

# Johnson & Alcock

l i t e r a r y   a g e n c y

## Frankfurt Book Fair 2016 – Rights list

**For all enquiries please contact:**

Anna Power: [anna@johnsonandalcock.co.uk](mailto:anna@johnsonandalcock.co.uk) (AP)

Becky Thomas: [becky@johnsonandalcock.co.uk](mailto:becky@johnsonandalcock.co.uk) (BT)

Ed Wilson: [ed@johnsonandalcock.co.uk](mailto:ed@johnsonandalcock.co.uk) (EW)

+44 (0) 20 7251 0125  
[www.johnsonandalcock.co.uk](http://www.johnsonandalcock.co.uk)

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# FICTION



## THE AGE OF ASSASSINS

### RJ Barker

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Debut fantasy trilogy coming in 2017 – rights sold to Orbit UK/US and pre-empted by Heyne

*To catch an assassin, send an assassin*

When Merela Karn and her apprentice, Girton Club-Foot, are captured by Queen Adran and forced to find out who wants to assassinate her son, they are plunged into the lethal politics of the Tired Lands. Stripped of his weapons and forced to hide his martial abilities Girton is placed in an uncomfortable position: of being nothing more than a crippled boy struggling to fit in among squires who hate him for being different.

But there is far more at stake in Castle Maniyadoc than the threat of assassination. As Girton makes friends he moves nearer to the secrets at the heart of the castle and puts himself in increasing danger. Magic, the spectre that has scarred the Tired Lands, has raised its ugly head and it threatens to trap Girton and his master, Merela, more thoroughly than Queen Adran ever could.

**THE AGE OF ASSASSINS** is the first book in a fantasy trilogy by debut writer RJ Barker. Already drawing comparisons to Joe Abercrombie's *First Law* books and Patrick Rothfuss's *Kingkiller Chronicles*, RJ Barker has created a meticulously imagined new world and magical system, with a vivid cast of characters. Darkly funny and hugely entertaining.

**RJ Barker** is a softly-spoken Yorkshireman with flowing locks and a penchant for taxidermy. He lives in Northern England, and you can find him on twitter: <https://twitter.com/dedbutdrmng>. Synopses for books 2 and 3 in the series are available.

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UK: Orbit (Summer 2017)

US: Orbit

Germany: Heyne

Italy: Mondadori

Material: Unedited MS

## THE PICTURES

### Guy Bolton

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#### **A noir thriller set in the glamorous world of 1930s Hollywood.**

Detective Craine has spent his life working as a 'fixer' for the film studios - whitewashing the misdemeanors and scandals that studio stars get caught up in. A few months after the tragic death of his wife, and just as Craine is trying to turn his back on this kind of work, he gets called in one last time: MGM want him to deal with the suicide of the producer of *The Wizard of Oz*. Craine is tasked with making sure his death passes without scandal or scrutiny from the press, and that his widow, the beautiful starlet Gale Goodwin, comes through with her reputation unscathed.

It should be a straightforward case, but when connections are made between it and a brutal murder across town Craine must decide whether to defy orders, and to redeem a career of concealment by going in search of the ugly truth.

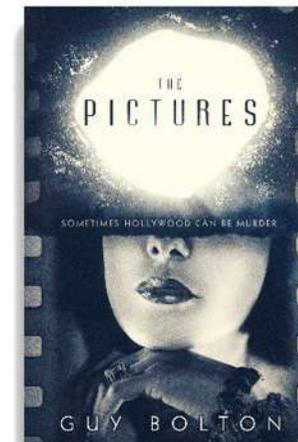
The world of *The Pictures* is brilliantly authentic and immersive, and this will be the first in a thrilling new series following Detective Craine.

**Guy Bolton** is 30 years old, works in drama at the BBC and is also a screenwriter with a number of optioned screenplays.

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UK: Oneworld (spring 2017)

Material: Edited MS

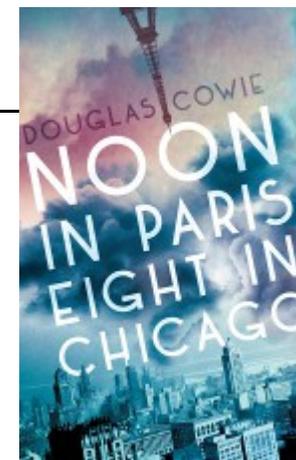


## NOON IN PARIS, EIGHT IN CHICAGO

### Douglas Cowie

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Noon in Paris, Eight in Chicago begins when France's feminist icon Simone de Beauvoir calls up American novelist Nelson Algren during her visit to Chicago in February 1947: in this moment both their lives are set to change irrevocably. Algren takes de Beauvoir on a whirlwind tour of his city at night, visiting dive bars, seedy cabarets, and the police lock-up. When the pair return to his apartment on Wabansia Avenue, a passion is sparked that will last for the next two decades. Intense months of happiness - travelling from the Mississippi River to New Orleans, and through Mexico and North Africa - are interspersed by long periods apart that expose the fragility of what they come to call their 'marriage'. As their careers take diverging paths, and old and new lovers resurface, their love is put to the test. Reimagining the couple's passionate affair, Douglas Cowie takes us on a journey that explores what it means to love and be loved by the right person at the wrong time. The result is as captivating as it is poignant.



"This intoxicating portrayal of raw animal-magnetism. It is vividly atmospheric – the literary equivalent of stepping into a Hopper painting. I was walking those 1947 Chicago streets with them." – **The Pool**

"A classic story brought to life by classic story-telling." – **The Skinny**

Priase for Owen Noone and the Marauder

"A page-turning novel." – **The TLS**

"An uncanny ability to evoke time and place...an intriguing novel." - **Scotland on Sunday**

"Cowie sings his riff with enormous assurance and offbeat charm." – **The Times**

**Douglas Cowie** is originally from Chicago, has lived in England (and Berlin) since 1999. He is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing in the English Department at Royal Holloway, University of London. His first novel, Owen Noone and the Marauder, was published by Canongate in the UK and Bloomsbury in the US in 2005. Foreign sales included France:(Christian Bourgois,pbk Points); Germany (Kiepenheuer und Witsch,pbk Bloomsbury Germany); Spain (Siruela); Italy (Garzanti); Sweden (Natur och Kultur); Film rights (Film4). Most recently he published two linked novellas with Black Hill Press in the US.

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UK: Myriad

Material: PB, PDF

## TRIPLE CROWN

### Felix Francis

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**The richest prize in racing. The perfect motive to commit a crime ...**

Jeff Hinkley, the British Horseracing Authority investigator and hero of two previous Felix Francis novels, has been seconded to the US Federal Anti-Corruption in Sports Agency (FACSA) where he has been asked to find a mole in their organisation, an informant who is passing on confidential information to fix races.

Jeff goes in search of answers, taking on an undercover role as a groom on the backstretch at Belmont Park racetrack in New York. But he discovers far more than he was bargaining for, finding himself as the meat in the sandwich between FACSA and corrupt individuals who will stop at nothing, including murder, to capture the most elusive and lucrative prize in the world – the Triple Crown.

#### Praise for Felix Francis

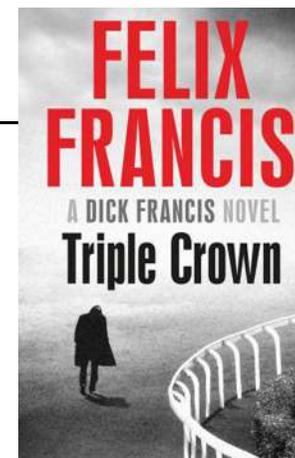
“This one’s a stunner – Booklist (starred review)

“Felix Francis’s latest mystery does the family tradition proud – a vivid and fascinating read.” – Washington Times

“Ranks with the best of his late father’s thrillers set in the British horse racing world.” – Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“Fans of both thrillers and horse racing will be on tenterhooks” – Kirkus Reviews

“Felix is a master plotter and suspense builder... another Francis thriller in which danger and suspense build with each scene.” – Booklist

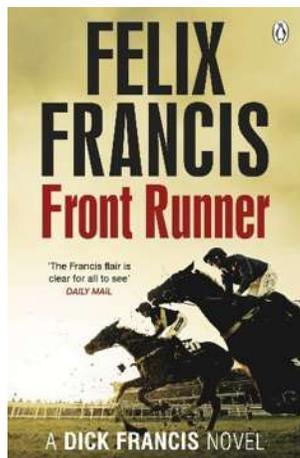


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UK: Simon & Schuster  
US: G. P. Putnam's Sons  
Audio: Bolinda

Czech: Euromedia  
Slovakia: Slovensky Spisovatel

Material: HB, PDF



## FRONT RUNNER

**Felix Francis**

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**Things are hotting up in this latest thriller from bestselling author Felix Francis**

Jefferson Hinkley is back. In his role as an undercover investigator for the British Horseracing Authority, Jeff is approached by the multi-time champion jockey, Dave Swinton, to discuss the delicate matter of losing races on purpose. Little does Jeff realise that the call would result in an attempt on his life, locked in a sauna with the temperature well above boiling point.

Dave Swinton is then found dead, burnt beyond recognition in his car at a deserted beauty spot. The police think it's a suicide but Jeff is not so sure. He starts to investigate the possible races that Swinton could have intentionally lost but discovers instead that others are out to prevent him from doing so, at any cost.

Praise for Dick Francis and Felix Francis:

'From winning post to top of the bestseller list, time after time' Sunday Times

'The Francis flair is clear for all to see' Daily Mail

'The master of suspense and intrigue' Country Life

'Still the master' – Racing Post

'Yet another winner from the master' – Daily Mirror

'A franchise purebred' – The Independent

'The master of suspense and intrigue' – Country Life

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UK: Michael Joseph  
 US: G. P. Putnam's Sons  
 Audio: Bolinda

Czech: Euromedia  
 Slovakia: Slovensky Spisovatel

Material: PB, PDF

## CLOSE TO HOME

**Cara Hunter**

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**A debut crime novel about a missing child, brilliantly plotted and with shocking twists and turns; the first in a brilliant new series centred on the character of D.I. Adam Fawley and based in modern Oxford.**

When 8-year-old Daisy Mason goes missing DI Adam Fawley knows that nine times out of ten it's someone close to home.

And Daisy's family is certainly strange. Her mother is obsessed with keeping up appearances, while her father is cold and defensive under questioning. Then there's Daisy's little brother – so withdrawn and uncommunicative...

DI Fawley is recovering from a recent personal tragedy and is all too familiar with the tell-tale signs of an unhappy family. As the Masons come under closer scrutiny, secrets begin to unravel and accusations fly. But will the unfolding drama and scandal bring the police any closer to the truth?

Penguin (UK and US) plan to launch Cara Hunter as “the crime writer to watch in 2018” with a huge buzz building campaign taking advantage of all the terrific social media aspects of the book (Twitter and Instagram campaigns tied to #FindingDaisy).

Cara Hunter studied English at Oxford returning to complete a doctorate on Samuel Richardson. She now lives there with her husband.

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UK: Viking (January 2018)

US: Penguin Books

Norway: Cappelen Damm

Sweden: Modernista

Germany: Aufbau

China: Beijing United Creation Culture Media

Material: Edited manuscript

## WOULD LIKE TO MEET

### Polly James

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**A clever, funny and poignant novel about mid-life love and identity in this comic cross between *You've Got Mail* and *Shirley Valentine***

Could the worst thing that's ever happened to Hannah Pinkman also turn out to be one of the best?

She and her husband Dan have reached the end of the line. Bored with the same gripes, the same old arguments – in fact, bored with everything – they split up after a trivial row turns into something much more serious.

Now Hannah has to make a new life for herself, but that's not easy. She's been so busy being a wife and mum that she's let all her other interests slip away, along with her friends. And when Hannah is persuaded to join a dating site, her 'best match' is the very last person she expects it to be . . .



*Praise for Polly James:*

'Must read' Saturday magazine (Daily Express)

'A heart-warming tale – thought-provoking and full of laughs.' The Sun

'An emotionally intelligent, funny and sad look at what happens at the end of a long relationship, how difficult it is to adjust to life alone and how important it is to reconnect with friends and rediscover your identity.' Daily Mail

'A properly good writer'  
India Knight

'I can't put it down!'  
Marika Cobbold

'A witty, hugely relatable portrayal of the hell that is an unexpected middle-aged break-up... with a wonderfully moving premise at its heart.'  
Lorelei Mathias

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UK: Avon, June 2016  
Material: PDF

## EROTIC STORIES FOR PUNJABI WIDOWS

### Balli Kaur Jaswal

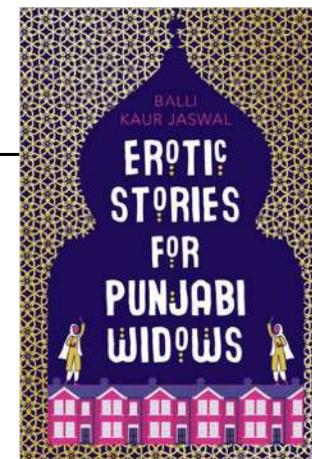
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East meets west and tradition clashes with modernism in a thought-provoking cross-cultural novel that might make you look again at the women in your life.

Every woman has a secret life...

With visions of emancipating the women of the community she left behind as a self-important teenager, Nikki is shocked to find her creative writing class is a group of barely literate women who have no interest in her ideals of liberation.

To her surprise, the white dupatta of the widow hides more than just their modesty – these are women who have spent their lives in the shadows of fathers, brothers and husbands; being dutiful, raising children and going to temple, but whose inner lives are as rich and fruitful as their untold stories. As they begin to open up to each other about womanhood, sexuality, and the dark secrets within the community, Nikki realises that the illicit nature of the class may place them all in danger.



**Balli Kaur Jaswal** was born in Singapore and grew up in Japan, Russia and the Philippines. She studied Creative Writing at Hollins University in the US and was awarded the David TK Wong Creative Writing Fellowship at the University of East Anglia. Her first novel *Inheritance* was published by Sleepers Publishing in Australia in 2013 (where Balli lived for some years) and won the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Best Young Australian Novelist award. Balli currently lives and teaches in Istanbul.

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UK: Harper Fiction, HB March 2017  
US: Morrow  
Italy: HarperCollins  
Estonia: Hea Lugu

Germany: Goldmann  
France: Editions Belfond  
Poland: Czarna Owca  
Sweden: Massolit

China: Beijing Land of Wisdom Books  
Israel: Keter  
Film Rights: Scott Free Productions

Material: Edited manuscript



## WHERE THE WILD CHERRIES GROW

**Laura Madeleine**

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*I closed my eyes as I tried to pick apart every flavour, because nothing had ever tasted so good before. It was like tasting for the first time. Like discovering colour . . .*

It is 1919 and the war is over, but for Emeline Vane the cold Norfolk fens only are haunted by memories of those she has lost. In a moment of recklessness, she boards a train and runs from it all.

Her journey leads her far away, to a tiny seaside village in the South of France. Taken in by cafe owner Maman and her twenty-year-old son, Emeline discovers a world completely new to her: of oranges, olives and wild herbs, the raw, rich tastes of the land.

But when a love affair develops, as passionate as the flavours of the village, secrets from home begin blowing in on the sea winds. Fifty years later, a young solicitor on his first case finds Emeline's diary, and begins to trace a story of betrayal, love and bittersweet secrets that will send him on a journey to discover the truth...

The second bittersweet romance novel from Laura Madeleine – adored by fans and reviewers, and with two more books under contract with Transworld

[Praise for Laura Madeleine](#)

'A must-read' – **Nina George, bestselling author of *The Little Paris Bookshop***

'Mouth-watering and mysterious. A compelling read' – **Leah Fleming, bestselling author of *The Postcard***

'A sizzling forbidden love story' – **Heat**

'A heady mix of passion and betrayal set against stunning backdrops' – **The Lady**

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UK: Transworld (summer 2017)

US: Thomas Dunne Books/St Martin's Press

Germany: Lübbe

Material: edited MS

## THE CONFECTIONER'S TALE

**Laura Madeleine**

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### *What secrets are hiding in the heart of Paris?*

At the famous Patisserie Clermont in Paris, 1909, a chance encounter with the owner's daughter has given one young man a glimpse into a life he never knew existed: of sweet cream and melted chocolate, golden caramel and powdered sugar, of pastry light as air.

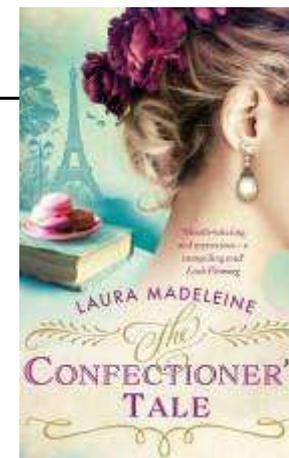
But it is not just the art of confectionery that holds him captive, and soon a forbidden love affair begins.

Almost eighty years later, an academic discovers a hidden photograph of her grandfather as a young man with two people she has never seen before. Scrawled on the back of the picture are the words '*Forgive me*'. Unable to resist the mystery behind it, she begins to unravel the story of two star-crossed lovers and one irrevocable betrayal.

Take a moment to savour an evocative, bittersweet love story that echoes through the decades – perfect for fans of Kate Morton, Rachel Hore and Victoria Hislop.

After a childhood spent acting professionally and training at a theatre school, **Laura Madeleine** changed her mind, and went to study English Literature at Newnham College, Cambridge. She now writes fiction, as well as recipes, and was formerly the resident cake baker for Domestic Sluttery. She lives in Bristol, but can often be found visiting her family in Devon, eating cheese and getting up to mischief with her sister, fantasy author Lucy Hounsom.

"Mouth-watering and mysterious – a compelling read" – **Leah Fleming**



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UK: Transworld  
US: Thomas Dunne Books/St Martin's Press  
Germany: Lübbe  
France: City  
Italy: Piemme  
Holland: DeFontein

Bulgaria: GOURMET  
Lithuania: SOFOKLIS  
Latvia: ABC  
Czech: MOBA

Material: PB, PDF



## UNAMERICAN ACTIVITIES

**James Miller**

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UnAmerican Activities is a novel made up of interlinked stories which subverts and pays homage to American pop culture and genre fiction, exploring conspiracy theories and violence through a series of desperate narrators.

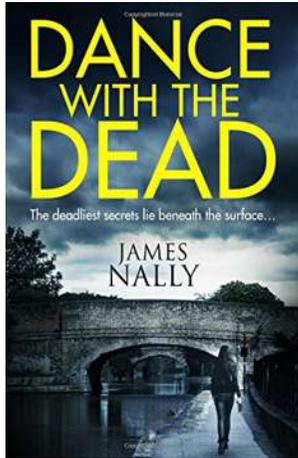
Sam Mills, editor at Dodo Ink, said: “James Miller’s wild and wonderful novel reads like Jesus’s Son [by Denis Johnson] reimagined by Guillermo del Toro. It is an acerbic, hilarious novel – a satirical, surreal mishmash of the interconnecting fates of vampires, porn stars and religious fanatics and a portrait of the underbelly of American life.”

James Miller is a novelist and academic. His debut novel, LOST BOYS, a disturbing re-imagining of 'Peter Pan' for the War on Terror was published by Little Brown to great critical acclaim and controversy in the UK in 2008. His second novel, SUNSHINE STATE, a re-working of 'Heart of Darkness' was published in 2010. James has a PhD on African-American literature and Civil Rights. His short stories have appeared in numerous publications and his journalism in papers including The Times and Der Tagesspiegel. He has spoken at many cultural events in the UK and abroad, including the Edinburgh Book Festival, Wilderness and Latitude Festival, in Germany on ZDF's 'aspekte' TV programme and Berlin's Hebbel-Am-Ufer theatre, and at the Athens Megaron for the British Council.

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UK: DoDo Ink

Material available: Unedited manuscript



## DANCE WITH THE DEAD

**James Nally**

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**The deadliest secrets lie beneath the surface...**

Aspiring actress Elizabeth Smart lands her centre stage role: her mutilated body is found dumped in North London's red light district.

Clasped in her hand is a piece of human hair belonging to an unidentified body of a woman murdered two weeks ago. PC Donal lands himself a place on the murder squad just as his unconventional brother, journalist Finton, unearths the secret double life of Elizabeth.

The bodies mount, each clinging to the strands of hair belonging to the previous victim. The police are convinced it's the act of a serial killer. But how does Donal convince them it's not?

The only people he can trust are the victims he dances with in his dreams.

'An intoxicating thriller' – SUN (5 STARS, Book of the Week)

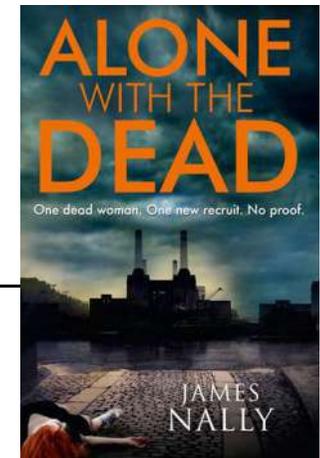
The second PC Donal Lynch thriller, following on from the electrifying ALONE WITH THE DEAD

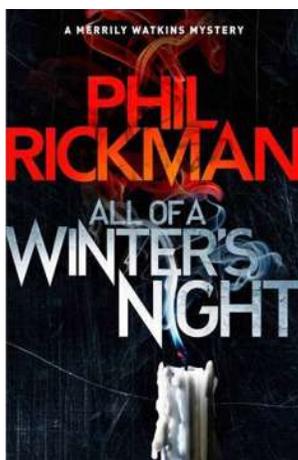
Chilling, brutal, addictive – if you like Tim Weaver and James Oswald, you will LOVE James Nally

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UK: Avon

Material: PB, PDF





## ALL OF A WINTER'S NIGHT

Phil Rickman

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### The latest book in the Amazon #1 bestselling Merrily Watkins series

When Aidan Lloyd's bleak funeral is followed by a nocturnal ritual in the fog, it becomes all too clear that Aidan, son of a wealthy farmer, will not be resting in peace. Aidan's hidden history has reignited an old feud, and a rural tradition begins to display its sinister side.

It's already a fraught time for Merrily Watkins, her future threatened by a bishop committed to restricting her role as diocesan exorcist for Hereford. Suddenly there are events she can't talk about as she and her daughter Jane find themselves potentially on the wrong side of the law.

In the city of Hereford, DI Frannie Bliss, investigating a shooting, must confront the apparent growth of organised crime, also contaminating the countryside. On the Welsh border, the old ways are at war with the modern world.

As the days shorten and the fog gives way to ice and snow, a savage killing draws Merrily Watkins into a conflict centred on one of Britain's most famous medieval churches, its walls laden with ancient symbolism. *Midwinter of the Spirit*, televised last year to worldwide critical acclaim, was the first novel to reflect the reality of exorcism in modern Britain.

### Praise for Phil Rickman's Merrily Watkins series:

'Supernatural and suspense combine in this exploration of our obsession with mortality...' – *Observer*

'Rickman is a national treasure... Spine-tingling, and yet suffused with compassion and charm, this is Rickman at his very best and proves just how compelling and original a writer he is.' – *Daily Mail*

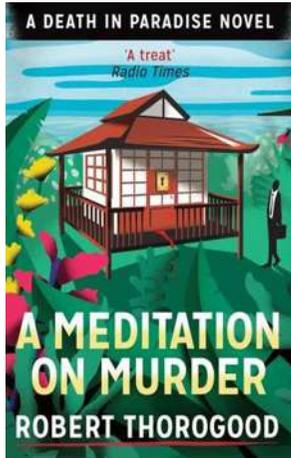
'Compassionate, original and sharply contemporary... one of the best around' – *Spectator*

'Few writers blend the ancient and supernatural with the modern and criminal to better effect than Rickman... striking and original and consistently intriguing. An absorbing and thought-provoking page-turner.' – *Guardian*

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UK: Corvus (January 2015)  
Audio: Isis

Material: HB, PDF



## THE DEATH IN PARADISE SERIES

Robert Thorogood

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'Agatha Christie on a Desert Island' – an original crime series based on international hit BBC TV show *Death in Paradise*, sold in 237 territories globally

### Book 1: A MEDITATION ON MURDER

The leader of a spiritual retreat for wealthy holidaymakers on one of the Caribbean's most unspoilt islands, Saint Marie, is murdered in a locked room. Five people could be the killer, and one of them has already confessed to the murder.

DI Richard Poole is hot, bothered, and fed up. But he also knows that the facts of the case don't stack up. In fact, he's convinced the person who's confessed to the murder is the one person who couldn't have done it.

### Book 2: THE KILLING OF POLLY CARTER

Supermodel Polly Carter was famed for her looks and party-girl lifestyle. Now she's dead, apparently having thrown herself from the clifftop near her home on the island of Saint-Marie. Those who knew her say Polly would never have killed herself... and DI Richard Poole is inclined to agree.

### Books 3-5 under contract with Harlequin UK

Praise for the Death in Paradise series

'Very funny and dark with great pace. I love Robert Thorogood's writing' – **Peter James**

'Plenty of red herrings and twists... a gem' – **Daily Express**

'Definitely entertaining ... satisfyingly pushes all the requisite Agatha Christie-style buttons' – **Independent**

'A treat' – **Radio Times**

'This brilliantly crafted, hugely enjoyable and suitably goosebump-inducing novel is an utter delight from start to finish' – **Heat**

'Plenty of red herrings and twists to keep readers guessing' – **Daily Express**

'Sun, sea and suspense: If you like a classic whodunnit, and tropical settings, don't miss Death in Paradise' – **Daily Mail**

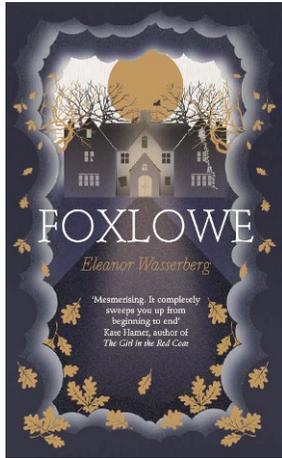
'Death in Paradise feels like a little ray of sunshine' – **Mirror**

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UK: Harlequin  
Germany: Rowohlt

Material: PB, PDF





## FOXLOWE

**Eleanor Wasserberg**

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**A compulsive and chilling debut about a girl growing up in a cult – shortlisted for the East Anglia Novel Prize 2016**

We were the Family, and Foxlowe was our home.

There was me – my name is Green – and my little sister, Blue. There was October, who we called Toby, and Ellensia, Dylan, Liberty, Pet and Egg. There was Richard, of course, who was one of the Founders. And there was Freya.

We were the Family, but we weren't just an ordinary family. We were a new, better kind of family.

We didn't need to go to school, because we had a new, better kind of education. We shared everything. We were close to the ancient way of living and the ancient landscape. We knew the moors, and the standing stones. We celebrated the solstice in the correct way, with honey and fruit and garlands of fresh flowers. We knew the Bad and we knew how to keep it away.

And we had Foxlowe, our home. Where we were free. There really was no reason for anyone to want to leave.

**Eleanor Wasserberg** is an Oxford graduate and has a Creative Writing MA from UEA, and received an Arts Council grant to write FOXLOWE. She grew up in Staffordshire where the book is set.

'Will lure you in – then cut to the kill' – Sarah Perry, Guardian

'A richly atmospheric Gothic debut . . . Foxlowe may give up its secrets, in the end, but it never gives up its hold' – Irish Times

'Meticulously conceived and darkly compelling.' – Observer

'Wonderfully tense' – Emerald Street

'An accomplished debut . . . the ending is like a punch to the throat' – the i

'Unsettling and persuasive, impressively well executed and, at the last, utterly disturbing.' – Alison Flood, LoveReading

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UK: 4<sup>th</sup> Estate  
US: Penguin

Material: PDF, HB



## FINDING SECRETS

### Lauren Westwood

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A wonderful story of self-discovery as well as a surprising mystery with historical origins in Imperial Russia. Perfect for fans of Carole Matthews and Milly Johnson.

Alex Hart loves her job as manager of a historic Elizabethan house, even if her friends think she needs to get out more. But a discovery in the pocket of an old coat – a jewelled mechanical locket shaped like a bird – changes everything, and Alex discovers that things are not as they seem.

From an old diary, to a handsome barrister, a mysterious clockmaker, and the darkest hours of the London Blitz, Alex must follow the trail of the jewelled bird to uncover the truth about the things she holds dearest.

Only by finding the secrets of the past can Alex find the keys to her future – and her heart.

**Lauren Westwood** is a writer of women's fiction and a solicitor for a renewable energy company. Originally from California, she now lives in Surrey, England. Her debut women's fiction book *Finding Home* was inspired by her family's three-year long search for a house that made them the bane of London real estate agents. She now lives in a pernickety 400 year-old house in with her partner Ian and their three young daughters.

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UK: Aria (Head of Zeus), April 2017

Material: Unedited manuscript

**POETRY**



## LET THEM EAT CHAOS

**Kate Tempest**

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**Winner of the Ted Hughes Prize 2013 and the Poetry Society's Next Generation Poet, a once in a decade accolade**

*Let Them Eat Chaos*, Kate Tempest's new long poem written for live performance and heard on the album release of the same name, is both a powerful sermon and a moving play for voices.

Seven neighbours inhabit the same London street, but are all unknown to each other. The clock freezes in the small hours, and, one by one, we see directly into their lives: lives that are damaged, disenfranchised, lonely, broken, addicted, and all, apparently, without hope. Then a great storm breaks over London, and brings them out into the night to face each other - and their last chance to connect.

Tempest argues that our alienation from one another has bred a terrible indifference to our own fate, but she counters this with a plea to challenge the forces of greed which have conspired to divide us, and mend the broken home of our own planet while we still have time.

*Let Them Eat Chaos* is a *cri de coeur* and a call to action, and, both on the page and in Tempest's electric performance, one of the most powerful poetic statements of the year.

'A wunderkind rapper [with a] gift for shattering — and transcending — convention and conventional genres, but they also underscore the tensions and contradictions that fuel her dynamic art. While her intense performances on stage add a fierce urgency to the words, these text versions of her work stand powerfully on their own on the page...using her pictorial imagination to sear specific images into the reader's mind" **Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times**

"Unlike anything else in the mainstream poetry world" – **Independent on Sunday**

Foreign publishers include:

**Brand New Ancients** – Epiphany (Korea), Bloomsbury US (US), Suhrkamp (Germany) (France and Italy at auction)

**The Bricks that Built the Houses** – Payot et Rivages (France), Casa Da Palarra (Brazil), Brombergs Forlag (Sweden), Sexto piso (Spain), Piemme (Italy), Meulenhof (Netherlands), Rowohlt (Germany), Forlaget Korridor (Denmark)

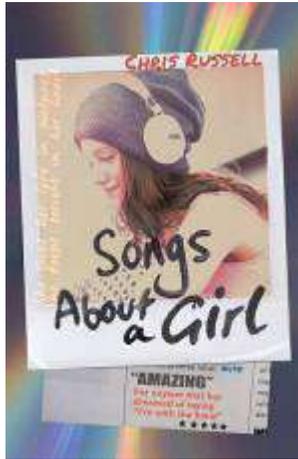
**Hold Your Own** – Bloomsbury (US), Suhrkamp (Germany), Edizioni e/o (Italy), La Bella Versovia (Spain)

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UK: Picador  
US: Bloomsbury

Material: PB, PB

**KIDS**



## **SONGS ABOUT A GIRL – Fire&Lights Album 1 –**

### **Chris Russell**

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**The first in a heart-thudding trilogy about first love, heartbreak, pop music and the power of teenage obsession**

Heartbreak, romance, fame and pop music - for anyone who's ever dreamed of saying 'I'm with the band'.

Charlie Bloom never wanted to be 'with the band'. She's happiest out of the spotlight, behind her camera, unseen and unnoticed. But when she's asked to take backstage photos for hot new boy band, Fire&Lights, she can't pass up the chance.

Catapulted into a world of paparazzi and backstage bickering, Charlie soon becomes caught between gorgeous but damaged frontman Gabriel West and his boy-next-door bandmate, Olly Samson. Then, as the boys' rivalry threatens to tear the band apart, Charlie stumbles upon a mindblowing secret, hidden in the lyrics of their songs ...

First in a YA trilogy that combines the raw intensity of Twilight with the electrifying pop universe of One Direction. This tale of teenage obsession and desire will appeal to readers of Zoella, Rainbow Rowell and Holly Smale.

Chris Russell is a writer and musician based in London. He has toured the world, performing everywhere from Wembley Stadium to Glastonbury Festival. In a past life he worked as a ghostwriter for a One Direction fan club. SONGS ABOUT A GIRL is his debut YA novel.

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UK: Hodder  
US: Flatiron  
France: Bayard Jeunesse  
Poland: Wydawnictwo JK

Turkey: Eksik Parca

Material: PDF, PB

## THE MYSTERY OF THE BLACK SUN

### Imogen White

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**The first in a series of middle-grade historical novels about the magical, dark forces contained within an Amber Cup.**

*The Mystery of the Black Sun* is set in Edwardian Hove and follows twelve-year old Rose Muddle as she's given a life-changing opportunity to escape the workhouse, and work as a maid in a grand house. But it soon becomes apparent that her mistress, the sickly Miss Templeforth has much bigger plans for her. She intends to pass ownership her amber pendant to Rose. And with that come huge responsibilities and danger...

With the help Rui, her new friend from India, and Bahula the monkey Rose is flung into an action-packed adventure, pitting herself against the sinister forces that connect her pendant with the famous Bronze Age Amber Cup.

Imogen White won her place in the *Undiscovered Voices 2014 Anthology* with the opening to this novel. Imogen loves local history, and children's stories that aren't limited to beautiful countryside locations or secluded seaside coves. She spent most of her childhood gallivanting around her 1970s Croydon housing estate in search of buried Roman treasure, mystery and trouble. In her own words: "magical tales exist in our towns and cities too: they are on everyone's doorstep, if you just dig deep enough to discover them." She now lives in St Leonards on Sea with her husband and children.

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UK: Usborne

Material: Unedited manuscript



of

**NON-FICTION**



## LIVING WITH DEATH

### Professor Sue Black

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In *Living with Death* forensic anthropologist Professor Sue Black explores her often harrowing work examining who we really are. She takes us on a scientific and reflective journey explaining those genetic DNA traits that remain with us throughout our entire life, those that develop when we are in the womb, and then those traits and features gathered in the twists and turns through life.

She relates the issues she confronts on a daily basis in her world – everyday death, of family and loved ones, and then, too, violence, murder, criminal dismemberment, missing persons, war (such as Kosovo), natural disasters (like tsunamis), unidentified bodies, historical remains -- involving investigative agencies, lawyers, justice, criminal sentences -- and always sadness and pain.

After a slew of books about surgery, the end of life and grief, there is almost nothing about death itself, and in her hands this subject is as riveting as in the best crime novel, and at the same time enriching, reassuring, and a parallel celebration of life.

Professor Sue Black is one of the world's leading forensic anthropologists, the Director of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification, and the Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science at the University of Dundee in Scotland. Her forensic expertise has been crucial to a number of high-profile criminal cases, and in 1999 she headed the British Forensic Team's exhumation of mass graves in Kosovo. Sue Black has often appeared in the media: in BBC Two's *History Cold Case*, and the documentary 'After the Wave: Ten years since the Boxing Day Tsunami'. In October 2015 Professor Black was the guest for BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. She was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to forensic anthropology.



## **HEAL ME**

### **Julia Buckley**

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#### **Julia Buckley needs a miracle**

Like a third of the UK population, she has a chronic pain condition. According to her doctors, it can't be cured. She doesn't believe them.

She does believe in miracles, though. It's just a question of tracking one down.

Julia's search for a cure takes her on a unique and often hilarious quest around the globe, exploring the boundaries between science, psychology and faith with practitioners on the fringes of conventional and alternative medicine. From neuroplastic brain rewiring to medical marijuana pioneers, vodou rituals to 'spiritual surgery', she meets scientologists and psychiatrists, witchdoctors and faith healers – anyone who says they hold the key. Can miracles happen? And, more importantly, what happens next if they

do?

A personal memoir which raises important questions about the modern medical system, this is also a story about identity in a system skewed against female patients, and the struggle to retain a sense of self under the medical gaze.

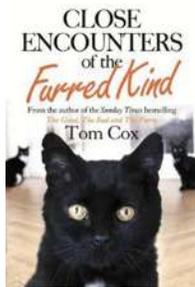
Darkly funny and brutally honest, *Heal Me* explains why modern medicine's current approach to chronic pain – now recognised as a global epidemic – is failing patients. It explores the importance of faith, hope and cynicism, and examines our relationships with our doctors, our beliefs and ourselves.

Julia Buckley is a journalist and translator. She read Modern Languages at Oxford before joining the launch team of a major London newspaper. She has edited travel sections for newspapers and websites in the UK and US, writes for a range of publications on both sides of the Atlantic, and currently has a hotels column in *National Geographic Traveller*. She has lived in Italy and Las Vegas and is now based in Cornwall. This is her first book.

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UK: Weidenfeld & Nicolson (Spring 2018)

Material: unedited MS



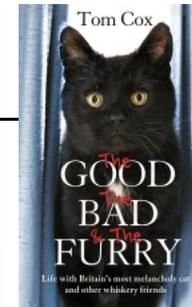
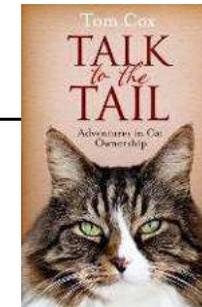
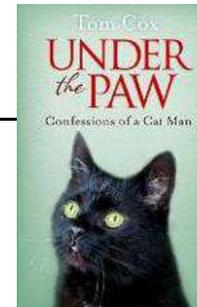
## THE CAT MAN SERIES

**Tom Cox**

The *Sunday Times* Top 10 bestselling series about a man at his unpredictable, demanding and endlessly lovable cats

UNDER THE PAW  
TALK TO THE TAIL  
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE FURRY

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FURRED KIND



the mercy of

Meet Tom and his four cats. THE BEAR: a cat who carries the weight of the world on his furry shoulders. RALPH: handsome, self-satisfied tabby, terrified of the clothes horse. SHIPLEY: mouthy hooligan and champion mouser, rendered insensible by being turned upside-down. ROSCOE: fiercely independent kitten, tormented by her doppelganger in the mirror. And a few other furry friends to boot...

Written with wit and charm, Tom Cox perfectly captures the unexpected adventures that go hand in hand with a life at the beck and call of four cats ... or three cats and a sensitive poet who just happens to be a foot high and covered in fur.

A much-loved and globally bestselling series, now enjoying success in the USA for the first time. The Bear (@MYSADCAT) has a massive social media reach, with **over 300k Twitter** followers and **over 850k Facebook** likes for the 'Under the Paw' page.

'Laugh-out-loud... these continuing stories of a man and his cats, with a dollop of humans thrown in, are worthy additions to the feline canon.' – **Booklist**

'Readers who are devoted cat owners will relate to Cox's insights and stories and will invariably connect with him' – **Publishers Weekly**

'If you've ever been owned by a cat, you'll love this' – **Woman's Weekly**

'Tom Cox is a very funny writer, and he knows his cats' – **Kate Atkinson**

'Brilliantly funny and moving ... will act as an antidote to all the sappy, sloppy, spinsterish rubbish written about our feline f(r)iends' – **Julie Burchill**

UK: Sphere

US: Thomas Dunne Books/St Martin's Press

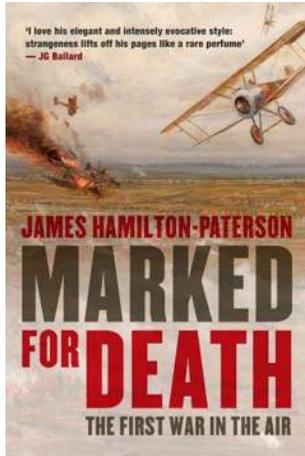
France: Bragelonne

Portugal: Casa das Letras

Italy: Piemme

Russia: AST

Material available: PB, PDF



## MARKED FOR DEATH

### JAMES HAMILTON-PATERSON

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Little more than 10 years after the first powered flight, aircraft were pressed into service in World War I. Nearly forgotten in the war's massive overall death toll, some 50,000 aircrew would die in the combatant nations' fledgling air forces.

The romance of aviation had a remarkable grip on the public imagination, propaganda focusing on gallant air 'aces' who become national heroes. The reality was horribly different. MARKED FOR DEATH debunks popular myth to explore the brutal truths of wartime aviation: of flimsy planes and unprotected pilots; of burning 19-year-olds falling screaming to their deaths; of pilots blinded by the entrails of their observers.

James Hamilton-Paterson also reveals how four years of war produced profound changes both in the aircraft themselves and in military attitudes and strategy. By 1918 it was widely accepted that domination of the air above the battlefield was crucial to military success, a realization that would change the nature of warfare for ever.

'A terrific story, which Hamilton-Paterson tells with tremendous relish, elegance and attention to detail. An acclaimed poet and novelist, he is excellent at capturing the sheer courage of the pilots who ran risks that almost defy credibility' – *The Sunday Times*.

'Hamilton-Paterson's superb book, not only meticulously researched but also supremely readable, tells the tales of many heroes ... he unearths fascinating information, but the book is just as good on the nuts and bolts of flying, and what it was like to engage in a dog fight' – *Daily Mail*.

'An exhilarating book ... by turns, thrilling, joyful, wistful and provocative' – Rowland White.

'Hamilton-Paterson's thorough research reveals much - his book is a wide-ranging education of WWI aviation and is written by someone who really knows flying. Highly recommended!' – *Pilot Magazine*.

'For its mix of clear-eyed history, myth-busting and gobsmacking derring-do it's hard to beat James Hamilton Patterson's Marked for Death' – Nick Curtis, Book of the Year in the *Evening Standard*.

'Hamilton-Paterson's book soars far above most First World War histories ... Written with beautiful clarity, this book brings alive both the exhilaration of flight and the experience of killing' – *Sunday Times*.

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UK/US: Head of Zeus

Material: HB, PDF

## LETTING GO

### Alex Hanscombe

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A true story of murder, loss and survival.

'I was once the most famous child in the British Isles. Three weeks before my third birthday I was the only witness to my mother's murder. It was reported that I would never speak again. After twenty years, I have found my voice.'

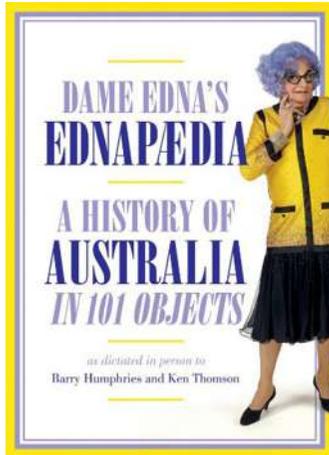
In July 1992, three weeks before his third birthday, Alex Hanscombe watched the frenzied and brutal attack by a complete stranger that left his mother, Rachel Nickell, dead. They had been walking their dog on Wimbledon Common, in broad daylight. The story stunned the nation. Within hours it dominated news bulletins, even before family and friends had time to be informed. Alex's family took every step to protect him as they were laid siege by the media.

Meanwhile his father and a child psychologist worked painstakingly to coax vital clues from Alex. The investigation expanded into one of the largest and most controversial in police history, but the case remained unresolved for almost two decades. Forced to flee the UK to escape the intrusive and damaging scrutiny of the media, Alex grew up in rural France, and found himself accepted by local children as simply an interesting stranger to play with. Nevertheless, isolated with a father struggling with his own grief, he continued to be affected secondarily, as family and friends were unable to avoid the emotional roller coaster of Old Bailey trials and police errors. Peace proved temporary. Hunted down by the media they were forced to move once again. However, the healing routines of everyday life eventually allowed Alex to complete his childhood. Twenty years later, he is now able to reflect upon his personal journey with maturity and grace.

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UK/US: Harper Element

Material: Edited manuscript



## DAME EDNA'S EDNAPEDIA

Dictated to Barry Humphries and Ken Thomson

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### A roaring return to form from one the Wonders of the Western World

It's very rare that we see the emergence of a completely original idea in the world of books. Dame Edna Everage's masterly history of Australian civilization is one such idea, and, possums, you will never think of historical writing in the same way again.

'From our dainty gum nuts and towering Uluru to our world-class sharks and Opera House, marauding possums and poets, taking in game-changing inventions such as the dual-flush toilet and zinc cream, you will be amazed at what our sunburnt country has contributed to modern civilization.' Barbies. Bex powders. Bogans. Feral Koalas. The immortal pink Lamington, Australia's contribution to world patisserie. Plastic banknotes. Thongs, Uggs and utes. Not to speak of the Great Barrier Reef, goon and Nellie Melba.

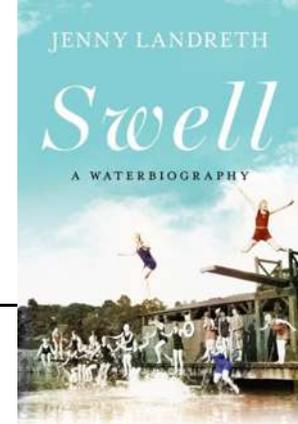
One of the world's most distinguished thinkers and cultural personalities, Dame Edna Everage has inspired generations of Australian artists and icons, from Germaine Greer and Peter Carey to Kylie Minogue and Shane Warne.

**Dame Edna Everage** is the world-famous housewife, talk show host, investigative journalist, social anthropologist, chanteuse, satirist, spin doctor - and author.

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UK: Head of Zeus

Material: HB, PDF



## SWELL: A WATERBIOGRAPHY

### Jenny Landreth

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These days, swimming may seem like the most egalitarian of pastimes, open to anyone with a swimsuit – but this wasn't always the case. In the 19th century, swimming was exclusively the domain of men, and access to pools was a luxury limited by class. Women were (barely) allowed to swim in the sea, as long as no men were around, but even into the 20th century they could be arrested and fined if they dared dive into a lake. It wasn't until the 1930s that women were finally, and reluctantly, granted equal access. This is the story of the women who made that possible, a thank-you to the fearless 'swimming suffragettes' who took on the status quo, fought for equal access, and won.

Part social history, part memoir, *Swell* uncovers a world of secret swimming in the face of these exclusions and shines a light on the 'swimming suffragettes'. It celebrates some amazing achievements, some ridiculous outfits and some fantastic swimmers who challenge the stereotypes of what women are capable of. It's also the story of how Jenny eventually came to be a keen swimmer herself.

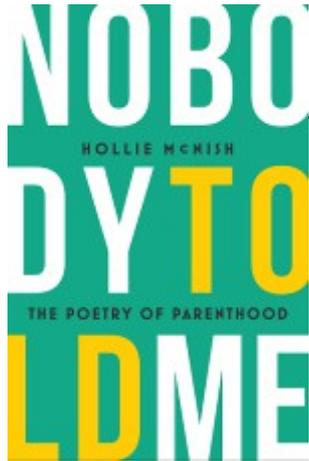
*Swell* is a joyful hymn to the sport and an exploration of why swimming attracts so many women. Ultimately, it is a book dedicated to our brilliant swimming foremothers who collectively made it possible for any woman to plunge in with alacrity, anywhere we choose.

**Jenny Landreth** is an editor and writer. She is the author of *Great Trees of London* (Time Out Publications) and *Swimming London* (Aurum Press). Jenny was the main contributor to the Guardian's weekly swimming blog, writing on everything from pool rules, to swimming with children, and where to swim in New York. She also reviews TV for the *New Statesman*. She works as a script editor on *Hey Duggee* for cbeebies, and writes all the associated books.

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World English: Bloomsbury

Material: Final manuscript



## NOBODY TOLD ME

Hollie McNish

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From the acclaimed performance poet Hollie McNish, this journal of pregnancy and becoming a mother, interspersed with her unique and affecting poetic reflections, explores and subverts the themes of womanhood and parenthood.

There were many things that Hollie McNish didn't know before she was pregnant. How her family and friends would react; that Mr Whippy would be off the menu for nine months; how big her baby would be at four months pregnant. These were on top of the many other things she didn't know about babies: how to stand while holding one; how to do a poetry gig with your baby as a member of the audience; how hangovers and babies don't mix. And that's before you even start on toddlers. How to answer a question like 'is the world a jigsaw?'; dealing with a ten-hour train ride together; and how they can be caregivers too.

But Hollie learned.

She learned to be grateful for breast-feeding, the free lunch of babies, despite any nasty looks; to ignore media pressure and gendered toys and let Little One be Little One. And she's still learning, slowly. *Nobody Told Me* is the story of Hollie's first three years and nine months of parenthood, and the poetry she found within it.

Number 25 in the Non Fiction Bestsellers List.

"The world needs this book. It should be required reading." – **The Scotsman**

'It's a moving and profoundly personal account. Yet at the same time, *Nobody Told Me* offers an insight into the shared, unspoken experiences of many mother.' It feels like time that we started talking.' **The Skinny**

"I can't take my ears off her" – **Benjamin Zephaniah**

"Moving...wonderful" – **BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour**

"This woman is amazing...really, really amazing" – **Davina McCall**

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UK: Blackfriars/Little, Brown  
Germany: Rowohlt

Spain: La Senora Dalloway

Material: TPB, PDF

## ROCK BOTTOM

### Michael Odell

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ROCK BOTTOM is a moving, hilarious and searching memoir about music culture, the male psyche and mental health, which brings to mind Toby Young in *How to Lose Friend and Alienate People* and William Leith in *The Hungry Years*.

Rock writer Michael Odell returns home to his young family after interviewing the Rolling Stones. He should be happy: Jagger and Richards are among the Big Six, the fast dwindling coterie of rock icons every rock writer would like to meet. Michael has interviewed four of them. He's nearing 40. He plans to track down the other two, McCartney and Bowie, then quit.

But something is wrong: meeting the Stones has made him depressed. Then after a public meltdown while chaperoning 80s electro goth titan Gary Numan at a music awards, Michael's exasperated girlfriend (who works in mental health) insists that he goes into therapy.

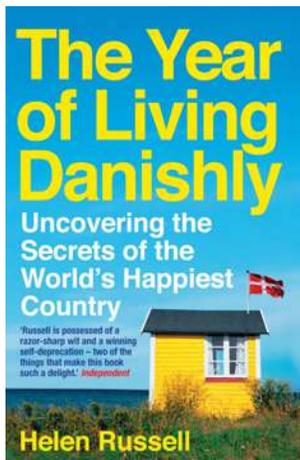
Reluctantly Michael consults Mrs Henckel, a no-nonsense therapist with zero experience of pop culture. With chilly rigour she demands to know why documenting rock star lifestyles is even a job. Meanwhile Michael's Big Six quest leads him to Paul McCartney whose recollections of John Lennon help him to address his own feelings about the past, in particular his failed teenage band, Mental Elf. As Michael gives himself over to memories (and a belated grief) his relationship flounders and he's forced to confront the question: is it finally time to grow up and forget rock n roll?

Michael Odell grew up in the late 70s in south London. After getting involved in the local punk scene he "sold out" by going to university and then became a music writer. He has worked for the Voice, Melody Maker, NME, The Guardian, Observer and the Independent in the UK and Spin and Vibe in America. He lives in Bristol.

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UK: Icon Books (spring 2017)

Material available: Unedited manuscript



## THE YEAR OF LIVING DANISHLY

### Helen Russell

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**The Amazon #1 bestselling self-help title which has spurred an international interest in the Danish concept of 'hygge'**

When she was suddenly given the opportunity of a new life in rural Jutland, journalist and archetypal city dweller Helen Russell discovered a startling statistic: the happiest place on earth isn't Disneyland, but Denmark, a land often thought of by foreigners as consisting entirely of long dark winters, cured herring, Lego and pastries.

What is the secret to their success? Are happy Danes born, or made?

Helen decides there is only one way to find out: she will give herself a year, trying to uncover the formula for Danish happiness. From childcare, education, food and interior design to SAD, taxes, sexism and an unfortunate predilection for burning witches, *The Year of Living Danishly* is a funny, poignant record of a journey that shows us where the Danes get it right, where they get it wrong, and how we might just benefit from living a little more Danishly ourselves. Helen Russell is a journalist and former editor of *MarieClaire.co.uk*. She now lives in rural Jutland and works as a Scandinavia correspondent for the *Guardian* and *The Independent*, as well as writing a column on Denmark for the *Telegraph*.

“A lovely mix of English sensibility and Danish pragmatism. Helen seems to have understood more about the Danish character than I have. My only worry is that it will make everyone want to have a go and my holiday home area will get overcrowded.” – Sandi Toksvig

“Russell is possessed of a razor-sharp wit and a winning self-deprecation – two of the things that make this book such a delight.” – *Independent*

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UK/US: Icon Books

Korea: Maronie Books

Denmark: Turbine

Poland: Jagiellonian University Press

Brazil: Casa de Palavra

Germany: Fischer

Albania: Living Publisher

Material: PB, PDF



## DISTRACTION PIECES

### Scroobius Pip

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**From the No. 1 iTunes-chart-topping podcast. Number 3 Times Bestseller.**

The Distraction Pieces podcast series, hosted by spoken word and hip-hop recording artist Scroobius Pip, is the fastest-growing podcast in the UK, with 3 million listeners scattered across the globe.

Featuring interviews with some of the most interesting names in the creative arts, from Alan Moore to Simon Pegg, Billy Bragg to Jon Ronson, Distraction Pieces allows Scroobius Pip's guests to express themselves unedited. The resulting conversations are revealing, intelligent insights into the creative world.

The Distraction Pieces book will feature curated highlights from the podcast, as well as exclusive new content, with entries grouped thematically into sections including Music, Social Media, Politics, Comedy and more. Contributors include: Akala, Riz Ahmed, Russell Brand, Adam Buxton, Richard Herring, Dylan Moran, Amanda Palmer, Sarah Pascoe, Howard Marks, Kate Tempest and many more.

Illustrated with drawings by tattoo artist Mr Heggie, this will be a must-have for fans of the podcast, and a must-read for anyone interested in the creative mind.

'He disarms his subjects into revealing more than they would in a conventional Q&A. Pip's interviewing technique...works very well in this devastating show. He does listen, properly, with care, and he reacts like a human being. Essential listening.' – **Guardian**

**Number 3 Times Bestseller List.**  
**Number 12 Bestseller on Amazon.**

**Scroobius Pip** is a UK spoken word and hip hop recording artist from Essex. He has performed at Glastonbury, Reading & Leeds, Bestival, Coachella, Pukkelpop and Fujiipop. His Xfm radio show, The Beatdown, won the 'best specialist music programme' at the Sony Radio Academy Awards in 2014, ahead of Zane Lowe and Mark Radcliffe. In 2010, he published Poetry in (e)Motion (Titan Books), a book of his poetry drawn as comic strips.

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UK/US: Octopus

Material: HB (August 2016)



## **TILL THE COWS COME HOME**

**Philip Walling**

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### **Cattle are the unsung heroes upon which civilisations rest**

To tell the story of the relationship between humankind and cattle is to tell the story of civilisation itself. Since the beginning, cattle have tilled our soils, borne our burdens, fed and clothed us and been our loyal and uncomplaining servants in the work of taming the wilderness and wresting a living from the land.

There has never been a time when we have not depended on cattle. As human societies have migrated from the country to the city, the things they have needed from their cattle may have changed, but the fundamental human dependence remains.

The broad theme of the book is to trace our association with the land through the evolution of domestic cattle. But it is intended also to be an act of homage to the beauty we produce when we fulfil our creative purpose of husbandry of the soil; it is an attempt to restate that vital connection between working the soil and a healthy society; and that mankind's relationship with his domestic cattle has been the foundation of every civilisation since the dawn of time.

Blending personal experience, recollection, interviews with farmers, butchers and cattle breeders and studding the narrative with little-known nuggets of technical detail, the aim is to entertain and inform the reader and to show the central importance of cattle to all our lives.

TILL THE COWS COME HOME is intended as a companion volume to the *Sunday Times* bestselling COUNTING SHEEP, treating cattle in a broadly similar way. Philip's writing is at the vanguard of a new approach to countryside writing – it is aimed at those people who take an interest in the life of the land, and those many others who regret that they live in a society that has become detached from the source of all they depend on and yearn to reconnect with it.

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UK: Atlantic

Material: Proposal