

Not in My Book

Katie Holt

***The Hating Game* meets *Beach Read* in this sexy and hilarious enemies-to-lovers romance from a debut Peruvian-Tennessean voice.**

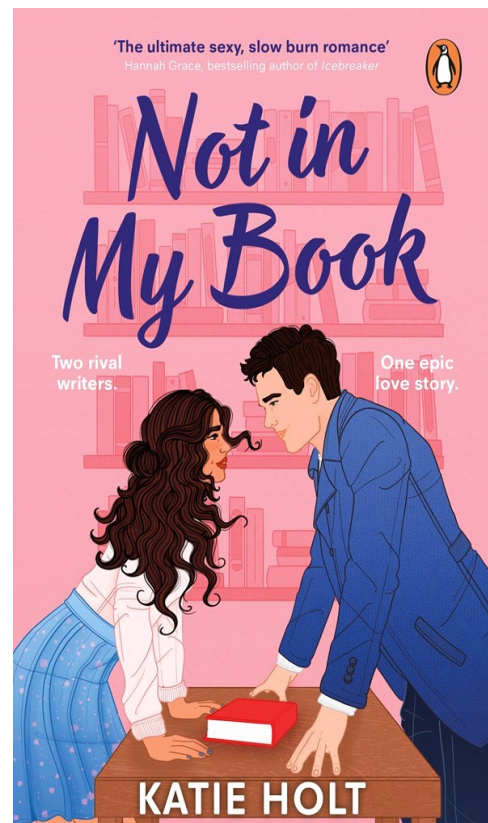
Rosie Maxwell has a plan: move to New York, get her creative writing degree from NYU, become a bestselling romance writer. But that plan is derailed when she ends up in class with her archnemesis and ex-crush, Aiden Huntington, an obnoxious, surly, unreasonably gorgeous literary fiction writer who has no patience for romance – or for Rosie.

Exhausted by Rosie and Aiden's constant verbal sparring, their professor gives them an ultimatum: leave her class, or cowrite a novel that blends their respective genres.

As Rosie and Aiden collaborate on their (accidentally steamy) novel, they try to put their differences aside. Could their manuscript-in-progress be just the outlet they need to confess their feelings – and explore their mutual attraction?

But a potentially career-changing opportunity soon reignites the flames of their old rivalry. Rosie and Aiden's once-in-a-lifetime love story is once again at risk of being shelved – unless they can find a way to end the book on their own terms . . .

Katie Holt is a New York City resident but a Tennessee native. She studied English with a concentration in creative writing at NYU and fought with every professor to prove that romance novels were worthy of their time. She's a Nora Ephron fanatic, Swiftie, and warm chocolate chip enthusiast. *Not in My Book* is her first novel.



January 2025
9781804996348
B Format (TW)
£9.99 : Paperback
336 pages

Water Moon

Samantha Sotto Yambao

A young woman inherits a Tokyo pawn shop where you can sell your deepest regrets, sparking a dream-like and magical adventure: *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* meets Studio Ghibli.

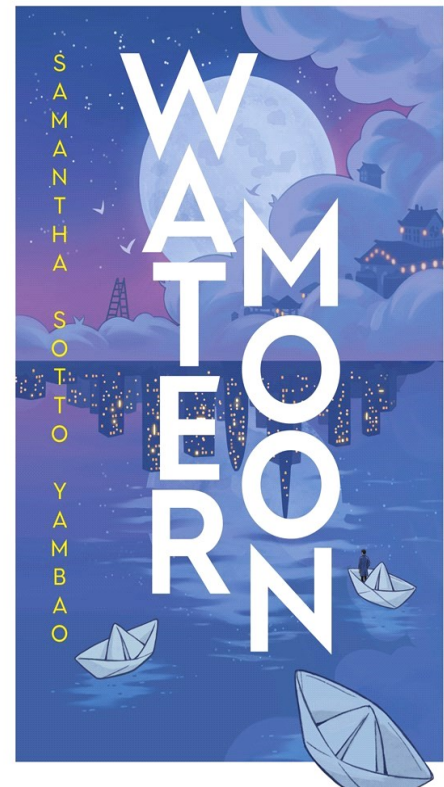
On a backstreet in Tokyo lies a pawnshop, but not everyone can find it. Most will see only a cosy ramen restaurant. And just the chosen ones – those who are lost – will find a place to pawn their life choices and deepest regrets.

Hana Ishikawa wakes on her first morning as the pawnshop's new owner to find it ransacked, the shop's most precious acquisition stolen and her father missing. And then into the shop stumbles a charming stranger, quite unlike other customers. For he offers help, instead of seeking it.

Together, they must journey through a mystical world to find Hana's father and the stolen choice – through rain puddles, hitching rides on paper cranes, across the bridge between midnight and morning and through a night market in the clouds.

But as they get closer to the truth, Hana must reveal a secret of her own – and risk making a choice she will never be able to take back.

Samantha Sotto Yambao is a professional daydreamer, aspiring time traveller, and speculative fiction writer based in Manila. She is the author of *Before Ever After*, *Love and Gravity*, *A Dream of Trees*, and *The Beginning of Always*. *Water Moon* is her latest novel and UK debut.



January 2025
9780857505330
Royal Octavo
£18.99 : Hardback
384 pages

The Cleaner

Mary Watson

A beautifully sinister, propulsive page-turning adult debut that explores themes of obsession, identity and privilege, about a woman who takes a job as a cleaner – but what she's really after is revenge...

It's not dust she's looking for.

It's dirt.

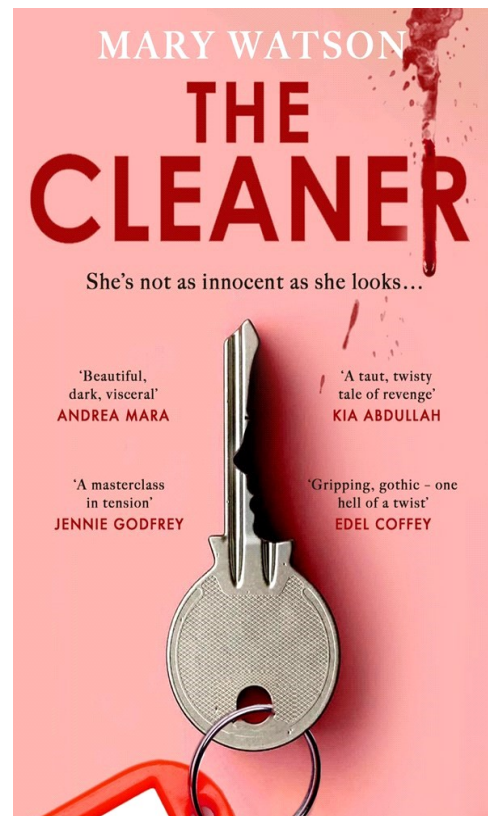
Esmie is supposed to be invisible. Just a cleaner with a foreign accent that no one quite has time to place. Her uniform of leggings and a duster allows her to explore the homes of the wealthy, unseen; an outsider creeping around the edges of privilege.

But as she sweeps through the exclusive Woodlands gated neighbourhood, cleaning is the last thing on her mind. Treading silently over the polished wooden floorboards and cloud-soft carpets, Esmie gathers up the mess of broken marriages, quiet deceptions and careless failures. She tucks away their fragments, keeping them safe. For now.

Because one of the residents took from her the person she loves most. She's not here to clean; she's here for revenge – and she'll get it using the weapons her employers unwittingly handed her along with the keys to their homes: their own secrets...

This beautifully sinister, propulsive page-turner that explores themes of identity and privilege is perfect for fans of Harriet Tyce and Lisa Jewell.

Mary Watson is from South Africa and now lives on the west coast of Ireland. She has a PhD from the University of Cape Town, where she taught for many years. She won the Caine Prize for African Writing for her adult publishing in South Africa, and in 2014 was named on the Africa39 list of writers under 40 with the potential to define trends in African literature. Her YA novels have been nominated for the Irish Book Awards and the Carnegie medal. *The Cleaner* is her worldwide adult debut.



January 2025
9780857506030
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
400 pages

Disappoint Me

Nicola Dinan

A voice-driven, funny and poignant exploration of millennial angst, race, trans panic, and the allure of bougie domesticity, *Disappoint Me* will delight and provoke readers in equal measure.

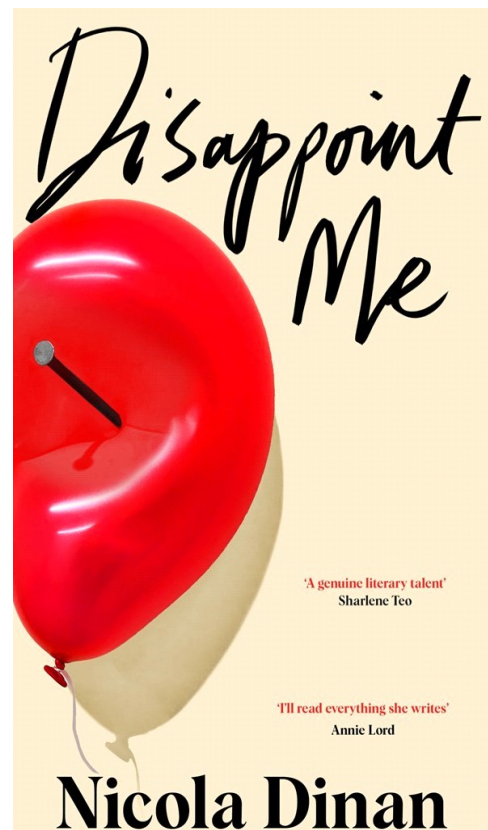
'Nicola Dinan's second book confirms to me that she is one of our most exciting writers . . . *Disappoint Me* is an addictive read, that I really did not want to end' Travis Alabanza, author of *None of the Above*

Max is thirty, a published poet and grossly overpaid legal counsel for a tech company. She's living her best life! Or is she? The debris of years of dysphoria and failed relationships rattle around in her head. When she tumbles down the stairs at a New Year's Eve party and wakes up in hospital alone, she decides to make some changes. First things first: a stab at good old-fashioned heteronormativity.

Enter Vincent, corporate lawyer and hobby baker. His trad friendship group may as well speak a different language to Max, and his Chinese parents never pictured their son dating a trans woman. It's uncertain terrain, but Vincent cares for Max in a way she'd long given up on as a foolish fantasy.

Yet Vincent is carrying his own baggage. On his gap year in Thailand a decade prior, he vies for the attention of a gorgeous traveller, Alex, with secrets of her own. Is Vincent really the new face of the Enlightened Man, or will the ghosts of his past sabotage his and Max's happiness?

Nicola Dinan grew up in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur and now lives in London. *Bellies*, her debut, was longlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize and Brooklyn Public Library Book Prize, shortlisted for the Mo Siewcharran Prize, Polari First Book Prize and the Diverse Book Awards, and a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award. Her second novel, *Disappoint Me*, releases in 2025.



January 2025
9781529930627
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
288 pages

The Garden

Nick Newman

From a Costa shortlisted children's author and Daunts bookseller, *The Secret Garden* with an otherworldly twist - for fans of *Unsettled Ground*, *Piranesi*, *Leave the World Behind* and the speculative edge of Margaret Atwood.

'*The Garden* is both a horror story and a meditation on love at the end of the world. It's a testament to Newman's extraordinary gifts that its creeping dread never overwhelms its tenderness.' Emerald Fennell, Oscar-winning director of *PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN* and *SALTBURN*

In a place and time unknown, two elderly sisters live in a walled garden, secluded from the outside world. For as long as they can remember, Evelyn and Lily have only had each other. What was before the garden, they have forgotten; what lies beyond it, they do not know.

Each day is spent in languid service to their home: tending the bees, planting the crops, and dutifully following the instructions of the almanac written by their mother. So, when a nameless boy is found hiding in the boarded house at the centre of this new Eden, the reality of their existence is irrevocably shattered. Who is he? And where did he come from?

Nick Newman is the pseudonym of critically acclaimed children's author Nicholas Bowling. He has written four novels for young readers including *In the Shadow of Heroes* (shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award) and *The Undying of Obedience Wellrest* (*Financial Times* Best YA Books of 2023, *Guardian* Children's Roundup December 2023). He works as a bookseller at Daunt Books.



January 2025
9780857529992
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
288 pages

Black Tag Simon Mayo

A journalist investigating a gallery fire gets more than she bargained for when she becomes tangled in a wealthy family's secrets. The new cutting-edge thriller from *Sunday Times* bestselling author Simon Mayo.

**Your house is on fire. What do you save?
You have seconds to decide.
If everything is about to burn, what do you rescue first?**

When the West End Gallery in London's fashionable Coal Drops Yard is set alight, the fire service must use the list of paintings lodged with it - a grab list - to snatch the key pieces of art from the flames.

But something has been altered. It's the wrong list.

Then the ashes reveal another tragedy: an unidentified dead body. Someone who shouldn't have been in the gallery. Crusading journalist Famie Madden wants to know who it is and why they were there. Soon it becomes apparent that the ashes are hiding much more than they should be - and that this is much more than a casual act of arson...

Bestselling author and legendary broadcaster Simon Mayo has created a spellbinding contemporary thriller. He weaves a story ripped from today's newspapers that will take Famie far from the pages of her website into a murderous family saga stretching back over centuries.

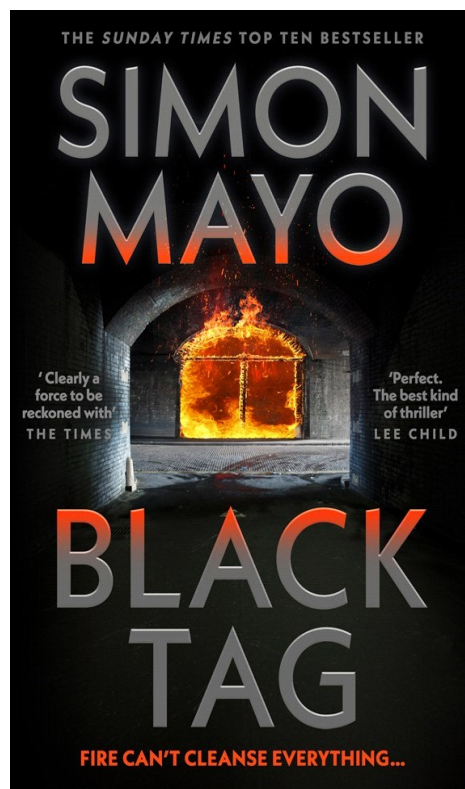
Praise for Simon Mayo

'Mayo spools out his many twists and turns skilfully' *Observer*

'Simon Mayo is clearly a force to be reckoned with in the thriller world' *The Times*

'The characters are well observed, the dialogue effortless and the twists and turns never-ending' *Daily Mail*

Simon Mayo MBE is a writer and broadcaster. His previous books include the *Sunday Times* bestseller *Knife Edge*, *Mad Blood Stirring*, *Blame* and the *Itch* trilogy, filmed for TV by the ABC. He hosts *Drivetime* on Greatest Hits Radio and hosts the 'The Take' film-review podcast with Professor Mark Kermode.



January 2025

9781787636798

£16.99

Royal Octavo : Hardback

432 pages

Children's Children Jan Carson

A reissue of the debut short story collection from the multi-award-winning author of *The Raptures*, with a new bonus story

'Jan Carson is a born storyteller' Lisa McInerney

A floating six-year-old tethered to the backyard fence; two siblings watching their parents argue inside a greenhouse; a human statue who's lost the ability to move; a support group for the haunted: the characters in *Children's Children* are all falling apart in their own peculiar ways.

Told in Jan Carson's distinctive voice, her debut short story collection contains absurdist, darkly humorous and heartbreaking stories which explore the concept of legacy, and the impact of one generation upon the next.

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PRAISE FOR JAN CARSON:

'These stories are **pure magic, funny, sharp, heartbreaking, the short form at its absolute best.** Jan Carson is a unique and very special writer, one of the greatest of the modern fabulists' DONAL RYAN, author of *Heart, Be at Peace*

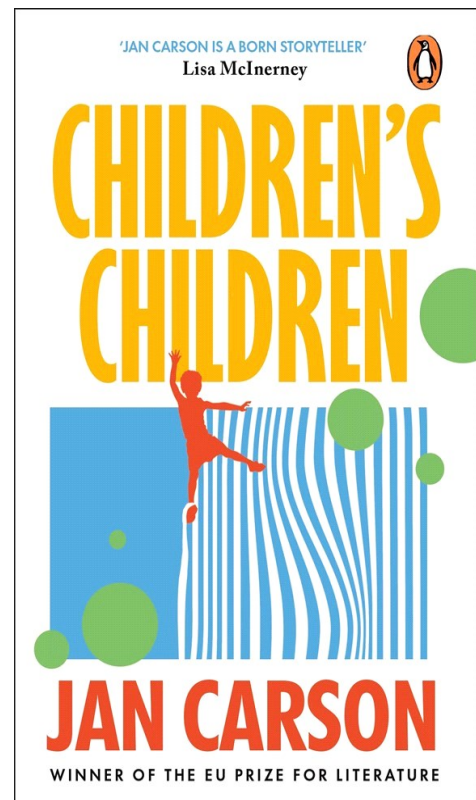
'**Story after story glints with the strange, hard magic of the North . . . I adored them.**' LUCY CALDWELL, author of *These Days*

'Jan Carson's stories are by turns **hilarious, heartbreaking, heartwarming** - but always surprising' ERIC NGUYEN, author of *Things We Lost to the Water*

'**Jan Carson is one of the most original voices I've read in years . . . I am truly in awe of this collection**' TANIA JAMES, author of *The Tusk That Did the Damage*

'What an enormous pleasure it is to read Jan Carson. Each short story is masterful, brilliantly inventive and moving. Every page reveals the mark of **an extraordinary original and gifted writer**' KARL GEARY, author of *Montpelier Parade*

Jan Carson is a writer 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 most recent short story collection, *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses*, was published in 2024. 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.



January 2025

9781804995822

£9.99

B Format (TW) : Paperback
256 pages

The Impossible Thing

Belinda Bauer

How do you find something that doesn't exist? Find out, in the most joyful mystery of 2025...

'It's hard to overstate the absolute charm of *The Impossible Thing*. Remember the feeling of wonder the first time you fell in love with a book? This.'

VAL McDERMID

'One of the most enjoyable novels I've read in ages . . . utterly distinctive and totally addictive.' **PAULA HAWKINS**

'Extraordinary. There's a deceptive simplicity to *The Impossible Thing* that packs a real punch.' **ANN CLEEVES**

How do you find something that doesn't exist?

It all begins with an egg . . .

With a hungry child who risks her life for an omelette for tea - and finds a miracle.

With thieves committing crimes against nature on the wild cliffs of Yorkshire.

With a marvel that becomes a mystery . . .
and then a myth.

And 100 years later it begins again. . .

With a strange robbery at a remote Welsh cottage.

With two friends thrust from their gaming chairs into a real-life quest.

And with dangerous men who will stop at nothing to get what they want.

It all begins with an egg.

But where will it end?

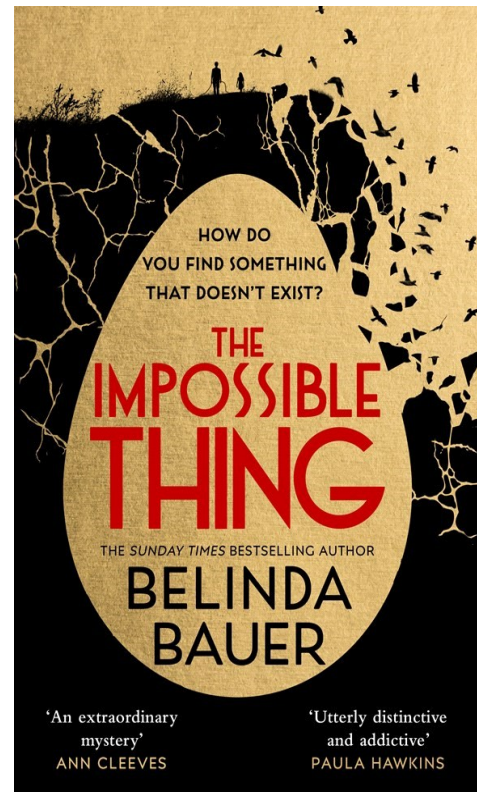
Don't miss THE IMPOSSIBLE THING, available to pre-order now!

'A wonderful, brilliant mystery' LAURA SHEPHERD-ROBINSON

Belinda Bauer grew up in England and South Africa and now lives in Wales. She worked as a journalist and a screenwriter before finally writing a book to appease her nagging mother.

For her debut, *Blacklands*, Belinda was awarded the CWA Gold Dagger for Crime Novel of the Year. She went on to win the CWA Dagger in the Library for her body of work. Her fourth novel, *Rubbernecker*, was voted Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year. Her eighth novel, *Snap*, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller. It was longlisted for the Man Booker prize and voted Crime & Thriller Book of the Year at the Specsavers National Book Awards.

Her books have been translated into twenty-five languages.



February 2025

9781787630970

£16.99

Royal Octavo : Hardback

336 pages

The Launch Date

Annabelle Slator

A swoony and page-turning second-chance romcom that puts a unique twist on fake dating!

To get her dream job, she'll have to date her worst nightmare . . .

Grace Hastings is in a rut. Her career is stagnating, her boss is a leech, and she feels like a fraud working for *Fate*, a dating app whose ethos she no longer believes in. And don't even get her started on the state of her love life.

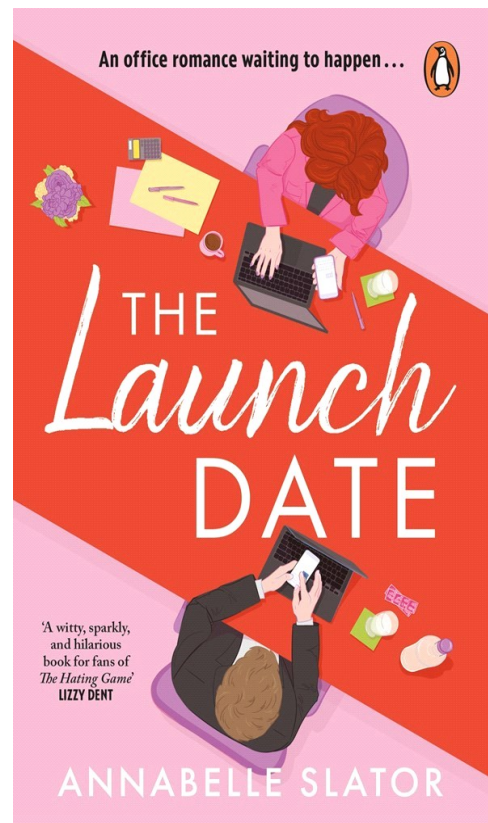
So when the company's CEO offers her an opportunity for a big promotion and the chance to work on the launch of a dating app that she actually cares about, Grace can't believe her luck.

That is, until she discovers that she must test drive a series of 'first dates' with her competition for the job: notorious socialite playboy and Grace's biggest work rival, Eric Bancroft.

But Grace refuses to give up her dream job because of a man. And besides, how romantic can a handful of fake dates with your biggest rival really be?

There's absolutely no way it's an office romance waiting to happen.

Annabelle Slator grew up writing stories in the depths of the British countryside. After achieving a degree in creative writing spent most of her late teens and early twenties writing social media and blog posts for start-ups and tech companies in London. Nowadays, if she isn't spending time writing, you can almost always find her obsessing over niche internet drama, practicing her fencing parry or mooching around vintage fairs and flea markets with her husband and two mini dachshunds, Gruffalo and Gryffin. *The Launch Date* is Annabelle's first book, inspired by her time working at the global dating app, Bumble.



February 2025
9781804994146
B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
400 pages

A Foundling at the Wartime Bookshop

Lesley Eames

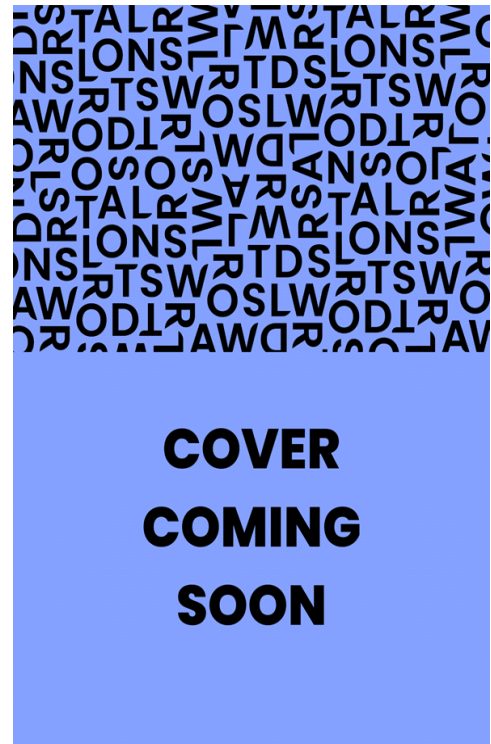
Lesley Eames's wildly popular WWII saga series continues in this heart-warming story. A newborn baby on the doorstep is the latest surprise for our friends at the wartime bookshop!

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).



February 2025
9781804993712
B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
400 pages

You Are Fatally Invited

Great ready to play detective with the twistiest mystery thriller of 2025, perfect for fans of Agatha Christie and Knives Out

Ande Pliego

And Then There Were None meets *The Sanatorium* by way of *Maggie Murders* in this twisty, up-all-night love letter to mystery thrillers.

**Six thriller authors. One writing retreat.
You'd die to be on the guest list . . .**

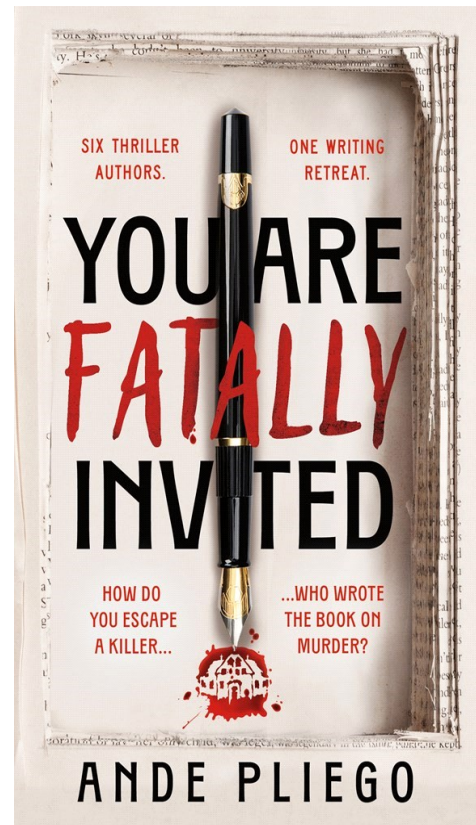
For decades, bestselling author J. R. Alastor, king of the murder mystery, has hidden in the shadows. His novels adorn countless bookshelves across the world, but no one knows his real name.

One day, event coordinator Mila del Angél gets a message: Alastor wants her help to host a murder mystery retreat on his private island. The guest list? Six crime and thriller writers, all masters of the genre. He plans to give them the thrill of their lives: a week of party games, trope-fueled riddles and maybe a jump-scare or two.

It's the perfect cover for Mila to finally carry out her long-held plans for revenge on one of the authors, a ghost from her past. But when a different guest turns up dead, she finds herself in a lethal game she didn't plan for. With a storm cutting off the island and the body count rising, Mila has no idea who to trust. How do you escape a faceless killer who wrote the book on murder?

Ande Pliego began writing stories when she discovered she could actually wield her overactive imagination for good. A lover of stories with teeth, she writes books involving mind games, dark humour, general murder and mayhem, characters pushed to the edge of themselves, and most importantly, finding the hope in the dark.

When not reading or writing, she can usually be found dabbling in art, scheming up her next trip, or making constant expeditions to the library. Born in Florida, raised in France, and having left footprints all over the globe, Ande is settled in the Pacific Northwest, USA, with her craftsman husband and little son.



February 2025

9780857505835

£16.99

Royal Octavo : 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, deceptions, 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 Sheathing, 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.

Foot on the
Crown

Christopher
Fowler

Cover to be revealed



February 2025

9781787637443

£20.00

Demy Octavo : Hardback

512 pages

Show Don't Tell

Curtis Sittenfeld

Razor-sharp, glittering collection of stories exploring marriage and female friendship, from the *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Romantic Comedy* and *American Wife*.

'No-one else writes with such precision and amusement'
RED MAGAZINE

In 'Lost But Not Forgotten,' Sittenfeld gives readers of her novel *Prep* a chance to see how our beloved character Lee Fiora is doing thirty years later, when she returns for an awkward school reunion. In 'The Patron Saints of Middle Age,' a woman looks up two best friends that she moved away from after her divorce. In 'Creative Differences,' a photographer from the mid-west quickly realizes that the 'documentary' she stars in is actually a commercial for a multi-national corporation. And in 'The Marriage Clock,' a Hollywood producer falls for a bestselling Christian self-help author while working on their film adaptation.

In these twelve dazzling stories, Sittenfeld skewers our assumptions about fame, marriage and celebrity. Laying bare on the page what we're all thinking but hesitate to say, she explores women's lives at the intersection of sex, love, ambition and the entangled pursuit of a fulfilling life.

Curtis Sittenfeld is the author of the *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestselling *Rodham*. Other novels include *American Wife* and *Prep*, both bestsellers and longlisted for the Orange Prize, *The Man of My Dreams*, *Sisterland*, *Eligible*, and the acclaimed short story collections *You Think It, I'll Say It* and *Help Yourself*. Her stories have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Oprah Magazine* and the *New York Times* magazine. Sittenfeld was also the guest editor for the 2020 Best American Short Stories anthology. She lives with her family in the American Midwest. Follow her on Twitter @CSittenfeld



February 2025
9781529925890
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
320 pages

The Book of Lost Stories

Trisha Ashley

From the million-copy and Sunday Times bestselling author comes a gloriously romantic and feel-good new novel

A lost journal. A long-buried secret. A story waiting to be told.

Cleo Finch has loved gothic literature all her life. She's spent years researching and writing her thesis on the works of one gothic novelist in particular, Orlando Browne, and is determined to prove that Browne was the pen name of a female author, Alys Weston.

But as her best friend Tris never fails to remind her, she still hasn't succeeded in finding concrete evidence that proves this to be true.

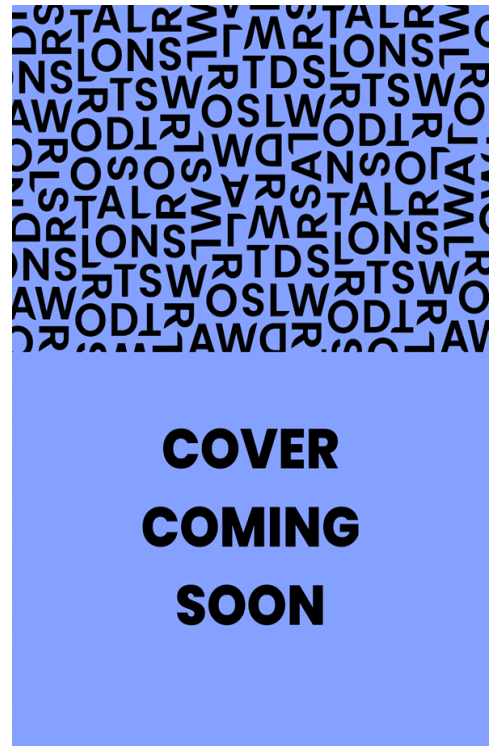
That is, until Cleo's Uncle Ambrose unknowingly gifts her Alys' very own journal, forgotten in a stack of first-edition gothic novels.

As Cleo begins deciphering Alys' diary entries, she finds herself utterly absorbed by Alys' vivid descriptions of the people in her own life - particularly the rakish Lord Rayven - and the challenges Alys faced trying to keep Orlando's true identity a secret.

And so, newly inspired, Cleo sets aside her thesis to pen a gothic novel of her own . . .

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. Her novel *The Wedding Dress Repair Shop* won the RNA award for Popular Romantic Fiction.

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



February 2025
9780857507747
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
336 pages

Carrion Crow Heather Parry

An enlightening and spine-tingling tale that explores mother-daughter relationships, sexuality, class, rampant Victorian colonialism and bodily freedoms.

There are some facts about the world that only your mother can teach you.

So into the attic she had gone, climbing the stairs towards her promised freedom, and she would stay there until she had learned the lessons that would prepare her for the real world, the lessons that only a mother could teach.

Marguerite Périgord had been confined for the sake of her wellbeing.

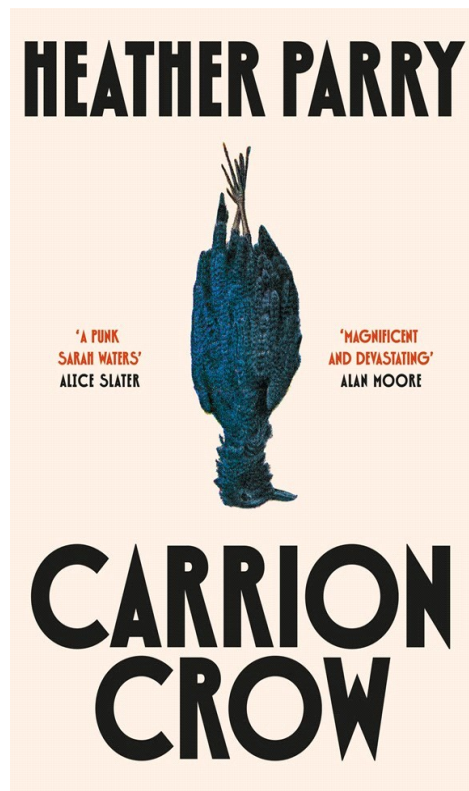
That's what her mother had said.

Marguerite has been locked in the attic of her family home, a disintegrating Chelsea house overlooking the stench of the Thames. For company she has: a sewing machine, a copy of *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management* and trays of congealing food carried up to her with little regularity. Marguerite has been confined by her mother, Cécile, who is concerned about her engagement to an older, penniless solicitor, Mr Lewis, and wishes to educate her daughter on 'proper' married conduct – lest she drag the family's good name into disrepute. But why is Marguerite pursuing the aged Mr Lewis in the first place? Why are her mother's visits seemingly becoming less frequent? And just how much time has passed since the lock closed on the attic's hatch?

Carrion Crow is a transportive and gloriously gothic commentary on the constraints of polite society – and the even greater danger of conformity – that unfurls one family's festering secrets.

'One of the most important new voices in fiction, with *Carrion Crow* Heather Parry deduces an unutterable Gothic horror of class and gender from the pages of *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management*. A festering Edwardian nightmare dressed in exquisitely tailored language, Parry's vision is magnificent and devastating.' Alan Moore

Heather Parry is a writer of fiction and nonfiction. Her debut novel, *Orpheus Builds a Girl*, was shortlisted for the Saltire Fiction Book of the Year award and longlisted for the Polari First Book Prize. She is also the author of a short story collection, *This Is My Body, Given For You*, and a short nonfiction book, *Electric Dreams: On Sex Robots and the Failed Promises of Capitalism*, and writes the Substack general observations on eggs. She was raised in Rotherham and lives in Glasgow with her partner and their cats, Fidel and Ernesto.



February 2025

9781529938685

£16.99

Demy Octavo : Hardback

256 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.

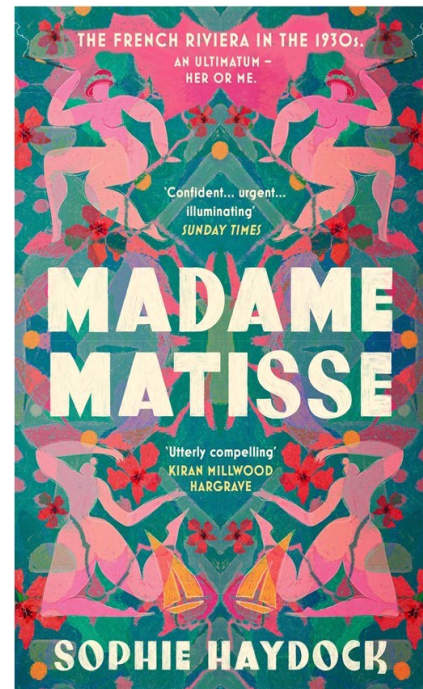
Amelie is first drawn to Henri Matisse as a way of escaping the conventional life expected of her. A free spirit, she sees in this budding young artist a glorious future for them both. Ambitious and driven, she gives everything for her husband's art, ploughing her own desires, her time, her money into 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 author, editor and journalist (*Sunday Times*, *Financial Times*, *Guardian*), based in Folkestone, Kent, where she is curator of Folkestone Book Festival. Her debut, *The Flames* – about the women who posed for the scandalous artist Egon Schiele in Vienna a century ago – was named by the *Times* as one of the Best Historical Fiction Books of 2022. It was longlisted for the HWA Debut Crown Award, and the Italian translation, *Le Fiamme*, won the Premio Letterario Edoardo Kihlgren for debut novels. She worked for the *Sunday Times* Short Story Award and is associate director of the Word Factory. Her Instagram @egonschieleswomen has 110,000 followers. Visit: sophie-haydock.com



March 2025

9780857527592

£16.99

Royal Octavo : Hardback
352 pages

Murder Below Deck

Orlando Murrin

***Below Deck* with murder, the highly-anticipated second novel in the addictive cosy crime series from acclaimed food writer and Masterchef semi-finalist, Orlando Murrin.**

Worse things happen at sea.

Paul Delamare has been roped into accompanying his old friend on a luxury cruise aboard the magnificent superyacht *Maldemer*. It's all plain sailing until his friend's priceless necklace is stolen, and everyone falls under suspicion.

Every chef for himself.

As Paul races to catch the thief, the ship begins to drift off-course, veering into the storm-lashed mid-Atlantic. Then one of the passengers is found dead in mysterious circumstances, in a pool of coffee and surrounded by cake crumbs.

Voyage of the damned.

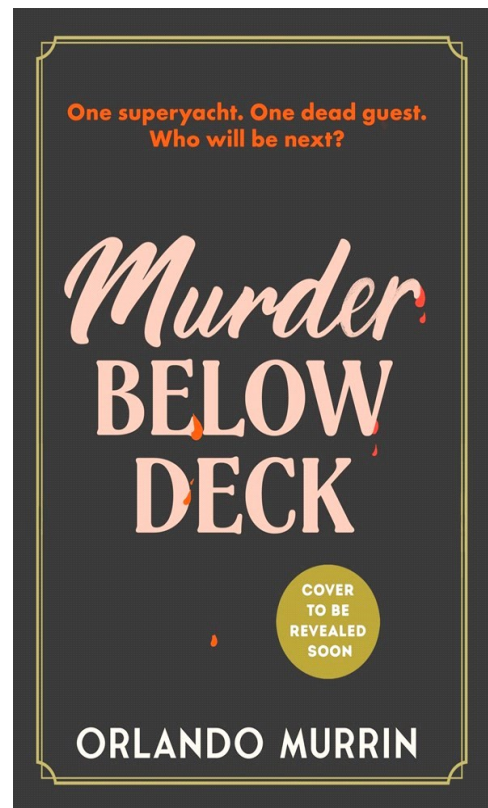
It's all hands on deck to catch the killer, but Paul soon discovers guests and crew are harbouring deadly secrets. And if he can't get to the bottom of the mystery soon, he'll be sleeping with the fishes.

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.



March 2025
9781787637337
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
400 pages

A Thousand Blues

Cheon Seon-ran

From a massive rising star in the world of Korean female sci-fi comes the gripping, heartrending tale of how two sisters train a worn-out racehorse to run the slowest race of its life - for fans of KLARA AND THE SUN and CONVENIENCE STORE WOMAN

THE #1 KOREAN INSTANT BESTSELLER AND PRIZEWINNER

'A stunning story of love, care and sacrifice' BORA CHUNG, author of CURSED BUNNY

It's only when we slow down that we can truly experience joy ...

2035: In the shadow of a race course, two sisters grow up, helping their mother at their local canteen that serves renowned ramen. Family life is fractious especially when one of them loses their day-job to a humanoid.

What makes the sisters' hearts sing is their friendship with Today, a nationally famous racehorse. But Today is now heading for the knackers' yard - she has been pushed too hard.

With the help of a malfunctioning robot, the sisters hatch a special plan for the horse to compete in another race. Because it is only when she is running that she is truly happy.

But it will be no ordinary race- they will train her to run the slowest time of her life.

As Today runs, she is tempted to go too fast - her joints begin to break. In the final moments, to save their horse, one of them will commit the bravest act of their life.

Radiant, urgent, deeply moving, A Thousand Blues is a hymn to our earth and to our humanity, giving powerful voice to those left behind in a fast-moving world. Brimming with heart, hope and rage, it shows with startling clarity how, by slowing down, we can fully experience life's wonder and joy.

'A stunningly crafted novel, evoking a myriad emotions' Kim Bo-young

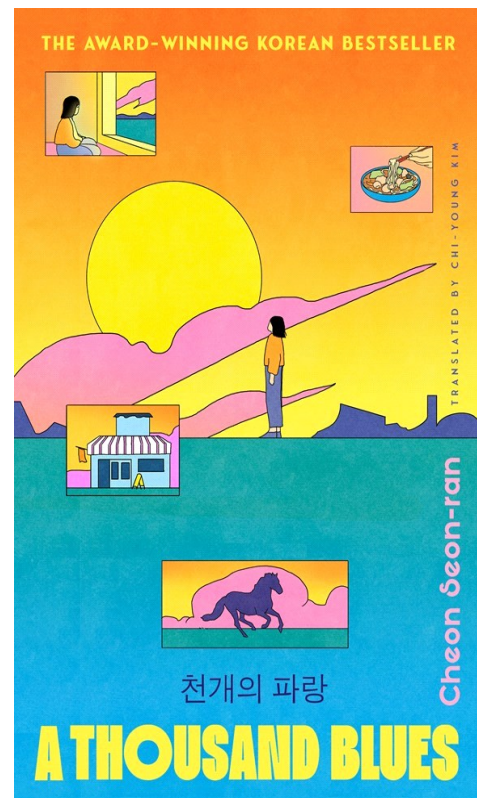
'A dazzling, warm novel that shows us how to move forward as a society without leaving anyone or anything behind' Choi Jin-young, author of *To the Warm Horizon*

Cheon Seon-Ran (Author)

Born in 1993, **Cheon Seon-ran** is a graduate of Dankook University and Anyang Arts school. She often dreams of a world where humans become a minority in a world of flora and fauna, and what the end of the world might look like. She penned her thoughts down in this novel which won the 4th Korea Sci-fi Literature Award. A THOUSAND BLUES has been adapted as a stage musical in Korea and will be published around the world.

Chi-Young Kim (Translator)

Chi-Young Kim is the translator of the *New York Times* bestselling Korean novel *Please Look After Mom* and the Korean contemporary classic *The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly*. She lives in Los Angeles.



March 2025

9781529938029

£16.99

B Format (TW) : Hardback

208 pages

Miss Burnham and the Loose Thread

Lynn Knight

A 1920s-set cosy historical mystery. When one of dressmaker Rose's clients is swindled by a deceitful suitor, Rose can't resist being drawn into the investigation...

Rose had the sense of a thread being pulled. One tug and everything could unravel.

South-east London, 1925.

Talented, ambitious designer-dressmaker Rose Burnham knows well both the strains of her profession and the secrets it can yield. Newly established in her own business, she and her sisters are privy to the hushed conversations that unspool behind the fitting room's closed doors.

So when a major client finds herself the victim of a deception, it is Rose she tells. Driven by the shortage of men following the Great War, Miss Holmes had engaged the services of a matrimonial agency, only to be cheated out of her inheritance by a fake suitor.

Rose is determined to bring the swindler to justice. To begin with, playing the detective is a grand adventure, but as pressures mount and an old friend receives a troubling string of poison-pen letters, Rose discovers there is more to investigating – and these investigations – than she'd bargained for.

Lynn Knight was born in Derbyshire and lives in London. The women of her family passed on many stories along with beaded bags and buttoned gauntlets, and fostered her interest in the texture and narratives of women's lives. She is the author of the biography *Clarice Cliff* (2005), a memoir, *Lemon Sherbet and Dolly Blue: The Story of an Accidental Family* (2011), and *The Button Box: The story of women in the 20th century, told through the clothes they wore* (2016). *Miss Burnham and the Loose Thread* is her first novel.



March 2025
9780857506467
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
304 pages

The Vipers Katy Hays

From *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Cloisters* comes an electrifying thriller about an opulent family and their mysterious assistant whose annual retreat to Italy is shattered by the resurfacing of a decades-old murder . . . think *'The Talented Mr Ripley'* meets *'Succession'* meets *'The White Lotus'*!

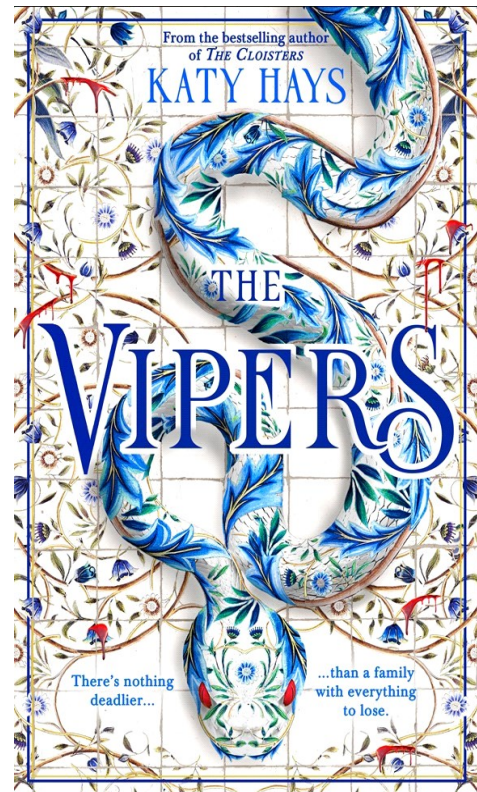
On glittering Capri, anything can be a mirage. And one thing is true: no one holds a grudge like family.

The world was shocked by playwright Sarah Lingate's death thirty years ago at an opulent, white-washed villa on the island of Capri. Absolved of the crime, the Lingate family maintains that what happened that night was a tragic accident. And every July they return to Capri to prove it's true.

This time, Helen Lingate - sole heir to the family fortune - has a plan. Tightly controlled by her father, she enlists the help of the family assistant, Lorna Silva, to free herself from her family's stranglehold on her life. And yet, behind closed doors, the legendary Lingate family unity is at breaking point. Upon arrival at the villa in Capri, a anonymous gift awaits them: the necklace Sarah was wearing the night she died.

In the aftermath, the paranoid, insular Lingates begin to unravel. As the investigation into her mother's death is reopened, Helen begins to lose trust in everyone around her: her controlling father Richard, drug-addled aunt Naomi, aloof uncle Marcus, and even Lorna, whose past she realizes is frustratingly opaque. And as the family fractures, the long-hidden truth about that night and the secrets they've kept from one another boil to the surface - and they might not leave the island alive.

Katy Hays is a writer and adjunct Art History professor in California, where she teaches rural students from Truckee to Tecopa. She holds an MA in Art History from Williams College and pursued her PhD at UC Berkeley. Having worked in curatorial and research roles at major art institutions, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and The Clark Art Institute, Katy brings an insider's knowledge of the workings of museums and galleries as well as in-depth research into the fascinating history of fortune-telling to *The Cloisters*, her first novel. She lives with her husband and dog, Queso, in Olympic Valley.



March 2025
9780857505972
£16.99
Royal Octavo : Hardback
336 pages

Greater Sins

Gabrielle Griffiths

For fans of *Burial Rites* and *Elmet*, when the preserved body of a woman is discovered in a bog near an isolated village community, rumours begin to fly. To some, the body is an omen, heralding misfortune to come. To others, hers is a story waiting to be told.

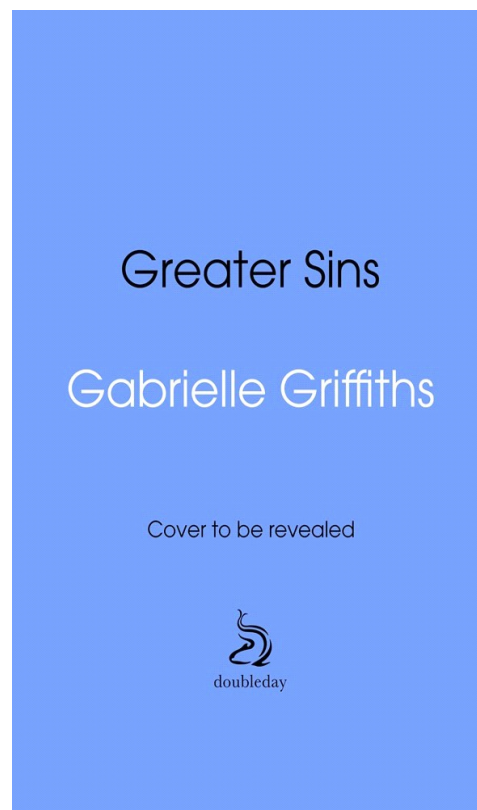
Who shall cast the first stone?

1915, the Cabrach, Aberdeenshire. An isolated Scottish community is disturbed by a strange discovery: a body in a peat bog, perfectly preserved. Two people haul the body from the ground: Lizzie, the wife of a wealthy local landowner, and Johnny, a nomadic singer and farm hand. At hearthside and inn, people whisper: what have we unearthed?

One unveiling brings others. For Lizzie, tenacious but trapped, the discovery reveals unanswered questions about her past while for Johnny, it threatens to uncover a history he's trying to outrun.

As their stories entwine, a series of unsettling events befalls the isolated community: ruinous weather, a damaged soldier, strange occurrences that cannot be explained. Against the echoes of distant war, and with the boundaries blurring between right and wrong, everyone is looking for someone to blame...

Gabrielle Griffiths grew up in Aberdeenshire and now lives in Brighton. She was a Madeleine Milburn Agency mentee in 2021 and is a graduate of the Curtis Brown Creative novel writing course. Her short fiction has been shortlisted for the Bridport Prize.



March 2025
9781529929072
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
352 pages

The Summer Guests

The unmissable new thriller in the addictive series from the No.1 bestselling author (Martini Club 2)

Tess Gerritsen

The brand new action-packed novel in the *Sunday Times* bestselling Martini Club series. Includes an exclusive short story with Lee Child featuring Jack Reacher and Maggie Bird.

'The Thursday Murder Club on steroids' SAGA Magazine

THE MARTINI CLUB ISN'T OPEN TO EVERYONE . . .

Maggie Bird's 'book group' is an unusual one - a group of retired spies living an anonymous life in the seaside town of Purity. And this summer they plan little more than 'reading' (whilst sipping martinis), and some gentle birdwatching.

But trouble is just around the corner as the summer guests arrive.

For acting Police Chief Jo Thibodeau, summer brings its own problems - packed streets, bar brawls, petty theft. And now, a missing teenager down by the lake.

When their good friend becomes a prime suspect in the girl's disappearance, Maggie and her Martini Club must put down their binoculars and roll up their sleeves. Leaving Jo to deal with not only a powerful family desperate for answers, but a meddling group of retirees.

Can Jo and the Martini Club find a way to work together, as they uncover one of the deadliest scandals their small town has ever seen?

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.



March 2025

9780857505415

£20.00

Royal Octavo : Hardback

336 pages

Burn After Reading

The gripping and addictive new thriller from the number one bestselling author

Catherine Ryan Howard

A ghostwriter is tasked with capturing the memoirs of a celebrity widely suspected of murder; now she's locked in an interview room with a killer and he's ready to confess...

The night Jack Smyth ran into flames in a desperate attempt to save his wife from their burning home, he was, tragically, too late - but hailed a hero. Until it emerged that Kate was dead long before the fire began.

Suspicion has stalked him ever since. After all, there's no smoke without fire.

A year on, he's signed a book deal. He wants to tell his side of the story, to prove his own innocence in print. He just needs someone to help him write it.

Emily has never ghostwritten anything before, but she knows what it's like to live with a guilty secret. And she's about to learn that there are some stories that should never be told...

Catherine Ryan Howard is the author of eight novels including the no. 1 bestsellers *The Nothing Man*, *56 Days* and *The Trap*. Her work has been shortlisted for the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for Best Novel, the Crime Writers Association New Blood and Steel Daggers, and Irish Crime Fiction Book of the Year multiple times. The screen adaptation of her lockdown thriller, *56 Days*, is currently in production and will debut on Amazon Prime Video next year. She lives in Dublin.



April 2025
9781787636620
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
400 pages

Lost Souls Meet Under a Full Moon

From the Japanese bestselling author of *Lonely Castle in the Mirror*

Mizuki Tsujimura, Translated by Yuki Tejima

Part of a major launch into English for this hugely popular Japanese fiction brand: Five troubled characters seek the chance of a reunion with a person - now dead - who once changed their lives in this moving Japanese magical realist mystery novel

Brimming with suspense and heartbreak, the million-copy Japanese fantasy mystery for fans of **BEFORE THE COFFEE GETS COLD** and **LONELY CASTLE IN THE MIRROR**

Is there anyone you wish to see?

So asks the smart young man, Ayumi, to his clients who have come to him for a reunion with the person who once changed their life.

But it is no ordinary reunion. The people they ask to see have passed away.

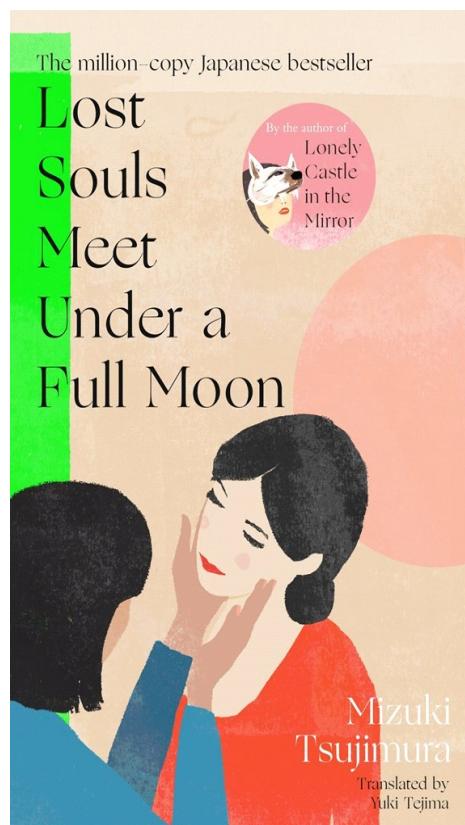
Calling himself the go-between, Ayumi lays down strict rules around the meetings between the living and the dead: the deceased cannot have been summoned by anyone else; they may refuse; and they must meet under a full moon.

- Anxious Hirase asks to see the celebrity who showed her kindness at a critical moment;
- An arrogant family man wants clarity about a will from his beloved mother;
- After a bike accident, a school girl has a question for her former best friend;
- A salary man wants to ask the only woman he ever loved what caused her to run away.

With each reunion, tantalizing clues are scattered for readers to piece together the emotional truth behind the go-between in this mesmeric and unputdownable tale of kindness, compassion and connection.

Mizuki Tsujimura (Author)

MIZUKI TSUJIMURA is the much-loved author of million-copy bestselling mystery and puzzlebox novels. *Lost Souls Meet Under a Full Moon* was made into a high-budget Japanese-language film and won a newcomer award. Its sequel, *How to Hold Someone in Your Heart*, was also a huge bestseller, cementing the appeal of Tsujimura's unique combination of emotion, mystery and magic. She is the author of the groundbreaking novel *Lonely Castle in the Mirror*, which was also adapted for anime and manga and which combines real-world fantasy with important themes of mental health and friendship. Tsujimura has won many awards, including the Japan Booksellers' Award and the Naoki Prize, and is published worldwide. English-language editions of many of her works, including *True Mothers*, *Entangled and Entitled* (soon to be a major Japanese-language film called *Arrogance and Virtue*), *The Made-to-Order Club* and *Summer of Amber*, are due to be published soon.



April 2025

9780857529657

£14.99

Demy Octavo : Trade Paperback
320 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.

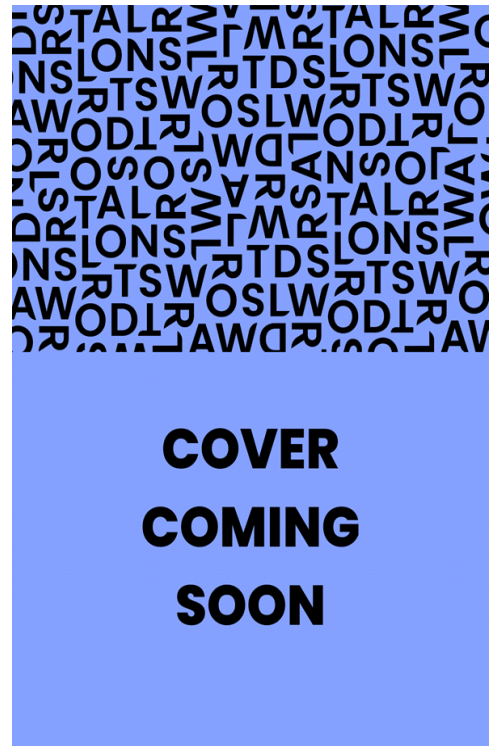
1876. Life is happy for ten-year-old Rebecca Wheeler in the small fishing village of St. Leonard's Cove. Until one day a violent storm strikes and her father and older brothers are lost at sea.

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.



April 2025
9781804993941
B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
368 pages

Death and Other Occupational Hazards Veronika Dapunt

She's got the killer job of the century! Discover 2025's most entertaining debut - a darkly comedic murder mystery with a speculative edge.

An original and darkly comedic murder mystery about a female personified Death whose sabbatical in modern-day London gets rudely interrupted by an unplanned murderer on the loose. Perfect for fans of *Good Omens*, *The Good Place* and Sophie Kinsella.

Her job is to die for. Literally.

Most people think that when they meet Death, it'll be a skeleton in a black potato sack. Maybe with a scythe. Truth is, she's just a woman doing a job, and she's very good at it.

But when Death takes a much-needed break to live on earth, things start to go terribly wrong.

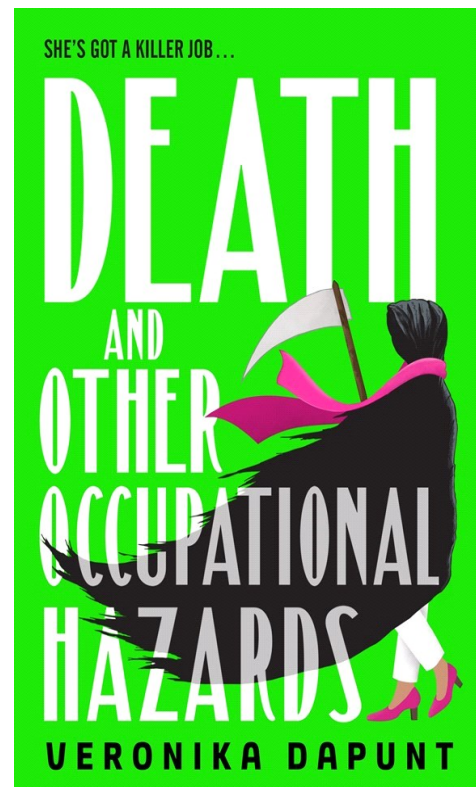
Someone's killing people not on her list (well, not yet anyway) and it's down to her to find the culprit before it's too late. To make matters worse, her sanctimonious sister Life – whom Death hasn't gotten along with in millennia – won't stop blaming her. . . and there's the slight problem of the charming (sexy) parasitologist she's suspicious of.

But she'll be fine, right?

After all, who better to investigate a murder than Death herself?

Quirky, fun and witty, this is Death like you've never seen her before. A lover of bright colours, a fierce protector of nature and a human falling in love for the first time. Death's sharp voice will linger in your mind long after you've read.

Veronika Dapunt is a British-Austrian writer. Her debut novel, *Death and Other Occupational Hazards*, was a runner-up for the 2023 Comedy Women in Print Prize. She has always had a love of the darkly comic and the absurd, quite possibly the reason why her first career was in law. Veronika holds a degree from the University of Oxford and currently lives in London.



April 2025

9780857506863

£16.99

Demy Octavo : Hardback

384 pages

Sweet Fury

The most powerful and addictive feminist thriller debut of the year

Sash Bischoff

A major upmarket thriller launch: a famous film actress starts therapy to prepare for a new role, triggering a cat-and-mouse game of obsession and revenge.

Famous film star Lila Crayne is America's Sweetheart: she's generous and kind, gorgeous and magnetic. A golden girl. She and her fiancé, visionary filmmaker Kurt Royall, have settled into a stunning New York apartment, and are embarking on a new movie: a modern feminist adaptation of a classic twentieth-century novel.

To prepare for the leading role, Lila begins work with charming and accomplished therapist Jonah Gabriel to dig into the trauma of her past. Soon, Lila's impeccably manicured life begins to unravel on the therapy couch - and Jonah is just the man to pick up the pieces. But everyone has a secret, no one is quite who they seem, and before long, careers, reputations and lives are in danger of being irrevocably destroyed . . .

Sash Bischoff is a writer and director. She attended Princeton University, where she trained under Jeffrey Eugenides and Joyce Carol Oates, won Princeton's Creative Writing Fiction Award, and founded the Princeton Writers Group. She has written numerous plays that have been developed at theatres throughout the US, and has held residencies at Ragdale, PLAYA, the Albee Foundation, Caldera, and Sirenland Writers Workshop. As a director, she has worked on Broadway and Off. She grew up as an actor, and won the National Arts Award (NFAA) for Acting. She currently lives in New York with her husband and their many pets.



April 2025
9780857505262
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
288 pages

The Homemade God

Rachel Joyce

Set against the wild backdrop of an intense heatwave in Europe, this is a story about sibling relationships - what holds a family together and what might fracture it forever.

Family is everything, even when it falls apart.

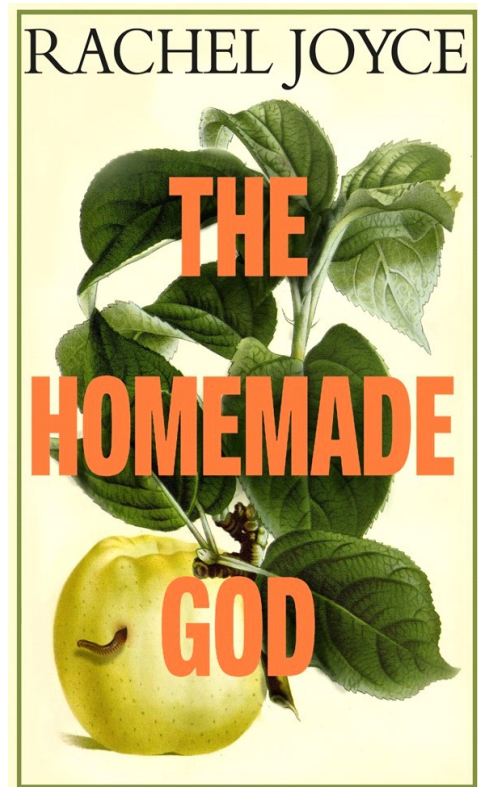
There is a heatwave across Europe. Goose and his three sisters gather at the family's house by Lake Orta in Piedmont, Italy. Their father, a famous artist, has recently remarried a much younger woman and decamped to Italy to finish his masterpiece. Now he is dead and there is no sign of a painting.

Although the siblings have always been close, as they search for answers over that summer, the things they learn - about themselves, their father and their new stepmother - will drive them apart before they can come to any kind of understanding of what their father's legacy truly is.

Extraordinarily compelling, at heart this is a novel about sibling relationships and those hairline cracks that can appear within a family: what happens when they splinter, and what it would take to mend them.

Rachel Joyce is the author of the *Sunday Times* and international bestsellers *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, *Perfect*, *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy*, *Maureen Fry and the Angel of the North*, *The Music Shop*, *Miss Benson's Beetle*, and a collection of interlinked short stories, *A Snow Garden & Other Stories*.

Rachel's books have been translated into thirty-seven languages and have sold millions of copies worldwide. *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Book Prize and longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. The critically acclaimed film of the novel, for which Rachel also wrote the screenplay, was released in 2023. *Miss Benson's Beetle* won the Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize in 2021. Rachel was awarded the Specsavers National Book Awards New Writer of the Year in December 2012 and was shortlisted for the UK Author of the Year in 2014. In 2024 she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Kingston University. Rachel has written over twenty original afternoon plays and adaptations of the classics for BBC Radio 4. She lives with her family near Stroud.



April 2025
9780857528193
Royal Octavo
£20.00 : Hardback
384 pages

Happiness and Love

Zoe Dubno

An unnamed narrator who has fled a set of friends she despised, who bring out the very worst in her and each other, finds herself once more sat at their dinner table for a single, hideous evening.

Years after escaping her unbearable artworld friends in New York for a new life in London, an unnamed writer finds herself back on the Lower East Side attending a dinner party hosted by Eugene and Nicole – an artist-curator couple – and attended by their pretentious circle. It's the evening after the funeral of their mutual friend, a failed actress, and if the narrator once loved and admired Eugene and Nicole and their important friends, she now despises them all. Most of all, however, she despises herself for being lured back to this cavernous apartment, to this hollow, bourgeois social set, for a dinner party that isn't even being thrown in their deceased friend's honour, but in the honour of an up-and-coming actress who is by now several hours late.

As the guests sip at their drinks and await the actress's arrival, the narrator, from her vantage point in the corner seat of a white sofa entertains herself - and us - with a silent, tender, merciless takedown.

'Zeitgeist and timeless, cynical but not soulless... [For] anyone who has ever wondered "What the hell am I doing here?" **Fabulous!**' Melissa Broder, author of *Milk Fed*

Zoe Dubno is a writer from Manhattan who lives in New York and London. She has an MFA from Rutgers University, Newark. Her fiction has appeared in *Granta*.



April 2025
9781529930160
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
192 pages

Our Last Wild Days

Anna Bailey

You can never return home; but home never lets you go... From the author of Sunday Times bestseller, **TALL BONES**, comes a story of journalist returning to her home in the swamplands of Louisiana when one of her former best friends, an alligator farmer, has gone missing. Brilliantly atmospheric, utterly compelling, for fans of Gillian Flynn, Jane Harper and Delia Owens

FROM THE SUNDAY TIMES bestselling author of TALL BONES:

'There is nothing like it. The way the world gets real quiet when a gator's nearby...And then the water, suddenly boiling as that black head surfaces and the ancient reptile erupts into the air hissing like a devil...The way the crack of the rifle seems to come from deep inside Cutter. The way she feels it in her throat; she knows she's a good killer - and yet. She is stalling...'

The Labasques aren't like other families. Living in a shack out in the swamps, they scrape a living hunting down alligators and other animals just to get by. To the good people of Jacknife, Louisiana, they are trouble-makers, outcasts, the kind of people you wouldn't want living on your doorstep. So when Cutter Labasque is found face down in the muddy swamp, no one seems to care, not even her two rough-cut brothers. The only person who questions the official verdict of suicide is Cutter's childhood friend, Loyal May, who has just returned home to care for her ageing mother. Loyal left town at the age of 18, having betrayed Cutter. Now there may be no way to find forgiveness, but there may be restitution...

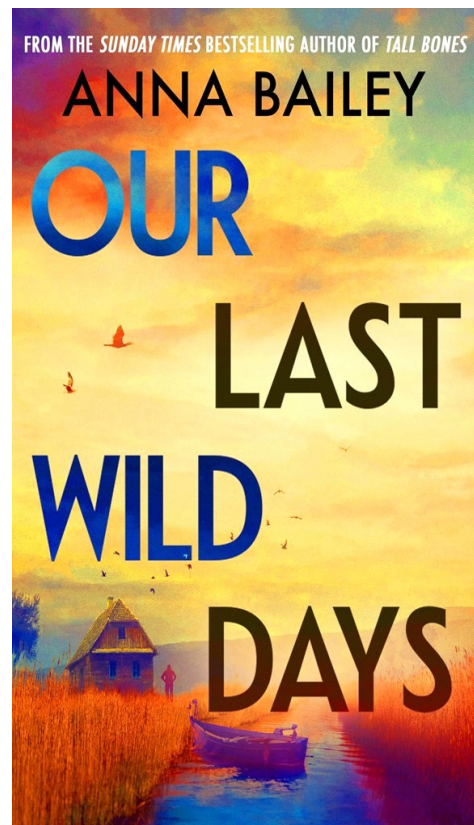
Praise for TALL BONES:

'[The] portrait of small-town intrigue is scarily credible. Bailey understands that the dynamics that drive small-town relationships are the same the world over' VAL McDERMID

'Anna Bailey writes like a dream about teenage love and lust, the terror of knowledge and the claustrophobia of families and of small towns. Tall Bones is as brutal, as bittersweet, as tender and as tense as first love itself' EMMA FLINT, author of *Little Deaths*

'Tall Bones is as atmospheric as it gets. Anna writes beautifully and it was so refreshing to experience a different voice - a stunning debut that delivers on every level.' RENEE KNIGHT, author of *Disclaimer*

Anna Bailey is a *Sunday Times* bestselling author from Gloucestershire. Their debut novel, *Tall Bones*, inspired by their experiences living in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, was nominated for the Theakstons Crime Novel of the Year and Goldsboro Glass Bell awards, as well as the Prix Nouvelles Voix du Polar. Their short stories, based on their travels through rural America, have been dramatised for BBC Radio 4, including 'Long Way to Come For a Sip of Water', which was shortlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award. They live in Bordeaux with their wife.



April 2025

9780857527400

£16.99

Royal Octavo : Hardback

320 pages

I Know Where You Buried Your Husband

Marie O'Hare

Five best friends must work together to cover up the murder of one of their husbands in this painfully relatable, darkly witty examination of twenty-first century womanhood. If Celeste Ng wrote 'Bad Sisters' (Apple TV).

Sophia, Safa, Ella, Ajola and Caoimhe have been friends since school. They are difficult, unlikeable women; funny, sharp and clever ones – the sort that would have probably ended up burned at the stake a few hundred years ago.

When one of them is about to be framed for murder, they inextricably bind their fates together via some bin bags, a spade and a promise never to tell. Afterwards, they decide to separate to ensure the safety of their secret, leaving each of them to navigate the daily challenges of womanhood alone.

But when an anonymous blackmailer threatens to expose them years later, the group must come back together to get their stories straight – and find out who is behind their torment. But is it already too late?

Marie O'Hare works as a primary school teacher. Before she became a teacher, she worked at the Foreign and Commonwealth office on EU Policy and then taught at a high school in rural Thailand. She holds a Masters in Novel Writing from Middlesex University and regularly competes around the UK as a cross-country runner. She currently lives in Essex with her partner and son.

I Know Where
You Buried Your
Husband
Marie O'Hare

Cover to be revealed



April 2025
9780857506740
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
448 pages

Spellbound

An enchanting debut feminist retelling of the classic Sleeping Beauty fairy tale

Georgia Leighton

In a remote castle perched atop a windswept island, a long-awaited royal heir is born. In accordance with ancient custom, a blessing ceremony takes place to bestow the princess with magical gifts – along with a terrible curse.

Except this is not the love story you may think you know. There is no enchanted sleep for the princess, and no handsome prince to save the day. Just three women, who together concoct a desperate plan of misdirect that changes the course of all their lives.

But dark magic cannot be tricked, and as the end of the curse edges closer, each of the women has a choice to make. They can wait to find out if the worst will happen, or they can turn to face the coming storm . . .

An atmospheric, feminist retelling of a classic fairy tale that asks, *What if Beauty never went to sleep?*

Georgia Leighton is a Senior Marketing Manager in publishing. Before working in publishing, she completed an MA in Creative Writing at Royal Holloway, University of London, receiving a distinction.

Georgia lives in London with her family and many books. Her debut adult novel, *Spellbound*, is a reimagining of the classic fairy tale *Sleeping Beauty*.



April 2025
9780857505910
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
432 pages

The Serial Killer's Party

Amy Cunningham

A gripping, twisty locked-room thriller about a serial killer who throws an exclusive party, one that no one will be able to resist – or be able to survive.

Everyone is dying to be invited...

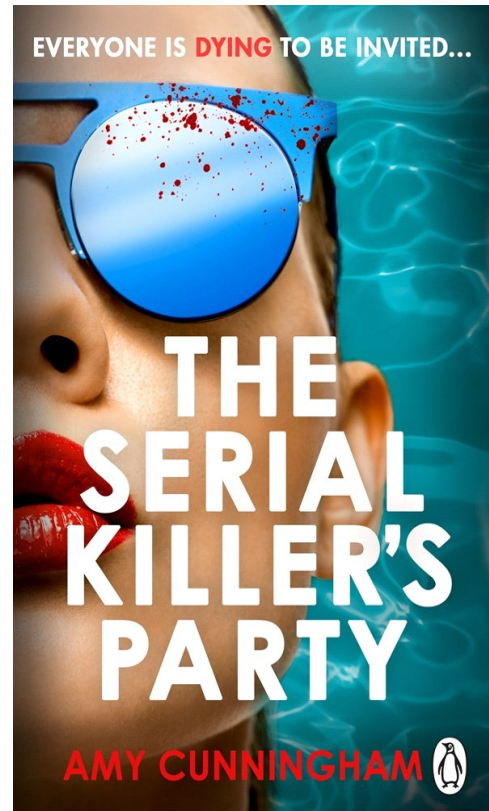
Amelia receives an exclusive invitation to the party of the year. Billionaire business magnate Lawrence is getting married, and it looks set to be a summer wedding to remember.

He rarely appears in the public eye, so this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Amelia. She has spent months building up to this moment; it's her only chance to get revenge.

Because she knows who Lawrence really is – that beneath the polished public persona he is a vicious killer, responsible for the deaths of not just Amelia's sister but several other innocent women.

What Amelia doesn't know is that Lawrence has a plan of his own. And that some of the people at this party aren't meant to be guests. They are meant to be victims...

Amy Cunningham is a novelist who grew up in rural Hertfordshire and now lives in Cornwall. She has an MA in Creative Writing from Bath Spa University and has published novels across genres which include; crime fiction, contemporary women's fiction and horror. Amy has previously worked as a concierge for luxury apartments and as a maid in a 5* hotel, and so is no longer surprised at what the rich and fabulous get up to when they think no one's watching.



May 2025
9781804997017
B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
336 pages

It Should Have Been You

Andrea Mara

They came for you. But they got the wrong house... A gripping, unputdownable thriller from the No. 1 bestselling author of NO ONE SAW A THING. Andrea Mara turns ordinary fears into extraordinary thrillers, and this is her best book yet.

Look what you started.

You press send and your message disappears. Full of secrets about your neighbours, it's meant for your sister. But it doesn't reach her – it goes to the entire local community WhatsApp group instead.

Now everyone knows what you did.

As rumour spreads like wildfire through the picture-perfect neighbourhood, you convince yourself that people will move on, that this will quickly be forgotten. But then you receive the first death threat.

And someone wants you dead.

The next day, a woman has been murdered. And what's even more chilling is that she had the same address as you – 26 Oakpark – but in a different part of town. Did the killer get the wrong house? It won't be long before you find out...

Andrea Mara is a No.1 *Sunday Times*, *Irish Times* and Kindle bestselling author. Her books have sold more than 500,000 copies worldwide, and four of them have been shortlisted for Irish Crime Novel of the Year. Her previous book, *No One Saw a Thing*, was a Richard and Judy Bookclub Pick, sold more than 100,000 copies in thirteen weeks, and was No.1 in the UK, Irish and Kindle charts. She lives in Dublin, Ireland, with her husband and three children. You can find Andrea on Twitter/X @AndreaMaraBooks and Instagram @andreamaraauthor



May 2025
9780857505873
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
432 pages

Manhattan Down

Michael Cordy

A propulsive rollercoaster high concept international thriller which dares to take the world to the edge of oblivion

THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS JUST SAID GOODNIGHT

On the anniversary eve of the 9/11 terror attack, New York swelters under a heat dome of record temperatures. Even the global leaders assembled at the UN HQ are forced to admit that the climate crisis has reached boiling point and the world's time is running out.

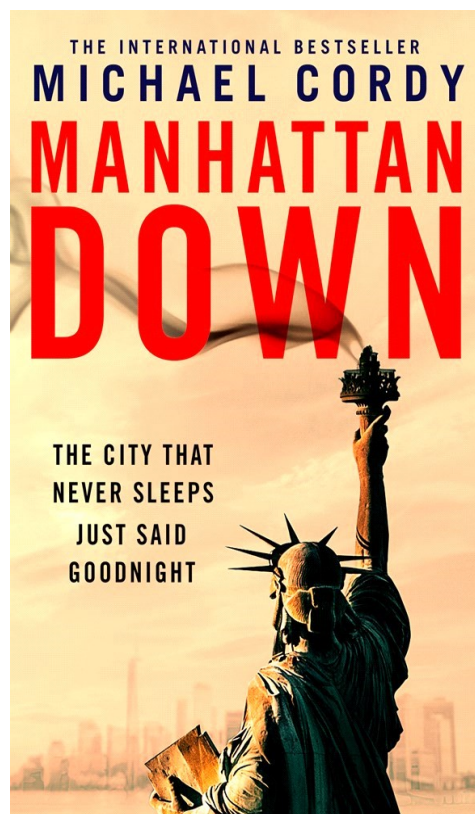
That same day, at precisely 5:25 p.m., everyone on Manhattan Island – every man, woman and child, including all the world leaders at the UN – falls unconscious. Everyone that is, except for Samantha Rossi, a single mother reeling from devastating personal news and Nick Lockwood, a wounded NYPD detective who wakes from a coma just as the City That Never Sleeps falls into one.

Rossi's first concern is her daughter. Lockwood's is his city. As night draws in, they must work together to unravel the mystery of what has happened and why. Each must decide how far they will go and what lines they will cross to save what matters most to them.

Manhattan Down is a pulse-pounding contemporary thriller which dares to imagine the unimaginable, a leaderless world being held to ransom by forces unknown for reasons unknown. The questions it asks are terrifying – and so are some of the answers.

Michael Cordy is the author of six previous novels, including the Sunday Times and international bestseller *The Messiah Code* (*The Miracle Strain*). His novels have been translated into several languages and four have been sold to Hollywood. Michael lives in London with his wife and daughter.

Visit his website at www.michaelcordy.com.



May 2025
9780857506511
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
448 pages

Air

John Boyne

From internationally bestselling author John Boyne, a contemplative story about one man trying to move forward from the trauma of his youth to become a better father to his son.

Being in limbo, 30,000 feet in the air, offers time to reflect and take stock. For Aaron Unger, it's an opportunity to connect with his 14-year-old son as they travel halfway across the world to meet a woman who isn't expecting them.

Unsettled by his past, and anxious for his future, Aaron is at a crossroads in life. The damage inflicted upon him during his youth has made him the man he is, but now threatens to widen the growing fissures between him and his only child. This trip could bind them closer together, or tear them further apart.

In this penetrating examination of action and consequence, fault and attribution, acceptance and resolution, John Boyne gives us a redemptive story of a father and a son on a moving journey to mend their troubled lives.

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



May 2025
9780857529855
Demy Octavo
£12.99 : Hardback
176 pages

When the Cranes Fly South

Lisa Ridzén

The Swedish phenomenal NUMBER 1 Bestseller, winner of Swedish Book of the Year, with rights sold in 31 territories. A moving debut about an ageing man's fight to keep the power over his own life for fans of A MAN CALLED OVE and REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES

WINNER OF THE SWEDISH BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD 2024

'The kind of book you give to someone when you're really trying to say "I've been thinking about you" but don't know how.' Fredrik Backman, bestselling author of *A Man Called Ove*

'As if Fredrik Backman's *Ove* had a love child with Åsa Larsson's *Sivving*' Malin Persson Giolito

Bo is running out of time. Yet time is one of the few things he's got left; his body is failing him and his quiet existence is only broken up by the daily visits from his home care team. His hands soon too weak to open the precious jar housing the scarf of his Alzheimer-stricken wife Frederika, which still bears her scent. Fortunately he still has his beloved dog Sixten for company, only now his son insists upon taking the dog away. The very same son that Bo is wanting to mend his relationship with before his time is up. The threat of losing Sixten stirs up a whirlwind of emotions that make him look back at his life, his fatherhood and the way he expresses his love.

An international sensation, **When the Cranes Fly South** is a profoundly moving debut about an ageing man's fight to keep the power over his own life.

Swedish readers say...

'So incredibly emotional, poignant, touching, and sad. But also very warm'

'A novel about ageing, family relationships, fatherhood, loss and being the one who is left alone... Beautiful'

'A book that will stay with you for a long time'

'It is impossible not to be moved by this book'

Lisa Ridzén is a doctoral student in sociology, researching masculinity norms in the rural communities of the Swedish far north, where she herself was raised and now lives in a small village outside of Östersund. The idea for her heartrending debut *When the Cranes Fly South* came from the discovery of notes her Grandfather's care team had left the family as he neared the end of his life. She began penning the novel whilst attending Långholmen Writer's Academy.

When The Cranes Fly South

Lisa Ridzen

Cover to be revealed



May 2025

9781529942200

£16.99

216x153 : Hardback

272 pages

Cat Fight

Kit Conway

**When the peace shatters in suburbia, the claws come out . . .
.a gripping debut, perfect for fans of Liane Moriarty and
Jane Fallon**

Ex-zoologist Coralie King rules over a very specific animal kingdom. Queen Bee of the Briar Heart Estate, with the biggest house and the hottest husband, she is undoubtedly a pillar of this exclusive Sevenoaks community. Therefore, when said hot husband insists he's seen a panther, it's only natural that Coralie takes the lead in the investigation.

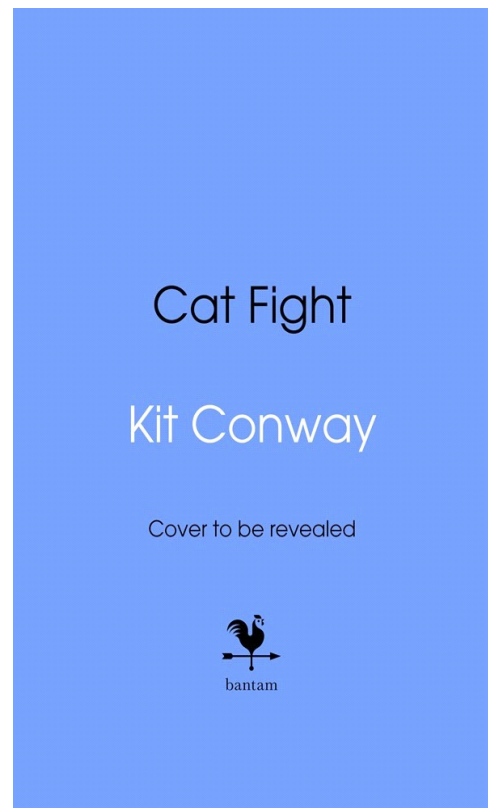
Life's never been a fairy tale for Emma Brooks. A laughingstock among the other mothers, Emma sees the panther sightings as something other than a threat: a means to distract neighbours from her much-derided planning application. She's determined to get her happily ever after, and the monster in the woods might just be the ally she needs...

Twig Dorsett's new suburban existence suits her far less than the bohemian life she left behind when her daughter got sick. But perhaps it's not all bad; after all, the unrelenting media attention brought along by the mystery of the Sevenoaks panther offers Twig the twin opportunities of raising money for a life-saving treatment *and* reviving her long dead music career.

As the summer wears on, the big cat frenzy reaches a fever pitch, and everyone is watching their backs. But is the real predator a seventy-kilo cat with razor-sharp claws? Or is the actual danger of a far more domestic variety?

Kit Conway lives in Kent with her husband and three sons. Prior to writing she worked as a corporate lawyer in London. *Cat Fight*, her debut book club suspense novel, will be published by Transworld (UK) and Atria (US) in Summer 2025.

You can find her on Instagram and TikTok @kitconwayauthor.



May 2025
9780857506597
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
320 pages

Cartel

Tom Bradby

Set within the gritty world of Colombian drug cartels, Tom Bradby's new standalone depicts the dark underbelly of the crime world with his signature atmospheric plotting his readers have come to love.

Rafa Fernandez was always crystal clear about one thing; hell would freeze over before he was dragged into the dirty business that made his father one of the richest and most powerful criminal bosses in the world. But now his father is dead, hell has indeed frozen over and, whether he likes it or not, his father's billions are his.

Unfortunately, the old man's rivals have an eye not just on the drugs' business but the other assets too. Soon his family is under threat: his sister has been kidnapped, and his wife and son living in fear. If they, and he, are to survive, he must become the master of his father's world.

Dr Laura Strong also has dark secrets - some crippling gambling debts accumulated trying to care for her disabled brother. When Rafa offers her the chance to transform her finances by caring for his own son, she has no choice but to say yes, particularly when agents from the National Crime Agency urge her to take the job - and inform on her new boss.

As a reluctant drug dealer and a damaged doctor are pushed together by an increasingly brutal series of events, the question is simple; can either of them survive? And, if so, how?

TOM BRADBY is a novelist, screenwriter and journalist. He has written nine previous novels, including top-ten bestselling *Secret Service*, and its two sequels, *Double Agent* and *Triple Cross*. *The Master of Rain* was shortlisted for the Crime Writers Association Steel Dagger for Thriller of the Year, and both *The White Russian* and *The God of Chaos* for the CWA Historical Crime Novel of the Year. He adapted his first novel, *Shadow Dancer*, into a film, the script for which was nominated for Screenplay of the Year in the Evening Standard Film Awards.

As a broadcaster, he is best known as the current Anchor of ITV's News at Ten. In his first year in the job he was named Network Presenter of the Year by the Royal Television Society. He has been with ITN for thirty years and was successively Ireland Correspondent, Political Correspondent, Asia Correspondent (during which time he was shot and seriously injured whilst covering a riot in Jakarta), Royal Correspondent, UK Editor and Political Editor- a job he held for a decade - before being made the Anchor of News at Ten in 2015.

Cartel

Tom Bradby

Cover to be revealed



May 2025

9781787634275

£16.99

Royal Octavo : Hardback

400 pages

The One You Never Knew

Ruth Jones

The warm, heartrending and life-affirming novel from the author of the instant *Sunday Times* bestsellers, *Never Greener*, *Us Three* and *Love Untold*.

Ruth Jones writes with **such warmth you can't help but fall in love** with the characters she creates.' JAMES CORDEN

Linda and Levi will never meet. But they're going to change each other's lives.

In her role at the council's Unclaimed Heirs Unit, Linda Standish investigates the lives of those who've died alone and tracks down any living relatives. She's been a friend to the friendless for the past thirty-three years. And now she's looking forward to an early retirement.

But before she hangs up her lanyard, Linda must take on one last case - that of Levi Norman Jones - a Welshman who'd made his home on a remote Scottish island for the past five years.

What brought Levi here? And who did he leave behind? Obligated to travel (by hearse) with her arch nemesis Fergus Murray, and helped (and hindered) by the eccentric local residents, Linda searches for clues to a life now lost. And in the process unexpectedly makes new friends, and discovers things about herself she never knew.

Bursting with all the heart and humour that has made Ruth's name as a screenwriter and author, The One You Never Knew is about finding joy in the most unlikely connections, and the importance of holding onto friendship, love and community - especially when life gets messy.

Praise for Ruth Jones:

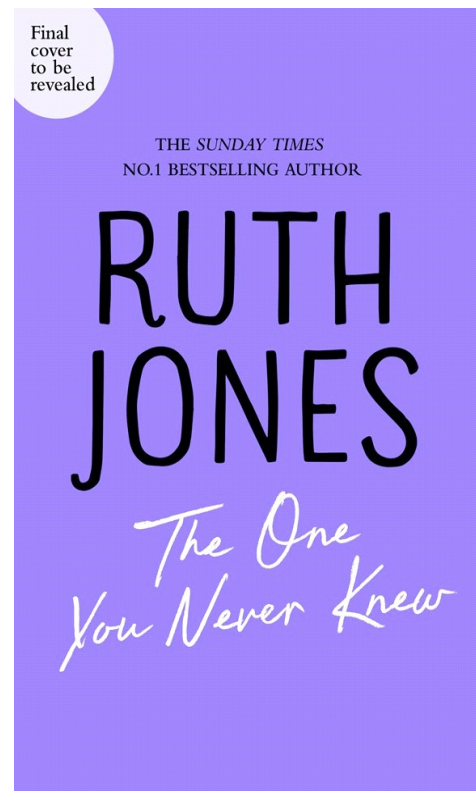
'Ruth Jones is excellent on human nature and why we make the mistakes we do' **JOJO MOYES**

'A cast of characters you'll lose your heart to.' **ADELE PARKS**

'Beautifully warm and totally absorbing.' **JANE FALLON**

Ruth Jones is best known for her outstanding and award-winning television writing, most notably BBC One's *Gavin and Stacey*, which she co-wrote with James Corden and in which she played the incorrigible Nessa Jenkins. The 2019 Christmas Day special of *Gavin and Stacey* gained national critical acclaim, drawing an audience of over 18 million, winning a BAFTA for TV moment of the year and a National Television Award for Impact. Ruth also created and co-wrote Sky One's *Stella*, which ran for six series. Ruth has starred in several other television comedies and dramas.

Her debut novel *Never Greener* was chosen as WHSmith Fiction Book of the Year 2018, was nominated for Debut of the Year at the British Book Awards, was a Zoe Ball Book Club pick, and was a *Sunday Times* bestseller for fifteen weeks, three weeks at number one. Ruth's second novel, *Us Three*, was an instant *Sunday Times* bestseller in hardback and paperback and has sold almost a quarter of a million copies. Ruth was awarded a Comedy Women in Print Prize in 2020. *Love Untold* is her third novel.



May 2025

9781787633896

£22.00

Royal Octavo : Hardback

496 pages

Last Orders for the Condemned

Denzil Meyrick

D.C.I Jim Daley returns in the gripping, heart-stopping new thriller from the bestselling author Denzil Meyrick. Daley is charged with murdering his wife, and time is running out...

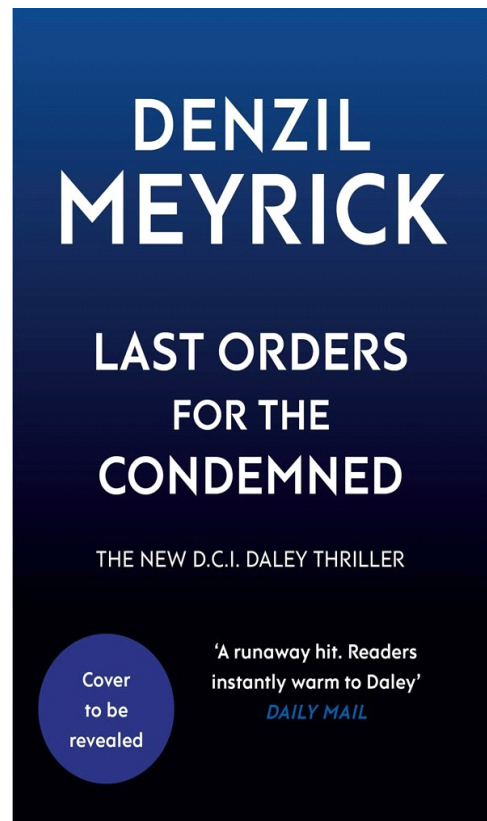
In Kinloch, Hamish is having bad dreams - so bad, he won't leave the house. In the middle of the night, Brian Scott hears his phone buzz on the nightstand. It's a message from Jim Daley, his old friend, which chills him to the bone.

'She's dead, Brian. I couldn't take it anymore - I killed her! You have to help.'

When the body of a woman is discovered, Daley is arrested for murder. Scott believes he's innocent, so who is trying to frame him? The search for answers will lead Jim and Brian on a dark journey into their past, putting them - and the people closest to them - in immediate danger.

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



May 2025
9780857506405
Royal Octavo
£18.99 : Hardback
432 pages

A Place in the Sun

Jo Thomas

Let bestselling author Jo Thomas whisk you away to the gorgeous Tuscan countryside in her new summer novel - full of food, love, and friendship, it's the perfect holiday read.

Don't miss Jo's newest summer novel! Coming June 2025 and available to preorder now!

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.

A Place in
the Sun

Jo Thomas

Cover to be revealed



June 2025
9781804993866
B Format (TW)
£9.99 : Paperback
364 pages

This is the Day They Dream Of

Robert Goddard

Following the success of his Umiko Wada series, 'the greatest crime writer of any generation' (*Mail*) Robert Goddard showcases his ability to create brilliant characters against global settings and unlock history in his signature twist and counter-twist style.

The sequel to the *Times* Thriller of the Year bestseller, *This is the Night They Come for You*.

The past is coming for Chief Inspector Taleb. He may not know it but he will soon enough. And the past in Algeria is venomous, vengeful and relentless, designed to consume the unwary traveller. He will soon find himself looking down the barrel of a thirty-year-old mystery, which, if he's not careful, will be aimed squarely at him.

This Is the Day They Dream Of is the scintillating sequel to the critically acclaimed *This Is The Night They Come For You*, which introduced the world-weary Inspector Taleb and his infinitely more competent colleague Agent Hidouchi of the Algerian Secret Service. Together they must navigate the country's treacherous history to save themselves from its dangerous present.

Praise for *This is the Night They Come For You*

'Truly ingenious' *The Tablet*
'Goddard sprinkles head-turning double-crossing with delightful by-play between his two leads' *The Times*
'Fast-paced, beautifully crafted with some excellently drawn characters... engages from start to finish' *Choice Magazine*
'Goddard writes amazing novels of mystery/suspense. His new one is magical and the title is simply the best' Stephen King

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

This is the Day
They Dream Of

Robert Goddard

Cover to be revealed



June 2025
9781787635128
Royal Octavo
£20.00 : Hardback
448 pages

The Passengers on the Hankyu Line

Hiro Arikawa

Irresistible 1.4-million-copy bestseller from the much-loved author of THE TRAVELLING CAT CHRONICLES follows key emotional dilemmas for five commuters on a scenic fifteen-minute railway journey

'You will be wrapped in **laughter and tears**' Reader review*****
'What I love about it is its **Kindness**' Reader review*****
'I wanted to **tap the shoulders** of the characters' Reader review*****

Famously scenic, the Hankyu commuter train trundles daily through Japanese landscape unaware of the heartaches of the passengers it carries.

On the outward journey we are introduced to the emotional dilemmas of five characters as we puzzle out how they will unravel; on the return journey six months later, we watch them resolve:

- a man meets the woman who always happens to borrow a library book just before he can take it out himself
- a woman in a white bridal dress boards looking inexplicably sad
- a university student leaves his hometown for the first time
- a girl prepares to leave her abusive boyfriend;
- an elderly widow discusses adopting the Dachshund she has always wanted with her granddaughter.

As the seasons come around, so the Hankyu line trundles on carrying the lives and loves of its passengers ever forwards.

Hiro Arikawa (Author)

HIRO ARIKAWA is the multi-million-copy bestselling author of THE TRAVELLING CAT CHRONICLES and THE GOODBYE CAT. Passing through a scenic mountainous region of Japan, the famous Hankyu line is a privately run railway that connects Osaka and Kyoto and is famous for its maroon-coloured vintage-style carriages. One of its much-visited stops is the city of Takarazuka, where the author of this book lives. Published twenty years ago, this enduring Japanese classic has sold 1.4 million copies and has been published worldwide.



June 2025

9781529934915

£14.99

B Format (TW) : Hardback

288 pages

Never Been Shipped

Alicia Thompson

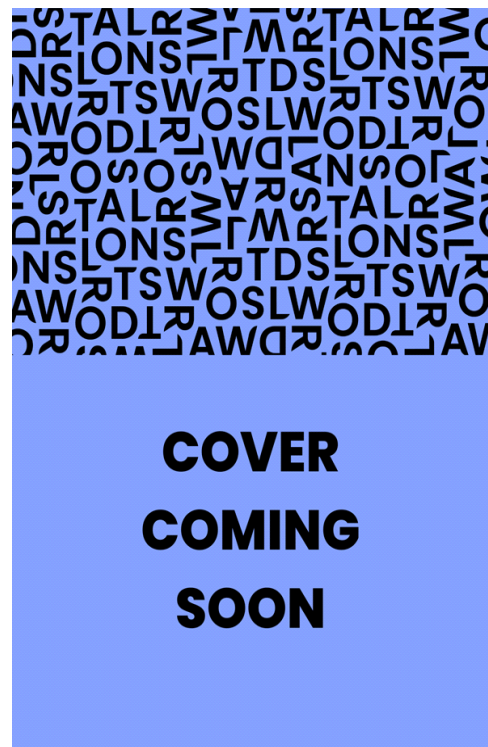
From the author of TikTok bestseller *Love in the Time of Serial Killers* comes a brilliantly unique friends-to-lovers second chance romance.

Micah's relationship to music is...complicated. Her band took off after being featured on a teen TV show, but the group broke up in no small part thanks to Micah's ex, the band's guitarist. Years of trying to break out on her own have landed flat, so when she's offered an opportunity to reunite with the band on a cruise, she reluctantly says yes, even though she'll have to face the ghosts of her past.

John has been in love with Micah since they were kids making music together, but never said anything for the sake of the band, her old relationship, and to preserve their friendship. A life away from music has made him miss the way his heart sang with hers, so he boards the cruise too.

Onboard, Micah can't help but see John with new eyes, and John's feelings only intensify as the discordant band's tension grows to a breaking point and they'll have to decide if their relationship is more than a one-hit wonder.

Alicia Thompson is a writer, reader, and Paramore superfan. As a teen, she appeared in an episode of *48 hours* in the audience of a local murder trial, where she broke the fourth wall by looking directly into the camera. She currently lives in Florida with her husband and two children.



June 2025
9781804996362
B Format (TW)
£9.99 : Paperback
384 pages

Births, Deaths and Marriages

Laura Barnett

From the Number One bestselling author of *The Versions of Us* comes a story of six lifelong friends and one extraordinary year. *Four Weddings and a Funeral* for a new generation.

Zoe, Al, Rachel, Rob, Yas and Indie. Six friends who were inseparable at university, who have all had their secret or not so secret passions for each other, their own hopes and fears.

Over the years, they have gone their separate ways. Rob is a history teacher, with a string of broken relationships behind him. Yas is a surgeon and very much her own woman. Indie is married and a successful coffee entrepreneur. Rachel is a stay at home mum with two children. Al, widowed young, is about to take over his father's funeral business.

When Rob's engagement party throws the gang together once more, some passions are reignited, old connections and resentments resurface. Over the next twelve months, there will, among the friends, be a birth, a marriage, and a death – but whose?

Set over one year and told from multiple perspectives, **BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES** is an era-spanning, globe-trotting novel about love, friendship, and how to stay at least relatively sane in an ever crazier world. It's about a group of friends growing older, a pair of sometime lovers finding their way back to each other, about kindness and joy. It's about births, deaths, marriages, and everything in between.

Laura Barnett is the author of four novels including the number one bestseller, *The Versions of Us*, *Greatest Hits*, *Gifts* and *This Beating Heart*. As an arts journalist and theatre critic, she has written regularly for the *Guardian*, *Observer*, the *Daily Telegraph* and *Time Out* London. Laura lives with her husband Andy, son Caleb and cat Eno in rural Kent.

Births, Deaths and Marriages Laura Barnett

Cover to be revealed



June 2025
9780857529718
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
304 pages

Can You Solve the Murder?

Antony Johnston

Crime novel meets gamebook in this gripping, inventive locked-room murder mystery, set in a wellness retreat in a country mansion, from award-winning crime author and veteran games writer.

In this interactive crime novel, step into the shoes of a detective and investigate the most mysterious crime of your career.

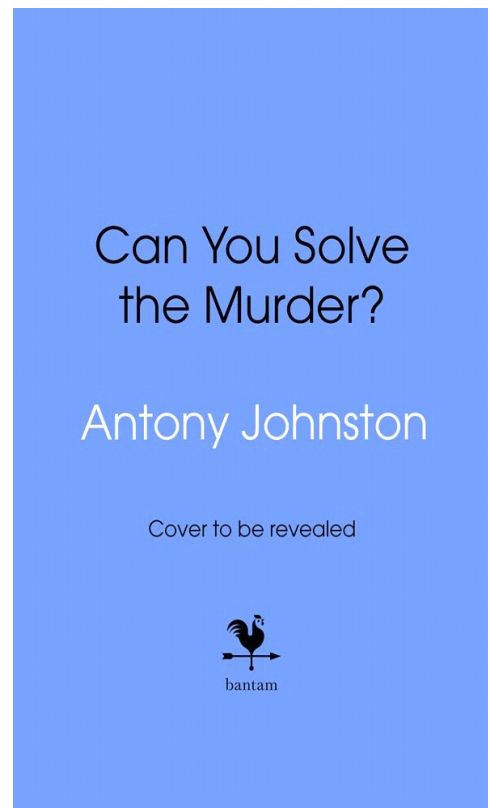
There's been a murder at Elysium, a wellness retreat set in an English country manor. You arrive to find the body of a local businessman on the lawn – with a rose placed in his mouth. It appears he was stabbed with a gardening fork and fell to his death from the balcony above. But that balcony can only be accessed through a locked door, the key is missing, and everyone in Elysium is now a suspect...

Gather the evidence and examine the clues. Choose who to interview next, and who to accuse as your prime suspect. But remember that every decision you make has consequences – and some of them will prove fatal...

Do you have what it takes? Can YOU solve the murder?

Experience a gripping new type of story, unlike anything you've read before, from Antony Johnston, award-winning crime author and veteran games writer.

A successful games writer of franchise-defining titles such as *Dead Space*, *Resident Evil Village*, *Middle-Earth: Shadow of Mordor*, and *CSR Racing*, all of which were multi-million sellers, Antony Johnston is also an established fiction writer. The 100 million grossing movie *Atomic Blonde* was based on his Cold War spy thriller graphic novel; his first cosy crime book *The Dog Sitter Detective* won the Barker Book Award for fiction and is now a successful series; his Brigitte Sharp espionage series is being developed for TV by Red Planet Pictures (*Death in Paradise*, *Beyond Paradise*, et al); and he also writes the bestselling Alex Rider graphic novels, adapted from Anthony Horowitz's YA books. The combination of these skills makes Antony uniquely qualified to write a whodunit gamebook in which you play a detective who must solve the murder.



June 2025
9780857506931
Royal Octavo
£14.99 : Trade Paperback
208 pages

The Bodies

Sam Lloyd

**You'd do anything for your child. But would you do it twice?
The new break-out thriller from Sam Lloyd, author of
Richard & Judy Book Club pick *The Memory Wood*.**

When you look down at your newborn baby, you realise they were right, those smug parents you've always rolled your eyes at: you'd do literally anything for your child. To make them happy, keep them safe.

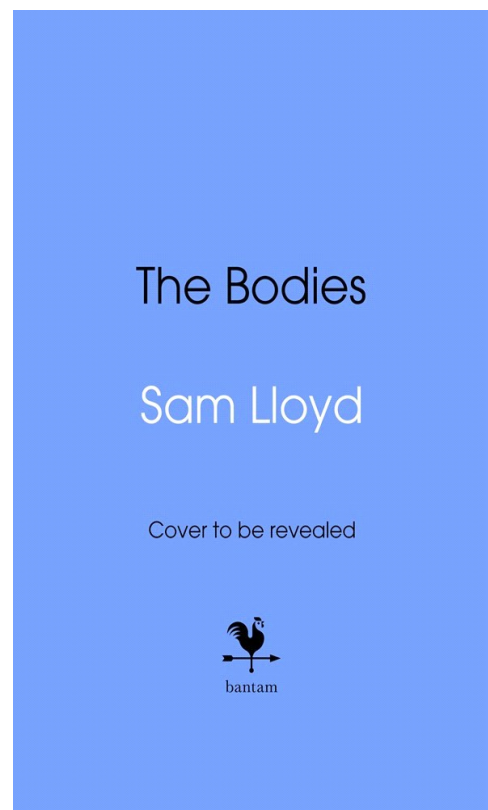
So when William Carver wakes one night to find his teenage son Max scrubbing the kitchen, hands wet with blood and panic flooding his voice as he promises it was an accident, he didn't mean to do it, William does the only thing he can. He helps Max bury the body.

William thinks that's the end of the nightmare. Until he finds Max with stricken eyes and bloody hands once again . . .

You'd do anything for your child – even cover up a murder.

But would you do it twice?

Sam Lloyd grew up in Hampshire, where he learned his love of storytelling. These days he lives in Surrey with his wife, three young sons and a dog that likes to howl. His first thrillers, *The Memory Wood* and *The Rising Tide*, were published to huge critical acclaim in 2020 and 2021.



June 2025
9781787636248
Royal Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
400 pages

Bitter Honey

Caryl Lewis

From 3 times winner of The Welsh Book of The Year award, a stunningly lyrical beautiful novel about a beekeeper and his daughter, told through eleven letters.

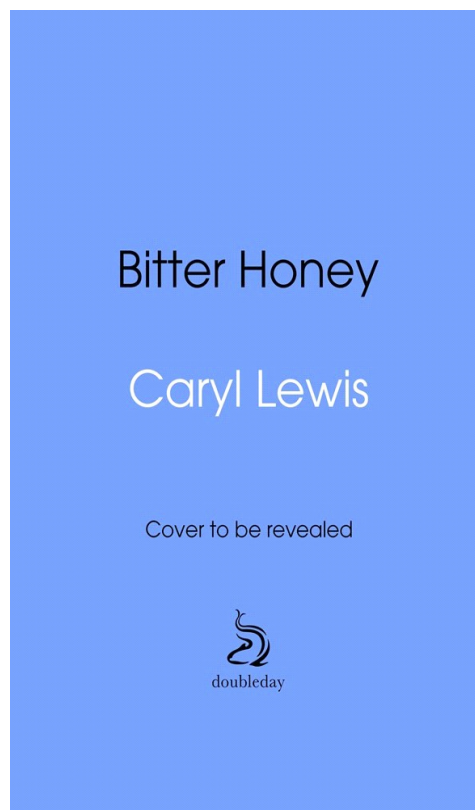
'A seed in the heart of an apple is an orchard invisible' Old Welsh Proverb

One orchard, three women, eleven letters.

Hannah has lived at Berllan Deg all her life, her husband came to live at the orchard when they got married. Tonight, she prepares for his funeral as he lies in the parlour. Over fifty years of marriage, a lifetime of memories dissipating in the impossibility of his stillness. He was a writer and a beekeeper who came to understand the world through the language of bees. He has left her eleven letters; the exact same number as there are frames in a bee's nest. Each letter is an examination of an aspect of their marriage. The morning of the funeral, Sadie, Hannah's estranged little sister comes back home for the service. As the letters unfold, they reveal a devastating secret that will make Hannah have to re-evaluate her whole life.

***Bitter Honey* is a novel which brings three very different women together into a broken Eden and examines how they rebuild it on their own terms.**

Caryl Lewis is a multi-award-winning Welsh novelist, children's writer, playwright and screenwriter. Her breakthrough novel *Martha, Jac a Sianco* (2004) is widely regarded as a modern classic of Welsh literature, and sits on the Welsh curriculum. The film adaptation - with a screenplay by Lewis herself - went on to win six Welsh BAFTAS and the Spirit of the Festival Award at the 2010 Celtic Media Festival. Lewis's other screenwriting work includes BBC/S4C thrillers *Hinterland* and *Hidden*. Lewis is a visiting lecturer in Creative Writing at Cardiff University, and lives with her family on a farm near Aberystwyth. *Drift* is her debut novel in the English language.



June 2025
9780857527899
Demy Octavo
£16.99 : Hardback
240 pages

The Outback

Sara Ochs

It was supposed to be the trip of a lifetime... Until one of them went missing. Escape to Australia in the hottest thriller of the year, perfect for fans of Lucy Foley and *White Lotus*.

It was supposed to be paradise.

A group of friends are studying abroad in Australia, having the time of their lives. Sun-kissed skin, whirlwind romances, all-night parties – they think it will never end, that nothing bad will ever happen to them.

But not all of them came home.

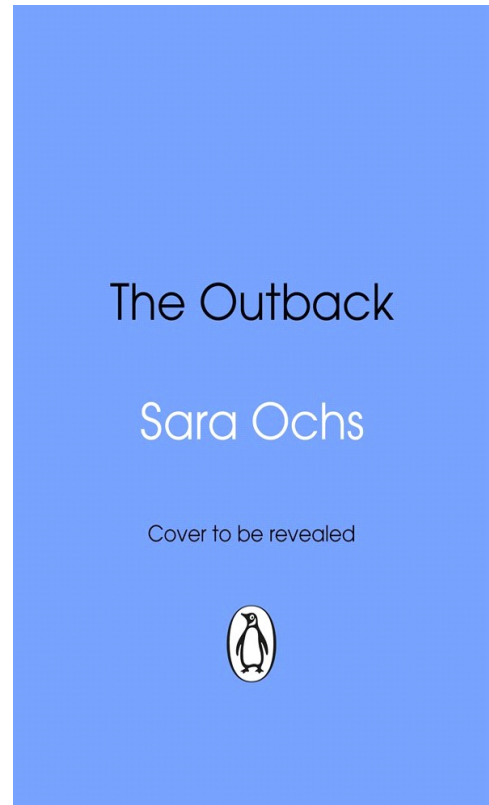
Accepted onto the exclusive Adventure Abroad Programme, they travel the country, swim with sharks, hike in the national park. But it isn't long before their trip of a lifetime ends in violence and betrayal.

And now they have to go back...

Years pass, but none of the surviving friends forget what happened that night. So when the remains of a girl are found in the outback, they know it's time to face up to the past. All of them are guilty of something, but who is really to blame?

A self-admitted travel addict, Sara Ochs has built a life around visiting beautiful and sometimes dangerous destinations. While learning to scuba dive on a remote island off the coast of Thailand, Sara heard that two backpackers had recently been murdered not far from her hotel. Horrified that something so terrible could happen in such an idyllic location, she knew she had found the inspiration for her debut novel, *The Resort*.

As well as being an author, Sara is an attorney and law professor, who splits her time between the United States and Sweden. You can find Sara on Instagram @saraochsauthor and on Twitter @OchsWrites.



June 2025
9781804991749
B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
432 pages

Beach Bodies

The hottest, most gripping beach read thriller of summer 2025

Sienna Sharpe

Summer 2025's hottest thriller. Bella Mackie meets Emily Henry in this sharp, voicey 'thromance' about a woman who is determined to make toxic people pay for the damage they do, and the podcaster who is on her tail.

Falling in love can be murder...

No one in Lily Lennox's life can understand why each of the past five summers, she has left her successful business and chosen instead to be paid minimum wage life-guarding at a luxury wellness resort on a sun-soaked Caribbean island.

Fortunately for her, they also aren't aware of the mysterious deaths that have occurred on the island every time she's there.

Lily always tries to avoid attracting attention. After all, if your mission is murder, it's best not to draw suspicious eyes. But this year, (very attractive) guest Daniel Black is asking a few too many inconvenient questions.

Can she manage her growing attraction towards him at the same time as getting away with murder?

Sienna Sharpe is a pseudonym of Jenna Satterthwaite. Born in the Midwest, Sienna grew up in Spain, lived briefly in France, and is now happily settled in Chicago with her husband and three kids. Sienna studied classical guitar, English Lit and French, and once upon a time was a singer-songwriter in folk band Thornfield. She loves sushi, reading in her natural habitat (aka her bed), and women taking back their power.



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B Format (TW)
£8.99 : Paperback
336 pages

Private Lives

Everyone has an opinion, which side are you on?

Emily Edwards

Another thorny issue is up for debate in this addictive and thought-provoking new novel from the author of the Richard & Judy book club pick, THE HERD.

In the sleepy seaside town of Waverly, Rosie and Seb Kent are happily married. Now that Seb has achieved his dream of becoming Headmaster of the local school, their lives couldn't be any better.

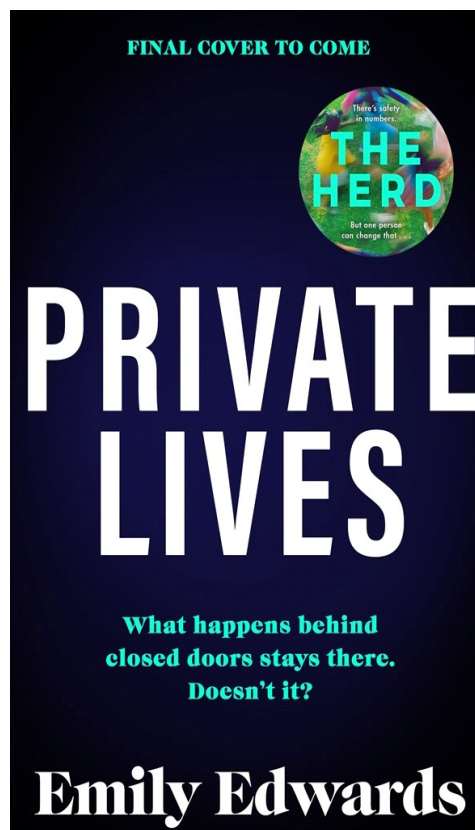
Then Abi arrives.

Abi, a young, single mother, has come to Waverly for a fresh start. She plans to reinvent herself and give her children a new life.

Then she sees Seb.

As their complicated hidden past threatens to destroy them both, they try their hardest to keep it contained. But in a small town, secrets don't stay hidden for long and soon, what should be their private business becomes a very public scandal. How far will everyone – them, their families and the whole community – go to protect everything they hold dearest?

After studying at Edinburgh University, Emily Edwards worked for a think tank in New York before returning to London where she worked as a support worker for vulnerable women at a large charity. She now lives in Lewes, East Sussex with her endlessly patient husband and her two endlessly energetic young sons. Her previous novel, *The Herd*, was a number one bestseller.



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352 pages