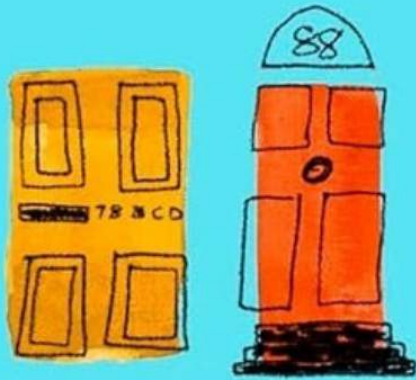


# Blake Friedmann



Autumn  
Winter  
2024



# Rights Guide



**FICTION**

**NON-FICTION**

**For all translation enquiries please contact:**

**James Pusey** at james@blakefriedmann.co.uk  
**Nicole Etherington** at nicole@blakefriedmann.co.uk

**For film and television enquiries please contact**

**Sidsel Rostrup** at sidsel@blakefriedmann.co.uk

English Language markets and audio are handled by each author's primary agent:

**Kate Burke**  
kate@blakefriedmann.co.uk

**Isobel Dixon**  
isobel@blakefriedmann.co.uk

**Sian Ellis-Martin**  
sian@blakefriedmann.co.uk

**Juliet Pickering**  
juliet@blakefriedmann.co.uk

**We work direct in the following markets:**

Brazil, the Baltics, Greece, Holland, Italy, Israel, the Nordics

**We are represented overseas by:**

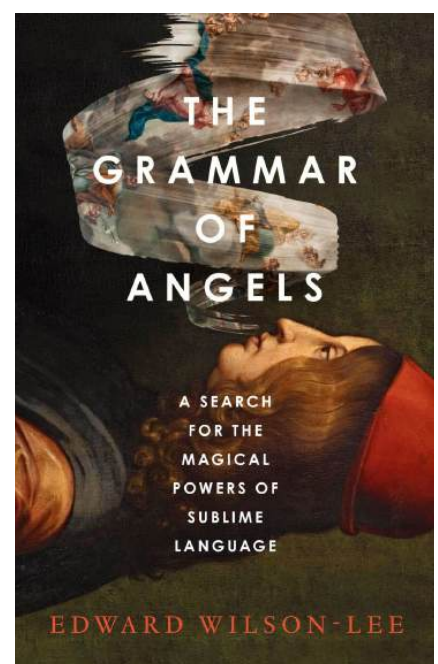
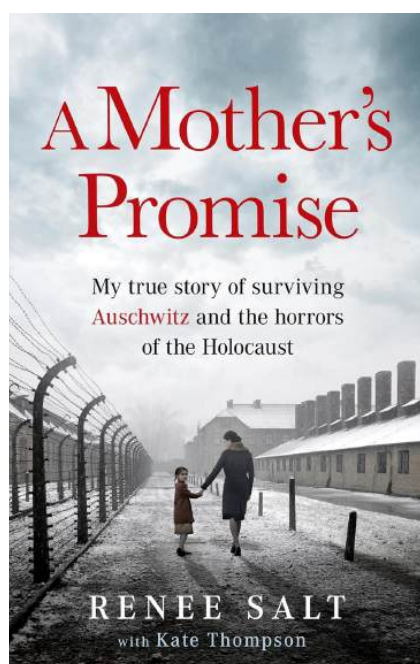
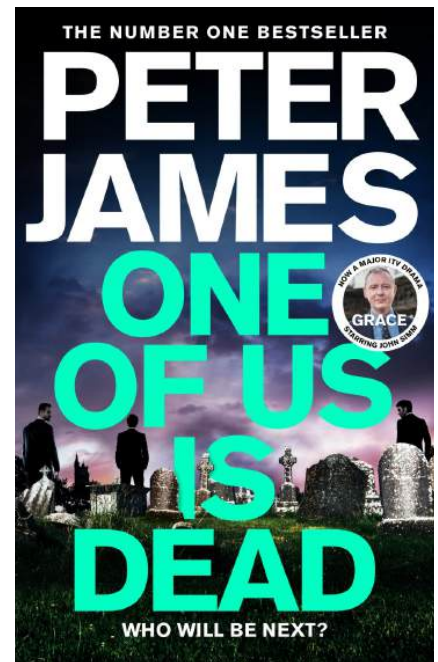
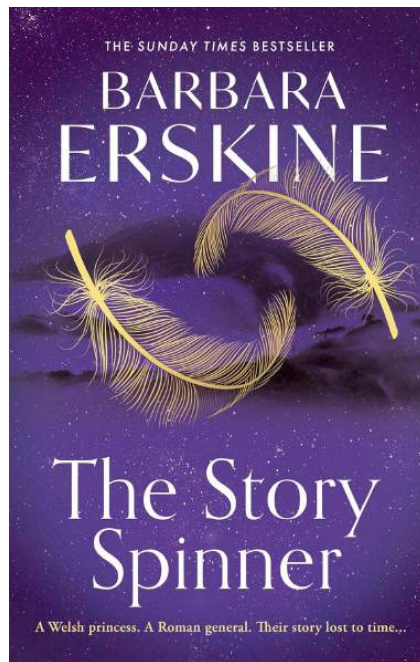
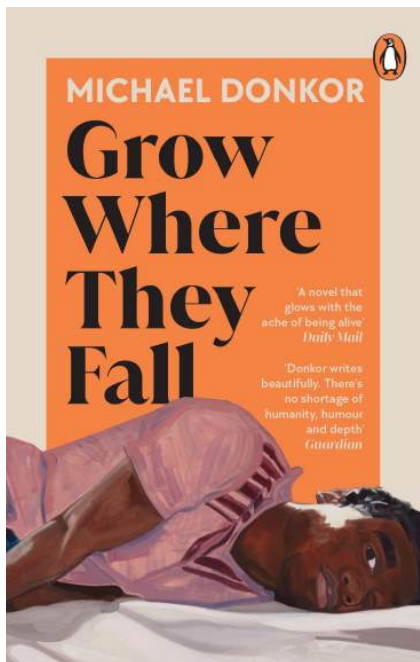
**Bulgaria** Mira Droumeva, Andrew Nurnberg Agency | **Croatia, Bosnia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia** Antonija Radić, Corto Literary Agency | **China** Jackie Huang, Andrew Nurnberg Agency | **Czech Republic** Kristin Olson Literary Agency | **France** Vanessa Kling & Michèle Kanonidis, La Nouvelle Agence | **Germany** Leonie Kress & Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh, Liepman Agency | **Hungary** Orsi Mészáros, Katai & Bolza | **Japan** Hamish Macaskill & Shreya De Sousa, The English Agency | **Korea** Rockyoung Lee & Bokyoung Park, KCC | **Middle East** Reyhaneh Biazaran, Literary Sapiens Agency | **Poland** Dominika Bojanowska, Andrew Nurnberg Agency | **Romania** Andreea Focșăneanu, Simona Kessler Agency | **Russia** Anastasia Falcón Arjarova, Andrew Nurnberg Agency | **South Asia** Weerawat 'Big' Techakijjathorn, Andrew Nurnberg Agency | **Spain & Portugal** Teresa Vilarrubla & Júlia Garrigós, The Foreign Office | **Taiwan** Whitney Hsu, Andrew Nurnberg Agency | **Turkey** Hasret Parlak Torun, AnatoliaLit Agency | **Vietnam** Van Hoang, Andrew Nurnberg Agency

Full author backlist details are available on request.

*Cover illustration from EVERY KIND OF PEOPLE by Kathryn Faulke (Penguin Fig Tree, October 2024). Design: Charlotte Daniels.*

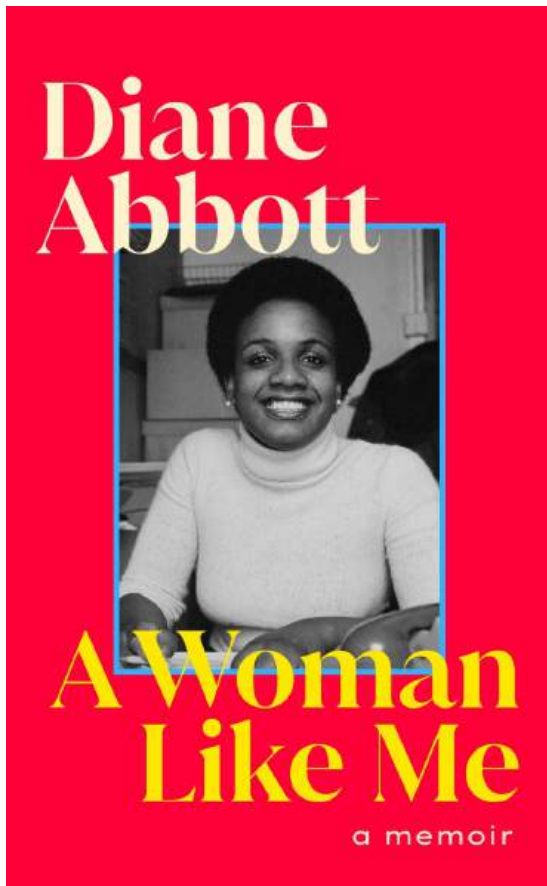


# NEW TITLES



# A WOMAN LIKE ME

Diane Abbott



Agent Juliet Pickering

UKexCan HB Viking Sep 2024 (at auction)

UKexCan PB Viking Mar 2025

UKexCan audio Viking Sep 2024

UK serial *Guardian* Sept 2024

Film/TV At auction

312 pages

Britain's first ever female Black MP tells her astonishing and candid story of groundbreaking achievement, and the personal, political and social challenges she has faced

'From growing up in 60s London to working-class Jamaican parents, to becoming the UK's first elected Black female MP, Diane Abbott has quite the personal story to tell. Her highly-anticipated memoir is as warm and humorous as it is eye-opening.' – *iNews*

'Diane is a true trailblazer. To think of what she has put up with throughout her political career, yet still carries herself with such grace and dignity, is phenomenal and it shows her immense resilience.' – Dawn Butler MP

From challenging expectations as a bright and restless child of the Windrush generation to making history as the UK's first elected Black female MP, Diane Abbott has seen it all.

In this honest and moving memoir, Diane takes the reader through her incredible journey. She paints a vivid picture of growing up in 1960s North London with her working-class Jamaican parents, before entering the hallowed halls of Cambridge University to study history. Ever since the day she first walked through the House of Commons as the first Black woman MP, she has been a fearless and vocal champion for the causes that have made Britain what it is today. From increasing access to education for Black children and speaking out against the Iraq war to advocating tirelessly for refugees and immigrants, Diane has long been at the forefront of political change in Britain.

Written with frankness and wry humour, **A WOMAN LIKE ME** is an inspirational account that celebrates how one woman succeeded against massive odds and built an extraordinary legacy.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in London in 1953, Diane attended grammar school and went on to Newnham College Cambridge where she obtained a Masters degree in history.

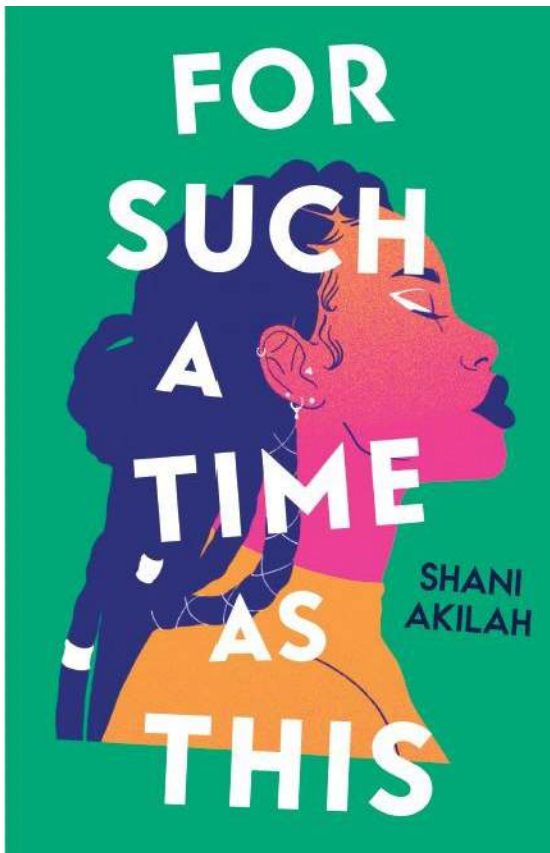
After working in media, in 1987, Diane made history by becoming the first black woman ever elected to the British Parliament. She has since built a distinguished career as a parliamentarian, broadcaster and commentator.

In 2008, Diane was awarded the *Spectator*/Threadneedle Speech of the Year Award and a Human Rights Award from Liberty. Diane is founder of the London Schools and the Black Child initiative, which aims to raise educational achievement levels amongst black children.

CONTEMPORARY

# FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Shani Akilah



Agent Sian Ellis-Martin

UkexCan HB Oneworld Jun 2024  
(pre-empt)  
UKexCan audio WF Howes Aug 2024  
UKexCan PB Oneworld Mar 2025

TV 5 Acts

224 pages

**Bold and immersive debut short story collection for fans of OPEN WATER and SUCH A FUN AGE**

A 2024 superlead title for Oneworld  
An Amazon Editor's Choice pick  
One of Bad Form's 'Best POC Debuts of 2024'

'A glittering new voice in the literary firmament. With insight and compassion she gets under the skin and inside the messy relationships of millennials in a way that feels vital and fresh.' – Bernardine Evaristo

'Akilah's voice is intimate, and each story is approached with care and compassion for her characters and their experiences. It's the perfect book for a warm summer's day.' – Caleb Azumah Nelson, *The Observer*

'Prepare to be transported from London's Woolwich to Jamaica.' – Mischa Anouk Smith, *Marie Claire*

'A warm book that opens up before you and beckons you into a world of community, closeness, hope and heart. Akilah's work is a delight.' – Bolu Babalola

Shani Akilah deftly explores the connections that bind us; how we make them, maintain them, or even break them when they no longer serve us.

Gabby and Daniel cross paths at the wedding of a mutual friend. They both wonder if this could be the start of something, but fate has other ideas.

When Niah tries to call out her employer for their empty words about diversity and inclusion, she comes face to face with racism reaching right to the very top.

Sharna is holding onto her own secret when she sets out for Jamaica to visit her grandfather, on a trip that throws fresh light onto the family history she has always taken for granted.

**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS** brings to life the stories of Black-British Londoners as they explore friendship and romance, community and independence, and navigate their way through the relationships that make them who they are.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shani Akilah is a Black-British Caribbean writer and screenwriter from South London. She is a book influencer, co-founded the Nyah Network, a book club for Black women, and was a literary judge for the Nota Bene Prize 2023. Shani has a Masters degree in African Studies from Oxford University.



THRILLER

# THE HIDEAWAY

Nikki Allen



**Agent** Kate Burke

**WEL PB** Pan Macmillan Summer 2025  
**WEL audio** Pan Macmillan Summer 2025

78,000 words

Set in the exotic rainforest of Costa Rica, **THE HIDEAWAY** is a fast-paced thriller that will have you gripped from the opening page

When five strangers are chosen for a money-can't-buy, all-expenses-paid trip of a lifetime to a famous social media influencer's exclusive retreat, they leap at the chance to rest, rejuvenate and get away from it all.

But their enchanting host, Hannah, isn't there when they arrive and, when a trek to a waterfall goes horribly wrong, Carly, Ben, Scott, Mira and Naya soon realise that, beyond the idyllic nature of the rainforest, darkness lies, and not all of them will make it out alive...

For fans of Lucy Clarke, Kate Gray and Liane Moriarty, **THE HIDEAWAY** is a gripping and twisty read that will have you tearing through the pages. **NINE PERFECT STRANGERS** meets **THE WHITE LOTUS**.

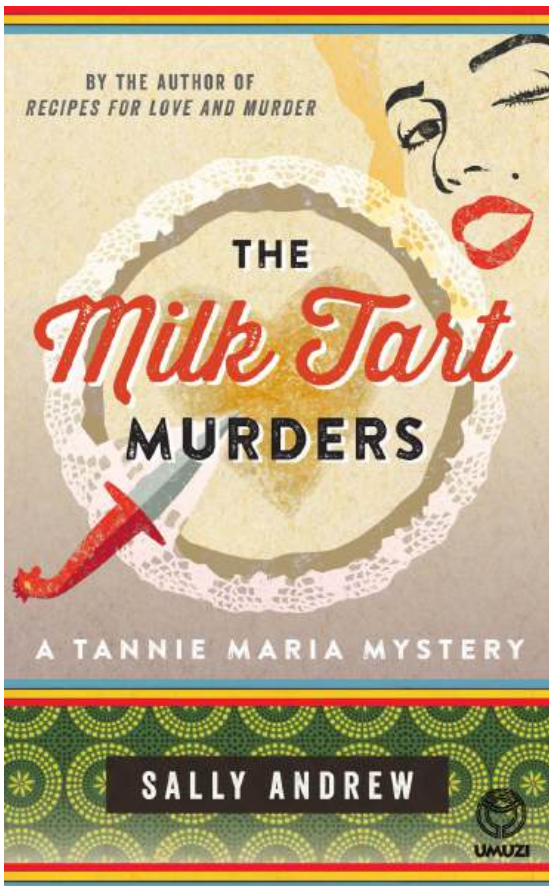
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nikki is a former journalist and copywriter, and a qualified therapist. A voracious reader, Nikki was inspired to write **THE HIDEAWAY** after reading true stories of people disappearing in the Costa Rican rainforest. Nikki was born in Holland, grew up the only Jewish kid in her Worcestershire village, and now lives in North London with her family.

# THE MILK TART MURDERS

Tannie Maria Mystery #4

Sally Andrew



Agent Isobel Dixon

Southern Africa Umuzi (PRH) 2022

Tannie Maria #1 **RECIPES FOR LOVE & MURDER**

&

Tannie Maria #2 **THE SATANIC MECHANIC:**

UKexCan exSA Canongate 2016

UKexCan audio WF Howes 2017

ANZ Text 2016

Southern Africa Umuzi (PRH) 2016

US Ecco Press 2017

Canada HarperCollins 2017

TV BothWorlds/M-Net/Acorn TV

Acorn TV DVD box-set for sale  
Now broadcasting and free-streaming in  
the UK on UKTV's U&Drama channel

408 pages

For fans of Bonnie Garmus and Richard Osman: beloved cook and crime-solver Tannie Maria is back, with more mystery, sage advice and amazing cake!

Winner Nielsen SA Book Award for Fiction 2023

'The perfect recipe for a murder mystery series... With an average of 4/5 stars on Goodreads, you can bet that these funny and charming books are well worth adding to your TBR.' – *Woman & Home*

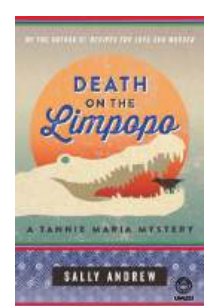
The four Tannie Maria mysteries were all Number 1 or Top 5 bestsellers in South Africa and the spin-off cookbook is a recent hit too. Sally is a festival favourite, receiving a constant stream of global fan mail – often asking after the next delicious instalment! Sally is currently completing Book 5, **WILD THINGS NEVER DIE** (outline available).

The **RECIPES FOR LOVE AND MURDER TV** series stars *Outlander's* Maria Doyle Kennedy. A hit on M-Net in South Africa, Acorn TV brought it to the US, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Latin America and it's now broadcasting on UKTV's U&Drama channel. Nominated for several awards, Season 2 premieres soon – more to follow!

**Book 1: RECIPES FOR LOVE & MURDER:** a *Kirkus* Best Book of 2015; a *Wall Street Journal* Best Mystery Book 2015; *Bookseller* Fiction Editor's Choice 2015; *Good Housekeeping* Book of the Month 2015; Oprah's Bookclub '16 Books for 2016'; Longlisted *Sunday Times* Fiction Prize 2016.

**TANNIE MARIA & THE SATANIC MECHANIC** and **DEATH ON THE LIMPOPO** followed to acclaim and readers' joy.

In **THE MILK TART MURDERS** the residents of Ladismith are watching a Marilyn Monroe movie when the local antique shop owner, drops dead. So Tannie Maria, newspaper agony aunt and sometime amateur sleuth, finds herself in drawn into of a murder investigation once again, along with her feisty reporter colleague, Jessie – all the while nursing a broken heart, since she is estranged from her police detective sweetheart, Detective Henk Kannemeyer. But the women are about to find themselves in danger too...



## Graeme Armstrong



Photo credit: Alice Zoo

Agent Juliet Pickering

UKexCan HB 4th Estate 2026  
UKexCan audio 4th Estate 2026  
(pre-empt)

Film/TV Under Offer

120,000 words

### THE YOUNG TEAM

UK HB Picador 2020  
UK PB Picador 2021  
UK Audio Picador 2020  
Film/TV Synchronicity

Italy Guanda 2021  
Spain Automática 2022

400 pages

Cult rave comedy meets satirical political parable: an entertaining, whip-smart look at the state of Britain through the eyes of a disparate band of rebel ravers from *Granta's* 'Best Young British Novelists' honoree

'Graeme Armstrong is the real deal.' — Douglas Stuart

'One of the most admired young voices in British fiction' — *The Times*

'A swaggering, incendiary debut... Sharp yet tender and mischievously funny, **THE YOUNG TEAM** pitches Armstrong straight into the first division of Scottish writers.' — *The Guardian*

Our narrator, William Patterson — better known as Turbo — is going through the motions of a soulless existence after finishing his glory days as a DJ at local Coatbridge ice rink, *The Time Capsule*. The UK is leaning ever harder to the right, as the new government cracks down on immigration, drugs, and — the final straw — electronica. Incensed by the ban, Turbo, his brother and their band of friends/'rave pirates' form a rebel group that starts out with peaceful protest and covert highs at illicit raves, as small acts of resistance. But, as the political situation escalates and secret police look for trouble in every corner of society, Turbo and his troops fly ever closer to the sun, mixing with those who will help and those who will betray them, until events come to a head and the future of the whole nation is on the line... Can Turbo be the hero not just of his own life, but also of Scotland?

Hilarious, tragic, incredibly clever and all-too possible, **RAVEHEART** is a blistering ride of a novel and a love letter to rave, written in Graeme's inimitable and energetic voice.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Graeme Armstrong is a Scottish writer from Airdrie. His teenage years were spent within gang culture. Alongside overcoming his own struggles with drug addiction, alcohol abuse and violence, he defied expectation to read English as an undergraduate at the University of Stirling; where, after graduating with honours, he then achieved a Masters' in Creative Writing. He is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Strathclyde.

His bestselling debut novel, **THE YOUNG TEAM** (Picador, 2020), is inspired by his experiences. It won a Betty Trask Award, a Somerset Maugham Award, and the Scots Book of the Year 2021. In 2023, Graeme was chosen as one of *Granta's Best of Young British Novelists*, an accolade that is awarded once a decade.



WOMEN'S FICTION

# PROMISE ME

Dani Atkins



Agent Kate Burke

WEL PB Lake Union Apr 2025  
WEL audio Lake Union Apr 2025

Germany Droemer

Option publishers

Arabic Madarek  
Croatia Stilus knjiga  
Denmark Forlaget Zara  
Turkey Orman Kitap  
Brazil (exPortugal, Angola &  
Mozambique) HarperCollins Brazil  
Holland De Fontein

112,000 words

Is it possible to love two men at the same time? And if so, how do you choose between them?

Just before Lily's husband Adam dies, he asks her to make one promise: to track down her old best friend and first love, Josh. But Josh and Lily parted on bad terms and, despite her love for Adam, she has no real desire to find Josh.

A year later and the weight of Adam's promise weighs heavily on Lily. Finding Josh proves almost impossible and when they finally come face to face at Josh's remote cabin, he's less than welcoming.

As the two find themselves stranded in a snowstorm, Lily begins to question whether her love for Josh ever really went away. Could it be possible for her to love two men at once? Is their history too much to overcome? Or is Lily being given a second chance at happiness?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

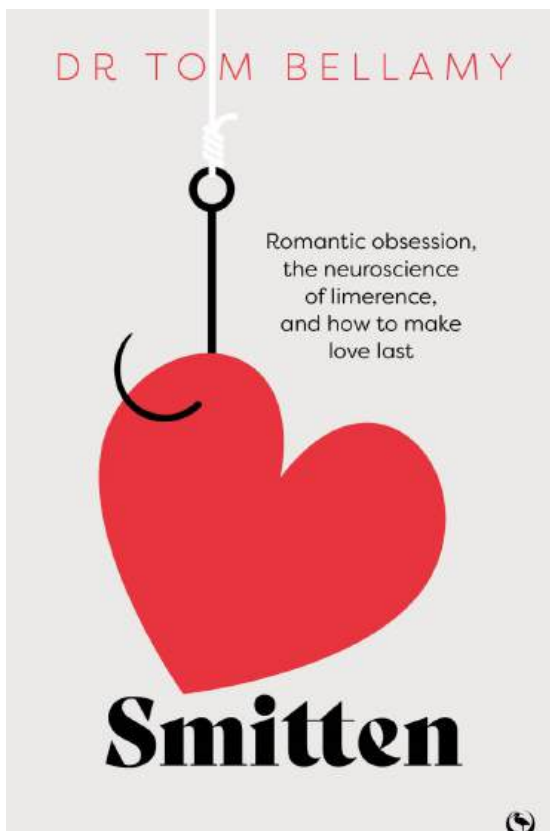
Dani Atkins was born in London, and grew up in Cockfosters, Hertfordshire. She now lives in a 350-year-old cottage with her husband, one Siamese cat and a very sappy Border Collie.

Dani has been writing for fun all her life but, following the 2013 publication of her novel **FRACTURED**, made writing her full-time career. **FRACTURED** has been published in sixteen languages and has sold more than half a million copies since first publication in the UK.

Dani is the author of many other bestselling novels. In 2018, **THIS LOVE** won the Romantic Novel of the Year Award at the RNA awards in London and in 2022, **A SKY FULL OF STARS** won the Contemporary Award for Romantic Fiction. In 2023, **SIX DAYS** won the RNA Jackie Collins Award.

# SMITTEN: Romantic Obsession, The Neuroscience of Limerence, and How to Make Love Last

Dr Tom Bellamy



Agent Juliet Pickering

UKexCan HB Watkins Press Apr 2025

UKexCan audio Bolinda Apr 2025

US+Can HB St Martins Press Summer 2025 (pre-empt)

US+Can audio St Martins Press Summer 2025

288 pages

A fresh and neuroscientific look at romantic obsession and relationships for fans of 8 RULES OF LOVE, ATTACHED and WIRED FOR LOVE

“Butterflies” in the stomach, intrusive thoughts, fantasies about imaginary scenarios, mood swings from euphoria to despair... aren't these all the familiar hallmarks of new love? Not quite. These are characteristics of the psychological state of “limerence”, also known as obsessive, passionate or addictive love that can become unhealthy.

Millions of people will experience limerence at some point in their life, and in this book, neuroscientist Dr Tom Bellamy explores scientific advances in understanding romance and obsession since the term was first coined in the 1970s, and sheds light on this little-understood element of the human experience. Discover:

- what drives limerence;

- how to recognise limerence in yourself and others;

- how to manage the phases of addiction to another person;

- and how to move past it to sustain longer, more fulfilling relationships.

With supportive advice about next steps, this book will help readers struggling with unwanted feelings to find emotional equilibrium.

**SMITTEN** is a brilliant and much-needed exploration of the psychology of infatuation, and how to recognise and move beyond it toward a healthier experience of love.

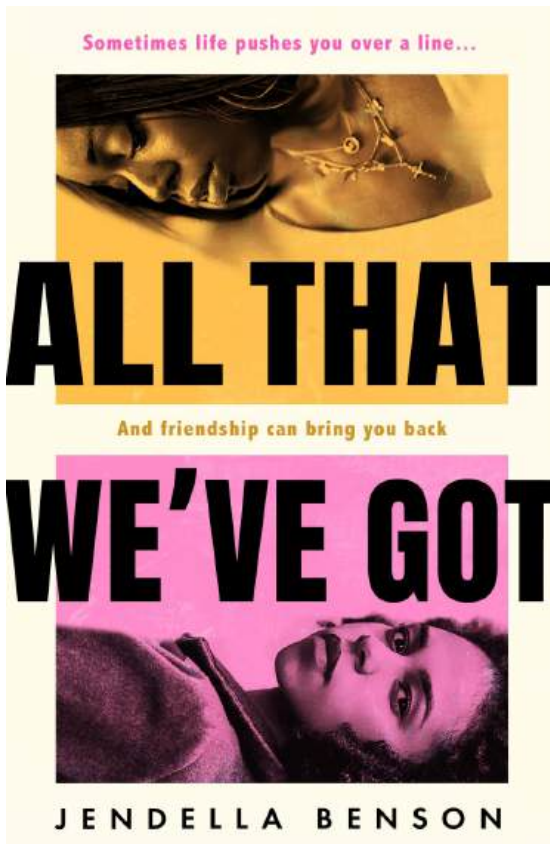
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Tom Bellamy is an academic neuroscientist and Associate Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Nottingham. He was awarded a PhD in Neuroscience from University College London in 2001, and held a personal fellowship at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge from 2004 to 2010. He has published over forty scientific papers, abstracts and book chapters on esoteric aspects of neurophysiology. He writes about how the mechanisms of neurophysiology can help us understand human behaviour.

He is fascinated by the complex relationship between fundamental neurophysiology and human behaviour.

# ALL THAT WE'VE GOT

Jendella Benson



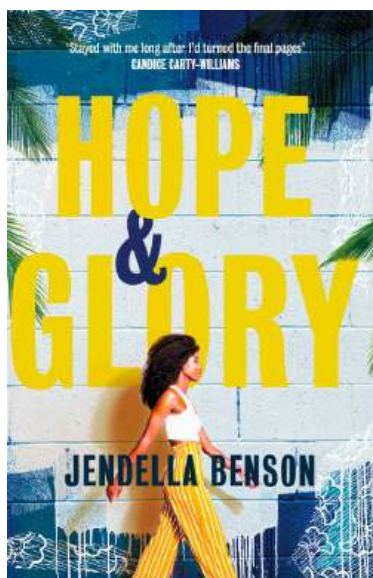
Agent Juliet Pickering

UKexCan HB Trapeze Jul 2024 (at auction)

UKexCan PB Trapeze Jun 2025

UKexCan audio Trapeze Jul 2024

432 pages



During one relentlessly hot summer, two young women's lives are about to collide in the most unexpected ways

'Simply brilliant. This book had my heart in my throat at so many points, simultaneously pulling at my heartstrings... I enjoyed every single page.' — Dorothy Koomson

'A timely tale, deftly told, a beautiful exploration of the strength, complexity and necessity of friendship... thought-provoking, heartrending and uplifting, this is not one you want to miss.' — Onyi Nwabineli

'I held onto every single one of Jendella's words as I grew to care so deeply about these characters — they will stay with me.' — Taylor-Dior Rumble

Mimi is a young single mother looking to break free from her mother's judgements and her church's oppressive, hypocritical gossip to establish who she is on her own. But a dangerous new romance could lead her into trouble...

Meanwhile, fifteen year old Abi lives her life vicariously through social media — and is eager to help her mother with the bills. When she's offered the chance to make money fast by helping a group of local boys, she and her friends jump at it. But soon they're running drugs for the gang, and Abi finds she's in over her head...

Could Mimi and Abi forge a bond that will free them both, at the heart of a community they've taken for granted?

A dramatic, refreshing perspective on city life that we don't always see, this is the stunning new novel from the author of the acclaimed **HOPE & GLORY**.

## Praise for HOPE & GLORY

'As authentic and heart-warming as it is heart wrenching, a glorious ode to family life, love and loss.' — Yomi Adegoke

'A masterful look at how your history isn't always the one you've been told.' — *Stylist*

'A sumptuous and satisfying meditation on family and the meaning of home.' — *Publishers Weekly*

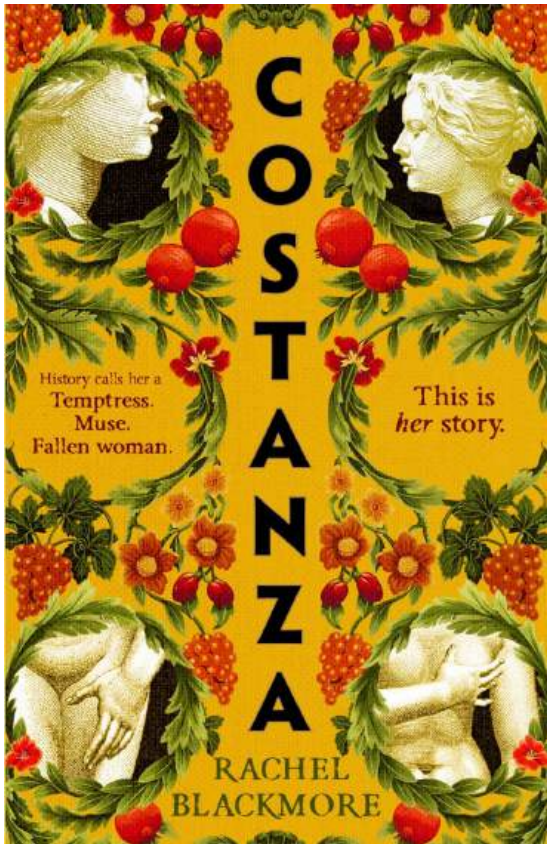
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jendella is a popular writer and editor for *Black Ballad*, and her work has appeared in the *Guardian*, *BuzzFeed*, *MTV News UK*, *The Metro*, *The Huffington Post*, and on *MumsNet*, among many others. She contributed to **LOUD BLACK GIRLS** (4th Estate) and **THE BOOK OF BIRMINGHAM** (Comma Press). Jendella published a book of photography and interviews, **YOUNG MOTHERHOOD**, in 2016. She is a TEDx speaker and has also appeared on *Woman's Hour*, *BBC World Service*, *London Live* and *OH TV*.



## COSTANZA

Rachel Blackmore



Agent Juliet Pickering

UKexCan HB Dialogue Aug 2024

UKexCan PB Dialogue Jul 2025

UKexCan audio Dialogue Aug 2024

US+Can PB Dialogue Sep 2025

Brazil (only) Editora Tordesilhas

Bulgaria Orange Books

Croatia Znanje

Italy Newton Compton

Lithuania Alma Littera

Poland Publicat

Russia Eksmo

Serbia Laguna

Spain Maeva (pre-empt)

432 pages

Love, art & desire in 1636 Rome, based on a real woman and Bernini's muse: a 2024 super-lead debut

'A shocking story... It is most persuasively written, deeply felt and the detail is excellent.' — Elizabeth Buchan

'In this beguiling, ornately wrought tale, Rachel Blackmore rescues Costanza, wronged and defiant, from the shadows of history.' — Karen Powell

'This novel took over my life for the time I was buried in it. Powerful and deeply affecting storytelling bringing us a new perspective on a famous story' — Paterson Joseph

History calls her a muse. Temptress. Fallen woman.  
This is *her* story.

In the scorched city of Rome, the cobbled streets hum with gossip and sin. Costanza Piccolomini is a respectable young wife — until she meets Gianlorenzo Bernini, the famed sculptor and star of Roman society, whose jet-black gaze matches his dark temper. From the second they set eyes upon each other, a fatal attraction is born.

With every stolen kiss and illicit tryst, Costanza's reputation is at stake. But Bernini has a more dangerous desire: he wants to make Costanza immortal. He vows to possess her not just in body and soul, but also in marble. And when Bernini unveils his sculpture of Costanza she is publicly exposed as his lover, marking the undoing of their affair and the beginning of a scandal which will rock Roman society. For Bernini would rather destroy Costanza than let her go.

Betrayed. Abandoned. Banished. This was meant to be the end of Costanza's story. But Costanza is no ordinary woman: from the ashes, she will rise...

**COSTANZA** is a dizzying and sensual historical novel that brings to life a feminist icon who has been written out of history. An addictive tale of desire and betrayal, perfect for fans of *THE GIRL WITH THE PEARL EARRING* and *THE MINIATURIST*.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

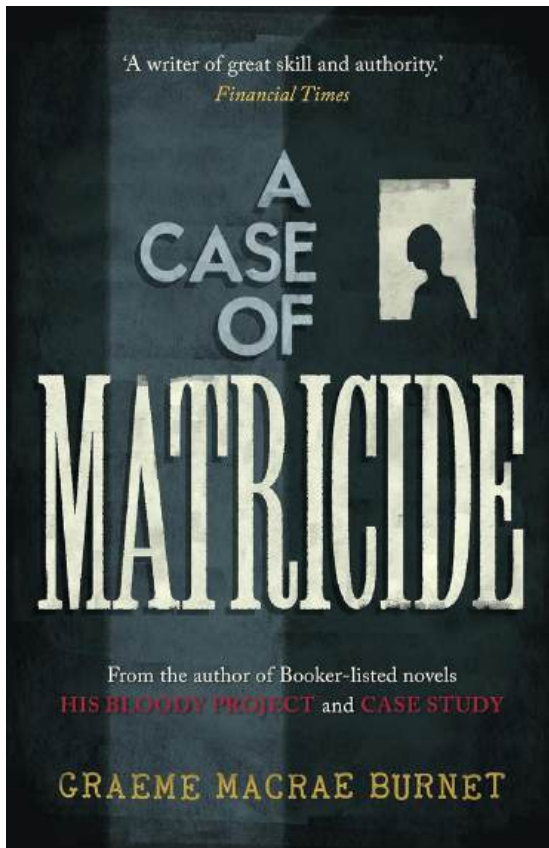
Rachel is a speechwriter and communications expert who was a winner at the Irish Novel Fair 2022, a runner-up in the *Harper's Bazaar* short story competition, and has also been highly commended by the Historical Writers' Association.

Rachel is currently working on her second novel **ELEANOR**, a tale of spies and secrets set in 1590s Deptford, about Eleanor Bull and her involvement in the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of Kit Marlowe.

# A CASE OF MATRICIDE

Inspector Gorski #3

Graeme Macrae Burnet



Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan HB Saraband Oct 2024  
UKexCan PB Saraband 2025  
US+Can TPB Biblioasis Nov 2024  
ANZ PB Text Publishing Oct 2024  
WEL audio Bolinda Oct 2024

Spain Impedimenta

Option Publishers

Denmark Superlux | Germany  
Kampa Verlag | Poland Stara Szkola  
Russia Eksmo | Sweden Modernista  
Turkey Monokl

256 pages

Booker-shortlister Graeme Macrae Burnet concludes the Inspector Gorski trilogy in this darkly witty, moving masterpiece – which can also be read solo

‘Deeply imagined and perfectly realised... a dizzyingly immersive experience. The Gorski novels were already a significant achievement, but the concluding part is breathtaking – tragic, cinematic, propulsive – and marks a new standard in contemporary crime fiction. For anyone looking for genuinely ambitious crime fiction, this book is a gift.’ – Martin MacInnes, author of *IN ASCENSION*

‘Both a classy detective story and a stylish meditation on agency and existence. If Roland Barthes had written a detective novel, then this would be it.’ – *Literary Review*

In the unremarkable French town of Saint-Louis, a mysterious stranger stalks the streets; an elderly woman believes her son is planning to do away with her; a prominent manufacturer drops dead. Between visits to the town’s hostelrys, Chief Inspector Georges Gorski ponders the links, if any, between these events, while all the time grappling with his own domestic and existential demons.

Graeme Macrae Burnet once again pierces the respectable façade of small-town life, with remarkable insight into questions of connection, loneliness and the puzzle of humanity. In this gem of a novel, suffused with wry humour and studded with memorable detail, he delves into the darkest recesses of his characters’ minds – but above all crafts an entertaining, profound and haunting read.

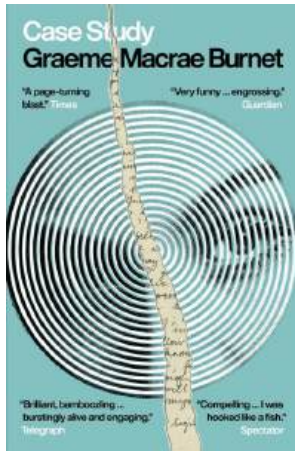
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Graeme Macrae Burnet was brought up in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire and now lives in Glasgow. He has also lived in the Czech Republic, France, Portugal and London and has appeared at festivals and events all over the world.

His first novel, *THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ADELE BEDEAU* was published by Saraband, who have published all his novels in the UK. It received a New Writer’s Award from the Scottish Book Trust and was longlisted for the Waverton Good Read Award. *HIS BLOODY PROJECT* (2015) won the Saltire Society Fiction Book of the Year Award, and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the *LA Times* Book Awards. A second Inspector Gorski novel, *THE ACCIDENT ON THE A35*, was published in 2017. His most recent standalone novel, *CASE STUDY* (2021), was longlisted for the Booker Prize and rights have been sold in 22 countries.

# CASE STUDY

## Graeme Macrae Burnet



**Brilliant and beguiling, inventive and moving – a literary triumph by an acclaimed Booker shortlister**

Longlisted for the Booker Prize 2022  
Shortlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize 2022  
Shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Award 2022  
Longlisted for Gold Crown Award 2022  
Longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award 2023

‘CASE STUDY has a lot in common with the novels of Vladimir Nabokov and Roberto Bolaño, in which invented characters pass through tumultuous episodes of literary history that never quite happened, though it seems as if they should have.’ – *New York Times*



‘A page-turning blast, funny, sinister and perfectly plotted.’ – James Walton, *The Times*

‘Enormous fun to read, a mystery and a psychological drama wrapped up in one. Magnificent... a triumph.’ – Alex Preston, *Guardian*, ‘Book of the Day’

*I have decided to write down everything that happens, because I feel, I suppose, I may be putting myself in danger.*

London, 1965. An unworldly young woman believes that a charismatic psychotherapist, Collins Braithwaite, has driven her sister to suicide. Intent on confirming her suspicions, she assumes a false identity and presents herself to him as a client, recording her experiences in a series of notebooks. But she soon finds herself drawn into a world in which she can no longer be certain of anything. Even her own character.

A dazzling – and often wickedly humorous – meditation on the nature of sanity, identity and truth itself, by one of the most inventive and ‘extravagantly talented’ (*Guardian*) novelists writing today.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Graeme Macrae Burnet was brought up in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire and now lives in Glasgow. He has also lived in the Czech Republic, France, Portugal and London and has appeared at festivals and events all over the world.

His first novel, **THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ADÈLE BEDEAU** (Saraband, 2014), received a New Writer’s Award from the Scottish Book Trust. A second Inspector Gorski novel, **THE ACCIDENT ON THE A35**, followed in 2017 and the trilogy concludes with **A CASE OF MATRICIDE. HIS BLOODY PROJECT** (Saraband, 2015) won the Saltire Society Fiction Book of the Year Award, and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the *LA Times* Book Awards.

Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan exANZ HB Saraband Oct 2021  
UKexCan exANZ PB Saraband Apr 2022  
ANZ PB Text Oct 2021  
US+Can TPB Biblioasis Nov 2022  
WEL audio Bolinda Oct 2021

Film/TV New State Pictures/Good Chaos

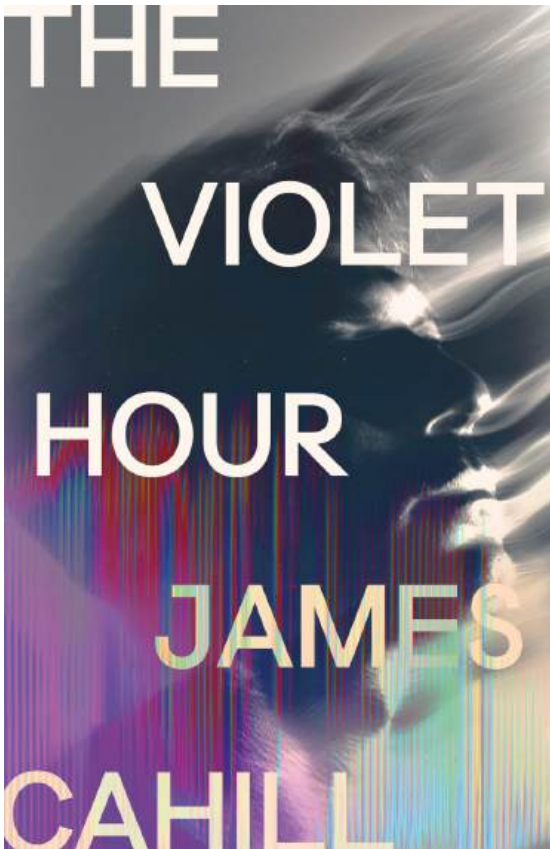
Brazil (exPortugal, Angola, Mozambique) Todavia | Denmark Superlux | China Yilin Publishing  
Estonia Varrak | France Sonatine  
Germany Kampa Verlag | Greece Metaixmio | Holland Arbeiderspers  
Iran Kenar | Japan Hayakawa | Korea Open Books | Lithuania Alma Littera  
Poland Czarne | Romania Editura Art  
Russia Eksmo | Spain Impedimenta  
Sweden Modernista | Taiwan Babel  
Turkey Monokl

288 pages



# THE VIOLET HOUR

James Cahill



Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan HB Sceptre Feb 2025

UKexCan PB Sceptre 2026

UKexCan audio Sceptre Feb 2025

368 pages

Spain Urano

## TIEPOLO BLUE

UKexCan HB Sceptre 2022

UKexCan PB Sceptre Apr 2023

UKexCan audio Sceptre 2022

Germany Albino Verlag

341 pages

Exhilarating, propulsive story of deception and desire in the international art world, by the author of acclaimed debut **TIEPOLO BLUE**

Thomas Haller has grasped the kind of fame that most artists only dream of: glamorous global shows, paintings sold for a fortune. The vision he presents is one of an elusive genius at the top of his game. But is it all a mirage?

Who is the real Thomas Haller? His oldest friend and former dealer, Lorna, might once have known – before Thomas traded their early intimacy for the promises of fame and fortune he has achieved via Claude Berlins, his ruthless new dealer. Now owner of her own gallery, Lorna must watch this dizzying ascent from the sidelines.

Artworld luminaries gather at Claude's London gallery on the eve of the first Thomas Haller show in six years. In New York, property mogul and obsessive art collector Leo J. Goffman is at first delighted to read in *Artforum* of Haller's return – then incensed to find that the painting he so fiercely desires is already sold. And the sudden death of a young man – falling from a London tower block – shakes everyone, setting off a chain of events that will lead these characters back into the past, to confront who they were, all they have lost and what they have become.

An exhilarating, cinematic story of deception, power play and longing, peopled with a vivid cast of characters, **THE VIOLET HOUR** traces an artist's struggle for authenticity as it exposes the dark underbelly of the art world.

Praise for James Cahill references E.M. Forster, Alan Hollinghurst, Donna Tartt, Patricia Highsmith and Iris Murdoch. With a touch of **BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES** and a hint of **SUNSET BOULEVARD**, in this work you'll find a very individual eye for detail, and a flair and brio all his own.

**PRAISE FOR TIEPOLO BLUE** (chosen for the Queen's Reading Room, October 2024)

'Sensual, treacherous and elegiac.' – Maggi Hambling

'The best novel I have read for ages.' – Stephen Fry

'Wildly enjoyable... combines formal elegance with gripping storytelling' – *Financial Times*

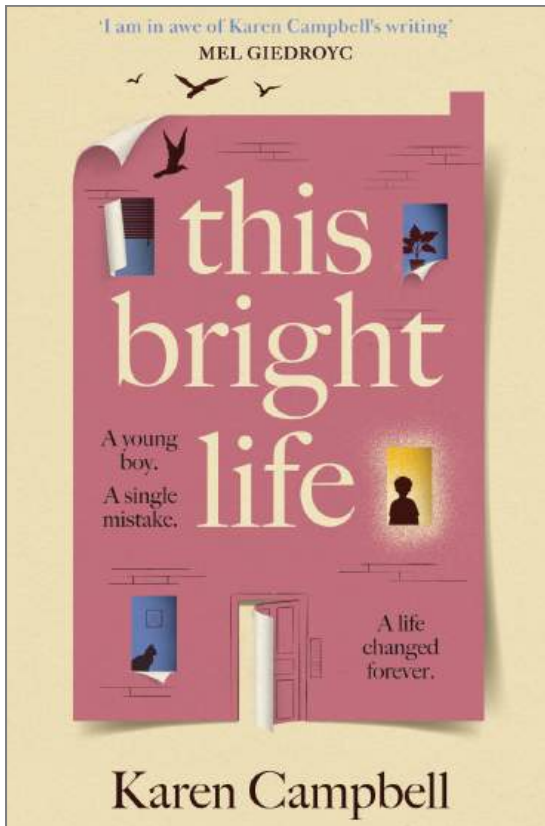
## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

James Cahill is a writer, critic and art historian. He studied Classics and English at Oxford, has an MA in contemporary art from the Courtauld Institute and a PhD in Classics from Cambridge. His debut **TIEPOLO BLUE** (Sceptre, 2022) was shortlisted for the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award. His writing on art has appeared in publications including *The Brooklyn Rail*, *TLS*, *LA Review of Books*, and the *LRB*. He has written books and essays on contemporary artists including Maggi Hambling, Sarah Lucas, Damien Hirst and Juan Muñoz and is in demand for various exhibition and anthology commissions. He is currently writing a book on a David Hockney painting for Thames & Hudson (2025). He divides his time between London and Los Angeles.

CONTEMPORARY

# THIS BRIGHT LIFE

Karen Campbell



Agent Juliet Pickering

UKexCan HB Canongate Mar 2025

UKexCan PB Canongate 2026

UKexCan audio Bolinda Mar 2025

298 pages

Written with great heart and empathy, **THIS BRIGHT LIFE** is a profound, urgent novel about the huge ripples that small actions create

*A young boy.  
A single mistake.  
Many lives changed forever.*

Gerard is twelve. He loves flying round the streets of Glasgow on his bike, or mucking about with his gang, the Broncos. He's a bright kid, but trouble seems to follow him. No one knows what it's like at home for Gerard; he's used to carrying a lot on his small shoulders.

Gerard doesn't always make good decisions. And on one April morning, he makes a very bad one – one that will upend his whole world – and the worlds of two women he encounters in a moment that changes all their lives. For Margaret, the shocking incident brings her back from the edge of grief; for Clare it's the start of a new friendship that she desperately needs to propel her forward.

Gerard faces a bewildering stream of concerned adults clutching files, unfamiliar streets to navigate, a strange bed to sleep in, and the very real chance he won't see his wee brother and sister again. But is there, finally, a more hopeful future ahead for all three of them?

Heartbreaking, and yet brimful of humour, compassion and hope, **THIS BRIGHT LIFE** is a story about messy lives, second chances and the many hands it takes to build a good life.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

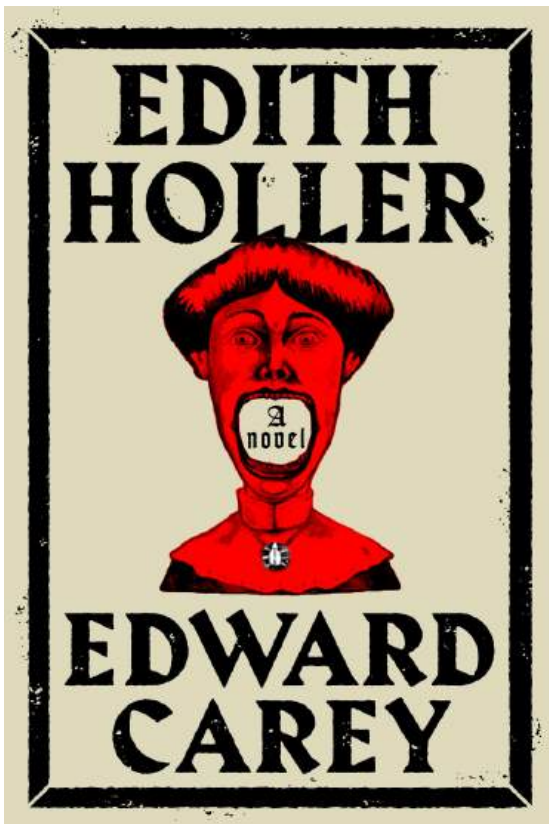
Karen Campbell is originally from Glasgow, and now lives in south west Scotland. She graduated with distinction from Glasgow University's Creative Writing Masters, and won an SAC New Writers Award and a Creative Scotland Bursary. Before turning to writing, she was a police officer in Glasgow, then press officer with Glasgow City Council. She also tutors in creative writing and was Writer in Residence at Dumfries & Galloway Council.

The disconnect between what we see on the surface and the reality underneath runs through much of her work, with Karen going on to write novels such as **THIS IS WHERE I AM** (Bloomsbury 2013), which was a Radio 4 *Book at Bedtime*. Her eighth novel, **PAPER CUP** (Canongate 2022) was a Waterstones Scotland Book of the Month and won the 2023 Blairgowrie Bookmark Prize.

Karen's appeared on Radio 4 *Women's Hour*, Radio 3's *The Verb*, Radio Scotland and BBC television's *Big Scottish Book Club*.

## EDITH HOLLER

Edward Carey



Agent Isobel Dixon

UK HB Gallic Books Oct 2024  
 UK PB Gallic Books 2025  
 UK audio WF Howes Oct 2024  
 US+Can HB Riverhead Oct 2023  
 US+Can audio Riverhead Oct 2023

Germany Beck  
 Italy La Nave di Teseo  
 Japan Sogensha

Option publishers

Brazil (only) Darkside Books  
 Bulgaria Lettera | Czech Republic  
 Argo | France Cherche-Midi  
 Holland Ambo Anthos | Hungary  
 Europa | Iraq AlMada | Korea  
 Arcade Publishing | Lithuania Alma  
 Littera | Poland Prószyński | Russia  
 Eksmo | Spain Blackie Books  
 Taiwan Delight press | Turkey  
 Ithaki | Ukraine Laboratory

400 pages

A darkly enthralling novel of theatre and mystery, perfect for fans of Susanna Clarke and Edward Gorey

‘Witty and dark... A wonderfully strange and quirky tale about the power of penning and performing tales.’ – *Kirkus Reviews*

‘Carey draws on fairy tales and Shakespeare for a dazzling bildungsroman... Affirms the author’s standing as a major literary talent.’ – *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

‘An eccentric atmosphere, a macabre sense of humour, we experience this story with a sense of youthful joy.’ – Olga Tokarczuk, on **LITTLE**

*Norfolk, 1901.* England’s queen has died, and her aging son has finally taken the throne. In Norwich, bright young Edith Holler spends her days among the eccentric denizens of the crumbling Holler Theatre. In fact, she has never left the building, warned by her domineering father that the playhouse will tumble down if she ever leaves its confines.

Fascinated by tales of the city she knows only from afar, she decides to write a play of her own: an adaptation of the legend of Mawther Meg, a vicious figure said to have used the blood of children to make the local delicacy known as Beetle Spread. But when her father suddenly announces his engagement to a peculiar, imposing woman named Margaret Unthank, heir to the Beetle Spread fortune, Edith scrambles to protect her father, the theatre, and her play – one thing that’s truly hers – from the newcomer’s sinister designs.

Teeming with unforgettable characters – including the whole cast of the theatrical Holler family and the theatre bear – and illuminated by Edward’s trademark fantastical illustrations, **EDITH HOLLER** is a surprisingly modern fable of one young woman’s struggle to escape her family’s control and in so doing to craft her own creative destiny.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

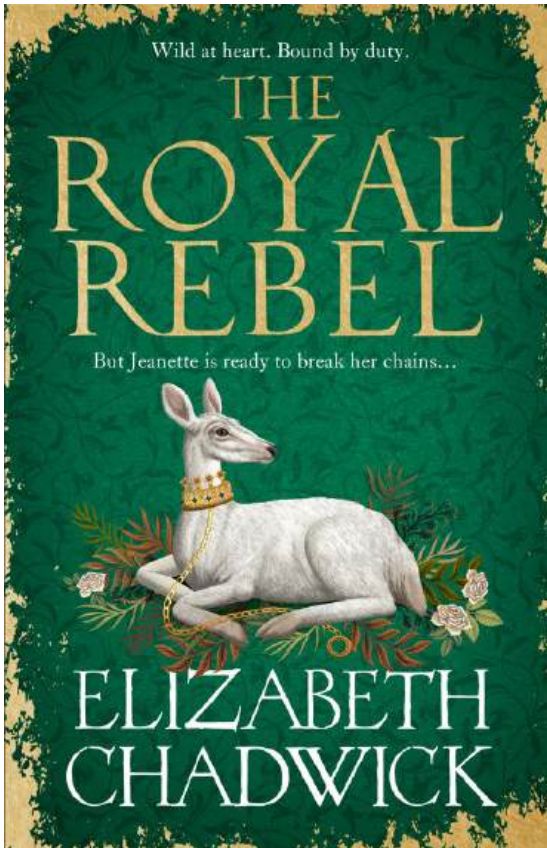
Edward Carey is an acclaimed artist-novelist whose debut **OBSERVATORY MANSIONS** was sold in 15 languages and was described by John Fowles as ‘proving the potential brilliance of the novel form’. Born in England, he teaches at the University of Austin, Texas.

Edward’s previous work of fiction was the haunting and beautiful novella, **THE SWALLOWED MAN**. His extraordinary novel, **LITTLE**, a tour de force of art, revolution, love and memory, has now sold over 100,000 copies in 20 languages.



# THE ROYAL REBEL

Elizabeth Chadwick



Agent Isobel Dixon

WEL HB Sphere Sep 2024

WEL PB Sphere Sep 2025

WEL audio Sphere Sep 2024

Czech Republic Euromedia

Spain Under offer

Option Publishers

Croatia Znanje | France Bragelonne

Hungary Könyvmolyképző

Germany Blanvalet | Italy TRE60

Poland Proszynski

480 pages

‘An author who makes historical fiction come gloriously alive’ – *The Times*

‘I rank Elizabeth Chadwick with such historical novelist stars as Dorothy Dunnett and Anya Seton.’ – Sharon Kay Penman

‘Chadwick’s depiction of the Middle Ages is sure and subtle, and her skill in imagining the private conversations that lead to the great decisions of their time is enjoyable.’ – *Publisher’s Weekly*

In 1338, Jeanette, young cousin to King Edward III, travels to Antwerp with the royal court and falls for Thomas Holland, a young knight hoping to restore his family’s sullied reputation. Driven by passion and necessity, Thomas and Jeanette secretly marry but are almost immediately forced apart by war and circumstance.

Led to believe Thomas is dead, Jeanette is persuaded by her mother into marrying Lord William Montagu, heir to the Earldom of Salisbury. When Thomas returns and demands Jeanette back, Montagu refuses, and the fight begins. Against a tumultuous backdrop of high chivalry, deadly warfare, devastating plague and savage rivalry, Jeanette must stand her own ground and make her choice.

Chadwick yet again casts fresh light on a historical character and readers will thrill to the story of Jeanette, known to history as Joan of Kent.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*New York Times* bestseller Elizabeth Chadwick won the RNA Historical Novel of the Year Award in 2011. The Historical Novel Society chose **THE SCARLET LION** as one of ‘Ten Landmark Historical Novels of the Last Decade’ and **THE FALCONS OF MONTABARD** was named as *Romance Reviews Today’s* Best Historical Fiction Book of the Year.

Little, Brown have sold more than 1.3 million copies of her work in their English editions and she has a passionately dedicated following in many countries like France, Italy, Germany, Poland and Spain – as well as the UK and US.

**THE COMING OF THE WOLF**, the prequel to Elizabeth Chadwick’s beloved and bestselling debut **THE WILD HUNT**, was published in 2020 to celebrate 30 years of Elizabeth Chadwick books. It was shortlisted for The Goldsboro Books Historical Novel Award at the RNA Awards 2021.

Sphere have WEL rights in two more Elizabeth Chadwick titles, including a second novel (delivery mid-2025) also about Jeanette of Kent, who features in **THE ROYAL REBEL**.

# THE WRECKERS

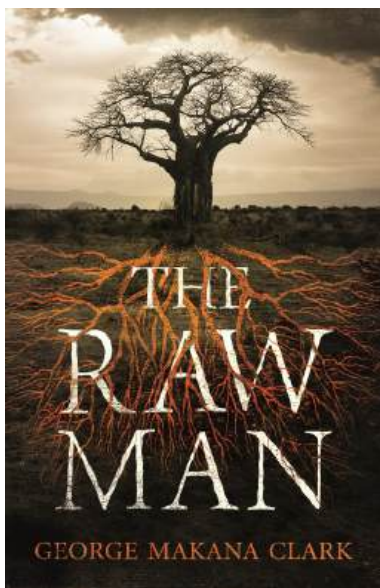
George Makana Clark



Agent Isobel Dixon

Ms available Winter 2024

96,000 words



A sweeping, spellbinding novel with shades of Gabriel García Márquez and Carlos Ruiz Zafón

*Lisbon, 1954.* In the Military History Archives a mysterious figure steals the Last Will and Testament of Garoto Bárbaro de Castro, a man born into slavery in Mozambique in 1800.

Through the many pages of the testament and the unfolding story of the objects Garoto has bequeathed, we learn about his remarkable and often brutal life, and the many other lives somehow connected to his – including that of his descendent Nuno Bárbaro de Castro, the archival thief. The violence of centuries of slavery and war does not stay buried, and the effects of the past echo in the lives of apparently disconnected people all over the world – in Angola, in Cuba and in Louisiana’s Angola prison.

Spanning four hundred years in its gripping and colourful narrative, **THE WRECKERS** examines the consequences of prolonged civil war in Angola, and the long-term impact of slavery on both sides of the Atlantic.

An unforgettable interwoven narrative and a triumphant return, a decade on from Clark’s acclaimed first novel **THE RAW MAN** (UK: Jonathan Cape, 2011).

## Praise for **THE RAW MAN**:

‘An extraordinary novel, and a work of rare conception, bringing together, within one individual, the painfully conflicted history of southern Africa.’ – Brian Chikwava

‘This dark, graceful novel challenges all the conventions. The result is mythic, dark and oracular.’ – Adam Johnson

‘The wonderful, poetic voice, at once fantastic and realistic, stands out from contemporary African literature.’ – Alain Mabanckou

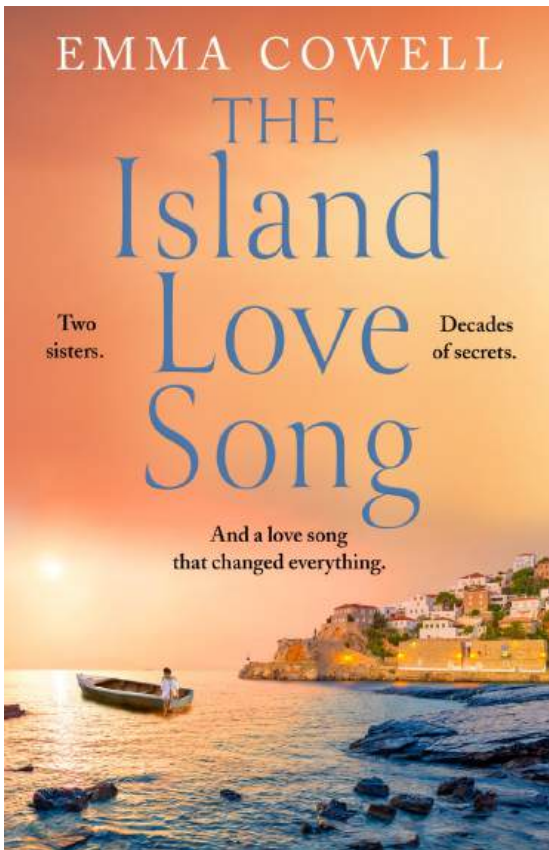
‘Potent and strange.’ – Jonathan Barnes, *Literary Review*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George Makana Clark grew up in Zimbabwe, Having lived in Germany, Cuba, the Caribbean, South America and the US, he now lives in Portugal. He taught Creative Writing and African and Post-Colonial Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for many years. He is a winner of an O. Henry Award, has received an Honourable Mention in the Pushcart Prize, and was short-listed for the Caine Prize. His short stories are widely published in journals like *Zoetrope* and *Tin House*. His collection **THE SMALL BEES’ HONEY** was published in the US by White Pine Press and his work is included in *The New Granta Book of the African Short Story*.

# THE ISLAND LOVE SONG

Emma Cowell



Agent Kate Burke

WEL PB Avon Jun 2024  
WEL audio Avon Jun 2024

Bulgaria Kragozor  
Greece Pedio

Option Publishers

Czech Republic Grada  
Denmark Zara  
Germany Insel  
Poland Muza  
Russia Eksmo

384 pages

Heart-wrenching story of sisterhood, sacrifices and secrets, set on an idyllic Greek island. For fans of Victoria Hislop and Karen Swan

Hydra, the picturesque Greek island, is a paradise for most, yet for sisters Ella and Georgia, it is a place where their darkest secrets dwell. And now the time has come for them to confront their past as they return to Greece to scatter their mother's ashes.

Ella is haunted by a love song that was written for her by the man who broke her heart years earlier and she longs to find peace so she can move on with her life.

Georgia pretends everything in her life is perfect, but she is plagued with guilt. If what she's kept hidden for decades was revealed, their family would never be the same again.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emma lives in Cornwall with her husband, Tony, and their fur baby, a Russian Blue called Papoushka Gerald Cowell. A former actress and BBC presenter, Emma has worked in the fundraising division of children's palliative care for the last decade and is currently Head of Philanthropy for national charity Together for Short Lives.

Segueing from being paid to talk for a living into writing was a natural progression, since storytelling has been at the heart of her career to date.

Emma's first book, **ONE LAST LETTER FROM GREECE**, has sold over 45,000 copies across all formats, with her second, **THE HOUSE IN THE OLIVE GROVE** selling over 35,000 copies so far.

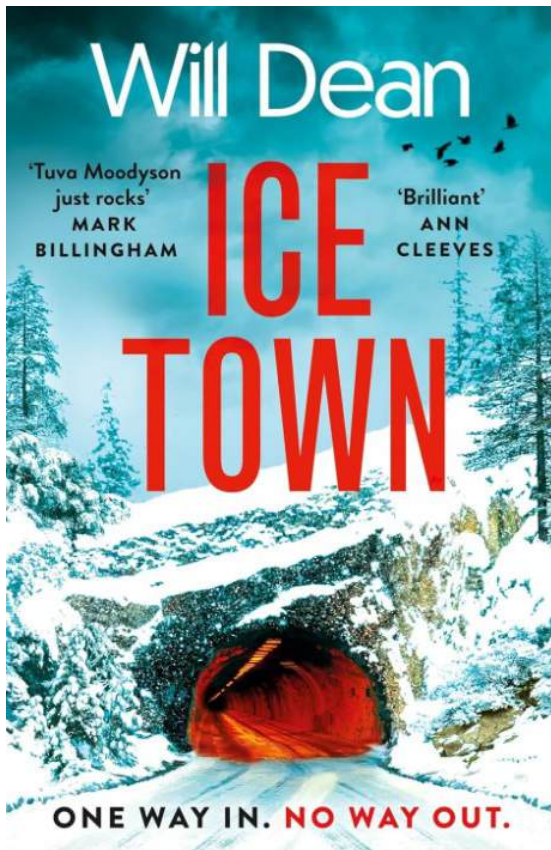
Her fourth book, **UNDER THE LEMON TREE**, will be published by Avon in May 2025.



# ICE TOWN

A Tuva Moodyson Mystery

Will Dean



Agent Kate Burke

**WEL HB** Hodder & Stoughton Nov 2024

**WEL PB** Hodder & Stoughton Oct 2025

**WEL audio** Hodder & Stoughton Nov 2024

TV Under option

Option publishers

France Belfond  
Italy Marsilio  
Russia Eksmo

392 pages

Chilling Scandi noir, featuring deaf journalist, Tuva Moodyson, on the trail of a missing teenager

‘Tuva Moodyson just rocks’ – Mark Billingham

‘Brilliant’ – Ann Cleeves

*Deaf teenager goes missing in Esseberg. Mountain rescue are launching a search party but conditions hinder their efforts. The tunnel is being kept open all night as an exception.*

When journalist Tuva Moodyson reads this news alert she knows she must join the search. If this teenager is found, she will be able to communicate with him in a way no one else can.

Esseberg lies on the other side of a mountain tunnel: there is only one way in and one way out. When the tunnel closes at night, the residents are left to fend for themselves. And as more people go missing, it becomes clear that there is a killer among them...

**ICE TOWN** is the unputdownable new Tuva novel, which will delight existing fans of the series and bring many new readers to it.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

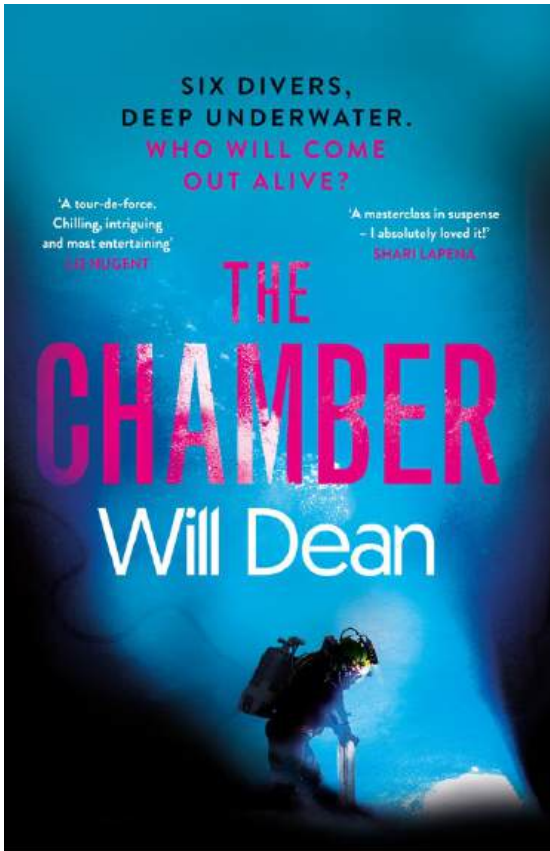
Will Dean grew up in the East Midlands, living in nine different villages before the age of eighteen. After studying law at the LSE, and working many varied jobs in London, he settled in rural Sweden with his wife. He built a wooden house in a boggy forest clearing and it's from this base that he compulsively reads and writes.

The second instalment in the Tuva Moodyson series, **RED SNOW**, won ‘Best Independent Voice’ in the Amazon Publishing Readers’ Awards 2019. **BLACK RIVER**, the third title, was longlisted for the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel Award 2020. Will is also the author of the sensational standalone thrillers **THE LAST THING TO BURN**, **FIRST BORN**, **THE LAST PASSENGER** and **THE CHAMBER**.

## THRILLER

# THE CHAMBER

Will Dean



**Agent** Kate Burke

**UKexCan** HB Hodder & Stoughton  
Jun 2024

**UKexCan** PB Hodder & Stoughton  
May 2025

**UKexCan** audio Hodder & Stoughton  
Jun 2024

**US+Can** PB Emily Bestler Books Aug  
2024

**US+Can** audio Emily Bestler Books  
Aug 2024

**Germany** Hoffmann & Campe  
**Poland** Rebis

**Option publishers**

**Croatia** Znanje | **France** Belfond  
**Russia** Eksmo | **Spain** Roca | **Turkey**  
Yediveren

320 pages

**AND THEN THERE WERE NONE** meets **THE LAST BREATH** in this tense and suspenseful locked-room thriller

Featured in the *New York Times*’ and *Guardian*’s summer fiction reading lists

‘A first-class suspense thriller that robbed me of both sleep and fingernails’ – *The Telegraph*

‘A masterclass in suspense—I absolutely loved it!’ – Shari Lapena

‘Dean shrewdly reimagines the closed-circle murder mystery in this tense and claustrophobic nail-biter... Dean maintains unyielding strain on his characters, brilliantly riffing on a classic setup while flexing his gifts for style and characterization. The results are gripping.’ – *Publishers Weekly*

On a boat heading out into the North Sea, Ellen Brooke steels herself to spend almost a month locked inside a hyperbaric chamber with five other divers. They are all being paid handsomely for this work – to be lowered each day inside a diving bell to the sea bed, taking it in turns to dive down and repair oil pipes that lie in the dark waters. It is a close knit team and it has to be: any error or loss of trust could be catastrophic.

All is going to plan until one of the divers is found unresponsive in his bunk. He hadn't left the chamber. It will take four more days of decompression, locked away together, before the hatch can be opened. Four more days of bare steel, intrusive thoughts, and the constant struggle not to give way to panic. Mind games, exhaustion, suspicion, and, most of all, pressure. And if someone does unlock the door, everyone dies...

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

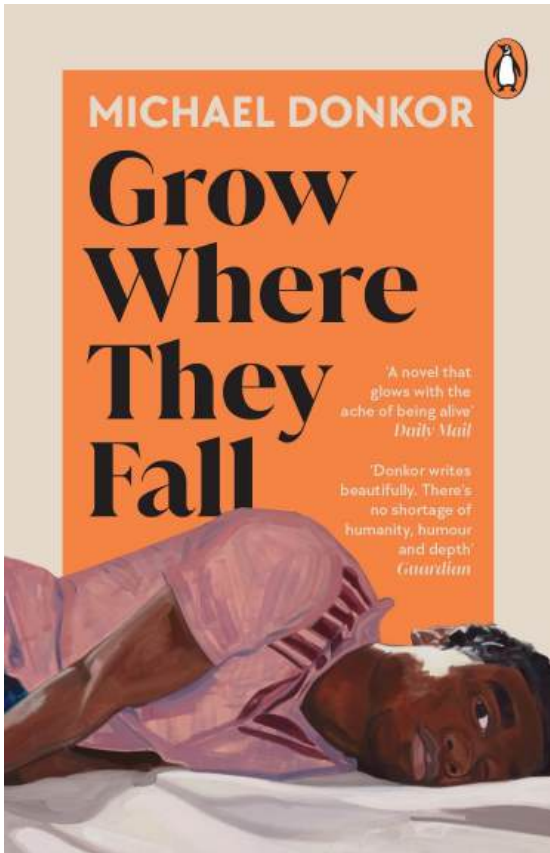
Will Dean grew up in the East Midlands, living in nine different villages before the age of eighteen. After studying law at the LSE, and working many varied jobs in London, he settled in rural Sweden with his wife. He built a wooden house in a boggy forest clearing and it's from this base that he compulsively reads and writes.

Will is also the author of the sensational standalone thrillers **THE LAST THING TO BURN**, **FIRST BORN** and **THE LAST PASSENGER** and the **Tuva Moodyson** crime series.

Emily Bestler Books have recently acquired rights in two new standalone thrillers.

# GROW WHERE THEY FALL

Michael Donkor



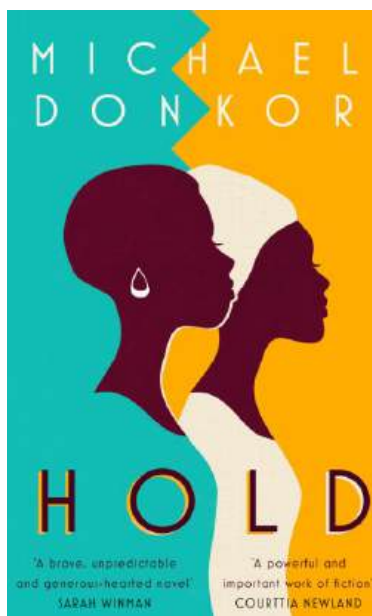
Agent Juliet Pickering

UKexCan HB Fig Tree (PRH) Mar 2024 (at auction)

UKexCan PB Penguin Mar 2025

UK audio Penguin Mar 2024

432 pages



A richly-layered, insightful exploration of masculinity, both funny and devastating

‘In this radiant, deeply felt novel, Donkor offers us the complexities of modern life... with all the grace and fluent clarity of a singular, open-hearted storyteller.’ – Guy Gunaratne

‘Throughout, he proves an author confident of his storytelling skills, and rightly so.’ – Nick Duerden, *i*

‘A novel that glows with the ache of being alive.’ – Claire Allfree, *Daily Mail*

Bright and precocious ten-year-old Kwame Akromah knows how to behave. He knows the importance of good manners, how to stay at the top of the class and out of the way when his parents are angry with each other. But when his charismatic cousin Yaw arrives from Ghana to live with the family while he looks for work, the rules Kwame has learned about the world can no longer guide him.

Twenty years later, Kwame is a secondary-school teacher, popular with his students and depended on by his friends. His is a life spent elegantly weaving between the classroom, the labyrinth of Grindr politics and increasingly intermittent visits to his parents’ home. Behind the confident façade, however, he is as driven by caution as he was as a boy.

But when electrifying Marcus Felix is appointed as headteacher, Kwame must reckon with himself as he never has before. Can he face the ghosts of his childhood? How will he learn to move through the world without losing who he is? And where does existing stop and living begin?

**GROW WHERE THEY FALL** is a beautifully written, spirited and deeply moving novel about a young man finding the courage to expand the limits of who he might become.

**HOLD** (UK: 4th Estate, US: Picador [as **HOUSEGIRL**], Germany: Nautilus), Michael’s debut novel, was shortlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize 2019 and longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize 2019. Moving between Ghana and London, **HOLD** is an intimate coming-of-age novel. It’s a story of friendship and family, shame and forgiveness; of learning what we should cling to, and when to let go.

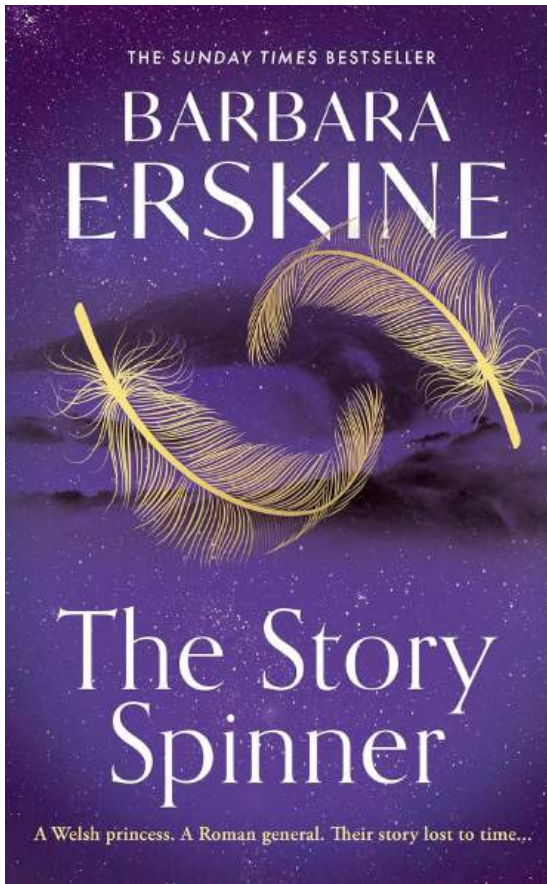
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Donkor was born in London in 1985. He read English at Oxford, and has a Masters in Creative Writing from Royal Holloway. After working in publishing for a number of years, he retrained as an English teacher in 2010. He now lives in Lisbon, and reviews books for various UK newspapers.



# THE STORY SPINNER

Barbara Erskine



Agent Isobel Dixon

WEL HB HarperCollins Aug 2024  
WEL PB HarperCollins May 2025  
WEL audio HarperCollins Aug 2024

Arabic Madarek  
Czech Republic Euromedia

Option publishers

Hungary Alexandra

512 pages

A Welsh writer is drawn into a mystery dating back to the Roman era in another captivating novel from the mega-bestselling author of *LADY OF HAY*

An immediate No.1 *Sunday Times* bestseller

One of Waterstones' 'Best New Historical Fiction Hardbacks'

'Barbara Erskine is one of my favourite writers. I devour her books with unbridled pleasure, and wonder, because she takes me to places in the past I never knew existed and brings them to life so deftly. **THE STORY SPINNER** is another delicious feast of love, drama, suspense, mystery, history, and a ghostly magic that is Barbara's alone. She's simply unputdownable!' – Santa Montefiore

Much anticipated, **THE STORY SPINNER** is another engrossing hit from 'the acknowledged queen of the historical time-slip novel' (*Daily Mail*), now also winning over a new generation of fans.

The land of the Silures, 382 AD

Elen is a princess promised to a general of Rome. Macsen came to Wales seeking an alliance that would advance his quest for power. Despite warnings her marriage is destined for heartache, Elen is determined to honour her vows. But this union will change her destiny forever...

Camp Meadow, 2024

Cadi is a writer who has discovered Elen's lost story. As she puts pen to paper, she hears the sound of ghostly marching feet.

Opening the gate to the ancient meadow behind her cottage, could the secret behind Elen's fate lie closer than she thinks? But someone is desperate to keep the past buried, plotting to destroy the meadow... Can Cadi uncover Elen's story before it's lost to time?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

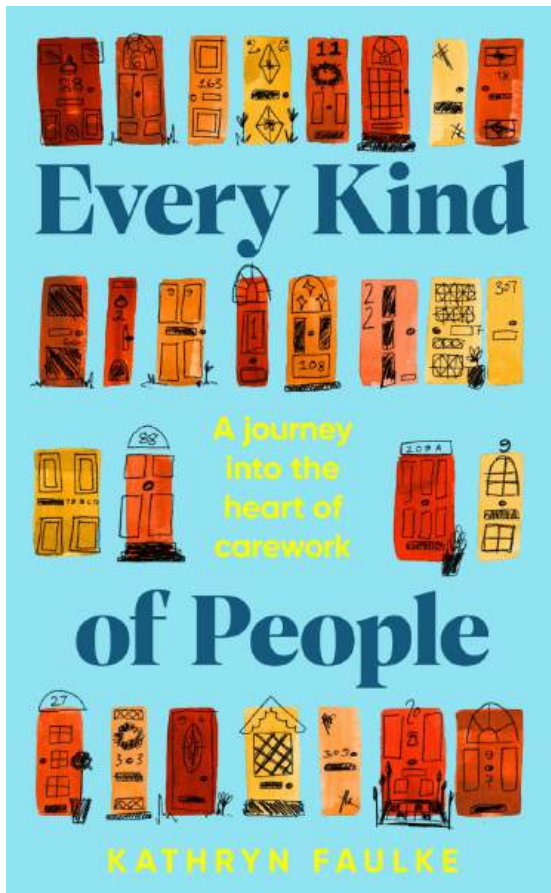
Barbara Erskine is the acclaimed author of many internationally best-selling novels beginning with the much loved classic, *LADY OF HAY*, which has been continuously in print for almost 40 years. In addition to her much-loved novels, Barbara has also written three bestselling volumes of short stories. Her books have been published around the world in English and also in more than 25 other languages. She lives in Hay-on-Wye in Wales.

Barbara is currently writing her next novel, *THE VALLEY OF RAVENS*, also set in Wales.

## MEMOIR

# EVERY KIND OF PEOPLE: A Journey Into The Heart Of Carework

Kathryn Faulke



Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan HB Fig Tree (PRH) Oct 2024 (at auction)  
UKexCan PB Penguin Summer 2025  
UKexCan audio Penguin Oct 2024  
UK Radio BBC Radio *Book of the Week* Oct 2024  
UK Serial *Daily Mail* Oct 2024

352 pages

An exceptional first-of-its-kind memoir about working as a home carer, won at auction by Fig Tree

‘The work of a natural storyteller, and a book full of empathy, humour, and – yes – care. All kinds of brilliant.’  
– Jon McGregor, author of *RESERVOIR 13*

‘Marvellously life-affirming and utterly humbling.’ –  
Caroline Sanderson, *The Bookseller*, ‘Editor’s Choice’

**EVERY KIND OF PEOPLE** is a compassionate, warm-hearted and profound book that stands alongside works about medical care like Christie Watson’s *THE LANGUAGE OF KINDNESS*, but with its beautiful writing it will also appeal to fans of memoirs like *THE OUTRUN* and *THE SALT PATH*.

This striking debut is off to a cracking start: chosen as BBC Radio 4’s prestigious *Book of the Week*, serialised in the *Daily Mail*, with the author featuring on Radio 4’s influential *Start the Week* programme

Anxious and burnt out, Kate has left a senior role in the National Health Service and is looking for a new, less stressful job. Believing she’s found this in care work, she signs with an agency and is soon plunged into a challenging and eye-opening new world.

Facing low pay, long journeys between homes and pressurised thirty-minute visits, all combined with the shocking onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Kate soon realises the job is about far more than washing, feeding and dressing vulnerable, often lonely men and women. They are people who have much to teach her too.

At the same time Kate is also caring for Greg, a seriously ill friend who is living on the fringes of society. Sometimes stretched to the limit, she comes to realise that in the midst of it all, she has found her vocation, that care work can be joyful too, and that to care is the most important thing of all.

Kate’s story has a deep humanity at its heart, a crucial message shared with the sure touch of a natural writer. Her first book, **EVERY KIND OF PEOPLE** has already struck chords with many readers – and promises to become a classic for Fig Tree, who won rights in a heated auction.

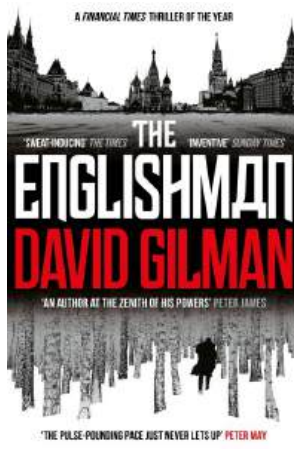
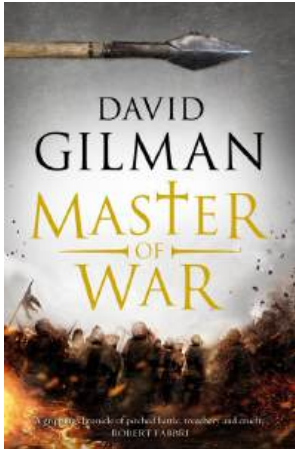
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kathryn Faulke is a pseudonym. The author was runner-up in the Wasafiri International New Writing Prize and won the Mslexia Memoir Prize for an earlier version of **EVERY KIND OF PEOPLE**. She is now working on her next book, about working in nursing homes on the Norfolk coast, and rediscovering the natural world of her childhood.

## ACTION THRILLER

# DAVID GILMAN SERIES

David Gilman



### THE MASTER OF WAR SERIES

The Master of War historical fiction series follows English stonemason turned archer Thomas Blackstone from humble beginnings to knighthood and bloody battle throughout the Hundred Years' War. The series has sold over 500,000 copies & made *Der Spiegel's* Top Ten.

### Book 8 TO KILL A KING:

Having angered the bloodthirsty Don Pedro, King of Castile, Blackstone is thoroughly sick of his mission for the Prince of Wales, but must remain true to his oath.

But this is the Hundred Years' War, and tensions are rising once more. With the Prince of Wales deeply unpopular in his Aquitanian lands, King Edward's Master of War, must return to French soil to help stem the tide of support for the King of France.

Meanwhile, Henry, Blackstone's son, faces an incognito ride across France with his own motley band of outlaws and mercenaries. But the French are aware of the younger Blackstone's journey, and see a perfect way to target the Master of War...

**TO KILL A KING** is a No.1 Amazon Bestseller in UK History.

### THE ENGLISHMAN SERIES

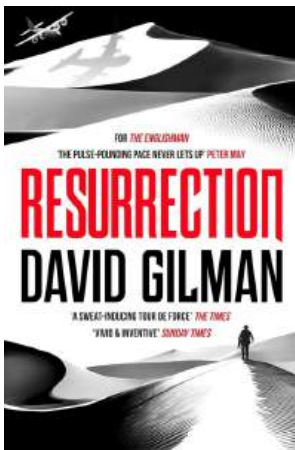
Dan Raglan – a rogue Englishman who served in the French Foreign Legion. Skilled, experienced, but unaccountable – and sometimes unpredictable.

THE ENGLISHMAN series is 'electrifying proof that high-tension international thrillers are back – and with an absolute vengeance.' – William Shaw

In **RESURRECTION**, somewhere in the Sahara, on the desolate border between Sudan and Chad, a P51 Mustang slowly emerges from the dunes. Inside, the skeletal remains of a man missing for three decades. His flying jacket bears no insignia, a worn leather attaché case lies by his side, held securely by a manacle around his left wrist. Inside a document men will kill for. Die for. The British, the French, and the Russians are on the trail. And so is Raglan.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Gilman lives in Devon. He was a firefighter, soldier, photographer, then award-winning screenwriter before turning to writing full-time. Head of Zeus have sold more than 700,000 copies of David Gilman's novels in English, and his work is translated into more than a dozen languages. MASTER OF WAR series titles feature on *Der Spiegel* bestseller lists in Germany, where sales in 2023 were over 300,000 copies. He is now writing the 9th MASTER OF WAR title and Head of Zeus have also signed up a standalone.



Agent Isobel Dixon

### MASTER OF WAR: TO KILL A KING

WEL HB Head of Zeus Feb 2024

WEL PB Head of Zeus Sep 2024

UKexCan audio WF Howes Feb 2024

US audio Tantor Media Feb 2024

Germany Rowohlt

### THE ENGLISHMAN: RESURRECTION

UKexCan HB Head of Zeus Jan 2023

UKexCan PB Head of Zeus Sep 2023

UKexCan audio WF Howes Jan 2023

Film rights AGC Studios

Romania Lebada Neagra

Option publishers

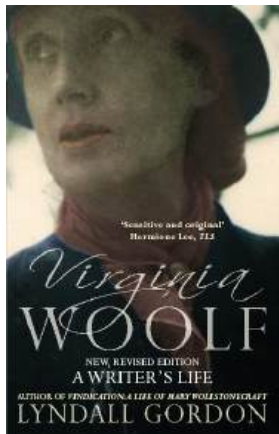
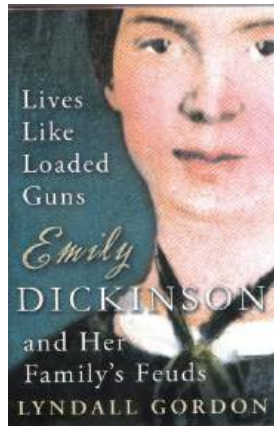
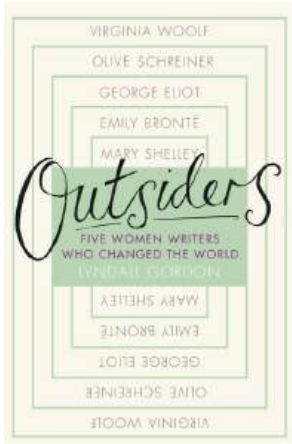
Czech Republic Euromedia

Japan Hayakawa

Slovakia Ikar



# LYNDALL GORDON



One of the world's foremost literary scholars and a hugely acclaimed biographer, in particular of the lives of women writers

Lyndall Gordon's ability to make the subjects of her biographies come vividly to life has won her many awards and widespread acclaim.

In **OUTSIDERS: Five Women Writers Who Changed the World**, Lyndall Gordon tells the stories of five novelists—Mary Shelley, Emily Brontë, George Eliot, Olive Schreiner and Virginia Woolf—and how their creativity was linked to their lives as outsiders.

**CHARLOTTE BRONTË: A Passionate Life** won the Cheltenham Prize and was on the *Sunday Independent* bestseller list twice. Lyndall dismantles the insistent image of Charlotte Brontë as a modest Victorian lady, revealing instead a strong and fiery woman who shaped her life and transformed it into art.

In **LIVES LIKE LOADED GUNS: Emily Dickinson and Her Family's Feuds**, Lyndall explores the fissures in Emily Dickinson's family, the bitter feud that ensued, and the reasons for her legendary reclusiveness. Shortlisted for the Duff Cooper Prize 2010 and the Comisso Prize, Italy in 2013.

**VIRGINIA WOOLF: A Writer's Life** won the James Tait Black Prize for Biography. It sees Virginia as she saw herself, switching between memories and art to reveal an explorer of 'the infinite oddity of the human position'. Instead of the doom-and-death often imposed on women of genius, here is the robust walker and seeker for what was fertile in her intimacies, in women's nature, and in resistance to power.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lyndall Gordon lives in Oxford. As well as the prizes above, she has been longlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction for **VINDICATION: A Life of Mary Wollstonecraft**, a *New York Times* bestseller. She is also the author of **THE PRIVATE LIFE OF HENRY JAMES: Two Women & His Art** and two works of memoir.

**THE HYACINTH GIRL** is a ground-breaking, revelatory work on T.S. Eliot and the women in his life (UK: Virago; US: Norton, 2022). It was longlisted for the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography in 2023. Her previous biographical work on T.S. Eliot, **THE IMPERFECT LIFE OF T.S. ELIOT**, won the British Academy's Rose Mary Crawshay Prize and Southern Arts prize, and she delivered the annual TS Eliot Lecture in 2023 at Merton College, Oxford. A new, updated edition will be published by Virago in early 2025.

Agent Isobel Dixon

UK Virago

US Norton/ John Hopkins University/  
HarperCollins

### Option publishers

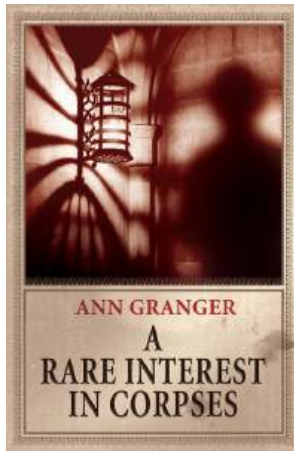
Italy Fazi

Spain Alba

Turkey Alfa

# ANN GRANGER SERIES

## Ann Granger



A beloved, evergreen British crime author, with a backlist treasury of female detectives, pleasing twists and characters full of humour and colour

### DEATH ON THE PROWL

(Campbell & Carter Contemporary Mysteries #8)

When Jerry Harrison receives an unwelcome visitor at his remote Cotswold cottage one winter's night, the last thing he expects is to end up dead. But, next morning, his cleaners find him fatally stabbed and the police have a murder inquiry on their hands.

At first, Inspector Jess Campbell and Superintendent Ian Carter aren't sure of the victim's identity, but it's not long before a neighbour, Eleanor Holder, comes forward with her opinions on the deceased. Jerry Harrison was not a popular man in the village of Weston St Ambrose; his aunt's tragic death led to him inheriting her cottage and many of the locals still see him as an outsider.

With no witnesses coming forward and very little evidence to go on, Jess and Ian must dig deep to find the answers to this baffling case. But not before another villager is attacked and left for dead...

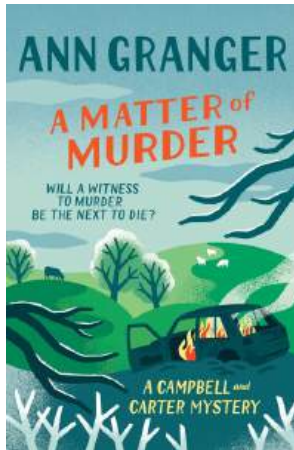
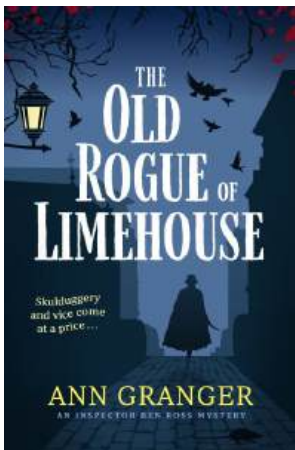
### THE OLD ROGUE OF LIMEHOUSE (Inspector Ben Ross Victorian Mysteries #9)

It is the summer of 1871 when Scotland Yard's Inspector Ben Ross visits Jacob Jacobus: an infamous antiquarian, friend to villains and informer to the police. Ben is hoping to glean information about any burglaries that might take place during the London Season, but little does he know that a priceless family heirloom, the Roxby emerald necklace, has already been stolen and the widowed Mrs Roxby is demanding its immediate return.

Ben's day goes from bad to worse when he and his wife Lizzie hear that Jacobus has been found dead with his throat slit from ear to ear. Surely the two crimes cannot be connected? But with Ben's meticulous investigative skills and Lizzie's relentless curiosity, it is only a matter of time before the tragic truth is revealed...

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ann Granger lives near Oxford. Over decades she has created a wonderful range of series characters, all featuring insightful characterisation and satisfying plotting. Ann has written over thirty murder mysteries, including the **Mitchell & Markby Mysteries**, the **Fran Varady Mysteries**, the **Victorian Inspector Ben Ross and Lizzie Martin Mysteries** and the **Campbell and Carter Mysteries**. Published in 10 languages, her German editions have sold millions of copies and have made more than 30 appearances in the Top 5 bestseller lists.



Agent Isobel Dixon

### DEATH ON THE PROWL

WEL HB Headline Dec 2024

WEL PB Headline May 2025

UK+BC audio Headline Dec 2024

US+Can audio Tantor 2024

272 pages

### THE OLD ROGUE OF LIMEHOUSE

WEL HB Headline Jul 2023

WEL PB Headline Dec 2023

UK+BC audio Headline Jul 2023

US+Can audio Tantor 2023

Czech Republic Moba

France Univers Poche

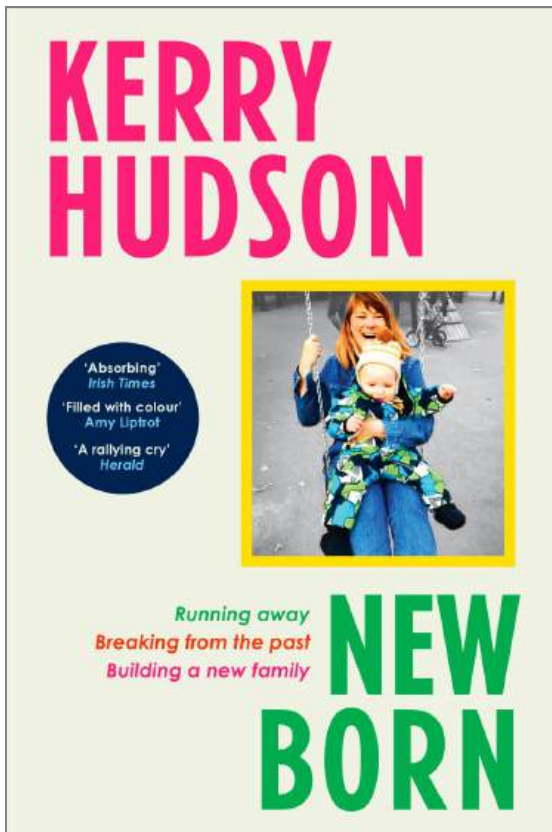
Germany Luebbe

Option publishers

Estonia Varrak

320 pages

# NEWBORN: Running Away, Breaking with the Past, Building a New Family Kerry Hudson



Agent Juliet Pickering

UKexCan HB Chatto Feb 2024

UKexCan PB Chatto Mar 2025

UKexCan audio Vintage Feb 2024

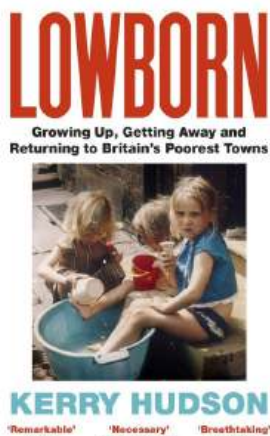
France Editions Philippe Rey

Option publishers

China Golden Rose Books

Italy Antonio Mandese Editore

272 pages



A beautiful, empowering memoir about creating a family in the midst of chaos, and learning new ways to find happiness

'It was always going to be difficult to follow **LOWBORN**, but Kerry Hudson is Kerry Hudson and she has done it – cleverly, honestly, brilliantly' – Roddy Doyle

Celebrated for her emotionally and politically powerful writing about growing up in poverty, in **NEWBORN** Kerry asks: what next, after a childhood like hers? What hope is there of creating a different life for herself, let alone future generations?

In this exquisitely written, moving and inspiring memoir, we see how Kerry found love, what it took to decide to start a family of her own and how fragile every step of the journey towards parenthood was. Along the way, she faces obstacles that would test the strongest foundations, from struggles with fertility to being locked down in a Prague maternity hospital to a marriage in crisis. But over and over again, her love, hope, fight – and determination to break patterns and give her son a different life – win through.

**LOWBORN: Growing Up, Getting Away and Returning to Britain's Poorest Towns** (UK: Chatto & Windus). Kerry Hudson is proudly working class but she was never proudly poor. The poverty she grew up in was all-encompassing, grinding and often dehumanising. Twenty years later, Kerry's life is unrecognisable, but she often finds herself looking over her shoulder, caught somehow between two worlds. **LOWBORN** is Kerry's exploration of where she came from, revisiting the towns she grew up in to try to discover what being poor really means in Britain today and whether anything has changed.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kerry Hudson was born in Aberdeen. Growing up in a succession of council estates, B&Bs and caravan parks provided her with a keen eye for idiosyncratic behaviour, material for life, and a love of travel.

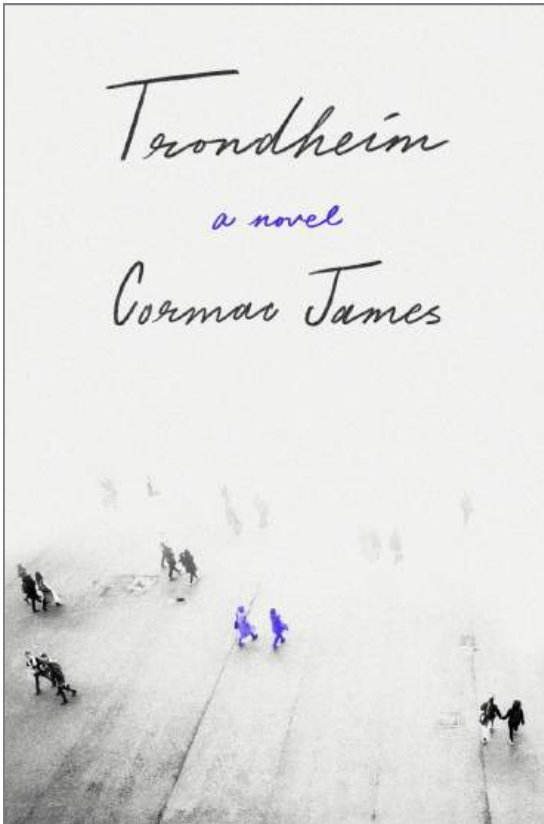
**TONY HOGAN BOUGHT ME AN ICE-CREAM FLOAT BEFORE HE STOLE MY MA** (Chatto & Windus), was shortlisted for eight literary prizes, and won Scottish First Book of the Year. Kerry's second novel, **THIRST**, was shortlisted for the Green Carnation Prize and won the Prix Femina Etranger in France. **LOWBORN** (2019) became a *Times* bestseller and was hailed as 'One of the most important books of the year' by the *Guardian*.

Kerry has written for publications including *The New York Times*, *Guardian*, *Big Issue*, *The Herald* and *Press and Journal*.



## TRONDHEIM

Cormac James



Agent Isobel Dixon

US+Can TPB Bellevue Literary Press  
Feb 2024US+Can audio Recorded Books Feb  
2024

UK on submission

284 pages

**A spare, haunting novel by a consummate stylist, probing the limits of love, hope, and forgiveness**

For readers of Annie Ernaux, Gerbrand Bakker and Olga Tokarczuk.

‘Much of **TRONDHEIM**... is set in the I.C.U., a place of terrible dread... **TRONDHEIM** is dedicated to capturing the way it unfolds. The sensation of continual anxiety and continual boredom, the fits and starts of activity, are closely observed. Here, time and hope are united.’ — Katie Kitamura, *New York Times*

‘Cormac James’s writing is very assured, with a harsh poetic edge.’ — Rose Tremain

‘James’ delicate, incisive third novel captures with forensic accuracy the subtle tensions in the marriage... Pierre’s medical situation is acute and dramatic, but the women’s marital troubles, mundane and chronic, are the real subject of this extraordinary and meticulous little book. An X-ray picture of the subcutaneous breaks and sprains in a rocky relationship.’ — *Kirkus*, starred review

In Norway, thousands of miles from home, a student drops dead on the street. A passerby revives his heart, but he remains in a coma from which he may never wake.

His mothers rush across the continent to his bedside where they endure the strain of helpless waiting. As the tense hospital vigil continues day after day and they vacillate between extremes of hope, fear, and psychic pain, their troubled relationship is pushed to the edge, as each tries to cope in their own distinctive way.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Cormac James (real name Cormac McCarthy) was born in Cork, Ireland. A graduate of the UEA Creative Writing MA, he has published short fiction in *Columbia*, *Phoenix Irish Short Stories*, and *The Dublin Review*. His first novel, **TRACK AND FIELD**, was published in 2000, and his second, **THE SURFACING**, in 2014 (US: Bellevue Literary Press; UK: Sandstone — *rights reverted*). He lives in Montpellier, France, with his wife and son.

**Praise for THE SURFACING:**

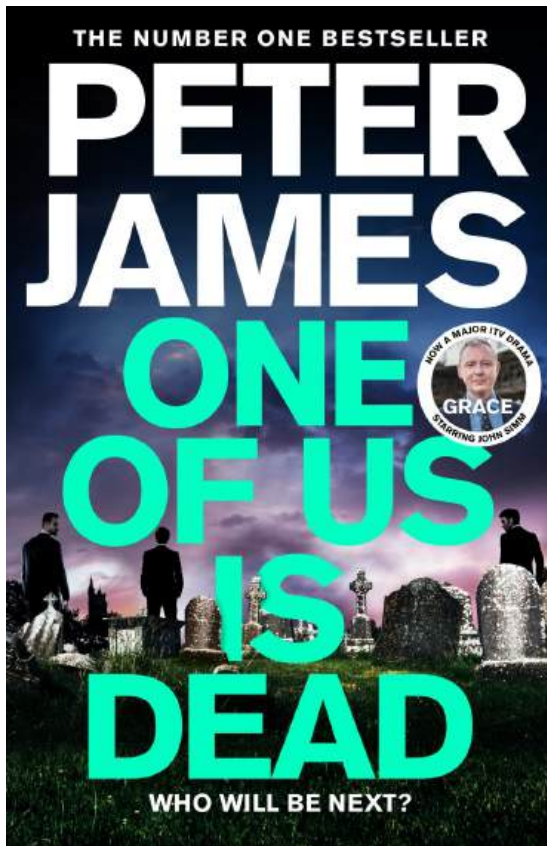
‘An austere pleasure to read.’ — Sarah Moss, *The Guardian*

‘Irish author James’ hypnotic North American debut that’s less a high-stakes adventure than a slow-burning psychological study... Meditative and spare, this is not a fast read but one worth the effort: underneath all the ice, there is real emotional depth.’ — *Kirkus Reviews*

# ONE OF US IS DEAD

Roy Grace #20

Peter James



Agent Isobel Dixon

WEL HB Macmillan Sep 2024  
WEL PB Macmillan Apr 2025  
WEL audio Macmillan Sep 2024

TV (*Grace series*) Second Act  
Productions for ITV 2021, 2022,  
2023, 2024 , 5th series set for 2025  
and streaming widely on Britbox

Finland Minerva  
Sweden HarperCollins Nordic

Option publishers

Bulgaria Storytel | Czech Brana  
Denmark Gyldendal | Estonia  
Tanapaev | France Fleuve Noir  
Greece Hartini Poli | Holland De  
Fontein | Israel Kor'im | Lithuania  
Jotema | Norway Vigmostad  
Russia Azbooka

464 pages

Roy Grace is about to find out just how dangerous a dead man can be...

'First the smash-hit TV series, now the 20th novel – Detective Superintendent Roy Grace is going flat out, sirens and all ... a twisty page-turner.' – *The Sun*, Pick of the Week, 5-Star Review

'Peter James is one of the best British crime writers and therefore one of the best in the world' – Lee Child

When James Taylor arrives late for a funeral, he has to stand at the back of the small church. But, during the service Taylor notices a man six rows in front of him. At first he thinks he must be mistaken, but the more he looks at the man, the more convinced Taylor becomes that this is his old schoolfriend Rufus Rorke.

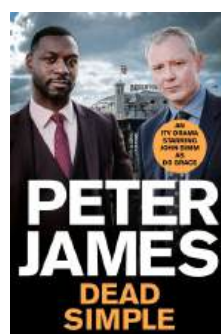
Except it couldn't be him, could it? Because two years ago Taylor attended Rufus Rorke's funeral. He even delivered the eulogy.

At Police HQ across Brighton, Detective Superintendent Roy Grace has been alerted to a number of suspicious deaths that he can't get out of his mind. But how are they linked? And how could they possibly be connected to Rufus Rorke?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

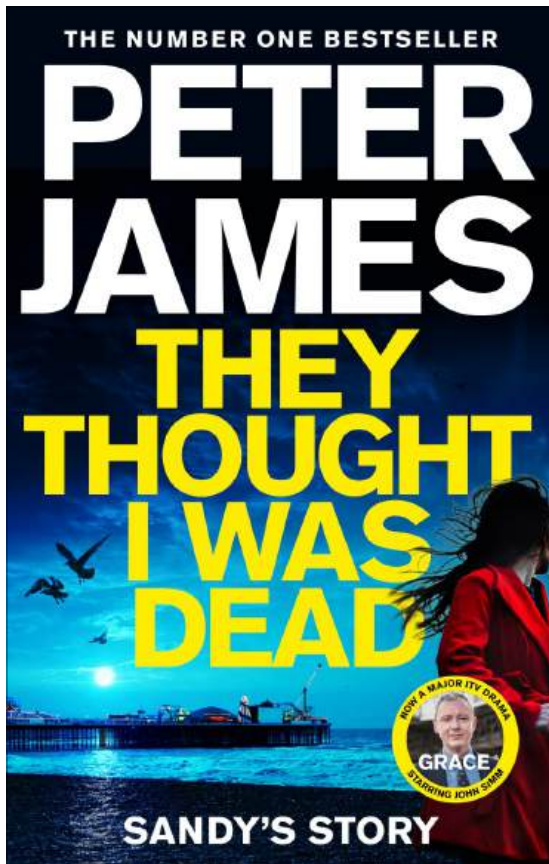
Winner of numerous international awards including the Prix POLAR International (2006); Le Prix Coeur Noir (2007); 'Best Crime Writer of All Time' (voted by W.H. Smiths' readers). CWA Diamond Dagger 2016 for 'Sustained Excellence' and Specsavers Honorary Platinum Bestseller Award 2018.

Author of multiple #1 bestsellers with 23 million copies sold worldwide and many books optioned for film/TV. Several novels have been adapted for the stage, with sell-out UK tours. **DEAD SIMPLE**, the first title in the ITV *Grace* series, was broadcast in Spring 2021, starring John Simm as Roy Grace. It gained over 8.8 million viewers and was nominated for two National Television Awards. Series 4 led the field on 7-day viewing figures in 2024 and Series 5 will be broadcast in 2025. Peter James's novels are translated into 38 languages.



# THEY THOUGHT I WAS DEAD

Peter James



Agent Isobel Dixon

WEL HB Macmillan May 2024

WEL PB Macmillan Nov 2024

WEL audio Macmillan May 2024

Finland Minerva

Italy Fanucci

464 pages

Peter James reveals the truth behind Sandy Grace's disappearance at last – a thrill for fans and new readers alike!

An instant *Sunday Times* No.1 hardback bestseller

'A brilliantly fast-paced thriller with more twists and turns than a Tour de France descent.' – *Daily Express*

*Some will know how it begins...*

Her name is Sandy. You might know her as the loving wife of Detective Superintendent Roy Grace.

But there's more to her than meets the eye. A woman with a dubious past, a complicated present and an uncertain future. Then she was gone.

*Some will think they know how it ends...*

Her disappearance caused a nationwide search. Even the best detective on the force couldn't find her. They thought she was dead.

*But nobody knows this...*

Where did she go? Why did she run? What would cause a woman to leave her whole life behind and simply vanish?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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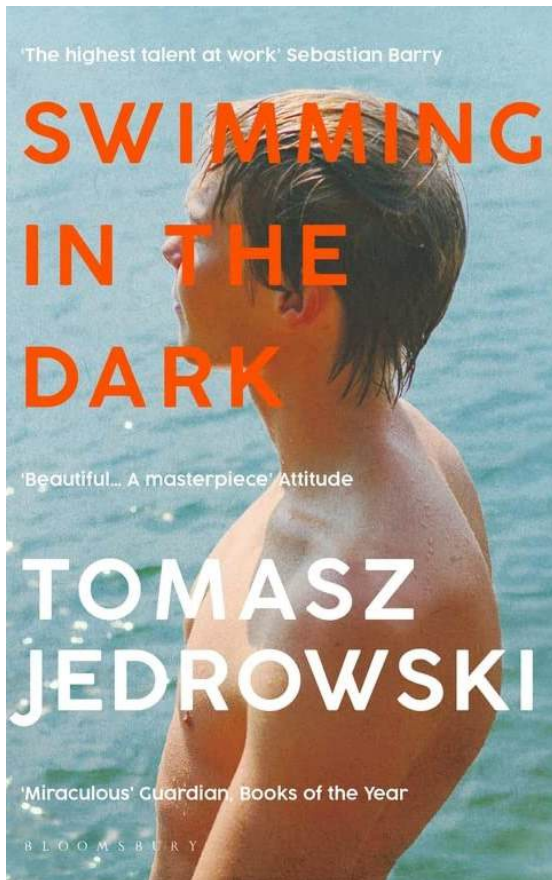
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Peter James's novels are translated into 38 languages.



# SWIMMING IN THE DARK

Tomasz Jedrowski



Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan HB Bloomsbury 2020  
(at auction)  
UKexCan PB Bloomsbury 2021  
UKexCan audio Audible 2020  
US+Can HB Morrow 2020 (pre-empt)  
US+Can PB Morrow 2021  
US+Can audio Blackstone 2020

Film/TV under option  
Opera under option

Brazil (exPortugal, Angola & Mozambique) Astral Cultural | Czech Odeon | France Delcourt | Germany Hoffmann und Campe | Greece Harlenic | Holland Meulenhoff | Israel Modan | Italy Edizioni E/O | Korea Prunsoop | Lithuania Baltos Lankos | Poland Osnova | Portugal (exBrazil) Clube do Autor | Russia Eksmo | Spain Dos Bigotes | Sweden Prosak | Taiwan Crown | Thailand Salmon Books | Turkey Ithaki | Ukraine Laboratory

A tender, passionate literary debut, hailed as a masterpiece and sold in 21 countries

**Miraculous' – *Guardian* Books of the Year**

Shortlisted Polari First Book Prize 2021  
Longlisted Historical Writers' Association Crown Award 2020  
A *Guardian* Best Book of the Year 2020 Pick  
A NPR Best Book of The Year 2020  
A Daily Express Best Book of The Year 2020  
BBC Radio 4 Open Book Editor's Pick  
Amazon Editors' Pick  
A Dua Lipa Service95 Book Club pick

'Marvellous, precise, poignant writing. The highest talent at work.' – Sebastian Barry

'One of the most astonishing contemporary gay novels we have ever read... A masterpiece' – *Attitude*

'Jedrowski is an authentic new international star.' – Edmund White

'A remarkable, beautiful tale, utterly new and entirely credible... This book radiates sensuality, humour, and human truths.' – *Literary Review*

*Poland, 1980.* Shy, anxious Ludwik has been sent along with the rest of his university class to an agricultural camp. Here he meets Janusz – and together they spend a dreamlike summer, bonding over an illicit copy of James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*, and falling in love. But with summer over, the two are sent back to Warsaw.

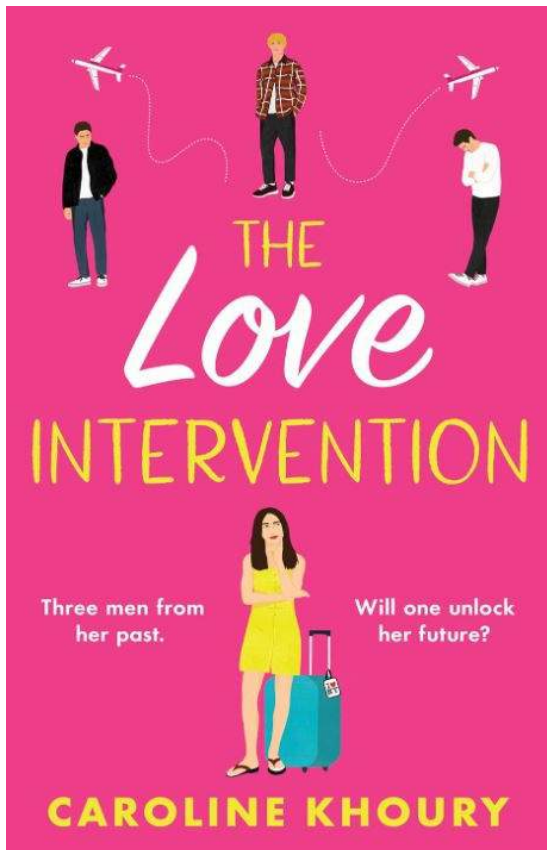
Confronted by the scrutiny, intolerance and corruption of life under the Party, Ludwik and Janusz must decide how they will survive; and in their different choices, find themselves torn apart. A life-changing novel.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tomasz was born in West Germany to Polish parents, but has lived in several countries, speaks five languages and is a graduate of Cambridge University and Université de Paris. He currently lives in France. **SWIMMING IN THE DARK** is his first novel.

# THE LOVE INTERVENTION

Caroline Khoury



Agent Kate Burke

WEL ebook Canelo Feb 2025

WEL PB Canelo Feb 2025

WEL audio Under offer

A sparkingly fun love-square romance for fans of Ali Hazelwood, Lindsey Kelk and Sophia Money-Coutts

Clinical scientist Laila has no time to date. Cooped up in a hospital lab all day, she's busy working towards her five-year plan. But when her carefully structured world starts to crumble, her friends stage an intervention — a love intervention.

Their plan: remind Laila there's more to life than work and reconnect her with the three men who stole her heart while she was studying in the States ten years ago — Austin, Eduardo, and Mateo. From California to Puerto Rico and Costa Rica, Laila reunites with her past and reignites passions she thought were long dormant.

But who will be the one to rewrite her five-year plan? And is it just her love life which needs an intervention?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Caroline Khoury is half Lebanese, half Welsh, and moved to the UK as a baby to escape civil war in Lebanon. Having lived in Hong Kong, Tokyo and New Jersey, she recently moved back to the UK. Her hobbies include travelling, art, dancing, climbing mountains, collecting stationery, and watching Turkish soap operas. Her writing was shortlisted in the Trapeze/eHarmony love story competition 2018.

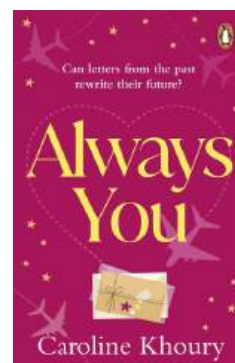
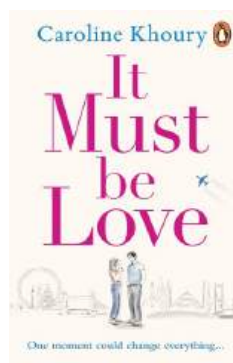
Caroline is also the author of **IT MUST BE LOVE, ALWAYS YOU** and **STILL UNWRITTEN**.

## Option publishers

Germany Insel

Russia Eksmo

304 pages



# THE WOMAN IN THE CHINESE COLLAR

Hannah Lowe



Photo credit: Hannah Pope

Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan HB Scribner Mar 2026  
UKexCan PB Scribner 2027  
UKexCan audio Scribner Mar 2026  
(at auction)  
US On submission  
US audio Under Offer

291 pages

THE KIDS (Poetry)  
WAL PB Bloodaxe Books 2021

80 pages

LONG TIME NO SEE (Memoir)  
WEL PB Periscope 2015

328 pages

The Costa Book of the Year winner returns with an astounding lyrical memoir, inter-weaving the personal and historic, the investigative and poetic

Scribner won UK rights in an intense auction, for publication in 2025.

In this rich, lyrical hybrid memoir, Hannah Lowe goes in search of her Afro-Chinese aunt Nelsa, a herbalist and healer, brothel madam and renowned restaurant/nightclub hostess in 1950s/60s Kingston, Jamaica. **THE WOMAN IN THE CHINESE COLLAR** is at once a fascinating archival detective story, a poetic evocation of Jamaica and a haunting glimpse of an extraordinary woman's life.

A single portrait photograph of Nelsa galvanised Hannah's search across time and space to recover a lost story of a woman making her way in a man's world. Politics, poverty, disability, sex work and crime combine in this narrative of diaspora and home, interrogating the multiple ways in which photographs hold meaning; the role of writing and research in tracing routes and roots and how to excavate the life of a marginalised woman when the archives are empty.

Hannah won the prestigious Eccles Centre Hay Festival Prize for her work in progress on **THE WOMAN IN THE CHINESE COLLAR**, giving her access to the invaluable Eccles Centre collection in the British Library for her remaining research.

'We were enthralled by Hannah Lowe's inventive approach to conjuring Nelsa, her Afro-Chinese Jamaican aunt. Remarkably, Lowe evokes Nelsa through a single portrait photo and along the way excavates other marginalised women whose lives are rarely noted in official archives.' — Judges of the Eccles Centre & Hay Festival Writer's Award

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hannah Lowe was born in Ilford to an English mother and Jamaican-Chinese father. Her poetry collection, **THE KIDS**, won the Costa Poetry Award and then the Book of the Year Award 2021. It was a Poetry Book Society Choice for Autumn 2021 and was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, and was also an *Irish Times* and *Guardian* poetry book of the year.

Her prose memoir, **LONG TIME NO SEE**, exploring her relationship with her half-Chinese, half-Jamaican immigrant father, was published by Periscope in 2014. Her first book-length collection, **CHICK**, won the 2015 Michael Murphy Memorial Prize and was selected for the Poetry Book Society's Next Generation Poets 2014 promotion. Her second full-length collection, **CHAN**, was published by Bloodaxe Books in 2016.



# BOOKISH: The Life-Changing Power of Reading

## Lucy Mangan



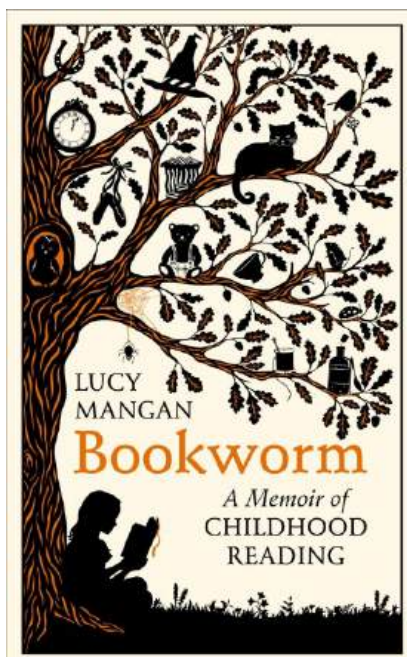
Agent Juliet Pickering

UKexCan HB Square Peg Mar 2025

UKexCan PB Vintage 2026

UKexCan audio Vintage Mar 2025

304 pages



A love letter to all those who come alive when they pull a new treasure off the shelf, who stay up late reading just one more page, who pack their suitcases with clothes wedged between books instead of the other way around

**BOOKISH** is the story of a life spent falling in love with reading. From exploring the stacks as a student, to finding her feet as a bookseller turned journalist, falling for a fellow bookworm in an independent bookshop, escaping the doldrums of new motherhood with Jack Reacher and finally building a (book) room of her own, **BOOKWORM** author Lucy Mangan chronicles her years of buying, borrowing and hoarding everything from well-worn literary classics to steamy bonkbusters, gripping thrillers, young adult novels, and other not-so-guilty pleasures.

Brimming with literary insights, wry observations and stellar recommendations, this book is an ode to the bookish places — from local libraries to bookstores big and small — and the stories that make us who we are.

### Other titles

**BOOKWORM** (WEL: Vintage, 2018). When Lucy Mangan was little, stories were everything. They opened up new worlds and cast light on all the complexities she encountered in this one. In **BOOKWORM**, Lucy revisits her childhood reading with wit, love and gratitude. She relives our best-loved books, their extraordinary creators, and looks at the thousand subtle ways they shape our lives — and brilliantly uses them to tell her own story, that of a born, and unrepentant, bookworm. (336 pages)

‘You don’t need to have enjoyed the same books as she has to recognise the pure, life-affirming joy of reading that **BOOKWORM** celebrates so eloquently.’ — *The Observer*

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lucy Mangan is a journalist and columnist: a TV critic at the *Guardian*, and a columnist for *The i* newspaper. She has written for most of the major women's magazines, including *Grazia*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Stylist*.

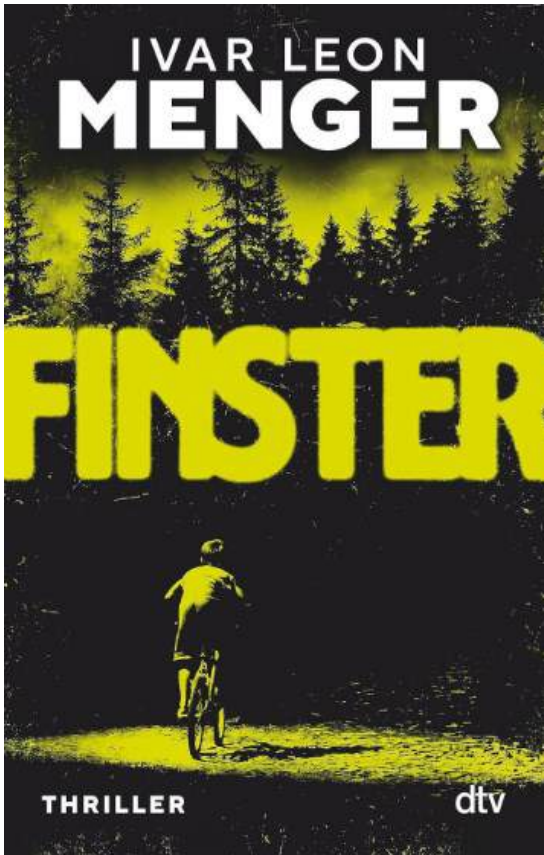
In 2009, a collection of her columns from the *Guardian* was published as **MY FAMILY AND OTHER DISASTERS**. Her other works include **HOPSCOTCH AND HANDBAGS: The Essential Guide to Being a Girl** and **THE RELUCTANT BRIDE**, the lightly-fictionalised story of her wedding. Her debut novel **ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?** was published by Profile Books in October 2021.

She lives in London with one husband, one son, two cats and fourteen double-stacked Billy bookcases.

THRILLER

# FINSTER

Ivar Leon Menger



**Agent** Isobel Dixon  
On behalf of Marc Koralnik  
(Liepman)

**Germany** DTV Aug 2024  
**France** Belfond

**Option publishers**

**Czech Republic** Grada | **Greece**  
Psychogios | **Romania** TREI | **United**  
**States** Sourcebooks

**Rights available through Blake**  
**Friedmann:**  
United Kingdom  
Holland  
Israel  
Italy  
The Baltics  
Scandinavia  
All other territories through Liepman

384 pages

Tense and gripping psychological thriller from the bestselling author of **WHAT MOTHER WON'T TELL ME**

'Ivar Leon Menger's third thriller - and for the third time sleepless nights for me. The guy is really an asset to the German thriller market.' — Romy Hausmann

'This thriller seduces you. It comes across as wonderfully light, then it grabs you, scares you and robs you of your sleep.' — Bernhard Aichner

Katzenbrunn, 1986.

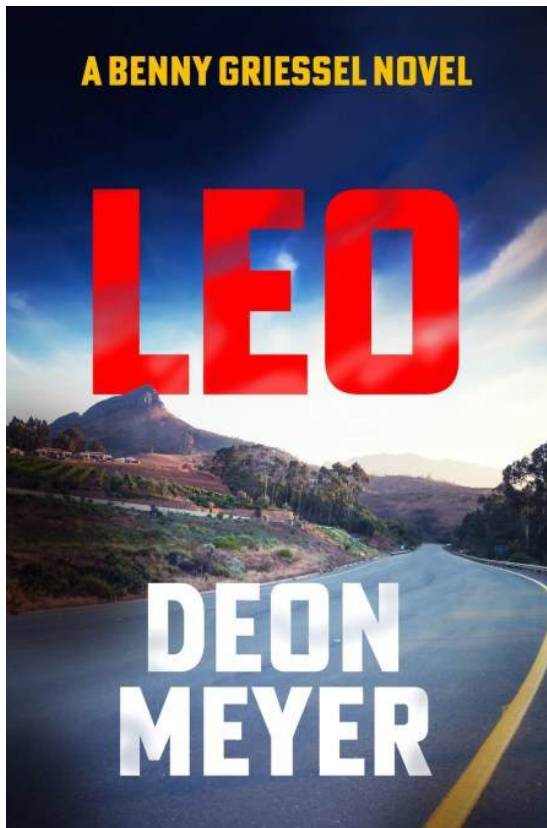
Thirteen-year-old Nikolaus is missing. This is not the first time that a young person has disappeared without a trace from the village in the Odenwald.

The latest incident brings Hans J. Stahl into action. The retired police inspector has a score to settle with the man everyone calls "Gripper". And he wants to finally settle it. But then the next child disappears...

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ivar Leon Menger is a prize-winning writer of novels and radio plays. He has worked as a copywriter, designer, scriptwriter, director and guest lecturer. His radio play series *Monster 1983* and *Ghostbox* are among the most successful productions on Audible and he has received over 30 awards. His debut novel **WHAT MOTHER WON'T TELL ME** was the subject of a 10-publisher German auction and was acquired by DTV in a six-figure two-book deal. It sold 10,000 copies in the first month of publication and reached No. 23 in the *Der Spiegel* bestseller list. Sourcebooks published in the US in January 2023.

## LEO



**Agent** Isobel Dixon

**Afrikaans** Human & Rousseau 2023  
**Afrikaans audio** Human & Rousseau 2023

**UKexCan HB** Hodder Sep 2024  
**UKexCan PB** Hodder 2025  
**UKexCan audio** Hodder Sep 2024  
**US+Can HB** Grove Atlantic 2024  
**US+Can audio** Grove Atlantic 2024

**Film/TV** Lookout Point

**France** Gallimard  
**Holland** AW Bruna  
**Germany** Aufbau

**Option Publishers**

**Czech Republic** Moba

496 pages

## Deon Meyer

English translation by K. L. Seegers

**A dead cyclist and a missing accomplice to a daring heist gone wrong: another gripping investigation for Meyer's iconic duo Benny and Vaughn**

**Winner of the 2024 ATKV-Woordveertjies Prize (Thriller)**  
**10 Weeks at #1 on the South African Bestseller List**

'I love Deon Meyer novels – global storytelling at its best, with the undeniable hallmarks of gritty realism and deep character building.' – Michael Connelly

'Not just South Africa's greatest crime writer, he's up there with the best in the world.' – Marcel Berlins, *The Times*

'A well-crafted blend of suspense, culture, and humor. Meyer is terrific.' – *Kirkus Reviews* on **THE DARK FLOOD**

Detectives Benny Griessel and Vaughn Cupido are doing their duty in beautiful Stellenbosch, but humdrum police work in a university town is a far cry from their life in Cape Town fighting crime at the highest level. For now, Benny has more pressing things to worry about than their demotion – it's the countdown to his wedding day. But the peace is about to be shattered...

When a student is found dead on a mountain trail, and a local businessman, the key suspect is found murdered in what looks like a professional hit, Griessel and Cupido both know this the work of professionals. On the other side of the country, a beautiful wildlife guide is recruited by a group of special forces soldiers to act as a honeytrap, part of a dangerous multi-million-dollar heist that goes tragically wrong. A single link connects the murdered businessman to the special forces, making Benny and Vaughn's case all the more mysterious.

To untangle this web of deceit under incessant pressure Benny needs to stay calm, focused – and sober. And it all needs to be wrapped up by his wedding day...

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Deon Meyer is a sure-fire No. 1 bestseller in South Africa, topping the charts in all languages and genres. His books are sold in 30 countries and 28 different languages, and have been awarded many prizes around the world including the Deutsche Krimi Prize in Germany, Le Grand Prix de Littérature Policière and Le Prix Mystère de la Critique in France. **COBRA** and **THIRTEEN HOURS** were both shortlisted for the CWA International Dagger. **HEART OF THE HUNTER** was a Number 1 hit Netflix Original film in 2024. **DEVIL'S PEAK**, featuring Benny Griessel, was produced by Lookout Point and broadcast on M-Net to acclaim in 2023. Deon is touring to promote **LEO** internationally and writing the next Benny Griessel novel.



# WHAT THE WIFE KNEW

Lia Middleton



Agent Kate Burke

UKexCan PB Penguin Jun 2025  
UKexCan eBook Penguin Jun 2025  
UKexCan audio Penguin Jun 2025

Germany Piper

Option publishers

Czech Republic Euromedia  
Hungary Álomgyár | Lithuania Tyto  
Alba | Slovakia Ikar | Russia Eksmo  
Turkey Epsilon

384 pages

The twist-a-minute new thriller from Lia Middleton that asks how well you really know the person you're married to...

'A thrilling, chilling, heart-stopping read. With a killer premise and twists that leave you shaken, **THE CONFESSION ROOM** is impossible to put down.' – Chris Whitaker, on **THE CONFESSION ROOM**

'A thriller so full of twists it left me with whiplash' – *Daily Express*, on **YOUR WORD OR MINE**

'Truly the stuff of nightmares. Couldn't put it down.' – Catherine Cooper, on **WHEN THEY FIND HER**

Frank has been found not guilty of a terrible crime. But, moments after arriving home from the trial, he is killed.

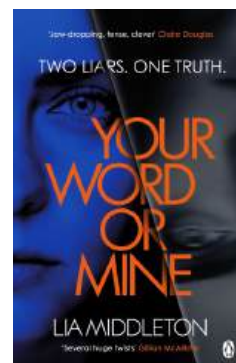
Harry was Frank's defence lawyer. He knew everything about his client. Or at least, he thought he did. So how did he react when he found out the truth?

Anna is Harry's wife. Harry doesn't know about her connection to Frank. But could it have driven her to murder?

One marriage. One Lie. Two sides to the story...

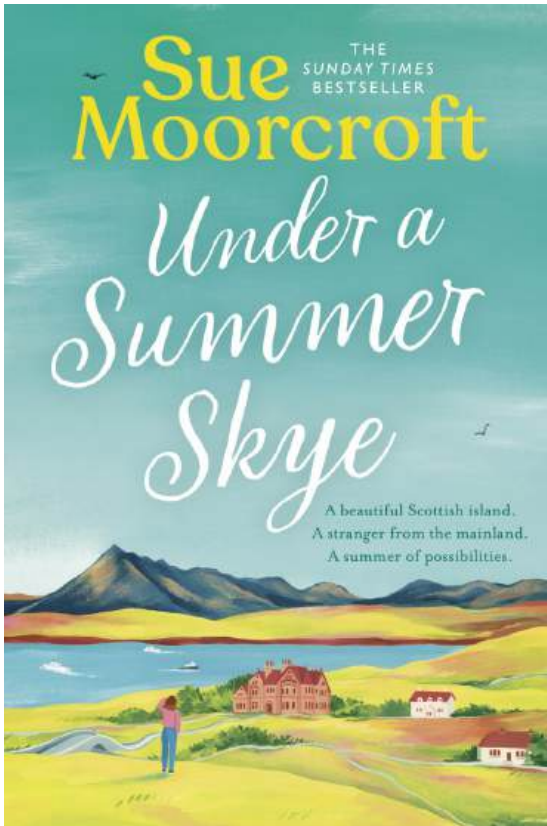
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lia Middleton is a barrister who specialises in crime and prison law. Her debut novel, **WHEN THEY FIND HER** was published by Michael Joseph in 2021. It was an Apple Books Number 1 bestseller, garnered high praise from reviewers and received over a thousand 4 and 5 star reviews on Amazon. It was followed by a pacy courtroom thriller, **YOUR WORD OR MINE**, in September 2022 and **THE CONFESSION ROOM** in August 2023.



# UNDER A SUMMER SKYE

Sue Moorcroft



Agent Juliet Pickering

WEL PB Avon May 2024

WEL audio Avon May 2024

Option publishers

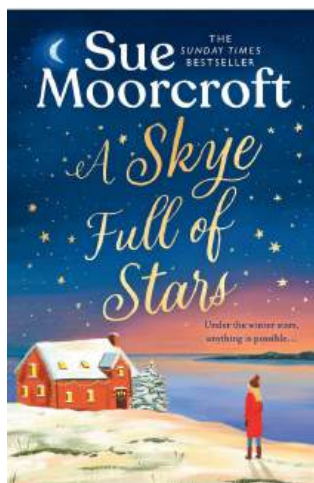
Czech Republic Fortuna Libri

Denmark Zara | Italy Newton

Compton | Slovakia Fortuna Libri

Ukraine Old Lion Publishing House

384 pages



Escape to the Isle of Skye with the million-copy bestselling author, and lose yourself in the first book of the Skye Sisters Trilogy

‘The perfect escapist read that will take you away from the real world and immerse you in its charm. Delightful.’ – Veronica Henry

‘An intriguing and uplifting story with a beautiful setting.’ – Katie Fforde

‘A delightful summer read with all Sue’s trademark family secrets and intrigue, in a stunning setting.’ – Philippa Ashley

A Scottish island. A stranger from the mainland. A summer of possibilities... A chance encounter is about to change everything for Thea Wynter.

The moment she arrived on the Isle of Skye, running from a succession of wrong turns, life changed for Thea: here, she feels at peace. As head gardener at Rothach Hall, life is exactly how she wants it, with her days spent working in the glorious clifftop garden and her evenings in the cosy village pub. But an encounter with a stranger from the mainland brings with it an unexpected turn – and she is left wondering whether he is friend or foe.

It seems that even on Skye, life can catch up with you, and Thea is soon faced with the past she left behind – and with it, the family she’s never met... From old lives to new beginnings, lose yourself on the beautiful Isle of Skye with Thea as she discovers how many possibilities life can truly hold if you look hard enough.

**Also available: A SKYE FULL OF STARS** (UK: Avon, Nov 2024; PDF available). Return to the snow-covered mountains of the Isle of Skye, in book two, featuring Ezz Wynter. As Ezz goes in search of her birth parents, new love is just waiting to be found – and closer to home than expected in the form of Rothach Hall’s enigmatic Swedish owner, Mats...

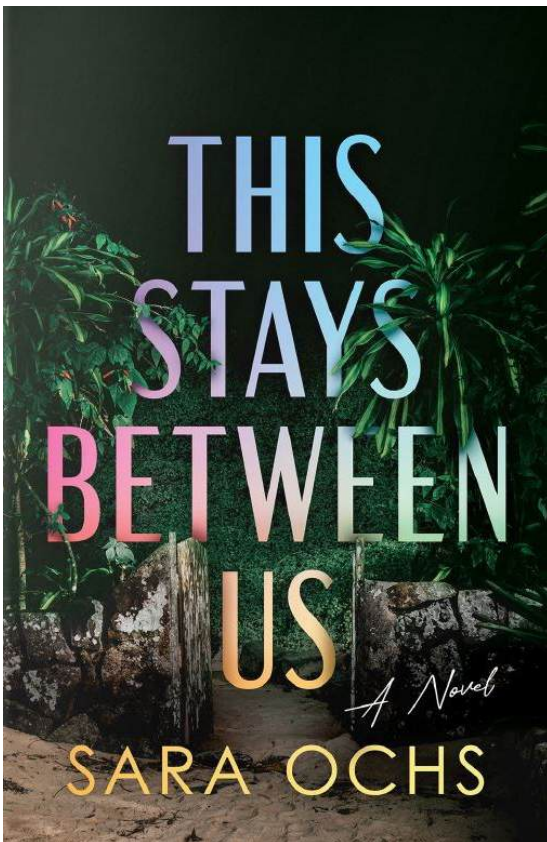
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Winner: RNA Contemporary Novel of the Year Award 2020, for **A SUMMER TO REMEMBER**.

Sue Moorcroft is a *Sunday Times* bestselling author, an international bestselling author and has held the #1 spot in the UK Kindle chart. Her short stories, serials and columns have appeared around the world. **A SKYE FULL OF STARS** will be her 25th novel.

# THIS STAYS BETWEEN US

Sara Ochs



Agent Kate Burke

UKexCan HB Transworld Jun 2025

(pre-empt)

UKexCan PB Transworld 2026

UKexCan audio Transworld Jun 2025

US+Can HB Sourcebooks Jul 2025 (at auction)

US+Can PB Sourcebooks 2026

US+Can audio Sourcebooks Jul 2025

## Option publishers

Finland Bazar

Germany Blanvalet (at auction)

Holland De Fontein

Russia Everbook

400 pages

You can never escape a summer abroad... A pacy, gripping thriller set in the Australian outback, perfect for fans of *THE SANATORIUM* and *THE BEACH*

Ten years ago, six college students meet in an Australian summer study abroad, ready to enjoy the break from their studies and travel the country. Their programme is meant to introduce them to the beauty of Australia and immerse them in an unforgettable cultural experience. In reality, it's a thrill-fuelled summer of outdoor excursions, adrenaline rushes, alcohol, lust, and friendship turned wrong.

When Phoebe, a troubled girl with jealousies and fractures spreading like wildfire between them all, suddenly disappears, presumed to have run away in a small outback town, the group decides to pack up and leave the past behind. All their secrets hidden for good. Or at least, that's what they tell themselves...

Ten years later, they each receive a call. Phoebe's body has been found. And now it's time to return.

Each of the friends is summoned back to Australia, confronted with their past selves and the brutal heat and sting of that summer. The police have questions, and the secrets they've been keeping buried deep in the outback start to slowly unearth. It soon becomes clear that everyone knows something about Phoebe's murder, and once again one of them might not make it out alive.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sara Ochs is an attorney, law professor, and author who splits her time between the United States and Sweden.

Sara's first book, *THE RESORT* (published in hardback as *THE DIVE* in the UK), is also available.

## Praise for *THE DIVE*:

'A compelling and accomplished debut, perfect for fans of Ruth Ware and Lucy Foley.' — Steve Cavanagh, *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *THIRTEEN*

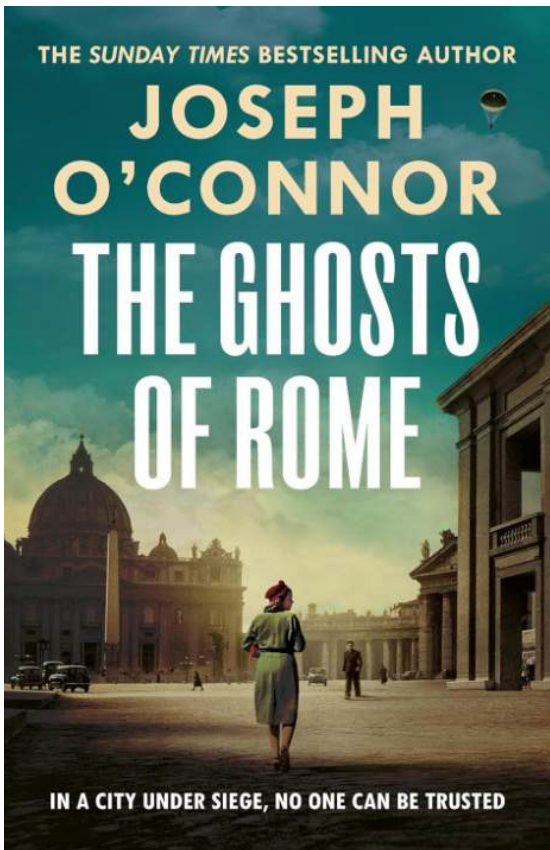
'A deadly, dangerous, beautiful nightmare. *THE DIVE* will leave you breathless yet gasping for more.' — Chris Whitaker

'As stunning as the tropical island on which it is set. It really is *THE BEACH* for a new generation — a hot contender for best travel thriller of 2023.' — Janice Hallett



# THE GHOSTS OF ROME

Joseph O'Connor



Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan HB Harvill Secker Jan 2025

UKexCan PB Vintage Jan 2026

UKexCan audio Harvill Secker Jan 2025

US+Can HB Europa Editions Feb 2025

US+Can PB Europa Editions Feb 2026

US+Can audio Dreamscape Feb 2025

France Payot & Rivages

Option publishers

Brazil (only) Editora Tordesilhas  
Croatia Fraktura | Germany C.H.  
Beck | Italy Guanda | Japan Tokyo  
Sogen | Poland Wydawnictwo Filia  
Sweden Natur Och Kultur

256 pages

**Riveting, evocative trilogy set in WWII Rome, featuring an unforgettable band of unlikely heroes**

‘Mesmerising, tragic, horrifying, utterly unputdownable. A deeply affecting read with an ending that’s sad yet life-affirming: an outstanding choice for fans of WWII fiction and of writers like Anthony Doerr.’ – *Booklist*, starred review

‘There is no finer writer of historical fiction than Joseph O’Connor... Beautifully written, warm and witty, this story of a terrorised city is a must-read. Thrilling, terrifying and entertaining in equal measure. Bravo!’ – Liz Nugent, author of *STRANGE SALLY DIAMOND*

Book Two in the Escape Line Trilogy. Book One, **MY FATHER’S HOUSE**, was an Irish #1 Bestseller for 4 weeks in a row and has sold over 100,000 copies.

February 1944. Six months since Nazi forces occupied Rome.

Inside the beleaguered city, the Contessa Giovanna Landini is a member of the band of Escape Line activists known as ‘The Choir’. Their mission is to smuggle refugees to safety and help Allied soldiers, all under the nose of Gestapo boss Paul Hauptmann.

During a ferocious morning air raid a mysterious parachutist lands in Rome and disappears into the backstreets. Is he an ally or an imposter? His fate will come to put the whole Escape Line at risk.

Meanwhile, Hauptmann’s attention has landed on the Contessa. As his fascination grows, she is pulled into a dangerous game with him – one where the consequences could be lethal.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

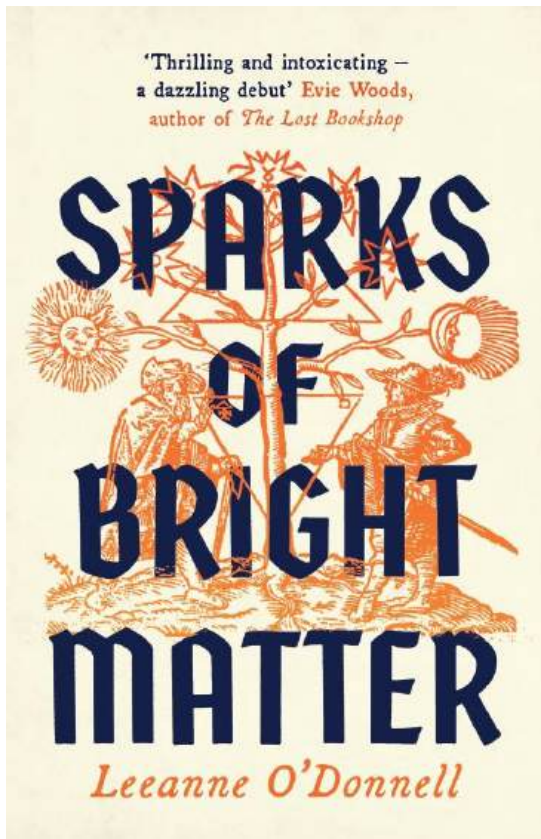
Joseph O’Connor is the author of many novels, short story collections and non-fiction works, as well as film and radio scripts and stage plays. **STAR OF THE SEA** sold more than a million copies in the UK and was published in 38 languages.

**MY FATHER’S HOUSE** was shortlisted for the Irish Novel Award 2023 and the Walter Scott Prize for Fiction 2024. It was longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award 2024 and was a top pick in the Irish Times and Washington Post. It was also featured on BBC2’s *Between the Covers* on TV and in its touring show, in which Joe discussed his novels at theatre venues around the UK. He received the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature in 2012.

Harvill Secker will publish **AIRSPACE**, O’Connor’s selected essays, in 2026.

# SPARKS OF BRIGHT MATTER

Leeanne O'Donnell



Agent Sian Ellis-Martin

UK+BC inc. Ireland HB Eriu  
(Bonnier) Apr 2024

UK+BC inc. Ireland PB Eriu  
(Bonnier) Spring 2025

UK+BC inc. Ireland audio Eriu  
(Bonnier) Apr 2024

304 pages

Filled with vivid, unforgettable characters, ideal for fans of Liz Hyder, Stacey Halls and Susanna Clarke

An *Irish Times* 'Fiction to look out for in 2024' pick

One of *The Journal's* 'Most-anticipated Irish novels and short story collections due in 2024'

'Compelling... a debut novel of great imagination and originality.' – Nick Rennison, *The Sunday Times*

'Offers a gift to lovers of literary historical fiction suffused by the powers of the unseen... Think Hilary Mantel, Neil Gaiman and Susanna Clarke crossed with Liam O'Flaherty, Lady Gregory, WB Yeats and the Celtic revival – all expertly blended into a cracking page-turner that's as exquisitely deep, beautiful and metaphysical as it is fast-paced and brilliantly plotted.' – Adrienne Murphy, *The Irish Times*

When ambitious apprentice chemist and secret alchemist Peter Woulfe is tasked with caring for a mysterious illustrated book, the *Mutus Liber*, he quickly realises that the grimy underworld of Georgian London is even more dangerous than he first believed.

Soon the book is stolen by the light-fingered Sukie and Peter finds himself being pursued by threatening men who are willing to do anything to get the book back. Where in teeming London might Sukie be found? Why is Peter so enthralled by her? And what is it about the *Mutus Liber* that is so enticing? As the search for the book becomes an urgent game of cat and mouse, it seems that the key to Peter's present dilemma might only be found in half-remembered events from his childhood, and then further back still, in the mists of Irish myth.

A spell-binding and unputdownable tale about spirit and matter, love and lust, and reality and magic.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Leeanne O'Donnell was born in Dublin and now lives in an old farmhouse on the foothills of a mountain in the remote south west of Ireland. **SPARKS OF BRIGHT MATTER** was inspired by the magic of the mountain where she lives and the whispers of the ancient stories buried in the surrounding landscape. Leeanne started her storytelling career working in radio with RTE and BBC – and has made a number of award winning documentaries for RTE's Doc on One series.

# THE HONEYMOON AFFAIR

Sheila O'Flanagan



Agent Isobel Dixon

WEL HB Headline May 2024

WEL PB Headline Mar 2025

WEL audio Headline May 2024

Sweden LB Forlag

Option publishers

Bulgaria Ciela | Czech Republic  
Euromedia | Estonia Varrak  
Finland Minerva | Germany Insel  
Hungary Alexandra

448 pages

Two strong women, one complicated man – and an irresistible, utterly satisfying novel from international bestseller, Sheila O'Flanagan

A Number One bestseller

An *Irish Times* 'Fiction to look out for in 2024' pick

A *Belfast Telegraph* 2024 pick

An *Irish Examiner* Summer Reads 2024 pick

An *i* newspaper 'Best new books to read in May 2024' pick

A *My Weekly* Best New Books pick

'A glitzy, glamorous rollercoaster of a romance – hugely entertaining escapism and so satisfying. Sheila O'Flanagan at her sparkling best' – Veronica Henry

'Compelling in its intricacy, and the main characters, Izzy and Ariel, will get under your skin.' – *The Sunday Times*

Izzy is in the Caribbean on the honeymoon-that-isn't after her fiancé broke her heart. She's not looking for someone new. But when she meets Charles Miller, a successful writer holidaying alone, the electricity is undeniable. And what does she have to lose? Soon she'll be home in Dublin, rebuilding her life.

In Ireland, Charles's ex-wife and agent Ariel flits from party to party, glamorous and poised (on the outside, at least). She's always in touch with Charles. Though they're divorced, they're very close. Ariel wonders if they should get back together. She's a strong, independent woman, but she liked being part of a power couple. Surely she only has to say, and they'll pick up where they left off?

No matter how in control of life you think you are, it can shock and surprise you. As Izzy, Ariel and Charles are about to find out...

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sheila O'Flanagan is an international bestselling author, with more than 9 million copies sold. Numerous novels have been immediate and long-lasting No 1s in Ireland and UK Top 10 *Sunday Times* Bestsellers and she is widely published around the world. She is the recipient of the prestigious Irish *Tatler* Literary Woman of the Year Award.

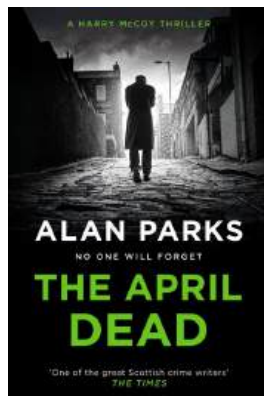
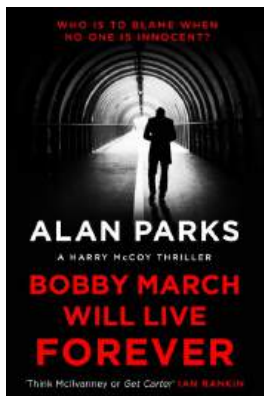
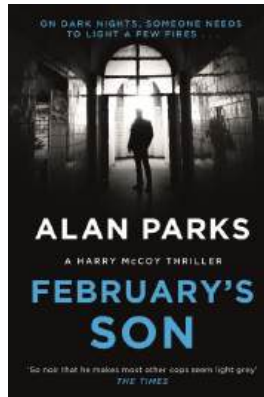
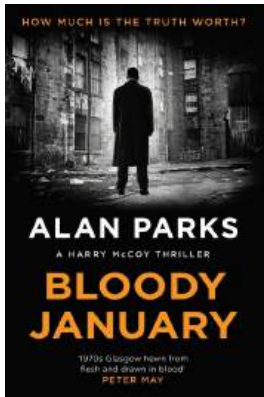
Sheila's previous contemporary novel, **WHAT EDEN DID NEXT**, was an Irish Number One bestseller and spent a total of nine weeks in the Top Ten. It was also shortlisted for Popular Fiction Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards 2022.

Sheila O'Flanagan's first historical novel, **THE WOMAN ON THE BRIDGE**, was a No. 1 bestseller in Ireland.



# HARRY MCCOY SERIES

Alan Parks



Gripping storylines and emotional heft in crime-thriller series set in gritty 1970s Glasgow, from internationally acclaimed Edgar Prize winner

‘A remarkable series – read them all.’ – *The Times*

‘Bloody & brilliant’ – Louise Welsh (on **BLOODY JANUARY**)

‘Pitch-black Tartan noir: bleak, but with an emotional heart that's hard to ignore.’ – *Daily Mail* (on **FEBRUARY'S SON**)

‘Even better than its predecessors.’ – *The Times* (on **BOBBY MARCH WILL LIVE FOREVER**)

‘Altogether one of the best police thrillers of the last few years.’ – *Morning Star* (on **THE APRIL DEAD**)

‘The Harry McCoy books by the bold Alan Parks just get better and better... If you're not already reading these books, get onto them now.’ – Liam McIlvanney (on **MAY GOD FORGIVE**)

‘Beautifully crafted tartan noir, pin-point precision of characterization with storytelling par excellence.’ – Caro Ramsay (on **TO DIE IN JUNE**)

Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan HB Canongate

UKexCan PB Canongate

UKexCan audio WF Howes (books 1 – 2), Canongate (books 3 – 6)

UK Large Print WF Howes (books 1 – 2), Canongate (books 3 – 6)

US+Can PB Europa Editions

US+Can audio Recorded Books (books 1 – 2), Canongate (books 3 – 6)

Film/TV under option

France Editions Rivages

Germany Polar Verlag (books 1 – 5)

Italy Bompiani

Japan Hayakawa (books 1 – 3)

Slovakia Ikar (book 1)

Spain Tusquets

Spain (Catalan) La Galera (books 1 – 4)

Sweden Modernista (books 1 – 2)

Turkey Nemesis (book 1)

**BLOODY JANUARY** was shortlisted for the Grand Prix de Littérature Policière; **FEBRUARY'S SON** was nominated for an Edgar Award; **BOBBY MARCH WILL LIVE FOREVER** won the 2022 Edgar Award for Paperback Original, the 2023 Prix Mystère de la critique and was shortlisted for the Macavity Award for Best Mystery Novel as well as being a *The Times* ‘Best Book of the Year’ pick; **THE APRIL DEAD** was shortlisted for the McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Book of the Year in 2021, which **MAY GOD FORGIVE** won in 2022. **MAY GOD FORGIVE** has also been shortlisted for the 2023 CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger Award and longlisted for the 2023 Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award.

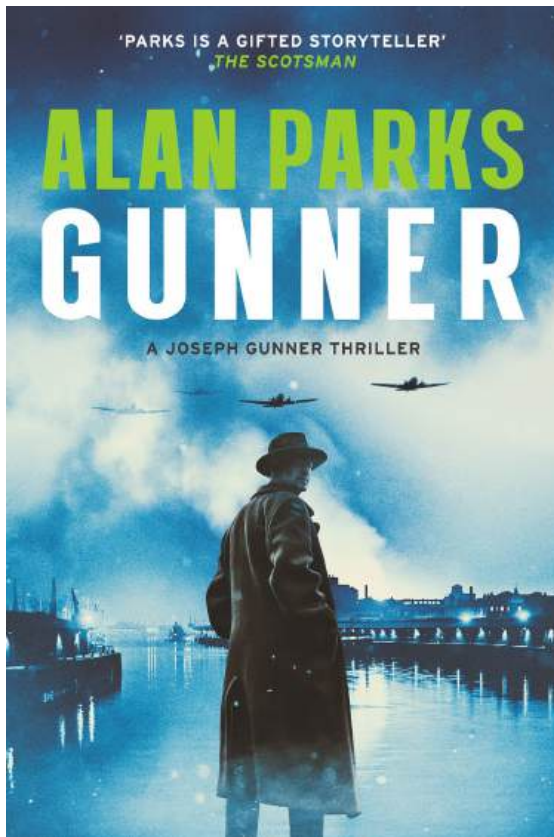
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alan Parks was born in Scotland, and worked in the music business before becoming a full-time writer. His debut novel **BLOODY JANUARY** propelled him onto the international literary crime fiction scene immediately and his work has been hailed by contemporary writers and critics alike.

He is now writing a new crime-and-espionage series which begins with **GUNNER**, set in WWII Glasgow (but moving on to New York and Copenhagen subsequently), starring war-wounded half-Danish ex-cop Joseph Gunner (John Murray/Baskerville, July 2025). *See next page.*

## GUNNER

Alan Parks



Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan HB John Murray Jul 2025

UKexCan PB John Murray 2026

UKexCan audio John Murray Jul 2025

France Editions Rivages

Italy Bompiani

Spain Tusquets

Option Publishers

Spain (Catalan) La Galera

67,000 words

**Engrossing WWII thriller featuring a war-wounded ex-cop, by the author of the acclaimed McCoy series**

‘One of the great Scottish writers.’ – *The Times*

‘Alan Parks is in the same league as Ian Rankin and Louise Welsh.’ – Sarah Pinborough

‘Alan Parks, like the best writers, makes you keenly aware of all the pain out there and then (almost) alleviates it.’ – Mark Sanderson, *The Times*

March 1941. Joseph Gunner, an ex-cop, arrives back in Glasgow, nursing a painful war wound and a painkiller addiction. His city is in chaos, suffering heavy bombing, and his old boss Drummond persuades him to help investigate a body found in the wreckage of a destroyed building. When the body turns out to be of a German, mutilated to disguise his identity, things get more complicated.

As Gunner investigates, another body appears and he discovers he’s not the only one with an interest in the dead men. Two undercover secret service men are also in Glasgow. When he helps one of them, the eccentric Nickerson, out of a jam, he tells Gunner there is a reason the men look so similar. They have been chosen because they look like Rudolf Hess. They are spare lookalikes.

With Nickerson’s help, Gunner uncovers a plot by a section of the British Establishment to end the war by appeasement via a meeting with Hess – a meeting so important that Hess is prepared to fly into Scotland. Gunner has to stop the meeting happening: Britain’s future is at stake. But the attempt might well cost him his life...

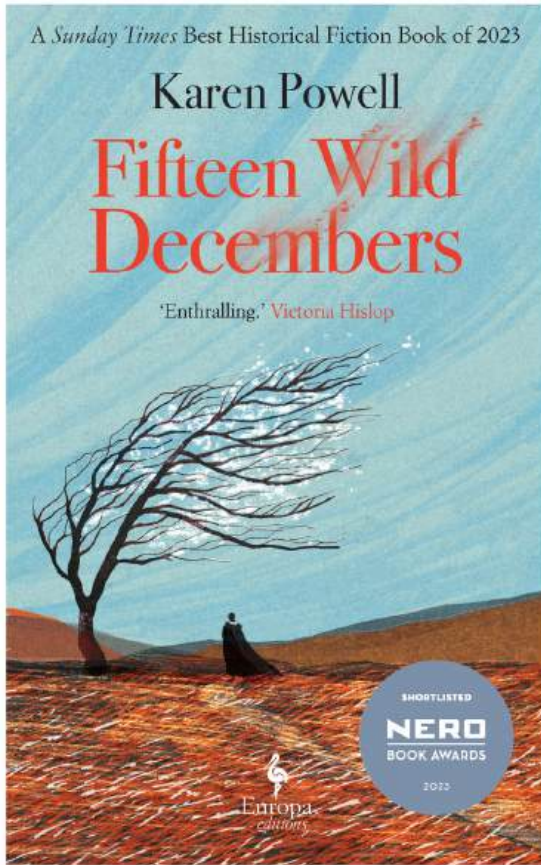
**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Alan Parks was born in Scotland. He attended the University of Glasgow where he was awarded an M.A. in Moral Philosophy, then worked in the music business before becoming a full-time writer.

**MAY GOD FORGIVE** won the McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Book of the Year, which **THE APRIL DEAD** was previously shortlisted for. **MAY GOD FORGIVE** was longlisted for the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year and shortlisted for the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger Award 2023. **BOBBY MARCH WILL LIVE FOREVER** won an Edgar for Best Original Paperback in 2022 and France’s Prix Mystère De La Critique in 2023, and has been shortlisted for the Macavity Award for Best Mystery Novel. Rights to the series have been sold in more than ten countries.

# FIFTEEN WILD DECEMBERS

Karen Powell



**1842. Stubborn, free-spirited Emily Brontë would like to stay at home forever, but her sister Charlotte has other ideas**

**Shortlisted for 2023 Nero Book Awards**

A 'Best Historical Fiction Book for 2023' in *The Times*

'The book's lasting impression is not of melancholy but unquenchable vitality... Powell has served her heroine loyally.' — *Financial Times*

'To read Karen Powell is to be constantly delighted and intrigued; each sentence is so sharp, so shining.' — Elizabeth Macneal

'A graceful account of a life that treats its subject with the meticulous research and thoughtful handling it deserves.' — Helen Cullen, *The Irish Times*

Isolated from society, Emily Brontë along with her brother and four sisters spend their days inventing elaborate fictional realms or roaming the wild moors above their family home in Yorkshire. When the time comes for them to venture out into the world to earn a living, each of them struggles to adapt, but for Emily the change is catastrophic. Torn from the landscape to which she has become so passionately bound, she is simply unable to function.

To the outside world, Emily Brontë appears taciturn and unexceptional, but beneath the surface her mind is in a creative ferment. A violent phenomenon is about to burst forth that will fuse her imaginary world with the landscape of her beloved Yorkshire and change the literary world forever.

**FIFTEEN WILD DECEMBERS** is an evocative and affecting novel that deftly explores the imagination, liberty — physical, sexual, spiritual, imaginative — sisterhood, the pull of home, and the power of nature. Sure to be loved by Brontë fans and readers of historical fiction, including the novels of Maggie O'Farrell, Kate Atkinson, and Sarah Winman.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karen grew up in Rochester, Kent. She left school at sixteen but returned to education in her mid-twenties, reading English Literature at Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge. Karen lives with her family in York.

Karen is currently writing her next book set in Italy in the Nineties.

**Agent** Sian Ellis-Martin

**UKexCan HB** Europa Editions Sep 2023

**UKexCan PB** Europa Editions Feb 2024

**UKexCan audio** WF Howes Sep 2023

**US+Can TPB** Europa Editions Mar 2025

**US audio** On submission

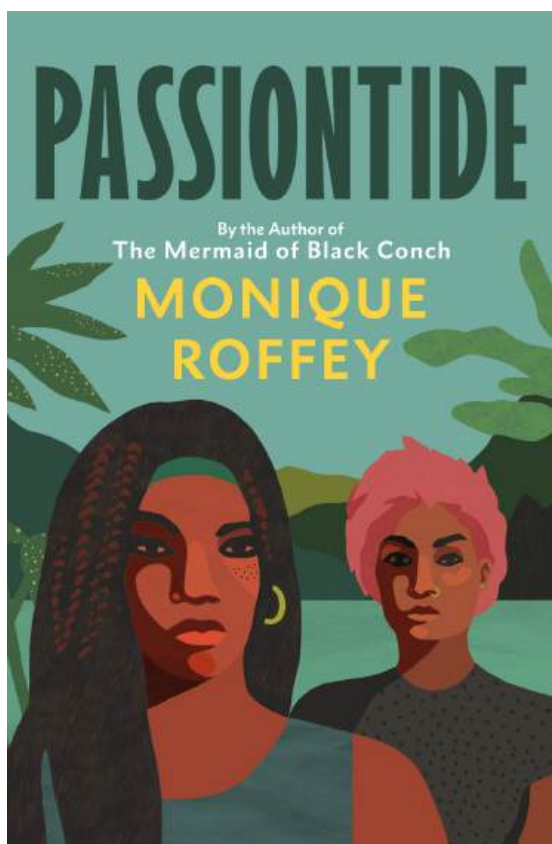
**Ukraine** Fabula

285 pages



# PASSIONTIDE

Monique Roffey



Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan HB Harvill Secker Jun 2024  
 UKexCan PB Vintage May 2025  
 UKexCan audio Vintage Jun 2024  
 USexCan HB Knopf Sep 2024  
 USexCan PB Knopf 2025  
 USexCan audio Knopf Sep 2024

France Mémoire D'Encrier

Option Publishers

Brazil (only) DarkSide Books  
 Croatia Fraktura | Estonia Rahva  
 Raamat | Holland Orlando  
 Hungary Könyvmolyképző | Italy  
 Marsilio | Japan Sayusha | Poland  
 Swiat | Romania Alice Books  
 Russia Arkadia | Serbia Laguna  
 Turkey Can

368 pages

Searing and timely, an electrifying new novel by the author of **THE MERMAID OF BLACK CONCH**

'Beautiful and important... **PASSIONTIDE** is a resounding testament to the rebellious spirit and bravery of Caribbean women... By the end of this book, I was ready to join the revolution.' – Safiya Sinclair

'The spirit of carnival itself is in the writing. A powerful and electrifying novel' – Jason Allen-Paisant

'Roffey's world-building power is evident on every page... a devastating critique of the interrelationship between religion, sexism and colonialism.' – Kit Fan, *The Guardian*

'Exhilarating... narrative authenticity, particularity and lyrical energy' – Lindsey Hilsum, *Times Literary Supplement*

Early one morning, at the close of St Colibri's carnival, a young female steel pan player is found dead beneath a cannonball tree. It is a discovery that will transform the lives of everyone on this small island.

Fiercely alive, **PASSIONTIDE** is a novel of women daring to imagine a different world. It confirms Monique Roffey as one of our most spellbinding storytellers.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

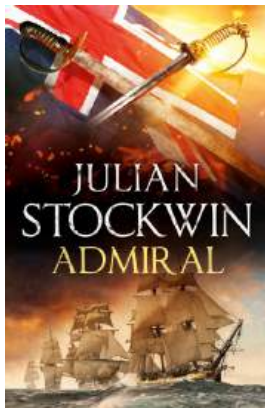
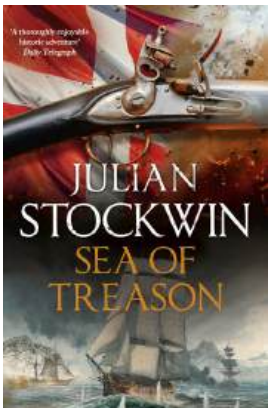
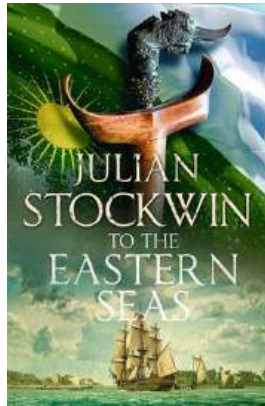
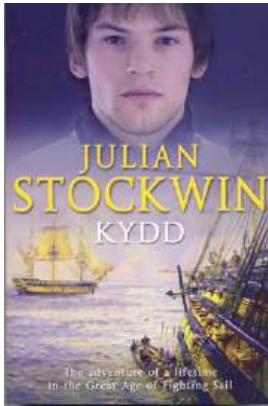
Monique Roffey is an award-winning Trinidadian-born novelist. **HOUSE OF ASHES** (Scribner UK) was shortlisted for the Costa Novel Prize and the OCM BOCAS Award. **ARCHIPELAGO** won the OCM BOCAS Award for Caribbean Literature in 2013 and was shortlisted for the Orion Award 2014. **THE WHITE WOMAN ON THE GREEN BICYCLE** was shortlisted for the Orange Prize and the Encore Award 2010. **THE MERMAID OF BLACK CONCH** was shortlisted for the 2020 Goldsmiths Prize and the 2021 Rathbones Folio Prize and won both the Costa Novel Prize and the Costa Book of the Year Award 2020. Film/TV rights were won (at auction) by Dorothy Street Pictures. She is a Lecturer in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University.



# Kydd Series: KYDD to ADMIRAL

27 titles

Julian Stockwin



This action-packed series, set in the great age of fighting sail, stars a young wigmaker's son, Thomas Kydd, who is press-ganged to sea. In time he learns to love life on the ocean wave and rises through the decks as his adventures take him around the world

Kydd will return for the 27<sup>th</sup> and final time in **ADMIRAL** (October 2024).

'Stockwin, a career navy man, writes of the nautical life with vivid authority.' – *Kirkus Review*

'In his hands the sea story will continue to entrance readers across the world.' – *The Guardian*

'**YANKEE MISSION** is a jewel in Julian Stockwin's crown as a master in naval fiction, with a ship-to-ship fight so vivid that the battle's sounds and scents fly off the pages like lethal wooden splinters' – *Quarterdeck*

'A very readable and enjoyable story... I can only recommend that you go out, beg, borrow or buy, and enjoy' – Bernard Cornwell (on **TREACHERY**)

In **KYDD** (1), Thomas Kydd is seized by the press gang to be a part of the crew of the 98-gun line-of-battle ship *Royal William*. The ship sails immediately and Kydd has to learn the harsh realities of shipboard life fast. Despite all the danger of tempest and battle he goes through, he comes to admire the skills and courage of the seamen – taking up the challenge himself to become a true sailor. 252 pages.

In **ARTEMIS** (2), Kydd, now a true Jack Tar, sails back to a hero's welcome in England after a ferocious battle against the French, when a family matter forces his return to Guildford. But the sea beckons irresistibly and Kydd manages to ship out again in his beloved *Artemis* – a voyage that will take him to the fabled East and present him with fierce new challenges. 380 pages.

**THE ADMIRAL'S DAUGHTER** (8) sees Kydd, now Captain of the HMS *Teazer*, caught in escalating tensions between England and France. Meanwhile an unlikely rival is seeking his heart: the beautiful and determined admiral's daughter could be the key to realising all Kydd's hopes and ambitions. But high society, he finds, can be as treacherous as his first mistress – the sea. 384 pages.

In the 26th title in the series, **SEA OF TREASON**, Kydd returns to England, after a savage wounding in America, to re-assume command of his ship-of-the-line, *Thunderer*. Sent to the remote station of Bermuda, Kydd and his crew are drawn into the intrigue and warring from the young USA attempting to seize Spanish Florida. 384 pages.

Agent Isobel Dixon

UK+Can Hodder

US McBooks (books 1 – 17); Hodder/Mobius (books 18 - 27)

WEL audio W F Howes (books 1 – 14), Hodder (books 15 – 27)

Czech Republic Brana (books 1 – 2)

Germany EB dotbooks (books 1 – 8)

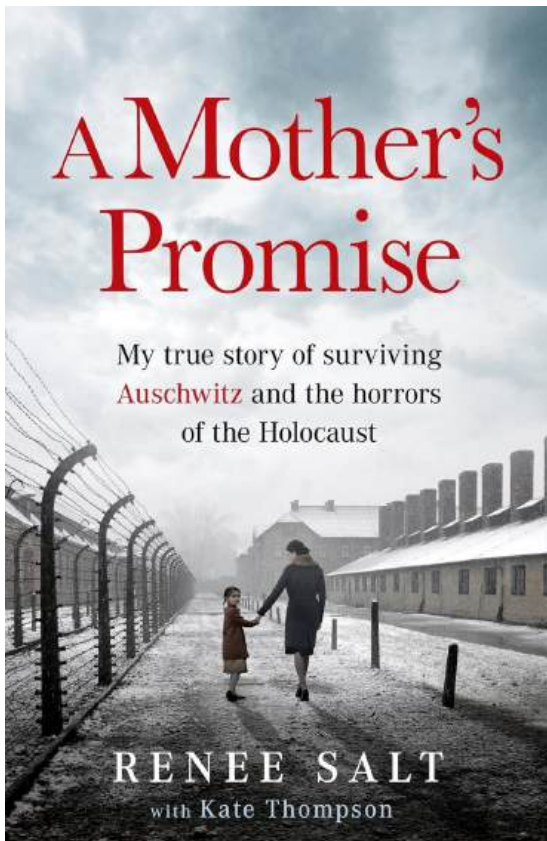
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Julian Stockwin joined a tough sea-training school at 14, followed by the Royal Navy, transferring to the Royal Australian Navy when his family emigrated. He saw service in the Far East, the Antarctic, South Seas and Vietnam, and was on board Melbourne at the time of its disastrous peace-time collision with Voyager. He later worked for NATO on the strategic deployment of merchant shipping.



# A MOTHER'S PROMISE

Renee Salt with Kate Thompson



Agent Kate Burke

UK+BC HB Orion Feb 2025 (pre-empt)

UK+BC PB Orion 2025

UK+BC audio Orion Feb 2025

US HB Alcove Press Mar 2025

US PB Alcove Press 2026

Canada HB Simon & Schuster Mar 2025 (at auction)

Canada PB Simon & Schuster 2026

Italy Newton Compton (pre-empt)

336 pages

US cover



Moving and poignant memoir of Renee Salt, a concentration camp survivor who, now aged ninety-four, wants to tell her story of love, loss, courage and hope

Renee and her mother Sala never left each other's sides. From invasion to liberation, September 1939 to April 1945, as Renee was marched, herded and shoved from ghetto to camp, there was one constant. One hand which clutched hers – her mother's. Every day for six years, mother and daughter were tangled together in hell. From ghettos to slave labour, from Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen, they were a powerful source of solace and hope to one another.

Renee knows that she is only alive today because of her mother, that it was the sheer force and power of her love that gave them both something fragile but beautiful to cling to in an ugly, depraved world. It was her mother who hid her, lied to the SS, went right when she was directed left - whose small actions had lifesaving consequences. Now, for Renee, the need to share has finally overcome the desire to forget.

This is a love letter to Renee's mother that has been eighty years in the making...

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kate Thompson is a journalist and bestselling writer who lives with her family in south-west London. After ghostwriting a bestselling memoir, she turned her hand to fiction and also wrote her own non-fiction social history, **THE STEPNEY DOORSTEP SOCIETY**, documenting the forgotten histories of East End matriarchy.

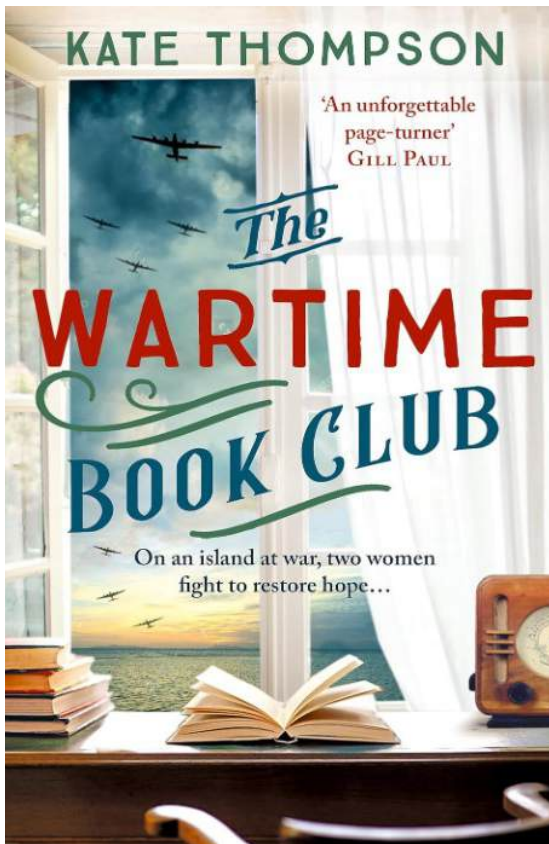
Her most recent novels, **THE LITTLE WARTIME LIBRARY** (Hodder, 2022), and **THE WARTIME BOOK CLUB** (Hodder, 2024), focus on two remarkable libraries in wartime.

Renee Salt MBE was born Rywka Ruchla Berkowitz in Zduńska Wola, Poland in 1929 and is a Holocaust survivor and educator. After the Holocaust, Renee returned to Poland to try and find any surviving members of her family and found an aunt living in Łódź, who she moved in with. They moved to Paris, where Renee met her husband Charles, a British military policeman who helped liberate Bergen-Belsen. They married in 1949 and had two children. Renee lives in northwest London and regularly speaks to schools, organisations and the government about her experiences.



# THE WARTIME BOOK CLUB

Kate Thompson



Agent Kate Burke

WEL HB Hodder Feb 2024  
WEL PB Hodder Sep 2024  
WEL audio Hodder Feb 2024

Finland Bazar  
Portugal Porto Editora  
Spain Maeva

Option publishers

Brazil (only) Record  
France City Editions  
Germany Droemer  
Greece Minoas  
Hungary Libri  
Italy Garzanti  
Kuwait (Arabic) Jadal  
Slovakia Ikar

496 pages

Love, courage and resistance in a heart-warming and inspiring WWII novel set on the island of Jersey

‘One of the very best books I’ve read in a long time. A gripping, emotional rollercoaster and a true hymn to the power and spirit of novels.’ – Peter James

‘Piercing... This book takes its rightful place on the shelves dedicated to Jersey’s war, and reminds us only too powerfully of the essential comfort of literature in despairing times.’ – *The Lady*

‘A must-read for librarians and library lovers. It speaks to the power of books, public gathering spaces, and shared interests in times of tumult. Readers who enjoyed Thompson’s **THE LITTLE WARTIME LIBRARY** will enjoy this one even more.’ – Emily Borsa, *Booklist*

From enchanting cliff tops and white sandy bays to the pretty cobbled streets of St Helier, Jersey is known as the land of milk and honey. But for best friends Bea Rose (the local postwoman) and Grace Le Motte (who works in the island’s only library) it becomes the frontline to everyday resistance when their beloved island is occupied by German forces in 1940.

Inspired by astonishing true events, **THE WARTIME BOOK CLUB** is an unforgettable story of everyday bravery and resistance, full of romance, drama and camaraderie and a tribute to the joy of reading and the power of books in our darkest hour.

**THE LITTLE WARTIME BOOK CLUB** reached No. 2 in the New Zealand charts and No. 18 in the Australian charts after its first full week on sale and has sold in 10 languages.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kate is an award-winning journalist, ghost-writer and novelist. She spent five years’ working on national newspapers such as the *Daily Express* and *Daily Mail*, and also on all the major national woman’s magazine titles.

**SECRETS OF THE LAVENDER GIRLS** was shortlisted for the Romantic Saga Award at the 2021 RNA Awards. Her debut novel, **SECRETS OF THE SINGER GIRLS**, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller in 2015, with first week sales of over 10,000. It has recently been optioned by Bandit Television. Her first non-fiction book, **THE STEPNEY DOORSTEP SOCIETY**, reached number one in the history categories on Amazon.

# THE HOLDER OF HOPE

Hannah Treave



A stunning and heart-wrenching story of friendship and family, the perfect read for fans of Dani Atkins, Jojo Moyes and Marian Keyes

Ava is a firefighter. She finds comfort in reuniting salvaged items with their rightful owners from the blazes she and her colleagues attend.

Cassie's home has burned to the ground. She and her young daughter have no family to turn to, until Ava and her husband offer up their spare room.

Thrown together but kindred souls, the two women learn they both have roots in Ireland — it's where Ava's unknown birth mother gave her up for adoption, and where Cassie's estranged family live. Embarking on a journey to Ireland, they will discover that sometimes the family that matters most is the one they've found.

Through heartbreak, destruction, hope and love, Ava and Cassie's lives will be changed forever.

**Agent** Kate Burke

**WEL PB** Canelo Jul 2025  
**WEL ebook** Canelo Jul 2025  
**WEL audio** Bolinda Jul 2025

## Option Publishers

**Germany** Piper  
**Italy** Newton Compton Editori  
**Russia** AST  
**Spain** Newton Compton Editores

108,000 words

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hannah Treave is a freelance journalist with fifteen years' experience working on women's weekly and monthly magazines. She is also the author of four historical novels (set during WW2), published by Penguin Random House, and three contemporary ones (HQ and Head of Zeus).

Her previous novel, **THE NOTEKEEPER**, has sold in 6 languages.



# HOW TO STEAL THE MILKY WAY

Etienne van Heerden

Afrikaans title: GEBEENTE



Agent Isobel Dixon

SA (Afrikaans) Tafelberg Sep 2023

408 pages

A rich and compelling novel — think Thomas Mann and Gabriel Garcia Marquez in an African landscape

‘Van Heerden’s words blast the reader’s mind through a clear, blue African sky.’ — *The Telegraph*

‘Monumental, overwhelming, resounding confirmation of Van Heerden’s exceptional powers.’ — *Rapport*

‘The full extent of Etienne van Heerden’s talent is exhibited in this work: his unbridled imagination... a sharp analysis of society; a fine sense of humour and irony; a master storyteller... nothing short of a tour de force.’ — *LitNet*

Just outside the remote semi-desert village of Gebeente (‘Skeleton’), near Sutherland’s great astronomical observatory, a woman, the Observatory’s cleaner, lives alone. Once a young single mother, shunned by her family and the community, she had come to live here with her flame-haired child, her own ‘moon-and-star child of the Immaculate Conception’. But one day Social Services took her boy away from her. Thirty years later, he returns from the city, a Second Coming, but he is again rejected, accused of a brutal murder — and also, strangely, of having stolen the Milky Way.

The case, to be tried in a local court, brings outsiders to town. The Magistrate arrives by train on a line not used for many years. His old legal rival, the Prosecutor, arrives by car — and the City and The Law come face to face with a village rife with secrets, rich in rumour and myth-making, astronomy and mystery. In a layered and resonant narrative peopled with memorable characters, Van Heerden examines guilt, revenge and forgiveness, faith and imagination, and the truth, lies and legacies of a complex land.

As with his earlier classic, **THE LONG SILENCE OF MARIO SALVIATI**, Van Heerden tells an extraordinary, compelling story ‘weaving magic realism and history... capturing the stark beauty of the Karoo region and its people’ — his own ‘landscape of the mind’.

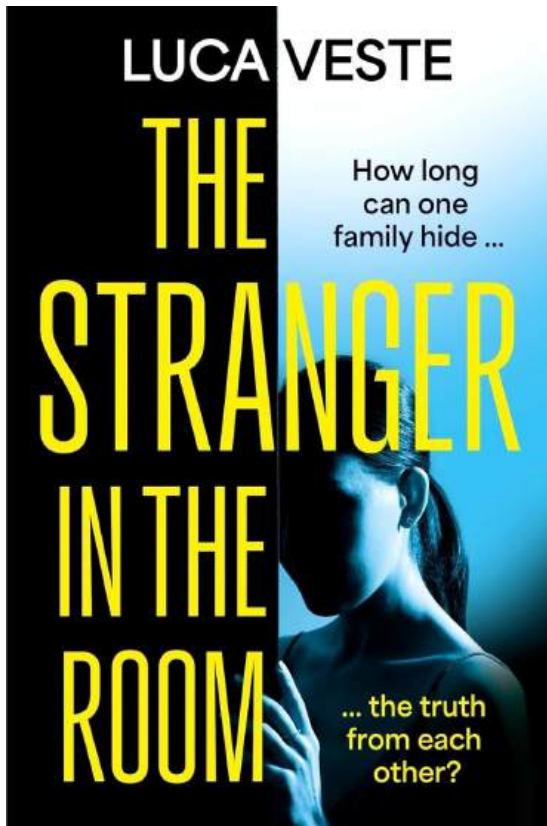
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Etienne’s debut novel **TOORBERG** (1986) was internationally acclaimed and awarded many of South Africa’s major prizes. Among an impressive body of work, notable novels on the global stage include **THE LONG SILENCE OF MARIO SALVIATI** (2000), **IN LOVE’S PLACE** (2005) and **30 NIGHTS IN AMSTERDAM** (2008). He has taught literature at the University of Cape Town, where he is Professor Emeritus, for many years. His work has been translated into twelve languages.



# THE STRANGER IN THE ROOM

Luca Veste



Agent Kate Burke

WEL PB Hodder & Stoughton Jan 2025

WEL audio Hodder & Stoughton Jan 2025

Option publishers

Russia AST  
Turkey Yediveren

368 pages

An electrifying, edge of your seat thriller for fans of Harlan Coben, Linwood Barclay and Peter James

‘A writer who just gets better and better.’ – Mark Billingham

Alison Lennon receives the worst news a parent can expect – her son, Ben, has been killed, in what looks at first like a random attack on a dark street in the middle of the night.

Only, she knows that he isn’t the first victim.

Mia Johnstone has just turned eighteen. Ready for the next phase of her life, she should be looking forward to university, studying, partying. Instead, she's thinking about how her boyfriend Ben is the third person close to her who has died.

Alison believes that Mia killed her son.

Mia needs people to stop calling her a killer.

And someone is desperate for the truth to never come out...

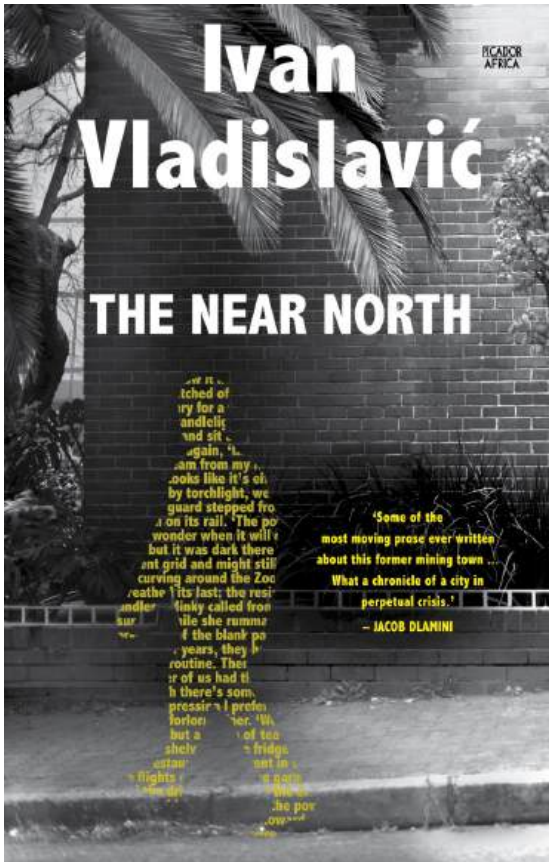
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Luca Veste is a writer of Italian and Liverpoolian heritage. He is the author of eight novels, including the Murphy & Rossi series, and standalone novels **THE BONE KEEPER** and **YOU NEVER SAID GOODBYE**.

He is the co-organiser of the Locked Up Festival, which raised over £25,000 for the Trussell Trust, co-host of the Two Crime Writers and a Microphone podcast, and the bass player in the Fun Lovin’ Crime Writers. He studied psychology and criminology at the University of Liverpool. He is married with two daughters and lives in Merseyside.

# THE NEAR NORTH

Ivan Vladislavić



Agent Isobel Dixon

Southern Africa TPB Picador Africa  
Mar 2024

UK & US on submission

Option publishers

France Editions Zoe  
Italy Utopia Editore  
Spain Almuzara Libros  
Turkey Livera

264 pages

Haunting work about being a writer and a walker, the knowing and unknowing of a complex city

‘One of the best writers in the world... one of the great modern prose stylists.’ — Teju Cole

‘Vladislavić is among the top writers on the contemporary world stage.’ — Neel Mukherjee

‘Mysterious, lyrical and wickedly funny... Ivan Vladislavić is one of the most significant writers working in English today. Everyone should read him.’ — Katie Kitamura

‘An elegant, gentle, bitter-sweet ramble through the streets of Johannesburg with the incomparable Vladislavić.’ — Jonny Steinberg, author of WINNIE AND NELSON

‘Ivan Vladislavić’s hand, not unlike that of Marlene Dumas, is unshaking as it paints silent, slow and highly vivid, almost cinematic, lines on the canvas of our shared Johannesburg.’ — Bongani Madondo

**THE NEAR NORTH** is work of auto-fiction, travelogue, psychogeography — an ode to walking, cities, ghosts and trees, which also explores family, friendship and devastating loss. It carries echoes of Ivan’s award-winning **PORTRAIT WITH KEYS** (US: Norton, UK: Granta), which Geoff Dyer described as ‘one of the most ingenious love letters — full of violence, fear, humour and cunning — ever addressed to a city’, but it is at the same time an entirely original and surprising work of quiet power.

Tranan in Sweden recently re-issued **THE EXPLODED VIEW** (‘a startling collection’, *New Yorker*) and **THE RESTLESS SUPERMARKET**. Utopia Editore acquired Italian rights to **THE DISTANCE** and **THE EXPLODED VIEW** and there are recent deals for Ivan’s work in Spain and Turkey.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Award-winning, critically-acclaimed author of a prestigious body of literary work. Ivan lives in Johannesburg, where he is a Distinguished Professor in Creative Writing at the University of the Witwatersrand. He has won South Africa’s most prestigious prizes and was awarded the Windham Campbell Prize 2015.

Ivan Vladislavić’s books have been translated into eight languages.

# THE SPIRIT GUIDE

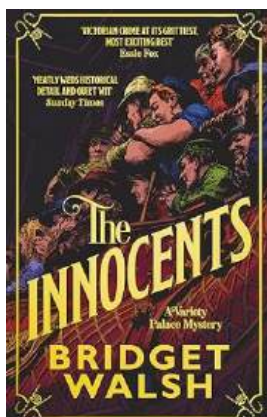
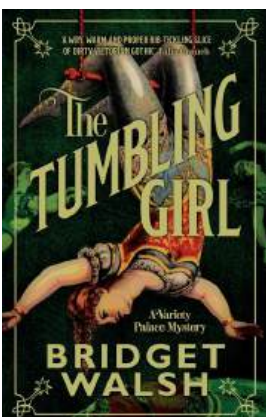
Bridget Walsh



Agent Isobel Dixon

WEL PB Pushkin Press Mar 2026  
WEL audio Bolinda Mar 2026

288 pages



A mesmerising mystery leads Minnie and Albert from Victorian London's theatre land to the dark and perilous heart of the English countryside...

Book 1: **THE TUMBLING GIRL** was shortlisted for the 2024 ILP John Creasey (New Blood) Dagger and is longlisted for the HWA Debut Crown 2024.

'Triumphant... Vivid period detail, clever plotting, and thoughtful characterizations. This series merits a long run' – *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

'Walsh, who clearly knows her Victorians, writes with gusto. Whether she's detailing the sweat, greasepaint and trickery behind theatrical illusion, the bloody savagery of the dog-fighting pit, or the creepily anthropomorphic world of the taxidermy diorama, time past is so vividly evoked that one can almost smell it. Highly recommended.' – Laura Wilson, *The Guardian*, 'The Best Recent Crime and Thrillers'

'Historical crime fiction at its most beguiling.' – Barry Forshaw, *The Financial Times*, 'Best New Crime Books'

Fiery scriptwriter Minnie Ward and dapper ex-police officer Albert Easterbrook are drawn into a world of celebrities, ghosts and questionable cults in the mesmerising latest instalment of the Variety Palace series.

1879, Victorian London. Will-they-won't-they detective duo Minnie Ward and Albert Easterbrook are looking into two mysterious deaths. This leads them to the doors of the Spirit Sisterhood, a spiritualist group with a suspicious focus on young women.

Minnie smells a rat. Going undercover on her own at the organisation's countryside house, she discovers a strangely compelling world of spirits and ghosts. But, without Albert or anyone she loves, Minnie quickly finds herself in very hot water. Can she get word out before it's too late?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bridget Walsh lives in Norwich. She has a PhD in 'Murder in the Victorian Domestic Sphere' and an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia.

**THE TUMBLING GIRL** won the UEA Little, Brown Award for Crime Fiction 2019 and the published novel was shortlisted for the 2024 ILP John Creasey (New Blood) Dagger and longlisted for the HWA Debut Crown 2024. It was published by Gallic Books in May 2023, with **THE INNOCENTS** following in 2024. Pushkin Press will also issue new Pushkin Vertigo editions of Walsh's first two titles in the Variety Palace Mystery Series, before publishing **THE SPIRIT GUIDE** in 2026.



# WHITE ROAD

## Harry Whitehead



Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan PB Claret Press 2025  
UKexCan audio Under Offer  
US+Can On Submission  
US+Can audio Under Offer

80,000 words

**Timely literary thriller — a high-stakes battle for survival in the superbly-evoked High Arctic**

Featuring a fierce and complex female central character, **WHITE ROAD** is a gripping read — a spectacular account of maritime threat, but also a beautifully written story of escape and survival in the wastes of an Arctic winter.

While its early sections contain some epic action (think **CHERNOBYL** or **THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE**), the novel also has the evocative beauty and sense of landscape of **MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW** and **ARCTIC DREAMS**.

Carrie Essler is an ex-Navy rescue swimmer, now working for the Canadian Coast Guard. Transferred to a remote outpost after a bitter break-up, she finds herself in dire peril when an oil rig explodes in the Beaufort Sea. Carrie is presumed dead — but she is stranded on a small boat in a nightmarish landscape of oil-laced ice. With her is a dying man, a paralysed stranger she must try to save, and find a way back to civilisation for them both. An epic, heart-clenching struggle for survival ensues, written with great immediacy and often stark beauty.

But what caused the explosion? Accident or environmental terrorism? The injured man knows, but he's not talking. The rig's corporate director, Jim Ross, is Carrie's friend, but he is wrestling with both the catastrophic aftermath and his own guilty secrets. But it is only Ross who believes — against all evidence and odds — that Carrie is alive.

As the oil spills spreads, Ross battles to mount a rescue mission to find Carrie. But is his obsession merely a way to try to assuage his own culpability? And what real hope is there that she could have survived?

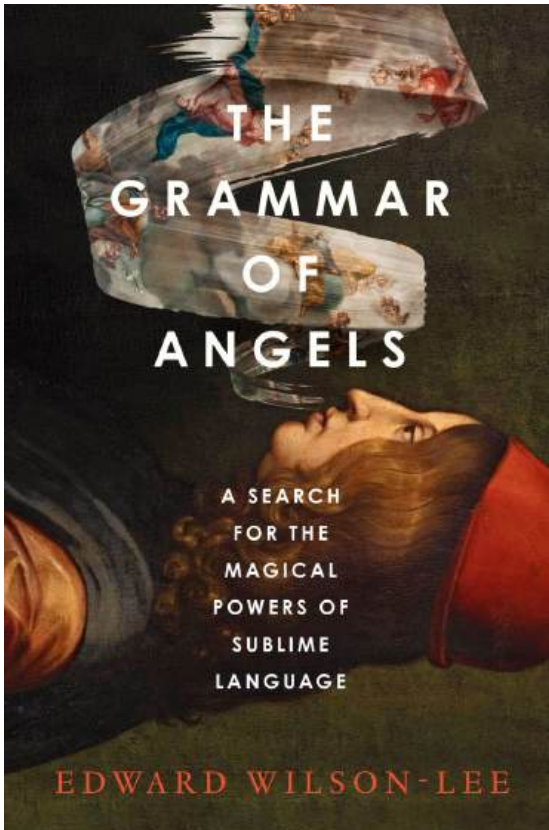
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Harry Whitehead is a novelist and Associate Professor in Creative Writing at the University of Leicester, where he is Co-Director of the Centre for New Writing. He has been a Wingate Scholar and was 2016-7 Eccles Centre Fellow in North American Studies at the British Library, while researching **WHITE ROAD**. He has a degree in Anthropology, an MSc in Medical Anthropology and a PhD in Creative Writing. He worked for many years in the film industry.

His literary historical debut **THE CANNIBAL SPIRIT** (Penguin Canada), was described as 'powerful, brave, ambitious' (*The Globe and Mail*), 'a thriller with a Joseph Conradian plot' (*The Walrus*), 'a unique work, compelling, complex, thought-provoking and impressive' (*Quill and Quire*).

# THE GRAMMAR OF ANGELS

Edward Wilson-Lee



Agent Isobel Dixon

UKexCan HB William Collins Jan 2025

UKexCan PB William Collins 2025

UKexCan audio William Collins Jan 2025

## Option publishers

Italy Bollati Boringhieri | Japan

Kashiwashobo | Korea Kachi

Publishing Co. | Portugal (exBrazil)

Bertrand | Romania ART

Russia Azbooka-Atticus | Spain Ariel

Turkey Repar | Ukraine Laboratory

336 pages

Acclaimed historian with a gift for narrative opens up the life of another extraordinary Renaissance character for today's readers

After his magnificent **THE CATALOGUE OF SHIPWRECKED BOOKS** and the thrilling mysteries of **THE HISTORY OF WATER**, **THE GRAMMAR OF ANGELS** completes Edward Wilson-Lee's loose trilogy tracing an intriguing path through the world of Renaissance Knowledge. He was granted a Guggenheim fellowship for this work.

**THE GRAMMAR OF ANGELS: A Search for the Magical Powers of Sublime Language** tells the story of Renaissance prodigy and polymath Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, who dedicated his life to a quest to find the sublime; to do nothing less than to reconcile *all* existing thought into a philosophy that would settle the most important questions about human existence, and to show how man could transcend mortal limitations, joining the ranks of the angels.

At the heart of Pico's ideas were questions that he traced through the depth and breadth of human thought, from the ancient Greeks and Egyptians to the medieval Arabs and Jews. He made use of everything at his disposal from Europe's broadening horizons and asked primal questions of himself and the world. *Why is it that we can be astonished by beauty? That the hairs on the backs of our necks can be made to stand by intoxicating rhythms and harmonies? That we can be provoked to ecstatic experiences by the simple means of an incantation?* In Catholic Italy, the implications of this line of thought were dangerous and provoked violent reactions, suggesting as they did that the notion of the individual might be just as much of an illusion as a flat earth or a geocentric universe. That there may well be notions of the divine other than the Christian God.

During a tempestuous time at the heart of the Italian Renaissance, Pico's life is a testament to intellectual daring, to a human dignity founded in the willingness to think the unthinkable and to peer over the edge of the abyss in search of answers.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Edward Wilson-Lee is a Fellow in English at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he teaches medieval and Renaissance literature. After growing up in Kenya and Switzerland, he went to university in London, New York, Oxford and Cambridge, living briefly in Mexico and New Orleans in between. His previous books **SHAKESPEARE IN SWAHILILAND** and **THE CATALOGUE OF SHIPWRECKED BOOKS** are widely acclaimed, published in the UK and US, and translated into 11 languages. The latest, **A HISTORY OF WATER**, was shortlisted for the James Tait Black Prize for Biography 2023.

# HOW TO WRITE A ROM-COM

Cristina Wolf



**Agent** Sian Ellis-Martin

**WEL PB** Head of Zeus May 2025  
**WEL audio** Head of Zeus May 2025

**Turkey** Epsilon

85,000 words

**A swoonworthy and bookish rom-com set in the small lakeside town of Hudson Hollow. A must-read for fans of Emily Henry and Ali Hazelwood**

Lucy Bowen has had enough of romance. After multiple failed relationships and an extreme lack of Prince Charmings lining up to date her, she's given up on the idea altogether... except she can't *really* do that because she works for NYC's biggest romance publisher, Heartwarming, and she's desperate for a promotion.

When Heartwarming's bestselling author Ruby Jones threatens to leave, Lucy's boss, Anne, must act fast. To show their commitment to Ruby (and maybe interfere with her romance-burnt-out assistant's life just a little bit), she sends Lucy on a research trip to a tiny lakeside town, Hudson Hollow. Lucy reluctantly agrees to a month-long trip if there's a promotion at the end of it. But if she messes up, her whole career will be on the line...

Before long, Lucy realises that her secret mission to get close to the locals might not be as easy as she thought — especially when she meets her neighbour and local restaurant owner, Liam Miller, who, amongst other vaguely annoying traits, is extremely sceptical of city people. But before she can say cliché, Lucy finds herself living an actual small-town romance, complete with a quirky cast of characters and some undeniable chemistry between her and the town hunk.

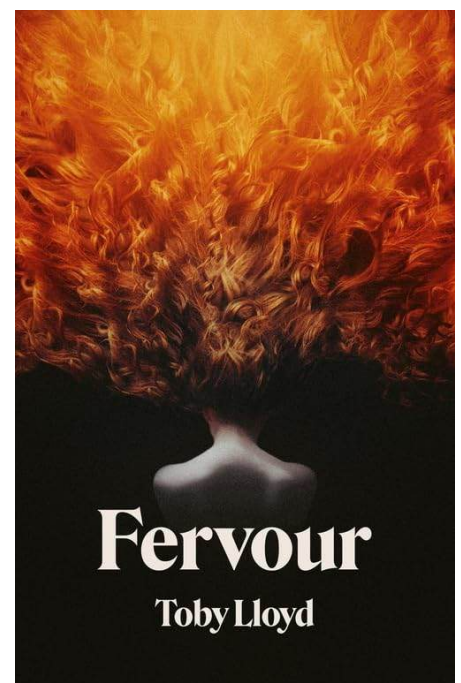
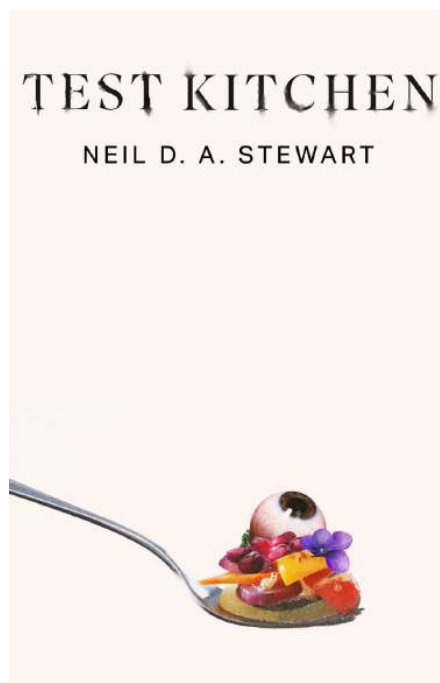
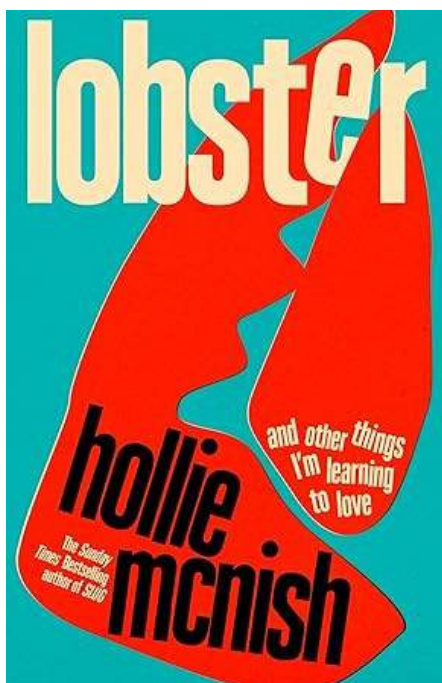
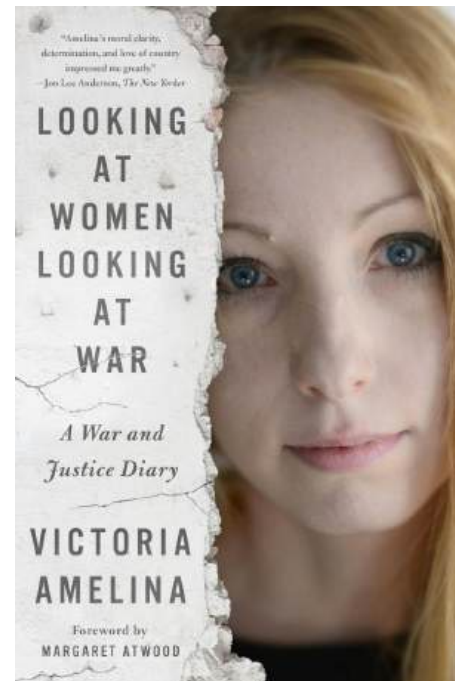
As Lucy's time in Hudson Hollow nears its end and a family emergency helps her put things in perspective, she's faced with some important decisions: should she tell Liam the truth about why she's really there? Is working in publishing as important to Lucy as it was before? Does she really want to go back to the city? And, might she finally have found love...?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After graduating from Marist College with a double major in Business and English, Cristina pursued a career in the publishing industry while earning her Master of Science in Publishing from New York University. Cristina has worked at literary agencies and as an editorial assistant at a publishing house. Cristina found life in NYC a bit different than she expected and returned to her native New Jersey where she earned her Master in Teaching from Monmouth University. She now shares her love of books with her students as a middle school English teacher.



# ASSOCIATE AGENTS

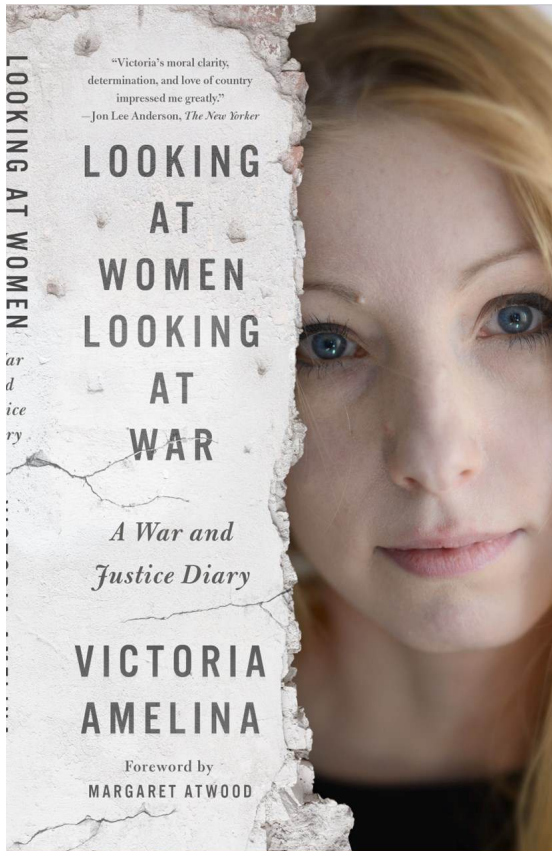


Laxfield Literary Associates

Lewinsohn Literary

# LOOKING AT WOMEN LOOKING AT WAR

## Victoria Amelina



**Agent** Emma Shercliff  
Laxfield Literary Associates

**UK+BC HB** William Collins Feb 2025  
(pre-empt)  
**UK+ BC PB** William Collins 2026  
**US + Can HB** St Martin's Feb 2025  
**US + Can PB** St Martin's 2026

**France** Flammarion | **Italy** Guanda  
(pre-empt) | **Korea** Pacho  
**Netherlands** ISVW Uitgevers | **Sweden**  
Ersatz

320 pages

**DOM'S DREAM KINGDOM**  
**UK+BC HB** William Collins 2026 (pre-empt)  
**UK+ BC PB** William Collins 2027

**Georgia** Siesta Publishing  
**Germany** Mauke  
**Italy** Guanda (pre-empt)  
**Poland** Wrocławski Dom Literatary  
**Spain** Avizor Ediciones  
**Ukraine** Old Lion Publishing House

384 pages

**Destined to be a classic, a poet's powerful look at the courage of resistance**

**With a foreword by Margaret Atwood.**

'Rare, powerful and affecting, a work of principle and courage by a truly brilliant and inspiring writer' — Philippe Sands

When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Victoria Amelina was busy writing a novel, taking part in the country's literary scene, and parenting her son. Then she became someone new: a war crimes researcher and the chronicler of extraordinary women like herself who joined the resistance. These heroines include Evgenia, a prominent lawyer turned soldier, Oleksandra, who documented tens of thousands of war crimes and won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2022, and Yulia, a librarian who helped uncover the abduction and murder of a children's book author.

Everyone in Ukraine knew that Amelina was documenting the war. She photographed the ruins of schools and cultural centers; she recorded the testimonies of survivors and eyewitnesses to atrocities. And she slowly turned back into a storyteller, writing what would become this book.

On the evening of June 27th, 2023, Amelina and three international writers stopped for dinner in the embattled Donetsk region. When a Russian cruise missile hit the restaurant, Amelina suffered grievous head injuries, and lost consciousness. She died on July 1st. She was thirty-seven. She left behind an incredible account of the ravages of war and the cost of resistance. Honest, intimate, and wry, this book will be celebrated as a classic.

Also available: **TESTIMONIES** (Ukraine: Old Lion Publishing; Croatia: PEN Croatia; Poland: Borderlands) is a poetry collection written in the aftermath of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine and the last poem was completed just days before Victoria's death in 2023. **DOM'S DREAM KINGDOM (a novel)** tells the story of a city with a dramatic history, where the silences about past wars and mass murders are so unbearable that only an abandoned dog can trace the secrets and "speak" for the people who still cannot speak for themselves. A finalist for the European Prize for Literature as well as the Lviv UNESCO City of Literature Prize.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Victoria Amelina (1 January 1986 — 1 July 2023) was a Ukrainian novelist, essayist, poet, and human rights activist. She was a winner of the Joseph Conrad Literary Award (2021), and a finalist for the European Union Prize for Literature (2019) and Lviv UNESCO City of Literature Prize (2018). In 2021, she founded a literary festival in the Donetsk region, Ukraine.



LITERARY

# ORDINARY PEOPLE DON'T CARRY MACHINE GUNS

Artem Chapeye

English translation by Zenia Tompkins



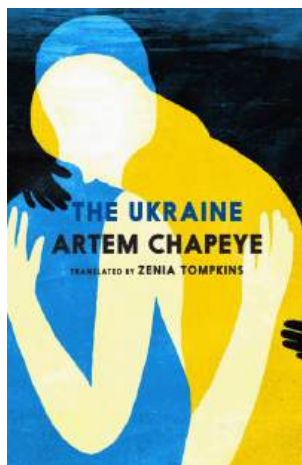
Agent Emma Shercliff  
Laxfield Literary Associates

WEL PB Seven Stories Press 2025

France Bayard 2024

English translation available

128 pages



A reporter and novelist who is also a soldier in the Ukrainian army reconsiders his pacifism and the choices one makes when war is waged against you

‘Chapeye represents a modern-day Ukrainian counterpart to classic American writers like Mark Twain or O. Henry, capturing the dignity and respect his characters might not get but nonetheless long for and deserve...’ — Kate Tsurkan, *Los Angeles Review of Books*

In **ORDINARY PEOPLE DON'T CARRY MACHINE GUNS**, Artem Chapeye reveals his war, intimate and senseless, withholding nothing about his motivations, his nightmares, his new relationship with the world. Here one man, a pacifist turned fighter, a story writer turned soldier considers the reasons for and reactions to war on a very personal level.

Chapeye explores his role in the Ukrainian people's defense against the Russian army and his responsibilities as a father, a writer, a soldier, and a man of conviction. An avowed pacifist until 2022, Chapeye joined the Ukrainian army in the first days of the invasion. He tries to understand the large-scale decision-making that has a defining impact on both individual citizens and society-at-large: many of his fellow soldiers never considered enlisting before finding themselves at war; others fled the country. He wonders what his young children at home are doing and what they're feeling.

Deeply thought-provoking, intelligent, and heartbreaking, this is an essential book for anyone who wants to understand the ways that war can change everything.

Also available: **THE UKRAINE** (Seven Stories Press, WEL 2023; Editions Bleu et Jaune, France; btb, Germany; N-Press, Slovakia; Books XXI, Ukraine), a stunning debut collection of fiction and creative nonfiction that conjures the essence of a beloved country; and **WEATHERING** (Books XXI, Ukraine 2021; Seven Stories, WEL 2025), a dystopian novel set in contemporary Ukraine and told in a style reminiscent of Emily St. John Mandel's **STATION ELEVEN**.

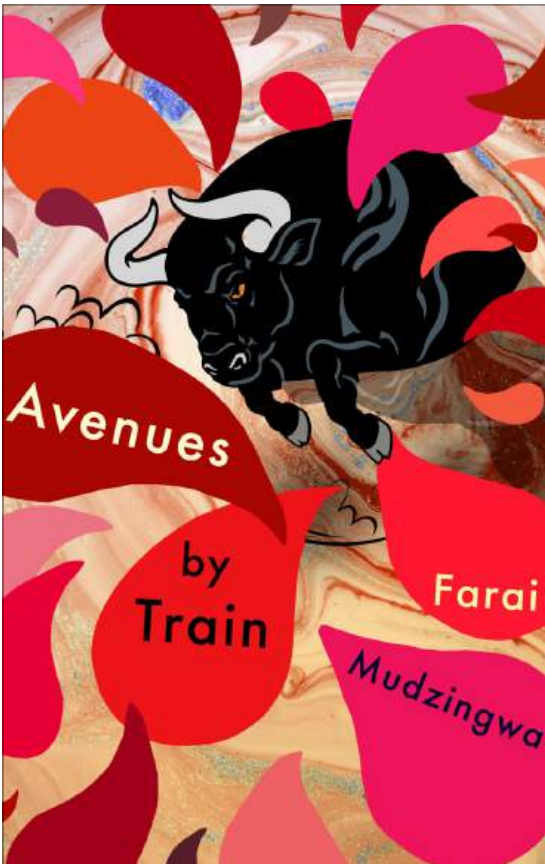
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Artem was born in the Western Ukrainian city of Kolomyia and now lives in Kyiv. He is a four-time finalist of the BBC Book of the Year Award and his collection **THE UKRAINE** was also a Finalist for the Lviv UNESCO City of Literature Prize (2018). His work has been translated into seven languages, and has appeared in English in the Best European Fiction anthology and in publications such as the Refugees Worldwide anthology, commissioned by the International Literature Festival Berlin. His novel **MIGRANT** was published in French in November 2021.



# AVENUES BY TRAIN

Farai Mudzingwa



Agent Emma Shercliff  
Laxfield Literary Associates

WEL TPB Cassava Republic Sep 2023

Germany Unionsverlag

269 pages

A dizzying, immersive debut from one of Zimbabwe's most exciting new writers

Shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize 2023  
Longlisted for the CANEX Prize for Publishing 2024

'Mudzingwa writes with insight, a cool head, and a refreshing appetite for innovation. *Avenues by Train* is a remarkable accomplishment by a writer to watch!' — Brian Chikwava, author of *HARARE NORTH*

'With his wry sense of humour and an inventive literary style, Farai Mudzingwa brings us an evocative tale of love, loss, and the power of the human spirit.' — Sarah Ladipo Manyika, author of *IN DEPENDENCE*

When seven-year-old Jedza witnesses a tragic incident involving a train and the death of his close boyhood friend in his hometown of Miner's Drift, he is convinced that his life is haunted. Now in his mid-20s, Jedza is a down-and-out electrician, moving to Harare in the hopes that he will escape the darkness and superstitions of the small town. But living in the shadowy restless atmosphere of *The Avenues*, a red-light district with mysterious pools of water rising under musasa trees, he is tormented by the disappearance of his sister Natsai and their early encounters with the water spirits. To move forward, he must stop running away and confront the trauma of his past.

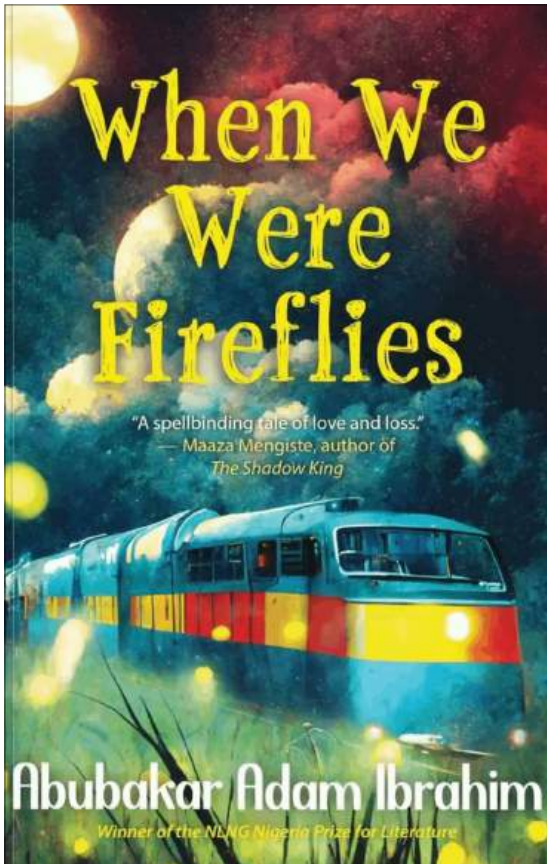
An eclectic, experimental novel, **AVENUES BY TRAIN** is a brash and confident debut that showcases a fresh new voice in contemporary African writing, recalling the fast-paced, riotous satire of Alain Mabanckou and Fiston Mwanza Mujila. Whilst paying homage to his literary heritage, Mudzingwa pushes the boundaries of both content and form, with strands of magical realism, shifts in perspective and time, and a multiplicity of different narrative voices and styles.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Farai Mudzingwa's short fiction has been published by *Weaver Press*, *Kwani?* and *Enkare Review II* and his longform articles and reporting have been featured in *Chimurenga Chronic*, *The Mail & Guardian*, *The Johannesburg Review of Books*, *Africa Is A Country*, *This Is Africa*, *The Africa Report* and *New Humanitarian*. Farai was shortlisted for the Miles Morland Writing Scholarship (2019), the Short Story Day Africa competition (2019) and the Yvonne Vera competition (2013). He was longlisted for the Writivism competition in 2016. He lives in Harare.

# WHEN WE WERE FIREFLIES

Abubakar Adam Ibrahim



**Agent** Emma Shercliff  
Laxfield Literary Associates

**Nigeria** Masobe Books Jan 2023  
**France** Julliard  
**Germany** Residenz Verlag

420 pages

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE meets THE FAMISHED ROAD in this extraordinary novel about life and death from the winner of the NLNG Nigeria Prize for Literature

Longlisted for the 2024 Dublin Literary Award  
Shortlisted for the 2024 Canex Prize for African Publishing

‘WHEN WE WERE FIREFLIES reconfirms Abubakar Adam Ibrahim as one of this generation’s best storytellers... A spellbinding tale of love and loss.’ – Maaza Mengiste, author of THE SHADOW KING

‘A gripping, layered, passionate and haunting novel with tones of otherworldliness. Abubakar’s prose sparkles with poetry, wisdom and compassion. This is a complex and unforgettable story that will keep you up at night.’ – Bisi Adjapon

When brooding artist, Yarima Lalo, encounters a moving train for the first time, two serendipitous events occur. First, it triggers memories of past lives in which he was twice murdered – once on a train. He also meets Aziza, a woman with a complicated past of her own, who becomes key to helping him understand what he is experiencing. With a third death in his current life imminent, together they go hunting for remnants of his past lives. Will they find evidence that he is losing his mind or the people who once loved or loathed him?

This is not only a love story, but a story of Nigeria’s checkered history of violence and how religious and ethnic differences have shaped Nigeria as a people and as a nation. As Yarima Lalo travels to places where significant acts of violence have taken place over the past six decades, Ibrahim chronicles its effect and impacts on the lives of people living there. Yarima Lalo is an embodiment of his nation’s history of this violence, but also its deep capacity for love that has kept hope, kindness, and compassion alive.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Abubakar Adam Ibrahim is an award-winning Nigerian writer and journalist. He has published two critically acclaimed novels and two short story collections. His debut novel, **SEASON OF CRIMSON BLOSSOMS**, won the 2016 NLNG Nigeria Prize for Literature, Africa’s largest literary prize. The French translation was shortlisted for the prestigious Prix Femina Etranger, and the novel was also translated into German and Tamil. His debut short story collection, **THE WHISPERING TREES**, was longlisted for the Etisalat Prize for Literature; its title story was shortlisted for the 2013 Caine Prize for African Writing. Abubakar’s second short story collection **DREAMS AND ASSORTED NIGHTMARES** was published by Masobe Books in 2022.

# THE LANGUAGE OF WAR

LETTERS FROM UKRAINE

Oleksandr Mykhed



Agent Emma Shercliff  
Laxfield Literary Associates

UK+BC ex Can HB Allen Lane Jun  
2024 (pre-empt)  
UK+BC ex Can PB Allen Lane Jun  
2025

Holland Walburg Pers  
Poland Czarne  
Slovakia Absynt  
Taiwan Acropolis  
Ukraine Old Lion Publishing House

304 pages

**A powerful collection of personal essays chronicling a year of the war in Ukraine**

‘A stunning account of life in a time of war. If this doesn’t make you look up from your screen to reflect on Ukraine, then nothing will.’ – Alec Russell, *Financial Times*

‘What role for the artist in times of catastrophe? An important book and a painful piece of history... brilliant.’ – Luke Harding, *Observer*

‘A detailed, on-the-ground account, reminding us of the atrocities that are changing life in Ukraine forever... **THE LANGUAGE OF WAR** eats into the mind like phosphorus.’ – *The Spectator*

A 33-year-old writer lives in a quiet European suburb with his wife and his dog. His parents have bought an apartment nearby. On weekends they go out for brunch, cook and see friends. Life is good; it is normal. Then the invaders come.

**THE LANGUAGE OF WAR** details what happens when your world changes overnight. When you wake up to the sound of helicopters and the smell of gunpowder. When your home is hit by shells or broken into by gunmen, and you spend another night in a basement-turned-bomb shelter. When, even though you’ve never held a weapon before, you realise the only choice is to fight back. It is about things one can never forget, or forgive.

Heralded as a classic in the making, this book is both a record, and a reckoning. Mykhed’s vivid day-by-day chronicles of the invasion of Ukraine are interspersed with a chorus of other voices – his family, friends in exile, those who have fought and have witnessed unimaginable atrocities. Haunting and timeless, it asks how it is possible to find the words to describe a new reality; how you can still make sense of the world when the only language you can speak is the language of war.

Essays included in the book have been published in outlets including the *Financial Times*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and *Le Monde*. Mykhed’s first essay for the FT Weekend, published barely a fortnight after the invasion, elicited a global response, culminating in appearances on CNN and NPR. His opening address to the Lviv International Book Forum in 2022 inspired Michael Goldfarb’s BBC Radio 4 documentary, *Ukraine: War and Words*.

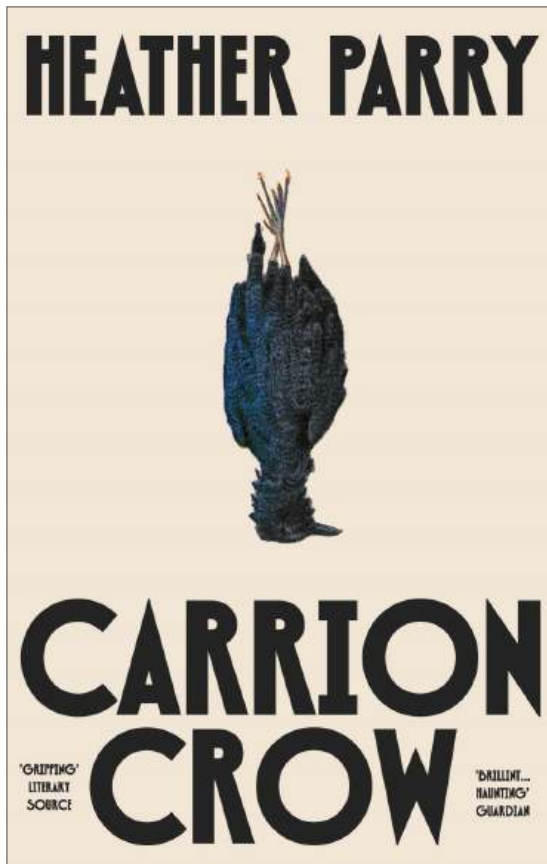
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Oleksandr lives in Kyiv and is one of Ukraine’s foremost contemporary writers. He is the author of seven books, including the acclaimed **I WILL MIX YOUR BLOOD WITH COAL: UNDERSTANDING THE UKRAINIAN EAST** (Ukraine: Old Lion; Poland: Czarne, WEL: Northwestern University Press; Slovak: Absynt). He is a member of PEN Ukraine.



## CARRION CROW

Heather Parry



Agent Emma Shercliff  
Laxfield Literary Associates

UK + BC HB Doubleday Feb 2025  
UK + BC PB Doubleday Feb 2026

256 pages

A gloriously gothic unfurling of one family's festering secrets

'Heather Parry is a literary star of the future.' — Kirsty Logan, author of *THINGS WE SAY IN THE DARK*

'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

'Both mouthwatering and revolting, a heady poisonous pudding of a book.' — Camilla Grudova

Newly-betrothed Marguerite has been locked in the attic of her family home, a disintegrating Chelsea house overlooking the fetid 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, near-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?

Inspired by the true story of Blanche Monnier, **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.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Heather Parry is a short story writer, novelist and editor. Her work has appeared in publications including *The Stinging Fly*, *New Gothic Review*, *The Best of British Fantasy* 2018 & 2019, and *New Writing Scotland* 35. Heather won the 2016 Bridge Award for an Emerging Writer, and was the recipient of the Cove Park 2017 Scottish Emerging Writer residency. She was a prize winner in the Mslexia Short Story Award 2018 and is a 2021 Hawthornden Fellow. She lives in Glasgow and is a regular moderator at literary events, including the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Her debut novel **ORPHEUS BUILDS A GIRL** (Gallic Books) was published to great acclaim in 2022, and was followed by a short story collection **THIS IS MY BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU** (Haunt Publishing) in 2023.

## LACK

Cecilia Knapp



**Agent** Becky Thomas  
Lewinsohn Literary

**UK** On submission

87,000 words



**From the award-winning poet comes an extraordinary novel about grief and motherhood**

‘Cecilia Knapp is a rare, rare talent. The sort of writer you get excited to have found and then look forward to devouring more of their work.’ – Kerry Hudson

In the quiet, lonely hours of the middle of the night, a woman scrolls social media on her phone. Babies are everywhere. All her friends seem to have one. Her sweet partner Dan is desperate to start a family. The algorithm ladles out conception tips. The mummy bloggers are organised – but she is full of doubt. Besides, there’s something going wrong in her body. She can feel it. A pain. A constant dull ache she is too frightened to investigate.

Her days pass unremarkably. She cycles to her job performing nullifying admin tasks at a start-up. She budgets her meagre salary and siphons most of it off to a faceless private landlord. She gets home and scrolls again. The news is bad and getting worse, pouring like slurry. And there is something darker, pulsing beneath the surface of her days, threatening to catch up with her – her past.

Sitting alongside modern classics such as Lara Williams’ *SUPPER CLUB*, Megan Nolan’s *ACTS OF DESPERATION* and Ottesa Moshfegh’s *MY YEAR OF REST AND RELAXATION*, **LACK** showcases a maturity in Knapp’s poetic prose as her narrator inhabits her female body, social media and society’s expectations of it; exploring confounding truths about motherhood, motherlessness, class, consumable womanhood, self-worth and the lack thereof in intimate relationships.

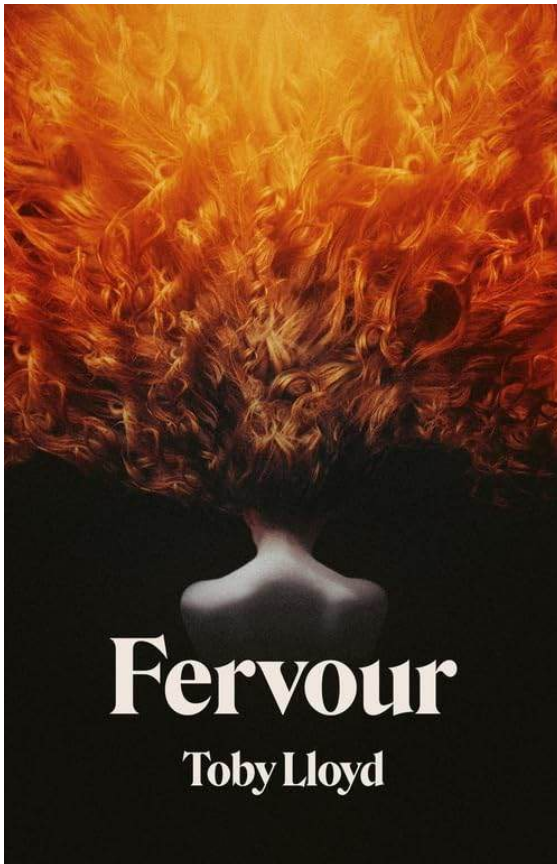
#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cecilia Knapp is a poet and novelist and the Young People’s Laureate for London 2020/2021. She was shortlisted for the 2022 Forward prize for best single poem. She is the winner of the 2021 Ruth Rendell award and has been shortlisted for both the Rebecca Swift Women’s prize and the Outspoken poetry prize. Her debut poetry collection *PEACH PIG* was published by Corsair in 2022 and was *The Observer’s* poetry book of the month for October. Her poems have appeared in *Vogue*, *The Financial Times*, *Granta*, *The White Review*, and are widely anthologised. Her debut novel **LITTLE BOXES** was published by The Borough Press in 2022 and was longlisted for 2023 The Authors Club Best First Novel Award.

She is the current poet in residence for City Bridge Foundation, was resident poet at Great Ormond Street Hospital for two years and is lead tutor for the Roundhouse’s prestigious poetry collective. She is an ambassador for the mental health charity CALM.

## FERVOUR

Toby Lloyd



Agent Becky Thomas  
Lewinsohn Literary

UK+BC ex Can HB Sceptre Feb 2024  
UK+BC ex Can PB Sceptre Feb 2025  
US HB Avid Reader Press/S&S Mar 2024  
US PB Avid Reader Press/S&S Mar 2025

Croatia Oceanmore  
Finland Kosmos  
France Gallimard  
Italy Neri Pozza (at auction)  
Russia Corpus

245 pages



**A contemporary Jewish story that will appeal to readers of Francine Prose and Philip Roth**

‘Magnificent, indelible... That a young British novelist, on his first try, should have so effectively taken up a gauntlet laid down by the greatest American novelist of an era [Toni Morrison] might seem surprising. But maybe not... Enriching his story with detail and above all heart, Lloyd has crafted a lasting allegory of our dark historical times.’ – *The New York Times*

‘Intriguing, propulsive and profoundly disturbing, this is a fearless look into the dark heart of family politics from a naturally gifted storyteller’ – Jonathan Coe

‘Stylish, puzzling, mystical... **FERVOUR** marks the arrival of an intriguing and intelligent new voice’ – *The Financial Times*

Hannah and Eric are a successful couple living in North London with their three children, and Eric’s father Yosef, a survivor of the camps. They are devout Jews who believe in the literal truth of the Old Testament, all except for their youngest son Tovyah. The death of Yosef — the family’s link to pre-war Europe — throws the family into disarray. Elsie, the model daughter, disappears for four days, plunging the family into a living nightmare. When she returns, just as mysteriously as she left, she is strangely altered. Witnessing the complete transformation of their daughter’s personality and some increasingly hard-to-explain events, Hannah and Eric begin to suspect Elsie is under the influence of black magic. Tovyah, a brilliant university student, believes his sister is suffering a mental collapse caused by his parents’ antiquated beliefs. But who is right? And can the family be reconciled before tearing itself apart?

At the heart of the novel are two questions. What does it mean to be bound to an ethical and metaphysical system thousands of years old? And if you reject that system, what is left of your Jewish identity? Through revolving points of view, any certainty in the face of these questions is undermined, and we witness a family trying to reckon with both historical and personal tragedy. The result is a fast-paced literary novel, with elements of horror.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

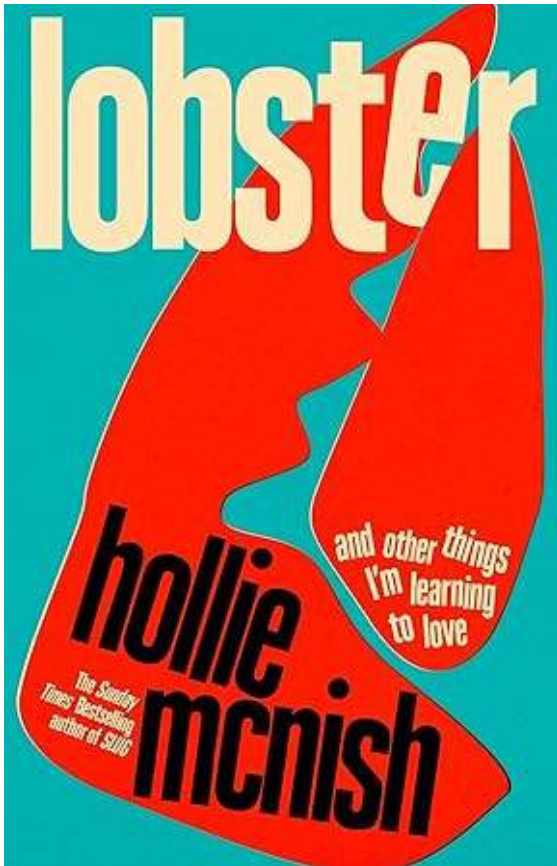
Toby was born in London to a secular father and a Jewish mother. He studied English at Oxford University, before moving to America to pursue an MFA in Creative Writing at NYU where he was taught by E.L. Doctorow and Jonathan Safran Foer. Now thirty-three, he’s returned to London where he works as a freelance tutor and writer.

He has published short stories and essays in various journals, including *Carve Magazine* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.



# LOBSTER

Hollie McNish



Agent Becky Thomas  
Lewinsohn Literary

WEL HB Fleet Mar 2024  
WEL PB Fleet Mar 2025

France Castor Astral

432 pages

A brand-new collection from the award-winning poet, the companion piece to the *Sunday Times* bestselling *SLUG*

'Her rhymes have a driving quality, urgent words pinning down fleeting feelings' – *Observer*

'I love Hollie's poems. There is such raw honesty and warmth and often humour within them. She is one of the best poets we have' – Matt Haig

'I've loved her work for years' – Jo Brand

*This book is written out of both hate and love for the world.*

As people, we are capable of both love and hate; amazement and disgust; fun and misery.

So why do we live in a world that is constantly telling us to hate, both ourselves and others? We are told constantly to be repulsed by our own bodies, bodies that let us laugh and sweat and eat toast, amongst other activities; to be ashamed of pleasure; to be embarrassed by fun. In this brand-new collection, Hollie McNish brings her inimitable style to the question of what we have been taught to hate, and if we might learn to love again.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hollie McNish is a published UK poet based between London, Cambridge and Glasgow. She has two poetry collections – **CHERRY PIE** and **PAPERS** – and an album, *Versus*, which made her the first poet to record at Abbey Road Studios, London.

In 2016, Little Brown published her memoir of poetry and parenthood, **NOBODY TOLD ME**. It has been translated into 3 languages to date and won the Ted Hughes Prize for Poetry 2016. In June 2017, Picador published her third poetry collection, **PLUM**, to critical acclaim. **PLUM** was named in the Rough Trade Book of the Year list.

She has co-written the play **OFFSIDE** (Methuen), with Sabrina Mahfouz, and a new version of *ANTIGONE* for Storyhouse in 2021.

In 2021 **SLUG & OTHER THINGS I'VE BEEN TOLD TO HATE** was published by Fleet.

# AND NOTRE DAME IS BURNING

Miriam Robinson



**Agent** Becky Thomas  
Lewinsohn Literary

**UK+BC HB** Corsair Aug 2025  
**UK+BC PB** Corsair Aug 2026

236 pages

An astonishing debut novel for fans of Jenny Offill, Maggie Nelson, and Rachel Cusk

**AND NOTRE DAME IS BURNING** is the story – told in letters, journal entries and poetic fragments – of Miriam and Ravi, two writers whose storybook marriage breaks down in the aftermath of miscarriage and infidelity. When Miriam discovers that her husband has been unfaithful for years, the narrative she believed they shared is rewritten, throwing her sense of time and order into disarray. When he gaslights her into assuming blame, she begins to lose her hold on what is real. It is only through the process of writing and then, crucially, editing her story that she is able to find her way back to an authentic sense of self.

The book is an attempt to depict, in content and form, this experience of disordered time, the importance of being heard and believed, what it means to parent in the midst of grief and the process of editing as a route to self-transformation.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Miriam Robinson is a creative consultant for the publishing industry and beyond, and the host of new podcast *My Unlived Life*. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from Goldsmiths, University of London and her short fiction has been shortlisted for a Pushcart Prize, the inaugural Pindrop/RA Short Story Prize and the Pat Kavanagh Prize. She has also been a Bookseller Rising Star, and has won the Kim Scott Walwyn Award for young women in publishing. Originally from Colorado, Miriam lives in East London with her daughter Maya and their six-toed cat Astrid.

# TEST KITCHEN

Neil Stewart

## TEST KITCHEN

NEIL D. A. STEWART



**Agent** Becky Thomas  
Lewinsohn Literary

**UK+BC HB** Corsair Jul 2024  
**UK+BC PB** Corsair Jun 2025

**Hungary** IPC Könyvek Kft

304 pages

A gripping, funny and often macabre story about the culture of food, of dining and eating, about feeding and nourishing, about mothers, mortality and magic

‘**TEST KITCHEN** is phenomenal – a mad, magical, ten-course feast of a novel, gorgeously written, totally original, packed with ideas and invention. Incredibly ambitious too – so many characters, so many stories, all of it choreographed so expertly. I have no idea how Neil Stewart did it, even after reading it twice. It deserves to be a massive success. Three Michelin stars.’ – Paul Murray, author of *THE BEE STING*

‘An amazing novel that hovers somewhere between the fantastical and gritty reality. Veering from humorous to horrifying, it shows real insight into the mildly unhinged nature of both high-end restaurants and their diners – with wit, lyricism and a killer turn of phrase.’ – Marina O’Loughlin

**TEST KITCHEN** is set during a single evening’s service at the Michelin-starred restaurant everyone’s talking about, Midgard.

As Midgard’s newest waitress, Australian born Marley is glad to have found a kind of family among the ‘brigade’ there. Like any family, however, it is dysfunctional. And by the looks of things this evening, possibly even lethal...

A violent event – an event she is struggling to piece together – has befallen Marley. She can’t move. She can’t speak. All she can do is observe the restaurant tonight, seeing but unseen. As she strains to recall what might have happened to her, she can only witness the tragedy that is about to unfurl in this hallowed space normally so meticulously run by Joanna, Midgard’s famed yet unknowable head chef...

Tense and moreish, **TEST KITCHEN** offers a deliciously dark insight into the goings-on behind the scenes in the kitchen, as well as eavesdropping in on the dramas of the diners who are lucky – or unlucky – enough to have booked a table at Midgard on this fateful night.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Neil Stewart was born in Glasgow in 1978. He was educated at the University of Glasgow and holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia. His first novel **THE GLASGOW COMA SCALE** (Corsair) was published in 2014 and was longlisted for the Green Carnation Prize; ‘an assured, witty first novel’ – *The Times*; ‘an outstanding debut from an extraordinary talent’ – Paul Murray.

He currently freelances as a proofreader and editorial assistant for galleries and museums, and is Arts Editor of the online magazine *Civilian*.











