

Johnson & Alcock

l i t e r a r y a g e n c y

London Book Fair 2017 – Rights list

For all enquiries please contact:

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

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

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

+44 (0) 20 7251 0125
www.johnsonandalcock.co.uk

FICTION

THE AGE OF ASSASSINS
R.J. Barker

THE PICTURES
Guy Bolton

TRIPLE CROWN
Felix Francis

THE CAT OF YULE COTTAGE
Lili Hayward

IN THE DARK
CLOSE TO HOME
Cara Hunter

EROTIC STORIES FOR PUNJABI WIDOWS
Balli Kaur Jaswal

WHERE THE WILD CHERRIES GROW
Laura Madeleine

DANCE WITH THE DEAD
James Nally

ALL OF A WINTER'S NIGHT
Phil Rickman

GONE VIKING
Helen Russell

THE DEATH IN PARADISE SERIES
Robert Thorogood

FOXLOWE
Eleanor Wasserberg

FINDING SECRETS
Lauren Westwood

Julia Buckley

POETRY

LET THEM EAT CHAOS
Kate Tempest

PLUM
Hollie McNish

KIDS

SONDS ABOUT US
SONGS ABOUT A GIRL
Chris Russell

THE AMBER PENDANT
Imogen White

NON-FICTION

LIVING WITH DEATH
Professor Sue Black

HEAL ME

LETTING GO
Alexander Hanscombe

DEPARTURES
Anna Hart

WHITESHIFT
Eric Kaufmann

SWELL
Jenny Landreth

NOBODY TOLD ME
Hollie McNish

ROCK BOTTOM
Michael Odell

THE YEAR OF LIVING DANISHLY
Helen Russell

APOLLO
Zach Scott

TILL THE COWS COME HOME
Philip Walling

LET'S MAKE LOTS OF MONEY
Tom Watkins

FICTION

THE AGE OF ASSASSINS

RJ Barker

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.

UK: Orbit (Summer 2017)

US: Orbit

Germany: Heyne

Italy: Mondadori

France: Bragelonne

Material: Unedited MS



THE PICTURES

Guy Bolton

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.

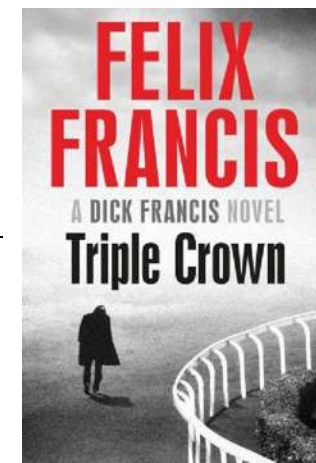
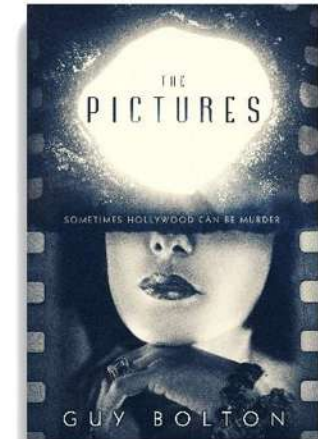
UK/US: Oneworld (March 2017)

Audio: Bolinda

Material: Hardback

TRIPLE CROWN

Felix Francis



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

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

Czech: Euromedia
Slovakia: Slovensky Spisovatel

Material: HB, PDF

THE CAT OF YULE COTTAGE

Lili Hayward

There's always been a cat at Ensysule, and there always will be...

When her boyfriend dumps her and she unexpectedly sells the manuscript of a novel she's been writing secretly at night, Jessamine Pike decides it's time for a serious life overhaul.

Jess moves into Ensysule, a centuries-old cottage in Cornwall, and begins the process of renovating the rundown house by day and working on her next book by night, planning to have both finished in time for the holidays. She's got good company: a beautiful, arrogant tomcat stalks around like he owns the place, and seems very sceptical of Jess' tenancy.

But Ensysule has its mysteries. Local legends tell of a spirit that inhabits the area, and an ancient standing stone that keeps watch over the valley. As Christmas comes closer and closer, Jess uncovers treasures from Ensysule's past... and becomes involved in a fight for its future.

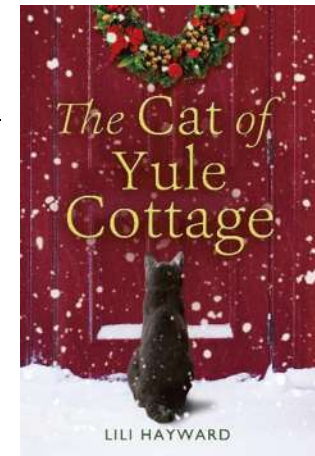
For Jess hasn't only found a cottage. She's found a story that's been going on for five hundred years. A story about land, love, friendship, the Yuletide... and one remarkable cat.

The magical, romantic tale of Christmas, Cornwall... and cats.

UK: Hodder

Germany: Piper

Material: PDF, PB



IN THE DARK

Cara Hunter

The much-anticipated follow-up to *Close To Home*, a tightly plotted, nail-biting novel in the new DI Fawley crime series sold at auction to Viking UK in a 3-book deal.

In a respectable Oxford neighbourhood, an investment banker's basement renovation goes wrong when a dividing wall collapses and the builders discover a young woman and a child held captive in the basement next door. The police arrive on the scene and break down the front door to find an elderly man called William Harper who's confused and dirty. As far as they can see he's been living in the one room in the huge house for months. The whole place stinks. Under questioning Harper is by turns confused and aggressive, insisting that the woman in the house is his stepdaughter, Annie. He appears to know nothing about the child.

The woman and child are hospitalised as harrowing details of their incarceration emerge: she has been held captive for over five years giving birth to her child in the basement, but neither are able to speak of their ordeal. It's only when DI Adam Fawley hears about the case that a link is made between it and a case he was involved in many years before. Hannah Gardiner, a local journalist and her four-year-old son Toby went missing on Siddenham Clumps in an unsolved case that made headlines all over the country.

Fawley always knew there was something else that was eluding them about the Gardiner case. And now he's wondering if he might just have found it: the flat the Gardiners lived in backs directly onto the garden of the house where the woman and her son have been held captive. Fawley and his team must now rush to extract as much information from the old man, Harper, before his mind totally gives into his Alzheimer's, to discover how far back these crimes stretch and just how many people they involve.

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

UK: Viking (June 2018)

US: Penguin Books

Material: Edited manuscript

CLOSE TO HOME

Cara Hunter

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.

UK: Viking (January 2018)

US: Penguin Books

Norway: Cappelen Damm

Sweden: Modernista

Germany: Aufbau

China: Beijing United Creation Culture Media

Material: Final manuscript

EROTIC STORIES FOR PUNJABI WIDOWS

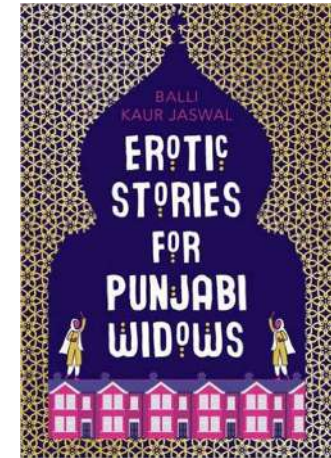
Balli Kaur Jaswal

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.

UK: Harper Fiction, HB March 2017
 US: Morrow
 Italy: HarperCollins
 Estonia: Hea Lugu
 Film Rights: Scott Free Productions

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

China: Beijing Land of Wisdom Books
 Israel: Keter
 Greece: Aiora Press
 Spain: Grijalbo, Penguin Random House

Material: Hardback and PDF

WHERE THE WILD CHERRIES GROW

Laura Madeleine

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**



UK: Transworld (summer 2017)

US: Thomas Dunne Books/St Martin's Press

Germany: LÜbbe

Italy: Piemme

Material: edited MS

DANCE WITH THE DEAD

James Nally

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.

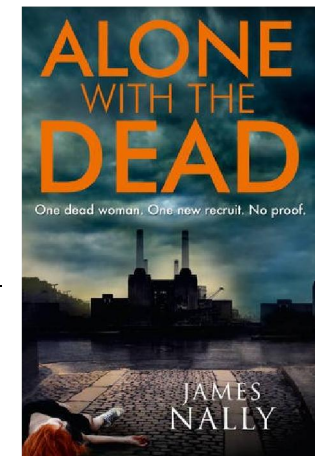
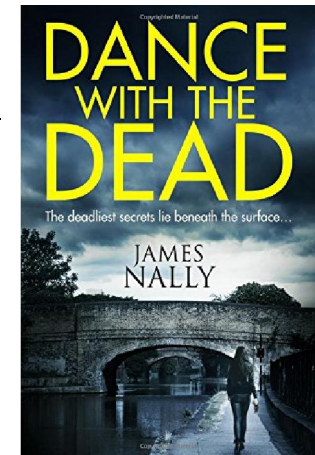
'An intoxicating thriller' – SUN (5 STARS, Book of the Week)

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

UK: Avon

Material: PB, PDF



ALL OF A WINTER'S NIGHT

Phil Rickman

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*



UK: Corvus (January 2015)

Audio: Isis

Material: HB, PDF

GONE VIKING

Helen Russell

The debut novel from bestselling author of *The Year Of Living Danishly*.

GONE VIKING is a smart, witty and very funny novel about going back to basics, Viking-style. Think Mhairi McFarlane meets Eat, Pray, Love.

Hannah Ray is a stressed-out workaholic who likes to be in control At All Times, but things are starting to slip in quite spectacular fashion. To recover her calm and her fight she is persuaded by her cheerful, outdoorsy sister to go on Viking Retreat. There, they must learn to live as nature intended - getting dirty, tired, hungry, and strong again - in order to repair mind, body and spirit.

They're joined by two strangers, each searching for meaning in their lives and trying to escape from their own demons. Hannah and her fellow wannabe Vikings embark on a series of extreme and absurd challenges, discovering more about themselves and each other with each new trial.

Helen has written extensively about finding happiness Scandi-style in *The Year of Living Danishly*, which spurred international interest in the Danish concept of hygge. Icon have now sold 100K copies, and it continues to sell in 16 territories around the world. Her new non-fiction book *Leap Year: how to make big decisions, be more resilient and change your life for good* was published by Two Roads in December.



UK: Ebury (spring 2018)

Material: Proposal and sample chapters

THE DEATH IN PARADISE SERIES

Robert Thorogood

'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**

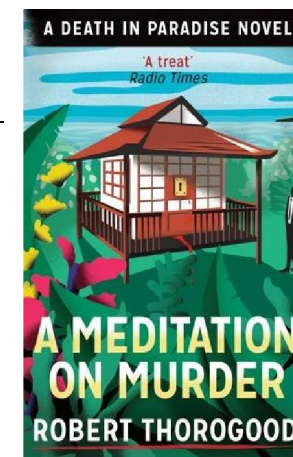
'A treat' – **Radio Times**

'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**



UK: Harlequin
Germany: Rowohlt

Material: PB, PDF

FOXLOWE

Eleanor Wasserberg

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

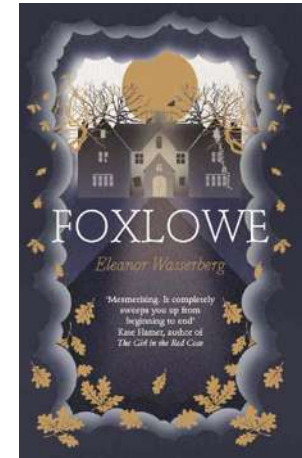
'A richly atmospheric Gothic debut . . . Foxlowe may give up its secrets, in the end, but it never gives up its hold' – Irish Times

'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



UK: 4th Estate
US: Penguin

Material: PDF, PB

FINDING SECRETS

Lauren Westwood

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.

UK: Aria (Head of Zeus), April 2017

Material: Edited manuscript



—

POETRY

LET THEM EAT CHAOS

Kate Tempest

The Costa Shortlisted book *Let Them Eat Chaos* is 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), Edizioni e/o (Italy), L'Arche (France)

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)



UK: Picador
US: Bloomsbury

Germany: Suhrkamp
Italy: Edizioni e/o

Material: PB

PLUM

Hollie McNish

Hollie McNish has thrilled and entranced audiences the length and breadth of the UK with her compelling and powerful performances. Plum, her debut for Picador Poetry, is a wise, sometimes rude and piercingly candid account of her memories from childhood to attempted adulthood. This is a book about growing up, about guilt, flesh, fruit, friendships, work and play - and the urgent need to find a voice for the poems that will somehow do the whole glorious riot of it justice.

Throughout Plum, McNish allows her recent poems to be interrupted by earlier writing from her younger selves – voices that speak out from the past with disarming and often very funny results. Plum is a salute to a life in which we are always growing, tripping, changing and discovering new selves to add to our own messy stores. It will leave the reader in no doubt as to why McNish is considered one of the most important poets of the new generation.

Hollie McNish has published two previous collections, Papers and Cherry Pie, and the acclaimed poetic memoir, Nobody Told Me. McNish tours the UK extensively, and her poetry videos have attracted millions of views worldwide. Plum is her first collection for Picador and its publication coincides with the 20th anniversary of their list, headed up by Don Paterson.

'She writes with honesty, conviction, humour and love. She points out the absurdities we've grown too used to and lets us see the world with fresh eyes' Kate Tempest

UK: Picador (June 2017)

Material: Manuscript



KIDS

SONGS ABOUT A GIRL – Fire&Lights Album 1 –

Chris Russell

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.



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

Turkey: Eksik Parca

Material: PDF, PB

THE AMBER PENDANT

Imogen White

The first in a series of middle-grade historical novels (The Rose Muddle Mysteries) about the magical, dark forces contained within an Amber Cup.

The Amber Pendant 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 of 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.



UK: Usborne

Material: Edited manuscript

NON-FICTION

LIVING WITH DEATH

Professor Sue Black

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.



UK: Transworld
Material: Unedited manuscript

Germany: DuMont

HEAL ME

Julia Buckley

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, voodoo 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.



UK: Weidenfeld & Nicolson (Spring 2018)

Material: unedited MS

LETTING GO

Alex Hanscombe

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.



UK/US: Harper Element May 2017

Material: Edited manuscript

DEPARTURES

Anna Hart

Part memoir, part travelogue, and part call-to-action for female adventurers everywhere, *Departures* is about the power of travel to transform us, heal us, challenge us and turn us into everyday adventure-seekers even after we return to the grind back home. Each chapter of *Departure* covers a formative trip, a lesson accumulated across a lifetime of independent travel. For most of us, the real adventure when we travel takes place within, in response to a change in our external circumstances. Long-form, reflective, personal and experiential travel-writing is rarely explored in print; and where it is, it's male-oriented or written from the privileged perspective of a luxury travel writer, which few of us can relate to. And with female solo travel dramatically on the rise (60% of solo travellers are women) the time is right to actively engage with this growing army of travellers. *Departures* is a personal exploration of how trips form our identity, fix us when we're broken, and ultimately teach us about the life that we want to live.



"I LOVE how this girl writes travel."

Lena Dunham

"Her approach is real, useful, smart, accessible and funny. A writer's writer, she is as popular in her peer group as with her readership."

Sali Hughes

Born somewhere "worth escaping from" in 1980s Northern Ireland, Anna's parents shipped her entire family to Singapore for a seven-year stay when she was a child. She realised early on that she relishes the role of outsider, when she can't rely on the comfort of the familiar, and that travel offers us the opportunity to reinvent ourselves. After graduating, she became FHM magazine's first ever female writer, covering the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. After roles as Commissioning Editor of Grazia magazine and Features Editor and Travel Editor of Stylist magazine, she is now freelance. She has over ten years' experience writing for Grazia, Vogue, Stylist, GQ, Elle, The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Times, The Wall Street Journal and Conde Nast Traveller.

UK: Sphere (January 2018)

Material: Proposal

WHITESHIFT: Immigration, Populism and the Myth of Majority Decline

Eric Kaufmann

Across the West, anti-immigration populists are tearing a path through the normal politics of left and right.

Immigration is remaking Europe and North America: over half of American babies are non-white, and by the end of the century, minorities and those of mixed race are projected to form the majority in many countries.

We are in the midst of a transition phase where the left-right distinction is being overshadowed by a culture war pitting whites who dislike diversity against those who embrace it. Ethnic transformation will continue but conservative whites are unlikely to exit quietly. Their alienation is already redrawing political lines and convulsing societies across the West.

WHITESHIFT explores the majority response to ethnic change in Western Europe, North America and Australasia. Based on detailed and exhaustive quantitative research, and enriched with illustrative stories, Eric Kaufmann, Professor of Politics at Birkbeck College, University of London, calls for us to move beyond empty talk about state-national identity and open up debate about the future of white majorities.

Kaufmann has been researching immigration, religion and national identity for over twenty years and has written for leading academic and trade presses. His work has received extensive print, television and radio coverage on both sides of the Atlantic, as catalogued on his website www.sneps.net (notably <http://www.sneps.net/research-interests/whiteworkingclass>) and twitter feed. He plans to develop a full data blog to showcase the research that unpins the arguments put forward in this book.

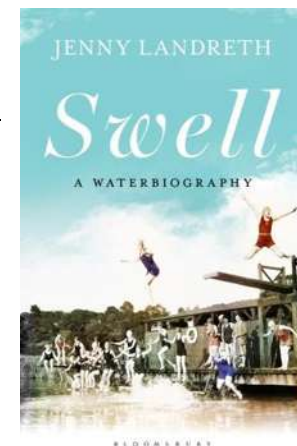
UK/Comm: Penguin Press

Material: Proposal

SWELL: A WATERBIOGRAPHY

Jenny Landreth

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 these women. 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.

'Motivating, fascinating and full of possibility, it is also properly snort-with-giggles-on-the-commute funny.' – Alexandra Heminsley

'A brilliantly funny book that made me feel part of a proud and intrepid community of amphibian women' – Josie Long

'A wry and inspiring mix of memoir and social history' – Melissa Harrison

'Very disappointed. I thought this was going to be a pictorial history of the bikini.' – John O'Farrell

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.

World English: Bloomsbury

Material: Final manuscript

NOBODY TOLD ME

Hollie McNish

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**

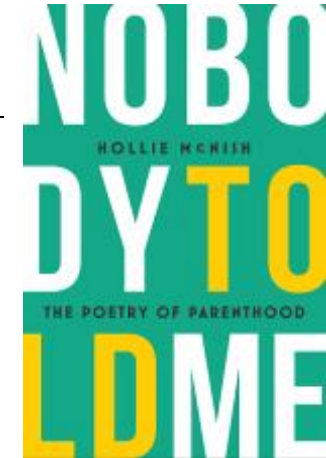
"This woman is amazing...really, really amazing" – **Davina McCall**

UK: Blackfriars/Little, Brown
Germany: Rowohlt

Spain: La Senora Dalloway
France: Solar (Editis Group)

Audio: Audible

Material: PB, PDF



ROCK BOTTOM

Michael Odell

An uplifting mental-health memoir from former rock journalist.

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.

UK: Icon Books (September 2017)

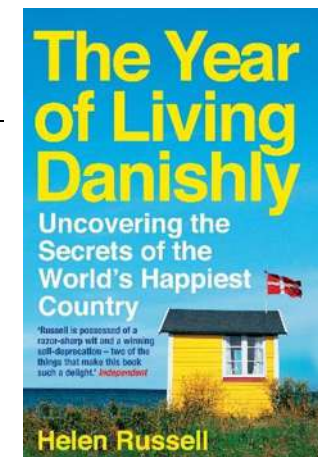
Material available: Final manuscript

THE YEAR OF LIVING DANISHLY

Helen Russell

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*

UK/US: Icon Books
Japan: CCC Media
Russia: Eksmo
Korea: Maronie Books
Poland: Jagiellonian University Press
Germany: Fischer
Japan: CCC Media
Russia: Eksmo

Albania: Living Publisher
Taiwan: Azoth Books
Lithuania: UAB Leidykla Vaga
Denmark: Turbine
Brazil: Casa de Palavra
Albania: Living Publisher
China: Shanghai Insight
Lithuania: UAB Leidykla Vaga

Material: PB, PDF

APOLLO

Zach Scott

A stunning infographic exploration of NASA's Apollo space programme.

The first of three books commissioned from former Royal Air Force engineer and graphic designer Zach Scott, *Apollo* will be a stunning infographic exploration of NASA's Apollo space programme. This extraordinary undertaking, which ran between 1961 and 1972, saw one of the greatest accomplishments in all human endeavour – man walking on the moon.

Apollo is a breathtaking visual history of this iconic programme, based on recently released NASA data about the seventeen missions. Using beautifully-designed infographics, *Apollo* takes us through all the astonishing facts and figures, as well as some quirky little-known details, and gives us a meticulous and elegant history of the missions that saw twelve humans step foot on the surface of the moon.

UK/Comm: Wildfire/Headline (September 2017)

Material: PDF

TILL THE COWS COME HOME

Philip Walling

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.



UK: Atlantic

Material: Proposal

LET'S MAKE ME LOTS OF MONEY: Secret of a Rich, Fat, Gay, Lucky Bastard

Tom Watkins

Longlisted for the Penderyn Prize for Music Books 2017

Tom Watkins is the famously entertaining pop svengali with killer commercial instincts and prodigious talent for design who propelled the Pet Shop Boys, Bros and East 17, among others, to global stardom. His fingerprints are all over 80s and 90s pop, and he's decided the time has come for a tell-all autobiography.

Funny, unstoppable and outspoken, a razor sharp, and greatly respected businessman, marketing visionary, designer and art collector, Tom takes us through his extraordinary and colourful life into the inner-circle of 80s pop-culture.

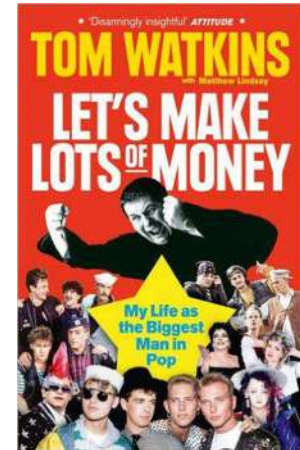
From his humble boyhood in post-war South-East London, to his teenage misdeeds and the birth of rock and roll; his days as a design student under the tutelage of Terence Conran, to the excesses of the 80s and 90s where he became one of the original boy band innovators – the driving force behind the pop icons plastered on the walls of teenage girls' bedrooms.

Expect a gripping, gossipy, meticulously researched memoir of the coke-fuelled 80s, layered on top of an insightful and intelligent journey through a recent but very different age, from the singular perspective of a man who played a huge role in defining the era.

"Let's Make Lots of Money is as brash as its title ... [it has a] waspishness that makes it so readable." - GQ

"A brutally honest memoir" – The Sun

"Gossipy, refreshingly frank and disarmingly insightful" - Attitude



UK: Virgin Books

Material: HB, PDF