

On The Edge

Sarah Turner

The joyful, emotional new novel from the *Sunday Times* bestselling of *The Unmumsy Mum* and *Stepping Up*.

Sometimes, in order to move forward, you need to go back.

Joni's always felt like an outsider in her blended family, and as an adult she's done all she can to avoid them. The only person she's remained close to is her beloved Nana.

When Nana dies, she leaves behind something unexpected: an itinerary of pre-arranged activities for the whole family to complete over the course of a week. After years of trying but failing to bring Joni back into the fold, this appears to be Nana's parting shot. After all, nothing says 'family bonding' quite like abseiling and ballroom dancing.

With marriage and kids on the horizon, the life Joni's always dreamed of is finally within touching distance. The last thing she wants to do is revisit the past.

But Joni's about to discover that a lot can happen in seven days. Nana's Week of Fun is about to change everything...

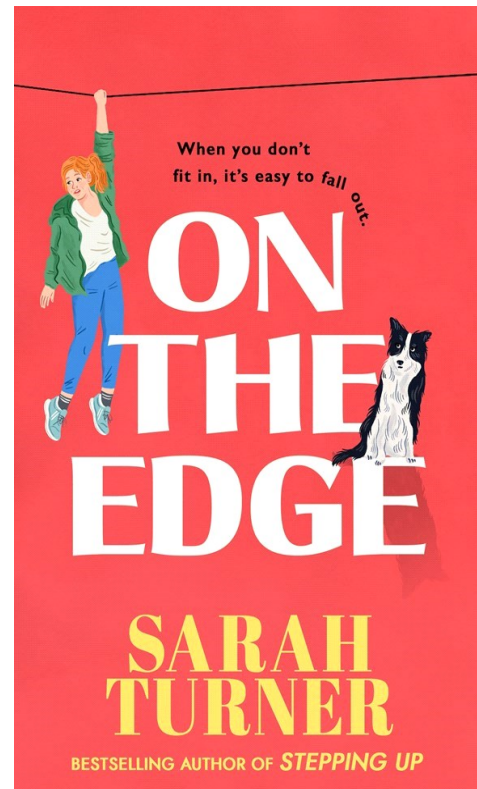
Sarah Turner lives in Devon with her husband, three sons and Frank the cat.

After graduating with first-class honours in Philosophy from the University of Exeter, she dabbled in careers in finance and higher education before a 'warts and all' parenting blog she'd started in order to let off steam gathered unexpected momentum and writing became her full-time job.

She has since written four *Sunday Times* bestsellers: *The Unmumsy Mum*, *The Unmumsy Mum Diary*, *The Unmumsy Mum A-Z* and her first novel, *Stepping Up*, which was a Richard and Judy Book Club pick in 2023.

Sarah likes bookshops, walks along the river and watching her boys play football. She doesn't like parking, films with sharks in or writing about herself in the third person.

You can follow Sarah's reading, writing and parenting adventures on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@theunmumsymum).



July 2024

9781787633087

£16.99

Royal Octavo : Hardback

320 pages

True Love

Paddy Crewe

From the author of *My Name is Yip*, listed for five major literary awards, comes a novel that explores the question at the very centre of our experience – what does it mean to love?

'Empathetic, honest, compelling. I'll read anything Paddy Crewe writes.' Bonnie Garmus, author of *Lessons in Chemistry*

'*True Love* had me from its gorgeous, lyrical opening to its transcendent final pages. Paddy Crewe is an exceptionally gifted writer.' Louise Kennedy, author of *Trespasses*

What does it mean to love and be loved?

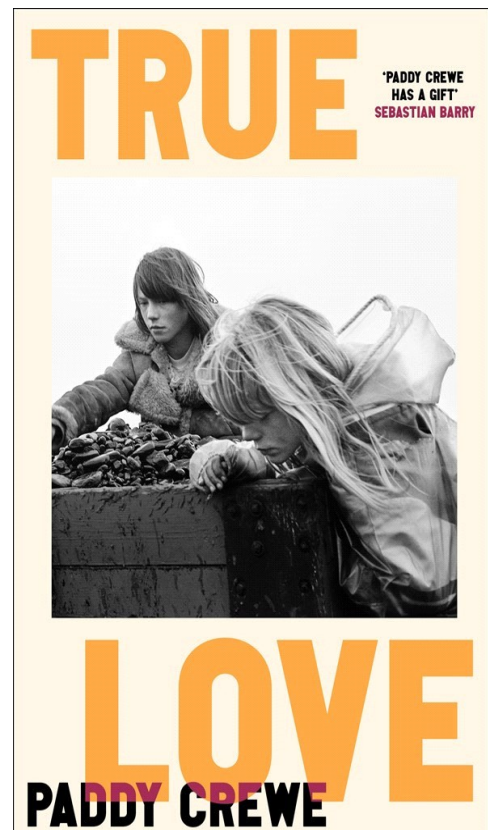
It is the 1980s and Finn and Keely are growing up in the North East of England.

Keely is a fighter. Even in the face of loss she strives to seek connection, but finds that she's not always searching in the right places.

Finn is quiet, sensitive, distant. He spends much of his time alone, yet deep down he wants to discover the thrill of relating to others.

When the two finally meet, everything is changed. Love – with all of its attendant joys and costs – is thrust upon them, and each must decide if they will bend or break under its pressure. *True Love* is a story of the trials of youth, the bonds of family and friendship, and of how much we are willing to risk to have ourselves be seen.

Paddy Crewe was born in Middlesbrough and studied at Goldsmiths. His debut novel, *My Name Is Yip*, has been shortlisted for the Betty Trask, the Wilbur Smith, a South Bank Sky Arts Award and The Authors' Club Best First Novel Award, and longlisted for the Walter Scott Prize.



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£16.99 : Hardback
320 pages

A Woman of Opinion

Sean Lusk

From the bestselling author of **THE SECOND SIGHT OF ZACHARY CLOUDESLEY** comes an illuminating historical novel about the extraordinary, adventurous life of Mary Wortley Montagu: pioneering writer, poet and feminist. For fans of **MATRIX**, **MISS AUSTEN** and **HAMNET**.

'I shall be a thousand different Marys and, in such manner, shall find the one I wish to be...'

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu longs for adventure, freedom and love, believing that only by truly *living* can she ever escape the stalking crowd of Death...

An aristocratic woman in 18th century England is expected to act in certain ways. But Mary has never let society's expectations stifle her: she writes celebrated poetry and articles advocating for equality, as well as endless, often scandalous, letters to her many powerful friends.

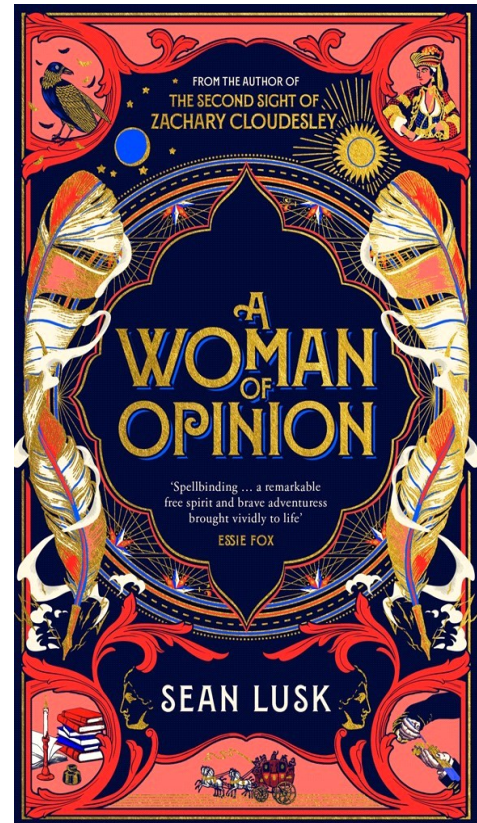
However, Mary wants more from the world. Using her charm and connections, she engineers a job offer for her husband as ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. Travelling to Constantinople, Mary finally discovers the autonomous life she dreams of. And when she observes Turkish women 'engrafting' children against smallpox, she resolves to bring the miracle cure back to England.

Despite this, Mary's reputation becomes increasingly tainted. Her inability to abide by the rules, her outspoken opinions on women's rights, and her search for love and desire at all costs gains her powerful enemies. While Mary tries to ensure her name will live on by arranging the publication of her diaries after her death, her own daughter works against her, afraid of what they might contain...

An illuminating and beautiful novel which gives a voice to the tragically unremembered yet extraordinary life of pioneering poet and feminist, Mary Wortley Montagu.

Sean Lusk's debut, *The Second Sight of Zachary Cloudesley*, was a BBC2 Between the Covers pick, a *Sunday Times* Historical Fiction Book of the Month, and longlisted for the Walter Scott Prize and the Goldsboro Books Glass Bell Award. He is also an award-winning short story writer, winner of the Manchester Fiction Prize and the Fish Short Story Prize. He has lived in Greece, Pakistan and Egypt and now lives in the Scottish Highlands.

You can find him at www.seanlusk.com or on Twitter @seanlusk1



July 2024

9780857528032

£16.99

Demy Octavo : Hardback

400 pages

Bad Tourists

Escape to the Maldives with the hottest friends to killers
beach read thriller

Caro Carver

The White Lotus meets *The Guest List* in this chilling sun-soaked thriller about three vengeful women, a beautiful island resort, and the darkest of secrets. Perfect for the armchair traveller.

Is it ever a good idea to go on holiday with friends?

Darcy, Camilla and Kate have each come on this trip of a lifetime for a reason - to celebrate a divorce, to find love, to try to put a traumatic past behind them.

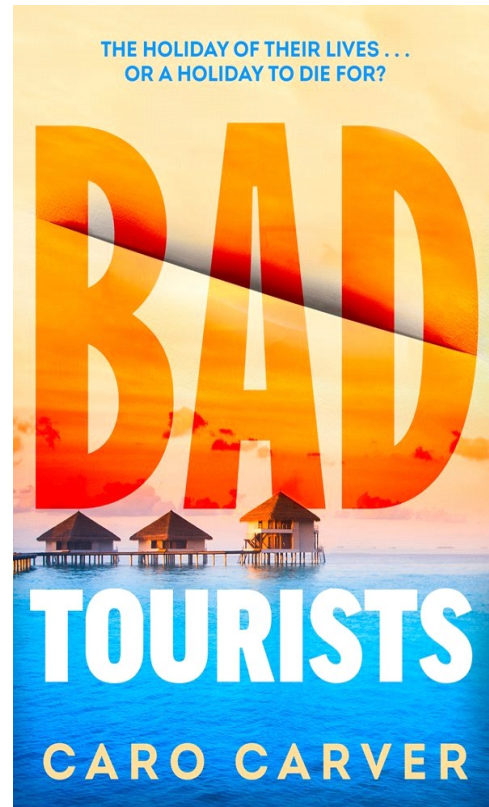
Their dream getaway? The Sapphire Island Resort in the Maldives. With crystal-clear waters and sun-drenched white sand beaches, relaxation is guaranteed.

But all is not as it seems in paradise, and this is no ordinary friendship.

They've got nine days to go . . . and old wounds are already reopening.

Will they all make the return journey?

Caro Carver lives in Scotland with her husband and four children. She is Reader in Creative Writing at the University of Glasgow, teaches for the Faber Academy and the Curtis Brown Academy, and regularly speaks on panels and hosts events on writing. Caro is happiest when travelling and takes inspiration from her travels to write her books. *Bad Tourists*, her first book written under the pseudonym of Caro Carver, will be published by Transworld in Summer 2024. She is also published by HarperCollins as C.J. Cooke for her gothic thrillers.



July 2024
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400 pages

The Exile

From the author of the bestselling THE PARTISAN

Patrick Worrall

The prequel to break-out debut phenomenon, *The Partisan*, following a young Greta as she journeys into the dark underbelly of France to rescue her lieutenant's missing daughter, Morta.

It's 1951 and the servants of Stalin are closing in on the occupied nations of eastern Europe. As the Red Army tightens the net, Greta - best and bravest of freedom fighters - is told to escape to the West and undertake a dangerous mission.

Greta's task is to find a missing girl: the precious daughter of a partisan general who was sent into exile in the final days of the war.

But the so-called Free World is no place for vulnerable young refugees. Europe is in ruins, the old Empires are dying, and a spectacular cast of spivs, gangsters and rival intelligence agencies are fighting over the scraps.

Crossing the Iron Curtain will require nerves of steel as Greta faces down the French mob, ex-Nazis, Soviet spies, all the glamour and temptation of Paris and ultimately, her own demons.

The Exile is the stunning prequel to *The Partisan*, Patrick Worrall's critically-acclaimed debut, which introduced the world to the force of nature that is Greta. This is her white-knuckle ride into the black heart of postwar Europe - a terrifying world in which allies and enemies are impossible to tell apart.

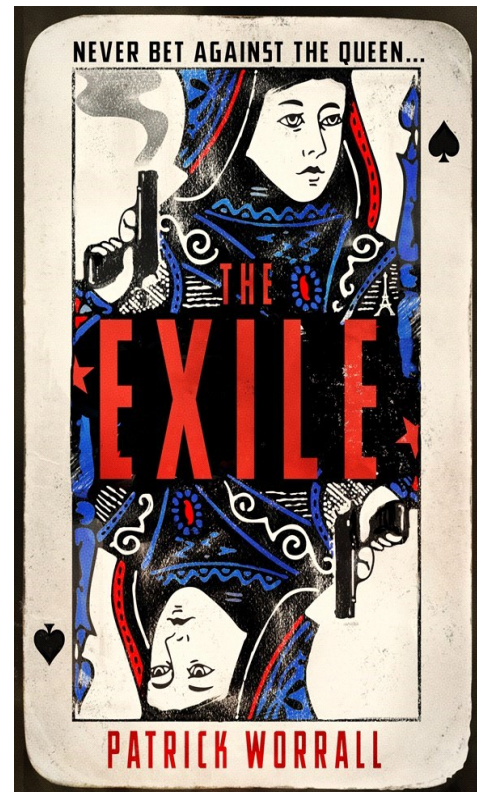
Praise for *The Partisan*

'Fast-paced, intriguing and deeply atmospheric' Tom Bradby
'Remarkably assured debut ... the advent of a real talent...One to watch' *Sunday Times*

'Impressive ... The scene-setting is finely detailed and evocative, the characters skilfully drawn' *Financial Times*

'Immersive, intriguing, and intelligent - incredibly impressive, up there with the best in the genre' Lee Child

Patrick Worrall was educated at a comprehensive school 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 the Channel 4 News FactCheck blog. His first novel, *The Partisan*, was inspired by a World War Two photograph of three young female freedom fighters he saw in a museum in Kaunas, Lithuania. *The Exile* is his second novel.



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£16.99

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384 pages

The Silence In Between

Josie Ferguson

For fans of *All the Light We Cannot See* and *Alone in Berlin*, a stunning historical debut.

Imagine waking up and a wall has divided your city in two. Imagine that on the other side is your new-born baby...

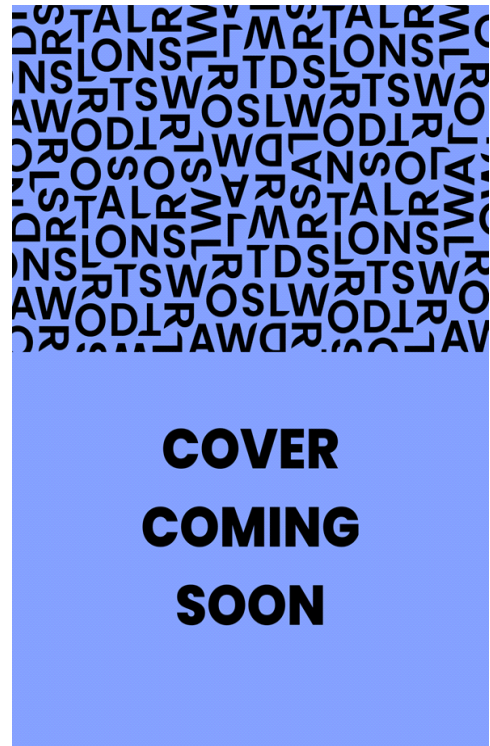
This is what happens to Lisette. Overnight, on 13 August 1961, the border between East and West Berlin has closed, slicing the city - and the world - in two. With the streets in chaos and armed guards ordered to shoot anyone who tries to cross, her situation is desperate.

Lisette's teenage daughter, Elly, has always struggled to understand the distance between herself and her mother. Both have lived for music, but while Elly hears notes surrounding every person she meets, for her mother - once a talented pianist - the music has gone silent.

Perhaps Elly can do something to bridge the gap between them. What begins as the flicker of an idea turns into a daring plan to escape East Berlin, find her baby brother, and bring him home....

Born in Sweden, to a family of writers and readers, Josie Ferguson moved to Scotland when she was two. She returned to Sweden in her twenties, where she completed a vocational degree in Clinical Psychology (MSc). Upon graduating, she moved to London to pursue a career in publishing, something she had dreamed about since delving into fictional worlds as a child, hidden under the duvet with a torch.

She later moved to Asia in search of an adventure and a bit more sun and currently works as a freelance book editor in Singapore, where she lives with her husband and two young children. While training to become a clinical psychologist, Josie learned about the complexity of human nature, something she explores as a writer. She believes books about the past can change the future and she aspires to write as many as possible. *The Silence in Between* is her debut.



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352 pages

A Poisoner's Tale

A dark and gripping feminist retelling of notorious Italian Poisoner, Giulia Tofana

Cathryn Kemp

Rome, 1656

In the shadowy backstreets of the Eternal City lies an apothecary – a place for women to take their heartbreaks and troubles. Herbs for childbirth. Tarot readings to tell their fortunes. An undetectable poison that can kill in four drops.

Alongside her circle of female poisoners, Giulia Tofana dispenses her deadly potion to free the downtrodden women of the city from their abusive husbands.

But even in a time of plague, it does not go unnoticed when the men of Rome begin to fall like flies.

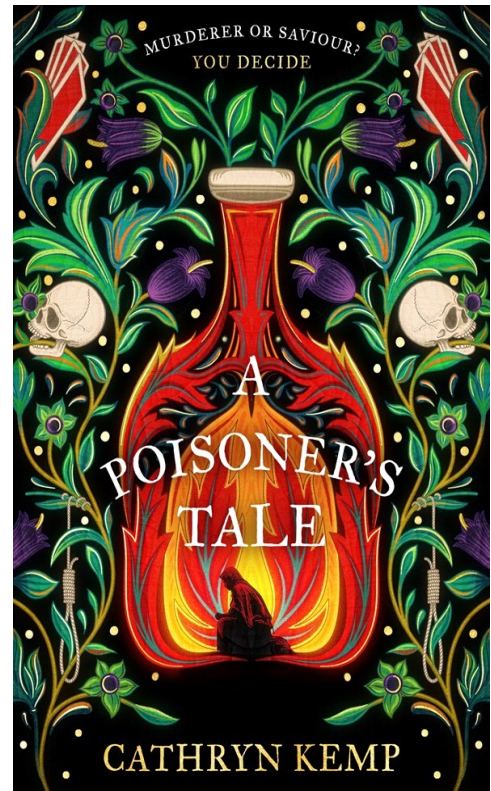
With a newly elected Pope hell-bent on ridding the city of heretics and witches, and the Holy Office of the Inquisition on her tail, Giulia is in more danger than ever. . .

How far will she go for the women who need her help?

A Poisoner's Tale is a spellbinding reimagining of the legend of Giulia Tofana.

Cathryn Kemp is a *Sunday Times* bestselling ghostwriter and author, with a prolific career writing celebrity, inspirational, true crime, addiction and nostalgia titles. Her personal memoir *Coming Clean* won the Big Red Read Prize for Non-Fiction.

A Poisoner's Tale is her first foray into historical fiction. When not researching dark, dangerous and beguiling women from history, Cathryn can be found on the south coast with her son and her familiar, a ginger cat called Gingey.



July 2024
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400 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.

'When you're living a lie, you find it's best to avoid close attachments...'

Lynch, a burned out con-artist, arrives, broke, in London, trying not to dwell on the mistakes that got him there. When he bumps into Bobbie, a rehab-bound heiress - and when she briefly mistakes him for her missing brother - Lynch senses the opportunity, as well as the danger...

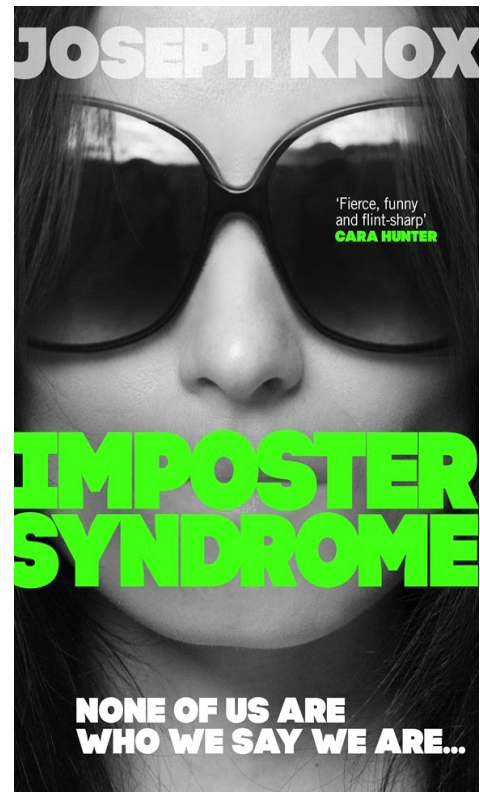
Bobbie's brother, Heydon, was a troubled young man. Five years ago, he walked out of the family home and never went back. His car was found parked on a bridge overlooking the Thames, in the early hours of the same morning. Unsettled by Bobbie's story, and suffering from a rare attack of conscience, Lynch tries to back off.

But when Bobbie leaves for rehab the following day, he finds himself drawn to her luxurious family home, and into a meeting with her mother, the formidable Miranda. Seeing the same resemblance that her daughter did, Miranda proposes she hire Lynch to assume her son's identity, in a last-ditch effort to try and flush out his killer.

As Lynch begins to impersonate him, dark forces are lured out of the shadows, and he realises too late that Heydon wasn't paranoid at all. Someone was watching his every move, and they'll kill to keep it a secret.

For the first time, Lynch is in a life or death situation he can't lie his way out of.

Joseph Knox has lived in Stoke on Trent, Manchester and London. In 2020, he became an Irish citizen. 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 Waits trilogy. His first standalone novel, *True Crime Story*, was a *Times* number one bestseller.



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£18.99

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384 pages

This Motherless Land

Nikki May

From the acclaimed author of *Wahala*, a 'spirited exploration of culture and kinship' (Bonnie Garmus).

From the prize-winning author of *WAHALA*, a powerful de-colonial retelling of *MANSFIELD PARK*, exploring identity, culture, race and love

'Deeply emotional and entertaining' EMMA STONEX, author of *The Lamplighters*

'Tugs at the heartstrings' DAMILARE KUKU, author of *Nearly all the Men in Lagos are Mad*

When **Funke's** mother dies in an accident in Lagos, she's sent to live with her maternal family in England. Against a backdrop of condescension and mild neglect, sensible Funke strives to fit in, determined to become one of them.

Free-spirited **Liv** has always wanted to break free of her joyless family, to be nothing like them. Fiercely protective of Funke, she at last has an ally. The two cousins give each other what they need most: *love*.

But the past casts long shadows and the choices made by their mothers haunt them, shaping the trajectory of their adult lives. *Can they escape their legacy?*

Witty, warm, hugely entertaining, *This Motherless Land* bridges three decades and two continents, delving into the thorny territories of race and culture and belonging. At its heart is a story about love and how it can make the difference between surviving and thriving.

Praise for *This Motherless Land*:

'A fierce and evocative retelling of *Mansfield Park*' BETH MORREY

'A fantastic book. Highly original' LIZ NUGENT, author of *Strange Sally Diamond*

'A vibrant coming-of-age story that explores love, longing and belonging in a multi-cultural family' CHARMAINE WILKERSON, bestselling author of *Black Cake*

'Gripping and poignant' NITA PROSE, bestselling author of *The Maid*

'Beautiful, bold and addictive' DAISY BUCHANAN

Born in Bristol and raised in Lagos, **Nikki May** is Anglo-Nigerian. Her critically acclaimed debut novel *WAHALA* won the Comedy Women In Print New Voice Prize, was longlisted for the Goldsboro Glass Bell Award and the Diverse Books Award, and is being turned into a major BBC TV drama series.

THIS MOTHERLESS LAND is her second novel. Nikki lives in Dorset with her husband, two standard Schnauzers and way too many books. She should be working on her third book but is probably reading.

Twitter/X: @NikkiOMay

Instagram: @NikkiMayWriter



July 2024

9780857527806

£16.99

Demy Octavo : Hardback

352 pages

What Have You Done?

The addictive and haunting new thriller from the Richard & Judy bestselling author

Shari Lapena

The new unputdownable thriller from the 'queen of the one sit read'. A nasty crime exposes the secrets and obsessions of a small rural community.

'I inhaled this book in less than 48 hours and what a treat it was. *What Have You Done* **exceeded all expectations. A total reading pleasure'** - **LIZ NUGENT**, No.1 bestselling author of *Strange Sally Diamond*

The unputdownable new thriller from the No.1 bestselling author of *Everyone Here is Lying*

Nothing ever happens in sleepy little Fairhill, Vermont.

The teenagers get their kicks telling ghost stories in the old graveyard. The parents trust their kids will arrive home safe from school. Everyone knows everyone. Curtains rarely twitch. Front doors are left unlocked.

But this morning all of that will change.

Because Diana Brewer isn't lying safely in her bed where she belongs. Instead she lies in a hayfield, circled by vultures, discovered by a local farmer.

How quickly a girl becomes a ghost. How quickly a town of friendly, familiar faces becomes a town of suspects, a place of fear and paranoia.

Someone in Fairhill did this. Everyone wants answers.

And one innocent question could be deadly.

Shari Lapena is the internationally bestselling author of the thrillers *The Couple Next Door*, *A Stranger in the House*, *An Unwanted Guest*, *Someone We Know*, *The End of Her*, *Not a Happy Family* and *Everyone Here is Lying* which have all been *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestsellers. Her books have been sold in forty territories around the world. She lives in Toronto.



July 2024
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352 pages

Clinical Intimacy

Ewan Gass

Told through a dozen distinct voices circling around an elusive man known only as 'S' this is a book that asks if we are the story we tell about ourselves, or the tales others narrate?

'A truly original literary mystery... A humane work that really seeks to understand... Like the best really serious novels, it's profoundly uncomfortable, avoids easy dramatic answers and forces you to really think and question – yourself as much as its own narrative'
Luke Kennard, author of *The Transition*

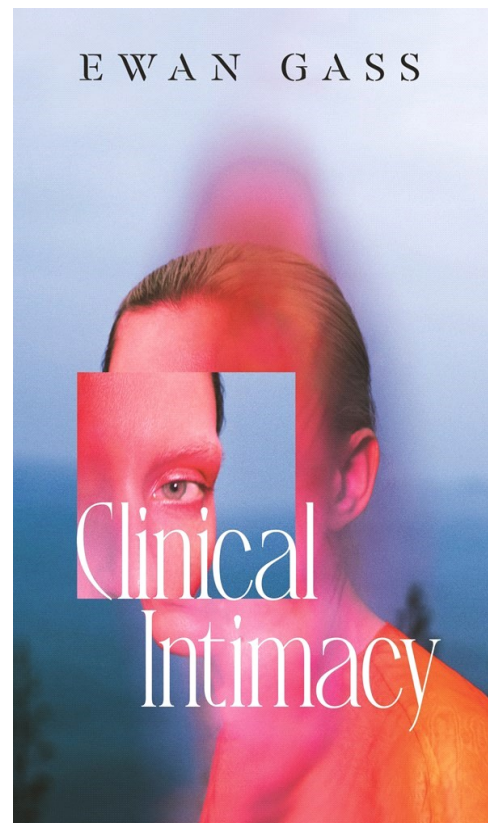
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S was a good person. Such a good person. They all told me that – so it had to be true.

S is unique. It seems that most people think so – his mother, his sister, his best friend, but relative strangers too. In fact, they and others all have much to say in the inquiry into S. When prompted, when the tape recorder in front of them clicks, a succession of family, friends and professional contacts in turn describe his shapeshifting charisma. All struggle to account for the enigmatic figure who has wandered through their lives, doing some good things – and some bad. Yet as they talk, it becomes apparent that they are not so much telling his story, as they are their own – of their common need for love, touch, retribution, closure. Together, their tissue of voices reveal the complexity of care.

In a series of intimate snapshots charting the relations of one ordinary yet extraordinary man, *Clinical Intimacy* explores the emotional conditions and moral consequences of a life lived in service of satisfying others.

Ewan Gass was born in Nottingham. When eight years old he stuck to his bedroom door a typewritten note outlining his desire to become a writer. He has worked as a journalist and teacher in Cambridge, London, Paris and New York. He now lives in Munich. His short story 'Questionnaire' was shortlisted for the *White Review* short story competition in 2020. Other work has appeared in 3:AM. *Clinical Intimacy* is his first novel.



July 2024
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352 pages

The Ex Vows

A swoony second-chance romcom from the bestselling author of *You, With a View*

Jessica Joyce

From the author of *You, With a View* comes the perfect steamy romcom for 2024! Ideal for fans of Christina Lauren and Tessa Bailey.

When Georgia Woodward lived in New York, she had a doting boyfriend and a tight-knit group of friends, but now she's living alone in San Francisco, feeling lonely and unsure of her role in the group as her best friend's wedding approaches. She knows that her ex Eli Mora is the Best Man to her Best Woman, and she is all too aware that her feelings for Eli have only grown since their breakup, but what she doesn't expect is for the Napa Valley venue to burn to the ground a week before the wedding. Or that she and Eli will simultaneously volunteer to replan the entire wedding in time for the original date.

As Georgia and Eli rush to mount a perfect wedding, their old chemistry comes back like an unshakable case of déjà vu - and the fact that there's only one bedroom at the winery pours more fuel on the glowing embers of what was. The idea of trying again is terrifying - but the possibilities of what could be just might make falling worth the risk.

Jessica Joyce lives happily-ever-ongoing with her husband and son in the Bay Area. When she's not writing character-driven, realistic and relatable tales of millennials who are just Doing Their Best while falling in love, you can find her listening to one of her dozens of chaotically curated Spotify playlists, trying out a new skincare face mask, crying over cute animal TikToks, or watching the 2005 version of *Pride & Prejudice*.



July 2024
9781804991220
B Format (TW)
£9.99 : Paperback
400 pages

Morbidly Yours

The most hilarious and feel-good opposites attract romance of 2024

Ivy Fairbanks

The perfect mix of 'sweet and spicy' (Abby Jimenez), this is an opposites attract, friends to lovers rom-com that TikTok readers can't get enough of!

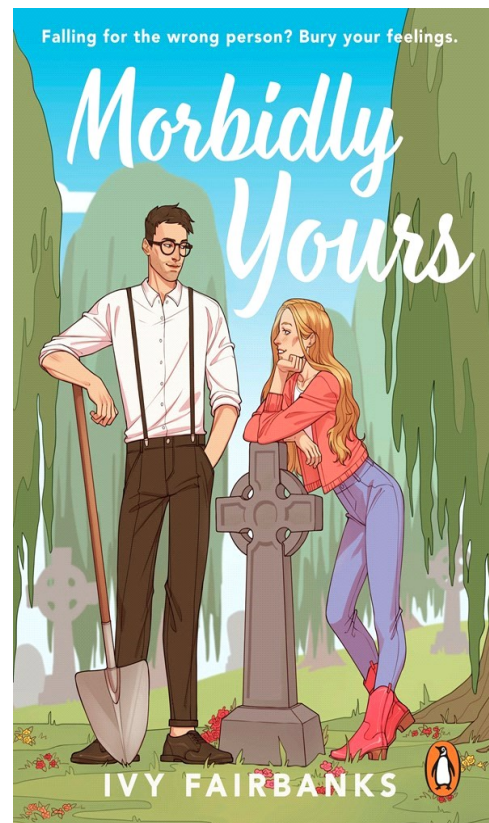
Falling for the wrong person? Bury your feelings.

Callum Flannelly would rather dive into an open grave than take a stranger to dinner. But he can only inherit the family undertaking business under one condition: He must marry before his 35th birthday. So it's out of the mortuary and into the dating scene. Lark Thompson came to Galway, Ireland to embrace life, not be reminded of losing her husband by moving in next to a funeral home.

When the vivacious Texan animator learns of painfully shy Callum's dilemma, she makes it her mission to help him find The One. Although sworn off love herself, she's certain Callum will find his match. But as the dating project progresses and their friendship grows, their attraction is undeniable. Spending time with serious, sarcastic Callum starts to crack the ice around Lark's heart, and the more color Lark brings to Callum's monochrome existence, the less he can imagine life without her.

If they think they can ignore their connection, they're dead wrong.

Ivy Fairbanks is a shameless consumer of rom-com books, hazelnut coffee, and Hozier music. Not necessarily in that order. Living with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome has made her a believer in the importance of representation in romance. Ivy writes stories where diverse and disabled characters find love, acceptance, and their happily-ever-afters. She lives in the Tampa Bay Area with her husband and son. At any given moment, she is probably trapped under a sleeping tabby cat. *Morbidly Yours* is her debut novel.



August 2024
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B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
352 pages

Take a Chance on Me

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

Emily Houghton

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

She likes to be in control.

Olivia Jackson's life is one big to-do list. But after her sister tragically dies and leaves her a ticket to go travelling, Olivia has to leave her perfectly ordered world – albeit with a meticulously organised itinerary.

He throws caution to the wind.

Jacob Green couldn't be more different. He's been travelling the world for five years and lets destiny decide where he goes next with a roll of some dice.

Do opposites really attract?

When the two first meet, Olivia finds Jacob's laid-back attitude infuriating. Not to mention her unanswered question as to why he's been travelling for so long without going back home. But as they part ways, she can't help but wish her carefully laid plans involved him.

Will fate bring them together again? And if it does, what secret is Jacob hiding?

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.



August 2024
9781804992647
B Format (TW)
£9.99 : Paperback
384 pages

A Sister's Fight

A gripping and page-turning historical saga from the bestselling author

Emma Hornby

Perfect for fans of Rosie Goodwin and Nancy Revell, this page-turning WW2 saga from fan favourite Emma Hornby features a courageous and outspoken heroine battling to keep her family safe.

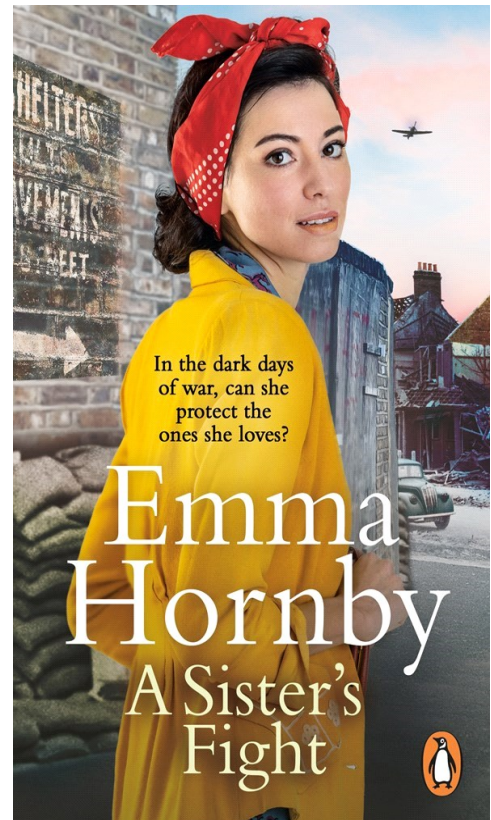
Bolton, Lancashire: 1943

Livvy knows that her family's survival rests on her shoulders - with her parents gone, it falls to her to support her grandfather and younger sister, Joan. Times are tough and Livvy will struggle to keep her family safe with the meagre pay most jobs would afford her.

When US soldiers are stationed nearby, Livvy decides to take advantage of the opportunity to make some easy money and, along with her best friend, begins selling herself on the streets. Despite the harsh judgements of society, Livvy perseveres with her challenging choice for her family's sake.

Livvy must be careful to hide her unsavoury secret. But when one US soldier takes too much of a shine to her, Livvy's life begins to spiral out of control . . . Will she be able to right things, or will everything she's fought to protect come crumbling down?

Emma Hornby lives on a tight-knit working-class estate in Bolton and has read sagas all her life. Before pursuing a career as a novelist, she had a variety of jobs, from care assistant for the elderly, to working in a Blackpool rock factory. She was inspired to write after researching her family history; like the characters in her books, many generations of her family eked out life amidst the squalor and poverty of Lancashire's slums.



August 2024
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400 pages

The Most

Jessica Anthony

***Mad Men* meets *On Chesil Beach*. One unseasonably hot Sunday in November 1957, Kathleen Beckett, wife of insurance salesman Virgil Beckett – climbs into a swimming pool and refuses to get out. This day will change everything..**

A warm Sunday in November 1957. As Sputnik 2 orbits the earth, carrying Laika, the doomed Soviet dog, a couple begin their day.

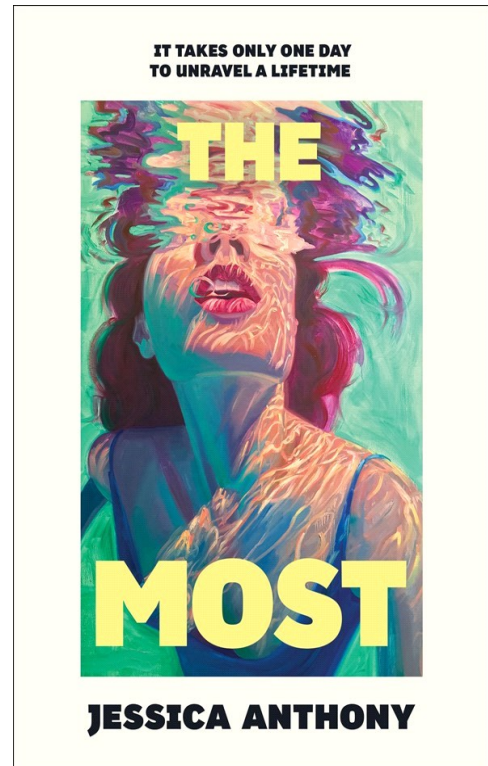
Virgil Beckett, an insurance salesman, isn't particularly happy in his job but he fulfils the role, playing golf with the partners, drinking in the bar, chasing the women. Kathleen Beckett, once a promising tennis champion, with a key shot up her sleeve called 'The Most', is now a mother and homemaker.

Somehow these two, who have been together since college, have fallen into the roles expected of them – the prescribed suburban dream they have been sold as something to covet, something that will fulfil their lives. But on this unseasonably warm, early November Sunday, Kathleen wakes up and decides that she will not be accompanying her family to church.

No, she feels like a swim.

She unearths her old, red bathing suit and descends into the apartment complex pool no other resident uses. And she doesn't want to come out...

Jessica Anthony is the author of *The Convalescent*, *Chopsticks*, and *Enter the Aardvark*. Anthony's novels have been published in over a dozen countries, and are featured in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Esquire*, *The Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New York Times Book Review* as an Editors' Choice. She is the recipient of the Creative Capital Award in Literature and has been awarded fellowships from the Bogliasco Foundation and the Bridge Guard Foundation. She lives in Maine, USA.



August 2024
9781529928877
B Format (TW)
£12.99 : Hardback
144 pages

Apprentice to the Villain

From the No.1 New York Times bestselling author and TikTok sensation comes the most hilarious romantasy book of 2024

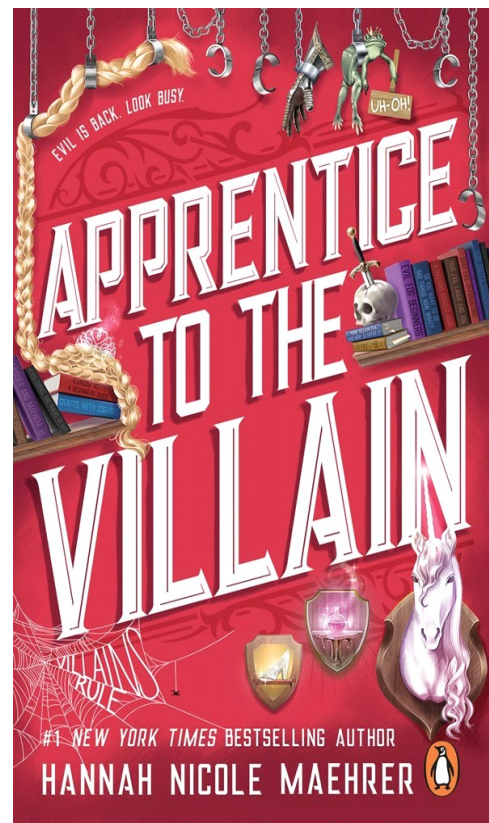
Hannah Nicole Maehrer

Once Upon a Time meets The Office in Hannah Maehrer's laugh-out-loud viral TikTok series turned novel, about the sunshine assistant to an Evil Villain... and their unexpected romance.

Readers can't wait to get their hands on a copy:

'I have **never been so hyped for a book before!**
'**I will be buying this book so quickly even the dragon will be spooked!!**
'**OMG finally!!** I can't wait to have it in my hands!
'As soon as it is out, **I am going to run to buy it!! Cannot wait.**
'**Giggling. Kicking my feet. I can't wait to read this!**
'**I love this series so much**, I've been hooked since the beginning. **I'm so excited for the book.**
'**I love Evie and the Villain so I NEED it.**

Hannah Nicole Maehrer, or as TikTok Knows her, @hannahnicolemae. is a fantasy romance author and BookToker with a propensity for villains. When she's not creating bookish comedy skits about Villains and Assistants, she's writing to Taylor Swift songs. Her biggest passions in life include romance, magic, laughter, and finding ways to include them all in everything she creates. Most days you can find her with her head in the clouds and a pen in her hand.



August 2024
9781804993392
B Format (TW)
£9.99 : Paperback
336 pages

Heart, Be at Peace Donal Ryan

A stunning lyrical novel from the Number one bestselling author Donal Ryan; with the intimacy of Claire Keegan's *Small Things like These* or Louise Kennedy's *Trespases*. A standalone novel that can also be read as a companion to Donal Ryan's multi-award-winning bestseller, *The Spinning Heart*.

'I said it before. Madness comes circling around. Ten-year cycles, as true as the sun will rise...'

Some things can send a heart spinning; others will crack it in two.

In a small town in rural Ireland, the local people have weathered the storms of economic collapse and are looking towards the future. The jobs are back, the dramas of the past seemingly lulled, and although the town bears the marks of its history, new stories are unfolding.

But a fresh menace is creeping around the lakeshore and the lanes of the town, and the peace of the community is about to be shattered in an unimaginable way. Young people are being drawn towards the promise of fast money whilst the generation above them tries to push back the tide of an enemy no one can touch...

A stunning, lyrical novel told in twenty-one voices, *Heart, be at Peace* can be read independently, or as a companion to Donal Ryan's multi-award-winning novel, *The Spinning Heart*, voted 'The Irish Book of the Decade'.

PRAISE FOR DONAL RYAN:

'Beautiful, compassionate ... Donal Ryan at his inimitable best.'
MAGGIE O'FARRELL

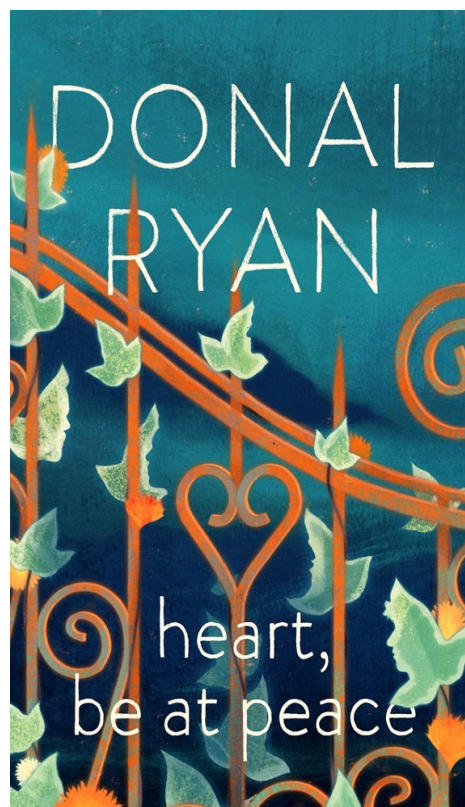
'The prose drips like honey off a spoon' **SUNDAY TIMES**

'Beautifully poised, sad, poetic and human....I loved every single line.' **IAN RANKIN**

'Endlessly surprising and incredibly moving' **DAVID NICHOLLS**

'A life-enhancing talent' **SEBASTIAN BARRY**

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 novel, *Strange Flowers*, was voted Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards, and was a number one bestseller, as was his most recent novel *The Queen of Dirt Island*, which was also shortlisted for Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. 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.



August 2024

9780857525239

£16.99

Demy Octavo : Hardback
208 pages

Talking to Strangers

The new explosive, up-all-night crime thriller from author of hit bestsellers THE WIDOW and THE CHILD

Fiona Barton

A phenomenal, unputdownable standalone thriller from the author of the record-breaking *Sunday Times* bestseller and Richard & Judy Book Club pick *The Widow*.

Three women. One Killer.

Talking to strangers has never been more dangerous...

When the body of forty-four-year-old Karen Simmons is found abandoned in remote woodland, journalist Kiki Nunn is determined this will be the big break she so desperately needs.

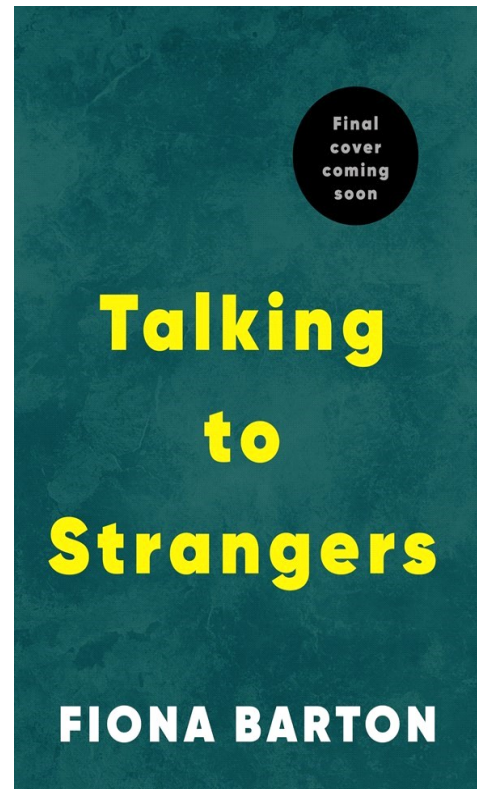
Because she has a head start on all the other reporters. Just a week before Karen was killed, Kiki interviewed her about the highs and lows of mid-life romance. Karen told her all about kissing strangers under the stars, expensive meals, roses. About the scammers, the creeps, the man who followed her home the other night...

While the police appear to be focusing on local suspects, Kiki sets out to write the definitive piece on one woman's fatal search for love. **But she will soon learn that the search for truth can be just as deadly...**

Fiona Barton's debut, *The Widow*, was a *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestseller, and has been published in thirty-seven countries and optioned for television. Her second novel, *The Child*, and her third, *The Suspect*, were both bestsellers. Born in Cambridge, Fiona currently lives on the south coast in West Sussex.

Previously, she was a senior writer at the *Daily Mail*, news editor at the *Daily Telegraph*, and chief reporter at the *Mail on Sunday*, where she won Reporter of the Year at the British Press Awards.

While working as a journalist, Fiona reported on many high-profile criminal cases and developed a fascination with watching those involved, their body language and verbal tics. She interviewed people at the heart of these crimes, from the guilty to their families, as well as those on the periphery, and found it was those just outside the spotlight who interested her most...



August 2024

9781787630857

£18.99

Royal Octavo : Hardback
400 pages

Eddie Winston Is Looking for Love

Marianne Cronin

Funny, feelgood, heartlifting story about the power of intergenerational friendship and finding love in unexpected places - perfect for fans of *The One Hundred Year-Old Man Who Climbed Through the Window* and *The Rosie Project*

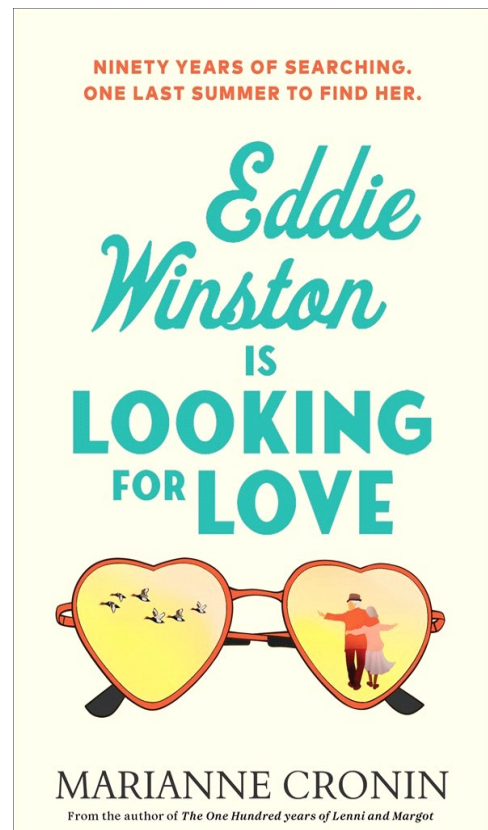
Eddie Winston is ninety years old. He has lived and he has loved, but he has never been kissed.

A true gentleman and incurable romantic, Eddie spends his days volunteering at a charity shop, where he sorts through the donations of the living and the dead, preserving letters and tokens of love along the way. It is here that he meets Bella, a troubled young woman who, aged twenty-four, has just lost the love of her life.

When Bella learns that Eddie is yet to have his first kiss, she resolves to help him finally find love, sparking an adventure that will take them to unexpected places and, they hope, bring Eddie to the moment he has waited for all his life.

As Bella helps Eddie and Eddie helps, well, everyone, a soul-stirring story of friendship and kindness unfolds as we see how those we love are never forgotten and it is never too late to try again.

Marianne Cronin was born in 1990 and grew up in Warwickshire. After gaining her PhD in applied linguistics, she worked in academia until becoming a writer. Her first novel, *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot*, published by Doubleday in 2021, was voted 'most uplifting book of 2021' by *The Independent* and shortlisted for a Goodreads Choice Award for Fiction. She lives in the Midlands with her family and her cat.



August 2024
9780857527219
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
352 pages

The Ballroom Girls Hit the Big Time

The most uplifting and heart-warming WW2 historical romance book

Jenny Holmes

The final novel in the Blackpool-set WWII saga series from Jenny Holmes, following three girls who waltz their worries away on the dancefloor... Perfect for fans of Nancy Revell and Margaret Dickinson.

'Live for the day' is the motto for the times, and our girls plan to waltz their worries away...

Ever-ambitious Sylvia wants more from her life, so starts planning a Dance Weekend at the Winter Gardens – not easy in wartime when air raids could cancel an event at the last minute. What she doesn't expect is for the competition to bring the dashing Vernon into her life too! Could everything finally fall into place for Sylvia?

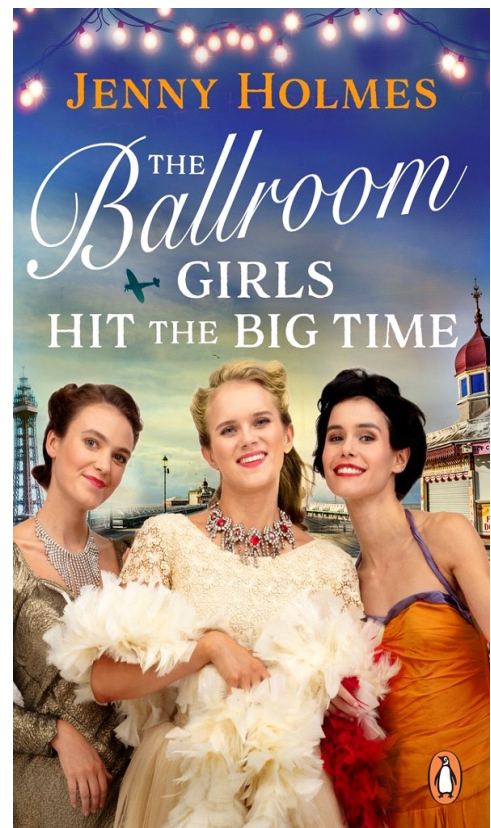
Joy's life has entirely turned around in the last year. Newly married to her beloved Tommy and at the helm of her family's business in Manchester, she can't believe how far she's come. But will the plight of her young employee Mildred throw things off course? Or will she and Tommy still be able to perfect their waltz in time for the competition?

Pearl is still longing for her darling Bernie to return from the war. Dancing is the best way to distract herself from her worries, so she throws herself into rehearsing the jive with handsome GI partner Errol. But as tongues begin to wag, will the ballroom still provide the solace she needs?

As the war wears on, can the Ballroom Girls really hit the big time?

Jenny Holmes lives in Ilkley, the gateway to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, and sets her sagas in her beloved home county and in neighbouring Lancashire. She enjoys playing tennis, being around horses and walking her dog by the river. She also writes children's books as Jenny Oldfield.

Find her on Facebook at [Facebook.com/JennyHolmesAuthor](https://www.facebook.com/JennyHolmesAuthor)



August 2024
9781804994061
B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
400 pages

Cuckoo

The new novel about family and motherhood from the author of *The Panic Years*

Nell Frizzell

A sharply funny and well-observed novel about an unconventional family from the award-winning writer, journalist and podcaster, Nell Frizzell.

After Nancy's father dies, she is faced with two life-changing revelations.

One: She has a half-brother she knew nothing about.

Two: She's expecting a baby.

Her brother is clearly the result of an affair, and she's having the baby with a man who, despite being in a relationship with Nancy for over two years, shows absolutely no signs of commitment. He's not even in the same country as her right now.

Nancy's half-sister Rita is furious with their father and wants nothing to do with their new-found brother. But Nancy is intrigued... In a tumult of grief, bewilderment, fear and hope, she is eager to meet Oliver and find the answer to what really makes a family.

And in a few months' time, who is going to step up and help her bring up a baby?

Nell Frizzell is a writer, journalist and *Vogue* columnist. She has written and worked for the *Guardian*, *VICE*, *The Sunday Times*, *Elle*, the BBC, the *Observer*, *Grazia* and *The Independent* among many others. Her first book, *The Panic Years*, was an exploration of bodies, babies and the big questions facing modern life. Her debut novel, *Square One*, painted a humorous picture of moving home, fathers and daughters and surviving heartbreak. She lives in Oxford, in a very small house full of pasta and bedding and bikes.



August 2024
9781787634343
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
384 pages

The Foot on the Crown

Christopher Fowler

Set during the Dark Ages (a time about which we know next to nothing), this is a story of London - a story that's filled with myths reimagined, legends retold, seductions, executions, deceits, betrayals and perhaps - just perhaps - a little hope; a posthumous work of maverick genius from the unmistakable, mischievous imagination of the creator of Bryant & May.

It is said a legend is just a beautiful lie...

In the second half of the first millennium, the legends say that London disappeared for over four hundred years. We know almost nothing about what happened during that time. But if we could shine a light on the city's ruined walls, we would be in for a shock.

The Romans are long forgotten. It is now King Scarabold who rules what little remains of the city, together with his over-entitled daughter Giniva, her effete brother Leperdandy and their wayward, lunatic relatives - all squabbling and fighting amongst themselves for the future of their corrupted dynasty while trying to hide their most terrible secret.

And ranged against Scarabold is a horde of bitter enemies from both without and within his dysfunctional household - the eerie Sheathwing, Lord Carapace Earl of Beetles, the warlike nuns of Étranges Cadeaux, a primate called M'Lin, Orobus the serpent, the terrifying Mater Moribund and the sinister child-spies Spackle and Peut - united in their desire to bring king's troubled reign to a bloody end.

But the arrival of a mysterious outsider into the midst of the beleaguered Scarabold's snake-pit of a court that seems to offer a semblance of hope. The stranger's name is Watborn and he is a birdcatcher - strong, silent, he will infiltrate the royal family for a purpose that is all of his own . . .

As fiendishly-armed warriors gather beneath the walls, the battle for London, its body and its soul as much as its bricks and mortar, is about to begin - and who will be left unscathed at the field's end?

Christopher Fowler was the multiple award-winning author of almost fifty novels and short story collections, including the celebrated Bryant & May mysteries. His other novels include *Roofworld*, *Spanky*, *The Sand Men* and *Hot Water*. He has also written two acclaimed memoirs, *Paperboy* (winner of the Green Carnation Prize) and *Film Freak*, plus *The Book of Forgotten Authors* and *Peculiar London*, Bryant and May's singular and eccentric guide to the city. In 2015 Chris was awarded the Crime Writers Association's coveted 'Dagger in the Library' for his body of work. He lived in London and Barcelona. Diagnosed with cancer just as the UK went into lockdown in 2020, Chris died on 2nd March 2023.



August 2024

9781787637443

£20.00

Demy Octavo : Hardback

512 pages

Safe Enough

And Other Stories

Lee Child

From the world's number one thriller writer, twenty pulse-pounding short stories are collected for the first time in one edition, complete with an introduction from the author.

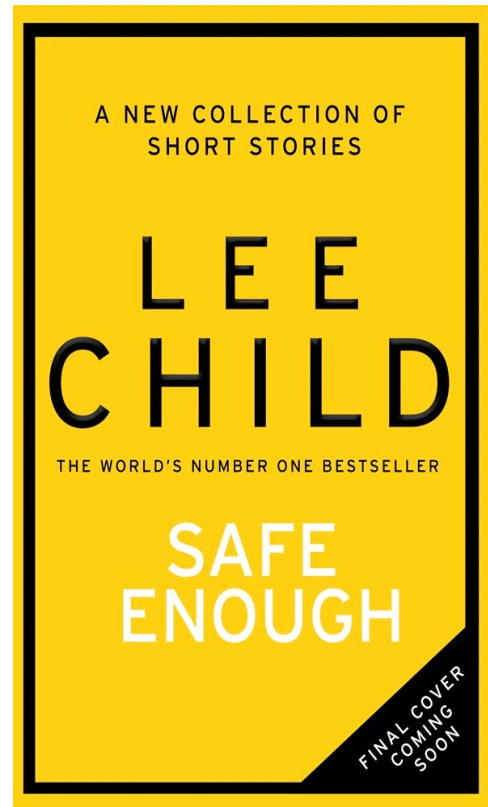
Here are twenty meticulously plotted, intimate portraits of humanity at its best and worst, featuring assassins, CIA agents, gangsters, and more. A drug-dealing hit man unburdens his fears to a stranger. An overlooked rookie cop is assigned to the department's file room. A ruthless killer only kills bad guys. A methodical bodyguard quits his job when he's outsmarted. A military mission is planned to perfection...

Each story is entirely distinct. And with their economical prose and unexpected twists, each could only have been written by the creator of Jack Reacher.

The stories included in this collection are:

The Bodyguard * The Greatest Trick of All * Ten Keys * Safe Enough * Natural in Every Way * The .50 Solution * Publica Transportation * Me and Mr. Rafferty * Section 7 (a) (Operational) * Addicted to Sweetness * The Bone-Headed League * I Heard a Romantic Story * My First Drug Trial * Wet with Rain * The Truth About What Happened * Pierre, Lucien & Me * New Blank Document * Shorty and the Briefcase * Dying for a Cigarette * The Snake-Eater by the Numbers

Lee Child is one of the world's leading thriller writers. He was born in Coventry, raised in Birmingham, and now lives in New York. It is said one of his novels featuring his hero Jack Reacher is sold somewhere in the world every nine seconds. His books consistently achieve the number-one slot on bestseller lists around the world and have sold over one hundred million copies. Lee is the recipient of many awards, most recently Author of the Year at the 2019 British Book Awards. He was appointed CBE in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours.



August 2024
9780857506795
Royal Octavo
£22.00 : Hardback
288 pages

Death at the Sign of the Rook

Kate Atkinson

Jackson Brodie returns! From the Number One bestselling author, a brilliantly clever take on the classic country house murder mystery; a homage to writers such as Agatha Christie

Discover the new novel from the Sunday Times bestselling author of *Shrines of Gaiety* and *Life after Life*.

Welcome to Rook Hall.

The stage is set. The players are ready. By night's end, a murderer will be revealed.

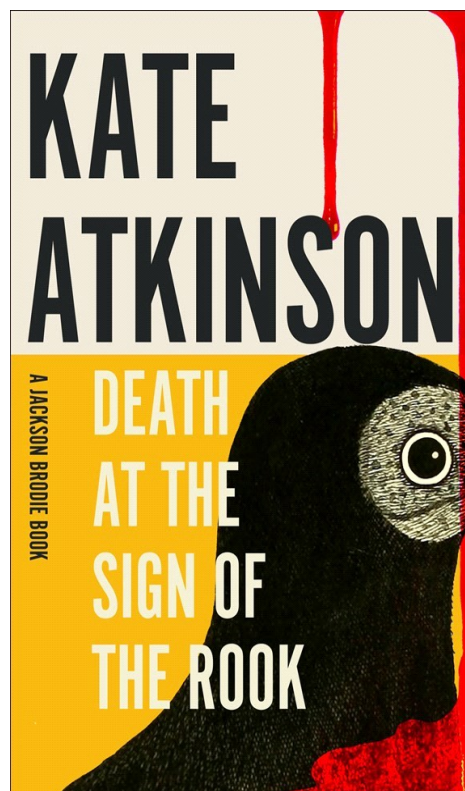
In his sleepy Yorkshire town, ex-detective Jackson Brodie is staving off boredom, his only case the seemingly tedious matter of a stolen painting.

But one theft leads to another and soon Jackson has uncovered a string of unsolved cases, including the disappearance of a valuable Turner from Burton Makepeace, home to Lady Milton and her family. Once a magnificent country house, Burton Makepeace has now partially been converted into a hotel, hosting Murder Mystery weekends.

As paying guests, a vicar, an ex-army officer, impecunious aristocrats, and old friends converge, we are treated to Atkinson's most charming and fiendishly clever mystery yet; one that pays homage to the masters of the genre—from Agatha Christie to Dorothy Sayers.

Brilliantly inventive, with all of Atkinson's signature wit, wordplay and narrative brio, *Death at the Sign of the Rook* may be Jackson Brodie's most outrageous and memorable case yet.

Kate Atkinson is one of the world's foremost novelists. Her most recent novel, *Shrines of Gaiety*, set in the aftermath of the First World War, is a *Sunday Times* bestseller. She won the Whitbread Book of the Year prize with her first novel, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*. Her three critically lauded and prize-winning novels set around the Second World War are *Life After Life*, an acclaimed 2022 BBC TV series, *A God in Ruins* (both winners of the Costa Novel Award) and *Transcription*. Her bestselling literary crime novels featuring former detective Jackson Brodie, *Case Histories*, *One Good Turn*, *When Will There Be Good News?* and *Started Early, Took My Dog*, became a BBC television series starring Jason Isaacs. Jackson Brodie later returned in the novel *Big Sky*. Kate Atkinson was awarded an MBE in 2011 and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.



August 2024

9780857526571

£22.00

Royal Octavo : Hardback
336 pages

Small Bomb At Dimperley

Lissa Evans

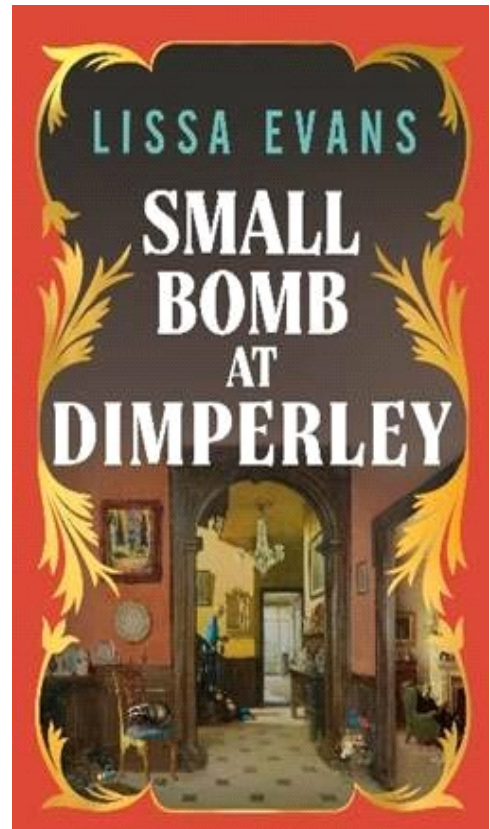
The newest novel by the brilliant Lissa Evans, a historical fiction tale about a family and their country house needing to change with the times in the aftermath of the Second World War.

It's 1945, and Corporal Valentine Vere-Thissett, aged 23, is on his way home. But 'home' is Dimperley, built in the 1500s, vast and dilapidated, up to its eaves in debt and half-full of fly-blown taxidermy and dependent relatives, the latter clinging to a way of life that has gone forever. And worst of all - following the death of his heroic older brother - Valentine is now *Sir* Valentine, and is responsible for the whole bloody place.

To Valentine, it's a millstone; to Zena Baxter, who has never really had a home before being evacuated there with her small daughter, it's a place of wonder and sentiment, somewhere that she can't bear to leave. But Zena has been living with a secret, and the end of the war means she has to face a reckoning of her own...

Funny, sharp and touching, *Small Bomb at Dimperley* is both a love story and a bittersweet portrait of an era of profound loss, and renewal.

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.



September 2024
9780857528292
Demy Octavo
£18.99 : Hardback
320 pages

University Challenges

A hilarious and nostalgic cosy novel for fans of James Herriot and Tom Sharpe

Jack Sheffield

The hilarious and heart-warming new novel from Jack Sheffield: 'Funny, poignant and always entertaining' - Carole Matthews

York, 1989.

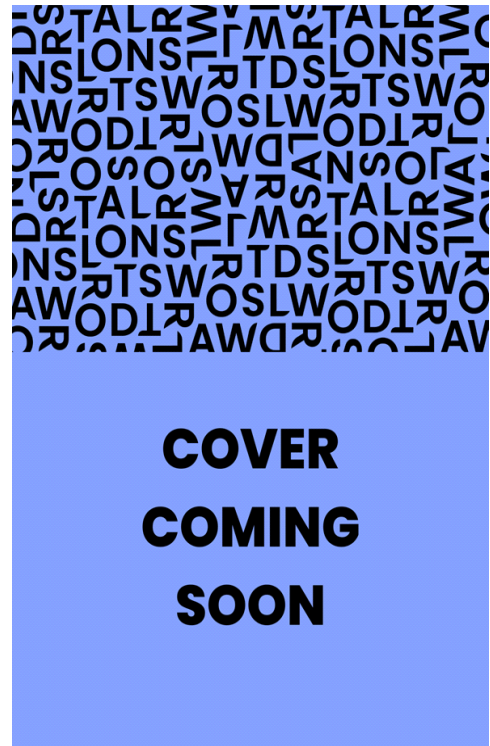
Beginning his second year as a tutor at the University of Eboracum, Dr Tom Frith is surprised to be paired as a 'buddy tutor' for a new member of staff. At first, Dr Rosie Tremaine appears staunchly independent, and even standoffish. But as Rosie and Tom navigate the trials and tribulations of life on campus, they soon become firm friends.

Whether they're investigating the shady practices of the new bursar or chasing down a rogue student suspected of being a Peeping Tom, university life is always full of surprises.

Off campus, the whole faculty must rally together to support a colleague through a difficult time, while Tom has an important question for his girlfriend, Inger . . .

A hilarious, nostalgic and heart-warming novel about the ups and downs of life at a fictional Yorkshire university, perfect for fans of James Herriot and Tom Sharpe.

Jack Sheffield grew up in the tough environment of Gipton Estate, in North East Leeds. After a job as a 'pitch boy', repairing roofs, he became a Corona Pop man before going to St John's College, York, and training to be a teacher. In the late seventies and eighties, he was a headteacher of two schools in North Yorkshire before becoming Senior Lecturer in Primary Education at Bretton Hall College of the University of Leeds. It was at this time he began to record his many amusing stories of village life as portrayed in *Teacher, Teacher!*, *Mister Teacher*, *Dear Teacher*, *Village Teacher*, *Please Sir!*, *Educating Jack*, *School's Out!*, *Silent Night*, *Star Teacher*, *Happiest Days*, *Starting Over*, *Changing Times*, *Back to School* and *School Days*. He lives in Hampshire.



September 2024
9780857505231
Demy Octavo
£18.99 : Hardback
336 pages

We'll Prescribe You a Cat

The feel good Japanese bestselling book
Syou Ishida, Translated by E. Madison Shimoda

For fans of **THE TRAVELLING CAT CHRONICLES**, **THE CAT WHO SAVED BOOKS** and **SHE AND HER CAT**, discover the award-winning bestselling Japanese novel that has become an international sensation in this utterly charming celebration of the healing power of cats.

A cat a day keeps the doctor away ...

On the top floor of an old building at the end of a cobbled alley in Kyoto lies the Kokoro Clinic for the Soul. Only a select few - those who feel genuine emotional pain - can find it.

The mysterious centre offers a unique treatment for its troubled patients: **it prescribes cats as medication.**

Get ready to fall in love:

- Bee, an eight-year-old female, mixed breed helps a disheartened businessman as he finds unexpected joy in physical labour;
- Margot, muscly like a lightweight boxer, helps a middle-aged callcentre worker stay relevant at work and at home;
- Koyuki, an exquisite white cat brings closure to a young mother troubled by the memory of the rescue kitten she was forced to abandon;
- Tank and Tangerine bring peace to a hardened handbag designer, as she learns to be kinder to herself;
- Mimita, the Scottish Fold kitten helps a broken-hearted Geisha to stop blaming herself for the cat she lost years ago;

As the clinic's patients navigate their inner turmoil and seek resolution, their feline companions lead them towards healing, self-discovery and newfound hope.

Contains five exquisite cat line-drawings.

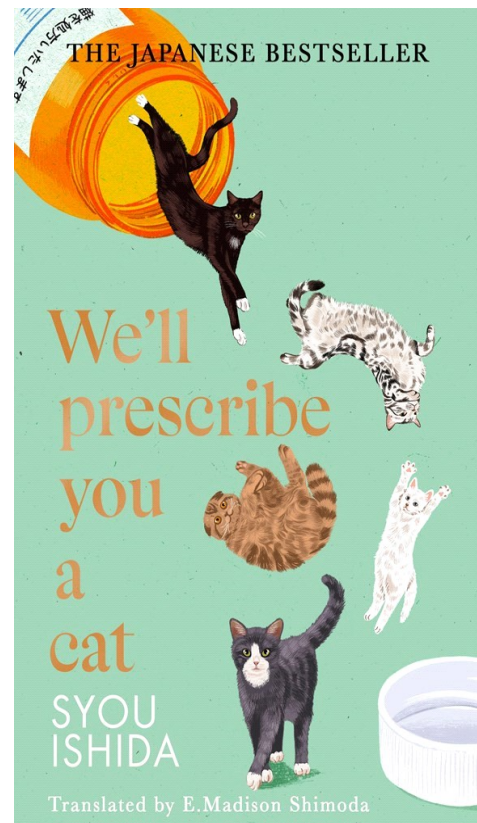
Japanese bestseller, October 2023

Japanese readers adore **WE'LL PRESCRIBE YOU A CAT**:

- 'The most wonderful book I've ever read' *****
- 'A terrific idea, a powerful ending, brilliant storytelling' *****
- 'The story drew me in instantly, and I laughed so much' *****
- 'I definitely want everyone to read this book' *****
- 'There are so many wonderful lines to underscore, but if I write them here, there will be spoilers!' *****

Syou Ishida (Author)

Born in 1975 in Kyoto, award-winning author **Syou Ishida** has always adored her cats. She began writing fiction while working at a telecommunications company. *We'll Prescribe You a Cat* has been a runaway bestseller in Japan, and is due to be translated into over twenty languages. Its sequel, *We'll Prescribe You a Cat II* will be published worldwide next year.



September 2024

9781529936711

£12.99

B Format (TW) : Hardback

256 pages

Think Again Jacqueline Wilson

An adult novel from the iconic, much-beloved household brand, Jacqueline Wilson, revisiting Ellie, Magda and Nadine from the Girls series, now aged 40. If they think life's done surprising them - they'll have to think again...

Being an adult isn't quite what Ellie Allard dreamed it would be when she was fourteen years old. Though she's got her beautiful daughter Lottie, life-long best friends in Magda and Nadine and her trusty cat Stella, her love life is non-existent and she feels like she's been living on auto-pilot, just grateful to be able to afford the mortgage on her pokey little flat.

But this year on her birthday, the universe seems to decide it's time to for all that to change – whether Ellie wants it to or not. As she navigates new, exciting and often choppy waters, she's about to discover that life will never stop surprising you – if only you let it.

Jacqueline Wilson wrote her first novel when she was nine years old, and she has been writing ever since. She is now one of Britain's bestselling and most beloved children's authors. She has written over 100 books and is the creator of characters such as Tracy Beaker and Hetty Feather. More than forty million copies of her books have been sold.

As well as winning many awards for her books, including the Children's Book of the Year, Jacqueline is a former Children's Laureate, and in 2008 she was appointed a Dame.

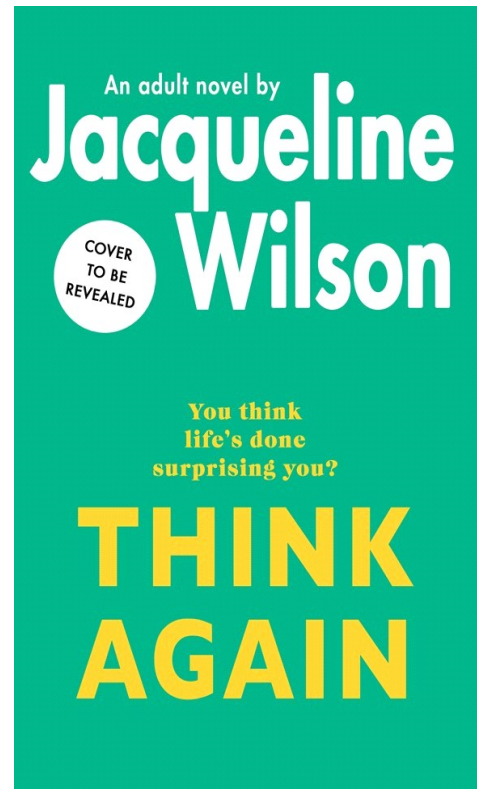
Jacqueline is also a great reader, and has amassed over 20,000 books, along with her famous collection of silver rings.

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Find out more about Jacqueline and her books at www.jacquelinewilson.co.uk



September 2024
9780857506108
£22.00
Royal Octavo : Hardback
352 pages

Gone with the Penguins

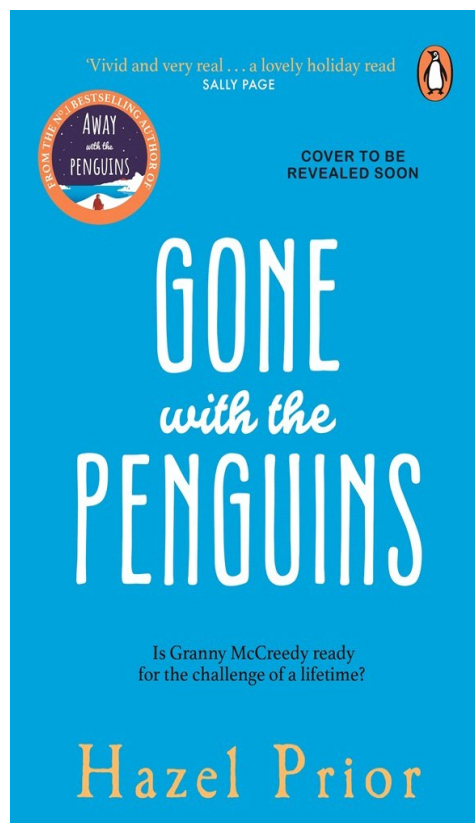
The brand-new uplifting novel from the bestselling author of *Away with the Penguins*

Hazel Prior

A delightfully feel-good new novel from the No.1 bestseller and R&J selected author of *Away With the Penguins*. Perfect for fans of uplifting fiction from authors such as Sally Page and Cathy Bramley.

The third instalment of the *Penguins* trilogy follows Veronica McCreedy as she embarks on an epic adventure to Antarctica!

HAZEL PRIOR lives on Exmoor with her husband and a huge ginger cat. As well as writing, she works as a freelance harpist. Hazel is the author of *Ellie and the Harp-Maker*, the #1 ebook and audiobook bestseller *Away with the Penguins* and its follow-up, *Call of the Penguins. Life and Otter Miracles* is her fourth novel.



September 2024
9781804993330
B Format (TW)
£9.99 : Paperback
364 pages

A Foundling at the Wartime Bookshop

Lesley Eames

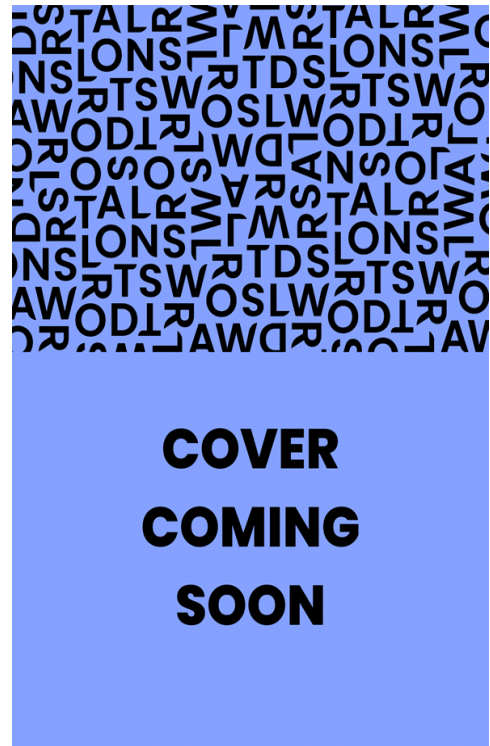
Lesley Eames's wildly popular WWII saga series continues in this heart-warming story. A newborn baby on the doorstep is the latest surprise for our friends at the wartime bookshop!

The fifth brilliantly heart-warming novel in the Wartime Bookshop series, perfect for fans of Maisie Thomas and Elaine Everest.

Victoria is astonished when she discovers an abandoned newborn baby on her doorstep, along with a note begging her to 'take care of little Rose'. Who is the mother? Victoria, Naomi and the Churchwood bookshop organising team set about trying to identify her, concerned for her welfare and hoping to give her a chance to reclaim her baby.

As they piece together the heartbreaking story, all sorts of surprises emerge. But they can't keep the baby a secret for long: can they reunite the little family before the authorities take Rose away?

Lesley is an author of historical sagas. Having previously written sagas set around the time of the First World War, she ventured into the Second World War period with her fifth book, *The Wartime Bookshop*. Originally from the north west of England (Manchester), Lesley's home is now Hertfordshire where *The Wartime Bookshop*'s fictional village of Churchwood is set. Lesley is thrilled to have enjoyed success in competitions as varied as crime writing to writing for children. She is particularly honoured to have won the Festival of Romance New Talent Award, the Romantic Novelists' Association's Elizabeth Goudge Cup and to have been twice shortlisted in the UK Romantic Novel Awards (RONAs).



September 2024
9781804993712
B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
400 pages

An Academy for Liars

Alexis Henderson

They are born with magic in their blood but they must be taught how to wield it . . .

In a mysterious college a student will find that the hardest lessons are learned outside the classroom in this stunning dark academia novel from the acclaimed author of *The Year of the Witching* and *House of Hunger*.

'Alexis Henderson is one of the best Gothic writers out there.' HANNAH WHITTEN

'Alexis Henderson is an exhilarating talent, creating rich new worlds that terrify and enchant.' RACHEL HARRISON

Lennon Carter's life is falling apart.

Until she gets a mysterious phone call inviting her to sit the entrance exam for somewhere very few have heard of - Drayton College, a school of magic hidden in a secret pocket of Savannah.

Lennon has been chosen because - like everyone else at the school - she is special. She possesses the innate gift of persuasion: the ability to wield her will like a weapon and to use it to control others and, in rare cases, matter itself.

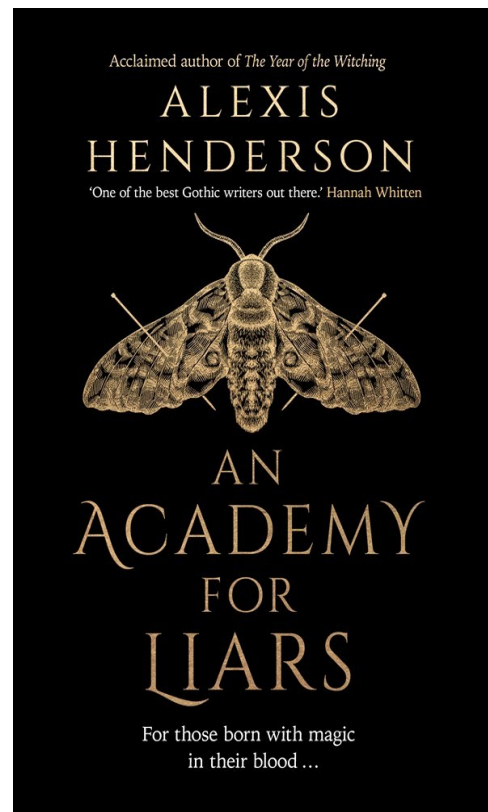
After passing the gruelling exam, Lennon must now learn how to master this devastating power.

While persuasion takes a heavy toll on her body and her mind, she is captivated by all that surrounds her - her studies, Drayton's lush, moss-draped campus, her brilliant classmates and, most of all, by Dante, the charismatic adviser who both intimidates and enamours her.

But as Lennon becomes more adept at wielding her uncanny abilities, she uncovers more about the unsettling history of Drayton and Dante's tragic and violent past, and is increasingly disturbed by what she finds.

For it seems that the ultimate test is to embrace absolute power without succumbing to corruption and darkness . . . and it's a test she's terrified she is going to fail.

'A modern-day Anne Rice, Henderson has a gift for creating a world engorged with desire and death.' *THE NEW YORK*



October 2024
9780857505552
Royal Octavo
£18.99 : Hardback
320 pages

Marigold Mind Laundry

The Inspirational Top Five Korean Bestseller
Jungeun Yun, Translated by Shanna Tan

The Top Five Korean bestseller for fans of **WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IS IN THE LIBRARY** and **THE ALCHEMIST**.

The comforting tale of a magical laundry that blooms into existence one night, and how its enigmatic owner must learn to find her own peace before she can help others.

We're a mind laundry. We wash the stains from your heart.

When young Jieun accidentally misuses her powers, causing her entire family to vanish, she vows to keep living over a million lives in search of them.

Overnight, in the village of Marigold, she brings the Marigold Mind Laundry into existence. Its service – to remove the darkest stain from your heart. Jieun listens while unhappy memories transfer as stains onto a T-shirt. After a spin in the washing machine, the stains transform into red petals that soar in the air.

We meet five wounded souls: a frustrated young filmmaker; a spiralling social-media influencer; a mother who has discovered her husband's other family; a young woman two-timed by her lover; a talented photographer and victim of bullying, who escapes into a mundane job.

As Jieun helps each to move on, she learns how both pain and happiness co-exist, and how we all have the power to heal, if only we are open to looking.

Joyous and soul-stirring, MARIGOLD MIND LAUNDRY has already demonstrated its power to move the hearts of thousands of readers. As we laugh, wonder and grow, we too learn how to tap into the positivity and magic that lies in us all.

Korean readers adore MARIGOLD MIND LAUNDRY:

'A **life-changing** novel' *****

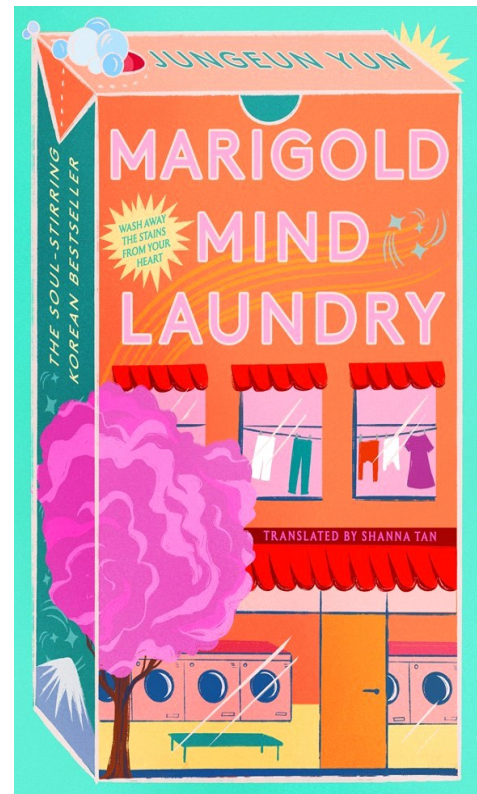
'A book that makes me **reflect** on my life' *****

'Even better when you read it with **a loved one**' *****

'I took leave from work because I needed to **finish it in one sitting**'

Jungeun Yun (Author)

Jungeun Yun is the author of more than ten books, including *Live the Way You Want*; *Even If I Don't Know How to Be an Adult* and *To Travel or To Love*. Yun believes that writing is self-reflection, a close examination of emotions; to write is to connect. Yun hosts a podcast *The Path of Books with Jungeun Yun*. Her debut novel *Marigold Mind Laundry* has been a Top Five bestseller in Korea and is due to be published around the world. Jungeun Yun lives in Korea.



October 2024

9781529925654

£12.99

B Format (TW) : Hardback

256 pages

The Coven

A dark academia enemies-to-lovers fantasy romance novel

Harper L. Woods

The Vampire Diaries meets *Shadow and Bone* in this steamy, dark academia fantasy romance from the viral TikTok author.

"Your destiny is not to do what is right. Your destiny is to destroy us all."

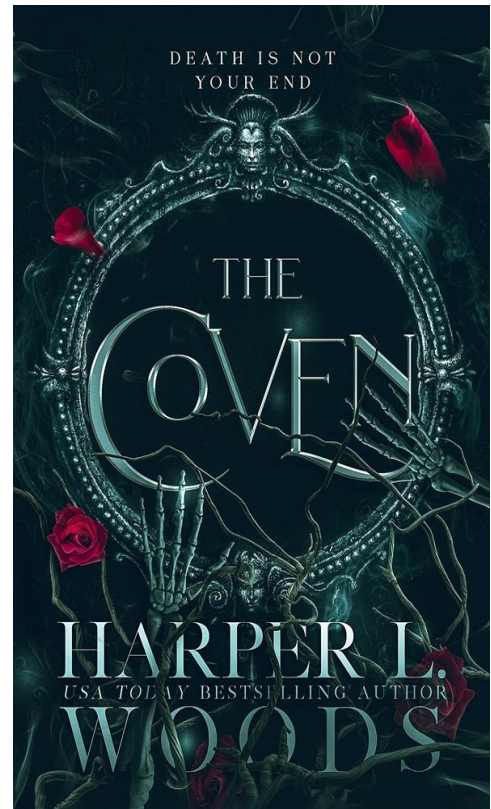
Willow Madizza never thought she'd accept a place at Hollow's Grove University, the secret and prestigious institution where the best and brightest of her fellow witches learn to wield their magic.

But Willow has reasons for being at Hollow's Grove beyond the education it offers. Raised to be a weapon against the Coven that presides over the University, she must find the bones of her ancestors in order to reclaim the magic that is her destiny.

Her only obstacle is Alaric Grayson Thorne, the University's beautiful and infuriating Headmaster. Gray is ruthless, manipulative, dangerous – he represents everything Willow has been taught to despise. But despite their mutual loathing, Gray understands Willow better than anyone, and he might just be the key to unlocking her full power . . .

Harper L. Woods is the *USA Today* bestselling fantasy romance alter ego for Adelaide Forrest. Raised in small-town Vermont, her passion for reading was born during long winters spent with her face buried between the pages of a book. She began to pass the time by writing short stories that quickly turned into full-length fiction. Since that time, she has published over 15 books and has plans for many more.

When she isn't writing, Harper can be found spending time with her two young kids, curled up with her dog, dreaming about travel to distant lands, or designing book covers she'll never have enough time to use.



October 2024
9780857506252
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
304 pages

The Blue Hour

Paula Hawkins

The powerful new thriller from the No.1 bestselling author, Paula Hawkins

'Paula Hawkins is a genius' **LISA JEWELL**

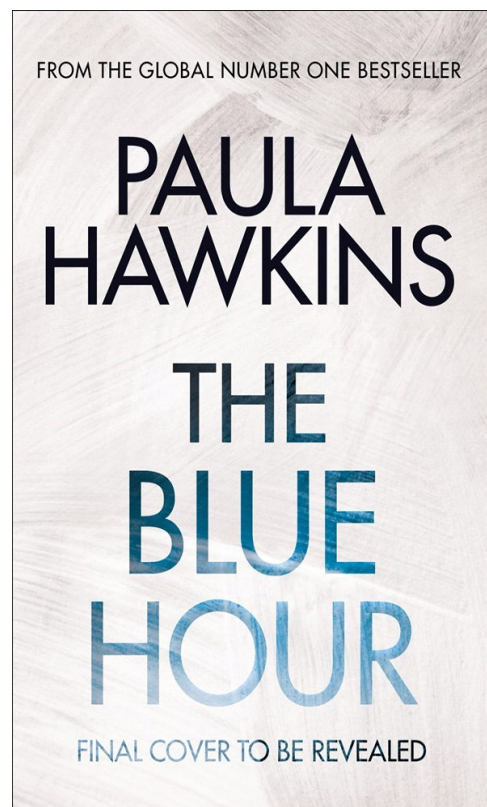
When a small bone at the centre of a famous sculpture is revealed to be human, three people become intimately connected by the secrets and lies that put it there.

Set on a Scottish tidal island connected to the mainland for just a few hours each day, and home to only one inhabitant, *The Blue Hour* asks questions of ambition, power, art and perception.

'A new Paula Hawkins novel is always a cause for celebration. Her books have all the pleasing twists of the noir genre while at the same time having something to say that feels real and complex and true' **LOUISE DOUGHTY**

PAULA HAWKINS worked as a journalist for fifteen years before writing her first novel. Born and brought up in Zimbabwe, she moved to London in 1989. Her first thriller, *The Girl on the Train*, has sold more than 23 million copies worldwide. Published in over fifty languages, it has been a No.1 bestseller around the world and was a box-office-hit film starring Emily Blunt.

Paula's thrillers *Into the Water* and *A Slow Fire Burning* were also instant No.1 bestsellers.



October 2024
9781529938067
Royal Octavo
£22.00 : Hardback
336 pages

Christmas in the Swiss Alps

Jo Thomas

The most heartwarming Christmas novel of 2024 from the bestselling author, full of travel, romance and chocolate!

Let the queen of feel-good Christmas fiction whisk you off to the snowy mountains this festive season...

When Clara signs up for a month of chocolate-making in Switzerland, she imagines the stunning scenery of the magical snowy Alps, a cute chalet and a cosy workshop like something from a Christmas advert.

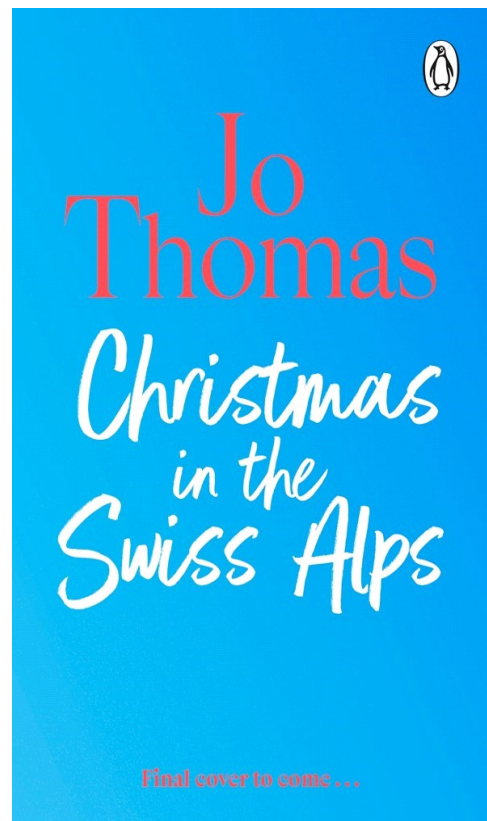
What she isn't expecting is chocolate-making bootcamp! In this stark laboratory, chocolate is *everything*. It's a very serious set-up, with master chocolatiers to be revered and where favouritism and fanaticism, subterfuge and scandal are rife!

Clara is way out of her depth. But caught up in the world of chocolate school, picking her friends – and her enemies – carefully, she discovers a newfound passion. Until a secret is revealed, and Clara has to decide whether to risk everything she has for a new life and love...

'It just wouldn't be Christmas without Jo's book in your stocking!' Jill Mansell

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 book *Escape to the French Farmhouse* was a #1 bestselling eBook. 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.



October 2024
9781804993842
B Format (TW)
£9.99 : Paperback
364 pages

Orphan of the Storm

Lily Fielding

A sweeping and heart-rending 19th-century saga about found family, romance and triumph over adversity, perfect for fans of Val Wood, Dilly Court and Gracie Hart.

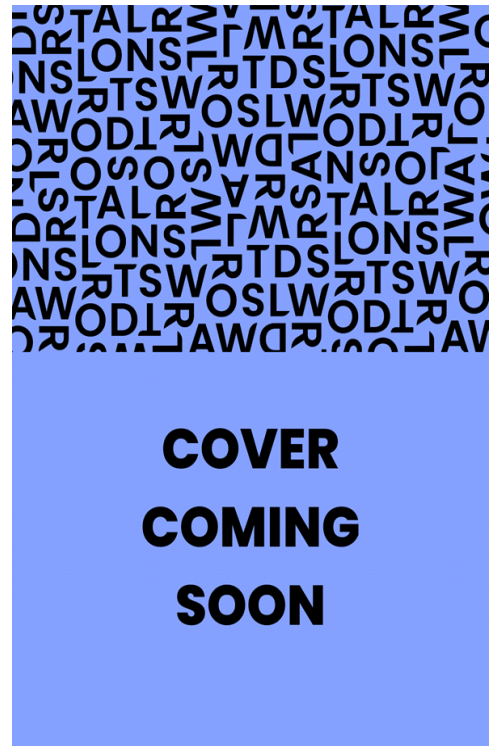
1876. Life is happy for ten-year-old Rebecca Wheeler in the small fishing village of St. Leonard's Cove. Until one day a violent storm strikes and her father and older brothers are lost at sea.

Destitute, Rebecca and her mother Lydia make their way to Dartmouth. Lydia is relieved when a man named Mickey Fox seemingly takes pity on them and offers her work and lodgings... but is horrified to discover that the work is in a brothel, and there's no way to back out now.

While conditions in the brothel are harsh, Rebecca and Lydia soon find a sort of family among the women who work there. But when things turn violent, it falls on Lydia's new friends to devise a plan to help Rebecca escape...

Alone and hunted by Mickey, Rebecca must make her own way in the world. With her family gone, will she ever find a place she truly belongs?

Lily Fielding lives in Dorset and used to work at her local branch of WHSmith, where she was fondly known as The Book Lady. She also writes as Karen Dickson.



October 2024
9781804993941
B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
400 pages

In Too Deep

(Jack Reacher 29)

Lee Child and Andrew Child

Jack Reacher, "the coolest continuing series character" (Stephen King), returns in a brand new, pulse-pounding read from Lee and Andrew Child.

Reacher had no idea where he was. No idea how he had got there. But someone must have brought him. And shackled him. And whoever had done those things was going to rue the day. That was for damn sure.

Jack Reacher wakes up, alone, in the dark, handcuffed to a makeshift bed. His right arm has suffered some major damage. His few possessions are gone. He has no memory of getting there.

The last thing Reacher can recall is the car he hitched a ride in getting run off the road. The driver was killed.

His captors assume Reacher was the driver's accomplice and patch up his wounds as they plan to make him talk.

A plan that will backfire spectacularly . . .

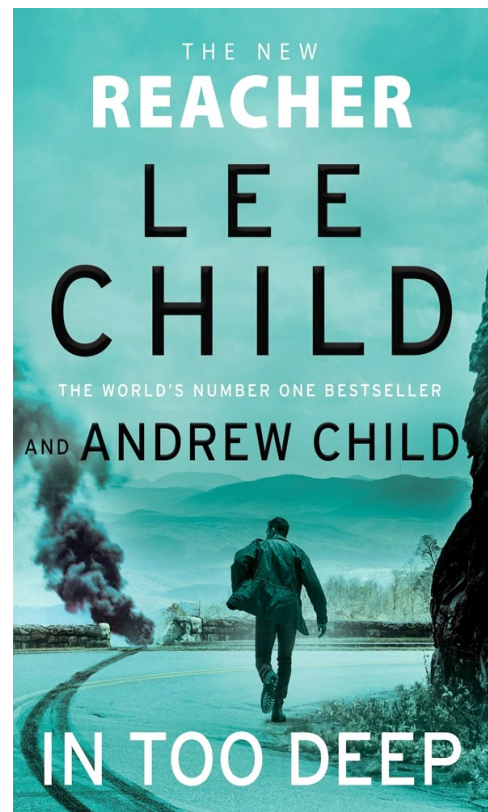
'There's only one Jack Reacher. Accept no substitutes.' **MICK HERRON**

Lee Child (Author)

Lee Child is one of the world's leading thriller writers. He was born in Coventry, raised in Birmingham, and now lives in New York. It is said one of his novels featuring his hero Jack Reacher is sold somewhere in the world every nine seconds. His books consistently achieve the number-one slot on bestseller lists around the world and have sold over one hundred million copies. Lee is the recipient of many awards, most recently Author of the Year at the 2019 British Book Awards. He was appointed CBE in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours.

Andrew Child (Author)

Andrew Child is the author of nine thrillers written under the name Andrew Grant. He is the younger brother of Lee Child.



October 2024
9780857505590
Royal Octavo
£22.00 : Hardback
384 pages

Dead Island

Samuel Bjork

The newest instalment in the Munch and Krüger series, following the pair as they investigate two child murders on the mysterious remote island of Hitra.

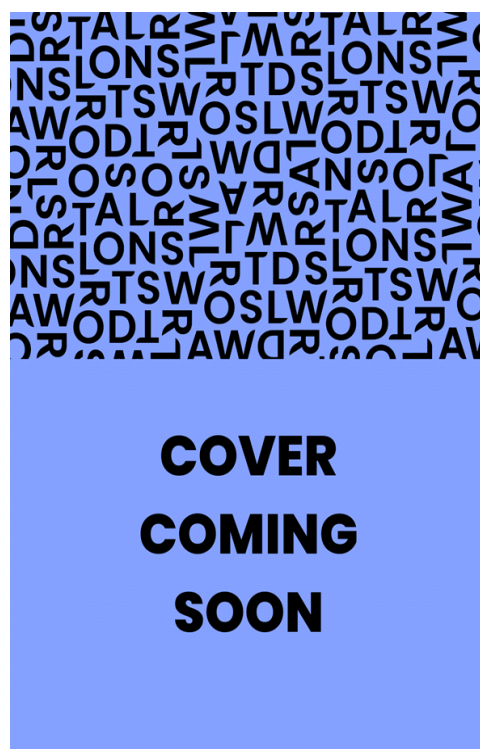
Mia Kruger has returned to the island of Hitra where she once came to end her own life. Having reconciled with her twin sister's death, she no longer harbours a wish to die. But the challenges of her work have taken a toll, and to Holger Munch's discontent, she has decided to leave the police force once and for all.

But when Mia is approached by 11-year-old Sofia, the investigator inside her is awakened. Sofia, having heard the famous Mia now lives on her island, enlists the former detective to find out what happened to her best friend Jonathan who disappeared three years earlier.

When a young girl is found brutally murdered with Jonathan's name next to her in blood, it seems the cases are connected. Calling in Munch to join the investigation, the pair are reunited to solve the case of a serial killer, this time faced with all the challenges that being on a rural, isolated island entails.

As tensions start to build between the local inhabitants of Hitra, Mia and Munch must navigate not only stormy seas but a maze of dead-end leads and tense relationships before ultimately finding the elusive killer. Smarter, faster and more suspenseful than ever, international bestseller Samuel Bjørk is back with his most satisfying mystery to date.

Samuel Bjork is the pen name of Norwegian novelist, playwright and singer/songwriter Frode Sander Øien. The Munch and Krüger series features five books: the Richard & Judy Bookclub bestseller *I'm Travelling Alone*, *The Owl Always Hunts At Night*, *The Boy in the Headlights*, *The Wolf* and *Dead Island*.



October 2024
9781787637016
Royal Octavo
£18.99 : Hardback
432 pages

The Cursed

Your next gothic, dark academia fantasy romance obsession!

Harper L. Woods

The Atlas Six meets *The Serpent and the Wings of Night* in the second installment of this steamy, dark academia fantasy romance duet, which picks up the story following a jaw-dropping cliffhanger.

Betrayal.

He was the deception waiting in the night; the truth I never saw coming. After a lifetime of manipulation, I finally learned the truth. I was his puppet — even if I never saw my strings.

Even knowing how deep his betrayal runs, I can't shake the undeniable connection between Gray and I — the way a single glance from him sets my soul on fire. We are not the same. We're enemies, poised to battle for the future of the very thing I'd wanted to destroy.

With the Covenant gone, the revenge I thought I wanted is no longer my priority. The witches that remain played no role in my aunt's death, and the only person standing in the way of righting those wrongs is the very man determined to keep me in his bed.

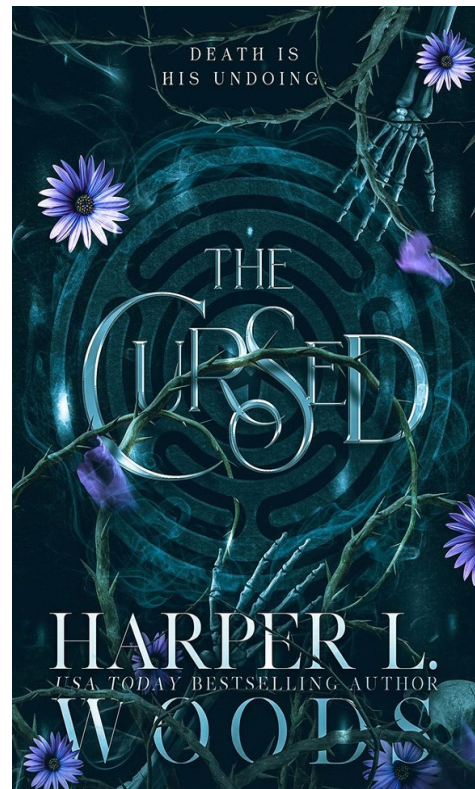
But the remaining members of the Coven will never forgive me for the role I played in their demise and subjugation, and the worst part of all is that I can't even blame them for it. I'd been naive, believing my own delusions of grandeur when destiny clearly had other plans for me. Plans that had been set in motion centuries before my birth.

But even that had been a lie, and now it is my duty to do everything in my power to undo it.

To protect my Coven from my husband's hatred — no matter what the cost.

Harper L. Woods is the *USA Today* bestselling fantasy romance alter ego for Adelaide Forrest. Raised in small-town Vermont, her passion for reading was born during long winters spent with her face buried between the pages of a book. She began to pass the time by writing short stories that quickly turned into full-length fiction. Since that time, she has published over 15 books and has plans for many more.

When she isn't writing, Harper can be found spending time with her two young kids, curled up with her dog, dreaming about travel to distant lands, or designing book covers she'll never have enough time to use.



November 2024

9780857506276

£16.99

Royal Octavo : Hardback

304 pages

The Half King

The most epic, spellbinding and dark fantasy romance of 2024

Melissa Landers

***Beauty and the Beast* meets *The Sandman* in this scorching-hot fantasy that's perfect for fans of Jennifer L. Armentrout and Holly Black.**

In a world where birth order determines your fate, what if everything you believed about yourself was a lie?

Like all second-born daughters of the realm, Cerise Solon has never ventured beyond the temple grounds where she lives in service to the goddess. But unlike her peers, Cerise is a complete failure as an oracle. Her inability to foretell a single tragedy has brought shame upon her family, something she sees reflected in their eyes during their rare visits. Everything changes when the head seer offers Cerise an opportunity to serve the Half King—a young man who rules by day and turns to shadow at sunset.

As a firstborn son, the king bears his bloodline's curse, destined to vanish completely upon his twenty-first birthday. While searching for a way to restore him, Cerise finds a kindred spirit in the mysterious young ruler, and with his help discovers a startling revelation about herself that unlocks a powerful set of gifts. But the truth comes with a price. For she is no oracle, but instead the product of a union so forbidden its discovery would sentence her to death.

Despite her tainted origins, Cerise might be the key to restoring order to the land and saving the man she's quickly growing to love...if she can outlive those sworn to destroy her.

Melissa Landers is a former teacher who left the classroom to pursue other worlds. A proud sci-fi geek, she isn't afraid to wear her Princess Leia costume in public — just ask her embarrassed kids.

She lives in Cincinnati Ohio, where she writes romantic fantasy and science fiction adventures for the young at heart.



November 2024
9780857506665
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
512 pages

The Christmas Retreat

The new heart-warming book from the Sunday Times bestseller

Trisha Ashley

***Sunday Times* bestseller Trisha Ashley whisks us away this Christmas for a heartwarming tale of the importance of love, family and friendship...**

Ginny Spain usually loves Christmas. Not this year, though. After witnessing a traumatic accident and breaking up with her ex, she plans to spend it alone. But her formidable art historian mother, Evie, has other ideas.

Determined to drag her daughter out of isolation, Evie persuades Ginny to spend Christmas with her at an artist and writer's retreat at Triskelion, a remote old house in the tiny coastal village of Little Star.

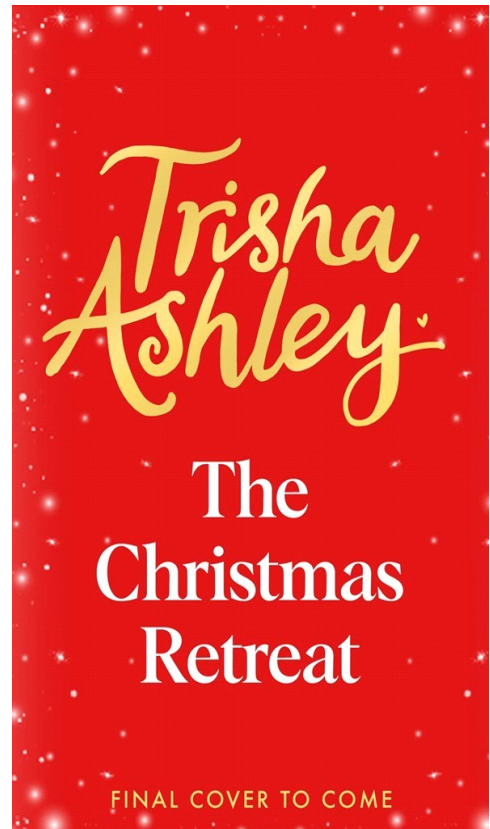
But Evie's plans aren't without an ulterior motive – having discovered that her grandmother was an artist and spent time at Triskelion house, she wants to unlock the secrets surrounding her and Ginny's ancestor.

Rugged Rhys Tarn lives at Triskelion with his ten year old daughter, having lost his wife in mysterious and distressing circumstances – and Ginny is in for a shock when she discovers she and Rhys share an unexpected connection.

Between Winter Solstice and Twelfth Night, and with the help of Rhys, can Ginny unlock her past and make this Christmas her happiest one yet?

Trisha Ashley's *Sunday Times* bestselling novels have sold over one million copies in the UK and have twice been shortlisted for the Melissa Nathan award for Romantic Comedy. *Every Woman for Herself* was nominated by magazine readers as one of the top three romantic novels in the last fifty years.

Trisha lives in North Wales. For more information about her please visit www.facebook.com/TrishaAshleyBooks or follow her on Twitter @trishaashley.



November 2024
9781787634763
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
400 pages

Fire

John Boyne

From internationally bestselling author John Boyne, a challenging and visceral narrative that asks the question: can one cataclysmic moment turn someone into a monster?

On the face of it, Freya lives a gilded existence, dancing solely to her own tune. She has all the trappings of wealth and privilege, a responsible job as a surgeon specialising in skin grafts, a beautiful flat in a sought-after development, and a flash car. But it wasn't always like this. Hers is a life founded on darkness.

Did what happened to Freya as a child one fateful summer influence the adult she would become – or was she always destined to be that person? Was she born with cruelty in her heart or did something force it into being?

In *Fire*, John Boyne takes the reader on a chilling, uncomfortable but utterly compelling psychological journey to the epicentre of the human condition, asking the age-old question: nurture – or nature?

John Boyne is the author of fifteen 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 sixty languages.

Twitter: @JohnBoyneBooks
Instagram: @JohnBoyneAuthor



November 2024
9780857529879
Demy Octavo
£14.99 : Hardback
176 pages

The Christmas Stocking Murders

Denzil Meyrick

A stocking-filler to die for... This dazzling Golden Age murder mystery is compulsive, atmospheric and written with Denzil Meyrick's trademark humour and wit.

A case shrouded in secrets.

It's just before Christmas, 1953. Grasby and Juggers are investigating a puzzling murder in the remote village of Uthley's Bay. A fisherman has been found dead on the beach, with a stocking wound tight round his throat.

A festive mystery for one and all.

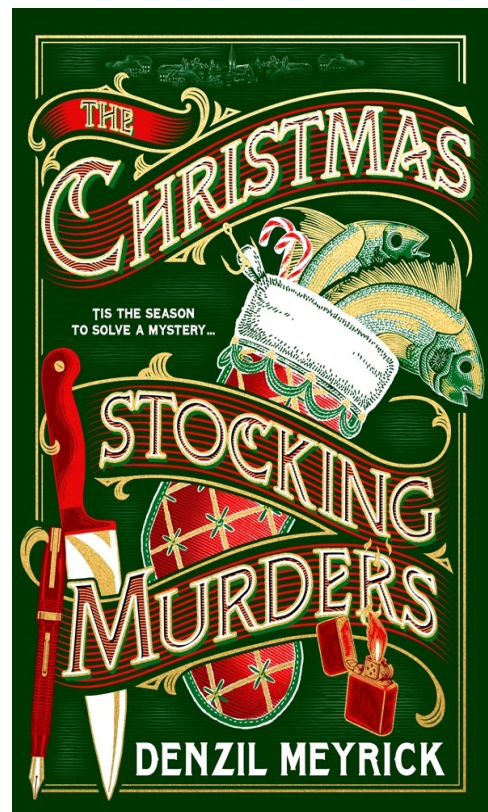
Hundreds of pairs of stockings, in neat cellophane bags, soon wash up on the shore. A blizzard cuts off Grasby and Juggers from help, and the local innkeeper is murdered. Any remaining Christmas cheer goes up in smoke as the villagers refuse to talk, leaving the two detectives chasing false leads in the snow.

A winter wonderland with no escape.

To make matters worse, Grasby can't stop thinking about stockings. Why does everyone seem to be enjoying strangely high standards of hosiery, even beneath their oilskins? Who is the sinister bespectacled man snooping around their hotel? And how can they solve the murder when everyone in the village is a suspect?

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