

# Hotlist: Frankfurt Book Fair 2024

**THE HIDEAWAY** by Nikki Allen

MS available, 77,400 words

**Kate Burke**

WEL: Pan Mac, Summer 2025



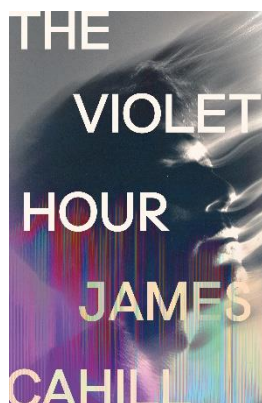
Set in the exotic rainforest of Costa Rica, **THE HIDEAWAY** is a fast-paced thriller that will have you gripped from the opening page. When five strangers are chosen for a money-can't-buy, all-expenses-paid trip of a lifetime to a famous social media influencer's exclusive retreat, they leap at the 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... Nikki is a former journalist and copywriter, and a qualified therapist. A voracious reader, she was inspired to write **THE HIDEAWAY** after reading true stories of people disappearing in the Costa Rican rainforest.

**THE VIOLET HOUR** by James Cahill

341 pages

**Isobel Dixon**

UKexCan: Sceptre, Feb 2025



Thomas Haller has achieved the kind of fame most artists can only dream of: shows in London and New York, paintings sold for hundreds of thousands of dollars. The vision he presents to the world is one of an untouchable genius at the top of his game. It is also a lie. Who is the real Thomas Haller? His oldest friend and former dealer, Lorna, might have known once - as impoverished art students in London, there was nothing they didn't share. But Thomas traded their early intimacy for international fame, and the promises made to him by Claude Berlins, the urbane and ruthless dealer whose appetite for Thomas is all consuming. Now the owner of her own gallery, Lorna must watch his ascent from the sidelines. On the eve of his latest show, the luminaries of the art world gather to fête Thomas once more. But the sudden death of a young man casts a pall across the event, setting off a chain of events that will lead them back into the past, and to confront who they have become. **THE VIOLET HOUR** exposes the unsettling underbelly of the art world. **Over the past decade, James Cahill has worked in the art world and academia, combining writing and research with a role at a leading contemporary art gallery. His debut novel TIEPOLO BLUE was published by Sceptre in summer 2022 and was shortlisted for the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award.**

Key rights sold: Spain (Urano)

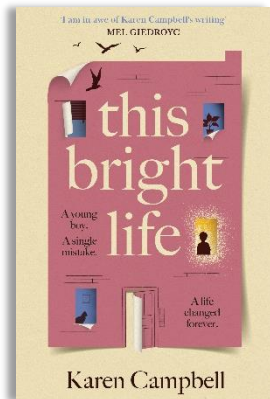
Options: Germany (Albino Verlag)

## THIS BRIGHT LIFE by Karen Campbell

298 pages

Juliet Pickering

UKexCan: Canongate, Feb 2025



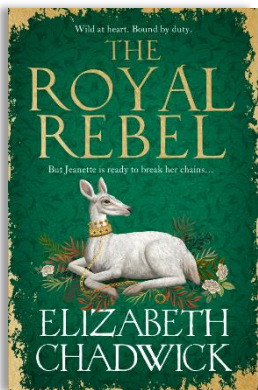
Written with great heart and empathy, **THIS BRIGHT LIFE** is a profound, urgent novel about the huge ripples that small actions create. Gerard is twelve. He loves flying round the streets of Glasgow on his bike, or mucking about with his gang, the Broncos. He's a bright kid, but trouble seems to follow him. No one knows what it's like at home for Gerard; he's used to carrying a lot on his small shoulders. He 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 that moment. For Margaret, the shocking incident brings her back from the edge of grief; for Clare it's the start of a new friendship 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? Karen Campbell is originally from Glasgow, but now lives in south west Scotland. She is the author of eight novels including **PAPER CUP** (Canongate, 2022), which was a Waterstone's Scottish 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.

## THE ROYAL REBEL by Elizabeth Chadwick

480 pages

Isobel Dixon

WEL: Sphere, Sep 2024



Chadwick once again casts fresh light on a historical character and readers will thrill to the story of Jeanette, known to history as Joan of Kent. 1338: England has declared war on France, and Jeanette of Kent, cousin to King Edward III, says goodbye to her family and travels overseas with the royal court for the first time. Once in Antwerp, she is captivated by talented household knight Thomas Holland, just as he in turn is powerfully drawn to her. Although both know their romance is forbidden, their love for each other grows stronger than the danger they face, and they marry in secret. But before they can make their tryst known, Thomas has to leave for war, and in his absence, Jeanette is forced into a second marriage and locked away from the world. Then Thomas returns, and the real fight begins. As hostile family members battle to keep Jeanette and Thomas apart, the defiant lovers vow to be reunited - whatever the cost... *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Chadwick's first novel, *The Wild Hunt*, won a Betty Trask Award, *To Defy a King* won the Romantic Novelist Association's Historical Novel Prize and *The Scarlet Lion* was nominated by Richard Lee - founder of the Historical Novel Society - as one of the top ten historical novels of the last decade. She often lectures at conferences and historical venues and has been consulted for television documentaries.

**Key rights sold:** Czech Republic (Euromedia)

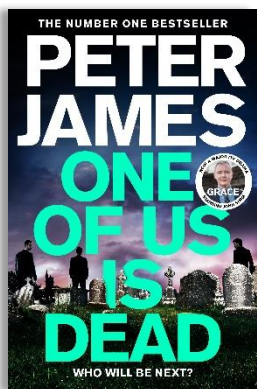
**Options:** Croatia (Znanje), France (Bragelonne), Hungary (Könyvmolyképző), Germany (Blanvalet), Italy (TRE60)

## ONE OF US IS DEAD by Peter James

464 pages

Isobel Dixon

WEL: Pan Mac, Sep 2024



Peter James returns with his 20th Roy Grace novel, in which Roy is about to find out just how dangerous a dead man can be... When James Taylor arrives late for a funeral, he has to stand at the back of the small church. But, as the service progresses, 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 Rufus's eulogy. On the other side of Brighton, at Police HQ, 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? **Peter James is the author of multiple #1 bestsellers with 21 million copies sold worldwide and many books optioned for film/TV.**

**Key rights sold:** Finland (Docendo), Sweden (HarperCollins Nordic)

**Options:** Bulgaria (Storytel), Denmark (Gyldendal), Estonia (Tanapaev), France (Fleuve Noir), Greece (Hartini Poli), Holland (De Fontein), Israel (Kor'im), Lithuania (Jotema), Norway (Vigmostad), Russia (Azbooka)

## BOOKISH by Lucy Mangan

MS available, 80,000 words

Juliet Pickering

UKexCan: Square Peg, Mar 2025



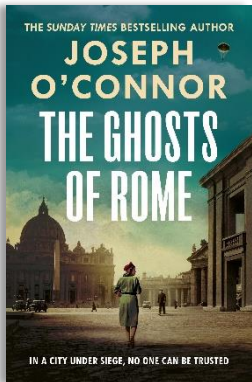
**BOOKISH is the story of a life spent falling in love with reading.** From exploring the stacks as a student, to finding her feet as a bookseller turned journalist, falling for a fellow bookworm in an independent bookshop, escaping the doldrums of new motherhood with Jack Reacher and finally building a (book) room of her own, 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. **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*. Her reflection on childhood reading, *BOOKWORM*, was published by Square Peg in 2018 and her debut novel *ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?* was published by Profile Books in October 2021.**

## THE GHOSTS OF ROME by Joseph O'Connor

256 pages

Isobel Dixon

WEL: Harvill Secker, Jan 2025



The second book in Joseph O'Connor's bestselling Escape Line Trilogy series. 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. **Joseph O'Connor is the author of many novels, short story collections and works of non-fiction, as well as film and radio scripts and stage-plays. International bestseller STAR OF THE SEA sold more than a million copies and was published in 38 languages.**

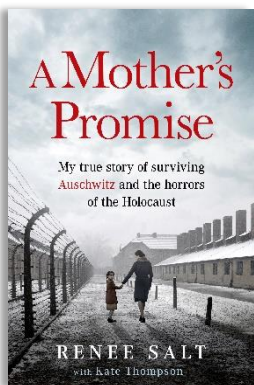
**Options:** Brazil (Tordesilhas), Croatia (Fraktura), France (Payot & Rivages), Germany (C.H. Beck), Italy (Guanda), Japan (Tokyo Sogen), Poland (Wydawnictwo Folia), Sweden (Natur Och Kultur)

## A MOTHER'S PROMISE by Renee Salt with Kate Thompson

Kate Burke

Sample Chapters available, 80,000 words

UKexCan: Orion (pre-empt), Feb 2025



A moving and poignant memoir of 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. **Kate Thompson is a journalist and bestselling writer. Her most recent novels, THE LITTLE WARTIME LIBRARY (Hodder, 2022), and THE WARTIME BOOK CLUB (Hodder, 2024), focus on two remarkable libraries in wartime.**

**Key rights sold:** Italy (Newton Compton – pre-empt)

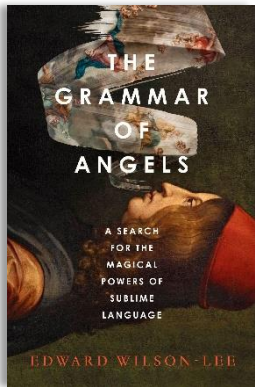


## THE GRAMMAR OF ANGELS by Edward Wilson-Lee

Isobel Dixon

MS available Autumn 2024, 336 pages

UKexCan: William Collins, Jan 2025



THE GRAMMAR OF ANGELS tells the story of Renaissance prodigy and polymath Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, the uncontested marvel of an age of true wonders. Pico dedicated his life to a quest to find the sublime; to reconcile all existing thought into a philosophy that would settle the most important questions about human existence. This philosophy would also provide tools by which man could transcend his mortal limitations and join 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. 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. **Edward Wilson-Lee is a Fellow in English at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he teaches medieval and Renaissance literature. His previous books have been 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. THE GRAMMAR OF ANGELS completes Edward's trilogy of Renaissance Knowledge, for which he has been granted a Guggenheim fellowship.**

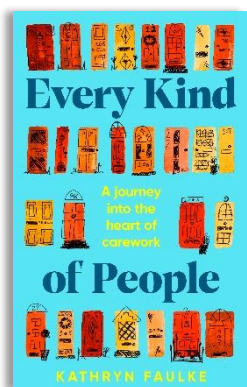
**Options:** Bollati Boringhieri (Italy), Kachi Publishing Co. (Korea), Bertrand (Portugal exBrazil), ART (Romania), Azbooka-Atticus (Russia), Ariel (Spain), Repar (Turkey), Laboratory (Ukraine)

## EVERY KIND OF PEOPLE: by Kathryn Faulke

Isobel Dixon

352 pages

UKexCan: Fig Tree (at auction), Oct 2024



A luminous, uplifting and deeply moving memoir by a care worker, told through her funny, heartbreaking, and always eye-opening encounters with the often overlooked and marginalised people she cares for. Kate never expected to become a home care worker. But when she left her senior role in the NHS, burnt-out and disheartened, she thought caring for people in their own homes would be a simpler job. Despite being determined not to become too involved with her 'customers', she soon found herself developing firm friendships and bearing witness to the extraordinary drama to be found in ordinary lives. With energy, compassion and clarity, her memoir gives an astonishing insight into this unsung - and often maligned - profession, and into the hidden lives of the housebound and infirm. **EVERY KIND OF PEOPLE is Kathryn Faulke's first book. She was runner-up in the Wasafiri International New Writing Prize in 2020 and in 2021 she won the Mslexia Memoir Prize for an earlier version of EVERY KIND OF PEOPLE.**