



Mushens Entertainment





Mushens Entertainment Ltd

We proudly present our Rights Guide
for the Frankfurt Book Fair 2020.

More information on our authors, books, and rights
can be found on our website at:

www.mushens-entertainment.com

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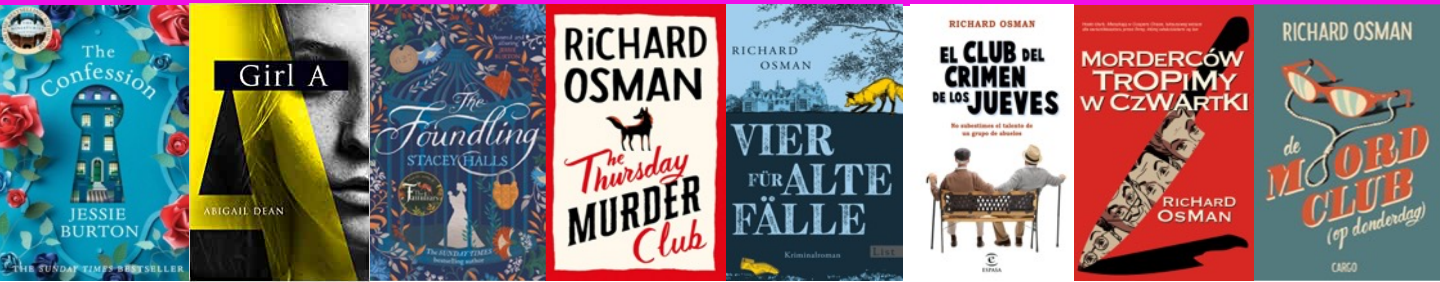
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HIGHLIGHTS



AGE OF MONSTERS by L.M. Dillsworth

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

January 2022

Text: Unedited manuscript

Rights sold:

UK: Windmill (Emily Griffin)

US: HMH (Millicent Bennett)

- **Sold in a significant six-figure UK pre-empt within 24 hours, and in a significant six-figure US auction**

A powerful story of love, identity and belonging which will introduce you to a Victorian London you never knew existed.

Mixed-race actress Zillah plays the part of an exotic freak on the London stage. When African merchant Lucien criticises her for perpetuating harmful stereotypes, she determines to find out more about her heritage. Zillah's quest to find a way to be both black and British leads her to discover a thriving black London and a community some 10,000 strong. But her growing self-awareness brings her two cultures and the men she loves into conflict. When another Black woman goes missing from the sideshow, Zillah is determined to find her, but her search leads her to dark secrets, and a reckoning with her own identity.

Age of Monsters is novel for anyone who ever felt conflicted about their heritage or compelled to perform their identity. In the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement it provides a timely reminder of London's multicultural past, paying tribute to a diverse cast of characters.

About the author:

In 2018 Lianne graduated from Royal Holloway's MA in Creative Writing with distinction and last year, she won a place on the London Library Emerging Writers Programme. Most recently she was awarded a bursary place for underrepresented writers on the Jericho Writers Self-Editing course. She also holds an MA in Victorian Studies and her love for the period shines through her writing. She currently lives in London, where she works for the government on growing diversity within the Civil Service.

PANDORA

by Susan Stokes-Chapman

Agent: Juliet Mushens



The Mermaid and Mrs Hancock meets The Miniaturist in Pandora, a loose reinterpretation of the Greek myth Pandora's Box, set in the antiquity scene of Georgian London.

Orphan Dora Blake, an aspiring jewellery designer, lives with her uncle in what used to be her parents' famed shop of antiquities. When a mysterious Greek vase is delivered to the shop, Dora is intrigued by her uncle's secretive behaviour and enlists the help of Edward Lawrence, a young man seeking acceptance into the Society of Antiquities.

But what Edward discovers about the vase has Dora questioning everything she has ever known – why is her uncle so keen to keep the ancient vase a secret? And what does it have to do with her parents' tragic death all those years before? As Dora starts to realise, some secrets are left hidden, and some boxes are closed for a reason.

Pandora has been longlisted for both the 2020 Bath Novel Award and Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize.

About the author:

Susan Stokes-Chapman was born in 1985 and grew up in Lichfield, Staffordshire. She studied for four years at Aberystwyth University, graduating with a BA in Education & English Literature and an MA in Creative Writing. She works in Higher Education and currently lives in the West Midlands. You can find her on Instagram and Twitter under the handle @SStokesChapman. Her website can be viewed at www.susanstokeschapman.com

Pub date:
Spring 2022

Text: Unedited
manuscript

Rights sold:
UK: Harvill Secker (Liz
Foley)
Brazil: Verus
Czech: Auction
Italy: Auction
Romania: Nemira

- **Pre-empted in a major six-figure deal in the UK ahead of an eight-way auction**
- ***Pandora* has been shortlisted for the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize 2020**

WILL HE WONT HE by Ali Land

Agent: Juliet Mushens Film: Alice Lawson at Gersh



Publication Date:

January 2022

Material: unedited manuscript due September

Rights:

UK: Michael Joseph (Jessica Leeke)

US: Flatiron

Options:

Brazil: Record

Bulgaria: Ciela

Czech: Leda

Denmark: Turbine

France: Sonatine

Germany: Goldmann

Greece: Metaixmio

Hungary: Alexandra

Italy: Newton Compton

Japan: Hayakawa

South Korea: Tornado Media

Netherlands: Cargo

Norway: Gyldendal

Poland: Proszynski

Portugal: Suma de Letras

Russia: Eksmo

Spain: Ediciones Pamies

Turkey: Koridor

Taiwan: Sharp Point Media

***Shutter Island* meets *The Silence of the Lambs* in the new psychological thriller from international bestseller Ali Land, author of *Good Me Bad Me*.**

Dr Luke Braithwaite is a forensic psychologist who works in a West London hospital that houses patients who have committed violent acts. Dr Braithwaite is tasked with approving the upcoming release of a high-profile inmate - 25-year-old Cyril Thorpe who, when he was a teenager, famously murdered eleven cats followed by his mother, leaving a little sister alone who continues to visit him at the hospital eight years later.

Luke is drawn to Cyril and isn't quite convinced that his version of events adds up. Alongside this, the police come to Luke with details of a local murder that bears resemblance to something in his own past. As the personal and professional pressure on him mounts, Luke starts to doubt everything he once thought he knew. And as the murders escalate, he starts to wonder if the killings truly are at random... or if they are somehow connected to him.

About the author:

Ali Land graduated from university with a degree in Mental Health and worked as a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Nurse.

- ***Good Me Bad Me* was a Sunday Times Bestseller, a Richard and Judy Book Club pick, a Target Book Club read in the US, and has sold over 100,000 copies in the UK.**

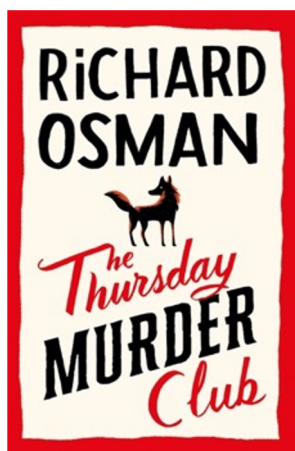


- **It was short-listed for the John Creasey Dagger, short-listed twice for Dead Good Reader Awards, short-listed for the Glass Bell Award for Contemporary Fiction and won Book Of The Year at *Heat* magazine Unmissable Awards.**

THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB

by Richard Osman

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

3 September 2020

Text:

Final pdf

Rights sold:

UK: Viking (Katy Loftus)

US: Pamela Dorman Books

Brazil: Intrinseca

Bulgaria: Soft Press

China: Auction

Croatia: Egmont

Czech: Jota

Denmark: Gyldendal

Estonia: Rahva Raamat

Finland: Otava

France: Lattes

Germany: Ullstein

Greece: Psychogios

Hungary: Agave

Israel: Tchelet

Italy: SEM

Korea: Auction

Lithuania: Jotema

Netherlands: Cargo

Norway: Gursli-berg

Poland: Muza

Portugal: Planeta

Romania: Crime Scene Press

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved killings.

But when a local property developer shows up dead, 'The Thursday Murder Club' find themselves in the middle of their first live case.

The four friends, Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron, might be pushing eighty but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

About the author:

Richard Osman is a creative director for Endemol UK. He has worked as an executive producer on numerous shows including *8 Out of 10 Cats* and *10 O'Clock Live*. Richard rose to fame presenting *Pointless* with Alexander Armstrong. Richard's popularity and tremendous knowledge of trivia led to him presenting his own BBC quiz, *Two Tribes* along with *Insert Name Here* and *Child Genius*. He is also a regular on panel shows such as *Have I Got News For You* and writes a column for the *Radio Times*.

Praise for *The Thursday Murder Club*:

- **The record-breaking number 1 bestseller, the fastest selling crime debut novel of all time**
- **Over 200,000 copies sold in the UK in one month of sales.**

Russia: Mann, Ivanov and Ferber

Serbia: Vulkan

Slovak: Slovart

Slovenia: Mladinska

Spain: Planeta

Sweden: Albert Bonniers

Taiwan: Faces

Turkey: Offer

Film: Amblin Entertainment

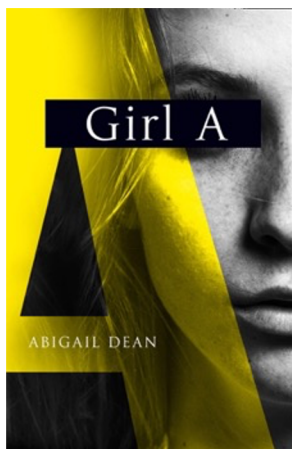


CRIME & THRILLER



GIRL A by Abigail Dean

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

21 January 2021

Text: Final pdf

Rights sold:

UK: HarperCollins (Julia Wisdom)

US: Viking

Brazil: Verus

Bulgaria: Riva

Croatia: Sonatina

Czech: Alpress

Estonia: Rahva Raamat

Finland: Aula & Co.

France: JC Lattes

Germany: Piper

Greece: Psychogios

Hungary: Libri Könyvkiadó

Israel: Kinneret

Italy: Einaudi

Japan: Hayakawa

Lithuania: Alma Littera

Netherlands: HarperCollins NL

Norway: Gursli-berg

Poland: Proszynski Media

Portugal: Presenca

Romania: S.C Crime Scene Press

Russia: AST

Serbia: Vulkan

Slovenia: Zalozba

Spain: Ediciones B

Sweden: Forum

Ukraine: Family Leisure Club

Film/tv: 3000 Pictures/Sony

'Girl A,' she said. 'The girl who escaped. If anyone was going to make it, it was going to be you.'

Lex Gracie doesn't want to think about her family. She doesn't want to think about growing up in her parents' House of Horrors. And she doesn't want to think about her identity as Girl A: the girl who escaped. When her mother dies in prison and leaves Lex and her siblings the family home, she can't run from her past any longer. Together with her sister, Evie, Lex intends to turn the House of Horrors into a force for good. But first she must come to terms with her six siblings – and with the childhood they shared.

About the author:

Abigail Dean graduated from Cambridge with a Double First in English. She now works as a lawyer for Google, and is writing her second novel.

Coming next:

The Conspiracies follows two people in the aftermath of a shooting, one who lost her mother that day, and one who believes it was a hoax and sets out to expose it.

Praise for GIRL A:

- **'It is rare for a novel to be so deft yet devastating. A story of terrible control but also irresistible humanity, Girl A is a portrait of survival, intelligence and love, and it will stay with me for a long time. A book of deep feeling, and an astonishing achievement.'** -Jessie Burton
- **'Terrifyingly gripping.'** -Susie Steiner
- **'Books like GIRL A don't come along often; it gives you no option but to put your entire life on pause.'** -Stacey Halls
- **'Gripping, beautifully written perfection.'** -Sophie Hannah

TWELVE SECRETS by Rob Gold

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

TBD 2022

Text:

Unedited manuscript

Rights sold:

UK: Sphere (Ed Wood and Rosanna Forte)

Italy: Longanesi

- **UK rights were sold at auction for a six-figure deal and Italian rights were quickly pre-empted.**

Ben Harper. A successful journalist whose life was changed irrevocably when, still a child himself, his older brother was murdered by two teenage girls. A shocking crime which was splashed across every newspaper in the country.

Clare Harper. Ben's beloved mother was putting her life back together after the killings: so when her body was found on the local train tracks, Ben was shocked. It was ruled a suicide, but Ben never believed that that was true, convinced that something darker was at play.

Abigail Langdon and Josie Fairchild. Two 14-year-old girls who took the lives of Nick Harper and his best friend. Found guilty and sentenced to lengthy prison sentences, they've been out for years, under new identities, which no one knows.

Or so they thought...

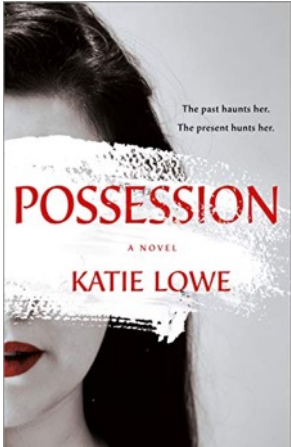
When Abigail Langdon is found dead, the police discover a series of letters from Clare Harper in her possession, dating back to just before Clare's alleged suicide. Ben quickly begins to realise that Clare had discovered something explosive, something that someone killed to keep secret, and will kill again to protect.

About the author:

Rob Gold has co-written three James Patterson titles in 2016 for his *Bookshot* series. Rob started his career as an intern for CNN in Washington DC, before he moved into the publishing world, where he was the nationwide book buyer for Asda. He now works in sales for a publisher. Living in west Putney, you often might find him running along the riverbank or back through the woods from Barnes.

POSSESSION by Katie Lowe

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:
22 July 2021

Text:
Proof pdf

Rights sold:
UK: HarperCollins (Natasha Bardon)
US: St Martins Press

Option publishers:
Brazil: HarperCollins
Finland: Gummerus
Italy: Mondadori
Netherlands: Bruna
Poland: Czarna
Russia: AST
Spain: Siruela
Sweden: Modernista

Praise for THE FURIES:



- **'An atmospheric, disturbing, even scary tale that touches on otherworldliness.'**
-The Times

Hannah is a psychiatrist, living in the village of Hawkwood with her teenage daughter Evie, and her journalist boyfriend Dan. Ten years earlier, Hannah's husband was stabbed to death in their marital bed, and a local teenager with prior convictions was found guilty of the crime, and sentenced to life in prison.

But a popular true crime podcast turns its attentions to her husband's case - highlighting numerous flaws in the investigation and prosecution of the boy charged with the crime.

With increasing attention on Hannah, and her past, she takes a new job opportunity at what used to be Hawkwood House asylum – a place she has always been drawn to as her grandmother was kept there. The site of tragedy, and allegedly haunted, she's determined to build it into a force for good.

But with the podcast continuing to unpick her relationship with her late husband, mysterious threats arriving on her doorstep, and the police reopening the old case, her world starts to unravel. Hawkwood House is full of ghosts: but the ghosts we carry with us of our past decisions can prove be the most haunting of all.

About the author:

Katie is a writer living in Worcester, UK, whose debut novel *The Furies* is published by HarperFiction (UK), St Martin's Press (US) and eight other territories worldwide. A graduate of the University of Birmingham, Katie has a BA(Hons) in English and an MPhil in Literature & Modernity. She returned to Birmingham in 2019 to complete a PhD in English Literature, with her thesis on female rage in literary modernism and the #MeToo era.

THE DOWNFALL by Laure Van Rensburg

Agent: Juliet Mushens ; Film agent: Michelle Kroes at CAA



Pub date:

January 2022

Text:

Unedited manuscript

Rights sold:

UK: Michael Joseph (Clio Cornish)

US: Grand Central Press

Brazil: Intrinseca

Croatia: Znanje

Finland: Otava

France: Presse de la Cite

Germany: Ullstein

Italy: SEM

Lithuania: Balto

Netherlands: Bruna

Norway: Gyldendal

Poland: Muza

Portugal: Porto

Romania: Contact

Russia: Eksmo

How well do you really know your partner?

Ellie is an NYU student: a beautiful, doe-eyed ingenue.

Steven is a wealthy and privileged teacher at an elite Manhattan school, and significantly older than her, much to the raised eyebrows of those around them.

When they head away for a romantic break, they're both excited to get to know each other better, away from prying eyes. But when a snowstorm strands them in the house it becomes apparent that neither of them are quite who they say they are: and that one of them won't escape the weekend alive.

About the author:

Laure Van Rensburg is a French writer living in the UK and an Ink Academy alumna. Her stories have appeared in online magazines and anthologies such as *Litro Magazine*, *Storgy Magazine*, *The Real Jazz Baby* (2020 Best Anthology, Saboteur Awards 2020), *FIVE:2:ONE Magazine*. They have placed in competitions including 2018 & 2019 Bath Short Story Award. *The Downfall* was shortlisted for the 2019 First Novel Prize, 2019 Novel London Competition and 2019 Flash 500 Novel Opening.

Coming next:

Laure's current work in progress, *Eden Lost* was longlisted in 2019 Exeter Novel Prize and more recently longlisted in the 2020 Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize.

- **THE DOWNFALL sold in the UK after a six-way auction. It also sold in the US at auction and was quickly pre-empted in Germany, Finland, Norway and Italy.**



FANTASY



THE FINAL STRIFE

by Saara El-Arifi

Agent: Juliet Mushens; Film agent: Mary Pender, UTA



Pub date:

2022 simultaneously in UK and US

Text:

Unedited manuscript

Rights sold:

UK: HarperVoyager (Natasha Bardon)

US: Del Rey

- **THE FINAL STRIFE sold in the UK and the US in major six-figure deals.**



*Stolen, sharpened, the hidden key,
We'll destroy the Empire and set you free,
Churned up from the shadows to tear it apart,
A dancer's grace, a killer's instinct, an Ember's
blood, a Duster's heart.*

The Empire is cruelly divided: red-blooded Embers can work magic with their blood, Dusters are blue-blooded and downtrodden, and pale-blooded Ghostings are mutilated at birth to punish them for their failed rebellion four hundred years earlier. But not everyone accepts the status quo. Stolen from her noble crib as a child, Sylah was one of 'the Sandstorm': twelve Ember children raised by rebels to one day bring down the empire - until a massacre left her the lone survivor.

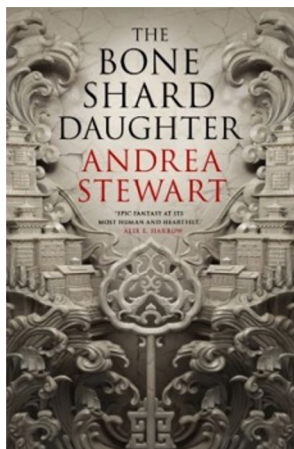
Years later Sylah spends her days numb from addiction, fighting (and winning) in the ring to fund her habit. But when her long-lost stepbrother returns, determined to fulfil the purpose they were trained for, Sylah is caught between her blood, and her loyalties. Forced to confront everything she has run from, and the truth of her past, can Sylah achieve the destiny she was trained for?

About the author:

Saara's heritage has always been intrinsically linked to the themes of her stories. She was raised by a Ghanaian/British mother and a Sudanese/Arab father—who were both brought up Christian and Muslim respectively. Saara initially specialised in theatre directing, achieving a 1st BA Hons in Theatre Studies from Kent University and a Diploma in Directing from RADA and a badge for acting from Brownies. Her creative writing and specialism in theatre led her to the big screen, and she currently works at Pinewood Film Studios as the Global Senior Manager for Comms and Social Media.

THE BONE SHARD DAUGHTER by Andrea Stewart

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

10 September 2020

Text:

Final pdf

Rights sold:

UK: Orbit (James Long)

US: Orbit

France: Bragelonne

Germany: Blanvalet

Spain: Trini Vergara

Praise for *The Bone Shard Daughter*:

- **'The Bone Shard Daughter is one of the best fantasy novels I've read in a long time ... it grabs you by the heart and the throat from the first pages and doesn't let go until long after it's over. This book is truly special.'** -Sarah J. Maas
- **'Brilliant world-building, deep intrigue and incredible heart.'** -Megan E. O'Keefe

A captivating tale of magic, revolution and mystery, where a young woman's sense of identity will make or break an empire.

The Emperor's reign has lasted for decades, his mastery of bone shard magic powering the animal-like constructs that maintain law and order. But now his rule is failing, and revolution is sweeping across the Empire's many islands.

Lin is the emperor's daughter and spends her days trapped in a palace of locked doors and dark secrets. When her father refuses to recognise her as heir to the throne, she vows to prove her worth by mastering the forbidden art of bone shard magic.

Yet such power carries a great cost, and when the revolution reaches the gates of the palace, Lin must decide how far she is willing to go to claim her birthright - and save her people.

About the author:

Andrea Stewart is the daughter of immigrants, and was raised in a number of places across the United States. Her parents always emphasized science and education, so she spent her childhood immersed in Star Trek and odd-smelling library books.. She now lives in sunny California, and in addition to writing, can be found herding cats, looking at birds, and falling down research rabbit holes.

- **'A bold, ambitious debut'** M. R. Carey
- **'Epic fantasy at its most human and heartfelt ... inventive, adventurous and wonderfully written.'** -Alix E. Harrow
- **'Everything I love about fantasy: a well-realized world, dark magic that challenges your presumptions, and deep questions about identity.'** -Marshall Ryan Maresca, author of *The Maradaine Saga*



HISTORICAL FICTION



MRS ENGLAND by Stacey Halls

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

10 June 2021

Text:

Edited manuscript due soon

Rights sold:

UK: Bonnier (Margaret Stead)

Option publishers:

US: Mira

China: Beijing White Horse
Time Culture Development

Croatia: Znanje

Czech: Pavel – Dobrovsky

Beta

France: Lafon

Germany: Piper

Hungary: XXI. Század

Israel: Kinneret

Italy: Giunti

Lithuania: Balto

Netherlands: The House of
Books

Norway: Gursli-berg

Poland: Swiat Ksiazki

Russia: Eksmo

Spain: Ediciones B

Sweden: Bokfabriken

West Yorkshire, 1904.

When newly graduated nurse Ruby May takes a position looking after the children of Charles and Lilian England, a wealthy couple from a powerful dynasty of mill owners, she hopes it will be the fresh start she needs. But as she adapts to life at the isolated Hardcastle House, it becomes clear there's something not quite right about the beautiful, mysterious Mrs England.

Ostracised by the servants and feeling increasingly uneasy, Ruby is forced to confront her own demons in order to prevent history from repeating itself. After all, there's no such thing as the perfect family - and she should know.

Simmering with slow-burning menace, *Mrs England* is a portrait of an Edwardian marriage, weaving an enthralling story of men and women, power and control, courage, truth and the very darkest deception. Set against the atmospheric landscape of West Yorkshire, Stacey Halls' third novel proves her one of the most exciting and compelling new storytellers of our times.

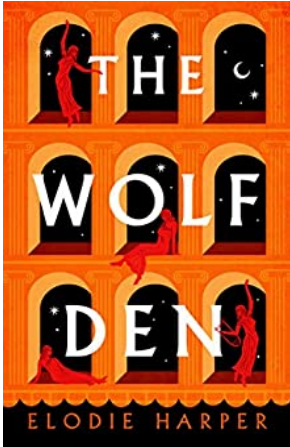
About the author:

Stacey Halls has worked as a journalist at *The Bookseller* and *Fabulous Magazine*, and has written for publications including *Stylist*, *Psychologies* and *The Independent*. Her debut novel, *The Familiars*, was a Sunday Times Bestseller and was a Richard and Judy pick. Her second novel, *The Foundling*, was a Sunday Times Bestseller.

- ***The Familiars* is a Sunday Times Bestseller, was a Richard and Judy Pick, and has sold over 250,000 copies in the UK.**
- ***The Foundling* peaked at #2 on the Sunday Times Bestseller list now sold 20,000 hardbacks, and hit #5 on the Sunday Times Bestseller list and sold over 30,000 copies in a month of sales in paperback.**

THE WOLF DEN by Elodie Harper

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

13 May 2021

Text:

Unedited manuscript, proof pdf available mid-September

Rights sold:

UK: Head of Zeus (Madeleine O'Shea)

Netherlands: The House of Books

An engaging, female-focussed novel set in ancient Pompeii, from an exciting new voice in historical fiction.

The streets of Pompeii have a life of their own: the cries of the hawkers, the beauty and dirt of the crowds, the shifts in mood from delight to danger. These are the streets that have become Amara's home. Day after day she must walk them, looking for business to bring back to her master's house: the Wolf Den, Pompeii's infamous brothel.

The realities of her existence are made bearable by the other she-wolves at the Wolf Den. Together they can gossip, offer comfort and dream; and their dreams, when woven together, create a picture of life that makes Amara catch her breath.

They may only be dreams for now, as insubstantial as the candle smoke that follows the flame, but Amara is determined to make them burn bright. She is only a slave in this beginning, but all good stories must start somewhere...

About the author:

Elodie Harper is a reporter and presenter at ITV News Anglia. She's worked as a journalist for the past decade, including for Channel 4 News, ITN and BBC radio. Elodie's debut novel *The Binding Song*, was published by Hodder & Stoughton in 2017 and was followed by *The Death Knock* in July 2018.

THE CLOCKWORK GIRL by Anna Mazzola

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:
Coming Soon

Text:
Unedited manuscript

Rights sold:
UK: Orion (Olivia Barber)

Praise for *The Unseeing* and *The Story Keeper*:

- ‘[A] sizzling first novel...the characters - cleverly and sympathetically imagined - are the engine of the story.’ - *The Times*
- ‘Rich in character and description, this is a riveting Gothic flavoured story that is shaped by local folklore, myths and legends.’ - *Woman & Home*

Paris, 1750. Madeleine, a young maid with a scarred face and a hidden past, goes to work for an automaton-maker, Dr Reinhart, and his clever daughter, Angelique. Only Madeleine knows the real reason she is there: there are rumours that Reinhart’s mechanical creations are the devil’s work, and she is in the employ of the police as a *mouche*, to spy on him and report back on his every move.

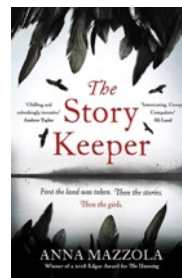
Meanwhile, in the streets outside, children are quietly disappearing – and Madeleine fears for her young nephew. No one knows who can be responsible, but rumours abound around the clockmaker, and even the King of France himself...

As Madeleine is drawn further into the household and its secrets, she comes to fear that she has stumbled upon an even greater conspiracy. One which might even reach to the heart of Versailles itself.

About the author:

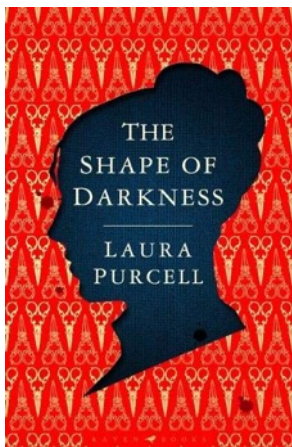
Anna Mazzola’s debut novel, *The Unseeing*, won an Edgar Award in the US and was nominated for the Historical Writers’ Association’s Debut Crown in the UK. Her second novel, *The Story Keeper*, was longlisted for the Highland Book Prize.

Previous titles:



THE SHAPE OF DARKNESS

by Laura Purcell Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:
28 January 2021

Text:
Proof pdf

Rights sold:
UK: Raven (Alison Hennessey)
US: Penguin

Option publishers:
Croatia: Znanje
Italy: Mondadori

Praise for *Bone China*:

- **'Du Maurier-tastic. Purcell has a sure storytelling touch, a command of atmosphere and a keen eye for the telling details of social history. Oh, and she stores up some satisfying and suitably macabre final revelations.'**
-*The Guardian*

A struggling silhouette artist in Victorian Bath seeks out a renowned child spirit medium in order to speak to the dead - and to try and identify their killers.

As the age of the photograph dawns in Victorian Bath, silhouette artist Agnes is struggling to keep her business afloat. Still recovering from a serious illness herself, making enough money to support her elderly mother and her orphaned nephew Cedric has never been easy, but then one of her clients is murdered shortly after sitting for Agnes, and then another, and another... Why is the killer seemingly targeting her business?

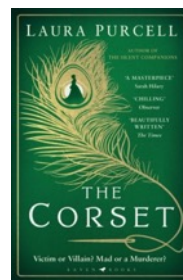
Desperately seeking an answer, Agnes approaches Pearl, a child spirit medium lodging in Bath with her older half-sister and her ailing father, hoping that if Pearl can make contact with those who died, they might reveal who killed them.

But Agnes and Pearl quickly discover that instead they may have opened the door to something that they can never put back...

About the author:

Laura Purcell is a former bookseller and lives in Colchester with her husband and pet guinea pigs. Her first novel for Raven Books *The Silent Companions* won the WHSmith Thumping Good Read Award 2018 and featured in both the Zoe Ball and Radio 2 Book Clubs.

Previous titles:





WOMEN'S FICTION



WOULD I LIE TO YOU? by Aliya Ali-Afzal

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

September 2021

Text:

Unedited manuscript

Rights sold:

UK: Head of Zeus (Laura Palmer)

US: Grand Central Publishing

- **Sold at auction in the UK where it will be a superlead title for 2021, and It was pre-empted in the US.**

Faiza lives in Wimbledon Village with her family, and she loves her life. Sure, there's the bitchy alpha-mum Julia who never fails to put her in her place. And of course, there's the awkwardness she feels when her childhood friend, Amina, prods her for sending her kids to an expensive private school. Plus the occasional unpleasant overheard comment about her background, given her son is the only Desi kid in his year. But apart from that, she really does have it all.

Until midway through a Botox appointment (her first), her husband, Tom, calls her to tell her he's lost his job. But she's not to worry: their emergency savings fund will carry them through until he finds something. Only Faiza knows that she's spent that money.

In the process of trying to put it back, can she find the Faiza she used to be, before the trappings of her life overwhelmed her? And as she desperately tries to keep her secret hidden, she starts to realise that she's not the only one whose perfect life hides something much darker...

About the author:

Aliya Ali-Afzal lives in London and is studying for an MA in Creative Writing at Royal Holloway, University of London. She is an Alum of the Curtis Brown Creative Novel writing course, and her writing has been longlisted for The Bath Novel Award, The Mslexia Novel Competition, The Mo Prize Hachette UK, and The Primadonna Prize. Aliya has a degree in Russian and German from UCL, University of London. She has always lived in London, since moving there from Pakistan as a young child. Aliya worked as a City head-hunter and then retrained as an Executive MBA career coach.

Coming next:

The Funeral Book is about 24-year-old Zara who is planning a wedding, at the same time as her beloved Nani is planning her funeral.

EIGHT PERFECT HOURS

by Lia Louis Agent: Juliet Mushens



A story about first love, family bonds, and trusting the timing of your life.

Thirty-three year old Noelle Butterby has been counting down to this moment for years - the moment she gets to unearth the time capsule she buried with friends 15 years earlier, and the moment she finally gets to see ex-boyfriend Ed again, to show him she's just fine without him, thank you very much.

But when the item she buried is missing from the time capsule and Ed doesn't show, Noelle heads home disappointed, wondering what else could possibly go wrong - until she finds herself stranded in snow on the motorway and with no choice but to hop in with airport-bound American stranger Sam Atwood for hours into the night. Eight long hours that turn into eight perfect hours, where they talk about everything and nothing, knowing they'll never meet again. Until they do.

About the author:

Lia Louis lives in the United Kingdom with her partner and three young children. Before raising a family, she worked as a freelance copywriter and proofreader. She was the 2015 winner of Elle magazine's annual writing competition and has been a contributor for Bloomsbury's Writers and Artist's blog for aspiring writers.

Pub date:

TBD

Text:

Unedited manuscript available September

Rights sold:

UK: Orion (Charlotte Mursell)

US: Emily Bestler Books

Options:

Croatia: Znanje

Czech: Albatros

Germany: Penguin

Hungary: Publish and More

Italy: Rizzoli Fabbri

Netherlands: HarperCollins

Norway: Bastion

Romania: Grup Media

Russia: ST License Agency

Slovenia: Hisa Knjig and

Avrora AS

Spain: Planeta

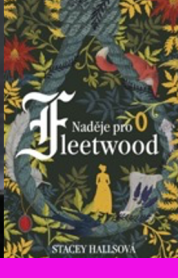
Sweden: Forum

Praise for DEAR EMMIE BLUE:



"A delightful story about how the things we imagine to be best for us usually aren't. The reason you will love Dear Emmie Blue is because you've probably LIVED Dear Emmie Blue, in some small part of your own journey to adulthood."

-Jodi Picoult



GENERAL FICTION

TO FILL A YELLOW HOUSE

by Sussie Anie

Agent: Juliet Mushens; Film agent: Emily Hayward-Whitlock



Pub date:
Spring 2022

Text:
Unedited manuscript

Rights sold:
UK: Orion (Francesca Main)
US: Custom House
(HarperCollins)

- **TO FILL A YELLOW HOUSE was pre-empted in a six-figure deal in less than 48 hours on submission and sold in a six figure auction in the US**

The high street is dying, and with it, Rupert's shop 'the Chest of Small Wonders', which he has run for decades.

Most people won't miss it. But for teenager Kwasi, the Chest is a refuge he can't live without, where he finds respite from school bullies and his inescapable aunts (who may or may not have overstayed their visas) at home.

Rupert is a man whose home feels too empty: he has lost his way since the death of his wife, trying to remain in the happiness they shared by retreating into a world of drugs.

An unlikely friendship develops between Rupert and Kwasi, a relationship which changes over time as well as changes them. But as politics engulfs the shop, both face difficult choices that will force them to confront their prejudices.

About the author:

Sussie Anie lives in London, where she was born and grew up. After graduating with a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Warwick, she completed an MA in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, where she was a recipient of the 2018-19 Kowitz Scholarship. Her writing has been published in Lolwe, and shortlisted for the White Review Short Story Prize 2020.

THE COOKBOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

by Francesca Haig Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

June 2021

Text:

Unedited manuscript

Rights sold:

UK: Allen & Unwin (Kate Ballard)

Praise for Francesca Haig:

- **‘Words like ‘masterpiece’ and ‘instant classic’ are cliché, but in the case of Francesca Haig’s astounding *The Fire Sermon*, they’re the only words to use.’ - *Starburst Magazine***
- **‘This terrific set-up spools out into a high tension tale of mistrust and dependency, injustice and optimism, told with poetic intensity.’ -*Daily Mail***

Omelette for the day the police come to your house to tell you that your son is dead:

Take six eggs (large; ideally free range). Crack them, one by one, carefully separating the yolks and whites into two large bowls.

Throw them away.

The Cookbook of Common Prayer is the story of one Tasmanian family whose lives are turned upside down by the drowning of their eldest child in a caving accident in the UK. Desperate to protect their unwell teenaged daughter from the news, Gabe and Gill decide they must hide the truth from her at all costs – a decision which has ripple effects throughout their family.

The Cookbook of Common Prayer explores the things we do for our children, and the things we do to our children, and how it’s possible to find a way forward against all odds. Shot through with hope, it reads like Celeste Ng meets Anne Tyler – this is accessible literary fiction at its very best.

About the author:

Francesca Haig grew up in Tasmania, and lives in London. She gained her PhD at the University of Melbourne, and is a Visiting Writing Fellow at the University of Chester, where she previously worked as Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader in Creative Writing. She is the author of *The Fire Sermon* (2015), *The Map of Bones* (2016), and *The Forever Ship* (2017) - a post-apocalyptic trilogy published in more than 20 languages. This is her first book for adults.

THE LAW OF THE HEART by Boris Starling

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

Summer 2021

Text:

Unedited manuscript

Rights sold:

UK: Lake Union Press –
Sammia Hamer (Amazon)

*Set in the most secretive, misunderstood and fascinating country in the world, **The Law Of The Heart** is a breathtakingly powerful novel of love and loss: the deepest, most profound parts of what makes us human.*

Meet Rufus, a rollercoaster designer. He's a wanderer, a nomad, and in keeping moving he never lets anyone get too close. His laws are the laws of physics, making his coasters thrilling while keeping them from going over the edge.

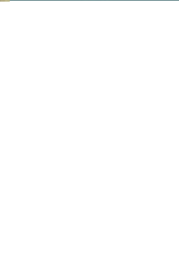
Meet Min, a tourist guide in the North Korean capital Pyongyang. Her life is safe and easy, all repetition and formula. Her laws are the laws of the land, and she obeys them without hesitation or question.

Meet Cuckoo, a widow. She's known and lost a great love, and since then she's chosen to be on her own. Her laws are the laws of survival, using skill and verve to navigate the arbitrary brutality of a capricious regime.

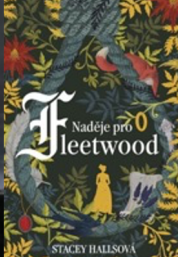
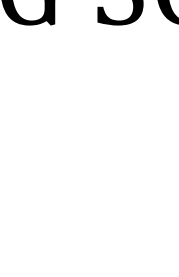
Their lives are about to change – suddenly, drastically and irrevocably. All the laws they've lived by are swept away by the only one that matters: the law of the heart.

About the author:

Boris Starling is a versatile and award-winning novelist, screenwriter and journalist. His debut novel *Messiah* was made into a primetime BBC1 series which ran for five seasons, and he has penned scripts and developed projects for broadcasters, studios and production companies in the UK, US and around Europe. He is also the author of the successful Haynes Explains series. Boris writes regularly for several national newspapers and was writer-in-residence at Max Gate, Thomas Hardy's house.



COMING SOON



THE DISCOVERY by Mary Chamberlain

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Pub date:

Coming soon

Text:

Unedited manuscript

Rights sold:

UK: Oneworld (Jenny Parrott)

Option publishers:

Lithuania: Balto

Praise for THE DRESSMAKER OF DACHAU:

- **'I found myself completely swept up in this tale of love, ambition and vanity.'** -Juliet West, author of *Before the Fall*

Praise for THE HIDDEN:

- **'A powerful and raw, elegantly written, character piece dealing with inhumanity and endurance, firmly grounded in real events.'** -*The Herald*

London 1958 and Berlin 1945 - a story of love and trust, of fear and betrayal, guilt and retribution.

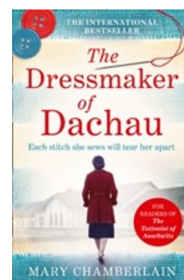
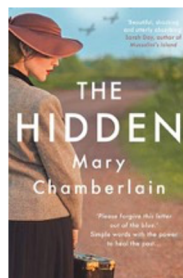
When Betty and John meet in London at a rally for nuclear disarmament, both are living with secrets about what that war did to them.

After fleeing from Germany with her father in 1945, Betty lives with her memories of the Russian occupation, a young Russian officer, and the mysterious disappearance of her sister. John too, is plagued by flashbacks to his time as a translator for the top-secret T-force which uncovered Nazi scientific secrets, and to a young German woman who was brutally murdered, and for whose murder he was framed unless he talked...

As their relationship develops, their lives unfold, unravel and entwine. But when a man from the past surfaces, he threatens to reveal secrets. Secrets which will embroil them in the Cold War and threaten their very existence.

About the author:

Mary Chamberlain is a historian and novelist. Her debut novel *The Dressmaker of Dachau* was an international bestseller and sold to 19 countries. Her highly acclaimed second novel, *The Hidden* was a Sunday Times Must Read choice of 2019. She is the author of six non-fiction titles including *Fenwomen: a portrait of women in an English village*, the first book published by Virago Press and the inspiration behind Caryl Churchill's award-winning play, *Fen*.



THE HOUSE OF LOST CONTENTMENT

by Theresa Howes Agent: Juliet Mushens



COMING SOON

When a young woman is sent from London to investigate mysterious goings on in the remote Shropshire countryside during World War II, she quickly finds herself troubled by the spirit of a child that no one else will admit to seeing.

After an enemy plane comes down and the pilot goes missing, the woman's quest to find him brings her into conflict with the local community, revealing the deep-rooted pagan beliefs and rituals that are used to mask a number of unexplained deaths, and the heartbreaking truth behind the nature of the child's spirit.

About the author:

Since graduating from university and drama school, Theresa has appeared in a variety of theatre productions and independent films and done many jobs in between. Her writing has been long-listed for The Mslexia Novel Award, The Bath Novel Award, The Caledonia Novel Award, The Lucy Cavendish College Prize and the BBC National Short Story Award. She lives in London with her husband and a large fluffy cat.

ALL ALONG OF YOU by Philippa Malicka

Agent: Juliet Mushens



COMING SOON

“She saw right through it all, what I package to people. The whole kitchen-cosy, family-love story. So she left. She fell out of love with me.”

Anna Finbow is a lifestyle magnate and a national treasure. Wealthy and adored, she has everything, except her daughter. Following the advice of her controversial therapist, Mary Finbow has taken out a restraining order against her mother. After a bitter court case, Mary disappears, and Anna is charged with harassment.

Tormented, Anna returns to Stoke-on-Trent to save her homewares business. There she meets Gus, a talented ceramic artist. With their similar looks and identical ages, it seems like Gus could become Anna’s replacement daughter.

But Gus is not who she says she is, and she harbours threatening infatuations. As she draws closer to Anna, the secret history of Gus’ past involvement with Mary’s therapist unfolds. Before long, Gus realises that she has been manipulated and that Mary is in danger. Is it too late to get her back?

About the author:

Philippa Malicka was born in Essex and works in publishing. She is an alumna of the Prose Fiction MA at the University of East Anglia. Her non-fiction has appeared in *The Sunday Times*, *The Sunday Telegraph* and *Grazia*.

All Along of You is her first novel and was longlisted for the Bridport First Novel Award.

Breathless

by Amy McCulloch

Agent: Juliet Mushens



Inspired by Amy McCulloch's real life adventures as the youngest Canadian woman to climb the 8000m peak Manaslu, Breathless is a heart-pounding feminist thriller based in the high stakes world of mountaineering in Nepal.

Desperate to escape her past in London, journalist Cecily throws herself at the chance to cover the story of a lifetime - accompanying world famous mountaineer Doug Manners as he attempts to summit the last of the great mountains in the Himalayas. Yet, disaster strikes before they've even left for base camp in the form of an earthquake that kills one of the team. The remaining group are going to need to bond quickly if they're to survive on the icy slopes.

COMING SOON

Isolated on the mountain, days from base camp, not only do they have to contend with the perils of high altitude life - the lack of oxygen, deep yawning crevasses in the ice and terrifying avalanches - but an even more sinister evil lurks among them, and it's hunting the team one by one. After all, *where better for a serial killer to thrive than a place already known as the 'Death Zone'?*

About the author:

Amy McCulloch is a Canadian author. She previously worked as Editorial Director at a leading children's publisher, and in 2013 she was listed as one of The Bookseller's Rising Stars. She has previously written fantasy and YA, such as *The Oathbreaker's Shadow*, *The Potion Diaries*, and *Jinxed*. She most recently co-wrote *The Magpie Society* with Zoella. This is her first thriller.

Daffodils

by Louise Beech

Agent: Silé Edwards



COMING SOON

Inspired by her mother's most recent suicide attempt and the eye-catching flowers that stopped her from witnessing it Daffodils is a moving exploration of the impact a mother's attempt on her own life has on the family she tried to leave behind.

When her mother jumped off the Humber Bridge in 2019, the impending arrival of a parcel and four riverside daffodils stopped Louise being there at the exact moment she fell.

Incredibly, her mother survived. This suicide attempt was not her first but her most violent. Louise and her siblings rushed to the hospital, putting aside the many family issues that had torn them apart and did everything they could for their mother over the year that followed.

Written in three timelines – the long ago past of Louise's childhood, the near past of the days after the jump and real time as she wrote – *Daffodils* explores the unbreakable bond between siblings and coming to terms with a difficult past.

About the author:

Louise Beech is a six-time published author, whose novels have been published by Orenda Books in the UK. Her novels have been shortlisted for Not the Booker Prize, RNA's Most Popular Romantic Novel Award and her short stories have won the Glass Woman Prize, the Eric Hoffer Award for Prose, and the Aesthetica Creative Works competition, as well as shortlisting for the Bridport Prize twice. This is Louise's first work of Non-Fiction.

Design: Your Home

by Laura Jane Clark Agent: Silé Edwards



COMING SOON

Design: Your Home is the step by step design guide from Architect and TV personality Laura Jane Clark. Packed with insight, ideas and inspiration this book will build your confidence and offer you the tools you need to identify and communicate what is really important to you and your home, allow you to be in control and also for you to be the most important part of the creative process.

With over fifteen years of experience designing, extending and building houses on a budget packed into *Design: Your Home* Laura will inspire and show you how she approaches a new design. Giving you the confidence to communicate with your architect, designer or builder during the initial stages and maintain an open dialogue throughout the process.

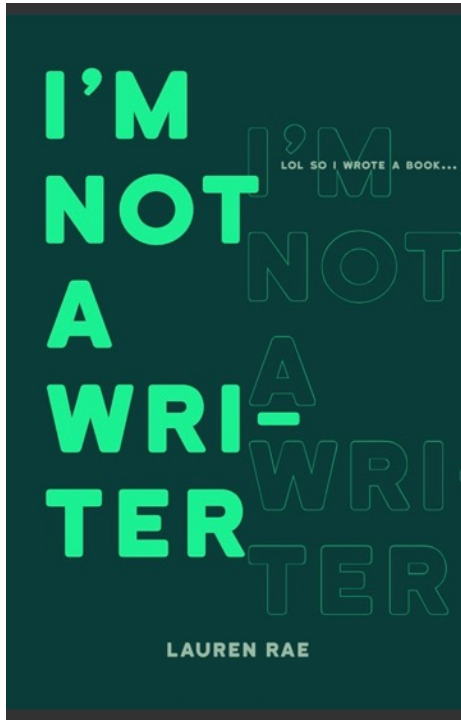
Whether you have a fair bit of experience or this is your first project; whether you are looking to extend, reconfigure or rebuild, and whatever your budget is, this book will be an invaluable source of inspiration and practical advice.

About the author:

Laura Jane Clark is an Architect and TV personality, most recently appearing on *Your Home Made Perfect*, a home renovation and design show on the BBC. She features as a design expert alongside fellow architect Robert Jamison and presenter Angela Scanlon. Laura also posts plenty of gorgeous home inspiration on her Instagram page, which is home to 23.2K followers. She has been featured in several magazines including *First Time Buyer*, *Hello!* and *Ideal Home*.

LOVE, WINE & OTHER DRUGS

by Lauren Rae Agent: Silé Edwards



COMING SOON

'Where there's a will, there's a wine.'

Lauren's sole aim is to write a book that encapsulates a millennial experience that reflects her own. From her torrid love affairs to job rejections – all of the embarrassing life occurrences that lead her to write this book will be laid bare.

Lauren's self-published memoir, *I'M NOT A WRITER* was a nostalgic look at the teenage years and early twenties, with copious amounts of insight into Lauren's turbulent love life and floundering finances; *LOVE, WINE & OTHER DRUGS* will build on this to explore uncovering adult life having not really learned anything from those early life lessons.

Expanding on her tireless wanderlust as a means of mental health escape, Lauren explores and shares the cringeworthy and hilarious reality of trying to figure it out and keep it together.

About the author:

Lauren Rae is a twenty-something journalist and author whose writing has appeared in *Bustle*, *Refinery29* and *ELLE*. She self-published *I'M NOT A WRITER* on a limited print run and it completely sold out. The demand for a reprint was so high that Lauren created a newsletter which combined a love of memes and obsessive TV references with the tribulations of day-to-day life; to keep her readers sated with comic relief and nostalgic reference points.