



DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS

LITERARY AGENCY

Spring Rights Guide 2024

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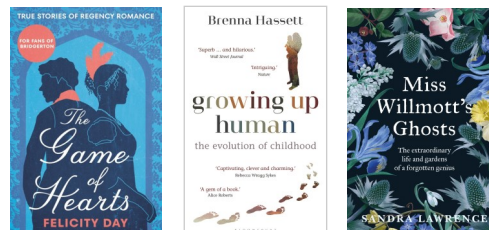
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DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS
LITERARY AGENCY

◆ ADULT FICTION ◆





JAYNE COWIE

Jayne Cowie is an author of feminist dystopian thrillers. An avid reader and life-long writer, Jayne also enjoys digging in her garden and makes an excellent devil's food cake. She lives near London with her family.

AFTER DARK by Jayne Cowie

(US Title: CURFEW)

UK Publisher: Arrow, PRH (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), May 2022

Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction

Rights Sold: US (Berkley, PRH), Complex Chinese (Faces), German (Heyne), Italian (Fanucci), Russian (AST), Turkish (25M2)

Film/TV (Vertigo / Paramount+)

Soon to be a major TV crime thriller series for Paramount +, starring Sarah Parish, Alexandra Burke and Mandip Gill, streaming Autumn 2024

WELCOME TO A WORLD WHERE WOMEN HOLD THE POWER.

They dominate workplaces, public spaces and government.

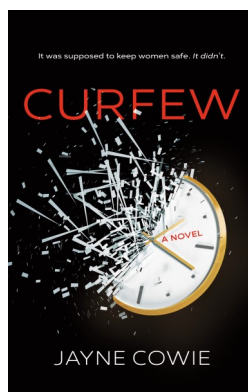
They are no longer afraid to cross a dark car park, catch the last train, or walk home alone.

With the Curfew law in place, all men are electronically tagged and must stay at home after 7pm.

It changed things for the better. Until now.

A woman is murdered late at night and evidence suggests she knew her attacker.

It couldn't have been a man because a Curfew tag is a solid alibi... *Isn't it?*



I DID IT FOR YOU

(US Title: ONE OF THE BOYS)

UK Publisher: Arrow, PRH (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), August 2023

Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction

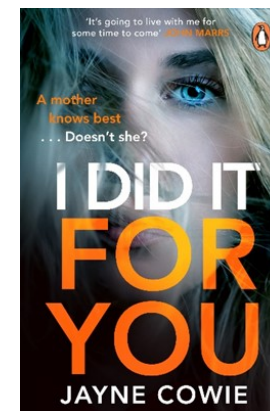
Rights Sold: US (Berkley, PRH), Russia (AST), Film/ TV (Under Option)

If you could test your son for a gene that predicts violence, would you do it?

Antonia and Bea are sisters, and doting mothers to their sons. But that is where their similarities end.

Antonia had her son tested to make sure he didn't possess the "violent" M gene. Bea refuses to let her son take the test. His life should not be determined by a positive or negative result.

These women will go to any length to protect their sons. But one of them is hiding a monster. And there will be fatal consequences for everybody....



PRAISE FOR JAYNE COWIE:

“So timely, so relevant and so **remarkably written**, it's going to live with me for some time to come”

- John Marrs, #1 bestselling author of *The One*

“**Original and unsettling**”

- *The Sun*

"The kind of book that **has something to say**, and says it well."

- Christina Dalcher





CAROLINE O'DONOGHUE

Caroline O'Donoghue is a *New York Times* bestselling author, screenwriter and host of the hugely popular and award-winning podcast Sentimental Garbage. She has written three novels for adults: *Promising Young Women*, which was shortlisted for the AN Post Irish Book Awards, *Scenes of a Graphic Nature*, which was longlisted for the Ondaatje Prize, and the international bestseller *The Rachel Incident*. She is also the author of the *New York Times* bestselling YA series, *All Our Hidden Gifts*. She was named one of Ireland's '30 under 30' most exciting artists by the *Sunday Times*. Her novels have received rave reviews and have been published in 19 languages to date.

THE RACHEL INCIDENT

UK Publisher: Virago (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), June 2023

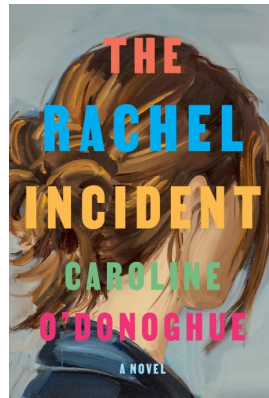
Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction

Rights Sold: US/Canada (Knopf), Brazil (Buzz Editora), Czech (Grada), Dutch (Ambo Anthos), French (Mercure de France), German (KiWi), Hungarian (Athenaeum), Italian (NN Editore), Portuguese (PRH), Romanian (Librex Media), Russian (Eksmo), Serbian (Vulcan), Spanish (Libros del Asteroide), Swedish (Historiska Media), Ukrainian (Vivat), UK Audio (W F Howes)
Film/TV (Universal / Page Boy)

**“If you've ever been young, you will love
The Rachel Incident like I did”
 - Gabrielle Zevin**

The Rachel Incident is an all-consuming love story. But it's not the one you're expecting. It's unconventional and messy. It's young and foolish. It's about losing and finding yourself. But it is always about love.

When Rachel falls in love with her married professor, Dr Byrne, her best friend James helps her devise a plan to seduce him. But what begins as a harmless crush soon pushes their friendship to its limits. Over the course of a year they will find their lives ever more entwined with the Byrnes' and be faced with impossible choices and a lie that can't be taken back...



“Profoundly satisfying ... O'Donoghue has found a way to tell this story in scenes both heartbreaking and funny.” - Ron Charles, Washington Post

“Astute and funny as hell... a gratifying, accomplished novel.” - Hamilton Cain, New York Times

“Funny, poignant, heartbreaking, beautifully plotted, with clever, pacey dialogue, vivid characters and a shocking plot twist that left me gasping.” - Barbara Trapido

“A sensational new entry in the burgeoning millennial-novel genre.” - Kirkus Reviews (starred)

“Joyful, passionate ... at times spit-out-your-tea funny - and always a bittersweet delight.” - Bookseller, Editor's Choice

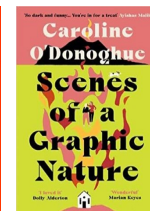
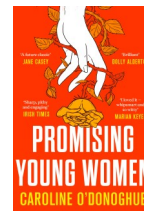
“A book full of love, and it is extremely easy to love reading it .” - Vogue

“Hilarious, wise and wonderfully written .” - Graham Norton

“Easily 13/10. Funny, LOVELY, romantic, DRENCHED in nostalgia, it made me extremely happy.” - Marian Keyes

“Chaos at its finest” - Stylist

Also by Caroline O'Donoghue:



“One of the brightest stars in the current galaxy of young Irish writers.” - Jane Casey



CATRIONA SILVEY

Catriona Silvey grew up in Scotland, and now lives in Edinburgh. Her short stories have been performed at the Edinburgh International Book Festival and shortlisted for the Bridport Prize. Her debut novel, *Meet Me In Another Life*, was published to rave reviews in 2021. Her second novel will follow in 2024.

THE POET'S GUIDE TO TIME TRAVEL

UK Publisher: HarperCollins (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), Spring 2025

Genre: Speculative Romantic Comedy

Rights Sold: US (William Morrow)

Cambridge University, 2005. Student Joe Greene dreams of being a famous poet, one day. He doubts it will actually happen.

Then, the future finds him—in the form of Esi. She has come to Cambridge as part of a time traveling expedition, to witness the greatest hits of history first-hand. The subject of this tour: Joe Greene. In Esi's time, Joe is as famous as Shakespeare and Byron. And this is the year he will meet the love of his life, fellow student and aspiring actress Diana, who will become his muse and the subject of his most famous love poems.

Joe thinks his future is set—until he realises that Esi's arrival in 2005 has changed everything. Rather than falling for Diana, he's falling for Esi instead.

Should Joe risk his dreams to follow his heart? And can he really write his own destiny into reality?

Praise for Catriona Silvey:

"An **incredible** debut... IT BLEW MY MIND. It is what fans of the THE TIME-TRAVELER'S WIFE have been craving." - *Liberty Hardy, Book Riot Senior CE*

"**Inventive, bold and surprising...** Cleverly constructed and highly entertaining." - *Charles Yu*

"Brilliant, lush, and **achingly imaginative!** I love this book in every life."
- *Beth Revis*

"A **remarkable debut**, haunting, genre-transcending."
- *Stephen Baxter*



MEET ME IN ANOTHER LIFE

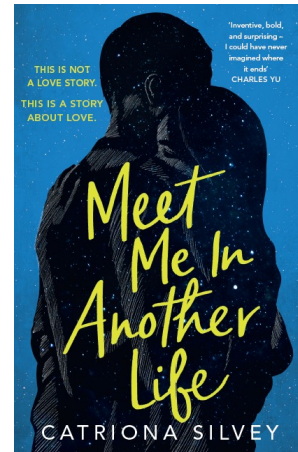
UK Publisher: HarperCollins (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), July 2021

Genre: Literary/Speculative Fiction

Rights Sold: US (William Morrow), Brazil (Buzz Editora), Complex Chinese (Infotress), Czech (Bourdon), French (Bragelonne), Hebrew (Aryeh Nir), Hungarian (Konyvmolykepzo), Italian (Mondadori), Korean (Moonhaksoochup), Polish (Poradnia K), Russian (AST), Turkish (Eksik Parca), Ukrainian (Laboratory), Vietnamese (Nhan Van)

Film (Atlas/Pilot Wave)

****No. 2 WATERSTONES BESTSELLER****
****SUNDAY TIMES TOP 20 BESTSELLER****
****INDY NEXT PICK SUMMER 2022****



Joyful, devastating, and profound, *Meet Me in Another Life* is a story of love and connection in every possible form.

Thora and Santi have met before...

Under the clocktower in central Cologne, with nothing but the stars above and their futures ahead.

They will meet again...

They don't know it yet, but they'll meet again: in numerous lives they will become friends, colleagues, lovers, enemies – meeting over and over for the first time, every time; each coming to know every version of the other.

Only they can make sure it's not for the last time.

But as they're endlessly drawn together and the lines between their different lives begin to blur, they are faced with one question: why?

They must discover the truth of their strange attachment before this, and all their lives, are lost forever.





DANIEL AUBREY

Having worked as a journalist in Catalonia and Hong Kong, Daniel now lives in Scotland where he is studying for an MLitt from the Institute for Northern Studies in Orkney.

Before starting work on his novel, Daniel completed the Riff Raff mentorship programme and helped start the Virtual Writing Group on Twitter (@virtwriting), which aims to connect with and support other writers. When he's not writing or studying he's either reading, travelling, walking in the local hills with his two dogs, Dylan and Maggie, or learning a new foreign language - this week, it's Swedish! *Tack för att du läser!*

DARK ISLAND

UK Publisher: HarperNorth (WEL), April 2024

Genre: Investigative Crime

Rights Sold: Czech (Bourdon), French (JC Lattes), Swedish (Lind & Co), Ukrainian (Laboratory), Film/TV (Black Camel Productions)

Midwinter in Orkney. Six hours of daylight. A race against time to catch a killer.

Reporter Freya Sinclair has always known she was different. While waiting on the outcome of an autism assessment, Freya uproots her life in Glasgow, quitting her job at one of Scotland's top broadsheets and taking a local beat in her childhood home of Orkney. But her plans for a quiet life are shattered when human remains are unburied by a winter storm on Orkney's wild Atlantic coast.

The identity of the bones opens old wounds in the islands, and sheds light on a darker truth nobody wants to accept. As the nights draw in, Freya's obsessive hunt for answers turns into a cat and mouse game, with each secret she unearths threatening her job, her family, and presenting a murderer with their next victim.

In a place where nothing stays buried forever, is uncovering the truth more important than saving lives?

Early reviews from NetGalley UK:

"A cracking debut and I'm already very much looking forward to what Daniel does next." **5 stars**

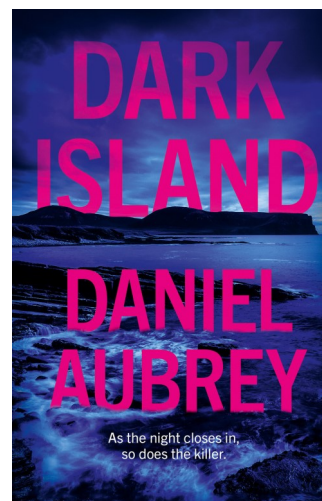
"Fabulously dark tale set on the Scottish islands. Great descriptions of the locations and characters that I couldn't wait to find out what happens to them next!" **5 stars**

"A great thriller, it was a fast-paced, realistic read that had me turning the pages late into the night!" **5 stars**

"This book was brilliant! Well-planned, fast-paced and a joy to read. I am very much looking forward to whatever this author writes next, because if this is a debut we are all in for quite a treat." **5 stars**

"A pacy read with a great female lead and an evocative setting. Dark Island would make a great TV crime drama series too!" **5 stars**

"I absolutely raced through this fast paced, exciting murder mystery set in Orkney. Daniel Aubrey's writing skills and descriptions successfully transported me to winter in the dark islands. Newspaper reporter Freya is such a brilliant and complex character that I hope will appear in more books." **5 stars**



"This was a fast-paced, gritty read. It was beautifully written with vivid imagery and not an ounce of descriptive cliché which I find in most thriller novels. I loved this brilliant and complex female lead and thoroughly look forward to the next instalment." **5 stars**

"A well-paced, gripping read, set in Orkney, this book was a real page turner. Good for fans of Peter May's Lewis trilogy, and made me hungry for more." **5 stars**

"Throughout, the novel is propulsive and immersive (apart from the times that it got so tense I had to take a breather)." **4 stars**





CLARE MARCHANT

Growing up in Surrey, Clare always dreamed of being a writer. She has a degree in history and an MA in women's studies, and is now finally writing full-time. She is a member of the RNA New Writers Scheme.

THE HOUSE OF THE WITCH by Clare Marchant

UK Publisher: Boldwood (WEL), August 2024

Genre: Historical Fiction

Rights Available: Dramatisation / Translation

Two wise women. Two men who want to crush them. Centuries apart, accusations of witchcraft, possession and insanity threaten their existence.

In 2024 Adrianna is staying at a cottage in Norfolk whilst taking a sabbatical from the pressures of her high-flying career. Her self-confidence is at rock bottom... perhaps her partner Rick's suggestion that she give up work is the right one.

Searching for a diversion from the demons which plague her, Adrianna decides to clear the overgrown garden where she finds a gravestone bearing a witch's symbol. She starts researching and discovers the cottage was once owned by Ursula Broome, who in 1646 was accused of witchcraft.

Intertwined with Adrianna's story is that of Ursula. Having seen violence in her parents' marriage, she's made the decision she will never marry. She fends off the advances of local physician Oliver Bruton who's angry when she rejects him. Spurned, he begins a sinister persecution against her and her decision to live freely on her own terms. Between her work as a midwife and the medicines she sells, Ursula believes she has no need for a man, but this ideal leaves her unprotected in a patriarchal world. One where an accusation of witchcraft and being possessed by the devil is a constant dark danger for those who do not conform to society.

As Adrianna learns about Ursula's story and it creeps towards its terrifying conclusion, she begins to realise that she's been missing clues in plain sight. Rick has been subtly manipulating and controlling her just as Oliver did to Ursula, and she too is in danger. Both women must fight to survive.

Extract:

1646

A loud banging at the door stopped Ursula's hand, and in a single moment the half-skinned rabbit she held between her knees was under a sack beneath the table. She kicked some of the straw which was strewn across the floor over the pool of blood at her feet. Poaching carried the death sentence, and although like her neighbours Ursula considered the fields around her cottage to be common land the local squire did not, he'd enclosed them and declared them his own.

'Ursula, thank our Lord in heaven you are here,' the young girl on the doorstep anxiously jiggling from foot to foot was in her early adolescence and the eldest of seven children belonging to the blacksmith. Her face carried the pinched hollow look of a child who rarely got enough to eat and beneath the knitted blanket she wore around her shoulders her frame was all angular bones. Behind her the haar, the sea fog which had edged it way across the land overnight now lay heavy and damp, suffocating the sun and silencing any noise. Experience told Ursula that it was unlikely to lift all day and they'd enter darkness under the same dank mantle. It hung in the air sucking the smell of wood smoke from the chimneys and down to the ground.

'I would not be out in this weather,' Ursula pointed out, adding, 'is the babe on its way?' The blacksmith's wife Joan was due to deliver her eighth child and as local midwife she was expecting to be called.

'Aye,' the girl nodded, 'she is near her time now, she has been labouring since last night. This baby is taking its time.'

'Wait while I get my bag of herbs and I will walk back with you,' Ursula said. She quickly damped the fire down to ensure no stray sparks could set her cottage ablaze whilst she was out, and after tying her shawl on she picked up a leather satchel. It contained all she'd need at a birth.

Also by Clare Marchant:



**"Emotive,
immersive and
compelling."
- Liz Fenwick**





SHARON GOSLING

Sharon started off as an entertainment journalist, writing magazine articles and books about science fiction television shows. Since then she has written, produced and directed audio dramas, written numerous children's books for MG and YA readers, and has produced many film and TV tie-in titles.

Sharon and her husband live in a very remote village in northern Cumbria, surrounded by fells, sheep, and a host of lovely neighbours who will one day make very good characters in their own book.

THE LOST ORCHARD

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada),
September 2024

Genre: Commercial Women's Fiction

Rights sold: Dutch (Zomer & Keuning), German (Dumont)

Rights Available: US, Translation, Dramatisation

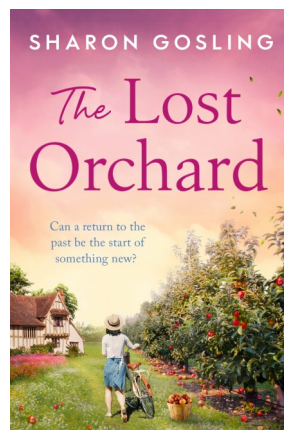
Can a return to the past be the start of something new? Warm, romantic and enchanting - the new novel from the author of *The Lighthouse Bookshop* and *The Forgotten Garden*.

Two sisters. One unexpected inheritance.

The Crowdies have worked the same landscape on the Scottish coast for generations. When Bern Crowdie passes away, everyone expects the farm to pass to his youngest daughter Nina who, with her young son Barnaby, has been living and working with her father for the past five years. Her older sister Bette left when she was eighteen, vowing never to return. Now a successful lawyer in London, it's doubtful she'll even make the funeral – or the reading of their father's will.

When Bette's life takes an unexpected turn, she finds herself back home, and both sisters are utterly shocked to discover that her father decided to split the farm between the two of them after all. With the farm sinking under the weight of hidden debt, secrets begin to emerge – some that bring the sisters closer, some that could save the farm, and some that mean the family could lose it forever.

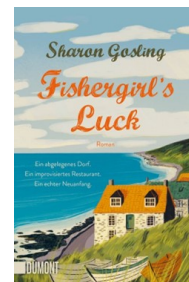
But it is the discovery of an old apple orchard that could change everything.



THE HOUSE BENEATH THE CLIFFS

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada)

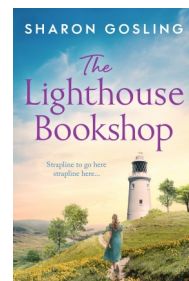
Rights sold: Dutch (Zomer & Keuning), German (DuMont Verlag),
Italian (Garzanti), Norwegian (Cappelen Damm), Russian (Sindbad),
Swedish (Modernista)



THE LIGHTHOUSE BOOKSHOP

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada)

Rights sold: Dutch (Zomer & Keuning), German (Dumont),
Hebrew (Tchelet), Italian (Garzanti), Norwegian (Cappelen Damm),
Russian (Sindbad), Swedish (Modernista), Ukrainian (KM Media)



THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada)

Rights sold: Dutch (Zomer & Keuning), German (Dumont),
Russian (Sindbad), Swedish (Modernista)



"A wonderfully wise and beautifully written story... I loved it!"
- Isabelle Broom





JOANNE BURN

A lover of words, food and the wild outdoors, Joanne lives in the Peak District where she coaches creativity, and blogs about the joys and challenges of writing at www.notawritersgroup.com.

Her debut novel, *Petals and Stones*, was published by Legend Press in September 2018. *The Hemlock Cure* was her first historical novel.

THE BONE HUNTERS

UK Publisher: Little, Brown (WAL), February 2024

Genre: Historical Suspense

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation via publisher)

In nineteenth-century Dorset, a young woman is about to make an extraordinary discovery.

When Ada Winters finds the fossilised remains of an unrecognisable creature up on the cliffs, she believes she has found the answer to her scientific ambitions and her family's financial struggles. Meanwhile, Doctor Edwin Moyle has come to Dorset in search of the discovery that will bring him fame and fortune, and instead finds a strange young woman who seems to hold the key to everything he seeks.

But what is the creature that Edwin and Ada are about to unearth? And it will bring them greatness or destruction?



"**An engrossing tale** of a woman striving for the recognition she deserves in the face of male indifference and betrayal." - *Sunday Times* 'Best historical fiction for February 2024'

"**Singular and astonishing** . . . I've never met a character quite like Ada." - *Annie Garthwaite*

"*The Bone Hunters* has cemented Joanne Burn's place as **one of my favourite writers.**" - *Sonia Velton*

"Joanne Burn is fast becoming **my go-to historical fiction writer.**" - *Emma Carroll*

"*The Bone Hunters* is that rare combination . . . **beautifully written but also a gripping page-turner.**" - *Laura Shepperson*

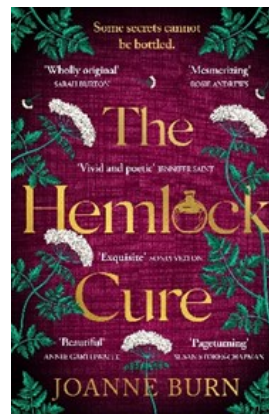
"**Delicate and beautiful**, I loved it." - *Polly Crosby*

"An **extraordinary** book . . . I fell in love with Ada from the first page." - *Elizabeth Lee*

"A **beautifully written** tale of obsession, friendship, betrayal, ambition and love." - *Roz Watkins*

"So beautifully and brilliantly written. **Every word dripped with atmosphere.**" - *Carole Matthews*

Also by Joanne Burn:



"An intricate, detailed and **beautifully written** story." - *Jennifer Saint*

"*The Hemlock Cure* is a carefully researched take on Eyam's sad history, with a rich cast of characters that **keep you turning the page.**" - *Susan Stokes-Chapman*





NIKKI MARMERY

Nikki worked as a financial journalist for 15 years, specializing in credit derivatives and foreign exchange markets. The financial crisis, followed swiftly by the arrival of three small children, put an end to that, and she now writes historical fiction from a small village in the Chilterns.

Her first novel, *On Wilder Seas*, was published by Legend Press in 2020. Inspired by a true story, it tells the tale of Maria, the woman who sailed on the Golden Hind during Francis Drake's famous circumnavigation voyage. Earlier drafts of the novel were shortlisted for the Myriad Editions First Drafts Competition 2017 and the Historical Novel Society's New Novel Award 2018. In July 2020, it was selected for the Wilbur & Niso Smith Foundation's #AdventureSociety book club. *Lilith* is her second novel.

LILITH

UK Publisher: Legend Press (UK/Comm ex. Canada), October 2023

Genre: Literary Feminist Historical Fiction

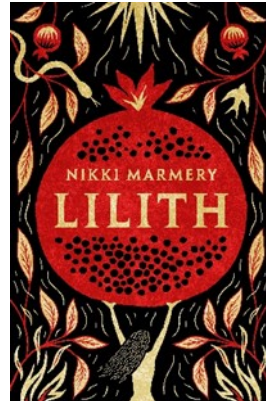
Rights Sold: US (Alcove Press), Croatian (Znanje),

German (S. Fischer Verlag), Turkish (Eksik Parca), UK Audio (WF Howes)

Rights Available: Translation / Dramatisation

In the Garden of Eden, at the beginning of time, an outrageous lie is born: that women are inferior.

Lilith and Adam are equal and happy in the Garden of Eden. But when Adam decides Lilith should submit to his will and lie beneath him, she refuses – and is banished forever from Paradise. Demonised and sidelined, Lilith watches in fury as God creates Eve, the woman who accepts her submission. But Lilith has a secret: she has already tasted the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. Endowed with Wisdom, she knows why Asherah – God's wife and equal, the Queen of Heaven – is missing. Lilith has a plan: she will rescue Eve, find Asherah, restore balance to the world and regain her rightful place in Paradise.



**Lilith is the heroine women have waited
six thousand years for...**

"Stellar . . . This feminist reimagining of the Bible **will grip readers.**"
- *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"**A sweeping fairy tale** . . . Quick and imaginative . . . An engaging feminist revision of the ancient world's Abrahamic religions." - *Kirkus Reviews*

"*Lilith* makes The Red Tent seem tame. It is "**speech that cannot be silenced**"—a ferocious, heterodox mythic novel that upends notions of divinity, femininity versus masculinity, and human beings' responsibility toward one another and the earth." - *Foreword Reviews*, starred review

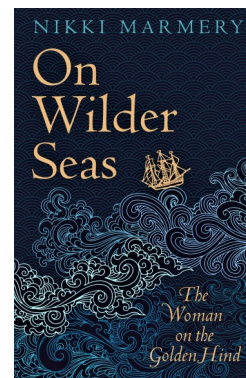
"**Illuminating, fascinating and important**—a fierce and valuable addition to feminist myth-retellings." - Jennifer Saint, *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Ariadne*

"Exquisite prose brings this **compelling, highly relevant** tale of Adam's first wife to life." - Laura Shepperson, *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Phaedra*

"Fans of Madeline Miller and Jenny Saint will love this **evocative feminist retelling.**" - Rosie Andrews, author of *The Leviathan*

"**A primal cry** echoing through the centuries." - Luna McNamara, author of *Psyche and Eros*

"**Exquisitely written** and full of wit and female rage." - Rani Selvarajah, author of *Savage Beasts*



Also by Nikki Marmery:

"A gripping adventure story of an extraordinary journey... **compelling.**"
- *Mandy Haggith*





AMBER CREWE

Amber has worked as an Audience Researcher on the X Factor, Phone Producer at Classic FM and a Travel Broadcaster on various London radio stations. But in 2009 Amber quit her latest job in PR and went to do her MA in Creative Writing at Birkbeck College whilst also working as a children's bookseller for Waterstones. Under a different name, she has published two YA novels with Andersen Press in 2015 and 2016.

Adult Virgins Anonymous, published in 2020, was Amber's first romantic comedy for adult readers, and her second novel, *That Jewish Thing*, followed in 2021 and was shortlisted for the RNA Best Romantic Comedy 2022. *The Right Wavelength*, her third, is based on her own experiences of being diagnosed as autistic as an adult.

THE RIGHT WAVELENGTH

UK Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), March 2023

Genre: Romantic Comedy

Rights Available: US, Translation, Dramatisation

Sometimes you need to find yourself before you're ready to find The One.

From the outside, Lorna has everything sorted. A cool job in radio, a home to call her own, plenty of friends. And anyone would be happy to attend their school reunion if they'd had the kind of post-adolescent glow up she's managed to pull off. Library Lorna is no more, and this new Lorna is 100%, definitely over her teenage crush on Finn, the most popular boy in school.

But on the inside, Lorna's got to admit she is trying too hard. Everything is so much more difficult for her than it seems to be for everyone else. She's sure something is wrong with her, she just needs to figure out what that is - and fast, now that Finn is back in her life and she's finally got a chance of getting everything she's ever dreamed of.



"Funny and moving and true, and so wonderful to have an ND lead." - *Joanna Nadin*

"A beautiful novel about self discovery that will resonate with readers for decades to come." - *Lizzie Huxley-Jones*

"An incisive and beautifully-written novel about finding your true self, all wrapped up in a **heartwarming love story** which left me in floods of (happy!) tears. I absolutely adored it, and I hope everyone else will too." - *Emma Pass*

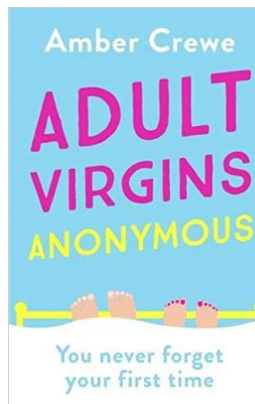
Also by Amber Crewe:

****Shortlisted for the RNA Best Romantic Comedy 2022****

"I absolutely loved this love story ... a modern Jewish masterpiece."5* *Review, Amazon*

"I loved it! Finished this book in one sitting as I was engrossed from page 1."5* *Review, Netgalley*

"A Jewish version of a Marian Keyes novel...I really loved it!"5* *Review, Amazon*



"This is quite possibly both the best book I have ever read, and THE book of 2021." - *Lost In Her Bookland*

"A heart-warming read, this uplifting book is what we could all do with in our lives right now." - *Heat*

"A gorgeous feel-good read." - *The Sun (Pick of the Week)*

"Such a wonderful read. It's awkward. It's cute. **It's so very relatable.**" -5* *Review, NetGalley*



CHRIS LLOYD

Chris Lloyd lived in Catalonia for over twenty years, besides brief spells in Bilbao, Madrid, Grenoble and a mill in Devon. He has written and contributed to several travel books about Spain for Rough Guides, travelling extensively around the country. Now back in South Wales, he works as a Catalan and Spanish translator.

His debut crime fiction series, *The Elisenda Domènech Investigations*, was published by Canelo. Chris has now turned his attention to Paris in his new series, starring detective Eddie Giral, published by Orion.

THE UNWANTED DEAD

UK Publisher: Orion Books (WAL), September 2020

Genre: Historical Crime Fiction

Rights Sold: Dutch (Meulenhoff Boekerij), German (Suhrkamp), Greek (Metaichmio), Spanish (Atico de los Libros)

Rights Available: Dramatisation (US / Translation / Audio via publisher)

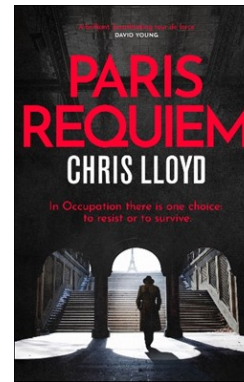
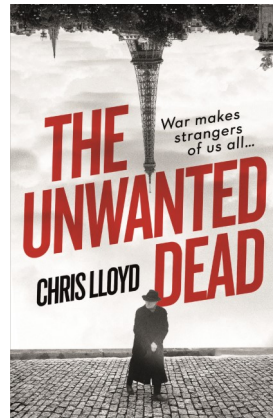
“War creates strangers of ourselves. We never come back from that.”

Paris, Friday 14 June 1940.

The first day of the Nazi occupation of Paris. It made headlines around the world. Forgotten amid the sanctioned killing of war, four Polish refugees are found dead – gassed in a railway container. A fifth commits suicide later that day.

Paris police detective Eddie Giral – a survivor of the last World War – watches helplessly on as his world changes forever. But there is something he still has control over. Finding whoever is responsible for the four dead refugees. The unwanted dead, who no one wants to claim.

To do so, he must tread carefully between the Occupation and the Resistance, between truth and lies, between the man he is and the man he was. All the while becoming whoever he must be to survive in this new and terrible order descending on his home.



PARIS REQUIEM

(Book 2 of the OCCUPATION series)

UK Publisher: Orion Books (World), Feb 2023

Genre: Historical Crime Fiction

Rights Sold: US (Pegasus), Dutch (Meulenhoff Boekerij), German (Suhrkamp), Spanish (Atico de los Libros)

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation / Audio via publisher)

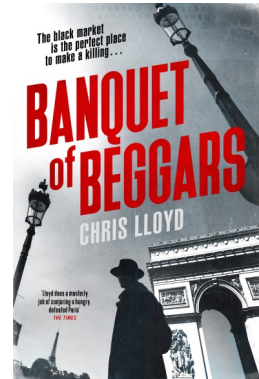
BANQUET OF BEGGARS

(Book 3 of the OCCUPATION series)

UK Publisher: Orion Books (World), August 2024

Genre: Historical Crime Fiction

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation / Audio via publisher)

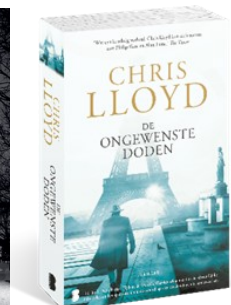
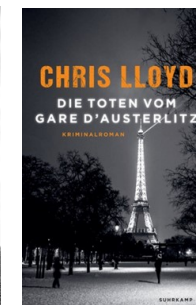
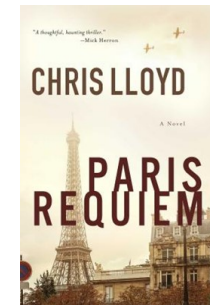


"Ranks alongside Alan Furst and Philip Kerr ... **Powerful stuff**" - *Sunday Times*

"A thoughtful, haunting thriller" - *Mick Herron*

"Such a **powerful and morally nuanced** crime novel" - *Andrew Taylor*

"My favourite novel of the year so far without a doubt – a brilliant, **breathtaking tour-de-force**." – *David Young, author of The Stasi Game*



****Waterstones Welsh Book of the Month, Sept. 22****



EMMA PASS

Emma Pass is a writer and editor who published two YA novels before making the move to adult fiction. She also works as a freelance editor, ghost writer, is a reader for the Literacy Consultancy and has written for *Mslexia* magazine.

Emma has been teaching creative writing, mentoring writers and facilitating workshops in schools, libraries and community settings and online since 2011.

THE GIRL FROM NORWAY

UK Publisher: Aria/Head of Zeus (WEL), August 2023

Genre: Commercial Historical Fiction

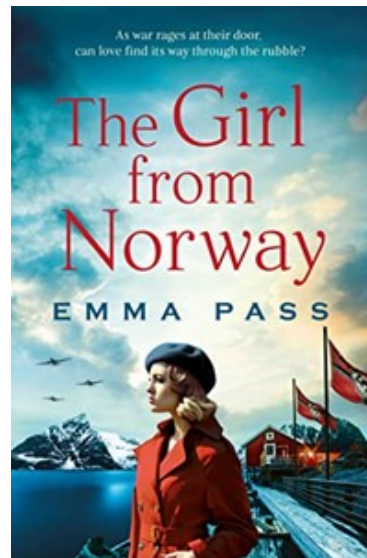
Rights Sold: Russian (MTS Stroki)

Rights Available: Translation / Dramatisation

1942. When Helda Dahlstrøm flees her abusive husband and Nazi-occupied Norway with her eight-year-old son she doesn't know if they'll make it out alive.

In her desperate journey to safety she'll find sanctuary on the rocky shores of the Shetland Islands, rescued by Canadian Flight Sergeant Bill Gauthier.

As WWII's destruction rages at their doorsteps, can love find its way through the storm?



Extract:

'Mamma!' Eirik wailed, clinging to me as we were thrown against one wall and then the other; I could hear nothing except the roar of the storm, and we were being hurled around so violently now I was certain the boat would be smashed to matchsticks. Was the engine still running? Were those men still with us? Had we been forgotten – abandoned? Soundlessly, I began to pray, tears streaming down my face as I begged God to keep us safe for just a little longer. I do not want to die. Please do not take my son from me like this. Please do not let us drown.

As the boat lurched again I put a hand out to try and steady myself, and realised that I had put my hand down in an inch or so of water. My skirts were wet too, and I realised, with fresh horror, that the sea was coming into the boat. I tried to scramble to my feet but another jolt knocked me back down. Foul-tasting water splashed into my mouth. I coughed and spluttered. 'Mamma!' Eirik cried again in a tone I had never heard him use before.

We have to get out of here, I thought, pulling him into my arms. As the seawater lapped around our feet. I turned towards the entrance to the hidden room, wondering if I had the strength to pull the heavy boards that covered it aside.

Then the lamp flickered one last time and went out, plunging us into darkness.

Also by Emma Pass:



"An absolutely stunning book... I adored everything about this." - NetGalley Reviewer, *****

"OH MY GODDESS this book has become a new favourite... Ruby and Sam's love is addicting and heart-warming." - @haleyyneal, *****

"What a gorgeous book!!... This book kept me up late into the night turning page by page like it was on fire to see what happened next." - NetGalley Reviewer, *****





LAURA JANE WILLIAMS

Laura Jane Williams is the author of seven romance novels, two memoirs, one audiobook original and an ebook novella, and a series of novels for young teens.

The rights to her international bestseller *Our Stop* have been sold for television, and her books have been translated into over a dozen languages.

ENEMIES TO LOVERS

UK Publisher: PRH Century (WAL), August 2024

Genre: Romantic Comedy

Rights Sold: US (Putnam)

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation via publisher)

The best way to get over a crush? Simply get to know him better...

Flo Greenberg: highly strung. Over-achiever. And currently on an enforced break from life after The Embarrassing Meltdown Incident That She Does Not Wish To Talk About, Thank You.

Jamie Kramer: her brother's best friend. Pain in the arse. And somehow on Flo's family holiday to Greece.

Flo and Jamie hate each other.

Except, they don't. Flo has a secret. She actually has a mortifying crush on her mortal enemy, and nobody - absolutely *nobody*, least of all her bonkers family, and certainly not Jamie himself - can know.

And so she has a plan. With two surprise weeks of sharing breakfast, lunch and dinner, boat trips and sun-loungers, Flo is going to have to remedy herself the only way she can think of: by spending time with him.

Actually getting to know Jamie is the perfect cure for Flo's romantic feelings.



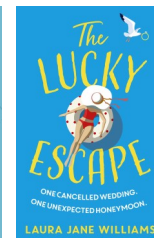
Extract:

'Hello Jamie,' I say, not looking at him, acting as coolly and indifferently as I can manage. I've already sauntered off as he says my name in return.

'Flo.'

No hello, no hey. Just intoning my name like we're lawyers in a B-list TV series and he's come to my deposition as a hostile witness. His timbre is low and gruff, like a country singer singing about a broken heart. Would it kill him to clear his throat and enunciate properly? I'm probably not worth that to him, either. Behind me I hear Laurie say, 'It's so good to see you mate. I know you're having the time of your life, but we've missed you!' I don't hear what Jamie says in return. Time of his life? I'll bet there are women in every port, like he's had his whole life. I've always known he's a player, right from when Laurie first brought him home and I heard them talking about their "number". Everyone knows Jamie sleeps around, but nobody judges him for it. It's as if because he looks like he does, it would be a waste if he didn't. His lothario ways are part of his charm. Well – part of his charm for everyone but me. I'm just mad I almost ever fell for it.

Also by Laura Jane Williams:



'Joyful, romantic and life-affirming.'

- Red Magazine

'It had me totally gripped.'

- Beth O'Leary

'Laura Jane Williams combines sharp, relatable wit and bold, joyful sincerity.'

- Dolly Alderton

Isn't it...?

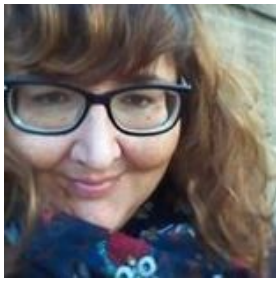




DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS
LITERARY AGENCY

◆ CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT FICTION ◆





DAISY MAY JOHNSON

Daisy is the author of the gorgeous *How To Be...* series of boarding school adventures. In her spare time she blogs about children's literature at *Did You Ever Stop To Think And Forget To Start Again*, about her research at *Big Boots and Adventures*, and sends the occasional Tiny Letter. She is the former host of Book

Riot's *Novel Gazing* podcast.

HOW TO BE BRAVE

UK Publisher: Pushkin (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), July 2021

Age Group: 8+

Rights Sold: US (Henry Holt), Turkish (İş Kültür), Audio (W F Howes)

Rights Available: Translation, Dramatisation

Some stories are about adventure.
Some are about heroes.
Some are about ducks.

This one is about all three.



Calla North and her mum Elizabeth live a life that's far from normal. There are days when the power is cut off and Calla has to do her homework by candlelight; there are others when curious strangers want to talk to Elizabeth about her research on ducks.

When Elizabeth says yes to a once-in-a-lifetime trip to save a small brown duck, she sends Calla to the best place she knows: The School of the Good Sisters. Staffed by nuns whose preferred subjects include light aircraft maintenance, camouflage skills, and cake - lots of cake - Calla is about to discover her bravery, and to learn that when trouble comes, there's no better back-up than a Blessing of Nuns...

"Finishing this **stunner of a book** has left me bereft...Accomplished, clever, witty and full of fun, it is a **quirky treat from start to finish.**"

– Carmen H, Bookseller

HOW TO BE TRUE

UK Publisher: Pushkin (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), July 2022

Age Group: 8+

Rights Sold: US (Henry Holt), Audio (W F Howes)

Rights Available: Translation, Dramatisation



Some stories are about love.
Some are about rebellion.
Some are about macarons.

This one is about all three.

Edie Berger was born to a family of troublemakers. When her activist parents leave Paris to protest around the globe, her grandmother decides it's time Edie became a proper young lady and so sends her to the School of the Good Sisters.

But to Edie's surprise, the nuns at the school teach genuinely useful things, like how to build a perfect library, cater for midnight feasts and make poison darts, and mischievous Edie feels right at home. When a school trip to Paris is planned, she worries about returning to the strict order of her grandmother's chateau – but things are not as she left them. Soon Edie and her rebellious friends are caught up in a mystery involving a precious painting, a very persistent burglar and secrets from her grandmother's past...



HOW TO BE FREE

UK Publisher: Pushkin (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), May 2024

Age Group: 8+

Rights Sold: Audio (W F Howes)

Rights Available: Translation, Dramatisation

Some stories are about friendship.
Some are about mysteries.
Some are about cake.

This one is about all three.



DAVID OWEN

David's debut novel, *Panther* (Atom, 2015), was longlisted for the Carnegie Medal and was followed by three more acclaimed YA novels. *Alex Neptune* (Usborne, 2022-4) is David's first MG series.

ALEX NEPTUNE: DRAGON THIEF

UK Publisher: Usborne (WAL), August 2022

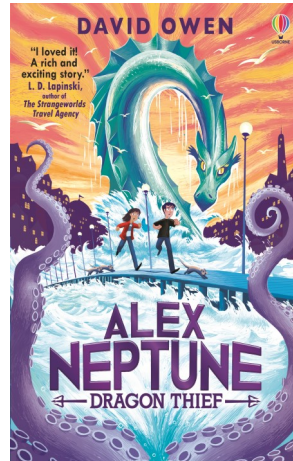
Age Group: 9+

Rights sold: French (Michal Lafont), Polish (Foksal), Turkish (Kultur Yayinlari), Ukrainian (RANOK), Audio (WF Howes)

Rights Available: Dramatisation (US / Translation via Publisher)

For as long as Alex Neptune can remember, the ocean has wanted to kill him. Which is awkward when he lives in the seaside town of Haven Bay. But things get really weird when an octopus, some sea otters and an army of crabs lead him to the spooky abandoned aquarium on the hill... There he discovers a magical water dragon, imprisoned by a poacher who wants to use its powers to get rich. Recruiting his tech-genius best friend, bodybuilding older sister, and a ragtag crew of animal companions, Alex plots a heist to break the dragon out and return it to the sea – discovering his own oceanic powers along the way...

****Waterstones Children's Book of the Month, August 2022****



**Also in the
Alex
Neptune
Series:**



"A wonderfully pacy adventure **full of imagination and jeopardy.**"

- Jasbinder Bilan

"**I loved it!** A rich and exciting story."

- LD Lapinski

"**Full of humour, friendship, and mythical adventure.**"

- Sarah Driver

"A brilliant adventure that **brims with peril, bravery and humour.**"

- Jenny Pearson

"**Wow! A gripping read from start to finish! I cannot wait to read the next book in the series!**"

- Donna Chadwick, Reading Zone

"**A wonderful adventure** of friendship, mystery solving, myth proving and dragon stealing! ... A race through the streets, battle action on the waves **and a heart-thumping** finish had me searching for the next book in this seaside series.

—WhatBookNext.com

"This is a humorous and action-packed adventure with a diverse cast of characters...**An engaging and entertaining story.**"

- Just Imagine



Also by David Owen:



"YA is in great hands with Owen."

- We Love This Book



SYLVIA BISHOP

Sylvia Bishop is the acclaimed author of nine novels for young and middle-grade readers, as well as *On Silver Tides*, her first novel for a YA readership.

Her books have so far been published in 17 languages.

When she's not writing, you'll find her on stage performing improvised comedy as part of the Peablossom Cabaret or Impromptu Shakespeare.

ON SILVER TIDES

UK Publisher: Andersen (WAL), February 2024

Age Group: 12+

Rights Sold: Audio (W F Howes), Danish (Turbine)

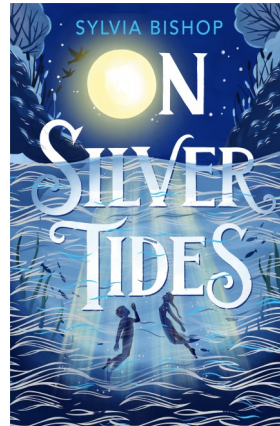
Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation/Audio via Publisher)

Kelda and her family, like all their silvermen kin, live secretive lives on boats up and down Britain's waterways. But unlike other silverman families, Kelda's family have another secret: her younger sister, Isla, cannot breathe underwater.

According to the River Lore, any landman setting foot on a silverman boat is subject to death; otherwise the river will sicken, and all life will be threatened. Kelda has sworn to protect her sister no matter the cost. But now the rivers are turning to salt, and rumours about Isla are spreading. When their family is betrayed, Kelda and Isla are forced to run.

With danger on all sides, Kelda must learn who her true allies are, and that the lore of the river holds darker, deeper secrets than she'd ever imagined...

ON SILVER TIDES is a stunning and beautifully written fantasy, perfect for fans of Frances Hardinge, Melinda Salisbury, or Diana Wynne Jones.



Praise for ON SILVER TIDES:

"[ON SILVER TIDES] has the **timeless power and craftsmanship of a classic.**" - Nicolette Jones, *The Sunday Times, Book of the Week*

"A shimmering, stark, original novel for 12+, **richly characterised and unforgettably atmospheric.**" – *Guardian*

"A timely environmental message underpins this beautifully written adventure... **Broodingly atmospheric, this is a richly imagined world.**" – *Daily Mail*

"A haunting, lyrical fable ... **Beautiful and thought-provoking.**" – *Irish Times*

"This book is a gift of rare imagination and luminous writing. I haven't read something so original and immersive in a long time. **On Silver Tides is a classic in the making and I loved every word.**" - Katya Balen

"**I loved this book so much.** It feels like a contemporary classic." - Alice Winn

"Bishop's writing transforms Britain into a magical network of rivers, channels and lochs that **will fill you with wonder.**" - Ann Sei Lin

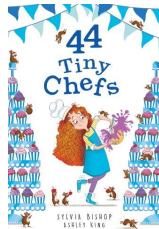
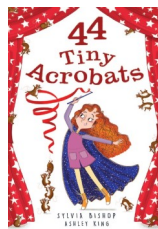
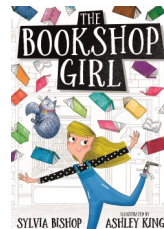
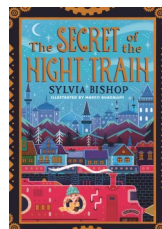
"**A brilliant fantasy** with old folklore and mythological monsters woven into the narrative. Fans of Frances Hardinge and Katherine Rundell's *Impossible Creatures* will adore *On Silver Tides*... this **future classic** will appeal to fantasy fans from upper middle-grade readers right through to adults." - Charlotte Eyre, *The Bookseller. Selected as February's Book of the Month*

Praise for Sylvia Bishop:

"This **captivating and enchanting** tale filled me with joy." - TES

"An **absolute gem of a book**, perfectly pitched for the MG reader. **Highly recommended.** And then some." - *The Bookbag*

"A **delight** from start to finish." - *Booktrust*





REBECCA ORWIN

Rebecca Orwin was brought up in Chesterfield, by a mum who loves books and a dad who loves films, and ended up loving stories in all their forms. Her favourite stories are those that provide the most thorough escape from the everyday; full of magic, adventure and preferably a few good jokes.

She started writing her own versions of these stories aged thirteen, and spent most of her teenage years scribbling until the early hours of the morning. She has a BA in English Literature and an MA in Creative Writing from Newcastle University, and lives in Sheffield with her husband. These days, she prefers to write by daylight.

THE MONSTERS AT THE END OF THE WORLD

UK Publisher: Penguin Random House (WAL), Spring 2025

Age group: 8+

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation/US via Publisher)

Two hundred years ago, a series of natural disasters known as the Ruin poisoned the land and caused never-before seen sea creatures to claim the ocean as their own. For the fishing villages that are all that was left of humanity, they are a constant threat and a frightening story told to keep children out of the shallows. They are precisely what they have been named: monsters.

But when Sunny discovers one of those monsters trapped on the beach, she realises that everything she thought she knew about them is wrong. Mo, as she names him, is an intelligent, gentle creature, far more in tune with nature than humans.

With crops failing on land and hostilities at sea increasing, is Sunny and Mo's unlikely friendship enough to save what's left of their world?

***How to Train Your Dragon* meets *The Last Bear*, THE MONSTERS AT THE END OF THE WORLD is a gorgeous story about friendship and survival, with a fiercely important message and a monstrously big heart.**

Extract:

"Oh, come on," said Sunny, feeling quite friendly towards the monster now, biting attempts aside. "Don't be such a sulk. Here, have some more fish."

This time, she threw the fish a little further, forcing the monster to turn its head away to keep it in view.

After a long hesitation, the monster slowly turned away from her, sniffing for the fish. Sunny's heart thumped and she tried to move quickly but smoothly. She reached for the snare wrapped around the monster's leg – it wouldn't be difficult to open; all she needed to do was release the tension on the wire, then push the metal locking clasp in the opposite direction for it to slide smoothly free. She caught hold of the wire, which fastened the snare to a wooden stake, driven deep into the ground. She held it tightly, so that the section of wire between her hand and the monster's leg was no longer taut, and with her other hand reached for the release clasp. As she grabbed for it, clumsy in her haste, her fingers brushed the monster's leg.

It was like an explosion went off in her head.

A flood of emotion that was not hers swept through her; shrivelling fear; pain so severe it was hard to think through; dread of an immensity that Sunny herself had never experienced; an aching, regretful longing to go home. At the same time, her head was filled with pictures she did not understand, things she had never seen. Most of it was a rushing blur, impossible to process in the instant it all burst into her mind. The only image she could pick out clearly was of herself; a gangly, freckled girl curled up in the worm-lamp's shadows, dark hair escaping from a scrappy plait, the gap in her teeth exposed as her jaw hung slack, brown eyes glazed as if daydreaming.





LAURA JANE WILLIAMS

Queen of the meet-cute, Laura Jane Williams is the author of seven adult novels and two memoirs. Her work has been translated into a dozen languages and counting. Her debut novel, *Our Stop*, is a UK and international bestseller with TV rights in development.

Taylor Blake is a Legend is her first novel for young teens.

TAYLOR BLAKE IS A LEGEND

UK Publisher: Bloomsbury (WAL ex. North America), July 2024

Age group: 12+

**Rights Available: US / Dramatisation
(Translation via Publisher)**

If Taylor Blake's life were a TV show, the cast of characters would be very, very small. In her life there's literally only:

1. Her mum, who thinks she's 'cool' and 'with it' and has a TikTok account that she updates four (!!!!) times a day. Cringe.
2. Her grandma and grandad, who Mum is always shouting at for saying things that are a bad influence on Taylor, when they're actually funnier than Mum is.
3. Star and Lucy, Taylor's best friends who are also a couple and always together, so even though they are individuals who happen to be partnered, they really only count as one person because they're joined at the hip.

However, all that is about to change! Because now Taylor is in Year Nine and she gets to be a host for the French Exchange program. There's going to be cool parties and sophisticated conversation and ... well, Taylor's first kiss! It's called French kissing because they invented it, didn't they? She might even meet the love of her life! So even though things have been dull and rubbish for practically Taylor's whole life, in seven days everything will be *very different*.

A hilarious and heartfelt new teen series for fans of *Geek Girl* and Louise Rennison.



Extract:

'What time do you call this?' Lucy yells playfully across Starbucks, from our favourite spot at the back. An old man looks like he could be startled into an early grave by her booming voice, and a woman tuts loudly and shakes her head. I do an over-the-top shhhhhh face to her and then burst out laughing, which elicits more scowling from people but who cares, it's not a crime to have a laugh. We're not dead yet!!

'Grandma and Grandad called me about my review,' I explain, 'It held me up.' I slip into the chair opposite them. 'And then I had to go and take my copy of Anna and The French Kiss back to the library, and pick up the next one in the series.' I hold up Lola and The Boy Next Door triumphantly. 'I'll probably read it in about two days. I could read for hours! Especially about first kisses... ahhhhh!'

The girls have both got their drinks already – strawberry cream frappe for Star, and a decafficed latte for Lucy, because in the summer holidays last year she drank five espressos in a row and got so dizzy she went temporarily blind, so can't do proper coffee anymore. We were all trying to develop A Taste For It on account of how grown up it is. Drinking coffee, and eating just a square of dark chocolate for a sugar craving, and also drinking room temperature mineral water with a slice of lemon: these were all things we'd decided to try in time for Year Nine. But coffee makes your tongue fuzzy and a square of dark chocolate isn't as nice as a big bar of Dairy Milk and water is better with apple and blackberry cordial in it, orange at a push. How To Be Parisian When You're Not From Paris says every woman is allowed a little off-kilter quirk, though, so we've gone back to doing what we like, re-branded as eccentric.

Also by Laura Jane Williams:



'Joyful, romantic and life-affirming.'

- Red Magazine

'It had me totally gripped.'

- Beth O'Leary

'Laura Jane Williams combines sharp, relatable wit and bold, joyful sincerity.'

- Dolly Alderton





JAMIE RUSSELL

When Jamie Russell was five, he saw a Space Invaders machine in a greasy fish and chip shop at the seaside. It blew his mind and started a lifelong love affair with videogames. He has worked as a film critic for Total Film magazine and written for videogame magazine EDGE. He has written several non-fiction books

including one about zombies and another about Hollywood's love/hate relationship with games. He has also worked as a speechwriter and narrative consultant for a big US tech company who swore him to secrecy.

These days he divides his time between writing screenplays and playing endless games of *Overwatch* (he's a Mercy main). He regularly pretends to let his two daughters beat him at *Super Smash Bros*, but the truth is they're way better at it than he is.

SKY WAKE: INVASION

UK Publisher: Walker Books (WAL), July 2021

Age Group: 9+

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation/Audio via Publisher)

Casey Henderson – aka CASEY_FLOW – is obsessed with online team shooter *SkyWake*, which has taken the gaming world by storm. The Ghost Reapers are a highranking team, and when Casey's in the zone, anything seems possible.

Then, at a live *SkyWake* tournament, things start to get weird. The Red Eye alien “cosplayers” seem to have real guns, a massive spaceship looms overhead ... and kids are going missing.

This is no longer a game. It's an invasion



SKY WAKE: BATTLEFIELD by Jamie Russell

UK Publisher: Walker Books (WAL), April 2022

Age Group: 9+

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation/Audio via Publisher)

Caught up in an alien war on a distant galaxy, Casey and her team are fighting for their lives – but which side should they be on? The second in an exciting and original debut sci-fi adventure trilogy for the gaming generation.



‘Effortlessly weaves themes around morality, friendship, loss and prejudice into
a cracking page-turning adventure. Loved it!’

– Liz Hyder, author of *Bearmouth*



SKY WAKE: ENDGAME by Jamie Russell

UK Publisher: Walker Books (WAL), August 2023

Age Group: 9+

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation/Audio via Publisher)

The Red Eyes have taken over the Earth. Can Casey use her new powers to lead the resistance? The third in an exciting and original sci-fi adventure trilogy for the gaming generation.

Determined to free their families and stop the Red Eyes from discovering the final piece in the puzzle, the gamers team up with a rag-tag bunch of teenagers who call themselves the Resistance. Casey still has the powers conferred on her by the wise and ancient Squids. But will it be enough?





KATHARINE ORTON

Katharine Orton is a writer of magical middle-grade fiction who became a client at DKW after meeting Bryony Woods as part of the WoMentoring Project.

Her short stories have been both long and short listed in the *Msllexia*, Exeter Writers and

Sunderland Short Story Awards, among others, and her most recent short story was published in Open Pen magazine.

She lives near Bristol with her young family. *Nevertell*, her first novel, was published in 2019 to overwhelmingly positive reviews. Her second novel, *Glassheart*, followed in 2020, and a third, *Mountainfell*, in November 2022.

MOUNTAINFELL

UK Publisher: Walker Books (WAL), November 2022

Age Group: 9+

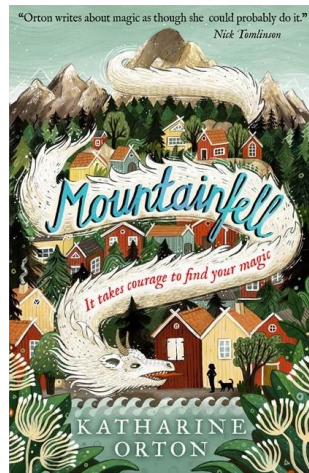
Rights Sold: Audio (W F Howes)

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation via Publisher)

From the author of *Nevertell* and *Glassheart* comes a story of magic and danger, witches and dragons.

There is nothing more dangerous than magic...

Eleven-year-old Erskin is used to danger; she lives in the shadow of Mountainfell, a place of wild creatures and dangerous magic. When the most powerful and deadly creature of all - the fearsome cloud dragon - snatches Erskin's sister away, Erskin must face her greatest fear and journey onto the mountain to bring her back. A terrible power is stirring, and it is up to Erskin to save both her family and her home.



“Full of gorgeously wild and wonder-full magic, with a fierce and fabulous heroine and a powerful message at its heart.”

- Stephanie Burgis

Extract:

The cloud dragon's body was as thick as Erskin was tall and enclosed them both in a giant ring. It lifted its enormous head with a mane of pale, wispy, cloud-like fur, and bellowed at them. Erskin shielded her face against the gust of hot air, and the terrible, ear-piercing sound. Leif buried his face in the crook of his arm and rested it on Erskin's shoulder. She could just hear him muttering under his breath: "No, no, no..."

The cloud dragon shifted towards them on its front legs. The coil around them tightened. Erskin put her arms around Leif and guided them both back, away from the head of the advancing beast. Erskin's heartbeat drummed in her ears until she couldn't hear anything else. She stared into its shining black eyes until it felt like the rage in them would swallow her up and drown her. A rumble came from deep in the dragon's throat, that vibrated through the ground and up into Erskin's bones, as though she and the earth were one. Her head throbbed dully as the dragon's words came to her: Witch of the Mountain, I have them.

Also by Katharine Orton:



“This is fantasy at its glutinous best.”
- *The Daily Telegraph*,
Books of the Year



CAROLINE O'DONOGHUE

Caroline O'Donoghue is a *New York Times* bestselling author, journalist and award-winning podcaster.

Her debut novel for adult readers, *Promising Young Women*, was published by Virago in 2018 to rave reviews, and was followed by a second novel, *Scenes of a Graphic Nature*, in 2020. Her third, *The Rachel Incident*, will publish in 2023.

The NYT bestselling *All Our Hidden Gifts* series are Caroline's first novels for YA readers.

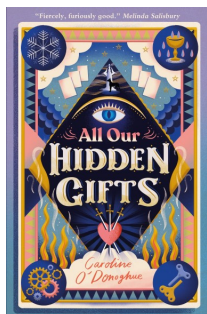
ALL OUR HIDDEN GIFTS

UK Publisher: Walker (WAL), May 2021

Age Group: 13+

Rights Sold: US (Walker), Czech (Euromedia), Danish (Carlsen), French (Seuil), German (Carlsen), Greek (Patakis), Italian (Garzanti), Romanian (Epica), Russian (Eksmo), Slovak (IKAR), Spanish (RBA Libros), Ukrainian (The Old Lion), Audio (W F Howes)

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation via Publisher)



"Fiercely, furiously good."
- Melinda Salisbury

"This YA debut knocked me sideways...[it] feels like a book that should always have existed."
- Kiran Millwood Hargrave



Maeve Chambers is a loner, and one who managed to drive away her best and only friend Lily a year ago. But when Maeve finds a pack of dusty old tarot cards at school, and begins to give scarily accurate readings to the girls in her class, she realizes she's found her gift at last. Things are looking up – until she discovers a strange card in the deck. And two days later, Lily disappears.

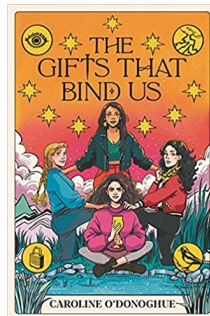
Can Maeve, her new friend Fiona and Lily's brother Roe find her? And will their special talents be enough to bring Lily back, before she's gone for good?

****Barnes & Noble YA Book of the Month, May 22****
****New York Times Bestseller****

THE GIFTS THAT BIND US

Book 2 of 'The Gifts' (2022)

Rights Sold: US (Walker), Danish (Carlsen), French (Seuil), German (Carlsen), Greek (Patakis), Italian (Garzanti), Romanian (Epica), Russian (Eksmo), Spanish (RBA Libros), Ukrainian (The Old Lion)
Audio (W F Howes)



Maeve and her friends have revealed their powers and banded together as a coven. And even better than their newfound talents? Roe and Maeve are officially an item. But with strange things happening at school, and old enemies appearing in new places, it soon becomes clear their powers are attracting all the wrong attention. It's not long before Maeve's gift start to wane, drained by someone - or something - that's hiding even from her second sight...



"This series is Ireland's answer to Buffy the Vampire Slayer; I adore it."
- Claire Hennessy, *The Irish Times*

EVERY GIFT A CURSE

Book 3 of 'The Gifts' (2023)

Rights Sold: US (Walker), German (Carlsen), Greek (Patakis), Ukrainian (The Old Lion), Audio (W F Howes)



With the return of the Housekeeper on the cards, Maeve must find out everything she can about the vengeful tarot spirit in order to finally defeat her.

With the Children of Brigid closing in once more, and Maeve's friend group now fractured across Ireland, can they hope to ultimately save the town – and Maeve – from the grip of a power greater than they ever imagined?





CALUM MCSWIGGAN

Calum McSwiggan is an author, presenter and LGBTQ+ advocate. He's worked for Attitude Magazine, written for the Metro, Gay Times and PinkNews, and was recently placed in The Guardian's list of the 50 most influential LGBTQ+ figures. Putting LGBTQ+ stories at the heart of everything he does, he's produced award-

winning films that have been showcased at film festivals around the world, and racked up over 10 million views on his online videos.

STRAIGHT EXPECTATIONS

UK Publisher: Penguin Random House (WAL), May 2023

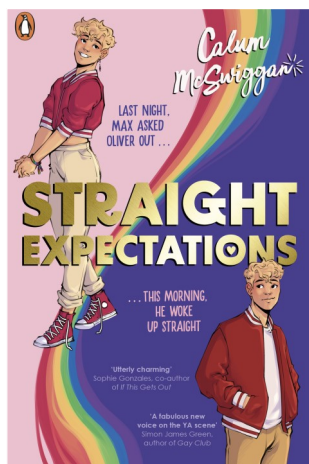
Age group: 13+

Rights Sold: US (Union Square), Brazil (Universo Dos Livros)

Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation via Publisher)

Seventeen-year-old Max has always been out, proud and just a little spoiled. Frustrated by the lack of romantic options in his small-town high school, during an argument with his lifelong best friend Dean, Max lashes out and says he wishes he had never been born gay.

Max gets more than he bargained for when he wakes up to find his wish has come true – not only have his feelings for boys vanished, but so has Dean. With his school life turned upside down and his relationship with his family in tatters, Max sets out on a journey of rediscovery to find a way back to the life he took for granted, and the romance he thought he'd never have.



Extract:

I know I should be as excited about the dance as they are, but all I can think about is that message and how I've officially ruined my chances. I should've never let them convince me that this was a good idea in the first place.

"Come on, Max, he's just a boy," Alicia offers, putting her arm around me.

"He's not just a boy," I say, annoyed, and push her off me. "You wouldn't understand. How old were you when you had your first kiss? Like eight? Well I'm almost eighteen and still waiting. I'd kind of given up hope to be honest, and then Oliver showed up and I thought that maybe it could finally happen..."

"Oh," she says, and I can tell she doesn't know what else to say. "Well there's more to life than kissing boys, Max. It's not all it's cracked up to be."

"Yeah, well that's easy for you to say because you have boys lining up around the block. But that's never going to be my reality, is it? I'm going to reach the end of high school without ever going to the dance with a boy, or finding secret love notes in my locker. I'll never get detention for making out where I shouldn't be, and there'll never be rumours swirling the corridors about who I may or may not be dating. There's a million movies about it for a reason," I say, gesturing to the TV where Noah Centineo and Lara Condor are making out in a hot tub. "Dating, romance, maybe even sex... they're the defining moments of high school, and I don't get to experience any of them." I'm staring down at my hands now, I don't dare to look up at them. "I just wish I could have a normal life like all you straight people. I wish I was never born with... this."

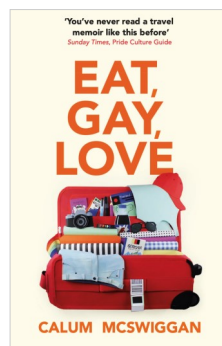
"You don't mean that, Max," Dean says. "Come on, don't say that."

"Why? It's true. I wish I was just an ordinary kid. I wish I was just a boring heterosexual with a boring heterosexual life."

Also by Calum McSwiggan:

"You've never read a travel memoir like this before" - The Sunday Times, 'Pride Culture Guide'

Longlisted for the Polari First Book Prize 2021





DAN SMITH

Growing up, Dan Smith lived three lives: the day-to-day humdrum of boarding school, finding adventure in the padi fields of Asia and the jungles of Brazil, and in a world of his own, making up stories.

Dan is now an award-winning and bestselling author of books for both children and adults. His children's titles

have won him numerous accolades including the Coventry Inspiration Book Award, the Essex Book Award, and nominations for the Brandford Boase Award and the Young Quills Award.

He now lives in Newcastle with his wife and two teenage children and writes full-time.

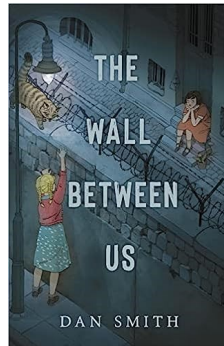
THE WALL BETWEEN US

UK Publisher: Chicken House (WAL), June 2023

Age Group: 9+

Rights Sold: Audio (W F Howes), Spanish & Catalan (Animallibres)

Rights Available: Dramatisation (US / Translation via Publisher)



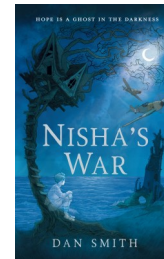
A stunning, exciting story from acclaimed author Dan Smith - author of the Carnegie Medal-nominated *Nisha's War*.

Berlin, 1961. Anja and Monika are best friends – they even share a cat called Otto. When a huge barbed wire fence is built between their apartment blocks, everything changes; their city and family are divided by the Berlin Wall.

In the West, Anja is sure it will be taken down, but Monika is afraid. Her world is changing: neighbours keep disappearing, others become spies and shadowy threats lurk around every corner.

Then, Anja discovers that Otto has found a way across. And if he can reach Monika, so can she ...

Also by Dan Smith:



“An enchanting, **beautifully crafted** wartime tale.”
- Ally Sherrick on *Nisha's War*

"Action, adventure, wolves, snow ...
this story has EVERYTHING. I devoured it so quickly I need to read it again."
- Emma Carroll on *She Wolf*



“Another stunning and original read from **a master storyteller.**”
- BookTrust on *She Wolf*



“*She Wolf* is defined by its **masterly prose** as much as by its thrilling story.”
- The Irish Times on *She Wolf*

“This book grabbed me from page one – **highly recommended.**”
- Historical Novel Society on *My Friend the Enemy*



“A fast paced sci-fi adventure ... The children I read this book to **absolutely loved it** - and moaned for more at the end of each session as I finished. This was **a definite hit!**”
- Books for Topics on *Crooked Oak*

“**Fast-paced and sinister** ... will have readers on the edge of their seats.”
- LoveReading4Kids on *Crooked Oak*



“An **unputdownable** romp ... I read this in a single, breathless sitting.”
- The Letterpress Project on *Crooked Oak*



JOSEPHINE O'REILLY

Josie has loved books and writing for as long as she can remember. As a committed daydreamer, much of her time is spent in imaginary worlds, and this has led to some of her best story writing. She has had short stories published in The London Magazine and Writers' Forum and has been longlisted for the Bath Children's Novel Award 2021 and the Exeter Novel

Award 2020, shortlisted for the Wells Festival of Literature 2021 Book for Children Competition and selected as a Readers' Favourite in the WriteMentor Novel in Development Award 2021.

Josie now lives in Surrey with her English teacher husband, two children and naughty dog.

NEVERN COVE

Status: On UK Submission, ms available

Age Group: 13+

Rights Available: All

Lily Sheehan wants nothing more than to return to Bristol and go back to before – before the divorce; before her mum got sick. She definitely doesn't want to be stuck in a tiny cottage on the edge of a remote cove in Galway, with an aunt she barely knows and only the howling wind and the Connemara ponies for company.

But Lily can't help being drawn in by the raw beauty and the unforgiving nature of the landscape. And to the boy who seems to be born from the sea each day, only to return to it at night...

For centuries, stories of Nevern Cove have crept into the mouths and hearts of the Galway people and, in their retelling, claimed a place in the forevermore of myth. Over the course of the summer, Lily uncovers more than she could ever have imagined and realises that nothing will ever be the same again.

Extract:

Climbing the wooden stairs to the very top of the house once she had excused herself, all she could hope for was a long, blank sleep.

Just a month ago, life had been moving from day to night and back again in its endless cycle. No sudden noises. No bright lights. The limp curtains always hung together, like a mouth shut tight. In the Sheehan's stagnant house on Hope Chapel Hill, the beds stayed rumpled, dust lay still, spider dung collected on the sills and all the while the endless tide of her mother's breath ebbed against the walls.

Until it stopped.

In a slew of frantic gulps, twelve dozen pills forced down with spirits. It all stopped.

On that very last day, Lily was in the library on the far side of town. Dinner was simmering in the crock-pot, the laundry had been folded. Her mother was dozing on the corduroy sofa with the television muted, its phosphorescent glare skittering across the walls. It was safe to leave. Just for an hour.

And so she idled in the quiet, running her hands along the spines of books and tilting them to scrutinise the artwork of their covers. She let the pages fall open in her palms and trailed her fingertips over each fleeting passage.

But as Lily drifted through the shelves, lingering in the soft breeze of whispered conversation, her mother was listing in a tepid bath, letting the water fill her lungs, letting it rise up as she slipped below. When the bottle of cheap vodka slipped from her hand, it smashed onto the floorboards and burst into a galaxy of vicious shards that would find their way into every shadowed corner, every secret fissure of the room.

On that day, Lily took the long way home, cutting through the rec with a shopping bag swinging from the crook of her arm. She waited by the traffic lights two streets away and closed her eyes against the sun.

Those were the very last moments of the only life she'd ever known.





E J TAYLOR

Elizabeth spent a decade as a secondary-level English teacher where she encouraged many young people to follow their literary dreams, while eagerly awaiting the summer holidays so that she could do her own writing. Following the pandemic, she decided to pursue her writing full-time. She has been shortlisted and published in Free Flash Fiction's Competition

Seventeen, and she has been longlisted in the 2023 Frome Festival Short Story Competition. Elizabeth loves many genres of fiction and has a particular affection for Shakespeare. She makes an annual pilgrimage to the Globe in London, and hopes to have one day seen every play live.

Elizabeth has a degree in English Literature from the University of Cambridge. She returned from her studies to South Yorkshire, where she lives with her partner. Their home has a custom-built 'cinebrary', a fusion of their main interests.

SPIRITBOUND

Status: On UK Submission, ms available

Age Group: YA

Rights Available: All

Sixteen-year-old Queen Clara has spent her life watching from the sidelines as her father, the Lord Protector, has sought to harness electricity in order to eradicate the practice of spiritcasting which killed her mother, all while keeping her own spiritcasting abilities a secret. But when a band of rebels attack the capital, a spirit calling itself Makaris appears, claiming to have knowledge of what really happened to her mother and promising to lead her to the proof.

Nineteen-year-old Finn has spent the last three years imprisoned in the castle. When his mother's attempt to stage a prison break results in her capture, Finn vows to go to any means necessary to get her free, even if that means joining forces with the Lord Protector to hunt down his daughter. But when he catches up to Clara and realises that she is a spiritcaster, Finn faces an impossible decision: save his mother, or help the girl he's falling in love with?

Extract:

Her father gestured above his head. 'Through this wire runs a current at 180 volts. We hope to develop this wire into a full grid by the end of the decade, providing...'

180 volts. Clara dug her nails into her palms behind her back, willing her smile to remain in place. Her body could tolerate electricity – to a point. But where that point lay varied on a range of factors. There was a reason why all Royal Guards came equipped with electrical manacles as standard.

Raucous applause punctuated the end of her father's speech, and Clara's heart pounded as he untied the ceremonial rope. It was almost time. Inside the tram, filament bulbs suddenly came alive, making the windows gleam with hazy spots of orange light.

Her father didn't hesitate. He swung his body up over the threshold with the agility of a man half his age.

Clara knew she must follow. It was too late to invent some excuse, to feign some illness. No, she must feign 'wellness' – whatever the electricity might do to her.

Please let me endure it.

She took a step past the rope barrier. Another step brought her to the tramcar.

Heat from a thousand eyes radiated onto her back as she gathered her stiff lace skirt and underskirts in one hand and reached up to the metal support with her other. She watched her gloved fingers coil around the bar. Her heeled boot rose in the air and planted itself on the raised floor of the tramcar. And her body crossed the threshold.

The pressure was instantaneous. Expecting it made no difference, and an involuntary gasp escaped her throat. No!

She struggled against a thick, squeezing band that constricted her chest and throat, aware her gasp had drawn her father's gaze. Someone behind her – one of the waiting lords – gave a soft cough of impatience. They were all watching her. They would all know. She had to move. Now.





DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS
LITERARY AGENCY

◆ NON-FICTION ◆





FELICITY DAY

Felicity Day has first class degrees in Business Studies and Law. In late 2016, having qualified as a solicitor, she took a leap of faith, leaving her job to find the kind of work that would make her jump out of bed on a Monday morning.

Since then she has written about British history and heritage for a whole range of publications, from *The Telegraph*, the *Mail on Sunday's YOU Magazine* and *Country Life*, to specialist history titles such as the BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *History Revealed*.

THE GAME OF HEARTS:

THE LIVES AND LOVES OF REGENCY WOMEN

UK Publisher: Bonnier Books (World ex. NA), September 2022

Genre: Historical Biography

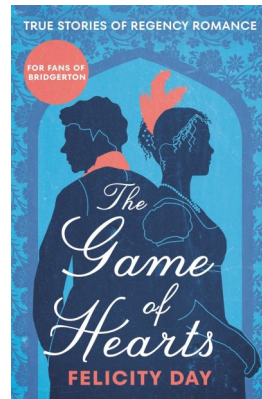
Rights Sold: Russian (AST)

Rights Available: US/Dramatisation (Translation via Publisher)

The carriages have rolled back into town, cards of invitation are propped up on chimney-pieces, and match-making mamas are plotting their campaigns; Regency London's Bon Ton are all set for another season . . .

Using diaries, letters and stories of scandal from the newspapers, author Felicity Day reveals the real women of the Regency world: their loves, their lives, their opinions and adventures. She takes us behind drawing room doors and into high society ballrooms, following six leading ladies and their family, friends, and contemporaries as they move from matchmaking to matrimony and beyond. Forget fiction, this is real-life Regency romance and it's even more enticing . . .

The Game of Hearts is a candid, hitherto unseen insight into the competitive world of the Regency marriage mart; revealing real stories of rakish husbands and rich heiresses; and true tales of lost and long-lasting love.

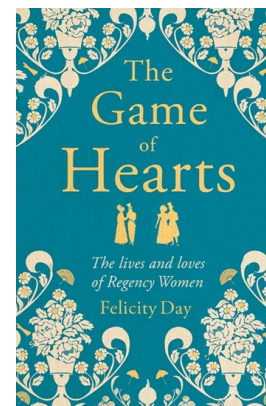


Extract:

At the end of April 1812, seven years after she had performed the same office for her eldest daughter, Lady Spencer prepared to present Georgiana, now seventeen, to Queen Charlotte, along with her cousin Lady Elizabeth Bingham. No doubt she had considered it unlikely that two daughters so far apart in age would ever be navigating the marriage mart at the same time, let alone their cousin too, who was bidding fair to become the season's most notable beauty.

'There are always conquests and admirers to watch and be anxious about,' wrote Sarah to Bob as the day of the presentation approached. 'I need not tell you I mean Liz,' she clarified, filling him in on her cousin's most impassioned new lover, Lord Herbert. 'Mama and Gin go about balling very merrily, and Gin is still extremely liked and admired, nothing particular, however, yet.' As to herself, 'I will tell you in plain English,' she said, 'that I have completely regained my free and calm prospects of continuing in blessed singleness.'

Did Bob greet that last statement with a wry smile? Though she had near enough retired from routing, the Spencers had by no means written Sarah off as a spinster. Hopes of her marriage had been raised as recently as the start of the year, when a certain suitor began to renew his attentions towards her, most promisingly they all thought . . . No matter that she had refused him once already, some time since, or that she was inclined to describe his latest attentions as hostilities.



'Endlessly captivating' - Tracy Borman

'Tantalising' - Gill Hornby

'More scandal than *Bridgerton's* Lady

Whistledown' - Helena Kelly



BRENNA HASSETT

Dr Brenna Ryan Hassett is a bioarchaeologist whose career has taken her around the globe, researching the past using the clues left behind in human remains.

She is 1/4 of the team behind TrowelBlazers, a wide ranging project that does everything in its power, from designing

dolls to creating art exhibits shown in the Houses of Parliament, to bring the lost stories of women in the digging sciences back to light.

Her first book with Bloomsbury Sigma – *Built on Bones: 15,000 Years of Urban Life and Death* – was well received by critics at the LA Times, the Guardian, and the Times (UK), which named it one of the top 10 science books of 2018.

GROWING UP HUMAN

UK Publisher: Bloomsbury (WEL), June 2022

Genre: Pop Science Non-Fiction

Rights Sold: Simple Chinese (Beijing United), Russian (AST Prime), Turkish (LiberPlus)

Rights Available: Translation

In *Growing Up Human*, bioarchaeologist Brenna Hassett brings the science of physical anthropology to bear on understanding how our evolutionary history has shaped a phenomenon every reader will have experienced: childhood.

The development of a foetus is an extraordinary biological process by itself, but the story of how we grow up began long before any of us were even born.

Paleoanthropological science has revealed that deep in our hominid lineage we began to diverge from other primates by giving birth to fatter, more helpless infants and developed one of humanity's most striking adaptations – the evolution of childhood; a long period of dependence and social learning that makes us the animals we are today.

This is the first book to cover both the evolution of human children as biological phenomena and the cultural impact visible in the archaeological record for a popular readership. It explains why you should expect what you expect when you're expecting by examining every aspect of human development, from the evolution of our large-headed, helpless, high-fat babies right through to the social importance of childhood and adolescence, how this has changed over the millennia, and how we can interpret the story of childhood through the ages using teeth, skulls and bones.

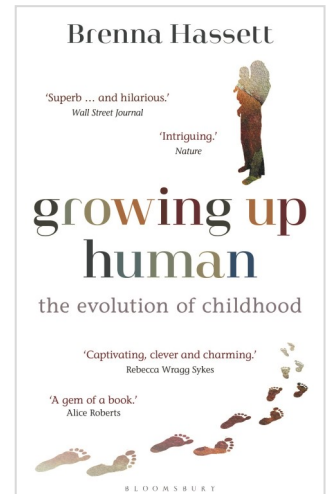
“Superb . and often hilarious. *Growing Up Human* is what happens when science meets an unusually entertaining and uninhibited writer . should be appreciated by anyone pregnant, planning to be pregnant, or who has ever had a child or been one.” – *Wall Street Journal*

“A **thought-provoking discussion about why humans experience a long childhood ... Hassett artfully dissects the sometimes problematic dogma surrounding growth and development, such as whether physical size predicts life span; debunks common myths, such as the idea that the reproductive cycles of women who regularly interact with one another will synchronize; and rejects falsehoods, such as the idea that toxins are produced during the menstrual cycle.” – *Science***

“Bioarchaeologist Brenna Hassett's **intriguing, entertaining book looks at childhood. She examines distinctive aspects from messy mating and dangerous pregnancies to the puzzling human fondness for formal education and love of the written word.” – *Nature***

“With characteristic **wit, humour and verve, Brenna Hassett delves deep into our evolutionary past and inner nature to explain why humans are 'the ape who never grew up'.” – *Alice Roberts***

“Bursting with fascinating ideas and surprising facts, *Growing Up Human* pulls off a masterly trick, with such lucid and entertaining writing that even complex scientific ideas slip down a treat. **This is human evolution at its most captivating; clever and charming, just like our amazing babies.” – *Rebecca Wragg Sykes, author of Kindred***





SANDRA LAWRENCE

Sandra Lawrence has written for all the broadsheets and over 60 magazines and websites. Her books include *Anthology of Amazing Women*, *Atlas of Monsters* and *The Witch's Garden*. She has been fascinated with the ruined gardens at Warley Place since her very early teenage years, and with the ruins' owner,

Ellen Willmott, for not much less than that. Five years spent recovering Willmott's physical—and digital—world have taken that fascination to an obsession that will stretch long beyond the publication of *Miss Willmott's Ghosts*.

MISS WILLMOTT'S GHOSTS: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND GARDENS OF A FORGOTTEN GENIUS

UK Publisher: Bonnier Books (UK/Comm ex. Canada), May 2022

Genre: Narrative non-fiction; historical biography

Rights Available: All

Hidden in the shadows of once-spectacular gardens in Essex, France and Italy, a story lies sleeping, of a woman whose ferocious talent marked a path in Victorian horticultural discovery and cultivation. Much like her gardens, however, her reputation has been left in ruins, her achievements are all-but forgotten. Her name was Ellen Ann Willmott and these are her ghosts.

The gardens of this horticultural and social maverick became spaces of beauty and abundance, filled to bursting with unusual species and highly prized cultivars. Miss Willmott's reputation preceded her, experts of the age flocked to consult on everything from fussy exotics to previously unknown species. There was little her photographer's lens did not capture.

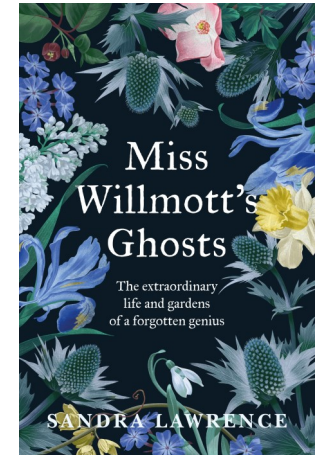
At the pinnacle of Willmott's shining career, however, a series of events cast a shadow across these accolades, propelling this horticultural wonder and her achievements into a downward spiral. Her battle to survive led to an enduring image of Miss Willmott: veritable genius, maybe, but 'formidable'; a miserly, cantankerous spinster who sprinkled sea-holly seeds in other people's gardens. The legend survives today, but there is much more to this prickly tale.

In *Miss Willmott's Ghosts*, author Sandra Lawrence lifts the creaking lid on a previously undiscovered archive and uncovers the truth behind this elusive legend.

Hidden between the virtuoso achievements, joyous creativity and celebrity rivalries lies a tangled tale of squandered inheritance, unconventional love, and, the heart of it all, a trailblazing talent.

Extract:

Brambles part, vague outlines form and strange apparitions manifest in the tangle. Moss-covered phantoms morph into broken cold frames. Heaps of brick become crumbled steps; hollows turn into underground chambers. For a brief, intoxicating moment in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Warley played host to one of the most important gardens in the country. Then it descended into darkness, taking Miss Willmott with it.



The old walled garden shelters more visions: an incongruously exotic Chusan palm, an ancient camellia, the remains of tightly clipped box hedging, now blousy shrubs rapidly succumbing to the modern horrors of box-tree caterpillar. Black and red terracotta tiles peep through fallen leaves; the crumbling remains of a fountain just about cling to existence. A raised pond in the labyrinth of ruined hothouses miraculously still holds water.

Even Miss Willmott's home is a phantasm. Jumbled foundations and mosaic floors hint at a music room, a library, a chapel. White-tiled, fern-fronded walls of a basement kitchen merge into the curved brick arches of a long-dead wine cellar. Victims of landslides, rockfalls and even a Second World War bomb, they whisper: of champagne, of cigars and dancing 'til three. It all seems a long time ago.

Also by Sandra Lawrence:

