

Frankfurt Book Fair 2022 Rights Catalogue

NEEM TREE PRESS

Books that change and broaden
perspectives 



@neemtreepress



NEEM TREE PRESS

We are a vibrant, women-owned independent publishing house producing books that change and broaden perspectives. Dedicated to the enthusiastic discovery of both British and international literature, we are truly global in scope, with titles under contract from across the world. We are the recent recipients of a prestigious English PEN grant, a literary award for an upcoming work in translation, and our books have been featured in *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vogue*, *The Guardian*, on BBC Radio, and at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York City.

The neem, declared by the United Nations as the 'tree for the 21st century' is a hardy, drought resistant tree that thrives in poor soil conditions and has many medicinal properties. It provides generous shade and oxygen to those who rest under it, as well as producing pesticides to keep plants healthy in its vicinity. We hope to follow in the footsteps of our namesake and thrive under difficult market conditions, providing much food for thought through both our adult and children's collections.



For all rights queries, please contact:

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   @neemtreepress



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FICTION

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Will Freeman is a games journalist who has written for *The Guardian* and *The Observer* as well as gaming publications and game industry titles for over 17 years. Will also serves the game industry as a writer, editor, speaker, script editor, event curator, awards judge, consultant, and more. As an expert in the field, Will is fascinated by the wide-ranging impact of video games on our lives and our cultural landscape.

Why We Play

How Video Games Took Over the World

Why We Play investigates the transformative power of one of the most widespread artforms and businesses of our times.

Offering an accessible and balanced analysis, *Why We Play* explores how video games have permeated our daily lives. Their presence in our homes, culture, business, politics, sport, education, and healthcare has made them one of the most ubiquitous mediums of modern times. The role games play today – from influencing youth culture to informing the design of space craft – renders them remarkably powerful. But as games occupy an increasingly important place in our daily lives, it's becoming harder to understand the opportunities they offer and the challenges they present.

For gamers and non-gamers alike, *Why We Play* provides the ultimate guide to questions you didn't even know you had...

Perfect for readers of *Tomorrow, And Tomorrow, And Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin and *Life 3.0* by Max Tegmark.

19 September 2023

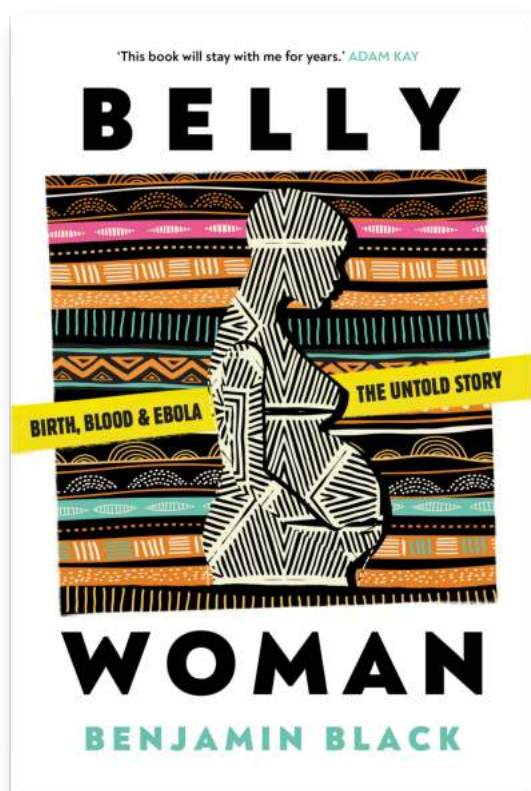
Adult Non-Fiction

~70,000 words

Final files available 11/2022

Rights

All worldwide rights available



Dr Benjamin Black is a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist in London and a specialist advisor to international aid organisations. He has worked with humanitarian agencies — including Médecins Sans Frontières — government departments, academic institutions and UN bodies. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, he provided frontline maternity care.

Belly Woman

Birth, Blood & Ebola: The Untold Story

Perfect for fans of **WAR DOCTOR** by David Nott, this timely book is about what happens to pregnant women during times of global crisis.

May, 2014. Sierra Leone is ranked the country with the highest death rate of pregnant women in the world. The same month, Ebola crosses in from neighbouring Guinea. Arriving a few weeks later, Dr Benjamin Black unexpectedly finds himself at the centre of the largest ever Ebola outbreak. He recalls being present as the disease takes grip and spreads exponentially, as colleagues get infected and the international response splutters into action.

Presenting an insider's journey into the heart of an unfolding humanitarian catastrophe, Black reckons with the demons of the past and tries to help build a different, more resilient, future.

'Eye-opening and inspirational - this book will stay with me for years.'

— Adam Kay, author of *This Is Going to Hurt*

'A must-read for our times - riveting, illuminating and humbling.'

— Aminatta Forna, author of *The Memory of Love* and *The Devil That Danced on the Water*

'An inspirational story of compassion and dedication in the face of a brutal epidemic.'

— Leah Hazard, author of *Hard Pushed: A Midwife's Story*

18 October 2022

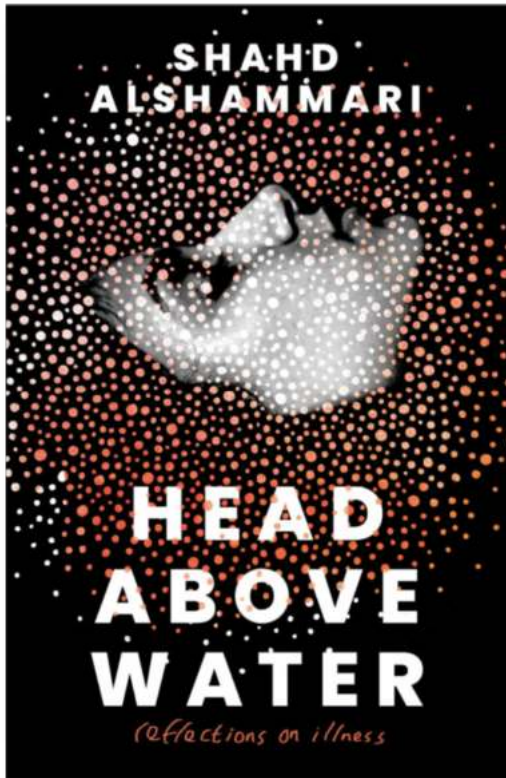
Adult Non-Fiction

368 pp

Final files available

Rights

All worldwide rights available



Head Above Water

Reflections on Illness

Chronicling a woman's experience of disability, this achingly brave memoir reminds us of our common humanity and introduces an important new voice.

At the age of eighteen, Shahd Alshammari's life was painfully interrupted by illness. *Head Above Water* is her account of being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, told through diary entries and snippets of conversations from her failing memory (as the disease is still progressing). It is at once a vivid anatomisation of illness, and a personal journey involving women's identities, bodies, love, survival, and hope.

Dr Shahd Alshammari is a Kuwaiti-Palestinian author and academic who has lived with Multiple Sclerosis for most of her life. Her research interests focus on women with mental illness in literature and the correlation between disability studies and identity in the Arab world.

'Shahd's sensuous prose [invites us] to reconsider the intricacies of love, the body, motherhood, [...] the power of women's education. A brave book.'
— Jokha Alharthi Omani, International Man Booker Prize winner (2019)

'A necessary and beautiful account of life [with a] disability as well as a professor's love letter to the act of teaching and being taught.'
— Marcia Lynx Qualey, *Arablit*

'One of the first distinctly 21st century illness narratives. [Alshammari] situates chronic illness at the intersection of issues that include gender, exile, medical experimentation, and the politics of the Middle East.'
— Arthur W. Frank, PhD, author of *At the Will of the Body* and *The Wounded Storyteller*

30 May 2022 (World MS Day)

Adult Non-Fiction

260 pp

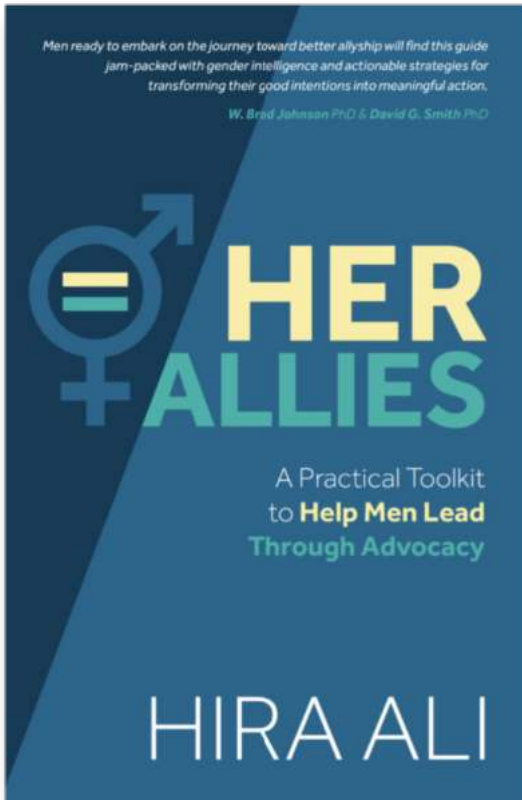
Final files available

Rights

North American rights sold – Feminist Press

Simplified Chinese rights sold – CITIC

All other worldwide rights available



Hira Ali is an award-winning leadership trainer and career coach whose writing has been featured in Forbes, Huffington Post, and Entrepreneur. Hira has received a *Top 100 Women-Lift Effects* award, a *Women in Media* award, The Baton Awards *Entrepreneur of the Year* and recognition as an Outstanding British Pakistani by British Pakistan Foundation.

Her Allies

A Practical Toolkit to Help Men Lead Through Advocacy

Wrapped up in a step-by-step guide, this is a timely and essential book on how to support women through allyship.

Her Allies offers men the strategies they need to become powerful advocates for gender equality. At its heart, this book is an invitation to all men who are willing to take that bold first step and transform good intention into meaningful action.

'A must-read book for all men to translate their good intentions into meaningful actions. [In the words of Malala], "We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back"'

— Ziaddun Yousafzai, women's rights activist and father to Malala Yousafzai

'Essential reading for everyone who wants to make a difference.'

— Mark Wild, CEO at Crossrail Ltd

'A guide for men of all ages, backgrounds and industries.'

— Barry Boffy, Head of Inclusion and Diversity, British Transport Police

'An exceptionally accessible tool. Essential reading.'

— Nazir Afzal OBE, Former Chief Prosecutor (NW England)

5 June 2021

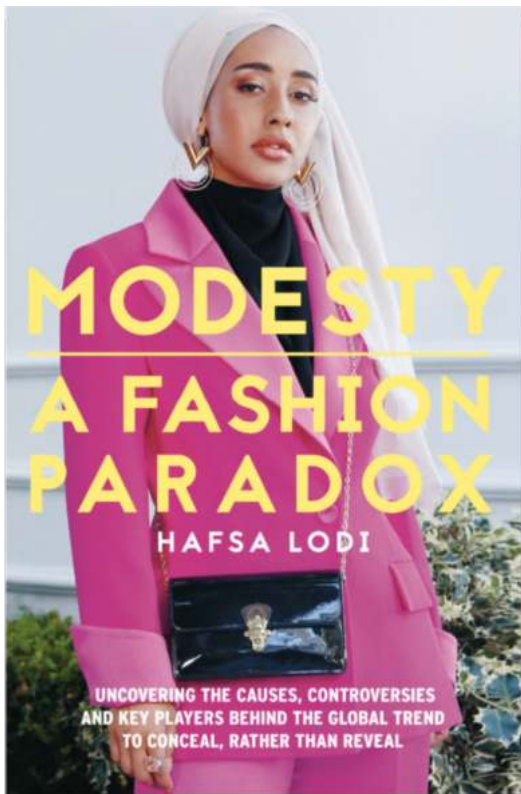
Adult Non-Fiction

240 pp

Final files available

Rights

All worldwide rights available



Hafsa Lodi is an American journalist who has been covering fashion in the Middle East for the past decade. She has a BA in journalism from the Ryerson School of Journalism in Toronto and an MA in Islamic Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. The relationships between religion, culture and modernity have always fascinated Hafsa. She writes for The National newspaper and fashion magazines MojeH and Vogue India.

Modesty

A Fashion Paradox

An insightful exploration of the many forces behind the modest fashion movement.

Modest fashion has been gaining momentum in the mainstream global fashion industry over the past half-decade and is now a multi-billion-dollar retail sector. This book speaks to the various personalities and companies who have helped shape the modest fashion industry into such a significant retail sector, while also exploring the controversies that lie at the heart of the movement, such as one pressing question: even if it covers the skin but is flamboyant, modelled with the purpose of attracting attention, and publicly promoted on social media, can fashion truly be modest?

A HARPER'S BAZAAR ESSENTIAL FASHION BOOK 2020

'A well-researched and tender portrait of the politics and people behind a movement.'

— Harper's Bazaar

'A nuanced and insightful study of the modest fashion movement in the Muslim world and beyond.'

— Publishers' Weekly

'Smart and journalistic, *Modesty* embraces the heterogeneity of fashion [...] to tell a new story about self-expression and freedom.'

— Foreword Reviews

19 March 2020

Adult Non-Fiction

288 pp (including 16 colour pages)

Final files available

Rights

All worldwide rights available



Susan Wilson is a working-class author from Scotland. She has a degree in journalism and a diploma in classical studies from the Open University. By day, she works as an administrator in the Scottish Courts, where she learns fascinating things about human nature. As a writer, Wilson aims to make ancient stories resonate with a modern audience. Her debut novel was long-listed for the Mslexia Novel Competition 2019.

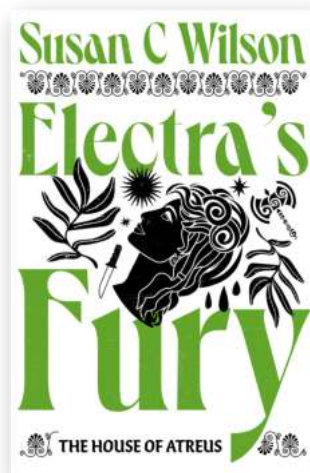
Clytemnestra's Bind

Perfect for fans of CIRCE and THE SONG OF ACHILLES, this is the first instalment in an epic three-part Greek mythology series.

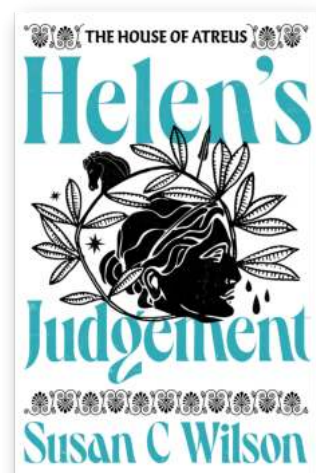
Queen Clytemnestra is haunted by the sound of murdered children crying in the corridors of her palace. Born into a family tainted by a curse of bloodshed and violence, she lives in a world controlled by the gods. One night her world shatters when Agamemnon, a rival to the throne of Mycenae, storms her palace, destroys her family and claims not only the throne but Clytemnestra herself.

From one of Greek mythology's most reviled characters — a woman who challenged the absolute power of men — comes this fiery tale of vengeance, family rivalry and a mother's burning love.

Also in the series:



SUMMER 2024



SUMMER 2025

20 April 2023

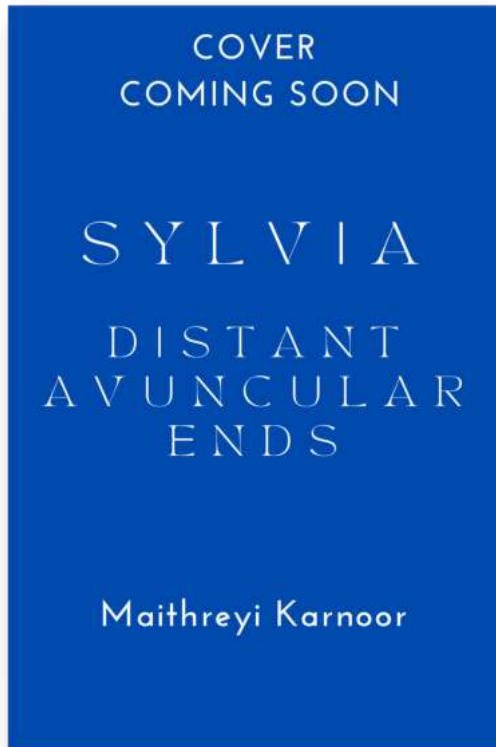
Adult Fiction

~85,000 words

Final files available 11/2022

Rights

All worldwide rights available



Sylvia: Distant Avuncular Ends

A lyrical debut by the celebrated author and translator Maithreyi Karnoor.

Pining for his childhood home of Tanzania but unable to return, Cajetan Pereira has moved from the UK to Goa to take up residence by one of the handful of Boabab trees growing in India. As he settles into his new home, Sylvia, a young woman appears one day with questions for Cajetan. They bond over their new-found relationship, until one day consumed by regret, Sylvia disappears.

In a lyrical kaleidoscope of tales, Sylvia is glimpsed in the lives of other characters as a colleague, friend, wife and lover, until she comes back in focus as she finds herself becoming whole once more – but is it too late?

'An exceptional debut that takes risks with structure and is wholly justified in doing so because the end result is a triumph Ingenious.'

— Reviewer, Goodreads



Maithreyi Karnoor is a Charles Wallace India Trust Fellow in writing and translation at Literature Across Frontiers and University of Wales Trinity Saint David. She is a finalist of the Lucien Stryk Asian Translation Prize and a two-time finalist of The Montreal International Poetry Prize. She has won the Kuvempu Bhasha Bharati Prize for translation. Her essays, reviews, poems and translations are published in major literary and popular journals.

9 May 2023

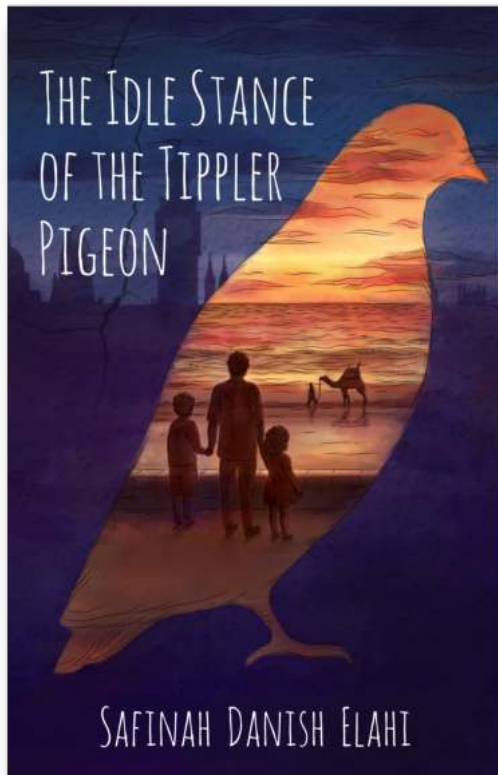
Adult Fiction

90,000 words

Final files available

Rights

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Safinah Danish Elahi is a lawyer, writer and poet. She is the author of two books, *The Unbridled Romance of Love and Pain* and *Eye on the Prize*, a novel which is being adapted for tv. Safinah is also the founder of Reverie Publishers, an independent press based in Pakistan. Recently, she was selected for the Iowa Writing Program Fall Residency 2022.

The Idle Stance of the Tippler Pigeon

A beautifully rendered portrait of love, healing, and long-buried pain, digging deep into the nature of trauma and class division.

Zohaib, Misha and Nadia believed they would be in each other's lives forever. As children they played, argued, teased and loved one another. Yet nothing could have prepared them for the tragic turn of events one fateful afternoon in Karachi, Pakistan, when the divisions and differences between them are revealed.

Years later and they are still trying to piece their lives back together, still trying to make sense of what happened. Zohaib is living in London, haunted by the ghosts of the past. Nadia has escaped the household where she first met Misha and Zohaib but finds fate delivering her back to their door...

Perfect for readers of *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman, *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy, and *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak.

25 May 2023

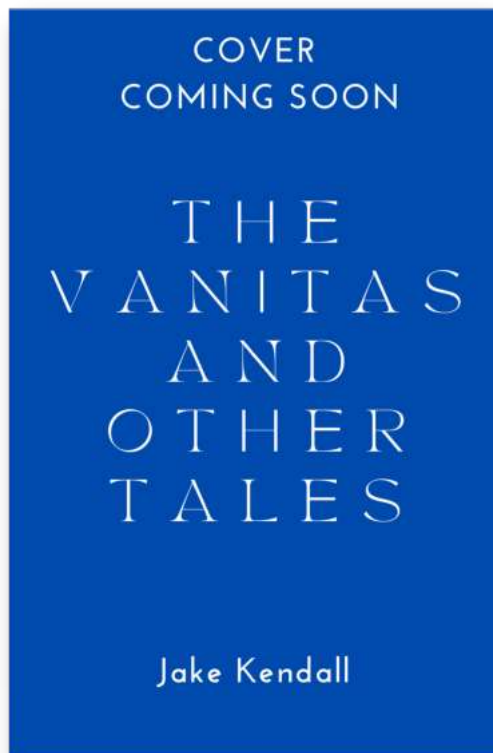
Adult Fiction

289 pp

Final files available

Rights

All worldwide rights available



The Vanitas & Other Tales of Art and Obsession

A visually rich collection of art-themed stories centred around the concept of creative obsession.

In the eight stories that make up this collection, creative obsession is shown as a force capable of both uplifting and oppressing both the artist and those that share their lives with a creative.

Centred around both real and fictional artists, *The Vanitas & Other Tales of Art and Obsession* is full of experimental flourishes and unforgettable characters. The prose is literary in style, and the author evokes and engages with art styles such as Cubism, Surrealism, and the Baroque.

We have commissioned an artist to create black and white line drawings for each story in this collection. These will compliment the visually evocative nature of the writing and offer readers a unique artistic delight.

Perfect for readers of *The Lonely City* by Olivia Laing, *The Birth of Venus* by Sarah Dunant, and *Just Kids* by Patti Smith.

Jake Kendall is a freelance writer based in Edinburgh. He holds an MSc in Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh and his work has been published in a variety of UK and US-based literary journals. One of his pieces was recently shortlisted for the Scottish Arts Club annual short story contest. Jake has had a lifelong fascination with art and art history, and is thrilled to share this passion in his upcoming collection, *The Vanitas & Other Tales of Art and Obsession*.

14 August 2023

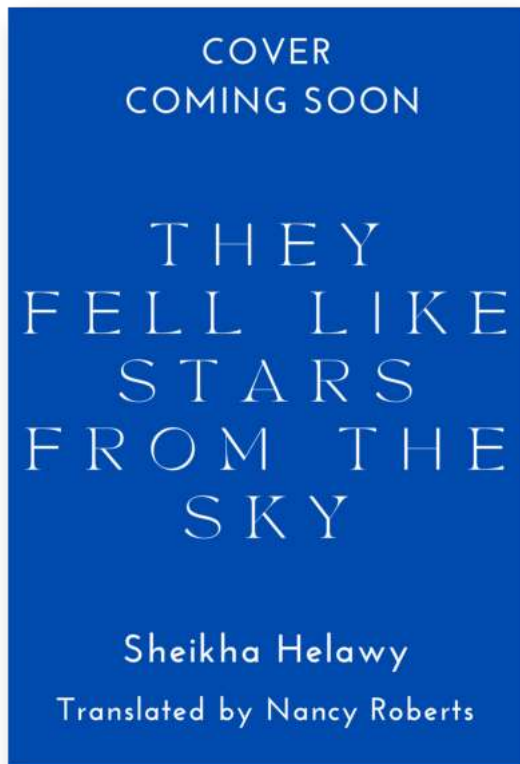
Adult Fiction

90,000 words

Final files available 11/2022

Rights

All worldwide rights available



Sheikha Helawy is an award-winning writer, poet, and educator who was born in an unrecognized village near Haifa. She studied Arabic and Hebrew literature at Tel Aviv University and is currently a lecturer of Arab Feminism at Ben Gurion University. She has published one book of poetry and three collections of short stories, with work translated into German, Bulgarian, and English.

They Fell Like Stars From the Sky

An illustrated short story collection by award-winning Palestinian author Sheikha Helawy.

With its gripping, poetic style, the stories in *They Fell Like Stars From the Sky* usher us into a world of class divides, patriarchy, and coming-of-age struggles in the Bedouin village where Helawy grew up.

Helawy's narratives often have endings that, as she herself puts it, are “like an electricity blackout that stuns the reader[s],” leaving us well outside our comfort zone. The sixteen stories that make up *They Fell Like Stars from the Sky* deal with themes ranging from a girl’s search for identity and acceptance, the oppressive patriarchal mentality that permeates traditional Bedouin society, and the dehumanizing effects of poverty.

Perfect for readers of *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri and *Against the Loveless World* by Susan Abulhawa.

26 September 2023

Adult Fiction

~20,000 words

Final files available 10/2022

Rights

All worldwide rights available



No Funeral for Nazia

Full of political intrigue, this literary novel is a striking and inventive exploration of what death can mean for both the deceased and those left behind.

Nazia Sami is a celebrated author, but perhaps her greatest plot twist is yet to be delivered. In her final days, she wields a pen one last time as she fills her diary with instructions for her sister, Naureen, and writes six letters to be posted after her death.

There is to be no funeral for Nazia. Instead, only six invitees are asked to attend a party, one of whom is a mystery guest. Over the course of an extraordinary evening, secrets are revealed, pasts reconsidered, and lives are forever changed.

No Funeral for Nazia invites readers into the life of an unforgettable and courageous Karachi woman who withstood many odds.

Perfect for readers of *Moth Smoke* by Mohsin Hamid, *Broken Verses* by Kamila Shamsie and *The Guest Cat* by Takashi Hiraide.

Taha Kehar is a novelist, journalist and literary critic. A law graduate from SOAS, London, Kehar has served as the head of The Express Tribune's Peshawar city pages and bi-monthly books page. He has also worked as an assistant editor on the op-ed desk at The News. Based in Karachi, Pakistan, Taha teaches undergraduate media courses and is currently working on his fourth novel.

5 October 2023

Adult Fiction

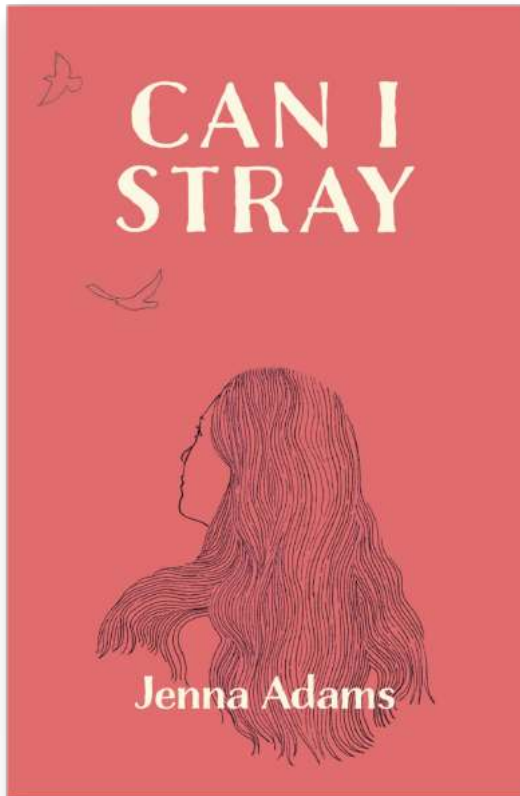
~80,000 words

Final files available

Rights

Pakistan rights sold - Liberty Publishing

All other worldwide rights available



Jenna Adams is a London-based author who is passionate about exploring mental health, consent, and codependency in her writing. Her advocacy was inspired by her own experiences growing up and the long-lasting effects of having inadequate sexual education at school. Jenna is a regular contributor at The Book Network, a review platform and community for independent publishers, authors, and readers.

Can I Stray

An honest coming-of-age story — perfect for fans of LOUISE O'NEILL and HOLLY BOURNE — exploring consent, mental health, and the complex world of teenage sexual politics.

Fourteen-year-old Brooke Tyler has spent her whole life waiting for a boy to choose her. Matt is about to go to university, scared to leave behind everything he knows. When both are cast as romantic leads in *Romeo and Juliet*, they fulfil the roles of forbidden lovers both on and off the stage. Brooke is sure that her fairytale is coming true - and best of all, Matt is older.

Brooke considers secrets and lies a small price to pay for her first boyfriend, but the relationship is set to cost her the moment they have sex. When Brooke learns that Matt's actions that night were illegal, her world shatters.

Years later, Brooke and Matt reunite as adults. Matt wants to undo all the damage he caused, but Brooke makes a choice which forces them both to question their relationship.

Told in three acts, this powerful debut chronicles a young woman's journey towards independence as she strays away from everything she has ever known to navigate her traumatic past.

11 October 2022

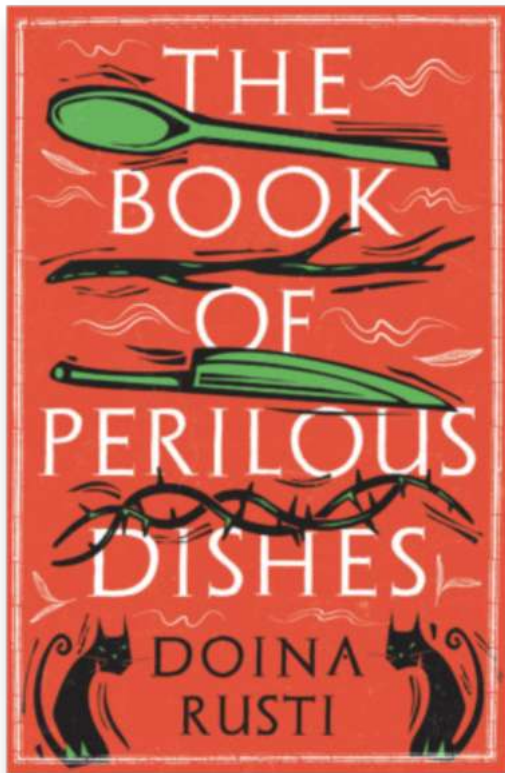
New Adult Fiction

387 pp

Final files available

Rights

All worldwide rights available



Doina Rusti is one of the most celebrated contemporary Romanian authors. She is widely appreciated for the originality of her writing and her work has been translated into many languages. Doina lives in Bucharest and is a university professor and screenwriter.

The Book of Perilous Dishes

From one of Romania's most celebrated writers comes this fantastical novel, mixing elements of magic and folklore to create an atmospheric tale that crosses Europe at the turn of the 18th century.

The Book of Perilous Dishes follows the story of Pâtca, who uses her powers to avenge the death of her uncle and retrieve a magical recipe book left in his keeping which has been stolen by Silica the cook. Travelling from Romania to France and on to Germany, Pâtca's family's true past and powers are revealed, as is her connection to Silica the cook...

WINNER OF A MAJOR AWARD FROM THE ROMANIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN LONDON

'A magical tale that finds an anchor in the long-lost past of 18th-century Romania.'

— Translated Gems

'Brimming over with magic and mystery, murder and misdirection, magical realism fans won't want to miss this meal of the imagination, crafted by a talented master of her art.'

— Steph Warren, Amazon Vine reviewer

'Rich in detail, whimsy and dark magic [...] A fast-paced historical fantasy [that is] a feast for the imagination.'

— Natasha, Goodreads reviewer

3 March 2022

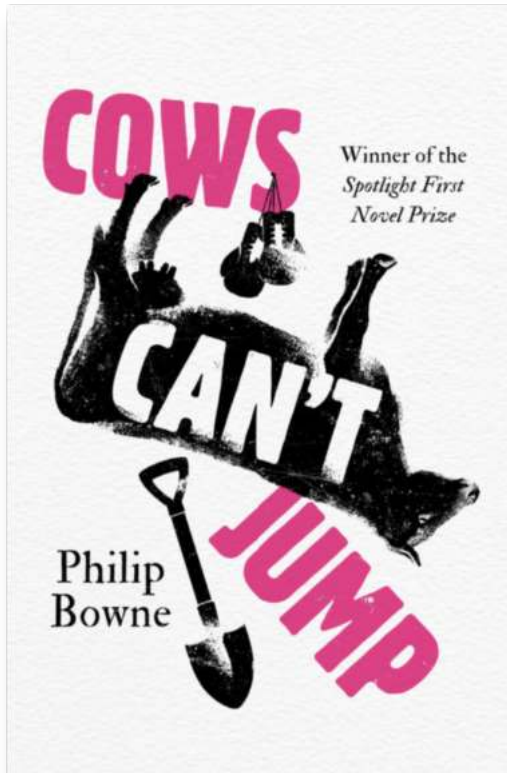
Adult Fiction

260 pp

Final files available

Rights

All rights related to English translation available, except film. Translation rights only available for Turkish.



Philip Bowne lives in London and works as a writer for The Wombles, a children's entertainment brand. Like his protagonist, Billy, Phil attended a severely under-resourced school in Bicester, Oxfordshire. However, unlike Billy, Phil ended up studying English Literature and Creative Writing at university. After graduating, Phil spent time in Europe and the US, working and volunteering in various roles and settings: repairing boats at Lake Como, housekeeping at a mountain lodge in California and working with charity Care4Calais in the former Calais 'jungle' refugee camp.

Cows Can't Jump

An explosive coming-of-age novel, full of heart, humour, and misadventures, that takes the reader on an unforgettable journey across Europe.

18-year-old Billy is desperate to escape. He's working the ultimate dead-end job as a grave-digger. His Grandad's engaged to a woman half his age, his Dad's become obsessed with boxing, and his Mum's certainly having an affair. Everything is changing, and Billy hates it. Meeting the older, mysterious Eva, though, changes everything. A scramble across Europe ensues, involving hitch-hiking with truckers, walking with refugees, and an encounter with suicidal cows. But the further he goes, the harder it is to be sure what he's chasing - and what he's running from.

WINNER OF THE SPOTLIGHT FIRST NOVEL PRIZE AND LONGLISTED FOR THE GUARDIAN'S NOT THE BOOKER PRIZE

'One of the best opening paragraphs lines ever. [...] A fresh take on the classic rite-of-passage, an explosive coming of age odyssey.'

— Marion Urch, *Spotlight First Novel Prize*

'The prose sparkles like sunshine hitting the English Channel.'

— D.D. Johnston, author of *Peace, Love & Petrol Bombs*

'Innovative, punchy and tender. [...] A performance of real originality and extraordinary promise.'

— Ray Robinson, author of *Electricity*

24 September 2020

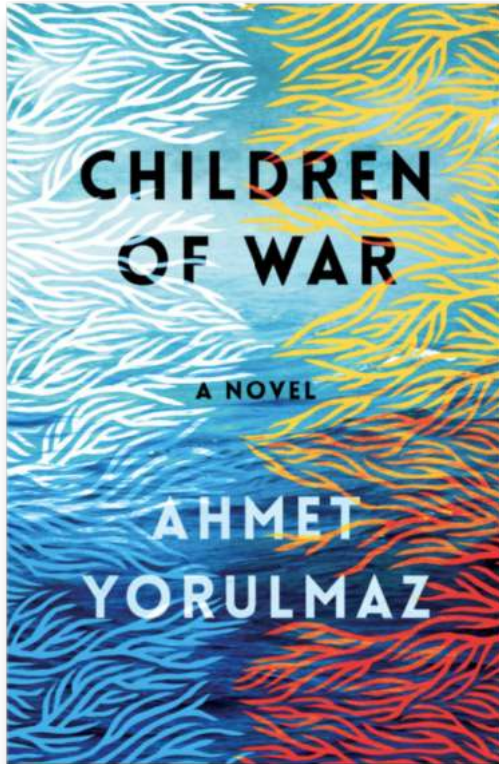
Adult Fiction

279 pp

Final files available

Rights

All worldwide rights available



Children of War

Drawn from the diary of a refugee family, this powerful novel evokes the beauty and complexity of Crete's past. A moving tale of an ordinary man living through extraordinary times.

Hassanakis is a young Muslim boy of Turkish descent growing up on Crete during WWI. Fifteen generations of his family have lived on the island and until now he has never had any reason not to think he is a Cretan. But with the Great Powers tussling over the collapsing Ottoman Empire and the island's Christians in rebellion, an outbreak of ethnic violence forces his family to flee to the Cretan City of Chania.

Ahmet Yorulmaz was a Turkish a journalist, author and translator. He was born in Ayvalik to a family of Cretan Turks deported to mainland Turkey as part of the Greek/Turkish population exchange decreed in the Treaty of Lausanne. He dedicated himself to Greek-Turkish friendship and rapprochement.

Paula Darwish is a freelance translator and professional musician. She has translated notable non-fiction works, including a bilingual catalogue of the buildings of the famous Ottoman architect, Sinan. She is a qualified member (MITI) of the Institute of Translators and Interpreters.

He begins to lay down roots and his snappy dress earns him the nickname of Hassan 'the mirror'. As WWI draws to a close and the Turkish War of Independence rages, he begins a heady romance with the elegant Hüsniye. There are rumors that the Cretan Muslims will be sent to Turkey but Hassanakis can't believe he will be sent to a country whose language he barely knows and where he knows no-one...

'Embodies everything I love about good historical fiction... It is quite simply beautiful.'

— **Bindu, Goodreads reviewer**

'*Children of War* is one of the most important translated works released in 2020, [...] encourages us to resist the politics of demonization [and] challenge assumptions about ethnicity, race and identity.'

— **Neriman, Goodreads reviewer**

26 March 2020

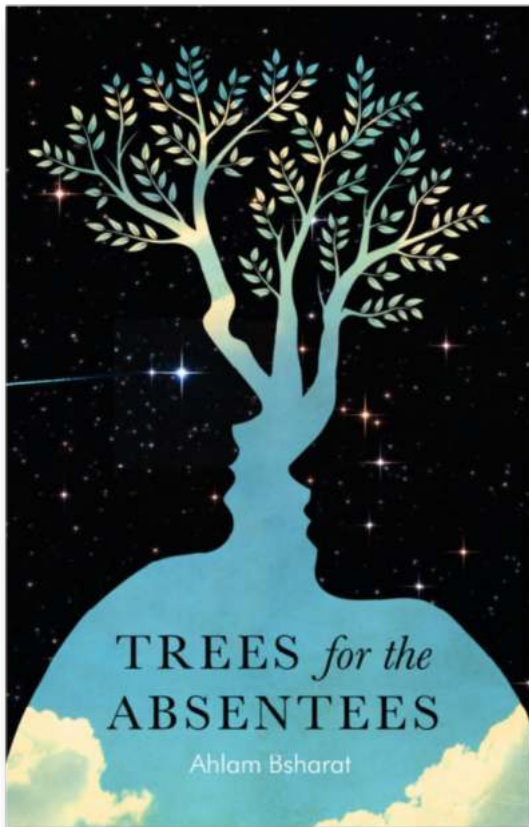
Adult Fiction

140 pp

Final files available

Rights

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Ahlam Bsharat is a Palestinian writer who grew up in a village in Northern Palestine and completed her MA in Arabic Literature at An-Najah National University in Nablus. Her books have received many awards, including the IBBY Honor List for 2012. Ahlam has been active in numerous cultural forums, has lead creative writing workshops for children and adults and her craft has taken her across Europe and to Dubai as a resident artist.

Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp is a British literary translator. She has translated novels by Fadi Zaghmout, Hanna Winter, Kathrin Rohmann and Yulia Yakovleva. Ruth graduated from the University of Oxford in 2003 and completed an MA in Translation and Interpreting at the University of Bath.

Trees for the Absentees

This transportive novel uses magical realism to tell a coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of occupied Palestine.

Philistia's world is that of an ordinary university student, except that in occupied Palestine, and when your father is in indefinite detention, nothing is straightforward. On the brink of adulthood, Philistia embarks on a journey through her country's history – a magical journey, and one of loss and centuries of occupation.

SHORTLISTED FOR THE GLOBAL LITERATURE IN LIBRARIES PRIZE AND THE ETISALAT AWARD FOR ARABIC CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

'A most ordinary, magical, devastating story. What *Trees for the Absentees* shares with works by authors like Gabriel García Márquez and Jorge Louis Borges is that it finds a way to beautifully express what the 'real' cannot.'

— Dr. Nora Parr, Freie Universität Berlin

'With the universally relatable politics of family and community, this was a mighty experience.'

— Dr. Sofia Rehman, @sofia_reading



The original novel in Arabic, available exclusively through NTP
9781911107217

12 September 2019

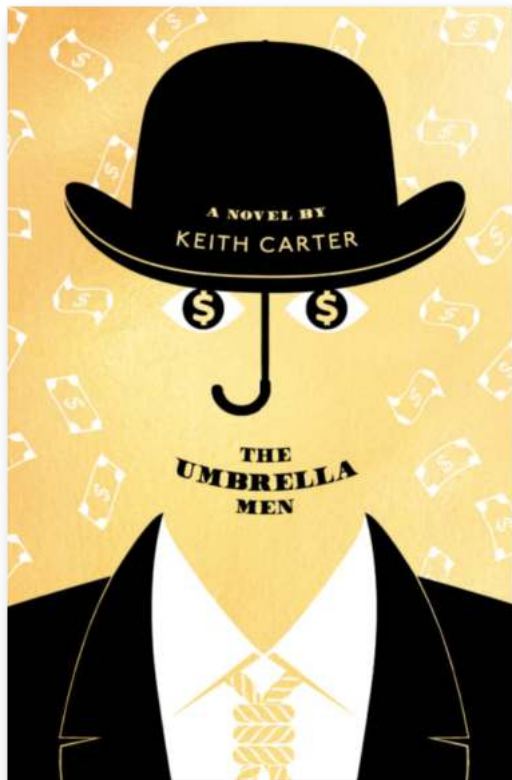
Young Adult Fiction

96 pp

Final files available

Rights

All worldwide rights available



Keith Carter was born in Scotland. He read Economics at Cambridge, taking a First in 1981 when he was elected a Scholar. He worked as an investment banker before going straight and running a small pharmaceutical company. Now a writer and business consultant he enjoys travel, politics and economics, reading and writing, languages, music and meals with family and friends. Keith suffered a spinal cord injury in March 2018 and since rides a wheelchair.

The Umbrella Men

A witty and acerbic novel for our times about corporate greed, the hubris of bankers, contradictions of the clean energy economy and their unintended consequences on everyday people.

Finance, environmentalism, rare-earth mining and human frailties collide in a complex of flawed motives. We follow Peter Mount, the self-made Chief Executive of a London-based rare-earth mining company as he and his business are buffeted by crisis-torn Royal Bank of Scotland and by his own actions, real and imagined. Meanwhile in Oregon, Amy Tate and her group of local environmental activists do their contradictory part to undermine a component of the green economy, unwittingly super-charged by the Chinese state. This is a deeply involving novel about the current workings of capitalism, miscommunication, causes and unexpected effects, love and survival.

'An involving and provocative novel ... humorous, acerbic, and keenly observed, *The Umbrella Men* couldn't be more topical.'

— Paul Burke, NB Magazine

'A witty, globally-scoped exposé of corporate greed and environmentalism told through an absorbing character-rich tale.'

— Joanne Owen, Love Reading UK

4 April 2019

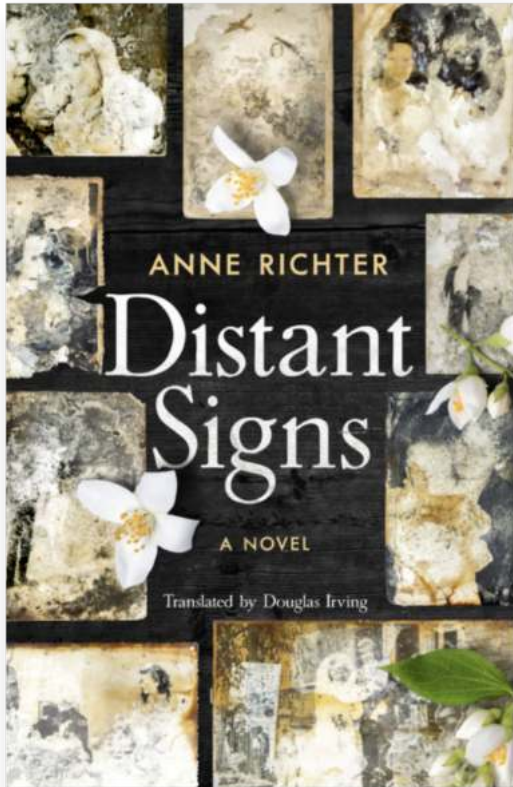
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Distant Signs

A moving family narrative with a historical backdrop, this book offers a compelling portrayal of life behind the Iron Curtain.

In 1960s East Germany, Margret, a professor's daughter from the city, meets and marries Hans, from a small village in the Thuringian forest. The couple struggle to contend with their different backgrounds, and the emotional scars they bear from childhood in the aftermath of war. As East German history gradually unravels, with collision of the personal and political, their two families' hidden truths are quietly revealed. An authentic portrayal of family life behind the iron curtain based on personal experience of the author who is East German and was 16 years old at the fall of the Berlin Wall.

'A compelling and finely crafted novel. Astutely demonstrates the effects of war and the aftermath on the ordinary citizen.'

— Anne Cater, author of *Random Things Through My Letterbox*

'Set my thoughts thrumming, it is so intriguing, compelling and beautifully readable.'

— Liz Robinson LoveReading, UK

Anne Richter was born in 1973 in Jena, in the former German Democratic Republic. Her degree in Romance languages and English included study periods in England, Italy and France. In 2011, Anne was nominated for the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize, a highly regarded German-language literary award.

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