



DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS

LITERARY AGENCY

## Frankfurt Rights Guide 2024

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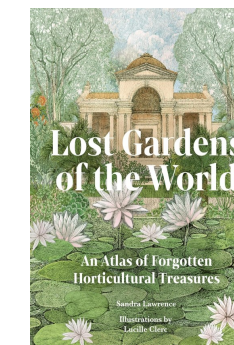
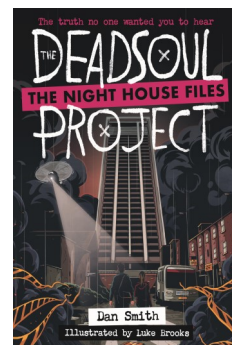
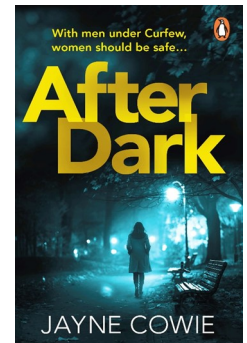
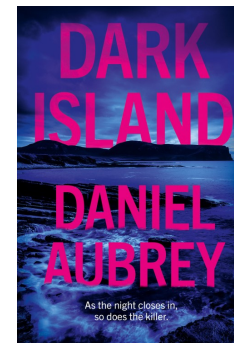


# CONTENTS

## ADULT FICTION P.3

## CHILDREN'S & YOUNG ADULT FICTION P.15

## NON-FICTION P.24





DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS  
LITERARY AGENCY

◆ ADULT FICTION ◆





## SARAH MARIA GRIFFIN

Sarah Maria Griffin is from Dublin, Ireland. She is the author of the novels *Spare & Found Parts* and *Other Words For Smoke*, which won an Irish Book Award in 2019. Her next novel, *Eat The Ones You Love*, will be published as a lead title by Tor (US) and Titan (UK) in 2025.

She writes about video games for *The Guardian*, and her nonfiction has appeared in *The Irish Times*, *The Winter Papers*, and *The Stinging Fly*, amongst other places. She also makes zines.

### EAT THE ONES YOU LOVE

**UK Publisher: Titan (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), April 2025**

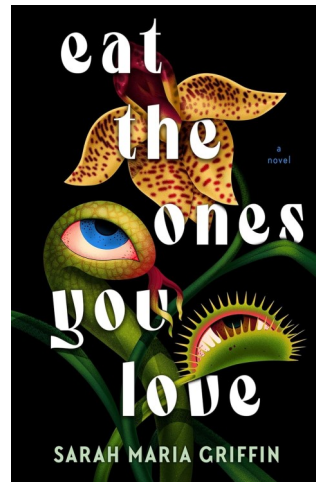
**Genre: Horror**

**Rights Sold: US (Tor)**

**A twisted, tangled story about workplace love-affairs, and plants with a taste for human flesh.**

During a grocery run to her local shopping center, Shell Pine sees a 'HELP NEEDED' sign in a flower shop window. She's just left her fiancé, lost her job, and moved home to her parents' house. She has to make a change and bring some good into her life, so she goes inside and takes a chance. Shell realizes right away that flowers are just the good thing she's been looking for, as is Neve, the beautiful florist who wrote the sign asking for help. The thing is, Neve needs help more than Shell could possibly imagine.

An orchid growing out of sight in the heart of the mall is watching them closely. His name is Baby, and the beautiful florist belongs to him. He's young, he's hungry, and he'll do just about anything to make sure he can keep growing big and strong. Nothing he eats – nobody he eats – can satisfy him, except the thing he most desires. Neve. He adores her and wants to consume her, and will stop at nothing to eat the one he loves.



### Praise for EAT THE ONES YOU LOVE:

**'Eat The Ones You Love is a masterpiece.** Griffin's voice is absolutely singular; scalpel-sharp and deeply lyrical, every word unexpected and yet precise... Simply put, **this book redefines the literary horror genre. Fans of Paul Tremblay and T. Kingfisher have found their new obsession.'**  
- Laura Steven

**'Sarah Maria Griffin is an artist of the rarest kind: genuine, vulnerable, funny, tragic and wise.'** - Sarah Rees Brennan

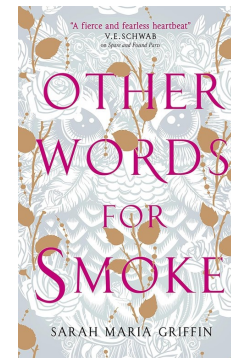
**"Eat the One You Love is a beautiful, dark gem of a book.** Sarah Maria Griffin writes with acute attention to the intersection between class and relationships, and the all-consuming effects of possession." - Zoraida Córdova

### Also by Sarah Maria Griffin:

**"Reads like a piece of mechanical poetry, an intricate machine with a fierce and fearless heartbeat."**  
- V.E. Schwab

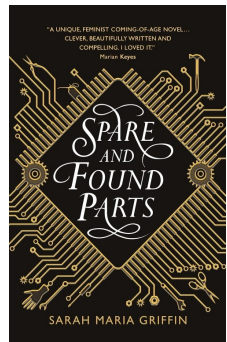
**"A sweet and darkly hopeful tale of what it takes to build love."** - Kiran Millwood Hargrave

**"A beautiful novel woven from magic that seeps into your blood and bones and lingers there...Sarah's gorgeous prose will haunt you."** - Christina Henry



**"A fascinating coming-of-age story with magical elements that feel both grounded and properly mystifying... the ending totally got me choked up... Such a compelling read."** - Charlie Jane Anders

**"A unique, feminist coming-of-age novel...Clever, beautifully written and compelling. I loved it."**  
- Marian Keyes







## LAURA JANE WILLIAMS

Laura Jane Williams is the bestselling author of 12 books, spanning non-fiction such as *Ice Cream for Breakfast* (Hodder, 2017), rom coms such as *Our Stop* (Avon, 2019) and *Enemies to Lovers* (PRH Century, 2024), and young teen fiction such as *Taylor Blake is a Legend* (Bloomsbury, 2024).

Her books have been published in fourteen territories internationally and optioned for TV adaptation, and collectively sold over 400,000 copies.

### THE ARTIST

**Status:** On UK Submission. Proposal and partial ms available.

**Genre:** Upmarket Historical Fiction

**Rights Available:** All

***Some have a muse. But the truly great become their own...***

*The memoir of a great 20th century artist is discovered after her death, revealing the heartbreaking truth about her rise to fame, and the shocking cost of her success*

There are two Zofia Kobliskas. One is the most celebrated female artist of the twentieth century. The other is the one nobody has truly known - until now. From aristocratic beginnings in Poland to escaping the Russian Bolsheviks by the dead of night, from a penniless do-over to a remarkable star ascent, from the devastating cost of burning so brightly to what happens when her star is suddenly gone, all set against the glamorous – and dangerous - backdrop of Revolutionary Russia and Interwar Paris, this is Zofia's real story. It's a story of power, and lust, and love, and loss. And it's incredible.

***The Artist is Seven* *Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* meets *Jessie Burton's The Muse* and *Elizabeth Gilbert's City of Girls*.**

### Extract:

*We stood side-by-side, unpicking the composition with our eyes until it became easier to understand in our heads. I think that's why I had cried upon seeing it – my brain couldn't catch up with the colossal emotion my body sensed at its magnitude, and its humanness. Il Paradiso was 24 meters across and seven meters tall, the largest painting on canvas in the world. To say it inspired my awe would be to understate it. I was surprised I was able to speak at all. It was... transcendent. The colours, the emotion of it. I felt, on a cellular level, that I was rearranging myself to make room for these new feelings, and the awareness of it, the knowledge that a painting could change me, just like that, was as un-nerving as it was a comfort. Everything could be as it was, until a man from the sixteenth century walks into your sense of self and makes it otherwise.*

*'It's like a storybook,' I whispered, after some contemplation. The longer we took it all in, the stiller I felt. The art felt divine; I was sure that such a talent could not be simply be from a person. It couldn't be.*

### Also by Laura Jane Williams:



**'Joyful, romantic and life-affirming.'**

- Red Magazine

**'It had me totally gripped.'**

- Beth O'Leary

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

- Dolly Alderton





## CATRIONA SILVEY

Catriona Silvey grew up in Scotland, and now lives in Edinburgh. Her debut novel, *Meet Me In Another Life*, was published to rave reviews in 2021 and has been translated into a further 13 languages. Her second novel, *Love and Other Paradoxes*, will follow in 2024.

### LOVE AND OTHER PARADOXES

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

**Genre:** Speculative Romantic Comedy

**Rights Sold:** US (William Morrow)

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

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

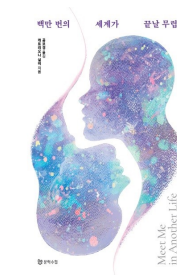
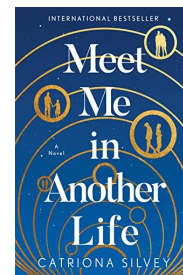
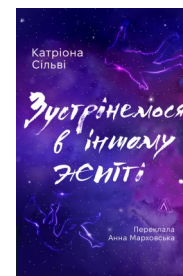
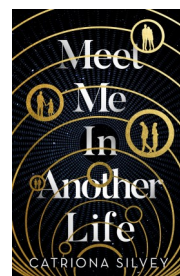
Joe thinks his future is set—until he realises that Esi's arrival in 2005 has changed everything. Rather than falling for Diana, he's falling for Esi instead.

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

“Fun and surprising... Joe and Esi jump off the page, grounding sci-fi twists with humor and humanity, all with a brilliantly fresh take on time travel. **Catriona Silvey is an absolute must-buy author for me.**” -Mike Chen

“Stunningly clever, sweepingly romantic and **so beautifully crafted**... I absolutely adored it!” — Helly Acton

“Combining Y2K nostalgia, swoony romance and big questions about destiny... **A funny and tender** time travel romance that will delight readers. **I loved it!**” — Zen Cho

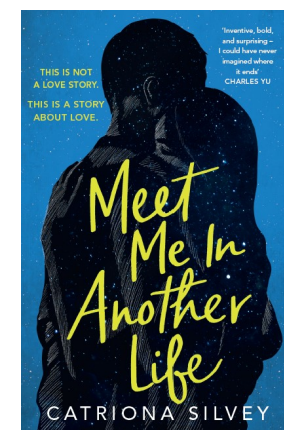


### MEET ME IN ANOTHER LIFE

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

**Genre:** Literary/Speculative Fiction

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



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

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

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





## C. A. SILVEY

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

Vervain Hollow is her first title to be written under the name C. A. Silvey. It is a darkly magical thriller in the vein of V. E. Schwab and Silvia Moreno-Garcia.

### VERVAIN HOLLOW

**Status: On UK & US Submission. Full ms available.**

**Genre: Speculative Thriller**

**Rights Available: All**

Ever since Vervain Hollow burned to the ground, Laura's life has turned to ash.

All the neighbours think she's crazy. She was in a cult, after all. And even after the fire, after they all – all except Vervain, of course – escaped with their lives, Laura still insists that everything she'd been led to believe is real. That magic exists. That Vervain, their strikingly handsome and magnetic leader, was more than simply human.

Now, three years later, Laura is trying to move on from that strange, fantastical, terrifying year, struggling to move through her trauma and the mysterious hold that Vervain had over her (that he still, somehow, has over her). But then Laura's now estranged friend Aliyah calls with news: former acolyte Daniel has gone back to the Hollow, claiming to have received a message from Vervain. Daniel's last communication consisted of three frantic words:

He's still here.

As Laura and Aliyah venture back to the Hollow to find the truth, Laura finds herself reliving that first year. Can everything she remembers possibly be true?

And can she extricate herself from Vervain's influence, or will she finally claim the wonderful and terrifying power he promised her - at any cost?

### Extract:

*We came up the long driveway to the Hollow. From the back seat I fixated on the gravel track framed by stubby, thrusting trees, revealing at last a corner of the house: Jedediah Drake's fever-dream folly, dropped in the middle of Indiana farmland like an angel crippled by its fall. Aliyah was driving; I couldn't see her face. Joseph, in the passenger seat, tapped his fingers restlessly on the dash.*

*'Check the windows.' Aliyah's still-unfamiliar braids swung as her head turned. 'I want to know if he's watching.'*

*Joseph leaned forward. 'Keep driving.'*

*They weren't talking to me. Aliyah had cleanly ignored me since the moment they picked me up. Joseph had never paid me much attention. But they hadn't brought me for my conversation. I knew I was here as bait.*

*We drew past the trees, into the open where the house came clear as it had in my nightmares since I left. Vervain Hollow, where part of me had died. The wooden half was a charred skeleton, beams standing out like uneven ribs. The stone half survived, turret still rising high above the roof of the main hall: absurd, in this flat land with its infinite horizon. I had seen it last in summer. Now, in fall, the Virginia creeper burned bright as the flames that had consumed it.*

*Aliyah and Joseph gasped. I stared between them through the windshield, trying to look as shocked as they did. I wasn't supposed to have seen the Hollow since the fire.*

*I was afraid they would see through me. But they didn't even look. They were too caught up in the final death of a dream that had once belonged to all of us.*

*Aliyah stopped the car. She said something to Joseph, and Joseph replied, but the words might as well have been the sounds of birds. In my mind, I was already searching the house for any trace of you.*

*The house had never been yours. You had settled into its abandoned body like a hermit crab into a scavenged shell: as Jedediah Drake had settled on the land of the Miami, building his mansion here, dragging his daughter Genevieve with him so she could become a ghost. Just as we, now, had become your ghosts: your relics, broken and scattered, marked forever by your touch.*





## ERIN PIENAAR

Erin Pienaar has published short fiction in *Pithead Chapel*, *Matrix Magazine*, *The Forge Literary Magazine* and *The Antigonish Review*.

She spends her time reading and writing romantic comedy novels in Ontario, Canada, where she lives with her husband, son and ginger cat.

### LOVE TO WIN

**Status: On UK & US Submission. Full ms available.**

**Genre: Contemporary Romcom**

**Rights Available: All**

Becca Hale loves the Beatles, her pug Ringo, and weekly board game nights with her brother, but she doesn't love her brother's best friend and roommate. Matt is a history PhD student and all-round saint who has never met a fact he didn't like and wins every board game they play. Sure, Becca's loner little brother has never had a friend before, but would it have killed him to pick someone who sucked at Scrabble?

Thankfully, with Matt's student visa set to expire, Becca's dreams of board game dominance are about to come true. But as Becca's brother mourns the loss of his best friend and Matt confesses his wish to stay over a drunken game of Battleship, Becca finds herself offering Matt a challenge: throw the game and she'll marry him.

Becca doesn't do relationships, real or fake, but now she needs to feign her way through an engagement photo shoot, a wedding ceremony and a honeymoon with the one person she can't stand. At least there's no way she'll accidentally fall for him...right?

Every game has rules, and Becca has vowed to finish this one with her heart intact.

### Extract:

*I have two missions for this game of Clue – to solve this murder and to sabotage Matt as much as possible. Any time his little purple piece gets close to a room I yank him to the other side of the board and loudly suspect him of committing the crime. I drag him to the Library, the Hall and the Ballroom. When he steps away from the Kitchen, I bring him to the Billiard Room.*

*“Again? Seriously?” he says, frowning.*

*Matt's frowns are my favourite. It takes a lot of work to earn them and it seems I'm the only one who can.*

*[...]*

*“We should invite Annie to games night,” Trent says.*

*“She's married, right?” Vandana asks, wrinkling her nose. “Becca, don't you have any single friends?”*

*“Please find Matt's fake wife outside of my friend circle,” I say.*

*“My friend Alice would have been perfect, but she just started dating someone,” Vandana says. “Maybe I'll invite Kristen from yoga to games night! She's single.”*

*I picture snobby Kristen from yoga bragging about her natural flexibility while batting her long eyelashes at Matt. Matt looks uncomfortable but he doesn't say anything against the suggestion. He rolls the dice then marches Professor Plum towards the kitchen.*

*“Kristen is the worst,” I say. “If you invite her over, I will bludgeon myself with a lead pipe.”*

*[...]*

*After twenty minutes, I've got the room figured out (the Study) and the weapon (the Candlestick) but I've still got Miss. Scarlet and Mr. Green on my suspect list. On his next turn, Matt puts Miss Scarlet and the Candlestick in the Study.*

*“I accuse...” he says.*

*“No!” I exclaim. “Damn it! I'm so close. Don't guess and I'll marry you.”*

*Matt flushes and I'm thrilled I've found something even more discomfoting than pen chewing to bother him with.*

*“Miss Scarlet in the Study with the Candlestick,” he says.*

*He checks the solutions envelope for the answer and then lays the cards out on the table. He was right, of course. Miss Scarlet. Study. Candlestick.*

*“Thanks for dragging me into all those rooms, Rebecca,” Matt says. “It was very helpful.”*

*I hate Clue. I hate Saint Matthew. I hate games night.*







## EMMA PASS

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

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

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE

**Status: On UK Submission. Full ms available.**

**Genre: Commercial Fiction**

**Rights Available: All**

As a child, Molly Simmonds was labelled anxious, socially awkward and oversensitive. At twenty-seven, nothing's changed. Determined to transform Annoying Molly into Cool Molly once and for all she impulse-buys a camper van and sets off on an epic road trip around South West England.

Beaten down by a job he hates, Jake Griffiths decides to borrow his brother Nick's dog Muesli and take her wild camping, recording the trip on social media as a way to rekindle his passion for photography. But his plans go awry almost immediately when he's caught out in a storm and Muesli runs away. Luckily she's found by Molly, who reunites her with Jake.

For Molly and Jake, there's an instant connection, but as they get to know each other they are both aware of the parts of themselves they are keeping hidden to avoid getting rejected. What will happen when their masks slip and the messy truths they've tried to hide from one another are revealed?

When life doesn't come with instructions, how will Molly and Jake find their way to love?

### Extract:

*'Muesli! MUESLI!'*

*I jump. It's a man's voice, calling nearby; he sounds hoarse, as if he's been shouting for a while. I frown. Muesli? Is he some sort of insane breakfast hawker?*

*'Muesli!'*

*Shit. He's right by the van – there's no way I can close the door now without him hearing me. Heart pounding, I peer through the gap and see a guy about my age, a giant rucksack on his back and a dog lead looped round his neck, looking around the car park with a frantic expression. His clothes are damp, his legs and arms are streaked with mud and his longish, slightly curly hair is sticking to his head in half-dried clumps. He looks as if he's been out in the rain ever since it started the day before yesterday. 'Muesli! Where the fuck are you?' he says, his voice cracking as if he's on the verge of tears. Just as I'm wondering if I have time to get the bread knife out of the cutlery drawer, Griffiths gives a little yip! and jumps down off the bed with the towel still draped over her. I grab her collar just in time to stop her squeezing out through the half-open door. The man turns, seeming to notice the van he's standing right next to for the first time. 'Muesli?'*

*Griffiths barks again.*

*'Um, excuse me,' the man says, tapping on the side window. 'I'm really sorry to bother you, but do you have a dog in there? A whippet with grey stripes?'*

### Also by Emma Pass:



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

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





## JAYNE COWIE

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

### AFTER DARK by Jayne Cowie

(US Title: CURFEW)

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

**Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction**

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

**Film/TV (Vertigo / Paramount+)**

*Now a major TV crime thriller series  
Streaming October 2024*

### WELCOME TO A WORLD WHERE WOMEN HOLD THE POWER.

They dominate workplaces, public spaces and government.

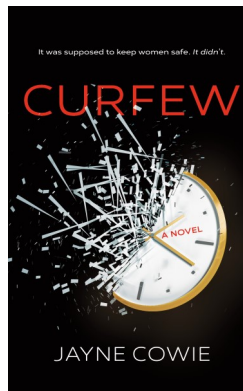
They are no longer afraid to cross a dark car park, catch the last train, or walk home alone.

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

It changed things for the better. Until now.

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

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



## I DID IT FOR YOU (US Title: ONE OF THE BOYS)

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

**Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction**

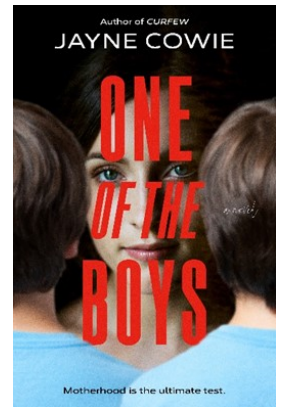
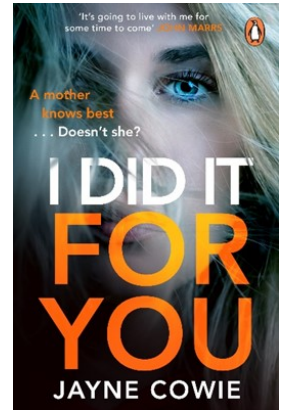
**Rights Sold: US (Berkley, PRH), Russia (AST), Film/ TV (Under Option)**

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

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

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

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



### PRAISE FOR JAYNE COWIE:

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

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

“**Original and unsettling**”

- *The Sun*





## CLARE MARCHANT

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

### WHERE TWO RIVERS MEET by Clare Marchant

**UK Publisher: Boldwood (WEL), March 2025**

**Genre: Historical Fiction**

**Rights Available: Dramatisation / Translation**

A forgotten summer, a tragic death and a buried tale which will rise again with the flood.

**1571:** Sixteen-year-old Anne Dacre is recently married to her stepbrother Phillip, whose father, the Duke of Norfolk, is responsible for the murder of her young brother at Barnhamcross Hall.

When Anne discovers that the duke is orchestrating a plot to topple the queen, she uses her position in the court to convey messages to the queen's spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham. All she wants is revenge for her brother, but is she putting her own life at risk?

**Now:** Sarah is summoned to Barnhamcross Hall, a place she swore twenty-one years ago she was never going to return. But her godmother, Cordelia, is dying and has asked for Sarah's help. While cataloguing her belongings, Sarah discovers a volume of sixteenth century poetry containing a puzzling code and a strange family motto.

Can an investigation into a long-forgotten murder, and a plot to depose a queen, help Sarah to come to terms with the tragic circumstances which kept her away from Barnhamcross Hall for so long?

## DAUGHTERS OF THE TAROT by Clare Marchant

**UK Publisher: Boldwood (WEL), August 2025**

**Genre: Historical Fiction**

**Rights Available: Dramatisation / Translation**

Two women connected by one tarot card. One uses it to change lives, the other must find it to save hers.

**London 1644:** Fifteen years ago, Portia fled Italy with her daughter, leaving behind everything and everyone she had ever known. Now, she has made a living for herself helping other women disappear from their lives, with the help of her deck of tarot cards. But when she spots a face she never thought she'd see again, Portia fears that everything she has built is about to come crashing down.

**London 2025:** Beatrice moves to London, determined to fulfil her late mother's dream of opening a tarot card shop. Buried amongst her mother's collection, Beatrice discovers a beautiful and ancient set of cards. Except, the Devil card is missing.

Suddenly Beatrice is drawn into a centuries-old mystery about an ancestor who used the card to help others disappear and what happened to her when it all went wrong.

### *Also by Clare Marchant:*







## SHARON GOSLING

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

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

### THE SECRET ORCHARD

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

**Genre:** Commercial Women's Fiction

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

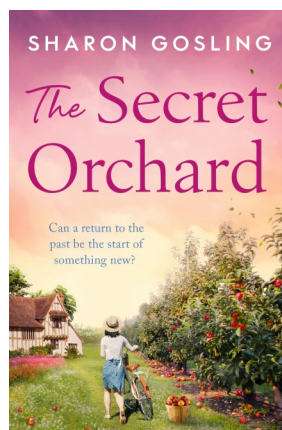
**Rights Available:** US, Translation,  
Dramatisation

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

Two sisters. One unexpected inheritance.

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

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

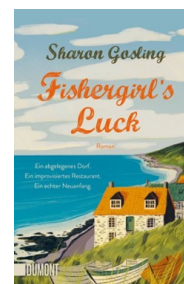


*But it is the discovery of an old apple orchard that could change everything.*

## THE HOUSE BENEATH THE CLIFFS

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

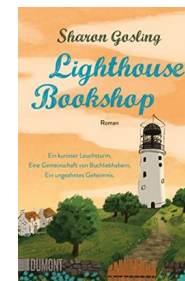
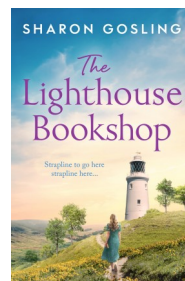
**Rights sold:** Dutch (Zomer & Keuning), German (DuMont Verlag),  
Italian (Garzanti), Norwegian (Cappelen Damm), Russian (Sindbad),  
Swedish (Modernista)



### THE LIGHTHOUSE BOOKSHOP

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

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



### THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN

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

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



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





## CAROLINE O'DONOGHUE

Caroline O'Donoghue is a *New York Times* bestselling author, screenwriter and host of the hugely popular and award-winning podcast *Sentimental Garbage*. She has written three novels for adults: *Promising Young Women*, which was shortlisted for the AN Post Irish Book Awards, *Scenes of a Graphic Nature*, which was longlisted for the Ondaatje Prize, and the international bestseller

*The Rachel Incident*. She is also the author of the *New York Times* bestselling YA series, *All Our Hidden Gifts*. She was named one of Ireland's '30 under 30' most exciting artists by the *Sunday Times*. Her novels have received rave reviews and have been published in 22 languages to date.

### THE RACHEL INCIDENT

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

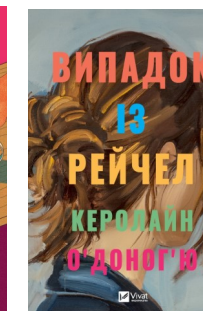
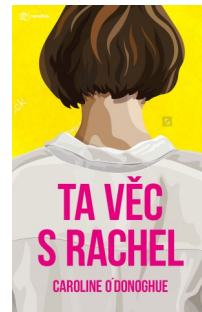
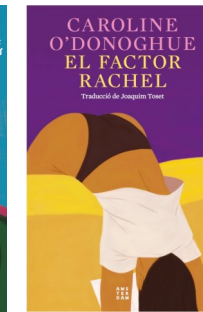
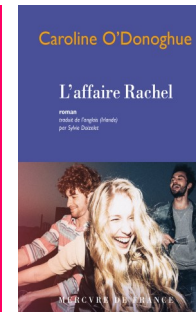
**Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction**

**Rights Sold: US/Canada (Knopf), Brazil (Buzz Editora), Catalan (Ara Llibres), Czech (Grada), Dutch (Ambo Anthos), French (Mercure de France), German (KiWi), Hungarian (Athenaeum), Italian (NN Editore), Lithuanian (Alma Littera), Polish (Poznańskie), Portuguese (PRH), Romanian (Librex Media), Russian (Eksmo), Serbian (Vulkan), Spanish (Libros del Asteroide), Swedish (Historiska Media), Taiwan (Delight Press), Ukrainian (Vivat), UK Audio (W F Howes), Film/TV (Universal / Page Boy)**



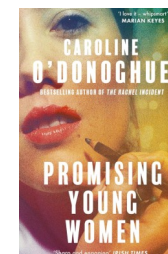
*The Rachel Incident* is an all-consuming love story. But it's not the one you're expecting. It's unconventional and messy. It's young and foolish. It's about losing and finding yourself. But it is always about love.

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



“Astute and funny as hell... A gratifying, accomplished novel.”  
- *New York Times*

### Also by Caroline O'Donoghue:





## DANIEL AUBREY

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

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

## DARK ISLAND

**UK Publisher: HarperNorth (WEL), April 2024**

**Genre: Investigative Crime**

**Rights Sold: Czech (Bourdon), French (JC Lattes), Swedish (Lind & Co), Ukrainian (Laboratory), Film/TV (under option)**

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

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

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

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

## Early reviews from NetGalley UK:

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

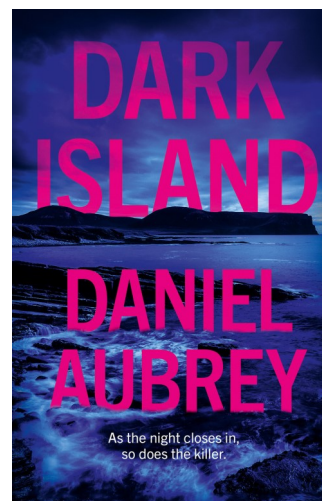
"Fabulously dark tale set on the Scottish islands. Great descriptions of the locations and characters that I couldn't wait to find out what happens to them next!" **5 stars**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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





DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS  
LITERARY AGENCY

◆ CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT FICTION ◆







## CAROLINE O'DONOGHUE

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

The *NYT* bestselling *All Our Hidden Gifts* series were Caroline's first novels for YA readers. She has also written three novels for adults, including the international smash hit *The Rachel Incident*. Her novels have so far been published in 22 languages.

*Skipshock*, her groundbreaking new YA novel, will be published as a major lead title in the UK and US in 2025.

### SKIPSHOCK

**UK Publisher:** Walker (WAL), June 2025

**Age Group:** 13+

**Rights Sold:** US (Walker),

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

**Set in a universe where time is key to power and privilege, this dazzlingly inventive, genre-defying fantasy romance is the first in a duology by bestselling author Caroline O'Donoghue.**

Margo is on a train to a new boarding school when she slips into another dimension, passing from the height of Irish summer into the chill of an alien winter, from a 24-hour day to one that begins and ends in just six hours. From a stranger on the train – a travelling salesman by the name of Moon – she learns that she is now lost in a series of interconnected worlds, scarred by uprisings, travel bans and world sealings. Power is determined by time – who has it, who doesn't, and who has the freedom to travel between different dimensions.

Can Margo find a way to get back home – or will she choose to stay in a world where her teenagehood is slipping away faster than ever before, but where she may have found the only person with whom she would choose to spend eternity?

Told through the eyes of both naive Margo and desperate Moon, the unforgettable realm of *Skipshock* will shake the way you think about love, time, and the fabric of the universe. The first in a planned duology from the best-selling author of the *Gifts* series, this utterly original epic is a must-read.



## THE GIFTS SERIES

**UK Publisher:** Walker (WAL), May 2021

**Age Group:** 13+

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

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

**"Fiercely, furiously good."**

- Melinda Salisbury

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

- Kiran Millwood Hargrave

**\*\*New York Times Bestseller\*\***







## LAURA JANE WILLIAMS

Queen of the meet-cute, Laura Jane Williams is the author of eight adult novels and two memoirs. Her work has been translated into fourteen languages and counting. Her debut novel, *Our Stop*, is a UK and international bestseller.

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

### TAYLOR BLAKE IS A LEGEND

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

**Age group: 12+**

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

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

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

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

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



## TAYLOR BLAKE SEIZES THE DAY

**UK Publisher: Bloomsbury (WAL ex. North America), May 2025**

**Age group: 12+**

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

**Taylor is determined to make her mark on the world!**

A hilarious and heartfelt teen series that fans of *Geek Girl* will love. 'A fresh, touching story for girls, with a great message' *Jacqueline Wilson*

When a classmate gets hospitalised with a serious illness, Taylor realises with a shock that she hardly knows a thing about the girl. Would people say that about *her* if she met the same fate? Taylor couldn't bear that, so she sets out to make herself memorable!

She plunges herself energetically into a new sport, fancy outfits, the launch of the website for her online magazine *and* major protest in aid of Period Justice at school - all the while feeling unsure how to grab another opportunity she really wants: a second kiss with Duncan!



### Also by Laura Jane Williams:



**'Joyful, romantic and life-affirming.'**

- *Red Magazine*

**'It had me totally gripped.'**

- *Beth O'Leary*

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

- *Dolly Alderton*



## KATHARINE ORTON

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

*Nevertell*, her first novel, was published by Walker Books in 2019 to overwhelmingly positive reviews.

Her second novel, *Glassheart*, followed in 2020, and a third, *Mountainfell*, in November 2022. Her fourth novel, *The Traitor Moth*, will be published by Simon & Schuster in 2025.

### THE TRAITOR MOTH

**US Publisher: Simon & Schuster (North America), Autumn 2025**

**Age Group: 9+**

**Rights Available: UK, Translation, Dramatisation**

*Trust your dreams, and follow the stars...*

Catclaw, a young moth prone to mishaps and flights of fancy, dreams that one day he will have the gift of prophecy, just like his Dreamkin ancestors.

But many moons ago the Dreamkin were exiled from the other noble moth clans, their gifts of prophecy stripped from them as punishment for a crime too awful to even speak of. No Dreamkin has received a prophecy in generations. So when Catclaw receives a vision telling him that all the moth clans are in terrible danger, he's branded a liar and a traitor.

Facing exile from the only clan he's ever known, he sets out alone on the long and treacherous journey back to Deia's Kingdom, the home of the other clans, to warn them. But there is more to the clans' history than Catclaw ever knew, and the closer he gets to them, the more the danger grows. His visions can only tell him part of the story.

**And who would ever believe the word of a traitor?**

### Extract:

*"Master Saturna!" No. No.*

*Catclaw rushed over, and then froze. It was clear that the old moth wasn't breathing. His ghost-green wings were faded. Catclaw could tell that he was gone.*

*Catclaw didn't move. He breathed in the silence, and gazed into the wise old eyes of his clan's leader that still, somehow, seemed to be star-gazing. It felt as though, if Catclaw waited here long enough, Master Saturna would come back... even though deep down he knew that wasn't true. But even that wasn't what bothered Catclaw most. It was that Master Saturna looked just as he'd imagined him, moments before.*

*It was too much. All Catclaw could feel right now was numb.*

*Now that he took in his old friend's surroundings, he could see that a scruffy book lay next to him, open in the middle and face down. Nearby lay Master Saturna's leaf quill, and there were splashes of berry ink from the overturned cup where more ink pooled on the branch. Master Saturna had always taken pride in his favourite sitting place. The least Catclaw could do was tidy up a bit: give Master Saturna some dignity when the others came.*

*Catclaw reached for the book. It was not one he'd ever seen Master Saturna reading. That was strange. Now that he looked closer, he could see that it was a diary of some kind. He turned it over.*

*The page was covered in scrawls, a chaos of words and sentences all overlapping and intermingling. But written on the page it had been lying open on, in Master Saturna's own handwriting, were two words that stood out, underlined several times.*

*They were the words: CATCLAW, and, TRAITOR.*

### Also by Katharine Orton:



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







## DAN SMITH

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

Dan is now an award-winning and bestselling author of books for both children and adults. His children's titles have won him numerous accolades including the Coventry Inspiration Book Award, the Essex Book Award, and nominations for the Brandford Boase Award and the Young Quills Award.

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

### THE NIGHT HOUSE FILES: THE DEADSOUL PROJECT

**UK Publisher: Barrington Stoke (WAL),**

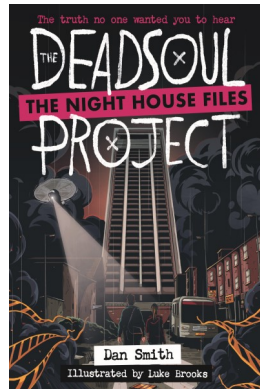
**Feb 2025**

**Genre: Sci-fi horror**

**Age Group: 11+**

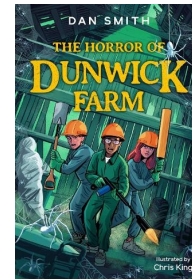
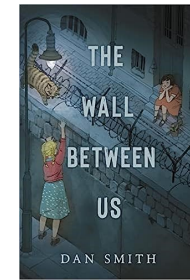
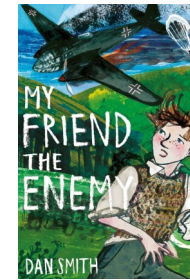
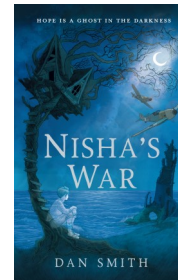
**Rights Available: Dramatisation (US / Translation via Publisher)**

**Master of sci-fi Dan Smith delivers an action-packed adventure as secret organisation The Night House exposes the horrifying truth behind the Alpine Heights disaster.**



In 1977, the Alpine Heights tower block where Kyle Dempsey and his sister Lauren live with their mum and stepdad becomes the site of a horrific infestation. Believing their stepdad, Connor, to have been killed in action in Northern Ireland, Kyle and Lauren are shocked to find him at home in their flat. But Connor is changed. Following a secret military experiment, he has been infected with some kind of alien life form, which is using him as a host to infect the other residents of the tower block with gruesome results.

### Also by Dan Smith:



“An enchanting, **beautifully crafted** wartime tale.”

- Ally Sherrick on *Nisha's War*

"Action, adventure, wolves, snow ... **this story has EVERYTHING.**

I devoured it so quickly I need to read it again."

- Emma Carroll on *She Wolf*

“Another stunning and original read from **a master storyteller.**”

- BookTrust on *She Wolf*

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

- LoveReading4Kids on *Crooked Oak*



## CALUM MCSWIGGAN

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

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

### MASQUERADE

**UK Publisher: Penguin Random House (WAL), June 2025**

**Genre: LGBTQ+ Romcom**

**Age group: 13+**

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

***The Prom* meets *Groundhog Day* in the irresistible new queer romance from the author of *Straight Expectations*.**

Prom is supposed to be the night you remember your whole life. But for seventeen-year-old Zach, it's about to *become* his whole life - after a kiss from a masked stranger, Zach finds himself stuck in a time loop, endlessly repeating the same day.

Zach thinks that the only way to break the cycle is to work out the identity of his mystery admirer. But when everyone around him is wearing masks of one kind or another, how can he ever find out who his true love might be?



### STRAIGHT EXPECTATIONS

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

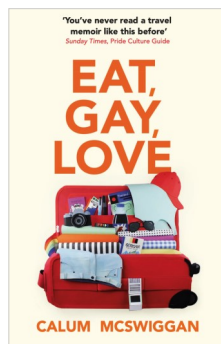
**Age group: 13+**

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

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

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

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



**Also by Calum McSwiggan:**

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

**\*Longlisted for the Polari First Book Prize 2021\***





## SYLVIA BISHOP

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

Her books have so far been published in 18 languages.

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

### UNDER GOLDEN SEAS

**UK Publisher: Andersen (WAL), May 2025**

**Age Group: 12+**

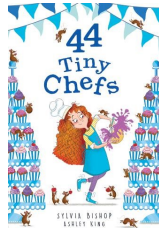
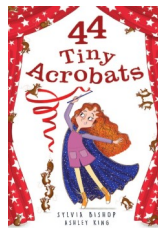
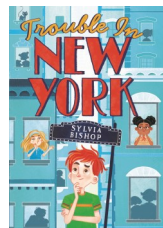
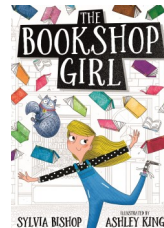
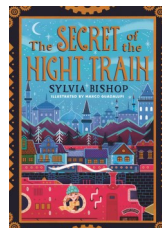
**Rights Available: Dramatisation (Translation/Audio via Publisher)**

**The beautiful, immersive sequel to the acclaimed fantasy, *On Silver Tides*.**

Dylan was born with two spirits: human and monster. When he and his family dive underwater, they become wyrms, monstrous creatures of myth and legend, the secretive guardians of the seas. Yet Dylan hates his second spirit, and fears he will hurt innocent people.

With his family away on a mission to quell a rising danger in a distant ocean, Dylan takes his chance to rid himself of his monstrous side for good. But things go awry, and Dylan is left half-changed, and pursued by an even greater threat. Worse, his family need his help. Dylan must set sail to save them, deciding as he goes who he can trust – and ultimately choose what he truly wishes to be.

**ON SILVER TIDES and UNDER GOLDEN SEAS are stunning and beautifully written fantasy novels, perfect for fans of Frances Hardinge, Melinda Salisbury, or Diana Wynne Jones.**



### Praise for *ON SILVER TIDES*:

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

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

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

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

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

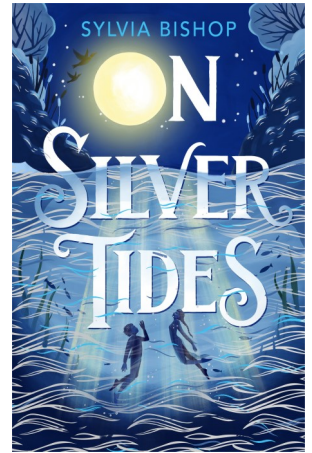
"**I loved this book so much**. It feels like a contemporary classic." - Alice Winn

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

### Praise for Sylvia Bishop:

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

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



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





## JAMIE RUSSELL

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

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

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

### MECH BRIGADE

**UK Publisher:** Walker Books (WAL), June 2025

**Genre:** Sci-fi

**Age Group:** 9+

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

**When his giant battle mech goes AWOL, Miles must go after it or face the wrath of his superior officers. But what if his rebellious mech has plans of its own?**

In a future where child soldiers are trained to pilot deadly combat robots, thirteen-year-old Miles Riley signs up to join the Colonial Defence Forces. Miles is determined not just to follow in the footsteps of his inventor father – who came up with the idea to use mechs to fight aliens many years ago – but also to *find* him. For Professor Riley has been missing presumed dead since Miles was born, and the circumstances around his disappearance have never been fully understood. But on the harsh alien planet of Icarus, mech warfare is harder than it looks – especially when someone on the inside wants you dead...

## Also by Jamie Russell:



### SKY WAKE: INVASION

**UK Publisher:** Walker Books (WAL), July 2021

**Age Group:** 9+

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

**‘A cracking page-turning adventure. Loved it!’**

– Liz Hyder, author of *Bearmouth*

### SKY WAKE: BATTLEFIELD by Jamie Russell

**UK Publisher:** Walker Books (WAL), April 2022

**Age Group:** 9+

**Rights Available:** Dramatisation (Translation/

**‘Immersive and exhilarating but also funny and thoughtful in places.**

– BookTrust



### SKY WAKE: ENDGAME by Jamie Russell

**UK Publisher:** Walker Books (WAL), August 2023

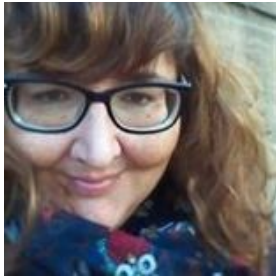
**Age Group:** 9+

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

**‘Breathless and action-packed and will keep you turning the page.’**

– The Letterpress Project





## DAISY MAY JOHNSON

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

Riot's *Novel Gazing* podcast.

### HOW TO BE BRAVE

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

**Age Group: 8+**

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

**Rights Available: Translation, Dramatisation**



Some stories are about adventure.  
Some are about heroes.  
Some are about ducks.  
**This one is about all three.**

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

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

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

– Carmen H, Bookseller

### HOW TO BE TRUE

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

**Age Group: 8+**

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

**Rights Available: Translation, Dramatisation**



Some stories are about love.  
Some are about rebellion.  
Some are about macarons.  
**This one is about all three.**

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

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



### HOW TO BE FREE

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

**Age Group: 8+**

**Rights Sold: Audio (W F Howes)**

**Rights Available: Translation, Dramatisation**

Some stories are about friendship.  
Some are about mysteries.  
Some are about cake.  
**This one is about all three.**





DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS  
LITERARY AGENCY

◆ NON-FICTION ◆





## NATALIE HART

Natalie has a BA in Arabic and Spanish from the University of Cambridge and an MA in Creative Writing from Lancaster University. Natalie's first novel *PIECES OF ME* (Legend Press, 2018) was shortlisted for the Costa Debut Novel Award and was selected as a Prima Magazine Best Book of the Year and a Reading Agency Top Debut. Harper's Bazaar described *PIECES OF ME* as

'compelling and accomplished.'

### HOME SCAR

**Status:** On UK Submission, proposal and partial ms available

**Genre:** Literary memoir

**Rights Available:** All

This is not another wild swimming memoir, but the ocean is always in the foreground. This is also not a memoir about war, but conflict is often the backdrop.

HOME SCAR is the literary memoir of Costa-shortlisted author Natalie Hart's search for purpose and belonging, set against the backdrop of a career in two of the biggest challenges of recent decades: global terrorism and the environmental crisis.

Natalie Hart spent her twenties overseas, working as a research and communications expert in conflict and post-conflict zones. In her early thirties, she left that life behind, moved to Cornwall with a job in marine conservation and got a dog to anchor her to a place. But settling was not as straightforward as she had hoped, and she began swimming on her own in the sea at night, seeking out the danger she missed in the very environment she was working to protect.

In HOME SCAR we follow Natalie through dual timelines: in the present day, she battles to create a life in Cornwall and rebuild a difficult relationship with her estranged mother, while trying to resist the pull of escape and adventure abroad. In the secondary arc we follow the reverse, tracing her life from Baghdad to Kabul, Erbil to Tunis, desperate to stay overseas despite the niggling desire to find a place she wouldn't have to leave behind.

### Extract:

*I stop for a moment, as still as I can, and hold my breath to listen. Nature holds its breath around me, waiting, our ears straining together. Then I hear it. The low powerful noise of what I came here for. The ocean.*

*I didn't start doing this on purpose. It just happened once, that I finished work late and I came to the sea anyway, and I found the thing that my body had been craving. A feeling from the life I have been trying to leave behind. As I walk down to the water, I anticipate the sting of the cold on my skin, the serene aching numbness that will follow. Most of all, I look forward to the fear.*

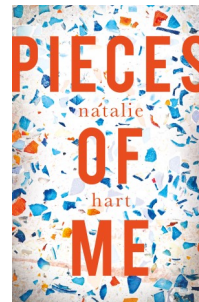
*My dog is impatient. She runs ahead of me, her coat a camouflage, disappearing and reappearing on the path. Still young, she is transformed into a feral creature by the coming of the night. I got her after I moved here, a tiny fearless being who made my heart swell and stop in equal measure. When I say that I got a dog, what I mean to say is that I purchased an emotional anchor. I wanted to tie my own existence to another living thing. I wanted to make it harder to leave.*

*After the trees and the fields there is a steep slope downwards, then a gate with a rusty hook and hinges that resist as I open it, as if knowing that people should not be coming down to swim at this time. That it is not safe, in the ocean, in the dark, on your own. I step onto the beach with a crunch of stone under foot and my body hums. The water is waiting, grey-blue, dark, calm. The sea does not judge my choice, it will just welcome me in, subsume me, regardless.*

*I find a place to undress, a spot by the rocks that is revealed only when the tide is low. I peel away my layers and my bare skin glows white against the dark slate of the pebbles, making me feel visible. Exposed. My dog tracks her way across the beach, nose low in the pungent piles of seaweed left from when the tide was high. I pick my way to the water's edge and sharp rocks dig into the soft flesh of my feet. Low waves claw sand and stone back into the water. The evening air is cool.*

*Sometimes, excitement feels like fear. Sometimes, fear feels like love.*

### Also by Natalie Hart:



**\*Shortlisted for Costa First Novel Award 2018\***

'Heart-wrenching and heart-warming in equal measure, *Pieces of Me* is **an incredibly moving tale of love and conflict...**

Natalie writes with the skill and confidence of a writer who's been published for years. I couldn't put it down'

—Harper's Bazaar



## SANDRA LAWRENCE

Sandra Lawrence is an author and journalist and has written about gardens for, among others, The Daily Telegraph, The Times, English Garden, and British Heritage. Her seventeen books include *The Witch's Garden* (2019), *Anthology of Amazing Women* (2018) and *Miss Willmott's Ghosts* (2022),

a biography of Edwardian plantswoman Ellen Ann Willmott, whose ruined garden fuelled Sandra's own childhood fantasies of treasure hunting in lost gardens.

### LOST GARDENS OF THE WORLD: AN ATLAS OF FORGOTTEN HORTICULTURAL TREASURES

**UK Publisher: Quarto (World), October 2024**

**Genre: Illustrated non-fiction / Gift / Gardening**

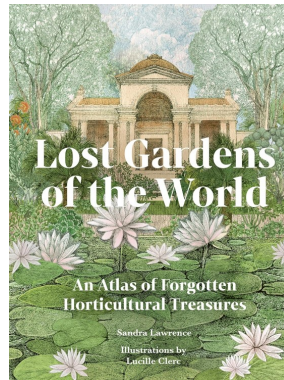
**Rights Available: All**

**A romantic illustrated journey through forty captivating gardens lost to time.**

All over the world, once-flourishing horticultural spaces have been abandoned and forgotten. From the once-crumbling grandeur of the Villa d'Este and the magic of the Lost Gardens of Heligan, to the sculptural surrealism of Las Pozas and the colourful rebirth of Le Jardin Majorelle, there are countless gardens around the world with fascinating stories to tell.

Author Sandra Lawrence takes readers on a tour of 40 horticultural gems from around the world that have been lost either through neglect, abandonment or destruction. Many have been consigned to history, never to be seen again, while others have been revived and restored by the care and dedication of new owners and communities. These marvels of horticulture take many forms: stately homes, floating allotments, roof gardens and more. But all of them have one thing in common: the romance of paradise lost.

Featuring commissioned illustrations of each garden by renowned artist Lucille Clerc, this book is a celebration of our love of nature, and the importance of keeping these oases of green alive and well – if not in reality, then at least on the page.



### Also by Sandra Lawrence:

