



# Mushens Entertainment

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2023

# Rights Guide

**TABLE NUMBERS:**

ALBA ARNAU - 16B

KIYA EVANS AND RACHEL NEELY- 15B



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

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

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## Spain, Portugal, Brazil

MB Agencia Literari SL  
P.O. Box 31308  
08080 Barcelona, Spain

## Germany

Mohrbooks AG  
Seefeldstrasse 303  
CH-8008 Zürich, Switzerland

## Scandinavia

Sebes & Bisseling  
Herengracht 623  
1017 CE Amsterdam,  
The Netherlands

## Eastern Europe

Prava i Prevodi  
Yu-Business Centre  
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## Israel

The Deborah Harris Agency  
PO Box 52195  
Jerusalem 9152101, Israel

## Turkey

Anatolia Lit  
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34710 Kadikoy-Istanbul  
Turkey

## China and Taiwan

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Taipei 106070  
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## Japan

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

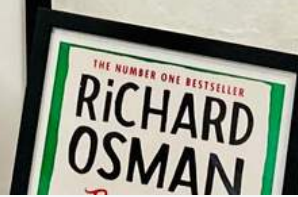
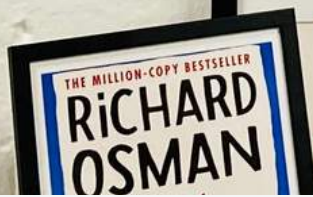
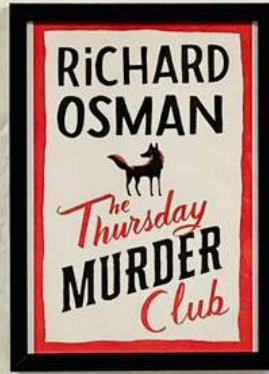
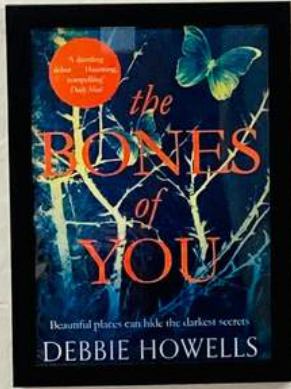
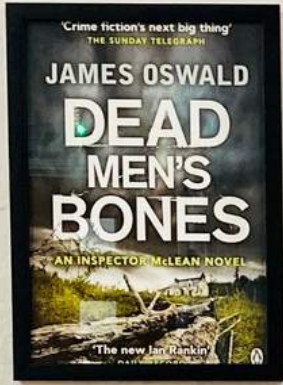
## Korea

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## Arabic

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





# Highlights

# I Hope This Finds You Well

Hattie Williams

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film Agent: Becca Rodriguez at Curate



**Publication date:**

Spring 2025

**Material:** Submission manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK: Orion (Charlotte Mursell)

NA: Bantam Dell (Caroline Weishuhn)

Germany: Ullstein

Hungary: Athenaeum

Italy: Newton Compton

Romania:

Spain: Urano

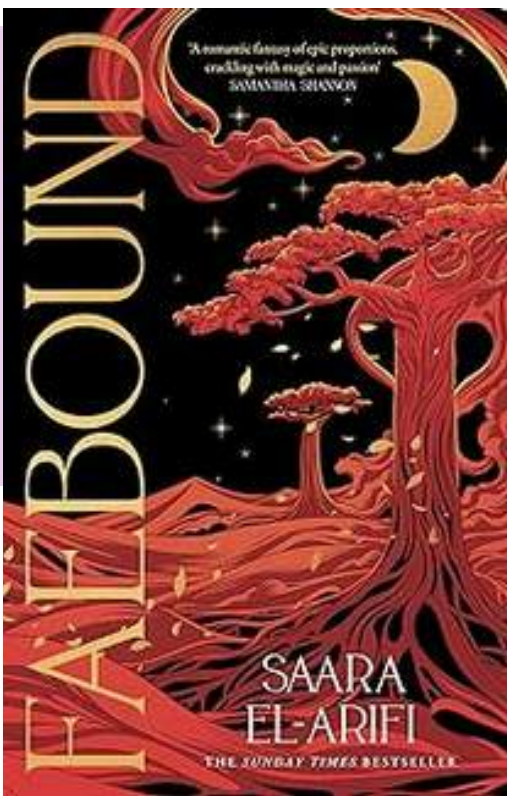
**Sold at auction for six-figure deals for two books in the UK and Germany**

**Sold in a six-figure pre-empt in the US**

**A story about being an outsider, first love and grief, and a thought-provoking look at the uneasy relationship between power, celebrity and control.**

London, 2010. Charlie is twenty-three, single and the new publicity assistant at the independent London publishing house Winden & Shane. Richard Aveling is fifty-six, married and the author that has defined his generation. For Charlie, the glamorous and urbane writer is a ticket into a world she doesn't quite belong to – and a link to her late mother, who loved his work. But forced to hide their relationship from everyone she cares about, Charlie starts to realise that she might be in too deep. And when the success of his first book in years launches him to a new level of fame where all anonymity is lost, she realises that some secrets can't stay secret forever.

**Hattie Williams left education in her teens to pursue a career as a musician. She has toured Europe extensively, made three studio albums, and worked as a composer with her tracks still regularly featured on TV and streaming services across the world. In her mid-twenties she found herself working in publishing quite by accident, and an admin temping job turned into a twelve-year career in which she worked with some of the biggest authors in the world. She spends as much time in Iceland as she can, and books and produces the Iceland Noir Literary Festival which takes place in Reykjavík every November. Hattie lives in east London with her husband and young daughter.**



# Faebound

Saara El-Arifi

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film agent: Mary Pender

**From the Sunday Times bestselling author of *The Final Strife*, comes an enchanting new trilogy, perfect for fans of *The Thorns Remain* and *The Encyclopaedia of Faeries*.**

A thousand years ago, the world held three beings: fae, elves, and humans. But now the fae and humans exist only in myth and legend, survived by the elves who are trapped in an endless war over the remaining lands. Yeeran is a colonel in the elven army and has known nothing but a life of violence and hardship. Her sister, Lettle, is a diviner whose magic promises a different future for her and her sister, but the prophecies have yet to come to pass.

When a fatal mistake leads to Yeeran's exile from the Elven Lands, Lettle, fearful for her sister's life, follows her into the uncharted territory beyond their borders. In the wilderness the sisters encounter the largest obeah they have ever seen. Part leopard, part stag, the obeah's magic is harnessed to make weapons for the elven war. It is during this hunt that they are confronted with the impossible: a group of fae who take them captive. Imprisoned in a new land, they must navigate the politics of the fae court all while planning their escape.

Now Yeeran and Lettle are fighting a different kind of war: between their loyalty to their elven homeland and the intoxicating world of the fae, between what duty decrees is right, and what their hearts tell them they need.

**Publication date:**

18 Jan 2024

**Material:**

First proofs

**Rights sold:**

UK: HarperVoyager  
(Natasha Bardon)

US: Del Rey

**Option publishers:**

France: De Saxus

Italy: Mondadori

**Saara's heritage has always been intrinsically linked to the themes of her stories. She was raised by a Ghanaian/British mother and a Sudanese/Arab father—who were both brought up Christian and Muslim respectively. Her creative writing and specialism in theatre led her to the big screen, and she currently works at Pinewood Film Studios as the Global Senior Manager for Comms and Social Media.**



# Always On My Mind

Carys Jones

Agent: Liza DeBlock

Film co-agent: Tara Timinsky at Grandview LA

**Publication Date:**

TBC 2025

**Material:** Submission manuscript

**Rights:**

UK: Harvill Secker (Katie Ellis-Brown)

**Sold in a pre-empt in the UK**

**Harvill Secker's lead crime/thriller debut for 2025**

When Elijah suggests going to OneMind to celebrate their ten year anniversary, Anna is dubious and also relieved. She had been anticipating the request for a threesome in an attempt to spice things up between them, but instead Elijah wants to bond them in the most intimate of ways.

Anna is touched that Elijah would want this. A chance to share their conscious thoughts via a new, revolutionary technology. And at first things are great. Idyllic. Anna knows everything her husband is thinking. His every waking thought. But then she develops a strange side effect. Dreams that aren't dreams. Dreams that are memories. Memories that aren't hers. And if Anna is now experiencing Elijah's memories, does that mean he can access hers? Does that mean he's now aware of her darkest secret?

Suddenly Anna's mind is a prison, where she has to repeat nursery rhymes to stop her thoughts betraying her. Everything has to be spoken. And soon she is trapped in a deadly game of cat and mouse.

**Carys lives in Shropshire with her husband, daughter, and dog. When she's not writing she can often be found indulging two of her greatest passions - either walking round the local woodland or catching up on all things Disney related. Carys has written novels before but will be positioned as a 'debut' as this marks a departure from her previous work.**



# The Woman in the Wallpaper

Lora Jones

Agent: Rachel Neely

Film and TV: Tara Timinsky at Grandview LA

**A propulsive historical debut for fans of *The Miniaturist* and *The Doll Factory*, following three women living at a textiles factory in late eighteenth-century Paris.**

**Publication date:**

TBC 2025

**Material:**

Unedited manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK: Sphere (Rosanna Forte)

US: Union Square

Spain: Planeta

**UK rights pre-empted within 24-hours for a significant six-figure sum.**

**US rights pre-empted within two working days for a significant six-figure sum.**

***The Woman in the Wallpaper* will be a lead title for Union Square and will be Sphere's superlead title for 2025.**

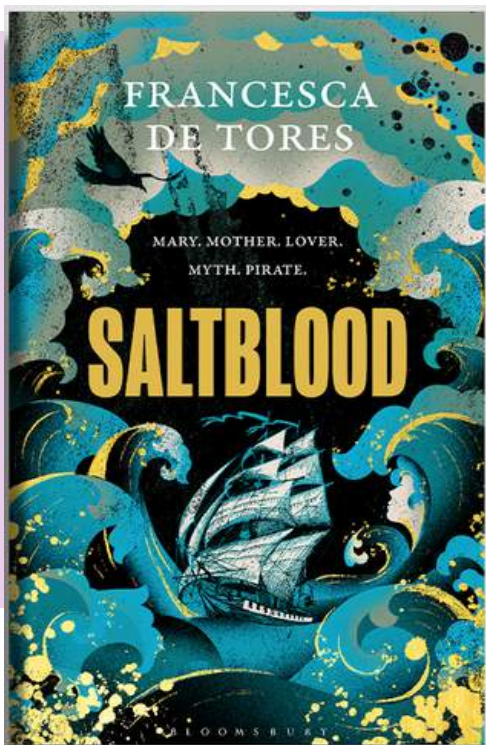
After the death of their father, gentle Lara and headstrong Sofi find work at a factory renowned for the intricate illustrations on their wallpaper. They quickly notice that the same woman appears in every idyllic vignette: the former mistress of the house, who met an untimely death years before and who bears more than a passing resemblance to Lara.

As the sisters adapt to the rhythms of life at the factory, Lara attracts the attention of the factory owner's son, Josef, and the scorn of his unhappy wife, Hortense. Lara soon realises there is something uncannily familiar about her interactions with Josef and that her life is mirroring the scenes illustrated on the wallpaper that lines her bedchamber.

As the strange occurrences surrounding the wallpaper become ever more unnerving, Lara finds herself wondering: is history repeating itself and, if so, will she share the same tragic fate as her doppelgänger, a fate that seems to be, literally, written on the wall?

**After studying English Literature at the University of Durham, Lora began her career in the TV industry, reading scripts and writing for ITV, the BBC, Channel 4 and others. Lora lives in the rugged, myth-steeped hills of North Wales.**

***The Woman in the Wallpaper* is her debut novel.**



# Saltblood

Francesca de Tores

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film Agent: Rich Green

**Mary Read.**

**Mark Read.**

**Unwanted daughter.**

**Dead son.**

**Feared pirate.**

**Wife. Mother. Lover.**

**Publication date:**

TBC 2024

**Material:** Submission manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK: Bloomsbury (Emma Herdman)

Italy: EO

**Saltblood was pre-empted in a significant six-figure deal and will be the lead title for Bloomsbury in 2024**

*Saltblood* follows Mary Read – sometimes living as Mark Read – the infamous pirate who terrorised the seas in the Golden Age of Piracy. Raised as a boy in order to collect inheritance money, they continued to live as a man during a stint in the navy, before returning to sea as a woman and eventually becoming a feared pirate alongside Anne Bonny.

Mary Read lived untold lives, and this novel takes you on a coming-of-age journey from grand houses to ships sailing beneath a flag of death, from the misery of loss to the untold pleasures of love.

Francesca's research was impeccable and she was fascinated by the intricacies and nuances of Mary's existence, gender presentation, and love.

**Francesca De Tores has previously been published as Francesca Haig (where she has published award-winning poetry, a YA fantasy trilogy, and a literary contemporary novel). This is her historical debut. Francesca is a former creative-writing lecturer and her previous novels have received starred reviews from *Kirkus*, *Booklist* and *Library Journal*.**



# Cold Blue

Patrick Walshe

Agent: Liza DeBlock

**Publication date:**

On submission

**Material:** Submission manuscript

Jane Barrington is young, hungry, untested – a journalist keen to make her mark. Then the opportunity of a lifetime arrives; for the first time in over a century, visitors can enter the RMS Titanic and stay at the luxurious underwater hotel that has been built around it. For a small fortune, guests can walk along the decks, view the abandoned rooms, and dine amongst the world’s most famous wreckage.

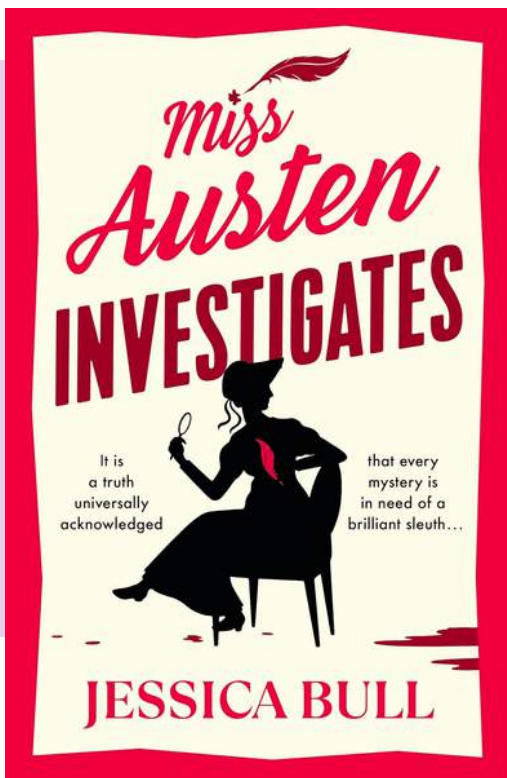
When Jane wins a lottery to join and document the pre-opening voyage, she’s determined to make this her ticket out of her small-town newspaper. But an unexpected storm means the guests are trapped at the bottom of the ocean, and tensions reach a fever pitch – then one of them is murdered. Suddenly, what began as a VIP trip rapidly becomes a claustrophobic nightmare...

Who is the predator among them? Why are the owners so enigmatic? What secrets is the Titanic hiding, two and a half miles beneath the surface of the Atlantic Ocean? And why, Jane begins to wonder, were they all invited there in the first place...

**Patrick Walshe is an Irish writer who has had plays performed in Dublin, before turning his eye to novel writing. He is fascinated by worlds that largely mirror our own, with a twist. He is currently writing his second book, another thriller.**



# Crime & Thriller



# Miss Austen Investigates

Jess Bull

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Pub date:** Spring 2024

**Material:** Copyedited mss

**Rights sold:**

UK: Michael Joseph (Jess Leeke)

US: Union Square

Brazil: Rocco

Croatia: Znanje

Czech: Jota

Finland: Bazar

France: J'ai Lu

Germany: Droemer

Italy: Piemme

Netherlands: Luitingh Sijthoff

Portugal: Topseller

Russia: Eksmo

Serbia: Vulkan

Spain: Alfaguara

Sweden: HarperCollins

Ukraine: Family Leisure Club

**Hampshire, 1795:** A young Jane Austen is plotting to secure a marriage proposal from Tom Lefroy when she uncovers the body of a murdered woman. After her beloved brother, Georgie, is implicated in the crime, Jane has six weeks to expose the real killer, or Georgie will face the gallows.

Jane Austen – witty, spirited, and incredibly clever – is suddenly thrust into a mystery when a milliner's dead body is found locked inside a cupboard in the middle of a ball. When Jane's brother Georgie is found with some jewellery belonging to the deceased, the local officials see it as an open and shut case: one which is likely to end with his death. Jane is certain that he is innocent, and there is more to the murder than meets the eye. Her investigations send her on a journey through local society, as Jane's suspect list keeps on growing – and her keen observational skills of people will be put to the test to solve the crime, and save her brother.

***Miss Austen Investigates* sold in a 4-way auction in the UK, and was pre-empted for six-figures in the US.**

**Jess Bull grew up in South East London, where she still lives with her husband, two daughters, and far too many pets. She's addicted to stories and studied English Literature at Bristol University, and Information Science at City University, London. She began her career as a librarian (under the false impression she could sit and read all day), before becoming a communications consultant. *Miss Austen Investigates* is her debut novel.**



# The Voices

Natalie Chandler

Agent: Liza DeBlock

Film: Emily Hayward-Whitlock at TAP

**They say it was an accident, but you can hear every word they say, and they aren't telling the truth. Then again, before the crash, neither were you...**

**Publication date:**

Spring 2025

**Material:**

Submission material

**Rights sold:**

UK: HarperNorth (Daisy Watt)

Germany: Droemer Knaur

Italy: Giunti

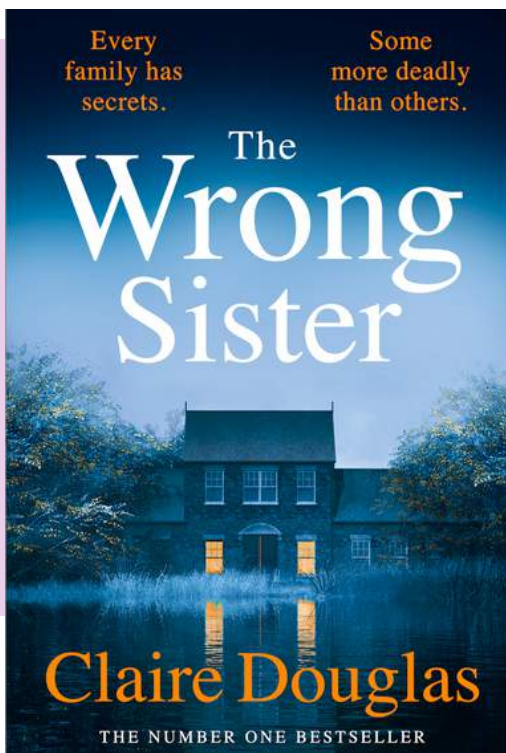
**The Voices was pre-empted by HarperNorth and will be their lead thriller in 2025.**

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, Tamsin must somehow prove that, unbeknownst to those around her, 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. 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 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.**



# The Wrong Sister

Claire Douglas

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Mary Pender at UTA

**\*The first hardback from the million-copy number 1 bestseller\***

**Publication date:**

14 March 2024

**Material:** Proof PDF

**See next page for rights**

***The Wrong Sister* will be Claire's first book published in hardback, with an 'unmissable' marketing and publicity campaign.**

**A lifeswap that ends in murder - but is it a case of mistaken identity or something far more sinister?**

Tasha has always felt in the shadow of her high-flying and intelligent older sister, Alice, despite there only being eleven months between them. Alice is happily married to the wealthy and handsome entrepreneur Kyle and has a high-flying career and a lavish lifestyle, and Tasha has been with Harry since school, living in a Bristol suburb with their four-year-old twins.

When Alice realises that Tasha is struggling she suggests they do a life swap for a week: Tasha heads to Venice, whilst Alice moves into her house to take care of the twins. But a few days into the trip Tasha receives a phone call from her mother-in-law to say that Alice is recovering in hospital and Kyle is dead. At first they believe it was a random attack or a burglary gone wrong until Tasha receives a note, pushed through her letterbox, saying IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE YOU.

*The Wrong Sister* is a psychological thriller about family secrets, the past coming back to haunt you, and the lies we tell the world, and ourselves.

**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.**

# Claire Douglas' publishers

## **Rights sold:**

UK: Michael Joseph (Maxine Hitchcock)

US: HarperCollins

Germany: Penguin

Netherlands: Bruna

Norway: Gyldendal

Poland: Filia

Portugal: Presenca

Romania: Grup Media

## **Options:**

Albania: Botema Bot

Brazil: Trama

Croatia: Egmont

Czech: Albatros

Estonia: Postimehe Kirjastus

Hungary: Tericum

Korea: Korea Studies

Lithuania: Vega

Russia: Eksmo

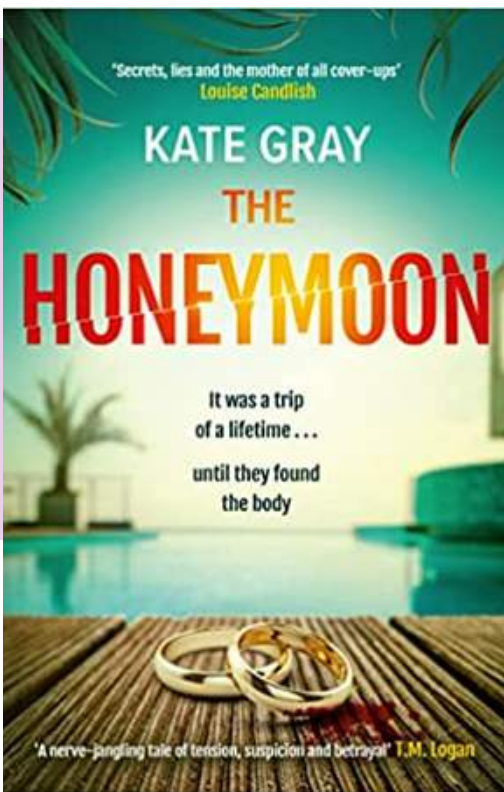
Slovenia: Zalozba Učila

Spain: Planeta

Sweden: Modernista

Taiwan: Ecus

- **Number 1 bestseller in the UK and Top 20 bestseller for the Spiegel Bestseller list for her six previous books**
- **10 weeks in *Sunday Times* list for her most recent novel, *The Woman Who Lied***



# The Honeymoon

Kate Gray

Agent: Juliet Mushens

***Two happy couples.***

***One dead body.***

***A whole load of secrets.***

***Married life wasn't meant to start like this.***

**Publication date:**

20 July 2023

**Material:**

Final PDF

**Rights sold:**

UK: Welbeck

Ukraine: Knigolove

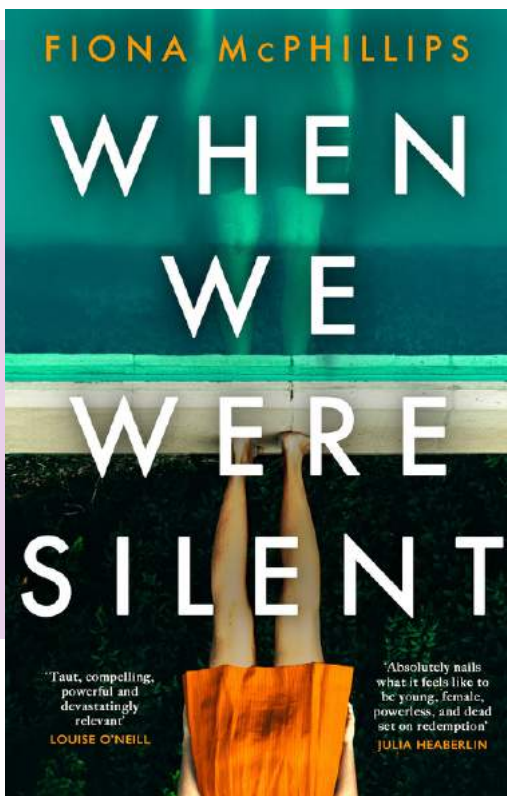
On honeymoon in Bali, you hit it off with another newlywed couple and celebrate your last night at a fancy cliff-side restaurant.

No one predicted the evening would end with a dead body. But it was an accident, right? A tragic accident.

The honeymoon may be over but it soon becomes clear that there's another side to this story . . . and your life depends on uncovering it.

Many marriages can survive anything – but when it starts on a lie is it really 'til death do us part?

***The Honeymoon* is the debut psychological thriller from Kate Gray. Kate is obsessed with who-dunnits, page-turner plot twists and novels that make you want to keep the light on. She has previously published six commercial women's fiction novels with HQ as Katy Colins.**



# When We Were Silent

Fiona McPhillips

Agent: Rachel Neely

Film & TV: Emily Hayward Whitlock

**Pub date:** May 2024

**Material:** Edited manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK: Transworld (Imogen Nelson)

US: Flatiron

Hungary: Agave

**When We Were Silent was pre-empted in both the UK and the US in significant six-figure deals**

In 1980s Dublin, 17-year-old Louise Manson is a new student at Highfield Manor. Shortly after enrolling at the exclusive private school, she discovers that her new best friend Shauna is being abused by their swimming coach. Lou sets out to entrap and expose the teacher, but ends up implicated in his murder.

Thirty years later, when a lawsuit is brought against another teacher at Highfield, Shauna's brother takes on the student's case and enlists Lou to testify to the school's history of burying allegations of abuse, in the hopes of bringing down the institution that has repeatedly chosen to protect its reputation over the students in their care.

**Fiona McPhillips is a journalist and author of two non-fiction books. Her prose has been published in *The Manchester Review*, *Barren*, *Hobart* and elsewhere and her poetry has appeared in *Atrium*, *Headstuff* and *The Galway Review*. *When We Were Silent* was runner-up for the 2021 CWA Debut Dagger award. She is also the recipient of a 2021 Arts Council literature bursary.**



# New Series

## Richard Osman

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film co-agent: Emily Hayward-Whitlock at TAP

**Publication date:**

September 2024

**Material:** Final manuscript coming July 2024

**See next page for rights**

This new series by the record-breaking, internationally bestselling Richard Osman stars a father and daughter-in-law duo who run their own private investigation company which takes them around the world, solving mysteries that nobody else can.

Richard Osman has worked as an executive producer on numerous UK TV 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  
Catalan: Columna  
Finland: Otava  
Germany: Ullstein  
Italy: SEM  
Netherlands: Cargo  
Norway: Gursli Berg  
Spain: Planeta  
Sweden: Albert Bonniers

Greece: Psychogios  
Hungary: Agave  
Iceland: Drapa  
Israel: Tchelet  
Japan: Hayakawa  
Kazakhstan: Foliant  
Korea: Sallim  
Latvia: ABC  
Lithuania: Jotema  
Macedonia: Kultura  
Poland: Agora  
Portugal: Planeta  
Romania: SC Crime Scene Press  
Russia: Mann, Ivanoc, and Ferber  
Serbia: Vulkan  
Slovakia: Slovart  
Slovenia: Mladinska  
Taiwan: Faces  
Thailand: Biblio  
Turkey: Bilgi  
Ukraine: Family Leisure Club  
Vietnam: 1980

## **Options:**

Albania: Polis  
Arabic: Dar Al Tanweer  
Armenia: Newmag  
Brazil: Intrinseca  
Bulgaria: Soft Press  
China: Jieli  
Croatia: Egmont  
Czech: Jota  
Denmark: Gyldendal  
Estonia: Rahva Raamat  
France: Lattes

***The Thursday Murder Club* series has sold over 6,500,000 copies in the UK alone since publication in September 2020, and over 10,500,000 copies worldwide.**

***The Man Who Died Twice* was officially one of the fastest-selling novels since records began, with over 100,000 copies sold in its first week in the UK.**

***The Bullet That Missed* is one of the fastest selling UK hardbacks since records began, and Penguin Random House's most pre-ordered audiobook of all time.**

***The Last Devil To Die* is the fastest selling novel by a UK novelist since records began, and the fastest selling UK hardback since Bookscan records began, breaking the record held previously by *The Bullet That Missed*, with 146,919 copies sold in the first week. It was an instant #1 NYT bestseller.**



# General Fiction



# My Name is Pearl

Claire Frances

Agent: Rachel Neely

**A brilliantly funny and heart-warming debut novel for fans of *The Authenticity Project* and *Meredith Alone*, inspired by the author's own experience of living with OCD.**

**Publication Date:**

On submission

**Material:** Submission

manuscript

Pearl O'Reilly has spent most of her life within the small Irish village of Drangan. Living with OCD, Pearl finds solace in the small routines of her life – lunch with her best friend Una, talking with her therapist Mairead and working with the O'Callaghans in their local shop. Her other routines – from needing to count to ten before she can go up or down the stairs, to obsessively sanitising her hands – pose more of a problem.

Then Pearl meets Jack, a Kiwi travelling around Ireland. His visit is short, but when Jack leaves Pearl a note saying that he loves her, she begins to invest in a different vision of her life – one where her and handsome Jack live happily ever after in New Zealand. Encouraged by Jack's flirtatious texts, and Una's insistence that Pearl needs to explore the world outside of rural Ireland, Pearl decides to board a flight for New Zealand, an adventure that will push her to her limits and change her life – just not in the way she expects.

**Claire Frances has a Masters in Professional Writing and has worked as a journalist and feature writer for *BBC Countryfile Magazine*, *Devon Life* and *The Huffington Post UK*. Claire lives on Dartmoor with her husband and two children. She finds her inspiration to write flows most freely when she's roaming the moors with Charlie, her Chocolate Labrador.**



# Better Left Unsent

Lia Louis

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film Agent: Emily Hayward-Whitlock at TAP

**A woman accidentally reveals all her secrets in this witty and charming novel from the author of *Eight Perfect Hours*.**

**Publication date:**

16 January 2024

**Material:** Edited manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK: Bonnier (Sarah Bauer)

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

Two years ago, thirty-year-old receptionist Millie Chandler had her heart spectacularly broken in public. Ever since, she has been a closed book, vowing to keep everything to herself – her feelings, her truths, even her dreams – in an effort to protect herself from getting hurt again.

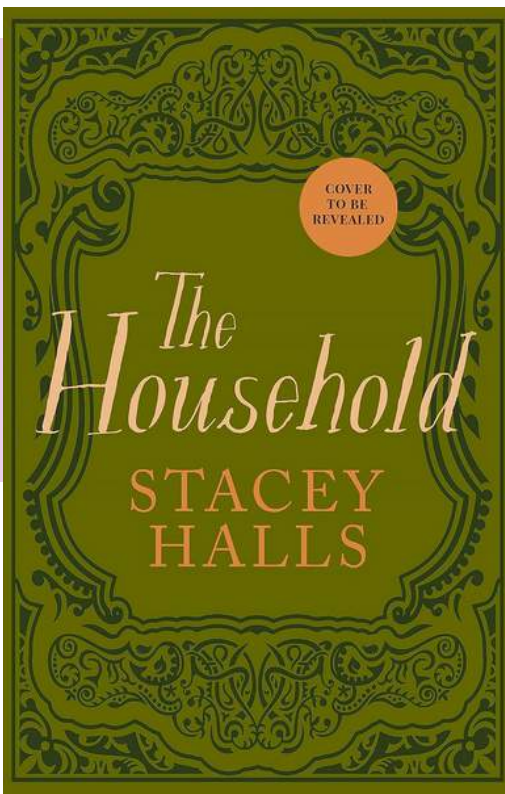
But Millie does write emails – sarcastic replies to her rude boss, hard truths to her friends, and of course, that one-thousand-word love declaration to her ex who is now engaged to someone else. The emails live safely in her drafts, but after a server outage at work, Millie wakes up to discover that all her draft emails have been sent. Every. Single. One.

As every truth, lie, and secret she's worked so hard to keep only to herself are catapulted out into the open, Millie must fix the chaos her words have caused, and face everything she's ever swept under the carpet. With her signature "tender and heartwarming" (Anstey Harris, author of *When I First Held You*) prose, Lia Louis presents another unforgettable and moving novel that is perfect for fans of Rebecca Serle and Emily Henry.

**Better Left Unsent was sold in a 3-way auction, and marks Lia Louis' move to a new publisher**

**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.**





# The Household

Stacey Halls

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film Agent: Emily Hayward-Whitlock at TAP

**From the *Sunday Times* bestseller and winner of the Women's Prize Futures Award, the captivating, highly anticipated new novel, inspired by real historical figures and events.**

**Publication date:**

11 April 2024

**Material:**

Edited manuscript

**See next page for rights**

**No2 bestseller for all her previous books**

**Winner of the Women's Prize × Good Housekeeping Futures Award**

In a quiet house in the countryside outside London, the finishing touches are being made to welcome a group of young women. The house and its location are top secret, its residents unknown to one another, but the girls have one thing in common: they are fallen. Offering refuge for prostitutes, petty thieves and the destitute, Urania Cottage is a second chance at life – but how badly do they want it?

Meanwhile, a few miles away in a Piccadilly mansion, millionairess Angela Burdett-Coutts, one of the benefactors of Urania Cottage, makes a discovery that leaves her cold: her stalker of 10 years has been released from prison...

As the women's worlds collide in ways they could never have expected, they will discover that freedom always comes at a price.

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

# Stacey Halls publishers

## **Rights:**

UK: Bonnier (Sophie Orme)

US: Mira

France: Lafon and Pocket

## **Option publishers:**

Arabic: Darmolhimon

China: Beijing White Horse Time  
Culture Development

Croatia: Znanje

Czech: Pavel – Dobrovsky Beta

Germany: Piper

Hungary: XXI. Század

Italy: Neripozza

Israel: Kinneret

Korea: Korean Media Studies

Lithuania: Balto

Netherlands: The House of Books

Norway: Gursli-berg

Poland: Swiat Ksiazki

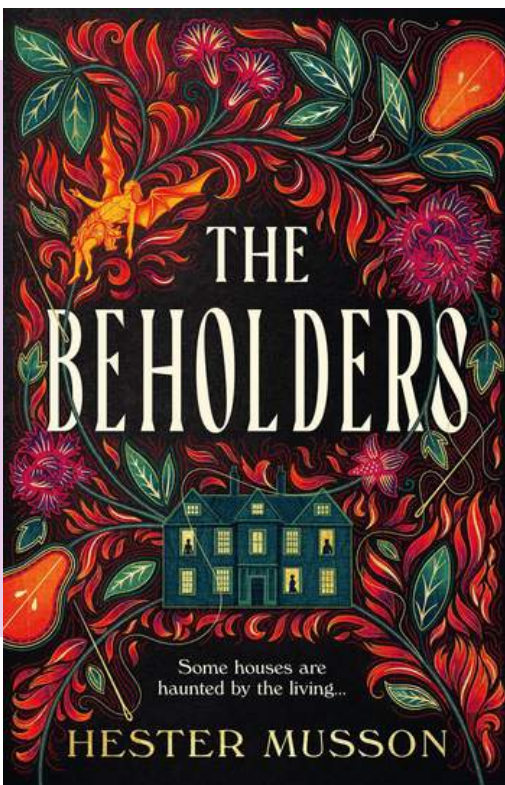
Portugal: Saida de Emergencia

Romania: Nemira

Russia: Eksmo

Spain: Urano

Sweden: Bokfabriken



# The Beholders

Hester Musson

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Pub date:**

18 January 2024

**Material:**

Edited manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK: 4th Estate (Katie Bowden)

Finland: Minerva

Spain: Versatil

**THE BEHOLDERS sold in a 6 figures pre-empt**

**Will be a superlead title for 4th Estate**

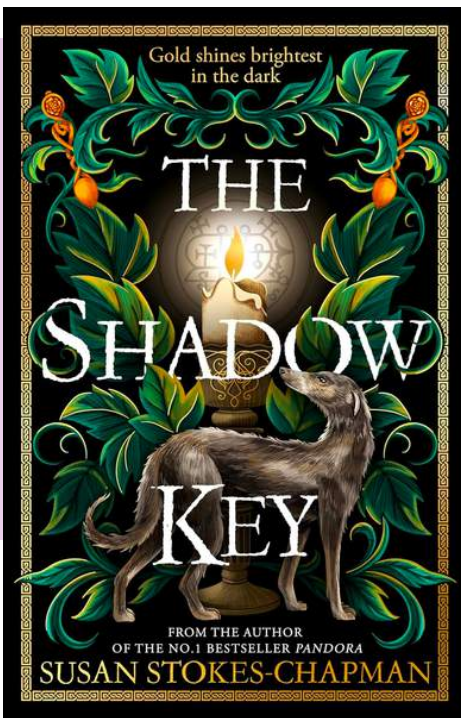
**June, 1878.** The body of a boy is pulled from the depths of the River Thames, suspected to be the beloved missing child of the widely admired Liberal MP Ralph Gethin.

**Four months earlier.** Harriet is a young maid newly employed at Finton Hall. Fleeing the drudgery of an unwanted engagement in the small village where she grew up, Harriet is entranced by the grand country hall; she is entranced too by her glamorous mistress Clara Gethin, whose unearthly singing voice floats through the house. But Clara, though captivating, is erratic. The master of the house is a much-lauded politician, but he is strangely absent. And some of their beautiful belongings seem to tell terrible stories.

Unable to ignore her growing unease, Harriet sets out to discover their secrets. When she uncovers a shocking truth, a chain of events is set in motion that could cost Harriet everything, even her freedom...

**Hester Musson studied English Literature at Bristol University and has a Masters in drama from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.**

**While pursuing an acting career, her day jobs included working in TV as a freelance autocue operator. She currently writes for Art Fund, the national charity for art, and its magazine *Art Quarterly*, and blogs for a nature conservation and rewilding organisation in Devon.**



# The Shadow Key

Susan Stokes-Chapman

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

TBC

**Material:** Edited manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK: Harvill Secker

US: HarperCollins

**Option publishers:**

Brazil: Verus

Bulgaria: List

Croatia: Stilus

Czech: Euromedia

France: Lafon

Germany: DTV

Hungary: Alexandra

Italy: NeriPozza

Poland: Kobiece

Portugal: Minoaturo (Grupo Almedina)

Slovakia: Grada

Romania: Nemira

Russia: Eksmo

Serbia: Vulkan

Spain: Duomo

Turkey: Eksik

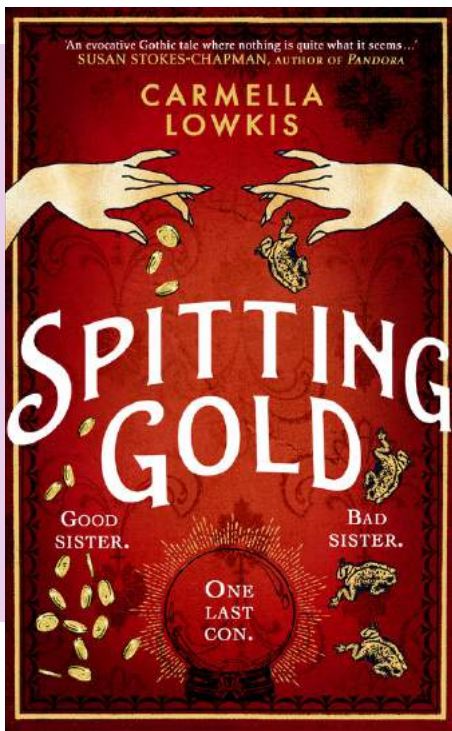
**Meirionydd, 1783.** Henry Talbot has been dismissed from his post at a prestigious London hospital. The only job he can find is as a physician in the backwaters of Wales where he can't speak the language, belief in myth and magic is rife, and the villagers treat him with bewildering suspicion. When Henry discovers his predecessor died under mysterious circumstances, he is determined to find answers.

Linette Tresilian, the unconventional mistress of Plas Helyg, lives a lonely life. Her father is long dead, her mother haunted by demons which keep her locked away in her room, and her cousin treats her with cool disdain - she has had no choice but to become fiercely self-reliant.

Linette has always suspected something is not quite right in the village, but it is only through Henry's investigations that the truth about those closest to her will come to light...a truth that will bind hers and Henry's destinies together in ways neither thought possible.

***Pandora was a Sunday Times No.1 Bestseller in Hardback***

**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.**



# Spitting Gold

Carmella Lowkis

Agent: Rachel Neely

Film & TV: Emily Hayward Whitlock at TAP

**Publication date:**

May 2024

**Material:** Edited Manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK: Doubleday (Kirsty Dunseath)

US: Atria (Loan Le)

Italy: Nord

***Spitting Gold* was sold in a six-figure pre-empt in the UK, after multiple pre-emptive attempts. Shortly after securing the UK deal it was pre-empted for a second time, in another six-figure deal with Atria in the US.**

**Paris, 1866.** When Baroness Sylvie Devereux receives a house-call from Charlotte Mothe, the penniless sister she disowned several years ago, she fears that her shady past is about to catch up with her high-society present. With their father ill and Charlotte unable to pay his medical bills, Sylvie is persuaded to reprise her role as a gifted medium.

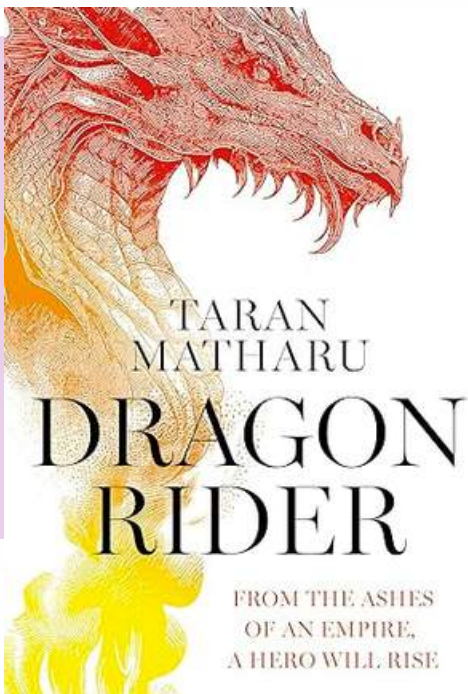
The sisters are recruited by the De Jacquinots, who believe they are being haunted by their Great Aunt, the Comtesse de Lisle, who is rumoured to have hidden the family fortune before her death. The De Jacquinots hire Sylvie and Charlotte to find the treasure and exorcise the ghost.

The con gets underway, with the sisters deploying every trick in their playbook. But when inexplicable things start to happen, Sylvie begins to wonder if she has finally come face to face with a real ghost, or if she herself is being conned. Only one thing is for certain - when it comes to the De Jacquinots, treasure isn't the only thing they have buried.

**Carmella Lowkis grew up in Wiltshire and has a degree in English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Warwick, where she was mentored by Sarah Moss (the *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Summerwater*). After graduating, she worked in libraries, before moving into book marketing. She is currently a Senior Marketing Executive at Vintage, PRH, and lives in North London with her girlfriend.**



# Sci-Fi & Fantasy



# The Dragon Rider Trilogy: Book 1

Taran Matharu

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film Agent: Rich Green at the Gotham Group

Can an orphan captive learn the secrets of the Dragon Riders to stand up and avenge his people?

Jai lives as a royal hostage in the Sabine Court--ever since his father Rohan, leader of the Steppefolk, led a failed rebellion and was executed by the very emperor Jai now serves.

When the emperor's son and heir is betrothed to Princess Erica of the neighboring Dansk Kingdom, she brings with her a dowry: dragons. Endemic to the northern nation, these powerful beasts come in several forms, but mystery surrounds them. Only Dansk royalty know the secret to soulbonding with these dangerous beasts to draw on their power and strength. This marriage--and the alliance that forms--will change that forever.

But conspirators lurk in the shadows, and soon the Sabine Court is in chaos. With his life in danger, Jai uses the opportunity to escape with the Dansk handmaiden, Frida, and a stolen hatchling. Hunted at every turn, he must learn to cultivate magic and become a soulbound warrior if he has any chance of finding safety, seizing his destiny...and seeking his revenge.

## Publication date:

25 April 2024

## Material:

Edited manuscript

## Rights sold:

UK: HarperVoyager

US: HarperVoyager

Denmark: Forar

Germany: Heyne

Italy: Mondadori

Netherlands: Van Goor

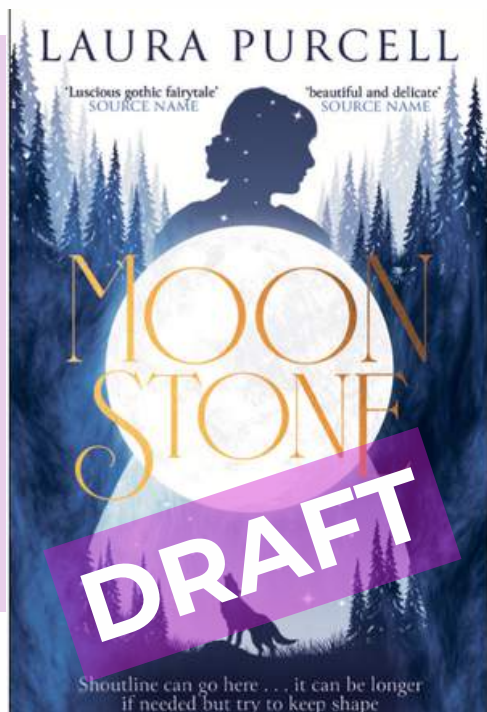
Poland: Jaguar

Spain: Urano

**Sold in 6 figure pre-empt in the UK and US**

**This is Taran's debut adult novel**

**Taran Matharu is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Summoner* series, which has been translated into 15 languages and has sold over a million copies in English. He was born in London in 1990. Taran began to write the *Summoner* series in November 2013 at the age of 22, taking part in 'Nanowrimo 2013' and sharing his work on Wattpad.com. The shared sample of the story went viral, reaching over 3 million reads in less than six months.**



# Moonstone

Laura Purcell

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film: Dana Spector at CAA

**From award-winning bestseller Laura Purcell comes her YA debut, MOONSTONE, a sparkling, chilling gothic romance with real bite...**

Following a scandal at Vauxhall pleasure gardens, Camille is sent away to her reclusive godmother, who keeps a strict watch over her and her own sickly daughter, Lucy. Camille must stay away from everything she has known until the scandal is forgotten, keeping strictly to the small farmhouse in the woods.

Away from the corsetry and curtsies of polite society, Camille finds herself surprisingly...free. She is also strangely drawn to Lucy, a pale, fragile girl who dreams of stars, but has never left the farm.

Yet as Camille and Lucy grow close and cross forbidden boundaries, the fine balance of their woodland home begins to shift: death stalks between the trees, claw-marks rake the doors and the moon rises to the song of a creature Camille has never heard before.

Camille begins to realise her godmother was holding more than unladylike behaviour at bay...

**Publication date:**

23 May 2024

**Material:** Material coming soon

**Rights sold:**

UK: Magpie (HarperVoyager)

Spain: Urano

**This is Laura Purcell's first ever YA novel**

**Laura Purcell is the Edgar Award nominated author of *The Silent Companions*, *The Corset*, *Bone China*, *The Shape of Darkness*, and she contributed to the *Sunday Times* bestselling *The Haunting Season*. She is a former bookseller who lives in Colchester, Essex with her husband and pet guinea pigs.**



# The Gods Below: Book 1

Andrea Stewart

Agent: Juliet Mushens

**Publication date:**

TBC 2024

**Material:** Unedited manuscript

**Rights sold:**

UK: Orbit

US: Orbit

**Option publishers:**

Brazil: Autentica

France: Bragelonne

Germany: Blanvalet

Poland: Fabryka

Russia: Azbooka-Atticus

Spain: Trini

Turkey: Epsilon

**Andrea Stewart is a Sunday  
Times Bestseller**

Hundreds of years ago a man made a pact with a god to restore their scorched land to its former beauty. But when a wall of shadows approaches, Hakara flees for the border with other refugees, trying to get out, she inadvertently leaves her sister behind.

Years later, Hakara is living in a new realm, mining sinkholes for the precious gems that fulfill their part of the god pact, desperate to find her sister, no matter how changed she might be. But when she discovers that these gems are magical seeds and gains powers as a result, she is inducted into a secret society that has one goal: to break the god pact.

She has no interest in doing so until they dangle a carrot in front of her: they know where her sister is.

Plunging into the tumultuous politics of the four remaining unrestored realms and a clandestine battle between gods, Hakara must find ways to shatter the alliances that keep the god-pact in place—if she ever hopes to see her sister again.

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

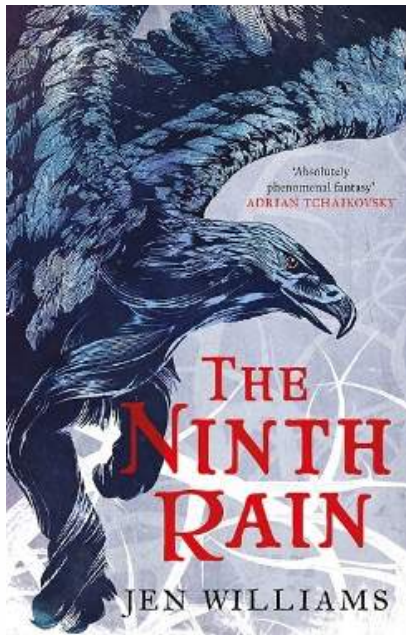
# The Winnowing Flame Trilogy

Jen Williams

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film: Emily Hayward Whitlock at TAP

Rights sold: Headline (UK), MAG (Poland), Popcorn Books (Russia)



## THE NINTH RAIN

**Pub date:** 13 July 2017

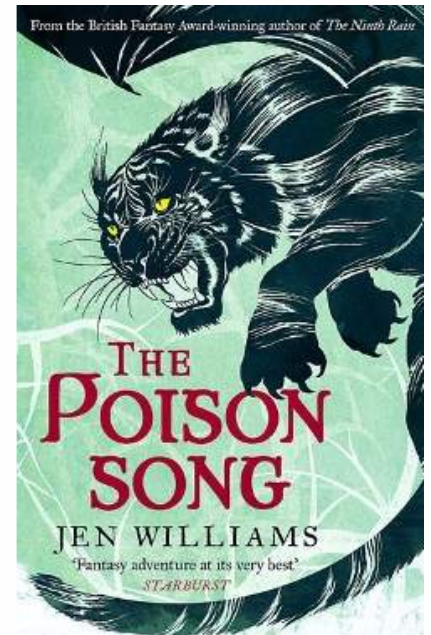
The great city of Eborā once glittered with gold. Tormalin the Oathless has no taste for sitting around waiting to die while the realm of his storied ancestors falls to pieces. When eccentric explorer, Lady Vincenza 'Vintage' de Grazon, offers him employment, he sees an easy way out. But not everyone is willing to let the Eboran empire collapse, and the adventurers are quickly drawn into a tangled conspiracy of magic and war.



## THE BITTER TWINS

**Pub date:** 9 August 2018

Tormalin the Oathless and the fell-witch Noon have their work cut out rallying the first war-beasts to be born in Eborā for three centuries. The key to uniting them, according to the scholar Vintage, may lie in a part of Sarn no one really believes exists – a distant island, mysteriously connected to the fate of two legendary Eborans who disappeared long ago. But finding it will mean a perilous journey in a time of war, while new monsters lie in wait for those left behind.



## THE POISON SONG

**Pub date:** 23 January 2020

The deep-rooted connection that Tormalin, Noon and the scholar Vintage share with their Eboran war-beasts has kept them alive so far. But with Tor distracted, the people of Sarn need all the help they can get.

Noon is no stranger to playing with fire and knows just where to recruit a new – and powerful – army. But even she underestimates the epic quest that is to come. It is a journey wrought with pain and sacrifice – a reckoning that will change the face of Sarn forever.

**Jen Williams lives in London. Having been a fan of grisly fairy tales from a young age, these days Jen writes dark unsettling thrillers with strong female leads, as well as character-driven fantasy novels with plenty of adventure and magic. She has twice won the British Fantasy Award for her *Winnowing Flame* trilogy.**



Coming  
Soon



**On submission December  
2023/January 2024**

# Cleopatra

Saara El-Arifi

Agent: Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film agent: Mary Pender

**You know my name, but you do not know me.**

Saara El-Arifi reimagines one of the world's most famous women in *Cleopatra*, bringing to life the last Pharaoh of Egypt in a heart-wrenching and powerful new epic.

After the death of her father, nineteen-year-old Cleopatra is thrust upon the throne, unaware of what the next twenty years would bring. Blessed by the Goddess Isis, Cleopatra's reign is plagued by Roman intervention that even her deity cannot stop. She must navigate the Roman civil war, the wrath of the gods, but most of all the lure of love.

Writing back to the millenia of propaganda and myth-making, El-Arifi weaves together a never seen before rendition of Cleopatra in this captivating new tale. With the magical spark of Jennifer Saint's *Ariadne* and the feminist heart of Madeline Miller's *Circe*, *Cleopatra* promises a spell-binding adventure in the land of ancient Egypt.

**Saara's heritage has always been intrinsically linked to the themes of her stories. She was raised by a Ghanaian/British mother and a Sudanese/Arab father—who were both brought up Christian and Muslim respectively. Her creative writing and specialism in theatre led her to the big screen, where she worked in film marketing and communications for nearly a decade.**



# In The Dark

## Nell Pattison

Agent: Juliet Mushens

Film agent: Kristina Moore at UTA

**On submission early 2024**

Steph is driving through a rural area one night when she spots a car on the verge, and two people huddling at the roadside. Against her better judgement she stops, finding Mandy and her eleven-year-old daughter, Tia. Mandy explains that she and her daughter are going to see her terminally-ill father, but their car has broken down, and Steph offers to help them.

Over the next few hours, it emerges that neither of the women are what they seem. Tia is deaf, and Mandy insists on communicating for her daughter, leaving Stephanie to wonder about the haunted look in the girl's eyes. Steph starts to believe the pair are running from something or someone – just as Steph is.

Meanwhile, DI Tom Murray of Humberside Police is having the worst night of his life. His star witness in a high-profile murder case is found murdered, and when he races home he discovers his daughter has disappeared, spirited away from the house by her estranged mother. He must choose between salvaging the case and possibly his career, and finding his wife and daughter, all without letting anyone know the secrets he's been hiding about his own home life.

**After studying English at university, Nell Pattison became a teacher and specialised in Deaf education. She has been teaching in the Deaf community for twelve years in both England and Scotland, working with students who use BSL. Nell began losing her hearing in her twenties, and now wears hearing aids. She lives in North Lincolnshire with her husband and son.**



# Virginia Is For Lovers

Emily James

Agent: Kiya Evans

**On submission**  
**November 2023**

**A novel about first love and first heartbreak, for fans of Sally Rooney and Naoise Dolan.**

Jen takes a job in New York hoping that absence really does make the heart grow fonder, and that distance and time apart will paper over the cracks in her 8-year-long relationship with Becca, who is living back in London.

When she meets her colleague's girlfriend at a party - who happens to be her first love from a decade before - Jen is immediately transported back to those hot, hazy days working and falling in love at a summer camp in Virginia.

In the shock of the moment, Jen somehow finds herself agreeing to keep their former relationship a secret. But seeing Sophia means remembering. And no matter how hard she tries, soon the past, present, and future are going to become messier and more entangled than Jen anticipated...

**Emily James is a London-based LGBTQ+ writer. After graduating from the University of Leeds, she spent time living and working in France, Spain, Denmark and the USA before returning to the UK. In 2022, she won third place in the Brick Lane Bookshop Short Story Prize, and in the same year she was awarded a scholarship for underrepresented writers at The Novelry. When she's not writing, she can usually be found walking her dog on Hampstead Heath, coffee in hand.**



# Nest

Jane Hennigan

Agent: Liza DeBlock

**On submission  
November 2023**

**In the magical city of Nest, an orphan, a thief, and a sorcerer find themselves reluctantly drawn into a revolution.**

Min, a skilled thief who believes the Fates favour her, is caught mid-heist and sent to Old Mog - Nest's most notorious prison. There, she encounters Elijah, a socially awkward guard with latent magical abilities. When Min faces execution, Elijah manages to revive her, defying the disapproval of his friend Mustifà, a retired sorcerer trapped in the body of a cat.

When a religious sect called the Grey Doves discovers Min's resurrection and proclaim her "the chosen one", she's flattered, and joins their ranks, while Elijah and Mustifà escape with the Prince of Nest. Min is dismayed to discover that to take her place as 'the chosen one' she must defeat a fire demon. With the help of Elijah and Mustifà, she succeeds, and the magical Grey Doves become her followers.

But unrest is brewing in the city of Nest, and as the battle for freedom against the oppressive military regime reaches a fever-pitch, the three unlikely heroes find themselves drawn into a revolution - and forced to choose between their allegiances to each other, their commitment to the cause, and their need to survive...

**Jane Hennigan was born and raised in Aldershot in Hampshire. After a decade working in E-commerce, she gained a degree in English Literature and Philosophy from Royal Holloway, and an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Surrey. She spent seven years teaching English literature undergraduates, before moving to the seaside to concentrate on writing. Previously self-published to much acclaim by readers, her debut MOTHS was published in April 2023 by Angry Robot Books in the UK and the US.**