted for the Orange Prize, *Small Change for Stuart*, shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal and the Costa Book Awards amongst others, and *Crooked Heart*, longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction.



May 2024
9780857528292
Demy Octavo
£18.99 : Hardback
384 pages

Moon Road

Exquisite portrait of marriage, divorce and reconciliation, for fans of OH WILLIAM

Sarah Leipziger

For fans of **Elizabeth Strout** and **Barbara Kingsolver**: Beautifully observed **portrait of marriage, divorce and reconciliation** as a couple go on **a road trip to uncover the mystery** of their daughter who went missing decades before.

As they drive, argue, eat, drink, weep and reminisce, a story of aching loss and enduring love unfurls.

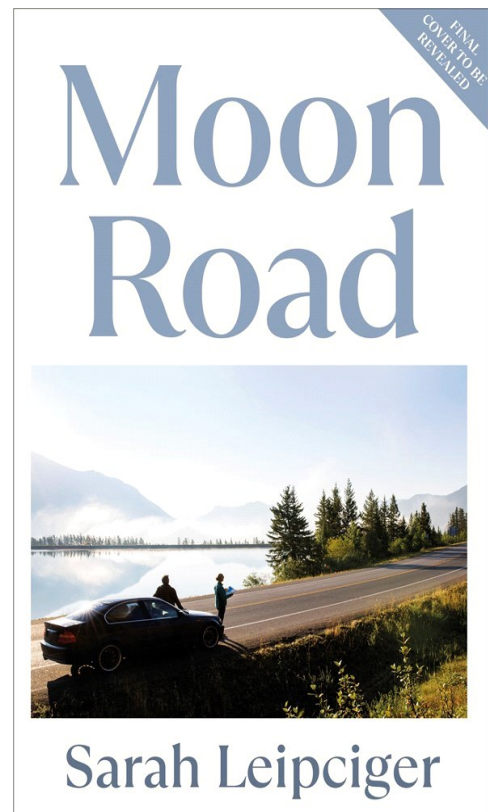
Kathleen and Yannick have not spoken for nineteen years, not since their daughter Una disappeared. Now, there's news from the other side of the country, and the call for a journey they can only make together.

A road trip of two thousand miles leads them through the magnificent landscapes, mountains and lakes of Canada - and back into the past. As they drive, argue, eat, drink, weep and reminisce, a story of aching loss and enduring love unfurls.

From their electrifying first encounter to the quiet implosion of their marriage, Kathleen and Yannick revisit the heartache, the anger and the utter devastation of losing a child, as well as the profound connection and familiarity they share, the love that never really went away.

In prose that dazzles on every page, Leipziger maps the majestic vistas of the natural world and the intimate terrains of the ageing body and soul with exquisite insight and compassion.

Born and raised in Canada, Sarah Leipziger lives in London with her three children, and teaches creative writing in London prisons and at City Lit. Her short fiction has been shortlisted for the Asham Award, the Fish Prize and the Bridport Prize. She is the author of the critically acclaimed THE MOUNTAIN CAN WAIT (2015) and COMING UP FOR AIR (2020). MOON ROAD is her third novel.



May 2024
9780857526533
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
320 pages

When We Were Silent

Fiona McPhillips

A major upmarket thriller launch: a woman finally gets the chance to speak out against her elite Dublin school, exposing a culture of silence, corruption and abuse of power.

"I'm not here for prestige. I'm here for revenge."

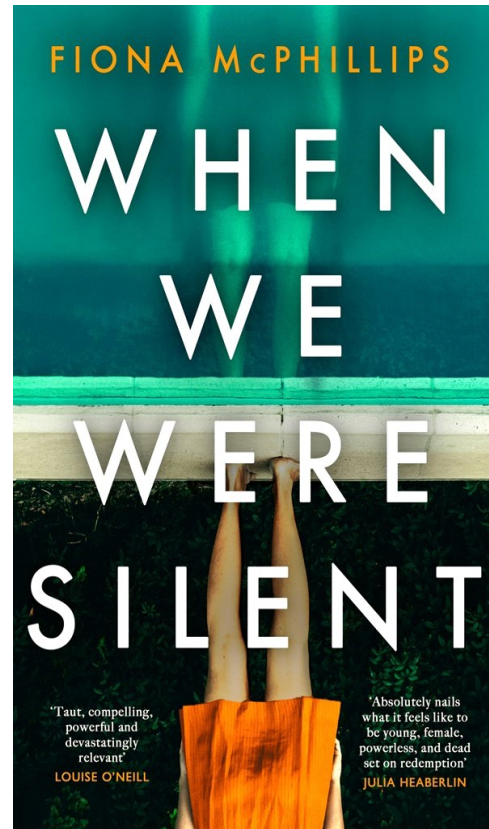
Lou Manson is an outsider when she joins the final-year class at Highfield Manor, Dublin's most exclusive private school. Beyond the granite pillars and the wrought-iron gates is a world of wealth, privilege and potential. But Highfield is also hiding a dark secret – and Lou is here to expose it.

When Lou befriends the beautiful and talented Shauna Power, her plans are thrown into turmoil. Speaking out against the school would mean betraying Shauna, and Lou soon discovers that the Highfield elite will go to any lengths to protect their own reputation...even when the consequences are fatal.

Thirty years later, Lou is called to testify in a new lawsuit against Highfield. But telling the truth means confronting her past – and there is one story she swore she'd never tell...

Fiona McPhillips is an Irish journalist, author, and screenwriter. She is an editor at The Forge literary magazine and her own work has appeared in The Manchester Review, Hobart and Barren Magazine, among others. *When We Were Silent*, the runner-up for the 2021 Crime Writers' Association Debut Dagger, is her debut novel.

Fiona lives in Dublin with her three kids, two cats and a dog.



May 2024
9781787637375
Royal Octavo
£14.99 : Hardback
400 pages

Invasion

(Luke Carlton 4)

Frank Gardner

One of the bestselling names in the British spy thriller firmament, BBC security correspondent Frank Gardner's new novel sees MI6 operative Luke Carlton racing against time and the odds to prevent the next geo-political cataclysm: China's invasion of Taiwan.

2024, and China is massing troops on its coast across the Strait from Taiwan. This time it looks like they're serious about invasion - an act that would result in war between the People's Republic and the US and its allies, including the UK.

But Britain's Secret Intelligence Service has an agent in play: someone close to the top of the Chinese Communist Party and who's ready to pass on vital secrets that could defuse the escalating situation. But as the handover takes place in a Hong Kong back street cafe, the agent's MI6 handler is snatched before she can transmit the data back to London and disappears. There are few clues as to who might be responsible. Is it China's infamous state security agency, the MSS? Or has another, less predictable player entered the game?

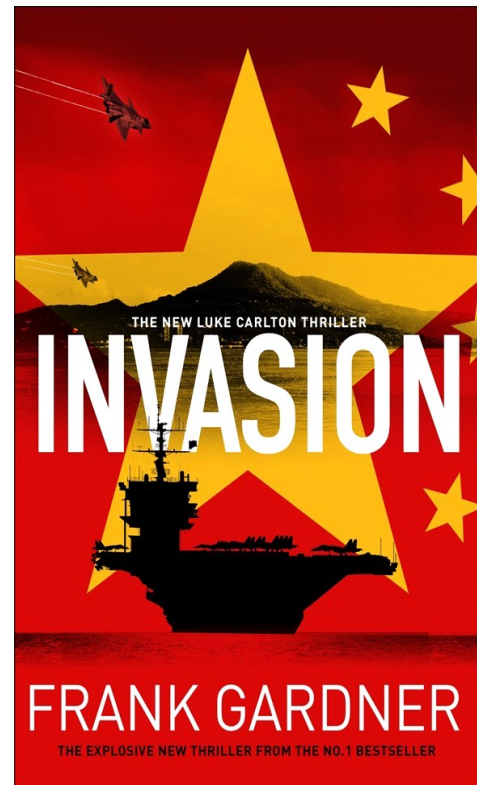
MI6 field operative Luke Carlton is despatched to track down the missing agent. Accompanying him is his Mandarin-speaking colleague, the highly capable Jenny Li. But as they follow a succession of tip-offs that take them from shady Macau casinos to tawdry night clubs, Luke begins to sense that something's not right - that they are being deliberately strung along.

As the clock ticks, global tensions heighten and the two SIS operatives have traced their target to Taiwan - a country frantically preparing for imminent invasion. And there, in a remote mountain temple hideaway, Luke and Jenny stumble across what's *really* going on.

But China's People's Liberation Army has already begun to flex its hi-tech muscles, in Taiwan and closer to home, and suddenly the world is holding its breath . . .

'Grips from the very first page . . . this is thriller writing of a high order . . . Gardner steadily ratchets up the tension, peppering the narrative with nuggets of expertise to make an enthralling, intelligent read.' Adam LeBor, *FINANCIAL TIMES* (about *Outbreak*)

Born in 1961, Frank Gardner has been the BBC's Security Correspondent since 2002. He holds a degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies. In 2004, while filming in Saudi Arabia, he was ambushed by terrorists, shot multiple times and left for dead. He survived and returned to active news reporting within a year. He still travels extensively. Awarded an OBE in 2005 for services to journalism, Frank published his bestselling memoir, *Blood and Sand*, in 2006. His first novel, the thriller *Crisis*, which introduced readers to SIS operative Luke Carlton, was a No.1 bestseller. The second Luke Carlton thriller, *Ultimatum*, was also a *Sunday Times* top 10 bestseller, as was the third, *Outbreak*. Frank Gardner lives in London.



May 2024

9781787635470

£18.99

Royal Octavo : Hardback
320 pages

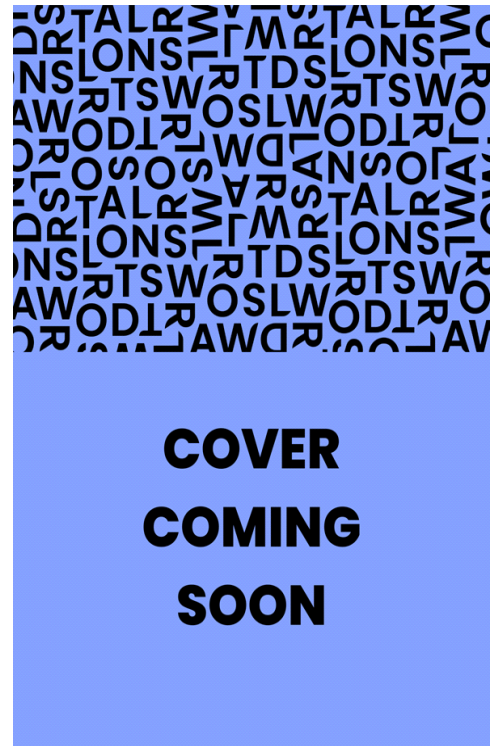
The Stiletto Artist

From the author of the bestselling THE PARTISAN
Patrick Worrall

The prequel to break-out debut phenomenon Patrick Worrall's *The Partisan*. A white-knuckle ride into the dark heart of Europe after the Second World War, taking partisan and would-be assassin Greta from the smouldering ruins of Germany to the glamour and corruption of France's glittering Côte d'Azur. With Soviet Russia on the march, how can she protect her homeland?

It's 1951 and the forces of Joseph Stalin are closing in on a brave band of resistance fighters holding out in the dark forests of Lithuania. One must escape the net: Greta, best and bravest of the partisans. Her mission is to cross the Iron Curtain and find new allies in the fight against Soviet rule. But the West is full of thieves and killers too, and they are harder to spot...

Patrick Worrall was educated in Worcestershire and King's College, Cambridge. He has worked as a teacher in eastern Europe and Asia, a newspaper journalist, a court reporter at the Old Bailey and the head of Channel 4 News's FactCheck blog. ***The Partisan*** is his first novel.



May 2024
9781787635807
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
416 pages

Sandwich

From the much-loved author of *We All Want Impossible Things*

Catherine Newman

One week in Cape Cod. The perfect family holiday. What could possible go wrong... From the author of *We All Want Impossible Things*, a raucously funny novel with an unexpected punch about being 'sandwiched' between growing children and ageing parents and the power of change.

***"Oh, honey," I say. "I'm sorry. Don't worry about me! I'm totally good. I'm so, so happy to be here with you."
This is how it is to love somebody. You tell them the truth. You lie a little. And sometimes you don't say anything at all..."***

From the bestselling author of *WE ALL WANT IMPOSSIBLE THINGS*
(Richard & Judy Book Club 2023)

For the past two decades, Rocky has looked forward to her family's yearly escape to Cape Cod. Their rustic beach-town rental has been the site of sweet memories, its quirky furniture and mismatched pots and pans greeted like old friends.

Now, sandwiched between her children who are adult enough to be fun but still young enough to need her, and her parents who are alive and healthy, Rocky wants to preserve this golden moment forever. This one precious week when everything is in balance; everything is in flux.

But every family has its secrets and hers is no exception. With her body in open revolt and surprises invading her peaceful haven, the perfectly balanced seesaw of Rocky's life is tipping towards change...

Praise for Catherine Newman's *WE ALL WANT IMPOSSIBLE THINGS*:

'Nora-Ephron-style wit ... one of my favourite books ever' MARIAN KEYES

'Newman writes loss and laughter in equally brilliant amounts.' BONNIE GARMUS

'An unbelievably brilliant and funny book about friendship, family, food, sex, and death.' KATHERINE HEINY

Catherine Newman is the author of the memoirs *Catastrophic Happiness* and *Waiting for Birdy*, and the bestselling children's book *How to be a Person*. She writes the etiquette column for *Real Simple* magazine, and is a regular contributor to the *New York Times*, *O, The Oprah Magazine*, *Parents* magazine, and many other publications. She lives in Amherst, Massachusetts, with her family.



June 2024

9780857529923

£16.99

Demy Octavo : Hardback
256 pages

Someone in the Attic

The gripping, twisty new thriller from the Sunday Times bestselling author of *No One Saw a Thing*

Andrea Mara

Everyone has heard noises in the attic, but what if your worst fear came true? Get ready for the biggest thriller of the year.

Andrea Mara's previous novel, *No One Saw a Thing*, was a break-out bestseller:

- One of the fastest-selling crime novels of the year
- An instant No.1 bestseller in Kindle and in Ireland
- 3 weeks in the top 3 of the Original Fiction chart in Ireland
- Shortlisted for Irish Crime Novel of the Year
- More than 100,000 copies sold in just thirteen weeks

Now she's back with your new obsession...

You thought you were home alone. Think again...

Anya is enjoying a relaxing bath when she hears a noise in the roof. Through the open bathroom door, she sees the attic hatch swing open, and a masked figure drops to the floor. Thirty seconds later, Anya is dead.

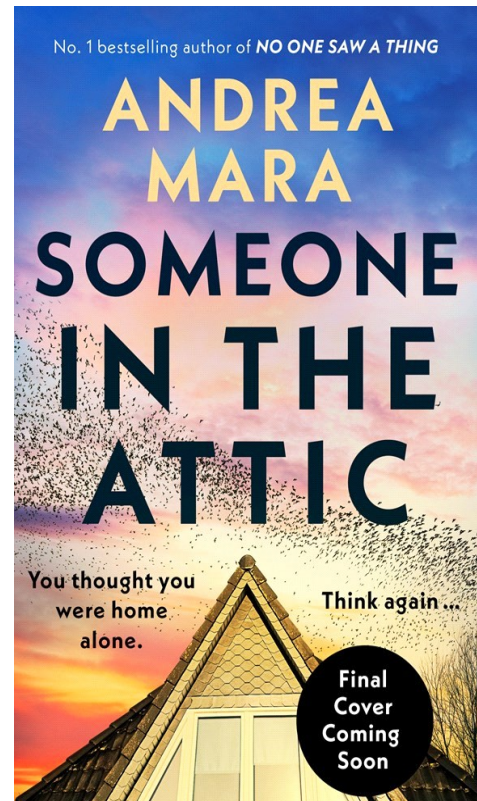
You're not afraid of being alone in the dark. You're afraid you're *not* alone.

Across town, Anya's old school friend, Julia, sees an online video of a masked figure climbing out of an attic. She suddenly realises why the footage is eerily familiar: it was filmed inside her house in a luxury gated community, designed to keep intruders out.

And now your worst fears are coming true.

Why would a stranger target Julia? Unless of course, it's not a stranger at all.

Andrea Mara is a *Sunday Times* and *Irish Times* top ten bestselling author, and has been shortlisted for a number of awards, including Irish Crime Novel of the Year. She lives in Dublin, Ireland, with her husband and three young children, and also runs multi-award-winning parent and lifestyle blog, *OfficeMum.ie*. *No One Saw a Thing*, her most recent novel, sold more than 100,000 copies in thirteen weeks and became an instant No.1 Kindle and Irish bestseller.



June 2024

9781787636521

£14.99

Royal Octavo : Hardback
400 pages

Look On the Bright Side

A fake dating summer romance guaranteed to make you laugh and cry, from the bestselling author of TikTok sensation *Pack up the Moon*

Kristan Higgins

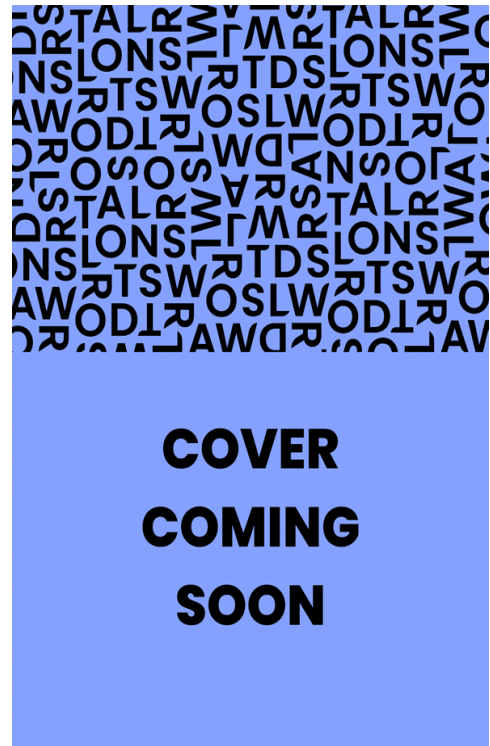
From the author of TikTok sensation *PACK UP THE MOON* comes a funny and deeply moving fake-dating summer romance.

Lark Smith is planning a fairytale wedding to her high school sweetheart when in the blink of an eye, everything she's dreamed of is suddenly gone. That day, Lark decided the best way to deal with loss was to prevent others from ever having to. Five years later that goal of becoming a doctor - the *best* doctor - is just within reach when, without warning, she's fired.

Now, getting back on track means making a deal with the devil. Well, not exactly, even if they do call renowned surgeon Lorenzo Santini "Dr Satan" behind his back. He'll use his influence to get her back in the program. But first, Lark has to pose as his significant other all summer...his sister is getting married, and he doesn't want his 99-year-old grandmother spending her precious time worrying over his single state. What Lark *doesn't* realize is she's already met Lorenzo's brother Dante, the firefighter who was there on Lark's worst day. The brothers couldn't be more different...which is becoming a problem, because the last thing Lark wants is to fall in love again.

While spinning white lies during one unforgettable Cape Cod summer, Lark is exposed to the truth: when life throws you in the dark, love, friends and family are there to help you look on the bright side.

Kristan Higgins is the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Publishers Weekly* bestselling author of more than twenty novels, which have been translated into more than two dozen languages and have sold millions of copies worldwide. The happy mother of two snarky and well-adjusted adults lives in Connecticut with her heroic firefighter husband, cuddly dog, and indifferent cat.



June 2024
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B Format (TW)
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400 pages

Arthur

Giles Kristian

The author of the *Sunday Times* bestselling *Lancelot* brings his acclaimed re-imagining of Britain's most iconic legend to a thrilling close with the story of the warrior and warlord at its heart . . . **Arthur, the Never King.**

Years have passed since the clash of shieldwalls echoed across the land. The Saxons are now the lords of Britain. And yet the bards still sing of Arthur - 'In our darkest time, when we need him most, shall he come again.'

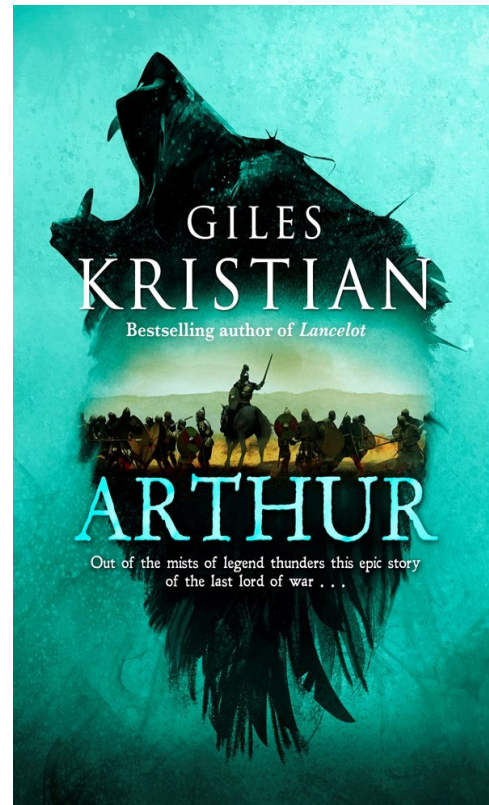
Yet old Beran has no love of bards' songs. Nor of people, unless they are paying him to steal or kill. He is a mercenary, in the employ of the cutthroat Nabor ap Nabor, and he has been ordered to murder a boy fleeing a burning city. No ordinary boy either. No, this boy is the son of King Constantine and the grandson of High King Ambrosius. And he could be the hope of Britain . . . if he lives.

Betraying his companions and returning to a world he thought he had left forever, Beran gives his word that he will take the boy to the one place that still holds out against the Saxons: Camelot.

Crossing a hostile land, they will meet the runaway lovers, Tristan and Isolde. They will seek the help of Guivret, called the Little King, and the Saracen, Palamedes, who once rode beneath Arthur's banner.

Hunted by Saxons, Nabor ap Nabor, and Queen Morgana, this unlikely band must fight for their lives and for each other. For if there's to be any hope for Britain, Beran must deliver the boy to Camelot. But to do that, he must also face his own past . . .

Family history (he is half Norwegian) and a passion for the fiction of Bernard Cornwell inspired **GILES KRISTIAN** to write. Set in the Viking world, his bestselling 'Raven' and 'The Rise of Sigurd' trilogies have been acclaimed by his peers, reviewers and readers alike. In *The Bleeding Land* and *Brothers' Fury*, he tells the story of a family torn apart by the English Civil War. He also co-wrote Wilbur Smith's No.1 bestseller, *Golden Lion*. With his *Sunday Times* bestseller *Lancelot*, Giles plunged into the rich waters of the Arthurian legend. *Camelot*, continued his epic reimagining of our greatest island 'history'. His most recent novel is the contemporary thriller, *Where Blood Runs Cold*.



June 2024
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Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
320 pages

Freakslaw

A gaudy queer carnival horror with sex, drugs and magic revenge

Jane Flett

Sex, drugs and dark magic abound in this queer literary horror debut about a funfair who arrive in a small Scottish town ready to wreak havoc, seduce the locals, and get revenge . . .

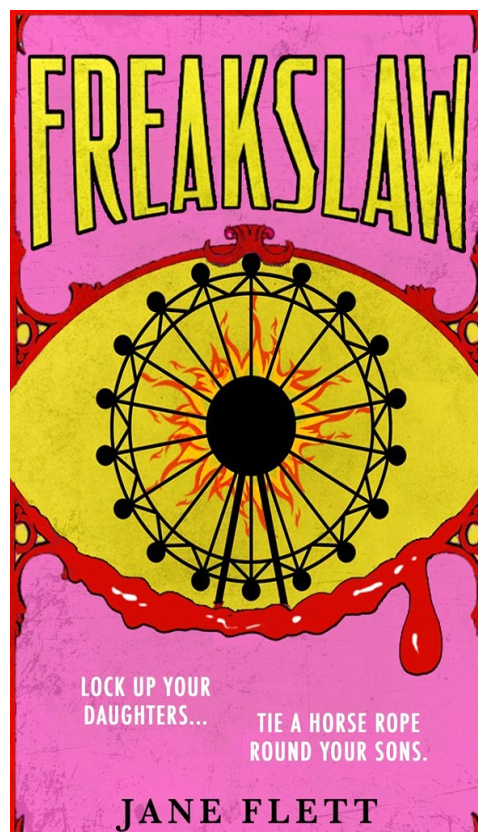
Roll up, roll up and enter the Freakslaw . . . if you dare?

It's the summer of '97 and the repressed Scottish town of Pitlaw is itching for change. Enter the Freakslaw: a travelling funfair populated by deviant contortionist witches, glittering drag queens, powerful fortune tellers, and freaks of every description. It doesn't take long for them to infiltrate Pitlaw's grey world: the fat lady feasts in the caff, the sword swallower causes mischief in the pub, the human werewolf indulges in a shampoo and set in the local salon. And slowly but surely, the town's teenagers are seduced by neon charms and the prospect of escape.

But beneath it all, the Freakslaw has a darker desire: revenge. And when tensions reach fever pitch between the stoic locals and the dazzling intruders, Pitlaw lets loose with a violence that's been simmering for centuries. Those caught in the middle must decide what they are prepared to sacrifice to get the lives they've always desired.

Lock up your daughters. Tie a horse rope round your sons. The Freakslaw is in town.

Jane Flett is a Scottish writer who lives in Berlin. Her fiction has been commissioned for BBC Radio 4, featured in Electric Literature's Recommended Reading, Highly Commended in the Bridport Prize and performed at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. She's a recipient of the Scottish Book Trust New Writer Award, the New Orleans Writing Residency and the Berlin Senate Stipend for non-German literature. Jane's work has been published widely online and in print, including in *Gutter*, *Neon*, and *New Writing Scotland*. She is one half of the riot grrrl band Razor Cunts and a founder of Queer Stories Berlin. *Freakslaw* is her first novel.



June 2024
9780857529541
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
304 pages

Imposter Syndrome

Joseph Knox

Lynch, a mysterious grifter, is enlisted by the wealthy Pierce family to impersonate their missing son so they can find out what really happened to Heydon. A gripping, pacey thriller from acclaimed author Joseph Knox.

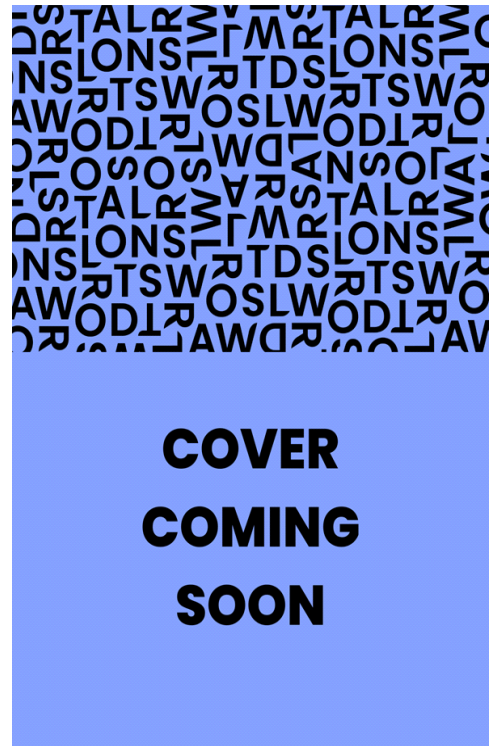
Lynch arrives in London, looking over his shoulder for a past he cannot escape. His phone is dead, he has no money, no contacts. He is alone. Until he runs into a wealthy young woman, Bobbie Pierce, who mistakes him for her brother, Heydon, who disappeared 5 years ago without a trace. The resemblance is striking. Or so she says.

At her suggestion, Lynch goes to the luxurious Pierce family home, posing as Heydon to try and con some money out of them. But far from succeeding, his subterfuge is instantly discovered, forcing him into a devil's bargain – their silence for his cooperation in finding out what really happened to Heydon.

But Lynch's investigation goes too deep and soon reveals the dark world in which Heydon Pierce was immersed - and the dangerous and powerful people who hunt there. It seems that everyone has good reasons to keep Heydon buried in the past. In such a conspiracy of mirrors, just one thing is certain: the only person he can trust is himself.

Like its award-winning predecessor, *True Crime Story*, *Imposter Syndrome* takes the reader on a dizzying journey into a landscape where the difference between fact and fiction is almost impossible to distinguish. It thrillingly confirms Joseph Knox as one of the most innovative and daring of the UK's contemporary crime writers.

Joseph Knox was born and raised in and around Stoke and Manchester, where he worked in bars and bookshops before moving to London. Now living in Shropshire, Joseph runs, writes and reads compulsively. His debut novel *Sirens* was a bestseller and has been translated into eighteen languages. *The Smiling Man* and *The Sleepwalker* are the second and third books in the series, and his first standalone, *True Crime Story*, was a critical and commercial success.



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£18.99 : Hardback
324 pages

Madame Matisse

Sophie Haydock

An ultimatum: her or me. A gunshot. A betrayal. From the author of *The Flames*, a passionate story set in Paris and the French Riviera, about three women whose lives are set on a collision course when they meet the enigmatic artist Henri Matisse.

This is the story of three women - one an orphan and refugee who finds a place in the studio of a famous French artist, the other a wife and mother who has stood by her husband for nearly forty years. The third is his daughter, caught in the crossfire between her mother and a father she adores.

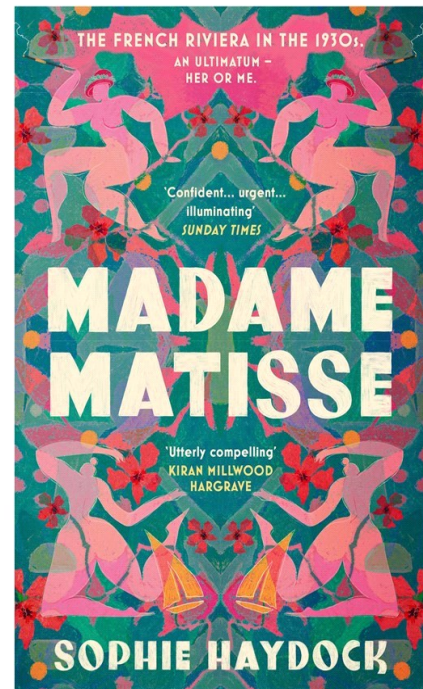
Amelie is first drawn to Henri Matisse as a way of escaping the conventional life expected of her. A free spirit, she sees in this budding young artist a glorious future for them both. Ambitious and driven, she gives everything for her husband's art, ploughing her own desires, her time, her money into sustaining them both, even through years of struggle and disappointment.

Lydia Delectorskaya is a young Russian emigree, who fled her homeland following the death of her mother. After a fractured childhood, she is trying to make a place for herself on France's golden Riviera, amid the artists, film stars and dazzling elite. Eventually she finds employment with the Matisse family. From this point on, their lives are set on a collision course....

Marguerite is Matisse's eldest daughter. When the life of her family implodes, she must find her own way to make her mark and to navigate divided loyalties.

Based on a true story, *Madame Matisse* is a stunning novel about drama and betrayal; emotion and sex; glamour and tragedy, all set in the hotbed of the 1930s art movement in France. In art, as in life, this a time when the rules were made to be broken...

Sophie Haydock is an award-winning author living in east London. Her debut novel, *The Flames*, was published to great acclaim and was longlisted for the HWA debut crown. She is the winner of the Impress Prize for New Writers. Sophie trained as a journalist at City University, London, and has worked at *the Sunday Times Magazine*, *Tatler* and BBC Three, as well as freelancing for publications including the *Financial Times*, *Guardian Weekend* magazine, and organisations such as the Arts Council, Royal Academy and Sotheby's. Passionate about short stories, Sophie also works for the *Sunday Times* Audible Short Story Award and is associate director of the Word Factory literary organisation.



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£16.99

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384 pages

Alvesdon

James Holland

A heartland World War II family drama centring around the Castell family from acclaimed WW2 historian James Holland

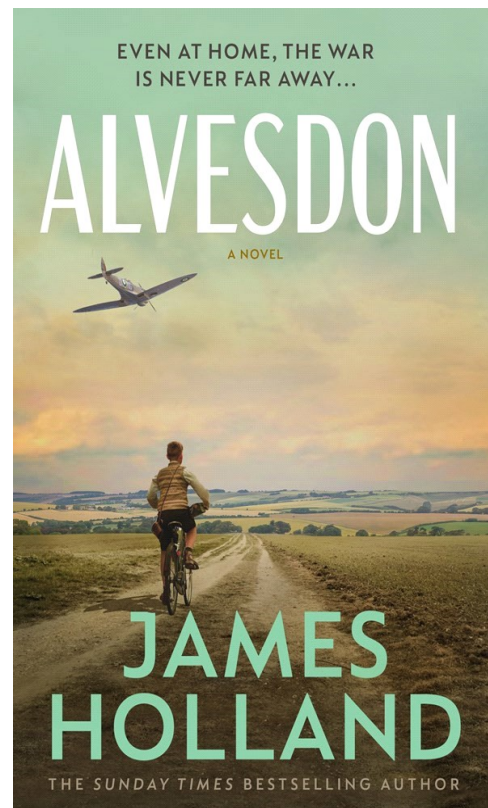
Wiltshire, 1939

In the small village of Alvesdon, the Castell family and their farm have been staples in the community for decades. As the threat of war edges closer to their sanctuary each day, each member of the Castell family finds themselves pushed in ways they could have never imagined. With relationships tested and torn apart, facing both personal tragedy and physical conflict, *Alvesdon* explores the fortunes of three generations of the Castell family from the onset of the Second World War up until the Battle of Britain in 1940.

James Holland is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning historian, writer, and broadcaster. The author of a number of best-selling histories including most recently *Brothers In Arms* and *Normandy '44*, he is also the author of nine works of fiction and a dozen Ladybird Experts.

He is the co-founder of the annual Chalke Valley History Festival which is now in its twelfth year, and he has presented - and written - many television programmes and series for the BBC, Channel 4, National Geographic and the History and Discovery channels.

With Al Murray, he has a successful Second World War podcast, *We Have Ways of Making You Talk*, which also has its own festival, and is a research fellow at St Andrew's University and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He can be found on Twitter as @James1940 and on Instagram as @jamesholland1940.



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Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
384 pages

The Estate

A gripping serial killer thriller from the bestselling author of the DCI Daley series

Denzil Meyrick

Succession meets *And Then There Were None*. A break-out standalone thriller from a bestselling author, about a killer who picks off wealthy family members in a bid to inherit a billion-dollar estate.

Inheritance can be murder...

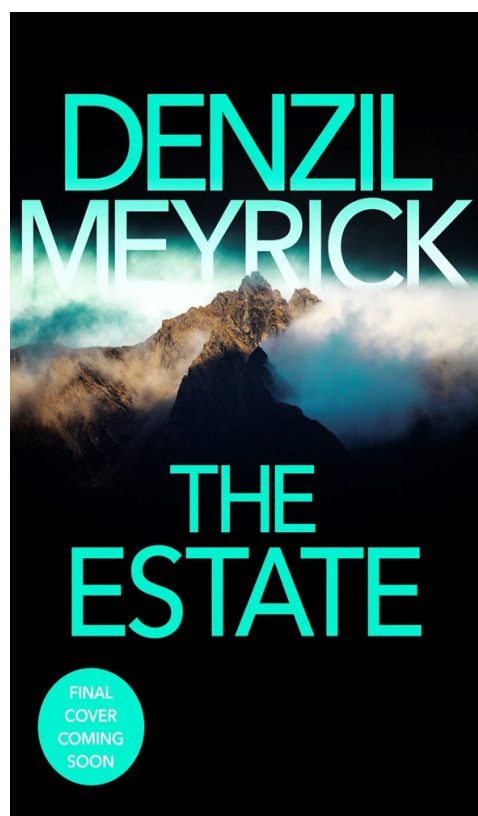
Sebastian Pallander's death leaves behind a multi-billion-dollar financial estate and a castle in the Cairngorms. His family are torn apart, not by grief but by anger at Sebastian's will - and the fact that the great man left them with nothing more than pocket change.

Soon Sebastian's eldest son dies in mysterious circumstances, and DI Salt and DS Blackstock begin to suspect the worst: the people listed on the will might not be future millionaires; they might be future victims.

Because when this much money is at stake, people are capable of almost anything. And if Salt and Blackstock are right, someone is killing their way into the inheritance - once family member at a time...

Denzil Meyrick is from Campbeltown on the Kintyre Peninsula in Argyll. After studying politics, he enjoyed a varied career as a police officer, distillery manager, and director of several companies. He is the No.1 bestselling author of the DCI Daley series, and is now an executive producer of a major TV adaptation of his books.

Denzil lives on Loch Lomondside in Scotland with his wife Fiona and cats. You can find him on Twitter @Lochlomonden, Facebook @DenzilMeyrickAuthor, or on his website: www.denzilmeyrick.com



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432 pages

Plaything

A tense and compulsive novel of unnatural fixation
Bea Setton

A chilling spin on girl-meets-boy, in which jealousy and obsession cost the ultimate price...

Anna is smart. Smarter than you, probably. But when she falls for the beautiful, enigmatic Caden, her need to get under his skin, to truly know him becomes overpowering.

Anna's new life in Cambridge is full of promise – she's the top student in her PhD cohort, she has great friends and she has met an exhaustingly attractive man – but something is a little off. Perhaps it's the routine violence of her lab work with animals, or maybe it's something to do with her boyfriend's icy reserve but it seems there is a kind of menace hiding beneath the Cambridge dream.

When Anna and Caden's lives become tightly entangled, her obsession with Caden's seemingly ever-present ex-girlfriend reaches a dangerous pitch... Just how far will she go to satiate her curiosity?

FROM THE REVIEWS FOR BEA SETTON'S *BERLIN*

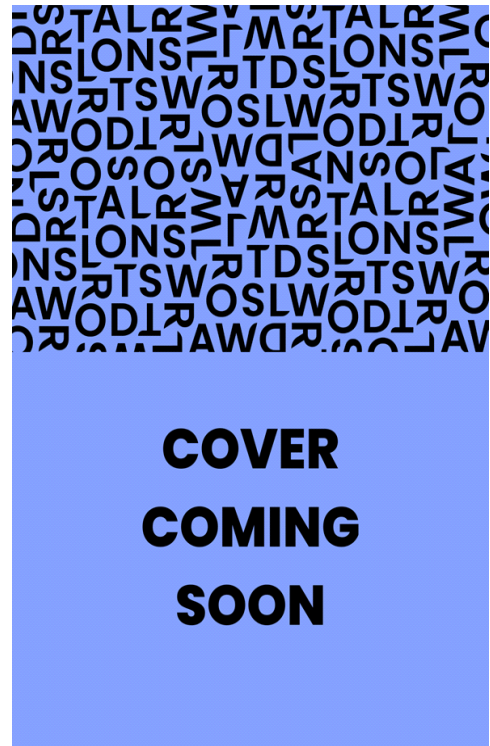
'Terrific . . . [an] unsettling and compelling read' *Observer*

'I was completely absorbed' FRANCESCA REECE, author of *Voyeur*

'Compelling, raw and thrillingly strange' MONA AWAD, author of *Bunny*

'Cinematically vivid, and refreshingly honest' LISA HALLIDAY, author of *Asymmetry*

Bea Setton was born in France and has lived in Paris, the USA and Berlin, the city which inspired her critically acclaimed debut novel. She then studied at Cambridge for a master's in Philosophy & Theology, and this inspired the setting of her second book, *Plaything*. Bea currently divides her time between Berlin and Oxford, Mississippi, where she is writing her third novel.



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