



FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2021

# Rights Guide

WE WILL BE TAKING MEETINGS ONLY ON  
MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS THROUGHOUT  
THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. PLEASE BE IN  
TOUCH WITH LIZA TO SCHEDULE.

# Table of Contents

We proudly present our Rights Guide for the Frankfurt Book Fair 2021.

More information on our authors, books, and rights can be found on our website at [www.mushens-entertainment.com](http://www.mushens-entertainment.com)

<b>CONTACTS &amp; CO-AGENTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>	
Krystle Zara Appiah ROOTLESS	<b>6</b>
Jessie Burton THE HOUSE OF FORTUNE	<b>7</b>
Theresa Howes THE HIDDEN HEART	<b>9</b>
Richard Osman THE MAN WHO DIED TWICE	<b>9</b>
<b>GENERAL FICTION</b>	
Claire Alexander MEREDITH, ALONE	<b>12</b>
Lia Louis BOOK FOUR	<b>13</b>
Elvin James Mensah LIFE SAVINGS	<b>14</b>
Pim Wangtechawat THE MOON REPRESENTS MY HEART	<b>15</b>
<b>CRIME AND THRILLER</b>	
Natalie Chandler BELIEVE ME NOT	<b>17</b>
Abigail Dean THE CONSPIRACIES	<b>18</b>
Claire Douglas THE COUPLE AT NO. 9	<b>19</b>
Rob Gold TWELVE SECRETS	<b>20</b>
Debbie Howells THE SECRET	<b>22</b>
Thom Insley VISITOR'S BRIDGE	<b>23</b>
Amy McCulloch BREATHLESS	<b>24</b>
Nell Pattison HIDE	<b>25</b>
Laure Van Rensburg NOBODY BUT US	<b>26</b>
<b>SCI-FI AND FANTASY</b>	
Hannah Kaner GODKILLER	<b>28</b>
Taran Matharu DRAGON RIDER	<b>29</b>

## **HISTORICAL FICTION**

Mary Chamberlain	THE FORGOTTEN	31
Elodie Harper	THE WOLF DEN	32
Susan Stokes-Chapman	PANDORA	33

## **NON-FICTION**

Yewande Biala	RECLAIMING	35
Natalie & Naomi Evans	THE MIXED RACE EXPERIENCE	36
Eleanor Houghton	THE PLAIN TRUTH	37
Illiyin Morrison	THE BIRTH DEBRIEF	38
Lauren Rae	LOVE, WINE, AND OTHER HIGHS	39



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80 Rue des Saints-Pères  
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Berla & Griffini  
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20123 Milano, Italy

## Spain, Portugal, Brazil

MB Agencia Literari SL  
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08080 Barcelona, Spain

## Germany

Mohrbooks AG  
Seefeldstrasse 303  
CH-8008 Zürich, Switzerland

## Scandinavia

Sebes & Bisseling  
Herengracht 613  
1017 CE Amsterdam,  
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Prava i Prevodi  
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## Israel

The Deborah Harris Agency  
PO Box 8528  
Jerusalem 9108401, Israel

## Turkey

Anatolia Lit  
No. 48 Or.Ko Apt B Blok D:4  
34710 Kadikoy-Istanbul,  
Turkey

## China and Taiwan

Grayhawk Agency  
14F, No 63, Sec. 4, Xinyi Rd  
Taipei 10651, Taiwan

## Japan

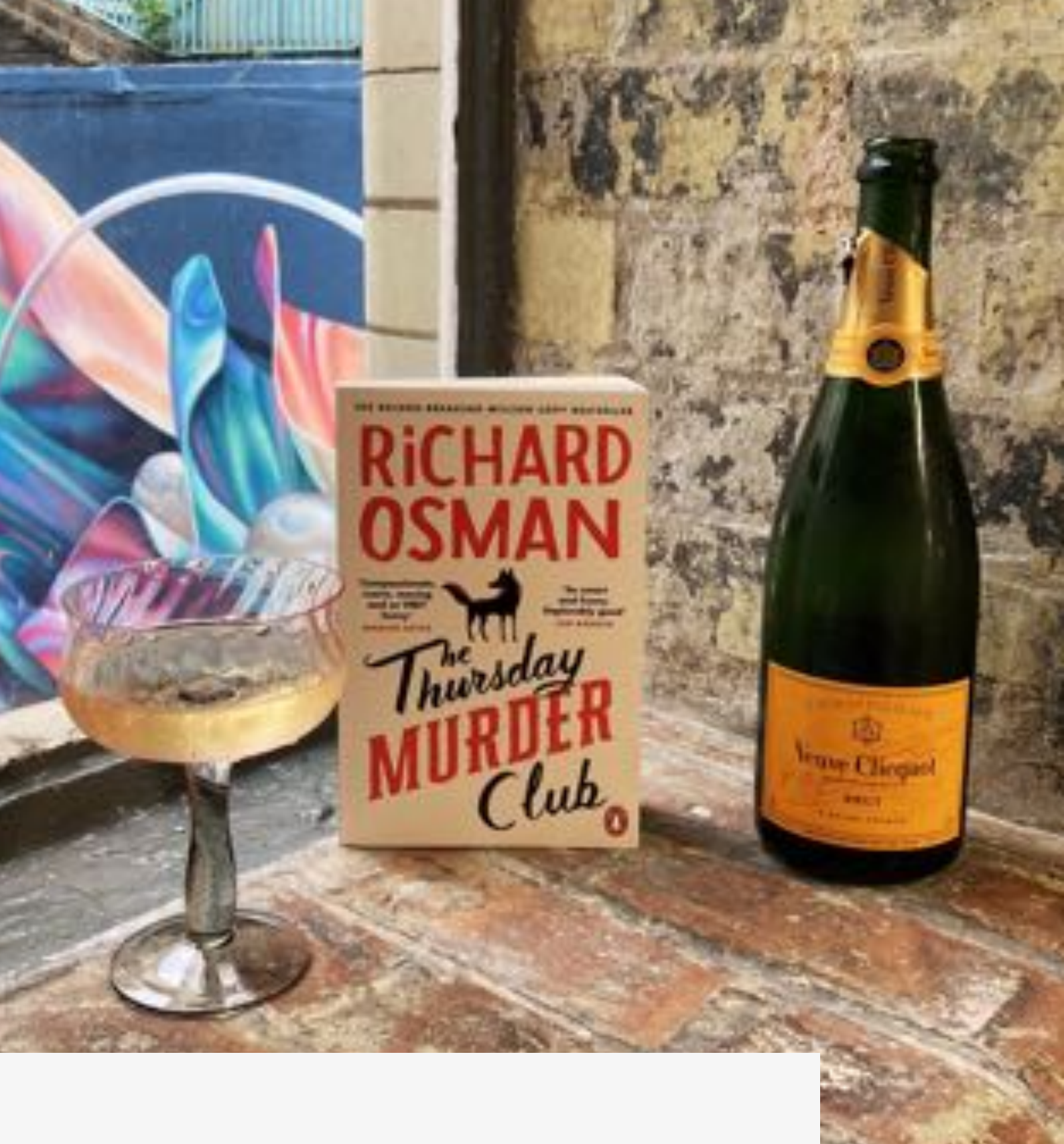
Tuttle-Mori Agency  
2-17 Kanda Jimbocho  
Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 101-0051, Japan

## Korea

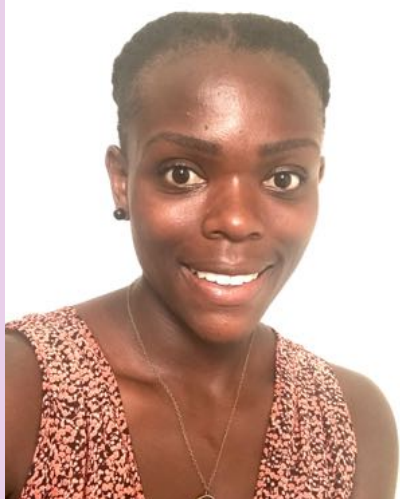
Duran Kim Agency  
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Seoul 0665, Korea







# Highlights



# Rootless

Krystle Zara Appiah

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication Date:**

Spring 2023

**Material Available:**

Unedited manuscript

**Rights:**

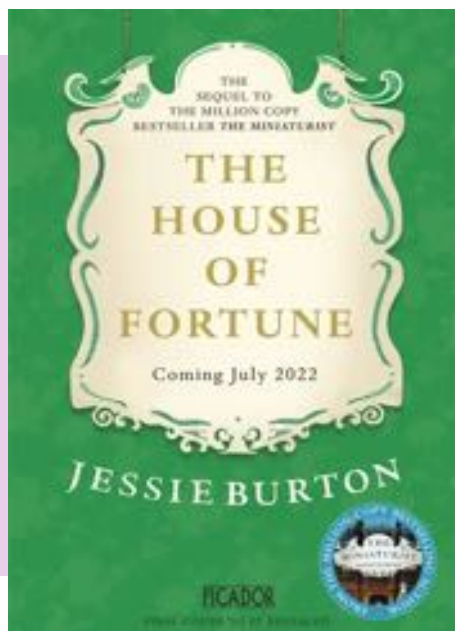
UK (Borough Press -  
Carla Josephson)  
Netherlands  
(Signatuur)

ROOTLESS opens with Sam discovering that his wife, Efe, has left him and their daughter and returned to Ghana. Sam is shocked – their marriage was perfect. Or was it? ROOTLESS is a portrait of a British-Ghanaian marriage in crisis, as well as posing the question: can you ever really go home?

Best friends Efe and Sam meet as teenagers in 90s London. Efe is a new arrival in the UK from Ghana, sinking under the weight of her parents' expectations. Sam is focused and idealistic, taking his first steps towards a career in corporate law. Over the years that follow the best friends become lovers, then marry. But an unplanned pregnancy forces them to confront just how radically different they want their lives to be. Soon Efe is swallowed up by the demands of motherhood, the dreams for her life dangling from a thread. And when she leaves, disappearing one morning and leaving both Sam and their daughter behind, Sam's illusion of their perfect marriage crumbles. He's about to discover exactly who he's married to and the lengths he'll go to win her back.

This is beautifully written and provocative reading group fiction, with much to discuss around love, marriage, motherhood, and if you can ever really 'go home'. I would see ROOTLESS sitting alongside novels such as Lauren Groff's *Fates and Furies*, Sally Rooney's *Normal People* and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Americanah*. Krystle's second novel, HINTERLANDS, will explore the complex and competitive relationships that can exist between sisters, plus the secrets lurking in a close-knit community.

**Krystle Zara Appiah is a Ghanaian writer and screenwriter, born and raised in London. She has a degree in literature and creative writing from the University of Kent. In 2020, she was one of forty writers selected for the London Library's Emerging Writers Programme. She also works as a children's books editor. ROOTLESS is her debut novel.**



# The House of Fortune

Jessie Burton

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

7th July 2022

**Film agent:** Rich Green,  
Gotham Group

**Material:** Edited  
manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK (Picador: Sophie  
Jonathan)

US (Bloomsbury)

Finland (Otava)

France (Gallimard)

Italy (La Nave di Teseo)

Netherlands (Luitingh-  
Sijthoff)

Sweden (Modernista)

UAE (Darmolhimon)

**THE MINIATURIST sold  
over a million copies  
and was a Sunday  
Times Bestseller.**

**THE HOUSE OF FORTUNE is the sequel to Jessie Burton's million copy bestselling THE MINIATURIST. Set in the golden city of Amsterdam in 1705, it is a story of fate and ambition, secrets and dreams, and one young woman's determination to rule her own destiny.**

On Thea Brandt's eighteenth birthday, she is ready to welcome adulthood with open arms. At home things are difficult – her father Otto and Aunt Nella argue endlessly, the Brandt family are selling their furniture in order to eat and on Thea's birthday, also the day that her mother Marin died, the secrets from the past seem to threaten to overwhelm the present.

Nella is desperate to find Thea a husband who will guarantee her future, and when they receive an invitation to Amsterdam's most exclusive ball, she is overjoyed – perhaps this will set their fortunes straight. And indeed, the ball does set things spinning, but their fates are still unclear, and when Nella feels a strange prickling sensation on the back of her neck, she wonders if the miniaturist has returned...

**Jessie Burton studied at Oxford University and The Central School of Speech and Drama. Rights to *The Miniaturist*, her first novel, sold in forty territories around the world, the bulk of which were sold at auction. Her second and third novels, *The Muse* and *The Confession* also became bestsellers. She has written the children's illustrated titles *The Restless Girls*, and *Medusa* which will be published in 2021.**





# The Hidden Heart

Theresa Howes

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

On submission soon

**Material:** Coming soon

**Rights sold:**

UK (On submission)

Germany (Offer)

**FOR FANS OF *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, Kate Morton and *Letters to the Lost*.**

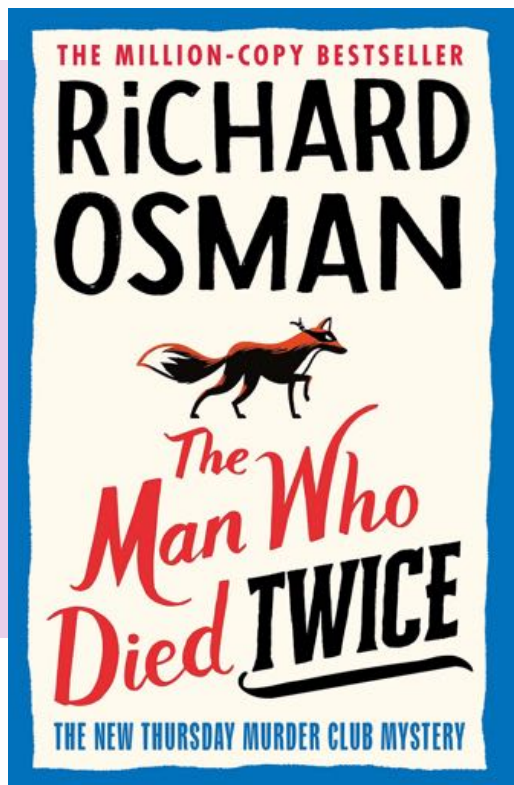
1944. Marguerite Segal, an artist living under a false identity on the Cote d'Azur to escape her criminal past, is blackmailed by British Intelligence into befriending Father Etienne Valade, a local French priest suspected of being a collaborator. Her mission is to persuade him to pass on information from the high ranking German officers who attend his church.

Connected by a passion for art, they soon fall in love. But as she becomes closer to him, their association increasingly puts her in danger of violent reprisals from the local people. At the same time, her covert work, creating false identity cards to camouflage those hiding from the Third Reich, brings her under the scrutiny of the occupying enemy.

As the Allied invasion draws closer, Marguerite has to work out who she can trust in a world where everything is at stake. Should she put her faith in the man she loves, without knowing the motivation behind his actions? Or by trusting a man so full of contradictions, will she be aligning her fate with that of a man whose heart she cannot know?

**Theresa Howes lives in London, and has a background as an actor. Her work 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.**





# The Man Who Died Twice

Richard Osman

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

16 September 2021

**Film agent:** Emily Hayward-Whitlock (The Artists Partnership)

**Material:** Final pdf for option holders only

**See next page for rights**

**It's the following Thursday.**

Elizabeth has received a letter from an old colleague, a man with whom she has a long history. He's made a big mistake, and he needs her help. His story involves stolen diamonds, a violent mobster, and a very real threat to his life.

As bodies start piling up, Elizabeth enlists Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron in the hunt for a ruthless murderer. And if they find the diamonds too? Well, wouldn't that be a bonus?

But this time they are up against an enemy who wouldn't bat an eyelid at knocking off four septuagenarians. Can The Thursday Murder Club find the killer (and the diamonds) before the killer finds them?

Richard Osman is a creative director for Endemol UK. He has worked as an executive producer on numerous shows. His debut novel *THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB* has been published in over 40 territories and has spent as many weeks as #1 on the Sunday Times Bestseller List in the UK. He became a New York Times bestseller and has been nominated for an Edgar Award in the US. He is also an international bestseller in Sweden, Iceland, and Germany.

# Richard Osman publishers

## Rights:

UK (Viking)  
US (Pamela Dorman Books)  
Brazil (Intrinseca)  
Catalan (Columna)  
China (Jieli)  
Denmark (Gyldendal)  
Estonia (Rahva Raamat)  
Finland (Otava)  
France (Lattes)  
Germany (Ullstein)  
Italy (SEM)  
Netherlands (Cargo)  
Norway (Gursli Berg)  
Portugal (Planeta)  
Romania (SC Crime Scene Press)  
Russia (Mann, Ivanoc, and Ferber)  
Serbia (Vulkan)  
Slovenia (Mladinska)  
Spain (Planeta)  
Sweden (Albert Bonniers)  
Taiwan (Faces)  
Turkey (Bilgi)

## Options:

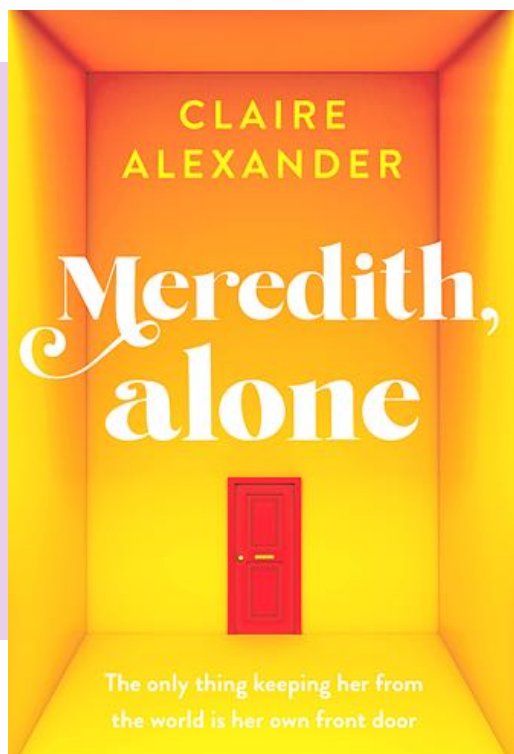
Albania (Polis)  
Bulgaria (Soft Press)  
Croatia (Egmont)  
Czech (Jota)  
Greece (Psichogios)  
Hungary (Agave)  
Iceland (Drapa)  
Israel (Tchelet)  
Japan (Hayakawa)  
Korea (Sallim)  
Latvia (ABC)  
Lithuania (Jotema)  
Macedonia (Kultura)  
Poland (Muza)  
Slovakia (Slovart)  
Thailand (Biblio)  
Ukraine (Family Leisure Club)  
Vietnam (1980)

- **THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB** has sold over 2,000,000 copies in the UK alone since publication in September 2020
- It became the third bestselling debut of all time
- It has spent 40 weeks as a #1 Sunday Times Bestseller and counting, and is a New York Times Bestseller



# General Fiction





# Meredith, Alone

Claire Alexander

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

June 2022

**Material:** Edited manuscript

**Film agent:** Emily Hayward-Whitlock (The Artists Partnership)

**Rights sold:**

UK (Michael Joseph: Jessica Leeke)

US (Grand Central Publishing)

China (Guangchen)

Czech (Euromedia)

Denmark (Gyldendal)

Finland (Otava)

Germany (Goldmann)

Israel (Tchelet)

Norway (Gursli Berg)

Romania (Litera)

Russia (Sinbad)

Sweden (Printz: Norstedts)

Turkey (Yakamoz)

**“My name is Meredith Maggs, and I haven’t left my home for 1,215 days.”**

Meredith Maggs is an independent woman living in Glasgow, with no responsibilities apart from her cat. But she's not your average 39-year-old - following a traumatic event and the breakdown of family relationships, she hasn't left home for more than three years.

As unexpected new friendships develop, Meredith confronts her past and realises that her journey towards happiness and self-acceptance involves much more than walking out of her front door.

**MEREDITH, ALONE was pre-empted in a major six figure deal within 24 hours of submission in the UK, and was pre-empted or sold at auction everywhere else.**

**Claire Alexander lives on the west coast of Scotland with her husband and children. During her career as a freelance writer, she has written for The Washington Post, The Independent, The Huffington Post and Glamour. In 2019, one of her essays was published in the award-winning literary anthology *We Got This: Solo Mom Stories of Grit, Heart, and Humor*. When she's not writing or parenting, she's on her paddle board, thinking about her next book.**





# Book Four

Lia Louis

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

TBD 2023

**Material:** Coming 2022

**Rights sold:**

UK (Trapeze)

US (Emily Bestler Books)

Germany (Penguin Verlag)

**Options:**

Czech (Albatros)

Estonia (Rahva Raamat)

Hungary (Publish & More)

Italy (Mondadori)

Netherlands (HarperCollins)

Norway (Bastion)

Poland (Burda)

Romania (Grup)

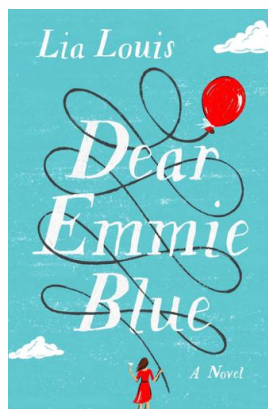
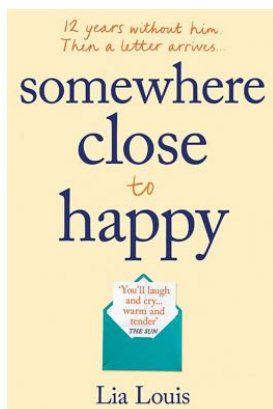
Russia (AST)

Slovenia (Aurora)

Spain (Planeta MX)

Sweden (Forum)

Turkey (Epsilon)



Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, 32-year-old musician Natalie Fincher plays at a busy London train station piano. Since the death of her husband two years ago, it's the only time she forgets how lonely she is, and the only place she feels comfortable playing music anymore -- where she's anonymous, and nobody's really listening.

Then sheet music starts being left anonymously in the lid of the piano stool – specific songs she played only for her husband when he was sick. Is someone up there looking down on her? Or has someone down here been listening all along? Natalie is about to find out...

**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 Artists blog for aspiring writers.**



# Life Savings

## Elvin James Mensah

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

Early 2023

**Material:** Unedited manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK and Commonwealth  
(Scribner: Chris White)  
US (Ballantine: Jesse Shuman)

It is 2005 and Harley has just dropped out of an undergraduate course in music journalism, having led his estranged father to believe that he was training to become a chemical engineer. Moving back to a shared flat in Kent, and in the midst of an unfulfilling affair with an abusive older white man, he feels lost and isolated. But when his attempt to finally end things is interrupted by his flatmate, Muddy, his perspective on life changes.

Muddy is everything Harley isn't: confident in his masculinity, ostensibly heterosexual, warm and straight forward. Slowly, their friendship blossoms as Muddy introduces Harley to the things he loves—birdwatching, Oasis, rugby—and Harley starts to believe that life may, after all, be worth living. In turns a moving depiction of mental health, queerness, race and masculinity, as well as a sometimes hilarious coming-of-age story. *Life Savings* is a breath-taking first novel that marks the arrival of a major new talent.

**Elvin James Mensah is a 27 year old British-Ghanaian writer born and raised in South East London. He received his Bachelor of Arts in English and Journalism from Bournemouth University, where he began writing his first novel. When not writing about blackness and queerness, he can be found voraciously explaining either the interconnectivity of the Marvel Cinematic Universe to his long-suffering friends, or the everlasting cultural impact of the Spice Girls. His other hobbies include drinking copious amounts of Capri Sun and re-reading Donna Tartt and Hanya Yanigihara novels.**



# The Moon Represents My Heart

Pim Wangtechawat

Agent: Liza DeBlock

**Publication date:**

On submission

**Material:** Coming soon

**Rights sold:**

UK (On Submission)

Italy (Offer)

**Father**

Joshua understands the strict rules of time travel: only observe, things cannot be changed. But things are changing quickly for him. When the opportunity of a lifetime comes to attend university in London and leave the Kowloon Walled City in Hong Kong behind, he finds the courage to take it. From there, he feels it: this is where life begins. Stepping on that plane is the first decision that will have ramifications for generations to come.

**Son**

When Tommy's parents travel to the past and never reappear, it feels as though time has stopped. But as it slowly restarts and everyone else moves forward, Tommy looks to the past. Struggling with the loss of his father, Tommy falls in love with a girl from the 1930s. Although his gifts allow him to walk through time, Tommy's inability to confront his own history in the face of tragedy begins to affect his present, and has severe ramifications for the people who can truly bring him happiness.

Told through incredible prose, readers will experience joy and loss, remember the best days they've ever had, and learn what it means to live in the here and now.

Pim Wangtechawat is a Thai-Chinese writer from Bangkok with a Masters in Creative Writing from Edinburgh Napier University. Her short stories, poems, and articles have been published in various magazines and journals such as The Mekong Review, The Nikkei Asian Review, and YesPoetry. She is currently working on her second book and aims to tell stories that reflect our shared humanity and bring more Asian writers to the forefront of fiction.





# Crime & Thriller



BELIEVE  
ME NOT

—  
Natalie  
Chandler



COVER TO BE REVEALED

# Believe Me Not

Natalie Chandler

Agent: Liza DeBlock

**Publication date:**

3rd March 2022

**Material:** Edited PDF

**Rights sold:**

WEL (Headline Accent; Bea Gabrowska)

**Film agent:** Emily Hayward-Whitlock (The Artists Partnership)

**BELIEVE ME NOT will be the lead title for Headline Accent in Spring 2022.**

**What if everyone you love is lying to you?**

When Megan wakes up in a hospital bed, her first question is: where's my baby?

But her husband, her sister and her doctor say he doesn't exist. Megan's not in a maternity ward, she's in a psychiatric unit. Convinced that they're lying to her, Megan is determined to find out the truth.

But how can you prove your baby exists when you can't trust your own memories?

Natalie Chandler was educated at the University of Durham and currently works in behavioural education, specialising in social, emotional and mental health issues. She is a Curtis Brown Creative alumna and was previously selected to be part of the WoMentoring scheme. Natalie is avidly interested in other cultures and has travelled all over the world, living in South America and the Caucasus, and currently divides her time between London and the rural north of England. She lives with her partner and enjoys greeting every dog she meets.



# The Conspiracies

## Abigail Dean

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

Spring 2023

**Material:** Unedited draft due soon

**See Next Page for Rights Sold and Options**

**Stonesmere will never be the same again...**

In a quiet lakeside town, an anonymous gunman enters a school. Hours later, Marty's mother Ava is dead, her arms outstretched to protect the children she taught.

As the town strives to regain its sense of community in the wake of tragedy, cracks emerge, and with them, conspiracies. Who is the shadowy figure chasing Marty as she grapples with her grief? And what of the group of people who insist the shooting never happened?

Together with her childhood friend Leo, Marty must piece together the mystery of that fateful day – and face up to the truth about the part she played.

The Conspiracies is a tender, heartbreaking novel about community, tragedy, and the lasting power of love from the bestselling author of Girl A.

**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. Her debut novel, GIRL A, instantly became a Sunday Times and New York Times Bestseller.**

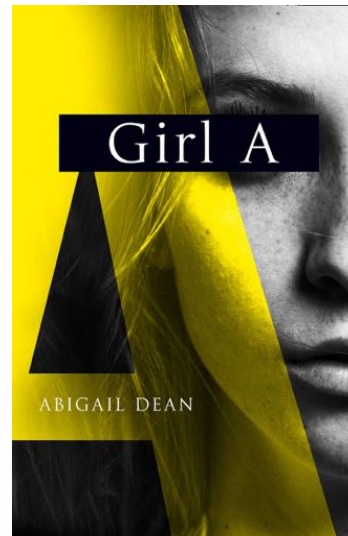
# Abigail Dean publishers

## Rights:

UK (HarperCollins)  
US (Viking)  
Israel (Kinneret)  
Italy (Einaudi)

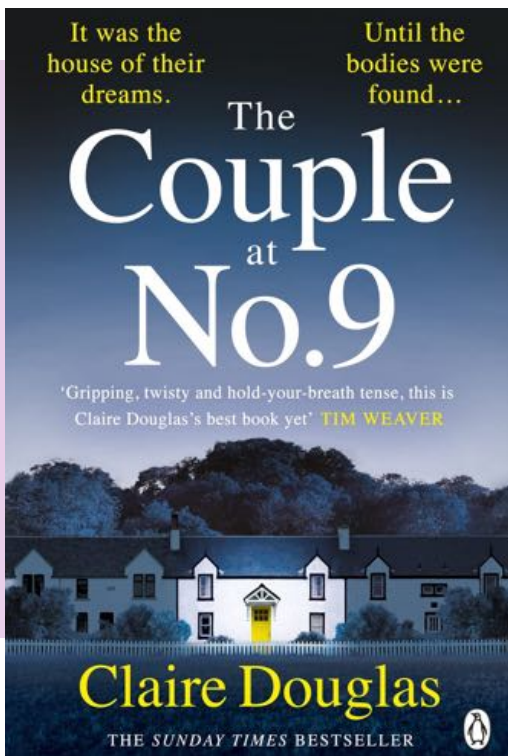
## Options:

Albania (Dritan)  
Brazil (Verus)  
Bulgaria (Riva)  
Croatia (Sonatina)  
Czech (Alpress)  
Denmark (Gads)  
Estonia (Rahva Raamat)  
Finland (Aula)  
France (Lattes)  
Germany (HarperCollins)  
Greece (Psichogios)  
Hungary (Libri)  
Iceland (Útgáfan)  
Japan (Hayakawa)  
Latvia (ABC)  
Lithuania (Alma Littera)



Macedonia (Martina)  
Netherlands (HaperCollins)  
Norway (Gursli Berg)  
Poland (Prószyński)  
Portugal (Presenca)  
Romania (Crime Scene Press)  
Russia (AST)  
Serbia (Vulkan)  
Slovakia (Slovart)  
Slovenia (Zalozba)  
Spain (Ediciones B)  
Sweden (Forum)  
Taiwan (Locus)  
Turkey (Epsilon)  
Ukraine (Family Leisure Club)

- **GIRL A** sold after a heated nine-way auction in the UK for a major six-figure deal, as well as at auction in the US for a seven-figure sum
- **GIRL A** immediately became a Sunday Times Bestseller and a New York Times Bestseller
- It has sold over 100,000 copies in the UK, and is now sold in 35 territories worldwide



**Publication date:**

30th September 2021

**Material:** Edited manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK (Penguin: Maxine Hitchcock)

US (HarperCollins)

Germany (Penguin)

**Claire is the author of three Sunday Times Bestselling novels.**

**BESTE FREUDIN, or THEN SHE VANISHES, has been on the German bestseller list for 18 weeks.**

# The Couple at No. 9

Claire Douglas

Agent: Juliet Mushens

## **BODIES FOUND UNDER PATIO**

When pregnant Saffron Cutler moves into 9 Skelton Place with boyfriend Tom and sets about renovations, the last thing she expects is builders uncovering a body. Two bodies, in fact.

## **POLICE INVESTIGATE**

Forensics indicate the bodies have been buried at least thirty years, which leads the police to question the cottage's former owner - Saffy's grandmother, Rose.

## **OWNER QUESTIONED**

Rose's Alzheimer's means her memory is increasingly confused. She can't help the police - but it is clear she remembers something.

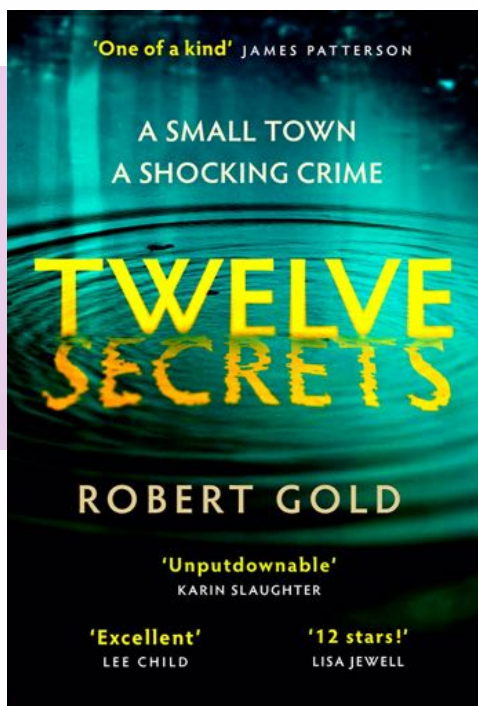
## **A KILLER AT LARGE?**

As Rose's fragmented memories resurface, and the police dig ever deeper, Saffy fears she and the cottage are being watched...

**What happened thirty years ago?  
What part did her grandmother play?  
And is Saffy now in danger?**

Claire Douglas has worked as a journalist for fifteen years writing features for women's magazines and national newspapers. She won the Marie Claire Debut Novel Award with her first novel *The Sisters*, which was followed by *Local Girl Missing*, *Last Seen Alive* and *Do Not Disturb*, all Sunday Times bestsellers. She has been a German bestseller twice, with *Local Girl Missing* spending three months on the Spiegel Bestseller list. She lives in Bath with her husband and two children.





**Publication date:**

3rd March 2022

**Material:** Edited manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK (Sphere: Ed Wood and Rosanna Forte)  
Italy (Longanesi)

**Film agent:** Emily Hayward-Whitlock (The Artists Partnership)

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

# Twelve Secrets

Rob Gold

Agent: Juliet Mushens

*Twelve Secrets* is **a smart, satisfying, one-of-a-kind thriller that entertained me from start to finish.** It examines the confluence of family loyalties and dark secrets while keeping the plot boiling. - **JAMES PATTERSON**

A pacey thriller full of twists and turns. **You won't be able to put TWELVE SECRETS down** until the very end. - **KARIN SLAUGHTER**

**Ominous at the beginning, breathless by the end** ... this is excellent hardcore suspense - **LEE CHILD**

Fast-paced and brimming with superb characters. **I couldn't put it down for a single second. Twelve stars!** - **LISA JEWELL**

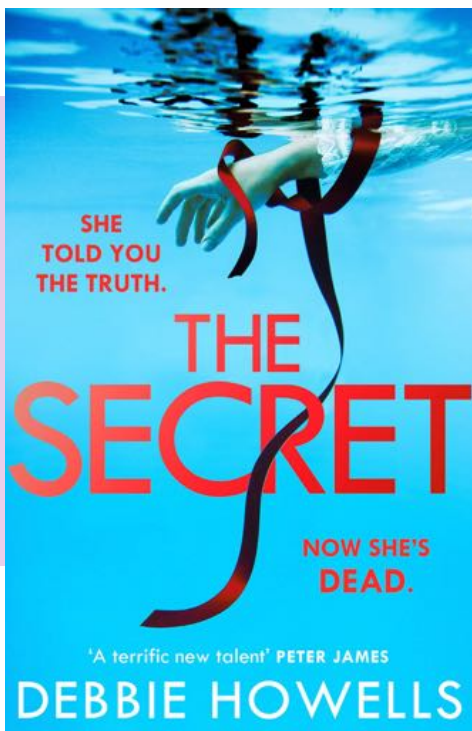
Ben Harper's life changed forever the day his older brother Nick was murdered by two classmates. It was a crime that shocked the nation and catapulted Ben's family and their idyllic hometown, Haddley, into the spotlight.

Twenty years on, Ben is one of the best true crime journalists in the country and happily settled back in Haddley, thanks to the support of its close-knit community. But when a fresh murder case shines new light on his brother's death and throws suspicion on those closest to him, Ben's world is turned upside down once more.

He's about to discover that Haddley is a town full of secrets. No-one is as they seem. Everyone has something to hide.

And *someone* will go to any length to keep the truth buried...

**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.**



# The Secret

Debbie Howells

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**'Everyone has secrets. And now, one of mine is yours...'**

**Publication date:**

6th January 2022

**Material:** Final PDF

**Rights sold:**

UK (Avon)

**THE VOW was a number 1 bestselling eBook.**

**THE BONES OF YOU was a Sunday Times bestseller and a Richard and Judy Book Club pick.**

As the only two teenagers in a small village, Hollie and Niamh tell each other everything. Behind Abingworth's closed doors, every family has its secrets – and theirs might hide the worst ones of all.

One day Hollie tells Niamh about a devastating discovery, swears her to secrecy ... then vanishes. All the villagers claim to know nothing. Until Hollie's body is found, and the police know one of their number isn't just a liar, but a killer...

What did Hollie tell Niamh before she died? And who would kill to keep the secret?

A completely unputdownable suspense which will leave you reeling at the final twist...

**After self-publishing three women's commercial fiction novels, Debbie wrote *The Bones of You*, her first psychological thriller. It was a Sunday Times bestseller and picked for the Richard and Judy book club. Three more have followed, *The Beauty of The End*, *The Death of Her* and *Her Sister's Lie*, all published by Pan Macmillan.**



# Visitor's Bridge

Thom Insley

Agent: Silé Edwards

**Publication date:**

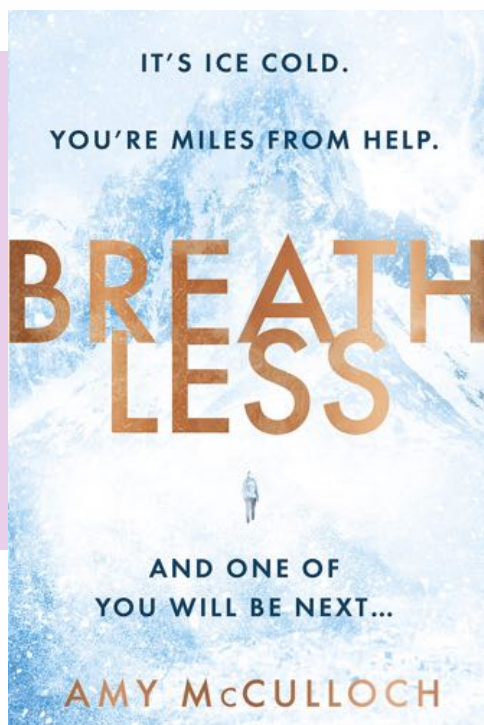
Coming Soon

**Material:** Coming Soon

Leon's life has become a slow and dull affair since the sudden and inexplicable death of his wife, Susan. His days are spent sticking to a regimented routine, as he tries to keep the crushing embrace of grief and the ghosts now that occupy the house at bay.

On a designated pub day, Leon is drawn in by the local psychic telling him that there was more to Susan's death than meets the eye. He begins visiting the psychic, each session bringing him closer to the truth until she herself is killed, and now the clock is ticking as Leon has to work out who, or what, is behind the deaths in the village before it comes for him too.

Thom grew up in a small village in southeast England and regularly holidayed in both rural Scotland and rural Wales, firmly cementing a love of the countryside and of the sea into his heart. For nearly five years, he worked for Waterstones in various Central London branches, spending the most time on the history floor of Piccadilly but having the most fun on the ground floor convincing people to buy just one more book.



# Breathless

Amy McCulloch

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

17th February 2022

**Material:** Edited manuscript

**Film agent:** Emily Hayward-Whitlock (The Artists Partnership)

**Rights sold:**

UK (Michael Joseph: Joel Richardson)  
US/Canada (Knopf/Penguin)  
Czech (Euromedia)  
France (Lafon)  
Germany (Piper)  
Netherlands (House of Books)  
Norway (Gursli Burg)  
Russia (Eksmo)  
Serbia (Vulkan)  
Sweden (Modernista)

**IT'S ICE COLD.  
YOU'RE MILES FROM HELP.  
AND ONE OF YOU WILL BE NEXT...**

When struggling journalist Cecily Wong is invited to join an expedition to climb one of the world's tallest mountains, it seems like the chance of a lifetime.

She doesn't realise how deadly the climb will be.

As their small team starts to climb, things start to go wrong. There's a theft. Then an accident. Then a mysterious note, pinned to her tent: there's a murderer on the mountain. The higher they get, the more dangerous the climb becomes, and the more they need to trust one another.

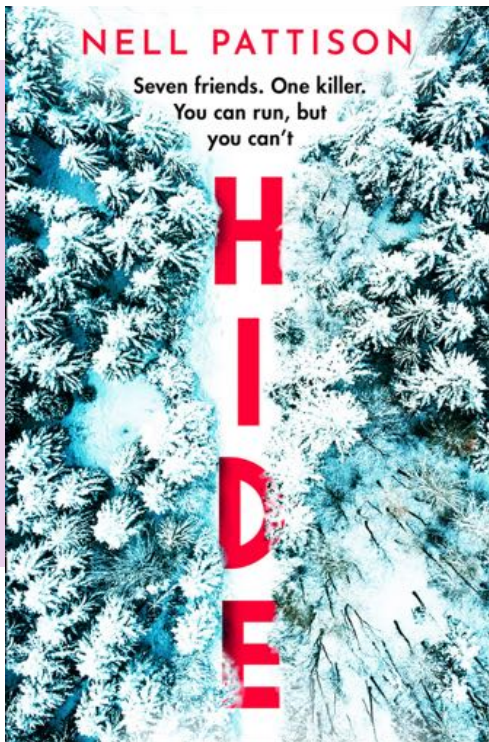
And that's when Cecily finds the first body...

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

**Acquired in six figure deals at auction in the UK, US and Germany.**

**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. *Breathless* is her first thriller.**





# Hide

Nell Pattison

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**The Boxing Day hike is meant to bring their nature group together.**

**Publication date:**  
April 2022

**Material:** Edited  
manuscript

**Film agent:** Kristina  
Moore (Anonymous  
Content)

**Rights sold:**  
UK (Avon - Lucy  
Frederick)

- **"Tense, twisty and full of toxic secrets – a chilly fight for survival guaranteed to give you shivers" - TM Logan**

**Emily**, the sister who never lets her hearing loss hold her back.

**Lauren**, the sister who always feels a step behind.

**Morna**, who doesn't get on with Lauren.

**Ben**, whose feelings for Emily border on obsession.

**Dan**, the quiet newcomer to the group.

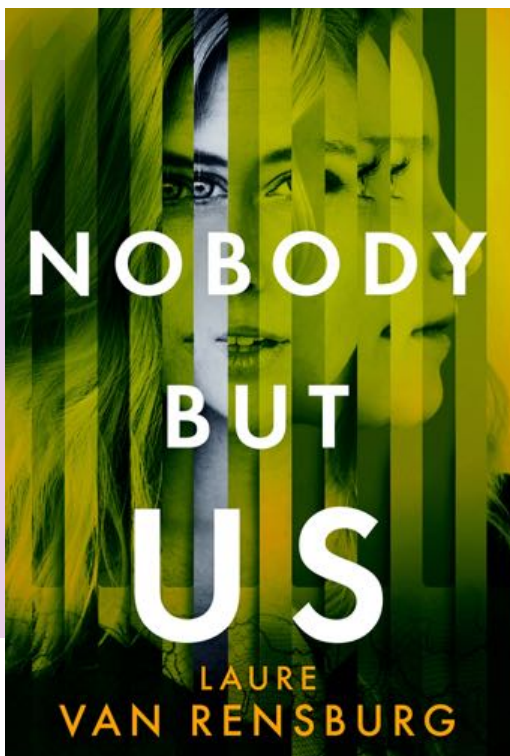
**Kai**, who isn't just on the hike to enjoy the wildlife.

And **Alec**, the one who knows all their secrets.

As the sun sets, a gunshot rings out on the nature reserve.

**One of the seven is dead. And one of their number killed them...**

Nell Pattison is the USA Today bestselling author of THE SILENT HOUSE, SILENT NIGHT and THE SILENT SUSPECT, the crime thriller series featuring British Sign Language interpreter Paige Northwood. After studying English at university, Nell Pattison became a teacher and specialised in Deaf education. She has been teaching in the Deaf community for 14 years in both England and Scotland, working with students who use BSL. Nell began losing her hearing in her twenties. She lives in North Lincolnshire, England, with her husband and son.



# Nobody But Us

Laure Van Rensburg

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

April 2022

**Material:** Edited manuscript

**Film agent:** Michelle Kroes  
(CAA)

**Rights sold:**

UK (Michael Joseph)

US (Grand Central)

Brazil (Intrinseca)

Croatia (Znanje)

Finland (Otava)

France (Presses de la Cité)

Germany (Ullstein)

Italy (SEM)

Lithuania (Balto)

Netherlands (Bruna)

Norway (Gyldendal)

Poland (Muza)

Portugal (Porto)

Romania (Contact)

Russia (Eksmo)

**When Ellie and her boyfriend Steven take their first trip together, what starts as an idyllic weekend soon takes a darker turn, as it quickly becomes apparent that each of them harbors secrets—and that one of those secrets is deadly.**

Ellie is an NYU grad student, timid but fiercely intelligent, and eager for the perfect weekend away with her boyfriend. Steven is a wealthy and privileged teacher at an elite Manhattan school. His and Ellie's relationship has stirred up envy among the teachers in his academic circle.

When they head out for their 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, they begin to realize that neither of them is quite who they say they are—and that one of them won't escape the weekend alive.

**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), and FIVE:2:ONE. She has also placed in competitions including 2018 & 2019 Bath Short Story Award.**







# Godkiller

Hannah Kaner

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

TBD 2023

**Material:** Unedited manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK/Commonwealth  
(HarperVoyager: Natasha Bardon)

Kissen's family were killed by zealots of a fire god – but, in a twist of fate, she was saved by another god, leaving her with conflicted loyalties and a taste for revenge. Now, she makes a living killing gods, and enjoys it. That is, until she finds a god she cannot kill: Skedi, a god of white lies, has somehow bound himself to a young noble, and they are both on the run from unknown assassins.

Meanwhile, Elogast lives a very different life from when he was Knight Commander, a man who fought bravely against the gods when his King tried to rid them from the land. When he is summoned by his King for a secret mission it sends him on a collision course with Kissen and her charges.

The four of them must travel to the ruined city of Blenraden, where the last of the wild gods reside, to each beg a favour. Pursued by demons, and in the midst of burgeoning civil war, they will all face a reckoning – something is rotting at the heart of Blenraden, and only they can be the ones to stop it.

**Hannah is a Northumbrian writer living in Scotland. She works as a senior digital consultant in Edinburgh, delivering digital health care, tools and services for the public sector. She has a first class degree in English from Pembroke College, Cambridge, and a Masters of Science with distinction from the University of Edinburgh. She is inspired by world mythologies, angry women, speculative fiction, and the stories we tell ourselves about being human.**

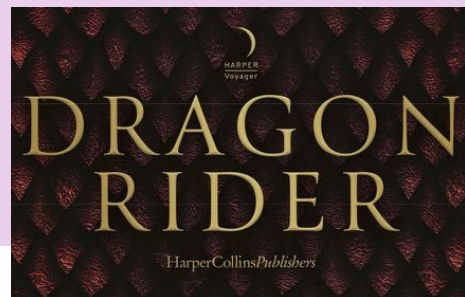




# Dragon Rider

Taran Matharu

Agent: Juliet Mushens



## Publication date:

July 2023

**Material:** Partial manuscript.  
Full manuscript due January 2022

## Rights sold:

UK: HarperVoyager (Vicky Leech)

US: HarperVoyager

Netherlands: Van Goor

## Options:

Czech: Alpress

Denmark: Forar

Poland: Jaguar

- **Sold in a six figure pre-empt in the UK**
- **Sold in a major six figure deal in the US**
- **Taran is a major multi-million copy New York Times bestselling author**

***From the New York Times bestselling author of the SUMMONER series, comes an immersive new fantasy world where humans can bond with dragons...***

Jai is a Captive in the Sabine Court – ever since his father Rohan, leader of the Plainsfolk, led an uprising and was put to death by the Emperor who Jai must now serve. The Sabine Empire has a powerful tool, the Gryphon Guard: elite warriors who ride gryphons. Only one thing is more powerful than them: dragons, exclusive to a rival kingdom.

When the emperor's son is betrothed to Princess Erica of the Dansk Kingdom she brings with her a powerful dowry: dragons.

But when the Emperor is found dead, and the Dansk King is accused of his murder, Jai has one choice: run or be killed. And when he finds a stunted dragon's egg, he takes it with him. Soon, united with Princess Erica, he must make a decision. Does he flee to an anonymous life or – aided by his new dragon chick – does he stand up and fight against a cruel Empire that destroyed his people?

**Taran Matharu is the New York Times bestselling author of the Summoner series, which has been translated into 15 languages and has sold over two million copies in the English language. His CONTENDER trilogy was published in 2019. He has won the journal de Mickey award in France and the Sakura medal in Japan, and was Book Trust's writer in residence.**



# Historical Fiction



# The Forgotten

Mary Chamberlain

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**How do you rebuild a life from the ashes of despair?**

**Publication date:**

2nd September 2021

**Material:** Final PDF

**Rights sold:**

UK (Oneworld: Jenny Parrott)

Czech (Argo)

Lithuania (Balto)

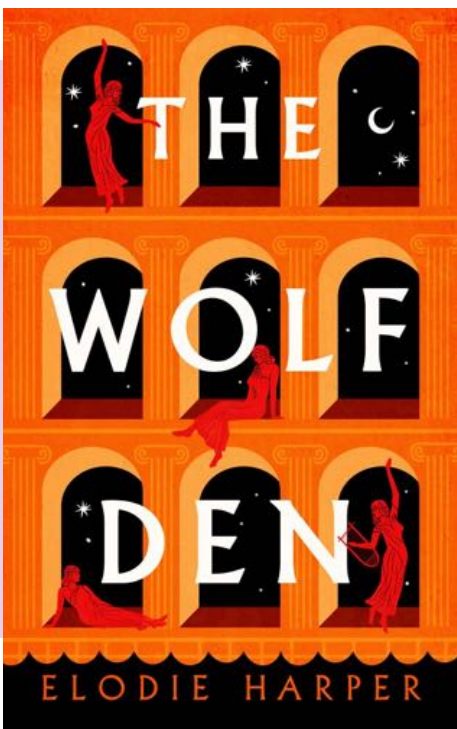
**Rights to Mary Chamberlain's debut novel THE DRESSMAKER OF DACHAU sold in nineteen territories and was a best seller in France and Italy.**

London 1958. Twenty-six-year-old Betty Fisher is one of the first to join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and attend its inaugural meeting, where she meets John Harris. Posted to Berlin towards the end of the war, John has been left traumatised by his experiences in Germany.

As his initial admiration for Betty shifts into an overwhelming need to protect her, he is plagued by flashbacks and fantasies. John's increasing fragility brings to the surface Betty's own memories. And soon her past, too, begins to unravel...

Mary Chamberlain is a novelist and historian. Her debut novel, *The Dressmaker of Dachau*, was published in 18 countries. She is the author of non-fiction books on women's history and Caribbean history including *Fenwomen*, the first book published by Virago Press. She lives in London with her husband, the political theorist Stein Ringen.





# The Wolf Den

Elodie Harper

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

13 May 2021

**Material:** Final pdf

**Film Agent:**

Mary Pender, UTA

**Rights sold:**

UK (Head of Zeus:  
Madeleine O'Shea)  
US (Sterling Publishing)  
Croatia (Vorto)  
Czech (Leda)  
Finland (Bazar)  
France (Calmann Levy)  
Greece (Kaktos)  
Netherlands (House of  
Books)  
Russia (Mann, Ivanov and  
Ferber)  
Slovenia (HKZ)  
Spain (Planeta MX)  
Turkey (Ithaki)

**THE WOLF DEN was chosen as Waterstones' Book of the Month for September 2021.**

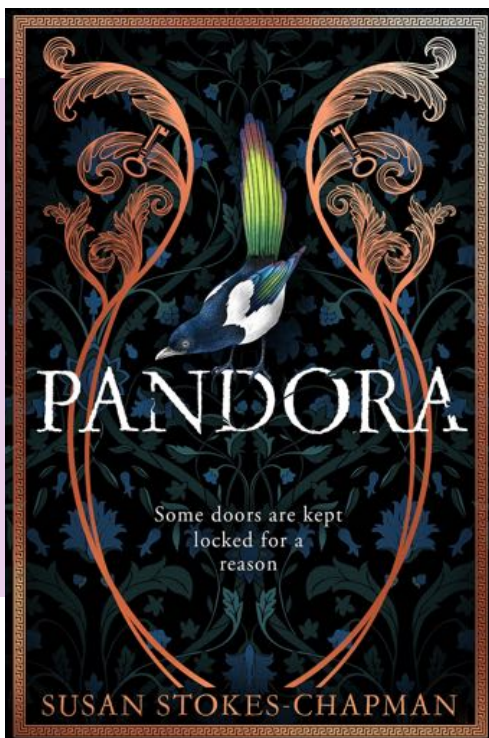
Amara was once a beloved daughter, until her father's death plunged her family into penury. Now she is a slave in Pompeii's infamous brothel, owned by a man she despises. Sharp, clever and resourceful, Amara is forced to hide her talents. For now her only value lies in the desire she can stir in others.

But Amara's spirit is far from broken. By day, she walks the streets with the Wolf Den's other women, finding comfort in the laughter and dreams they share. For the streets of Pompeii are alive with opportunity. Out here, even the lowest slave can secure a reversal in fortune. Amara has learnt that everything in this city has its price. But how much is her freedom going to cost her?

Set in Pompeii's lupanar, *The Wolf Den* is the first in a trilogy of novels reimagining the lives of women who have long been overlooked. Perfect for fans of Pat Barker's *The Silence of the Girls* and Madeline Miller's *Circe*.

**Elodie Harper is a journalist and prize-winning short story writer. Her story 'Wild Swimming' won the 2016 Bazaar of Bad Dreams short story competition, run by The Guardian and Hodder & Stoughton and judged by Stephen King. She is currently a reporter and presenter at ITV News Anglia, and before that worked as a producer for Channel 4 News.**





# Pandora

Susan Stokes-Chapman

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

27 January 2022

**Material:** Final PDF

**Rights sold:**

UK (Harvill Secker: Liz Foley)

Brazil (Verus)

Bulgaria (List)

Croatia (Stilus)

Czech (Euromedia)

France (Lafon)

Hungary (Alexandra)

Italy (Neri Pozza)

Romania (Nemira)

Russia (Eksmo)

Serbia (Vulkan)

Spain (Duomo)

**PANDORA was pre-empted in a major six-figure deal in the UK ahead of an eight-way auction, within 48 hours of submission.**

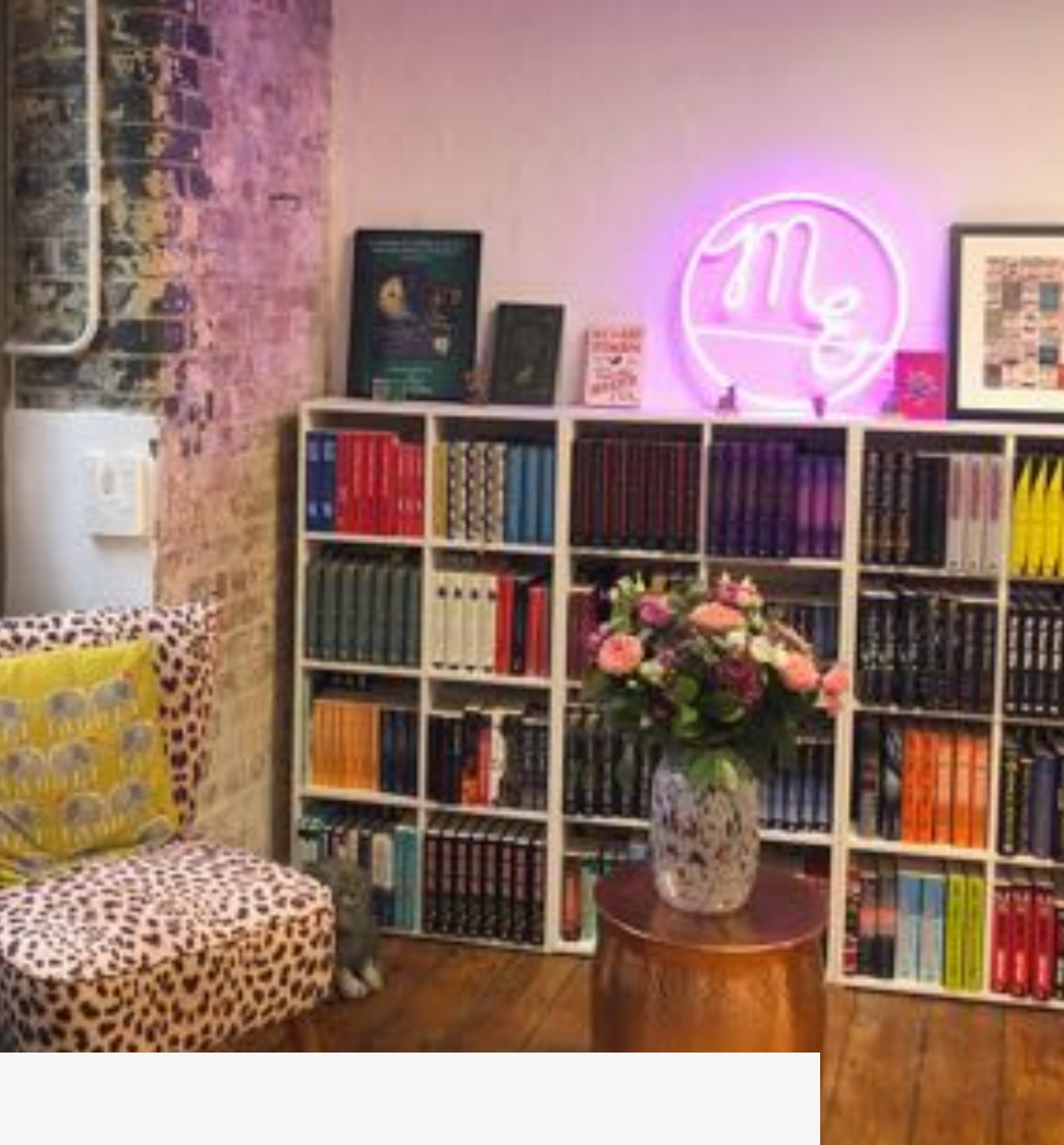
**A pure pleasure of a novel set in Georgian London, where the discovery of a mysterious ancient Greek vase sets in motion conspiracies, revelations and romance.**

London, 1799. Dora Blake is an aspiring jewellery artist who lives with her uncle in what used to be her parents' famed shop of antiquities. When a mysterious Greek vase is delivered, Dora is intrigued by her uncle's suspicious behaviour and enlists the help of Edward Lawrence, a young antiquarian scholar. Edward sees the ancient vase as key to unlocking his academic future. Dora sees it as a chance to restore the shop to its former glory, and to escape her nefarious uncle.

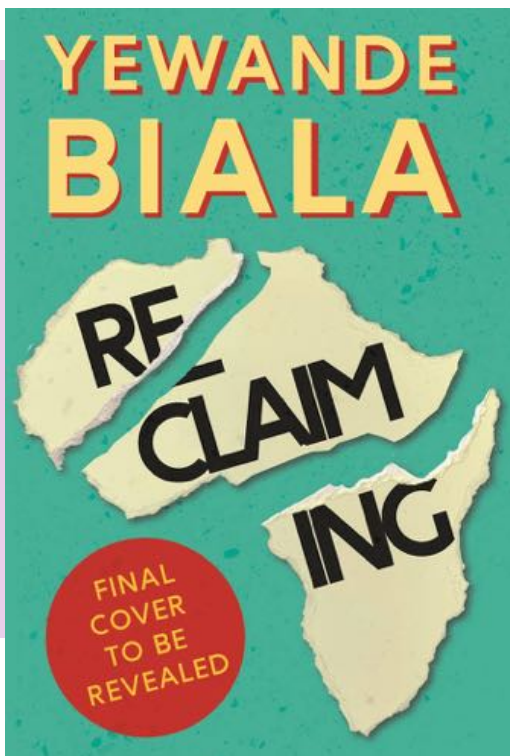
But what Edward discovers about the vase has Dora questioning everything she has believed about her life, her family, and the world as she knows it. As Dora uncovers the truth she starts to realise that some mysteries are buried, and some doors are locked, for a reason.

Gorgeously atmospheric and deliciously page-turning, *Pandora* is a story of secrets and deception, love and fulfilment, fate and hope.

**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.**



# Non-Fiction



# Reclaiming

Yewande Biala

Agent: Silé Edwards

**Publication date:**

22 May 2022

**Material:** Proposal

**Rights:**

UK (Coronet)

- **Acquired by Joelle Owusu-Sekyere at Hodder in an overnight pre-empt**

RECLAIMING will cover a wide breadth of topics from the specific microaggressions black women encounter on dating apps to navigating a career that may seem impossible. Every step of Yewande's writing affirms that maintaining your sense of self in a world that is not supportive of you is difficult, but not impossible. The book will be a thought provoking, sensitive, challenging and deeply moving collection of essays covering everything from identity to love and career choices, published in May 2022.

RECLAIMING will serve as an inspiring love letter for anyone who has ever felt out of place, but strives to find success in every aspect of their lives.

**Yewande Biala is an oncology vaccine specialist who rose to fame after appearing on Love Island in 2019. Since then she amassed a following of over 760,000 on Instagram and 120,000 on Twitter.**

**In January 2021, she led a viral conversation about racial renaming and wrote powerfully about her experience in the Independent, for which she received an outpouring of support. Yewande has since written for the paper about the devastating effects of colourism and is fast becoming an authoritative commentator on our most pressing issues surrounding identity and sense of self.**



FROM THE CREATORS OF @EVERYDAYRACISM\_  
NATALIE & NAOMI EVANS

# THE MIXED RACE EXPERIENCE

"Naomi and Natalie are truly  
inspirational thought leaders."

SOPHIE WILLIAMS,  
AUTHOR OF MILLENNIAL BLACK

FINAL COVER TO BE REVEALED



# The Mixed Race Experience

Natalie and Naomi Evans

Agent: Silé Edwards

## Publication date:

17 February 2022

**Material:** Proposal, edited  
manuscript due soon

## Rights sold:

UK (Square Peg)

- **Acquired in a hotly  
contested auction**
- **Publishing as a 2022  
lead title for Square  
Peg in the UK**

In *The Mixed Race Experience*, Natalie and Naomi Evans, founders of the anti-racist activist platform, Everyday Racism, share their experiences of growing up mixed race in Britain, how they continue to process, understand and learn about their identity and use their privilege to advocate for change, as well as addressing the privileges and complexities of being mixed race in Britain today.

Weaving in real life stories from people in the UK who identify as being mixed race, are in a mixed race relationship or are raising mixed race children, practical advice and research to dispel common myths and stereotypes, this book is for anyone who needs help navigating a world that still struggles to understand mixed race people. From what it's like to grow up in a majority white area and handling racism in your own family to understanding colourism, navigating mixed race microaggressions and internalised racism, this book is a thought provoking, sensitive, challenging and deeply moving look at identity and belonging.

Naomi and Natalie are both of Black Jamaican and White British heritage. In May 2020, a video of Natalie went viral on twitter when she confronted two men racially abusing a ticket conductor. They decided to set up an anti-racism platform on Instagram @everydayracism\_ which has over 170k followers. The page shares stories from BIPOC and educational posts focusing on how to be anti-racist. They have been published in various publications including Red magazine and Grazia, and regularly run anti-racism training with establishments and schools all over the world.





# The Plain Truth

Eleanor Houghton

Agent: Liza DeBlock

**Publication date:**

On Submission Soon

**Material:** Proposal and sample material available

**Rights sold:**

On Submission Soon

Charlotte Brontë will forever be known as the author of the greatest 'plain' heroine of all time: Jane Eyre. But what most people do not know, is that Charlotte herself was 'plain.' THE PLAIN TRUTH is about ugliness, what it means to be very plain in a society obsessed with beauty. Charlotte Brontë is familiar to us all, but for too long this hugely significant aspect of her life story has been circumvented. Yet, the way that she looked shaped her profoundly: it impacted her decisions, her relationships and ultimately, her writing.

In this meticulously researched study, the impact of Brontë's appearance is revealed not only through the study of her letters, juvenilia, portraits, self-portraits, novels, and the recollections of those who knew her, but also, for the first time, through the close examination of her surviving clothing based at the Brontë Parsonage Museum. A new, 'unairbrushed' Charlotte Brontë emerges—one with renewed power to move, provoke and change us all as we seek to navigate today's beauty-oriented society.

**Eleanor Houghton is a cultural historian, illustrator, and writer. She was awarded the Wolfson Doctoral Scholarship for her work on the Brontë collection. She is a historical consultant who has recently worked on BBC's *Gentleman Jack*, Frances O'Connor's *Emma*, and *The Ballad of Renegade Nell* on Disney+. She is a trusted consultant at The Brontë Parsonage Museum.**



# The Birth Debrief

Illiyin Morrison

Agent: Silé Edwards

**Publication date:**

June 2022

**Material:** Proposal, unedited  
Manuscript due soon

**Rights:**

World English (Quercus: Jane Sturrock)

- **Pre-empted by Quercus**

Despite being a trained midwife, Illiyin's own birth experience was traumatic and led her to examine the effects of birth trauma more deeply. She has grown to appreciate the need for greater understanding of what took place during childbirth and why, in order to facilitate healing during the postnatal period.

Using her own experience as a midwife and mother, Illiyin plans to dispel myths and taboos around pregnancy and give women and birthing people the tools to manage and alleviate the effects of birth trauma. Illiyin will also be giving practical tips and exercises throughout the book to help readers understand and manage any birth related trauma while transitioning into postnatal life – whether it is the first or fifth baby.

Illiyin's Instagram page, [@mixing.up.motherhood](https://www.instagram.com/mixing.up.motherhood), started in March 2020 to empower and educate women on birthing experiences and recovery, and now has over 28k followers. She has always had a passion for empowering women during pregnancy and childbirth and is extremely passionate about birth education. She offers an international Birth Debrief service to women and birthing people from all walks of life. Her debriefs are in such high demand and she is regularly fully booked up to three months in advance.



# Love, Wine, and Other Highs

Lauren Rae

Agent: Silé Edwards

**Publication date:**

June 2022

**Material:** Proposal, edited manuscript available soon

**Rights:**

World English Language  
(Little A)

Audio (Audible)

***‘Where there’s a will, there’s a wine.’***

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, and Other Highs* 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.

Lauren Rae is a twenty-something journalist and writer. Her originally self-published memoir completely sold out in just few weeks on a limited print run.

The demand for a reprint was so high that Lauren created a newsletter combining a love of memes and obsessive TV references with the tribulations of day-to-day life; to keep her readers sated with comic relief, nostalgic reference points and sage life advice.

Lauren is based between Munich, Rome and London, having grown up in the UK with insatiable wanderlust. Her journalism has featured in *Stylist*, *Bustle*, *Refinery29* and *Elle*.