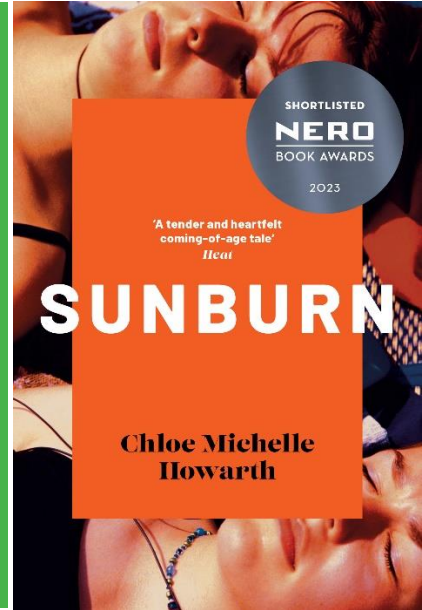
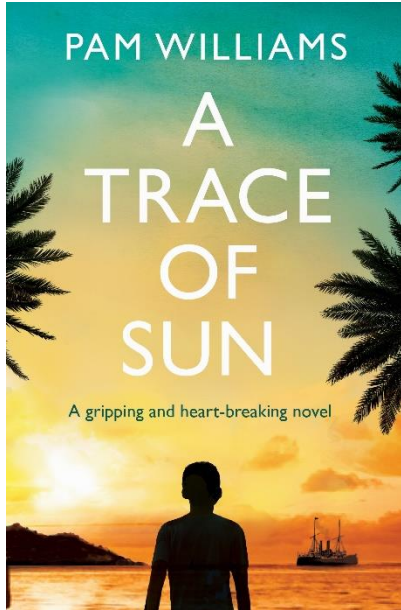


# NORTH BANK

TALENT MANAGEMENT



## Fiction Rights Guide

Spring 2024

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## **Hot List – Fiction**

**Ova Ceren**

## **The Book of Heartbreak**

**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Currently on UK submission**



**Seventeen-year-old Sare Silverbitch is the loneliest soul on earth.**

A curse causes her to die whenever she suffers from a broken heart so she cannot afford to become attached to anyone except Munu, a spirit guide who works for a mysterious entity on the Otherside. Munu has the power to resurrect Sare five times until she turns eighteen.

If Sare reaches adulthood safely, she will never feel the sorrow of another heartbreak again, but the curse will claim her heart, taking away her ability to love.

Already heartbroken by friends, childminders and the death of pets, Sare's final resurrection is spent when her mother commits suicide. After the funeral, Sare discovers a grandfather she never knew existed. Puzzled over why her mum hid her past, she moves into her wealthy grandfather's mansion in Istanbul to start over.

As the shocking truth unfolds, Sare comes to understand that both her mother and Munu have lied to her, and her grandfather isn't the villain she thought he was. Will her heart shatter for the final time, or will Sare unravel the secrets of the past before it's too late?

**Ova Ceren** is a software developer and the creator behind the highly popular BookTok and Instagram channels @excusemyreading, where she shares literary landmarks, cosy views of her garden library and ongoing adventures of her resident flock of ducks. Half woman, half book, she was born and bred in Izmir, Turkey and now lives in Cambridge, UK.



# Chloe Michelle Howarth

## Bodies We Buried

**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Currently on UK submission**



**The new, hypnotic novel from Nero Book Awards shortlisted author, Chloe Michelle Howarth. Perfect for fans of Julia Armfield.**

**In January, 1967, the growing town of Ballycrea has four new residents.**

The O'Leary siblings, Tom, Jack, Anna, and Peggy arrive in a new village under suspicious circumstances. They're desperate to make a new start and leave their troubled past behind, but offer few, contradicting details about their past.

Slowly, the O'Learys settle into Ballycrea, and begin to feel like they could lead normal, happy lives there. They become close with Betty and Bill Nevan, a wealthy couple in their forties who have always wanted children. However, as Anna gets closer to Betty, lines are crossed and their relationship becomes difficult to define. Then Bill gives Tom the chance to work in America. As much as Tom wants to have this fresh start all to himself, he must refuse. There are reasons that Tom cannot leave his family alone. Reasons he can't share with anyone.

*Can the O'Learys bury the secrets of their past, or has it caught up with them?*

**Chloe Michelle Howarth** is an Irish writer from West Cork. She first became interested in literature as a teenager, and in 2015, she moved to Dublin to study English, Media, and Cultural Studies in IADT Dun Laoghaire. During her time in college, she developed her love of writing, as well as performing and traveling. Since graduating, she has returned to the countryside, where she has been endlessly inspired by the landscapes, culture, and people of rural Ireland. She now lives in Brighton.



# Contemporary Fiction

**Bianca Gillam**

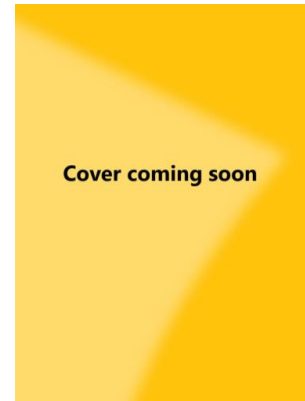
## **Bad Publicity**

**World All rights:** Bloomsbury General

**Publication date:** Spring 2025

**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



### **What would you do, if your career was in the hands of the man you hate with the fire of a thousand suns?**

When Andie lands her dream job as a senior book publicist, she's ready to take the world of New York publishing by storm. Until, on her first day, she discovers that her biggest author is Jack Carlson – the same Jack who ruined her life in university. Who she hasn't spoken to in 5 years. Who is not only still infuriatingly hot but incredibly successful. And whose campaign she definitely cannot fuck up, if she wants to keep her job.

To make matters even worse, the central part of this career-defining campaign is a book tour. For a month, Andie will have to travel across Europe with the man who, quite frankly, she'd like to hit with her car.

As tensions rise, Andie struggles to keep not only her feelings but her inescapable attraction to Jack in check. Is her career doomed by their shared past? Or will she discover that the man she's been demonising for so long deserve a second chance?

**Bianca Gillam** is an Assistant Editor whose highest honour to date is being called a 'wretched romantic' by a university lecturer at university. She is an avid writer of poetry, which has been published in a variety of publications, and her lifelong interest in asking people how they met their partner has amassed in an impressive collection of 'meet-cutes'. She currently works across the women's fiction list at Head of Zeus, and was inspired by the brilliant books she's published to write her own.



# Veronika Dapunt

## Death and Her Life

**World All rights:** Transworld

**Publication date:** Spring 2025

**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



### Who better to investigate a murder than Death herself?

When Death takes a holiday in human form, she's shocked to discover several 'Unplanned' murders. Resolved to find the culprit stamping on her turf, she enlists the help of her sister, Life (so sanctimonious), and charismatic parasitologist, Marco. Despite dealings with the Mafia and the Devil, Death finds herself navigating the greatest challenge of them all: human bureaucracy.

Death's journey teaches her about the joys of life and love, and redefines her relationship with her sister. But when she discovers the culprit she must make a choice that will not only alter the course of her own existence, but determine the fate of all creation.

**Veronika Dapunt** is a fiction writer of Ladin heritage who grew up in Austria, the US and the UK. Her novel *Death and Her Life* was a runner-up for the 2023 Comedy Women in Print Prize. She has always had a love of the darkly comic and the absurd, quite possibly the reason why her first career was in law. In the past she has worked for the European Union and a luxury goods business, where she worked on international fashion shows, the Oscars and the Bond franchise. Veronika has a degree from the University of Oxford, is a Faber Academy graduate and one of her short stories ('Echoes') was longlisted for the 2023 Bath Short Story Award. She currently works as an education consultant and lives in London with an opinionated mini-schnauzer called Cosette.



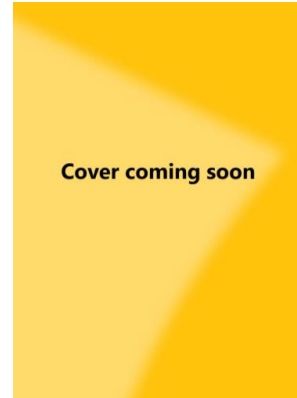
# Victoria Lancaster

## It's Too Late, Baby

**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Currently on UK submission**



**WET PAINT meets MY YEAR OF REST AND RELAXATION, following a protagonist who teeters on the edge of fame and failure, while navigating the deliciously glamorous world of modern art.**

Alone, vengeful, and hungry for fame, twenty-something New Yorker Maria lands a summer apprenticeship with an infamous but increasingly disreputable painter in Paris.

Escaping her washed-up film star mother, seedy stepfather and a toxic relationship, Maria contrives a plot to use the artist and his lover to advance her own artistic ambitions. Immersed in the glamour and hedonism of the Paris art scene, Maria harnesses her power as an attractive, savvy, and morally mutable young woman to access connections and opportunities. She's haunted by demons from her past and has no qualms diminishing herself or those who have wronged her to get what she wants.

But as distressing memories of past trauma converge with the glittery prospect of fast fame, will the life she's left behind undo the Maria she's desperate to become?

**Victoria Lancaster** is a copywriter and novelist based in London. In addition to her work as a Senior Writer at Net-a-Porter, she's a freelance marketing expert – creating content strategies for a wide range of clients across lifestyle, health, and luxury fashion brands. Victoria completed the Columbia Publishing Course at Oxford and developed her first book at the 2023 Faber Academy Writing a Novel workshop. She was born and raised in America, before moving to the UK to undertake a BA in Journalism at Goldsmiths.



**Eve Ainsworth**

## **Somebody I Used to Love**

**World English rights:** Canelo

**Publication date:** June 2024

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



### **How do you turn back the clock when you're living in a different time?**

When Will wakes up after an awful accident, he finds he's lost three years of memory. All he wants is his girlfriend and childhood sweetheart, Gem beside him. Instead, he finds things are not as he remembers. He is a stranger in his own life, and nothing feels right.

After breaking up with Will three years ago, Gem has moved on. With a new life and boyfriend, the last thing she expects is a call to say Will needs her – the who man nearly destroyed her for good.

Gem has devastating news for Will. He is not the man he thinks he is. Three years ago he changed suddenly and completely, hurting everyone he was close to and becoming a man that Gem no longer recognised.

As Will recovers, he is determined to prove to Gem that he is the man he once was. But by unlocking the secrets of his past, will he be able to piece together what caused him to change so dramatically? And, faced with the choice, will Gem continue with the safe new life she has built for herself, or will she go back to the man she used to love?

**Eve Ainsworth** is an award-winning and Carnegie nominated children's author who has written for adult, middle grade and teen readers. *Duckling*, her debut adult novel, was published by Penguin in 2022. She was born and raised in Crawley, West Sussex and is one of seven children. Eve is passionate about helping those from disadvantaged backgrounds, and works as a mentor to support vulnerable children in both secondary and primary schools. Eve is fiercely proud of her working class roots and her large, loud family.



# Chloe Michelle Howarth

## Sunburn

**UK & Commonwealth rights (excl. Canada):** Verve Books

**UK & Commonwealth audio rights (excl. Canada):** W.F. Howes

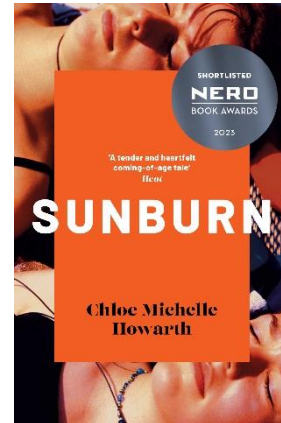
**Publication date:** June 2023

**Editor:** Jenna Gordon

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**Shortlisted for the 2023 Nero Book Awards in the Debut Fiction category. LGBTQ+ literary debut about first love set in rural Ireland in the 1990s, from an exciting new talent.**

In the small Irish village of Crossmore in the early 1990s, Lucy feels out of place. She's always felt out of place, despite her fierce friendships, and the traditional path of marriage and motherhood doesn't appeal to her at all. But from the first game of kiss-chase in the playground, there is a spark between her and her classmate Susannah. The girls grow older and Lucy attempts to hide her infatuation, until one summer, when things escalate.

Lucy must then start to live a double life; a performative life, in which she dates her best friend – the farmer's son that everyone assumes she will marry, and one secret life in which she and Susannah are desperately in love.

But whereas Susannah wants the couple to be open about their relationship, Lucy resists. The tension grows as the opportunity to leave Crossmore looms, and Lucy is forced to choose between her two lives – each as terrifying as the other.

**Chloe Michelle Howarth** is an Irish writer from West Cork. She first became interested in literature as a teenager, and in 2015, she moved to Dublin to study English, Media, and Cultural Studies in IADT Dun Laoghaire. During her time in college, she developed her love of writing, as well as performing and traveling. Since graduating, she has returned to the countryside, where she has been endlessly inspired by the landscapes, culture, and people of rural Ireland. She now lives in Brighton.



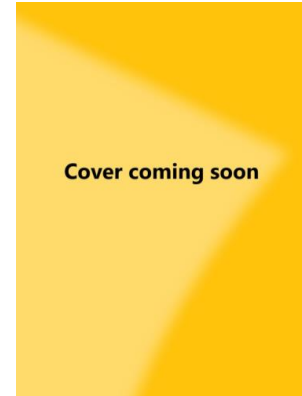
# Chloe Michelle Howarth

## Bodies We Buried

**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Currently on UK submission**



**The new, hypnotic novel from Nero Book Awards shortlisted author, Chloe Michelle Howarth. Perfect for fans of Julia Armfield.**

**In January, 1967, the growing town of Ballycrea has four new residents.**

The O’Leary siblings, Tom, Jack, Anna, and Peggy arrive in a new village under suspicious circumstances. They’re desperate to make a new start and leave their troubled past behind, but offer few, contradicting details about their past.

Slowly, the O’Learys settle into Ballycrea, and begin to feel like they could lead normal, happy lives there. They become close with Betty and Bill Nevan, a wealthy couple in their forties who have always wanted children. However, as Anna gets closer to Betty, lines are crossed and their relationship becomes difficult to define. Then Bill gives Tom the chance to work in America. As much as Tom wants to have this fresh start all to himself, he must refuse. There are reasons that Tom cannot leave his family alone. Reasons he can’t share with anyone.

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# Gráinne Murphy

## Greener

**UK & Commonwealth rights (excl. Canada):** Legend Press

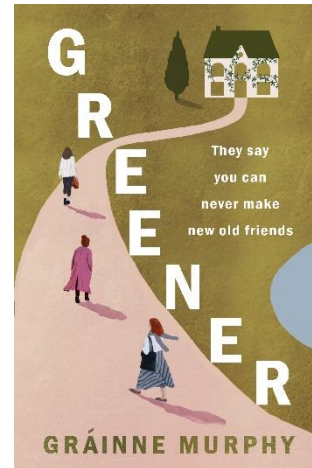
**Publication date:** April 2024

**Editor:** Cari Rosen

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



***Greener* is an exploration of the changing dynamics of adult friendships and asks whether old friends can ever let us become new people.**

As teenagers, Helen, Annie and Laura were inseparable, bonding over family, boys, and their dreams for the future. But when school ended, so did their friendship.

Twenty-five years later, a snowstorm forces the three women to spend time together, leaving them wondering if they can reconcile the gap between who they are and who they used to be.

**Gráinne Murphy** works in Ireland as a self-employed language editor specializing in human rights and environmental issues. Gráinne has received a number of award shortlistings and longlistings for her writing including the V.S Pritchett Short Story Prize 2024, Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair Award 2019, Blue Pencil Agency First Novel Award 2019, Caledonia Novel Award 2019, Virginia Prize for Fiction 2013, and the Bath Novel Award 2015.



# Gráinne Murphy

## Winter People

**UK & Commonwealth rights (excl. Canada):** Legend Press

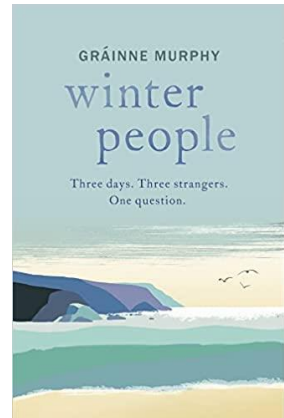
**Publication date:** September 2023

**Editor:** Cari Rosen

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



Praise for WINTER PEOPLE:

**‘Compassionate, contemplative, and absorbing.** Winter People takes a quiet yet clear look at family, love and loss, and the ways in which people might heal’ – Claire Fuller, author of Women’s Prize-shortlisted and Costa Award-winning *Unsettled Ground*

**‘There is a gentleness and depth here that is engrossing’** – Anne Griffin, #1 bestselling author of *When All is Said* and *Listening Still*

‘Immersive and absorbing’ Joanna Glen, author of Costa shortlisted novel *The Other Half of Augusta Hope*

‘Subtle, addictive, beautifully written’ – Lissa Evans, bestselling author of *Crooked Heart*

**A remarkable literary novel about three lonely people on the West Coast of Ireland, inspired by Gráinne’s *Sunday Times* Audible Award longlisted short story *Further West*. Perfect for fans of *When All is Said* by Anne Griffin.**

When you’re on the verge of losing everything, what is there left to live for?

Sis Cotter has lived her whole life in a small house by her beloved beach. Here, she grew up, reared her family, and buried her husband. Now her children are far away and, in three days, her house will be taken from her.

Next door, thirty-nine-year-old Lydia has withdrawn from her husband, her friends, her life. She watches the sea as her own private penance for a wrong she can never put right. Afraid of the world and herself in it, the only way to live is to avoid everyone.

Meanwhile, repossession officer Peter’s best friend is dying, and his long-time foster mother is slowly forgetting who he is. Adrift without his two anchors, and struggling with the ethics of displacing people for a living, Peter looks for something to hold onto to remind him of who he is and who he wants to be.

In their isolation, Sis, Lydia and Peter question who they are without the people they love, and search for the words that will bring their people back to them.

**Victoria Scott**

## **The Women Who Wouldn't Leave**

**UK & Commonwealth rights (ex Canada):** Head of Zeus

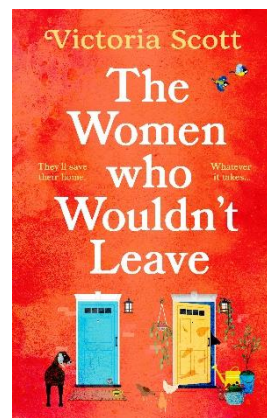
**Publication date:** Summer 2023

**Editor:** Rachel Faulkner-Willcocks

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**Story of courage and friendship as the residents of a rural council estate fight the council who want to evict them to make way for a new development, for fans of *The Lido* by Libby Page.**

Tilda has just moved back in with her mother to a small council-owned cul-de-sac in rural Gloucestershire. She tells everyone she lost her job in London, but what happened there left her anxious, depressed, agoraphobic. She spends her time walking around the fields behind the mostly-empty holiday rentals and second homes, and ignoring their old reclusive neighbour, Constance. Then one day, Tilda notices that Constance's animals haven't been fed. The police arrive and find Constance on the floor of her house, exhausted and malnourished, and they take her to hospital. With nobody else to take care of Constance's animals, Tilda reluctantly takes over, but finds a community of other residents willing to help.

The pair bond over the animals and grow close. Then something happens that changes everything. The council send compulsory eviction notices to everyone on the estate. The families are to be rehoused in an inner city estate in Gloucester, as their small estate is being sold to developers. Constance will not be able to take the animals with her, and Tilda realises that both her new life and the countryside she adores, are both under threat. Together, the two women decide they must fight the eviction, and in doing so, they must fight their inner demons, too.

**Victoria Scott** is a Faber Academy graduate. She has a degree in English from King's College, London and a Postgraduate Diploma in Broadcast Journalism from City University, London. She lives near London with her husband and two children, and works as a freelance journalist, media trainer and journalism tutor. GRACE is her second novel.



# Victoria Scott

## Grace

**UK & Commonwealth rights (ex Canada):** Head of Zeus

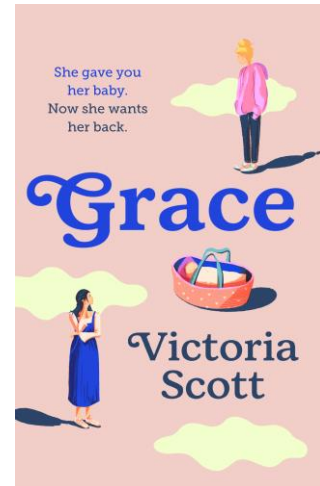
**Publication date:** August 2022

**Editor:** Rachel Faulkner-Willcocks

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



Praise for Victoria Scott:

'A thought-provoking, compelling and entertaining read. I could barely put the book down until its equally heart-wrenching and heart-warming ending. A wonderful, smart and funny book' - *Louise Fein, bestselling author of People Like Us*

'An extraordinary novel about love and hope and family and what happens in the space between the words. I adored it' - *Kirsten Hesketh, author of Another Us*

**A searing book-club novel about two mothers facing an impossible choice, for fans of Amanda Prowse and Jodi Picoult**

She gave you her baby. Now she wants her back.

Nineteen-year-old Michelle has had a tough life, to say the least. Then she gets pregnant. She is convinced she would be a terrible mother but having grown up in care, she cannot bring herself to subject her child to the same fate.

Amelia and her husband have dreamed of having a family for years, but have lost all hope after the worst kind of tragedy. Then they are offered the chance to adopt baby Grace, and it feels like they finally have everything they've ever wanted.

But then Michelle decides she wants her daughter back, and it's up to the courts to decide. What is best for Grace – a mother's love, or a stable home? Whatever the ruling, one thing is certain: neither woman's life will ever be the same again...

# Victoria Scott

## Patience

**UK & Commonwealth rights (ex Canada):** Head of Zeus

**German rights:** Droemer Knauer

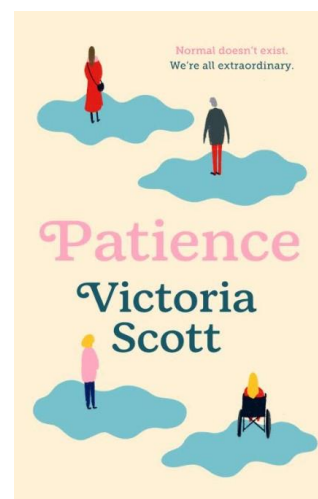
**Publication date:** August 2021

**Editor:** Hannah Smith

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



'A thought-provoking, compelling and entertaining read. I could barely put the book down until its equally heart-wrenching and heart-warming ending. A wonderful, smart and funny book' - *Louise Fein, bestselling author of People Like Us*

'Inspired by truth, Patience and her family come alive on the pages. I felt every single emotion with them' - *Alice Peterson, author of Monday to Friday Man*

'An eye-opening and heartwarming tale' - *Woman's Own*

'An extraordinary novel about love and hope and family and what happens in the space between the words. I adored it' - *Kirsten Hesketh, author of Another Us*

**The sparkling debut book club novel by an incredible new voice, perfect for fans of Jodi Picoult**

A new high-risk treatment gives you the chance to cure your child's disease. Do you take it?

The Willows have been through a lot. Louise has devoted her life to caring for her disabled youngest daughter. Pete works abroad, almost never seeing his loved ones. And their eldest, Eliza, is burdened by all the secrets she's trying to keep from her overloaded family.

Meanwhile, Patience observes the world while trapped in her own body. She laughs, she cries, she has opinions and knows what she wants. But those who love her most – and make every decision about her life – will never know.

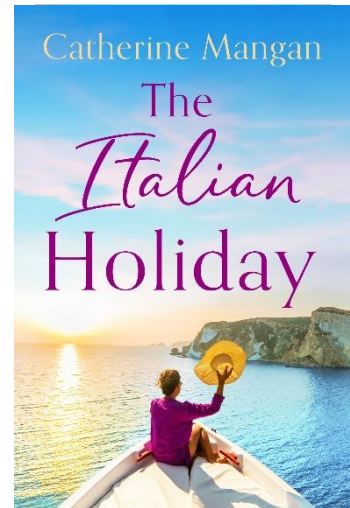
Or will they? When the Willows are offered the opportunity for Patience to take part in a new gene therapy trial to cure her Rett syndrome, they face an impossible dilemma. Are the very real risks worth the chance of the reward, no matter how small?

# Catherine Mangan

## The Italian Holiday

**World English rights:** Sphere  
**Dutch rights:** HarperCollins Holland  
**Publication date:** May 2024  
**Editor:** Ruth Jones

**Manuscript available**  
**All other rights available**  
**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



### **An irresistible, sun-soaked novel that's fizzing with romance**

For the past five years Katie has worked hard to build a new life at a travel magazine in New York. She had always wanted to be a writer, but this is as close as she has come.

When her boss, Mari, is forced to cancel a trip to review the Italian island, Ponza, she reluctantly sends Katie in her place. Katie invites her friend Farah, a junior attorney, who hasn't had a vacation in two years, to join her on the five-day, all expenses paid trip.

She now must write the article herself, in a week involving sun, sand, gorgeous seafood and a very intriguing chef called Matteo. But when Farrah is involved in an accident and can't leave Ponza for a month, Katie is forced to choose whether to return to her old life, her job, her relationship or make a risky new start on the island.

**Catherine Mangan** is an award-winning Irish entrepreneur and creator of the language-learning app Smigin, which has users in 175 countries. She studied languages at University College Cork before moving to Italy (briefly) with friends, which was the start of a life-long love affair with the country. She now divides her time between Ireland and Silicon Valley. Her first novel, *The Italian Escape*, was published by Sphere in April 2021.



**Catherine Mangan**

## **One Italian Summer**

**World English rights:** Sphere  
**Dutch rights:** HarperCollins Holland  
**Publication date:** April 2022  
**Editor:** Rebecca Roy

**Manuscript available**  
**All other rights available**  
**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



### **A witty, escapist romance for fans of Sue Moorcroft and Lucy Coleman**

When Lily's long-term relationship ends, she flees her life in New York to travel to her best friend's wedding on the sun-drenched Italian island of Ischia - but could there be more to the secluded island than she ever imagined?

Ten days with nothing but sparkling seas, breath-taking beaches and delicious food sounds like the perfect cure for a broken heart. And Lily can hardly believe she'd never heard of Ischia before now. But Lily's blissful break is short-lived as she discovers not only has she lost her boyfriend, she's also lost her job.

As Lily searches for inspiration, she connects with local Matt, who shows her the magic the beautiful Italian island has to offer, and quickly inspiration strikes: Ischia needs more tourists and Lily knows just how to help.

As Ischia slowly heals Lily's heart, will she in turn inject new life into the island? And will local Matt offer the possibility of a future she'd never dreamed of?

**Catherine Mangan**

## **The Italian Escape**

**World English rights:** Sphere  
**Dutch rights:** HarperCollins Holland  
**Publication date:** April 2021  
**Editor:** Rebecca Roy

**Manuscript available**  
**All other rights available**  
**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**A glorious and uplifting escapist novel set against the stunning backdrop of the Italian coast. The perfect holiday read for fans of Rosanna Ley, Rachel Hore and Karen Swan**

Sparkling sea, sun, delicious food and Aperol Spritz – escape to Italy with the perfect summer romance . . .

Niamh Kelly's life hasn't turned out quite as she'd expected. She's thirty-three, still living at home and was recently dumped . . . by her boss. So when her sister invites her to tag along on a work trip to the sun-drenched Italian coast, Niamh jumps at the chance, eager to escape into a world of sparkling prosecco, delicious food, and breath-taking beaches.

Upon her arrival, Niamh immediately falls in love with the beautiful Italian town they're staying in and realises she never wants to leave, deciding instead to stay and open up a quaint coffee shop nestled in charming old town streets – even if she has no idea what she's doing. But when a family tragedy and a tricky tourist season threaten her new business, Niamh isn't so sure she can stick it out.

With help from her new-found Italian friends – and the possibility of romance on the horizon – can she make her new life in the sun a success?

**Pam Williams**

## **A Trace of Sun**

**UK & Commonwealth (excluding Canada) rights:** Legend Press

**UK & Commonwealth audio rights (excl. Canada):** W.F. Howes

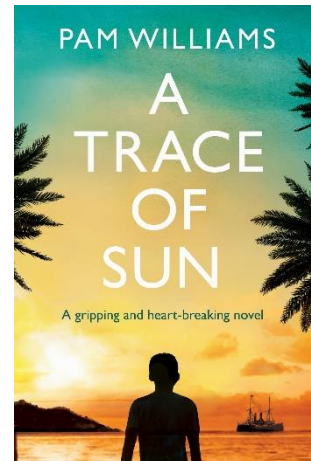
**Publication date:** March 2024

**Editor:** Cari Rosen

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**‘Mammy go be waiting for you when you reach, eh Raef. Imagine, after all this time, all of you go be together.’**

In 1960, Raef is eight when hardship forces his parents to seek a better life in England, taking his little brother with them and leaving him in Grenada. An unimagined seven years of separation follows.

Arriving in London aged fifteen, harbouring feelings of abandonment, Raef’s dreams of reunion are shattered. He has a new little sister, Luci, who has stolen his place in his parents’ hearts. Despite Mammy’s attempts to welcome him back into the fold, he remains an outsider, and his father never seems to accept him as part of the family.

As Raef’s mental condition worsens, the family fractures and splits apart. Twenty years later, a letter arrives from his mother’s deathbed. He learns that secret past traumas have determined the course of his life and that the question of his identity runs deeper than he’d ever imagined. But will the truth absolve him of his guilt - or destroy his future?

After graduating from St Martin’s School of Art in 1984, Pam Williams spent two decades as a fashion journalist and freelance stylist before leaving the industry to become a foster carer, and is now a special needs teacher. She joined the Afrikan Heritage Writers Group in 2014, inspired to finally share her work by the death of her heroine, Maya Angelou, and was chosen to participate in the London Writers Award, Spread the Word scheme in 2019. Pam’s parents left Grenada for London in the early 1960s and she was born there two months later – and aged seven met two siblings for the first time, when they were brought over to England to join the family.



**Pam Williams**

## **Between Us**

**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Currently on UK submission**



**The extraordinary new novel from former journalist Pam Williams. Set in the early 2000s and the 1980s and starring two generations of Londoners of Caribbean heritage, it's a story of family and secrets, of coming-of-age.**

When life looked set to sink us, Sheila was there – that's how it was. But it's my turn now. To save us from this storm. Thing is, I don't know where to start.

Teenager Cory Brown's Uncle Alan (married to his mum's twin sister) left the UK to set up a business abroad, but he stops making contact when things don't go as planned. No one has heard from Uncle Alan for well over a year when out of the blue Cory comes face to face with him alive and well and back in London.

It should be good news. The problem is Uncle Alan has secretly returned with a much younger lover. And their new baby.

In the ensuing emotional race to tell all, life and more scandal gets in the way. Told from the perspectives of Cory and his mother, Gina, the novel unwinds long-buried secrets, whilst exploring the reality of raising a black teenager in London. Can they bring their family back together?

# Historical Fiction

**Victoria Darke**

## **The House in the Water**

**World English rights:** Boldwood Books

**Publication date:** Summer 2024

**Editor:** Rachel Faulkner-Wilcocks

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**May Day House sits, imposing and crumbling, on its own island in the Thames.**

Only accessible by boat, the house has been sitting empty for two decades. It wasn't always empty, of course. It's a house that's brimming with history. During WW2, it hosted hundreds of recuperating wounded soldiers. And now, there are the ghosts – staring out at those who sail past its windows.

In the autumn of 2013, Philip and Meredith Holland are the proud new owners of May Day House. Following a string of tragedies, the couple have moved to the area in search of a new start. But all is not what it seems in this friendly, close-knit neighbourhood. Will shadows from the past darken their new-found happiness?

**Victoria Darke** is the pen name for Faber Academy graduate Victoria Scott. She has a degree in English from King's College, London and a Postgraduate Diploma in Broadcast Journalism from City University, London. She lives near London with her husband and two children, and works as a freelance journalist, media trainer and journalism tutor. GRACE is her second novel.



# Michelle Kenney

## Heroine

**World English rights:** One More Chapter

**Publication date:** Autumn 2024

**Editor:** Charlotte Ledger

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



Cover coming soon

**With time running out, is it too late for Phoebe to become the lead in her own story?**

### Devon 1820

Feisty eldest of eight, Phoebe Fairfax, longs to live life like one of her bookish heroines, so when her brother and guardian, Lord Thomas Fairfax, looks set to fast track her Papa's dying wish that she marry the elderly Duke of Cumberland, it seems her life is over before it has even begun.

With only three months until her dreaded wedding day, Phoebe resolves to live every adventure she's ever dreamed about, beginning with disguising herself as one of her brothers, and heading to London to tread the boards. But a chance encounter with a most unimpressive highwayman en route, results in an impromptu duel, injury, and the discovery of her real identity.

With duels and races, elopements and masked balls, HEROINE is a page-turning feminist regency story, that asks what it really means to be heroic – in any age.

**Michelle Kenney** is a graduate of the Curtis Brown Writing for Children Novel Course 2015. She holds a LLB (Hons) Degree, an APD in Public Relations, and is currently an Accredited Practitioner with the CIPR, with whom she has won several national awards for her Magazine & Media/PR related work. The first book in her debut YA fantasy series, *Book of Fire*, was published by HQ in 2017.



**Ellee Seymour**

## **The Royal Station Master's Daughters in Love**

**UK rights:** Bonnier (Zaffre)  
**Publication date:** April 2024  
**Editor:** Claire Johnson-Creek

**Manuscripts available**  
**All other rights available**  
**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

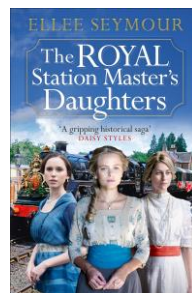


**The bold new WWI saga series based on the Saward family, who ran the train station at Wolferton, the local stop for the Royal Sandringham Estate.**

The war is over, but the effects of it are ever-present in the village of Wolferton. At just two miles from Sandringham House, the private residence of British monarchs, the people of Wolferton have a special connection to the royals - particularly the family of the royal station master, Harry Saward. But this has not lessened the devastating impact of war on the Saward girls. Maria's fiancé, Eddie, is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, Ada's husband, Alfie, has lost his job, and his purpose in life, Jessie is praying for the safe return of her beau, Jack, and Beatrice is hard at work as a nurse in the war hospital and is faced with a shocking revelation from her sweetheart.

With many men from the Sandringham Company still missing in Gallipoli, the village is also suffering. When Kitty Willow, the wife of one of the missing men, and her six young children lose their home on the royal estate, the Saward family rally around to help. As they are forced into the workhouse and Kitty is separated from her children, life looks bleak. But when a kind benefactor takes a shine to Kitty her fortunes may have turned around. Could this be the new start in life that she and her children so desperately need?

Other books in the series:



**Ellee Seymour** is an author, ghost writer and PR consultant. *The Shop Girls* is her first book as an author. It was a joy for her to research and write this heart-warming true story about a glamorous bygone era, based on an elegant ladies' department store in Cambridge with its very own Mr Selfridge-styled character as the boss who the shop girls either loved or loathed. Heyworth's closed 49 years ago and had all but faded from living memory when Ellee began researching the book. Ellee lives near Cambridge.



# **Crime & Thriller**

# Jonathan Whitelaw

## All At Sea

**UK & Commonwealth including Canada rights:** HarperNorth

**Publication date:** TBC

**Editor:** Genevieve Pegg

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**A destination murder-mystery - think *Below Deck* meets *Knives Out*. Perfect for all fans of *Only Murders In the Building***

Howie Temple is down on his luck and desperate for cash. A once promising action movie star, he now lives off a crumbling reputation. On his way to film a new reality TV show, which casts a team of c-list celebrities as crew aboard a luxury yacht, he meets fellow contestant, influencer-of-the-moment Cassandra Troy. The duo take an immediate dislike to each other.

After a hectic first day of filming, the pair are shocked discover that the captain of the ship has been murdered – locked in his control room, slumped over the wheel, a knife in his back. Convinced by the show’s ever-opportunistic director to keep the cameras rolling, the pair team-up to hunt the murderer.

Will the show make Howie and Cassandra bigger stars than they could ever dream of? And can they crack the case before the killer strikes again, or will they go down with this sinking ship?

**Jonathan Whitelaw** is a Scottish writer and journalist based in Canada, and he’s also a regular host at book events and panels, as well as a regular arts reviewer on BBC Radio Scotland’s *Afternoon Show*. Jonathan is a leading author in the cosy crime market. His latest series, *Bingo Hall Detectives*, is published by HarperNorth. There are currently two books in the series, *The Bingo Hall Detectives* (2022) and *The Village Hall Vendetta* (2023), the first of which awarded the Gilpin Hotel Prize for Fiction at this year’s Lakeland Book Awards.



**Claire Cooper**

## **The Elevator**

**World English rights:** Bookouture

**World German rights:** Goldmann Verlag

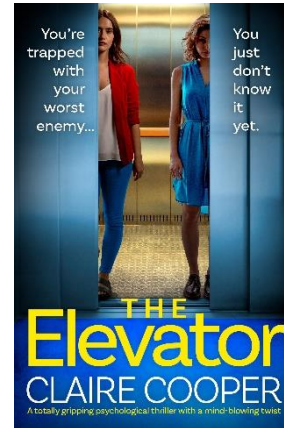
**Publication date:** August 2023

**Editor:** Ruth Tross

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**A fast-paced thriller with a killer twist, for fans of *The Lying Room* by Nicci French and *Those People* by Louise Candlish.**

*The Elevator* follows two women trapped in a lift over one sweltering, claustrophobic day in a New York office building. Trying to rebuild her life after an incident at work, HR director Cerys transfers to a new role in her company's New York office. On the day of an important meeting, she steps into the lift with Maeve, a woman she had noticed arguing with the receptionist in a British accent. A few seconds later, the electronic voice stutters, then stops, and the elevator grinds to a halt.

Unbeknown to Cerys, Maeve is driven by a dark secret which has brought her to New York, and she won't leave until she gets what she wants. Could Cerys be the person she's been looking for? As the hours tick by, one thing becomes clear – one of them might not make it out alive.

**Claire Cooper** grew up in a small village in south Wales before moving to London. She worked for the Civil Service for seventeen years before realising that she much preferred writing novels about psychotic killers to Ministerial speeches. She lives in London with her husband and two cats.



**Lisa Rookes**

## **The Vanishing of Joni Blackwood**

**World English rights:** Orion

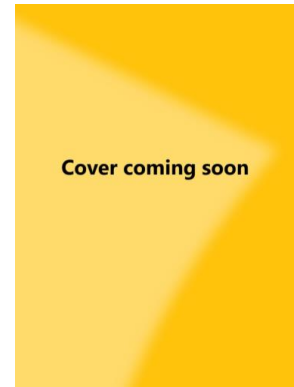
**Publication date:** Spring 2024

**Editor:** Leodora Darlington

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**Gripping thriller set in rural Yorkshire for fans of *Pine* by Francine Toon and *The Burning Girls* by CJ Tudor.**

When Cass's best friend Joni is crowned Gallows Queen three years in a row, nobody is surprised. But Joni goes missing that night, her crown left hanging on the Gallows Pole. And when there's another grisly discovery in the village, the press descends and leaps on the gristly, pagan-type legends of the past.

Twenty years before, Cass, Joni and three other village teenagers had formed an unbreakable bond, when the village was under financial strain and their families were falling apart – and their lives remain entwined via a complex web of relationships and memories.

But they all have a secret, a secret they all vowed they would never tell. And now the past is catching up with them, and the nooses on the Gallows Tree could be beckoning for them all.

**Lisa Bradley** is an award-winning journalist and lecturer. She spent the start of her career as a crime reporter and news editor before moving to national newspapers and women's magazines. She is currently head of the undergraduate Journalism programme at the University of Sheffield and has won further multiple awards for her teaching. Her first two novels *Paper Dolls* and *The Lesson* were published by Quercus in 2020 and 2021. She lives in Holmfirth in South Yorkshire with her husband, two sons, an arthritic Labrador and a disabled pug.



# Christie Newport

## Girl On Ward A

**World English rights:** Storm Publishing

**Publication date:** June 2024

**Editor:** Claire Bord

**Manuscript available in November**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**Gripping historical thriller – perfect for all fans of Kate Morton and Hannah Kent.**

In 1995, journalist Olive Brown receives a threatening letter hinting at her connection to a dark past in an asylum in 1952. With a controlling and abusive husband and two young daughters to protect, Olive decides to investigate the matter herself to avoid jeopardizing her career.

Meanwhile, in 1952, Martha Littler is a pregnant teenager hiding her condition from her abusive parents. After giving birth, Martha's baby is taken away by her parents, and she is admitted to Wynwarden Asylum, where she befriends fellow patient Lizzie. They discover the horrifying truth about the abusive treatments and atrocities happening within the asylum. As bodies begin to appear, Martha tries to seek the truth – whilst being torn between saving her sister and finding her baby.

The lives of Olive and Martha are linked in ways they could never imagine. As they begin to uncover the hidden pasts of those closest to them, there are deadly consequences.

**Christie Newport** is a mixed-heritage writer living in Northumberland. Since developing a rare illness as a child, Christie found reading and creating stories to be an escape. In recent years Christie has taken her writing seriously, honing her skills through courses and various brilliant opportunities. Writing crime and psychological thrillers set in her home city is her passion.



# Christie Newport

## The Ordinary Man

Book 2 in the Detective Beth Fellows series

**World English rights:** Joffe Books

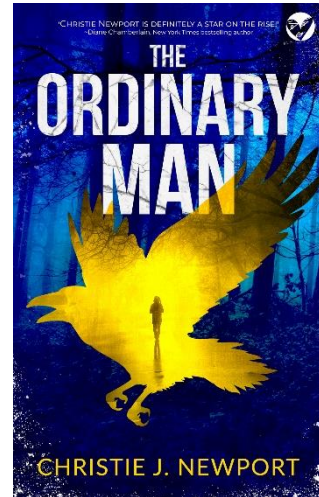
**Publication date:** February 2024

**Editor:** Emma Grundy Haigh

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**'Gripping, twisty, rapid-fire'** – Diane Chamberlain, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last House on the Street*

**Discover the most unputdownable crime thriller of the year. From Joffe Books Prize winner Christie J. Newport.**

The only thing more terrifying than the killer you know is the killer you don't.

He seems like such a nice man. Nothing about him tells you to be on your guard. He's just . . . an ordinary man.

Driving an ordinary car.

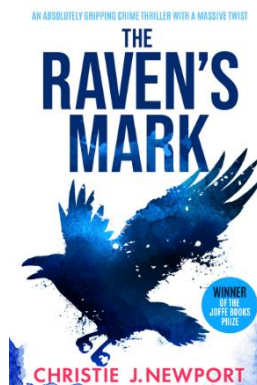
Telling you to get in.

**And he's the last person to ever see you alive.**

The body of a young woman is found brutally murdered. Now two more women are missing.

Detective Beth Fellows is in a race against time to track down one of the most fiendish killers she's ever faced.

**Previous books in the series:**



**'The most assured crime debut I have ever read' – bestselling author Lisa Jewell**

# Michael Grothaus

## Beautiful Shining People

**World English rights (excluding US & Canada):** Orenda Books

**World Polish rights:** Insignis Media

**World Serbian rights:** Vulkan

**Publication date:** March 2023

**Editor:** Karen Sullivan



**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**A remarkable Japan-set speculative novel about quantum computing and what it means to belong in a rapidly changing world – perfect for fans of *Ex-Machina* and *Machines Like Me* by Ian McEwan.**

Tokyo, late 2040s.

It's an ordinary world, one where cars drive themselves, drones glide across the sky, and robots work in hamburger shops. There are two superpowers and a digital Cold War, but all conflicts are safely oceans away. The new frontier: quantum computing – and it will change the world.

17-year-old coding genius John arrives in Tokyo, invited by Sony, who want to buy his quantum algorithm. One cold night he enters a small, strange cafe – a cafe run by a disgraced sumo wrestler accompanied by a peculiar dog with a spherical head. And then there's the waitress, who hides a striking secret. There's something different about her – a kind of splintering inside her, like there's something in there that doesn't belong. John might be the only person that can help her discover the truth – about what's inside, where her missing father went, and who might be looking for them now. It's a discovery that will take them from the neon streets of Tokyo to Hiroshima's tragic past to the snowy mountains of Nagano, and from the safety of family to the machinations of Big Tech and man's incessant struggle for power.

**Michael Grothaus** is an author and journalist from Saint Louis, Missouri, now living in London. He spent his twenties in Chicago where he earned his degree in filmmaking from Columbia and got his start in journalism writing for *Screen*. After working for institutions including The Art Institute of Chicago, Twentieth Century Fox, and Apple he earned his postgraduate degree with distinction in creative writing from the University of London. His writing has appeared in the *Guardian*, *Litro Magazine*, *Fast Company*, *VICE*, *the Irish Times*, *Screen*, *Quartz*, and others. His debut novel, *Epiphany Jones*, was published in 2016 and his first non-fiction book, *Trust No One*, was published by Hodder in November 2021.



# JD Kirk

## Where the Pieces Lie

Book 19 in the DCI Jack Logan series

World English rights: Zertex Media

Print rights: Canelo

German option: Zertex Media

Bulgarian option: Studio of A Ltd

Czech option: Dobrovsky

Russian option: Eksmo

Audio rights: Zertex Media



Publication date: 16 April 2024

Manuscript available

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell

Over 2 million copies sold

Packed with action, pathos, and dark humour, the series is perfect for fans of Ian Rankin, Val McDermid and Stuart MacBride.

Community service clean-up was supposed to be a tedious affair. But, when a young offender stumbles upon a bin bag filled with human remains, a quiet Highland village is thrown into chaos. The investigation leads DCI Jack Logan to a remote and nightmarish cottage, where a forgotten freezer holds a disturbing discovery: a full set of human fingers.

As more body parts are uncovered, Logan and his team hunt for a killer with a gruesome obsession for collecting trophies. Across the vast Highlands, where secrets run as deep as the lochs, the team must piece together a jigsaw puzzle of horror that's as fragmented as the remains they've found.

But how do you solve a jigsaw when you can't see the picture on the box?

Previous books in the series:



JD Kirk is the pen-name of award-winning former children's author Barry Hutchison, who first turned his hand to tartan noir in early 2019 with the publication of his first DCI Jack Logan novel, A Litter of Bones. JD lives in Fort William in the Scottish Highlands.



**J D Kirk**

## Eastgate

Book 4 in the Robert Hoon series

**World English rights:** Zertex Media

**Danish rights:** Lindbak + Lindbak

**Lithuanian option:** Jotema

**Macedonian option:** Knigoholicari

**German rights:** Blanvaet

**Publication date:** December 2022

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**Former Detective Superintendent, Bob Hoon, has had one hell of a year.**

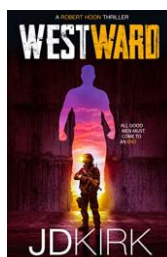
Former Detective Superintendent, Bob Hoon, has had one hell of a year. After being repeatedly beaten, shot at, blown-up, and tortured, Hoon is looking forward to spending a quiet Christmas drinking heavily in front of the TV, while pointedly ignoring the older sister who has invaded his home. The world, however, has other plans.

When a routine trip to an Inverness shopping centre is interrupted by a squad of heavily armed Santas, Hoon, his sister, and an old army colleague find themselves trapped alongside several hundred terrified hostages. With so much potential for bloodshed, the police gathering outside the centre can only wait, watch, and try to negotiate with the terrorists within.

But patience has never been Hoon's strong point. And so, if he and everyone else in the centre are going to make it home for Christmas, Hoon is left with only one choice.

He's going to Die Hard the \*\*\*\* out of this thing.

**Previous books in the series:**



**J D Kirk**

## **This Little Piggy**

**Book 2 in the DI Heather Filson series**

**World English rights:** Zertex Media

**Romanian rights:** Librex Media International

**Czech option:** Dobrovsky

**Publication date:** December 2023

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



### **Do you know who your friends are?**

When a much-loved Kilmarnock police constable is found beaten to death in his home, all signs point to a burglary gone wrong. But, when a second officer is slain while walking the beat, it becomes clear that something much more sinister is afoot.

Somebody is murdering cops.

Harassed by an infuriating new partner and a teenage true crime podcaster, DI Heather Filson must track down a brutal killer while tensions between the police and the public explode into violence.

With rioting breaking out across Glasgow, and running battles filling the streets, Heather's latest investigation is no longer just a murder hunt.

It's a race to stop Scotland's largest city from tearing itself apart.

**This Little Piggy is the second DI Heather Filson novel from multi-million selling Scottish crime fiction author, JD Kirk.**

### **Previous books in the series:**



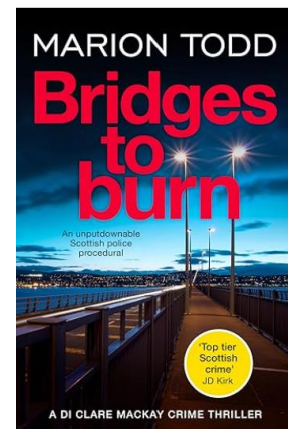
# Marion Todd

## Bridges to Burn

Book 8 in the DI Clare Mackay series

**World English rights:** Canelo  
**German option:** Amazon Germany  
**Danish digital rights:** Lytteriatur  
**Audio & Large print rights:** WF Howes  
**Publication date:** March 2024  
**Editor:** Louise Cullen

**Manuscript available**  
**All other rights available**  
**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**Over 400,000 copies sold**

**How can DI Clare Mackay uncover the facts if nothing is what it seems?**

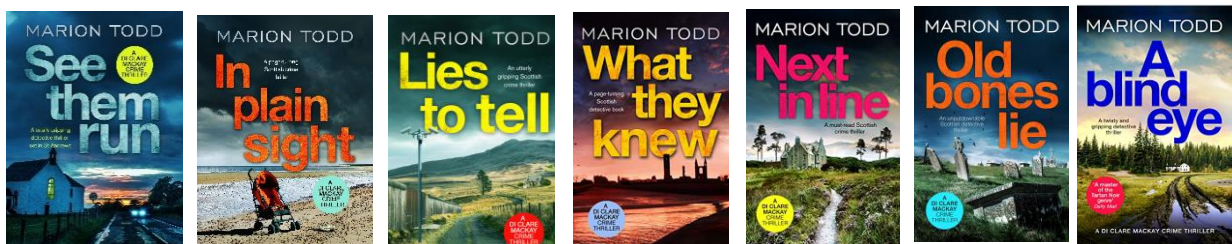
DI Clare Mackay is called to Albany High, where the body of a girl has been found. A suspected suicide – yet Sophie Bakewell was by all accounts a cheerful, talented student. Could she really have been hiding a darker side?

It's not the only disturbing case to land on Clare's desk. Across town, an elderly man is in danger. Yet before the police can determine the facts, everything changes and they are presented with two suspicious deaths to investigate.

As Clare and her team face the possibility that anything they believe to be true about the deaths is wrong, they might find that a killer can lurk behind the most innocent of faces...

**An unputdownable crime thriller from the queen of Tartan Noir, perfect for fans of Ann Cleeves and Lin Anderson.**

**Previous books in the series:**



A native of Dundee, **Marion Todd** studied music with the Open University and worked for many years as a piano teacher and jobbing accompanist. A spell as a hotel lounge pianist provided rich fodder for her writing and she began experimenting with a variety of genres. Early success saw her winning first prize in the *Family Circle Magazine* short story for children national competition and she followed this up by writing short stories and articles for her local newspaper. Now a full-time writer, Marion lives in North-east Fife, overlooking the River Tay.



# David J Gatward

## See No Evil

Book 17 in the DCI Harry Grimm series

World English rights: Weirdstone Publishing

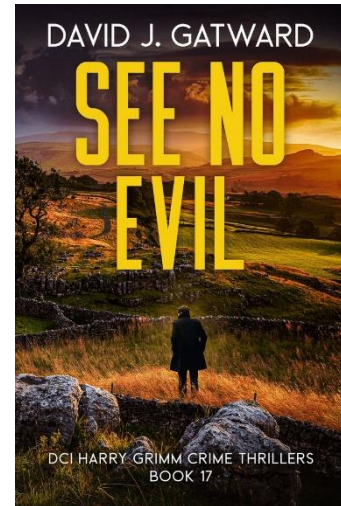
Publication date: March 2024

Manuscript available

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell

Perfect for fans of L. J. Ross, J. D. Kirk, Adam Croft, Simon McCleave, Alex Smith, J. M. Dalgliesh, J. E. Mayhew, and J. R. Ellis.



**A corpse hanging over the crops. A team falling ill. Can he find a killer before someone decides murder is contagious?**

*See No Evil* is the latest in the heart-pounding DCI Harry Grimm crime fiction series, set in the glorious Yorkshire Dales, following the ex-soldier-turned-copper as he tackles cases that push his skills and determination to the limit.

Join Grimm as he navigates through treacherous investigations filled with intrigue, dark secrets, and deadly adversaries.

### Previous books in the series:



David J Gatward's first book was published when he was 18. Since then, he has written numerous books for children and adults, both under his own name and as a ghost writer. In 2023 *Silent Ruin*, the 15<sup>th</sup> in the DCI Harry Grimm series, was shortlisted for the Kindle Storyteller Award.



**Will Jordan**

## **Dark Harvest**

**World English rights:** Blackstone

**German rights:** Blanvalet

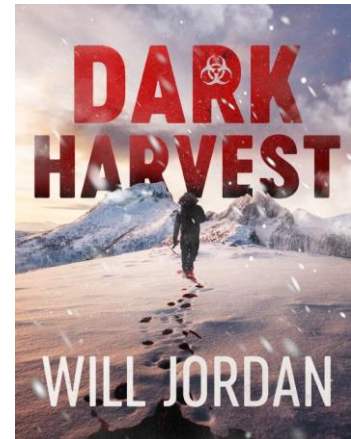
**Publication date:** August 2022

**Editor:** Daniel Ehrenhaft

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**A nail-biting standalone international thriller by bestselling Scottish author and star YouTube film critic Will Jordan.**

*Dark Harvest* is an action-packed ticking clock thriller inspired by the true story of the Dyatlov Pass Incident, in which nine Soviet hikers were found dead in the Ural mountains in 1959. Each of the bodies had massive injuries, including one woman who was missing her tongue, and some showed signs of radiation poisoning. The deaths have never been explained.

Fast forward to 2019, and ex-forces freelance security consultant Cameron Becker is protecting high-profile VIPs as they travel around Iraq. This time, it's Russian businessman Luka Belikov. But when Belikov is abducted on his watch, it's up to Becker to find him. In the meantime, WHO medic Lori Dalton is working in a Turkish refugee camp. When a disturbing find in an abandoned village brings her and Becker together, they quickly realise that there are forces at work here that are much bigger than either of them can handle – the international forces at work here pose a real and present danger to them and the rest of the world. As bio-terrorists prepare to attack four major international transport hubs, Lori and Becker must race against time to uncover the perpetrators, stop the plot, and save the human race.

**Will Jordan** lives near Edinburgh, Scotland. Will is the author of the Ryan Drake series, the ninth and final instalment of which was published in November 2020. The series has sold over 150,000 copies to English-language readers and has been optioned for a major feature film, with shooting scheduled to begin this year. He is also the author of *Deadly Cargo*, written with James Patterson as part of his BookShots series. Outside of writing, Will is the founder of the YouTube account *The Critical Drinker*, which has amassed over 1 million subscribers so far and 252 million views.



# Will Jordan

## Something to Die For

Book 9 in the Ryan Drake series

**World English language rights:** Canelo

**Film option:** Dreamrunner Pictures

**German rights:** Blanvalet

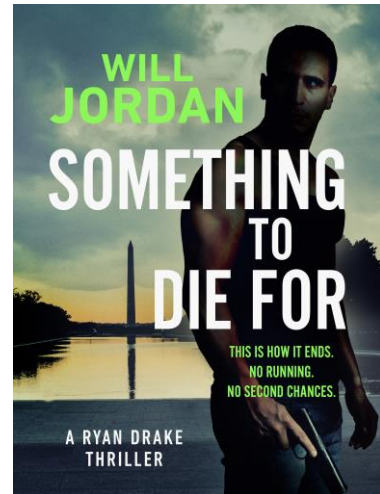
**Publication date:** November 2020

**Editor:** Iain Miller

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**'It doesn't let up for a moment'** *Shots Magazine*

**'This is a heart-stopper for anyone who likes plenty of action and explosions'** *Daily Mail*

**The epic conclusion to Ryan Drake's mission from a master of the action thriller, perfect for fans of Robert Ludlum and Vince Flynn.**

Time has run out for Ryan Drake. Most of his friends are dead or disappeared. Corrupt CIA Director Marcus Cain is poised to ascend to the highest levels of power, and the shadowy group known as the Circle is causing chaos across the globe.

But one shred of hope remains. A message hidden by his mother shortly before her death launches Drake and his sister Jessica on a desperate race against time. But they aren't the only ones tracking down the answers...

Meanwhile Drake's estranged ally, Anya, embarks on a mission of her own, driven by murderous vengeance. The trail of bodies left in her wake attracts powerful enemies, threatening the delicate balance that holds the world in check.

A climactic showdown awaits, where Drake must question everything if he is to defeat the enemy within.

**Previous books in the series:**



# **YA and Children's**

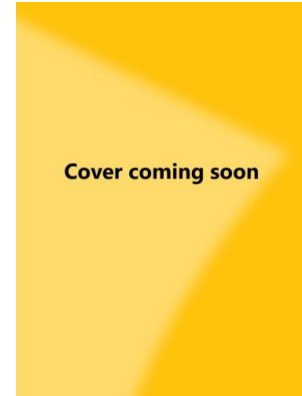
**Ova Ceren**

## **The Book of Heartbreak**

**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Currently on UK submission**



**Seventeen-year-old Sare Silverbirch is the loneliest soul on earth.**

A curse causes her to die whenever she suffers from a broken heart so she cannot afford to become attached to anyone except Munu, a spirit guide who works for a mysterious entity on the Otherside. Munu has the power to resurrect Sare five times until she turns eighteen.

If Sare reaches adulthood safely, she will never feel the sorrow of another heartbreak again, but the curse will claim her heart, taking away her ability to love.

Already heartbroken by friends, childminders and the death of pets, Sare's final resurrection is spent when her mother commits suicide. After the funeral, Sare discovers a grandfather she never knew existed. Puzzled over why her mum hid her past, she moves into her wealthy grandfather's mansion in Istanbul to start over.

As the shocking truth unfolds, Sare comes to understand that both her mother and Munu have lied to her, and her grandfather isn't the villain she thought he was. Will her heart shatter for the final time, or will Sare unravel the secrets of the past before it's too late?

**Ova Ceren** is a software developer and the creator behind the highly popular BookTok and Instagram channels @excusemyreading, where she shares literary landmarks, cosy views of her garden library and ongoing adventures of her resident flock of ducks. Half woman, half book, she was born and bred in Izmir, Turkey and now lives in Cambridge, UK.



# Megan Freeman

## A Better Nightmare

**World English language rights:** Chicken House

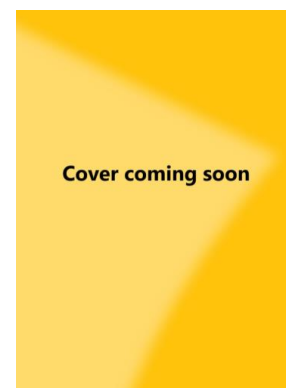
**Italian rights:** Rizzoli

**Publication date:** Spring 2025

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



### The spectacular YA romantasy debut novel from Faber Academy Graduate Megan Freeman

*What if magic wasn't a gift, but a disease?*

Emily Emerson has got The Grimm. She was eight when she started showing signs of the disease. Odd dreams, hallucinations – impossible things that happen around her. Until one night Emily is rushed to the Wildsmoor Facility, a correctional school for afflicted children, where her life is changed forever.

Fast forward seven years and Emily is fifteen. Like a shadow she lives her days, each one blurring into the next, hardly aware of life passing her by. Until she meets Emir.

Emir isn't like the other kids at Wildsmoor. He's quicker, livelier, and says things that he shouldn't – dangerous things. Emir is electric, in more ways than Emily can know. He introduces her to The Cure, a secret society for children who believe that The Grimm isn't a disease at all, but a gift. As Emily starts to wake up, so do her strange abilities, and the outcome is magic.

**Megan Freeman** writes young adult fiction and loves all things magic and mythology. She juggles writing with her day job working for a children's mental health charity, promoting wellbeing through surf therapy. Megan hails from the far west of Cornwall, and when she's not working or writing, loves tramping around the moorland and swimming or surfing in the sea.



**Sam Delaney**

## **Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Mental Health**



**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Currently on UK submission**

**At last – a funny, engaging and useful guide to mental health aimed at young people.**

Young people get advice about mental health all the time. Trouble is, most of it is boring, dry and patronising. This book is the antidote to dreary talks about ‘feelings’ by the deputy head in assembly; to the overly earnest advice dished out by child-psychiatrists and school counsellors with zero relatability; to the abject lack of support for the millions of UK teens struggling with mental health. It is a vital conversation starter for young people in crisis who need practical and engaging advice that they can actually relate to.

Through a combination of expert advice, scientific evidence and insights from young people themselves (and some of the celebrities they admire), this book will discuss all of the major issues around young people’s mental health, breaking them down in simple, disarming, amusing and easy to comprehend parts.

It will be a go-to book for young people, their parents and their teachers; a safe space for people to get their heads around the awkward business of feelings, thoughts and emotions without feeling like anyone is looking over their shoulder or judging them. Written in the funny, human and straight-forward style Sam Delaney is known for, this will be a jargon-busting book that seeks to demystify the plethora of psychobabble and platitudes that surround mental health.

**Sam Delaney** is a journalist and broadcaster whose podcasts have been downloaded over 20 million times worldwide. He is the author of four books, the most recent of which – *Sort Your Head Out: Mental Health Without All The Bollocks* (Constable) – was an Amazon Top 30 best-seller and widely acclaimed by the likes of Irvine Welsh, John Niven, Seth Meyers and Shaun Ryder. He is father to a 16-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old son, and in 2023 he qualified as a CPCAB Level 2 counsellor. He also works as a qualified trainer on the *Talking To Teens* course, helping parents to understand and support teenagers in their mental health challenges. He is also an ambassador for CALM. He writes for *The Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Big Issue* and numerous other publications. His mental health podcast, *The Reset*, has featured over 100 men talking intimately about their mental health, including Chuck D, Alastair Campbell, Adrian Chiles and Martin O’Neil.



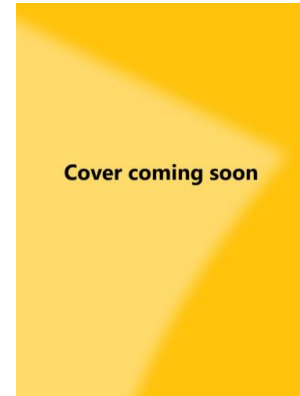
# Lucy Brandt

## Blooming Ridiculous

**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Currently on UK submission**



**Book one in a new series by the best-selling author of the hugely popular STEM comedy adventure *Leonora Bolt* series (Puffin, 2022)**

Arlo Mulch is a gangly and awkward (gawkward) nine-year-old boy who just wants to be good at something – anything at all. He tries his best to impress, but messes up maths tests, fluffs spellings and gets the part of curtains in the school play. Meanwhile his sports fanatic old-brother, Jed is captain of everything and an all-round over-achiever.

When dad, Joe is sacked from his job as an Estate Agent by his mysterious property bazillionaire boss, Edgar Withering, Arlo is desperate to help solve their money worries. And, as luck would have it, he receives an unexpected letter informing him of an inheritance from his recently deceased Great Aunt Marigold Wilder (who he's never heard of). But Arlo's bequest turns out to be three pouches of weird-looking seeds. He's bitterly disappointed, takes them home and chucks them in one of Jed's protein shakes.

All hell breaks loose when the seeds burst to life, and Arlo makes the life-changing discovery that gardening is in his blood – his family tree branches back to the famous landscaper, Supercilious Jones. Is this the solution to Arlo's problems? Or, after uprooting Edgar's long-buried hidden motive, will it bury the Mulch family in even more trouble?

**Lucy Brandt** is a mum of two young kids and lives and works in Brighton. She graduated from the University of York with a BA Hons in English and since then she has worked for nearly twenty years in a variety of traditional and digital marketing roles, largely specialising in technology. The first book of 4 books in her debut middle-grade series, *Leonora Bolt: Secret Inventor*, was published by Puffin in January 2022. It was shortlisted for the 2023 Children's Book Award and Leeds Book Awards, and is loved by mini-inventors everywhere.



# Contact

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