



Mushens Entertainment

LONDON BOOK FAIR 2023

Rights Guide

TABLE NUMBERS:

RACHEL NEELY - B9

LIZA DEBLOCK - B8



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We proudly present our Rights Guide for the London Book Fair 2023.

More information on our authors, books, and rights can be found on our website at www.mushens-entertainment.com

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Herengracht 623
1017 CE Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

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Turkey

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Taiwan

Japan

Tuttle-Mori Agency
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Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 101-0051
Japan

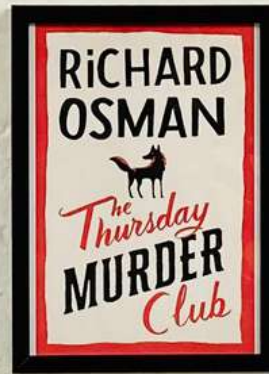
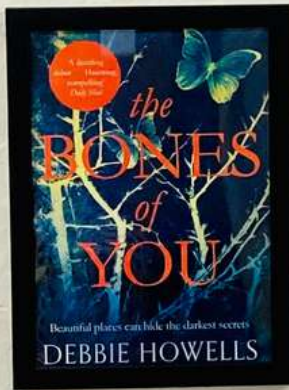
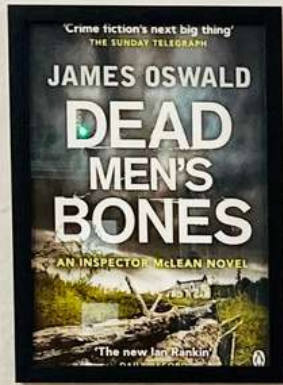
Korea

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Arabic

Bears Factor Literary Agency
FZC Business Centre
Sharjah Publishing City Free Zone
Sharjah
United Arab Emirates





Highlights



Bad Blood

Sarah Hornsley

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Sally Wilcox at A3 Artists Agency

Publication date: TBD 2025

Material: Submission manuscript

Rights:

UK (Hodder - Phoebe Morgan)

Germany (Penguin)

Romania (Crime Scene Press)

Russia (auction)

- **BAD BLOOD was pre-empted within 48 hours of submission with a significant 6-figure UK deal.**
- **German rights sold at 4-way auction for 6-figures**

When criminal barrister, Justine Stone, is handed the lead on her first murder case, she could never have imagined she'd find Jake Reynolds staring back at her. Jake Reynolds – the boyfriend who disappeared from her life twelve years ago and the same man now facing a double homicide charge. Since Jake left without a trace, Justine hasn't returned to the rural Essex town, Maldon, where they grew up together. But, if she's going to send Jake to prison for murder, this time she needs to know the truth – not just the story she'll spin the jury.

Once she arrives there, memories start to surface – of the idyllic love she shared with Jake, and her doubts that such a good man could really have done such a terrible thing. Back in her childhood home darker recollections are harder to avoid. The death of her beloved father in a car crash, and the weight of the small town's expectations on her shoulders. And when her elder brother Max goes missing, she starts to suspect that everything is connected. Because it turns out that you can never truly bury the past: no matter how much you might want to.

Sarah Hornsley works as a literary agent at PFD. After graduating from Durham University with a First Class Honours in History, Sarah worked at a publishing house followed by a short stint in script development before becoming a Literary Agent in 2015. She was named a Rising Star in The Bookseller in 2019. She lives in Essex with her husband and daughter.



The Method

Chris MacDonald

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Emily Hayward-Whitlock at TAP

Publication Date:

January 2024

Material: Submission manuscript

Rights:

UK (Michael Joseph -Joel Richardson)

- **Sold in a pre-empt**

On the cusp of a victorious Oscar campaign an infamous Hollywood method actor is forced to go back to his traumatic time at drama school as a malignant presence threatens to reveal a secret which would destroy his career and everything he believes in.

Adam Sealey is renowned for immersing himself in his film roles, whether that's losing half his body weight, butchering sides of beef to get into the head of a murderer, or refusing to break character for the months of filming. He learned his method at The Conservatoire, under the mercurial eye of Jonathan Dors, an acting teacher who went far beyond the limits to push his students to greatness.

When Adam makes his mentor part of his Oscar campaign, it starts an online assault against him which hints at the tragedy Adam had a hand in. But Adam's hearing voices too, ghosts that can't be speaking to him. He's spent so long living in imaginary worlds, he no longer knows how to trust the real one.

Chris MacDonald is a novelist, screenwriter, playwright and musician. He has previously had psychological thrillers published under a pseudonym but we intend this to be published under his own name. His debut play *Eye of the Needle* played at the Southwark Playhouse in 2014. As an actor Chris has worked for the BBC, the RSC, Amazon and multiple commercial clients.



The Nightingale's Castle

Sonia Velton

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Emily Hayward-Whitlock at TAP

Publication Date:

July 2024

Material: Submission manuscript

Rights:

UK (Little Brown - Clare Smith)

US (HarperCollins)

Hungary (Libri)

Slovakia (Albatros)

- **Sold at auction in the UK and US, pre-empted in Hungary.**

In 1573, the 13 year old Countess Erzsébet Báthory gave birth to an illegitimate child. The infant, a girl, was swiftly bundled up and handed to a local peasant family to be brought up in one of the hamlets surrounding the Castle. History has not recorded what became of the child after that.

THE NIGHTINGALE'S CASTLE imagines what might happen if – years later – Boroka, the fictitious 15 year old daughter of Báthory's illegitimate child, becomes a servant in Bathory's castle.

Boroka knows that she is rumoured to be the alleged prolific murderer of young girls, and yet slowly becomes convinced that Bathory is her grandmother. But can Boroka trust her? And what will happen to their burgeoning bond once the accusations against her powerful mistress become public?

Sonia Velton trained as a solicitor at an international law firm before specialising in human rights and discrimination law. She has worked in Hong Kong and at the European Parliament in Luxembourg, and spent eight years in Dubai being a full time Mum. She now lives in Kent with her three children and two cats, where she writes full time. Sonia's debut novel, *Blackberry and Wild Rose*, was shortlisted for the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize, long-listed for the HWA Debut Crown and has been optioned for film. Her second novel, *The Image of Her*, is a contemporary literary thriller which published in 2021.



Crime & Thriller



Inside

Rhiannon Barnsley

Agent: Rachel Neely

Set at a top law firm, *INSIDE* is a psychological thriller perfect for fans of *The Whisper Network* or BBC's *Industry*.

Publication Date:

Spring/Summer 2024

Material: Submission manuscript

Rights:

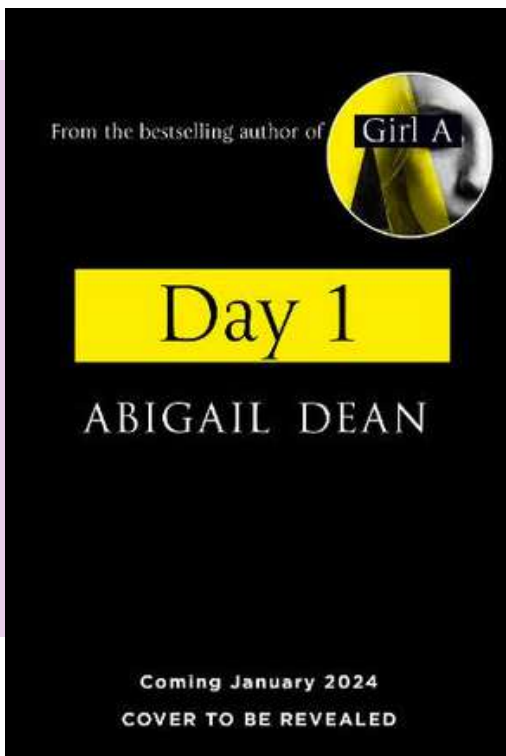
WEL (One More Chapter/
HarperCollins - Jennie
Rothwell)

When a young lawyer jumps to her death from the company's roof terrace, no one is more shocked than Cassandra Harlow, a promising senior associate.

Having recently made partner, years ahead of her peers, Sara O'Neil had everything that Cass wants. Including membership to Inside, an exclusive society credited with fast-tracking its members' careers, placing women in positions of power across the city - with a strict policy of one out, one in. The only way to join the elite network is if someone leaves or dies...

When an encounter with a client jeopardises Cass's job, Inside becomes her only hope of salvaging her career. But, as she competes for the open spot, Cass begins to wonder if, having facilitated Sara's meteoric rise to the top, the society could also be the reason she went crashing down to earth.

Originally from the West Midlands, Rhiannon currently lives in London with her boyfriend and her cat, Salem. She's a corporate lawyer by day and her experiences at work inspired this novel. She is a Faber Academy Writing a Novel graduate and loves to write commercial and twisty legal thrillers with a particular focus on women.



Publication date:

28 March 2024

Material: Edited manuscript

Please see next page for rights.

Day One

Abigail Dean

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Sally Wilcox at A3 Artists Agency

Stonesmere will never be the same again...

In a quiet lakeside town in the North of England, 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.

Abigail Dean was born in Manchester, and grew up in the Peak District. She graduated from Cambridge with a Double First in English. Formerly a Waterstones bookseller, she spent five years as a lawyer in London, and took summer 2018 off to work on her debut novel, *Girl A*, ahead of her thirtieth birthday.

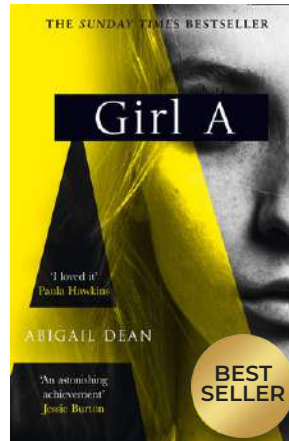
Abigail Dean publishers

Rights sold:

UK (HarperCollins)
US (Viking)
Italy (Einaudi)
Israel (Kinneret)
Netherlands (HarperCollins)
Norway (Gursli Berg)

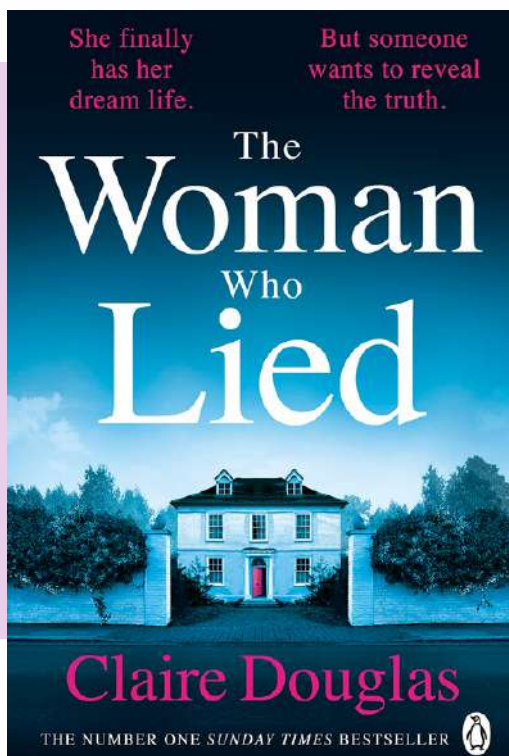
Options:

Albania (Dritan)
Brazil (Verus)
Bulgaria (Riva)
Croatia (Sonatina)
Czech (Alpress)
Denmark (Gads)
Estonia (Rahva Raamat)
Finland (Aula & Co)
France (Lattes)
Germany (HarperCollins)
Greece (Psychogios)
Hungary (Libri)
Iceland (Utgafan)
Japan (Hayakawa)



Latvia (ABC)
Lithuania (Alma Littera)
Poland (Prószyński Media)
Portugal (Presença)
Romania (Crime Scene Press)
Russia (AST)
Serbia (Vulkan)
Slovakia (Slovart)
Slovenia (Zalozoba)
Spain (Ediciones B)
Taiwan (Locus)
Turkey (Epsilon)
Ukraine (Family Leisure Club)

- ***Girl A* has sold over 550,000 copies in the UK.**
- ***Girl A* sold in the UK after a 9-way auction, and immediately became a Sunday Times and New York Times Bestseller. It also reached #1 in the UK Kindle Charts.**
- **It sold in the US to Viking in a seven-figure deal and has sold in 35 territories including film.**



The Woman Who Lied

Claire Douglas

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Mary Pender at UTA

Publication date:

6 July 2023

Material: Proof pdf

Rights sold:

UK (Michael Joseph: Maxine Hitchcock)

US (HarperCollins)

Germany (Penguin)

Options:

Albania (Botema Bot)

Brazil (Trama)

Croatia (Egmont)

Czech (Albatros)

Estonia (Postimehe Kirjastus)

Hungary (Tericum)

Korea (Korea Studies)

Lithuania (Vega)

Netherlands (Bruna)

Norway (Gyldendal)

Poland (Filia)

Portugal (Presenca)

Romania (Grup Media)

Russia (Eksmo)

Emilia Ward lives quietly in suburban London with her husband and two children.

Just an ordinary wife and mother. But also a bestselling crime writer.

When she starts writing her tenth Detective Miranda Moody novel, however, life takes a frightening turn: an incident straight out of one of her novels occurs in real life.

Just an unsettling coincidence, she thinks. Until it happens again.

Then someone she knows dies exactly like a victim in the book she's still writing . . .

Why is someone doing this?

How do they know what she is writing?

And how long before Emilia and her family are next?

Options cont'd:

Slovenia (Zalozba Učila)

Spain (Planeta)

Sweden (Modernista)

Taiwan (Ecus)

Claire has written multiple bestselling thrillers. *The Couple at No 9* has now surpassed 400,000 copies in sales, and *The Girls Who Disappeared* is at 240,000 copies. Claire's books have been published in fifteen countries.



In Her Defense

Philippa Malicka

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Emily Hayward-Whitlock at TAP

Otessa Moshfegh meets *The Talented Mister Ripley* in this literary debut about a fractured wealthy family told through the eyes of their hired help.

Publication Date:

July 2024

Material: Submission manuscript

Rights:

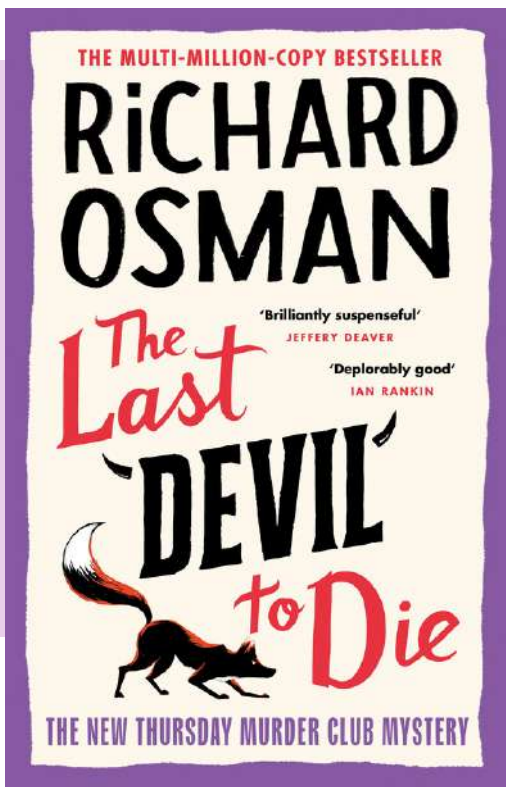
UK (Hodder)

US (Marysue Rucci Books)

IN HER DEFENSE follows the libel trial of TV personality, household name and ceramics entrepreneur, Anna Finbow, whose daughter Mary has cut off all contact with the family. After Anna accuses her daughter's therapist of being behind the split in her newspaper column, the publicity is overwhelming and a legal summons swiftly follows.

Mary is adamant that her childhood was abusive, whereas Anna believes the therapist is a charlatan preying on her daughter's trust fund. And watching it all is young sculptor Augusta (Gus), Anna's dogwalker... who has her own reasons for inveigling her way into Anna's life...

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.



The Last Devil To Die

Richard Osman

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Emily Hayward-Whitlock at TAP

You'd think you would be allowed to relax over Christmas, but not in the world of the Thursday Murder Club.

Publication date:

14 September 2023

Material: Final manuscript coming July 2023

See next page for rights

On Boxing Day, a dangerous package is smuggled across the English coast. When it goes missing, chaos is unleashed. The body count starts to rise - including someone close to the Thursday Murder Club - as our gang face an impossible search and their most deadly opponents yet.

With the clock ticking down and a killer heading to Cooper's Chase, has their luck finally run out? And who will be 'The Last Devil To Die'?



Richard Osman has worked as an executive producer on numerous UK shows. Richard's debut novel *The Thursday Murder Club* has been published in over 44 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, has been nominated for an Edgar Award in the US, and is also an international bestseller in Sweden, Iceland, Japan, and Germany.

Richard Osman publishers

Rights sold:

UK (Viking)
US (Pamela Dorman Books)
Finland (Otava)
France (Lattes)
Germany (Ullstein)
Italy (SEM)
Norway (Gursli Berg)
Russia (Mann, Ivanoc, and Ferber)
Spain (Planeta)
Sweden (Albert Bonniers)

Hungary (Agave)
Iceland (Drapa)
Israel (Tchelet)
Japan (Hayakawa)
Kazakhstan (Foliant)
Korea (Sallim)
Latvia (ABC)
Lithuania (Jotema)
Macedonia (Kultura)
Netherlands (Cargo)
Poland (Agora)
Portugal (Planeta)
Romania (SC Crime Scene Press)
Serbia (Vulkan)
Slovakia (Slovart)
Slovenia (Mladinska)
Taiwan (Faces)
Thailand (Biblio)
Turkey (Bilgi)
Ukraine (Family Leisure Club)
Vietnam (1980)
Film (Amblin)

Options:

Albania (Polis)
Arabic (Dar Al Tanweer)
Armenia (Newmag)
Brazil (Intrinseca)
Bulgaria (Soft Press)
Catalan (Columna)
China (Jieli)
Croatia (Egmont)
Czech (Jota)
Denmark (Gyldendal)
Estonia (Rahva Raamat)
Greece (Psichogios)

- ***The Thursday Murder Club* series has sold over 6,000,000 copies in the UK alone since publication in September 2020, and over 8,000,000 worldwide.**
- ***The Man Who Died Twice* is officially one of the fastest-selling novels since records began, with over 100,000 copies sold in its first week in the UK. Only 3 novels have ever sold more.**
- ***The Bullet That Missed* is now the fastest selling UK hardback since BookScan records began. Penguin Random House's most pre-ordered audiobook of all time.**



General Fiction



Everyone I Know Is Dying

Emily Slapper

Agent: Rachel Neely

Film co-agent: Orly Greenberg at UTA

After attending her grandmother's empty funeral, 26-year-old Iris starts to wonder if she has prioritised the wrong things in life.

When she finally gets the promotion she has been coveting upon her return to work, the expected sense of triumph never arrives. Why, instead of celebrating, does Iris find herself sprawled on the floor of her hallway crying uncontrollably?

Iris has no terrible secrets or hidden traumas, and yet crippling depression threatens to overwhelm her. She finds solace in the arms of her flatmate George, who never fails to find the joy in small things. But security soon begins to feel like suffocation.

So, when Iris is reintroduced to handsome but seemingly unattainable ex-colleague Patrick, she sees the potential for a different kind of relationship, and becomes obsessed with making him fall in love with her – whatever the cost.

Publication Date:

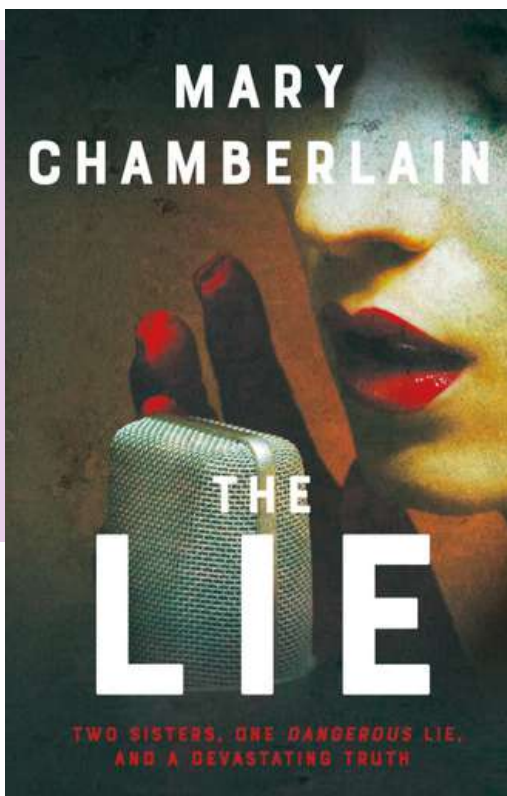
July 2024

Material: Submission manuscript

Rights:

UK (HQ - Katie Seamen)

Emily Slapper grew up in Northampton before studying Cinema and Photography at the University of Leeds. After graduating she moved to London to work in advertising whilst hoping to one day become a screenwriter. But wanting to write films turned into wanting to write books and so she started a Creative Writing MA at Royal Holloway. *Everyone I Know is Dying* is her debut novel.



The Lie

Mary Chamberlain

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Joan, once a singing star of the 1940s and 1950s, now ekes out a lonely, impoverished existence - until a chance encounter promises a comeback concert and an album.

Her sister Kathleen is a successful medical researcher who has been offered the directorship of a prestige institute in Los Angeles in her retirement as she contemplates the recent break up with the love of her life.

In their old age, Joan and Kathleen draw closer together. Until a figure from Joan's past threatens everything they've built. As the sisters excavate the lies that bound them together, a more profound truth threatens to drive them apart.

Set in three time frames, the novel unravels the sisters' lives as choices past and present collide.

Publication Date:

20 July 2023

Material: Final pdf

Rights:

UK (Oneworld - Juliet Mabey)

Options:

Czech (Argo)

Lithuania (Balto)

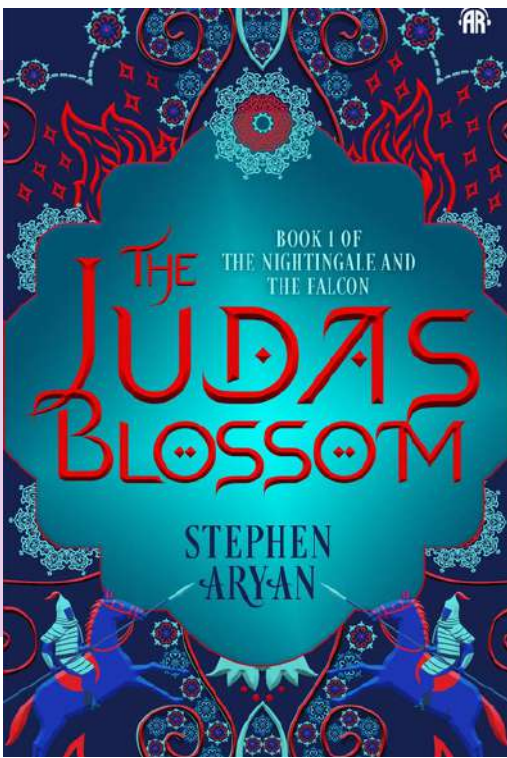
Praise for THE LIE

- 'A gripping, absorbing mystery about the true meaning of family' - Sarah Day, author of *Mussolini's Island*

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.



Sci-Fi & Fantasy



The Judas Blossom

Stephen Aryan

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Publication Date:

11 July 2023

Material: Final pdf

Rights:

WEL (Angry Robot - Eleanor Teesdale)

Russia (Kariera)

- "Ancient Persia provides a fresh and vivid setting for the rediscovery of long-lost magic and the machinations of secret societies fighting the Mongol Empire. Historical fantasy at its finest!" -Cameron Johnston, author of *The Maleficent Seven*

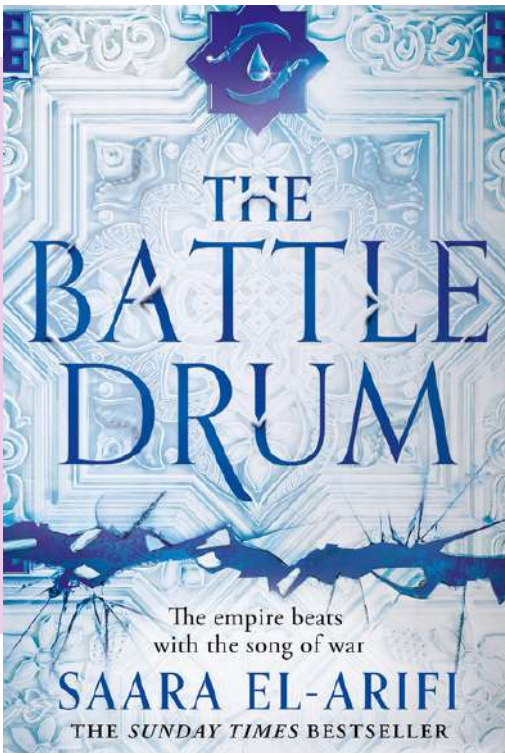
1260, Persia: Due to the efforts of the great Genghis Khan, the Mongol Empire covers a vast portion of the known world. In the shadow of his grandfather, Hulagu Khan, ruler of the Ilkhanate, is determined to create a single empire that covers the entire world. His method? Violence.

His youngest son, Temujin Khan, struggles to find his place in his father's bloody rule. After another failure, Temujin is given one last chance to prove himself to Hulagu, who is sure there is a great warrior buried deep inside.

But there's something else rippling under the surface... something far more powerful and dangerous than they could ever imagine...

Family and war collide in this thrilling and bloody reimagining of the Mongol Empire's invasion of Persia.

Stephen Aryan is the author of the *Age of Darkness* and *Age of Dread* trilogies. His first novel, *Battlemage*, was a finalist for the David Gemmell Morningstar Award for best debut fantasy novel. It also won the inaugural Hellfest Inferno Award in France. He has previously written a comic book column and reviews for Tor.com. In addition, he has self-published and kickstarted his own comics.



The Battle Drum

Saara El-Arifi

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Cilm co-agent: Mary Pender at UTA

Murder. Secrets. Sacrifice.

Anoor is the first blue-blooded ruler of the Wardens' Empire. But when she is accused of a murder she didn't commit, her reign is thrown into turmoil. She must solve the mystery and clear her name without the support of her beloved, Sylah.

Sylah braves new lands to find a solution for the hurricane that threatens to destroy her home. But in finding answers, she must make a decision, does she sacrifice her old life in order to raise up her sword once more?

Hassa's web of secrets grows ever thicker as she finds herself on a trail of crimes in the city. Her searching uncovers the extent of the atrocities of the empire's past and present. Now, she must guard both her heart and her land. The three women find their answers, but they're not the answers they wanted.

The drumbeat of change thrums throughout the world. And it sings a song of war.

Publication Date:

25 May 2023

Material: Final pdf

Rights:

UK (HarperVoyager - Natasha Bardon)

US (DelRey)

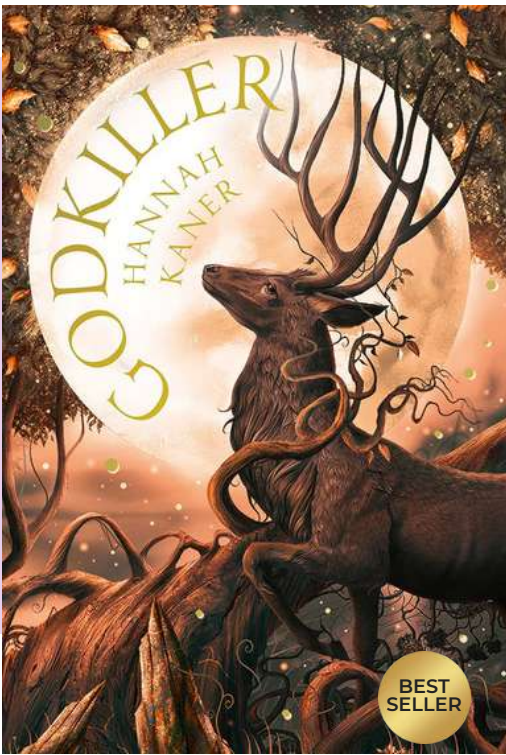
France (De Saxus)

Italy (Oscar Vault Mondadori)

- **This is the second novel in the Sunday Times Bestselling *Final Strife* series.**



Saara El-Arifi is the *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Final Strife*, the first part of a trilogy inspired by her Ghanaian and Sudanese heritage. She has lived in many countries, had many jobs and owned many more cats. El-Arifi knew she was a storyteller from the moment she told her first lie. Over the years she has perfected her tall tales into epic ones. She currently resides in London, UK, as a full-time procrastinator.



Godkiller

Hannah Kaner

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Sean Berard at Grandview LA

You are not welcome here, godkiller.

Publication Date:

19 January 2023

Material: Final pdf

Rights:

UK (HarperVoyager - Natasha Bardon)

US (HarperVoyager)

Brazil (Morro Branco)

France (De Saxus)

Germany (Piper)

Hungary (Gabo)

Italy (Oscar Mondadori)

Poland (Jaguar)

Romania (Nemira)

Spain (Urano)

Turkey (Olimpos)

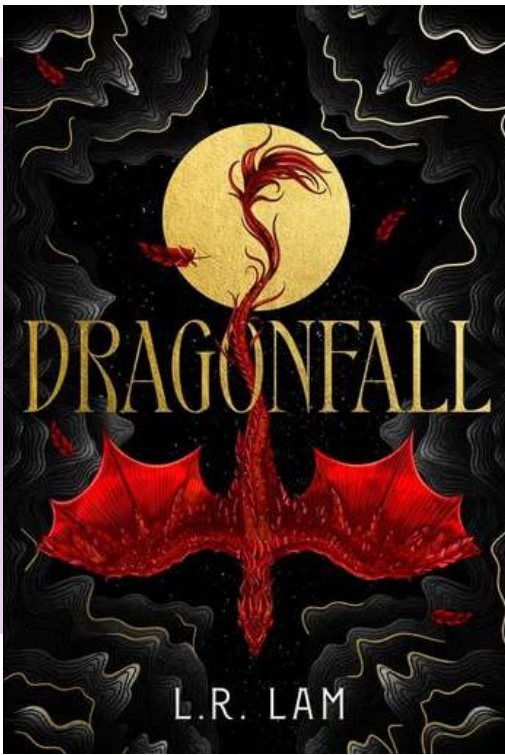
- **GODKILLER instantly became a #1 Sunday Times Bestseller, and sold over 10,000 copies in the first 10 days of sales.**

Kissen's family were killed by zealots of a fire god. 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.

Joined by a disillusioned knight on a secret quest, they 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 their world, and only they can be the ones to stop it.

Hannah is a Northumbrian writer living in Scotland. She is inspired by world mythologies, angry women, speculative fiction, and the stories we tell ourselves about being human. Her debut fantasy novel *Godkiller* was pre-empted in 2021 by HarperVoyager. She is currently working on the second book in the *Godkiller* trilogy.



Dragonfall

L.R. Lam

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agents: Michelle Kroes at CAA

Publication Date:

19 January 2023

Material: Final pdf

Rights:

UK (Hodder & Stoughton -
Molly Powell)

US (DAW)

Croatia (Lumen)

Romania (Nemira)

Long ago, humans betrayed dragons, stealing their magic and banishing them to a dying world. Centuries later, their descendants worship dragons as gods. But the 'gods' remember, and they do not forgive.

Since they were orphaned, Arcady has scraped a living thieving on the streets of Vatra, dreaming of life among the nobility - and revenge. When the chance arises to steal a powerful artefact from the bones of the Plaguebringer, the most hated person in Lumet history, they jump at it, for its magic holds the key to their dreams.

But the spell has unintended consequences, and drags Everen - the last male dragon, who was once foretold to save his kind - into the human world. Trapped, and disguised as a human, Everen soon realises that the key to his destiny, and to regaining his true power, lies in Arcady.

All he needs to do is convince one little thief to bond with him completely - body, mind, and soul - and then kill them . . .

Yet the closer the two become, the greater the risk both their worlds will shatter.

L.R. Lam is a *Sunday Times* Bestselling author and has previously written titles such as *Goldilocks*, *Seven Devils*, *False Hearts* (a BBC radio 2 book club selection), *Shattered Minds* (an Amazon editor's book of the month), and the award-winning *Micah Grey* trilogy.



Talonsister

Jen Williams

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Emily Hayward-Whitlock at TAP

Publication date:

12 September 2023

Material:

Edited manuscript

Rights sold:

UK (Titan - Sophie Robinson)
Audio (Bolinda)

A living weapon journeys into a forbidden land. How much trouble can she get into? The answer, it turns out, is quite a lot.

Leven has no memory of her life before she was a soldier. The process of turning her into a Herald – a magical killing machine – was traumatic enough that it wiped her mind clean. Now, with the war won and the Imperium satisfied, she finds herself unemployed and facing a bleak future. Her fellow Heralds are disappearing, and her own mind seems to be coming apart at the seams. Strange visions, memories she shouldn't have, are resurfacing, and none of them make any sense. They show her Brittletrain, the ancient and mysterious island that the Imperium was never able to tame. Leven resolves to go to this place of magic and warring queens, with the hope of finding who she really is.

Envoy Kaeto has done a number of important little jobs for the Imperium, most of them nasty, all of them in the shadows. His newest assignment is to escort the bone-crafter Gynid Tyleigh as she travels across the Imperium – as the woman responsible for creating the Heralds, his employers owe her a great deal. But Tyleigh's ambition alarms even Kaeto, and her conviction that she has found a new source of Titan bones, buried deep in the earth, could lead to another, even bloodier war.

Ynis was raised by the griffins, and has never seen another human face. She lives wild, as they do, eating her meat raw and flying with her talon-sister, T'rook. The griffins fiercely protect their isolation – the piles of skulls that litter the mountains of Brittletrain are testament to that – but the magic they guard will always make them a target for the greed of men. By choosing not to kill Ynis when she was just a baby, the griffins may have doomed themselves – because the girl's past is coming for her, and it carries a lethal blade.

Acquired at a 5-way auction. Jen Williams has won Best Fantasy Novel at the British Fantasy awards for both *The Ninth Rain* and *The Bitter Twins* with her *Winnowing Flame* trilogy. She has previously written the *Copper Cat* trilogy, as well as the thriller *Dog Rose Dirt*.



Coming
Soon



The Voices

Natalie Chandler

Agent: Liza DeBlock

On Submission Soon

They believe you lost all your faculties in a tragic accident. But you can hear every word they say, and they aren't telling the truth. Then again, before the crash, neither were you.

Tamsin Shaw's doctors describe her condition as a permanent vegetative state, and say she has no chance of recovery. After three years in limbo, her husband Jamie is given the option of withdrawing her treatment. To save her own life, she must somehow prove what no one has understood – that she has full awareness. When it becomes clear Jamie may have his own reasons for allowing his wife to slip away, Tamsin, trapped inside her own mind, fears she may never be able to communicate with the outer world.

In her old life, Tamsin was an eminent psychiatrist, specialising in treating sex offenders. Her final client before the crash was the charming, aristocratic Richard Mandeville, who insisted he was innocent of the horrific crimes he had been convicted of. As his retrial now looms, Tamsin's boss Dan suspects her notes indicate she may have fallen under Mandeville's spell.

With no memory of the day of the crash, Tamsin is convinced those lost recollections hold the key to understanding exactly what her brain is trying to protect her from, by keeping her vegetative. If it wasn't an accident, who would want to harm her, and why?

Natalie Chandler was educated at St Chad's College, Durham and has a professional background in behavioural education. Her debut psychological thriller *Believe Me Not* was an Amazon bestseller in the UK and US. Natalie's second novel *What We Did* will be published in May. She lives with her fiancé and a collection of cockapoos.



On submission May 2023

People Like Us

Rachel Devine

Agent: Rachel Neely

For fans of *Big Little Lies*, PEOPLE LIKE US is a dark and morally complex reading-group novel following three women whose lives collide when a student at an elite boarding school commits suicide.

When model student James Maxwell commits suicide, no one is more shocked than his mother, Holly, who cannot understand why her outwardly happy son would take his own life.

For the headmaster's wife, Mimi, James's death threatens the school's reputation and her husband's position within it. Mimi's relationship with Holly comes under strain as the school tries to separate itself from James's actions.

Far from distancing herself, Holly's old school friend, and disgraced TV personality, Emma Huxley seems intent on insinuating herself into Holly's life – but to what end?

As the mystery around James's death unravels, the women's own best-kept secrets refuse to stay buried and the fallout will be catastrophic.

Born in Leeds, Rachel Devine graduated from the University of Oxford in 2000 with a degree in Maths and Philosophy, before going on to spend 12 years on the trading floor at a top investment bank. She now lives near Oxford with her husband and 3 boys. *People Like Us* is her debut novel.



The Woman in the Wallpaper

Lora Jones

Agent: Rachel Neely

On submission May 2023

- Lora received six offers of representation within her first week on submission to agents

A propulsive historical debut for fans of *The Miniaturist* and *The Doll Factory*, *THE WOMAN IN THE WALLPAPER* follows two sisters working at a textiles factory in late eighteenth-century Paris.

After the death of their father, Lara and Sofi find work at a factory renowned for the intricate illustrations on their wallpaper. The same female figure appears in every idyllic vignette: the former mistress of the house, who met an untimely death years before.

Lara soon realises that there's something uncannily familiar about the scenes, which seem to mirror her own life at the factory, and the woman within them – to whom she bears more than a passing resemblance.

As the strange occurrences surrounding the wallpaper become ever more surreal, Lara's paranoia grows and she wonders if the pattern will repeat itself and if she will suffer the same fate as the woman in the wallpaper.

After studying English Literature at the University of Durham, Lora began her career in the TV industry, reading scripts and writing factual programme content and comedy material for ITV, BBC, Channel 4 and others. Lora lives in the rugged, myth-steeped hills of North Wales. *The Woman in the Wallpaper* is her first novel.



A Script for Buried Voices

LM Rees

Agent: Liza DeBlock

On Submission Soon

London, 1619. To begin with, Shakespeare was dead.

Bess lives a seemingly quiet life, working as a housemaid for her uncle, esteemed publisher Thomas Pavier. Unbeknownst to her family, she secretly works for nefarious playbook pirate, Francis Wolfe, who has taught her to read and write. She saves the money he pays her to fulfil her dream of becoming a bookseller and saving her sister from their abusive father.

But when she meets John Rice, a kind and handsome actor in Shakespeare's King's Men playing company, she starts to realise that she is going about her dream in all the wrong ways. Seeking to escape from Francis, he gives her one last task: find and forge the coveted signature of the Master of Revels which will allow his troupe to become official in the eyes of the King.

In order to gain her freedom and realise her dream, Bess must decide if risking her family and love are worth it.

LM Rees has an MA in creative writing with distinction from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Her short stories have been published widely and she is the author of the academic book on Mongolian music based on her PhD thesis. Her novel *A Script for Buried Voices*, features some of her passions in life: history, Shakespeare and theatre. It was longlisted for the Exeter Novel Prize 2021 and the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize 2022.

