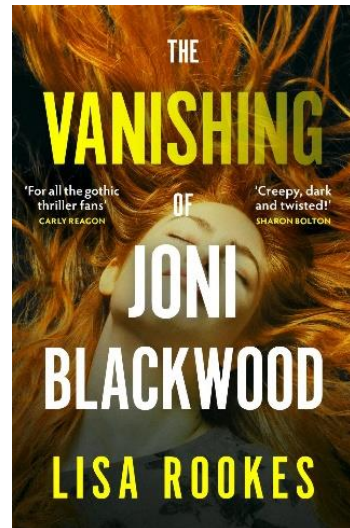
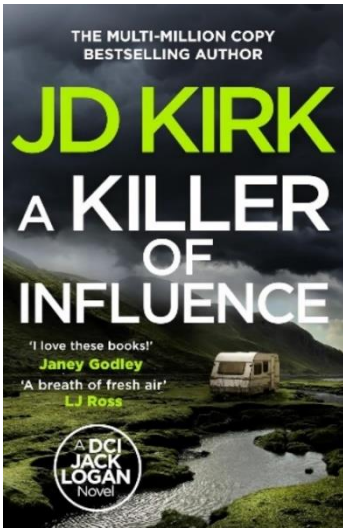
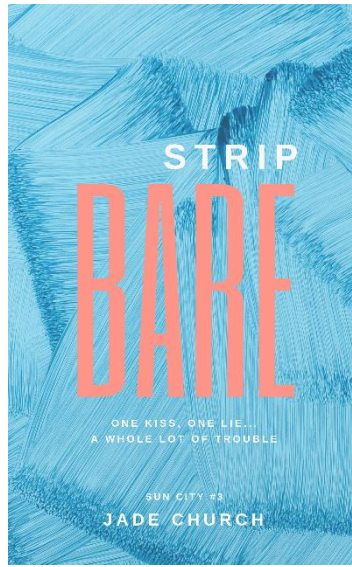


NORTH BANK

TALENT MANAGEMENT



Fiction Rights Guide

Autumn 2024

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Hot List – Fiction

Jeff Marsick

Watcher On the Edge

Manuscript available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell

Currently on UK submission



In the few dozen jobs Gage had pulled since he'd left the Army, he'd never had one go so sideways as this one.

Gage, a twenty-six-year-old veteran with PTSD turned burglar-for-hire, makes a comfortable living in the sleepy suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio.

But when a particularly lucrative heist is interrupted by the owner shooting her husband dead, Gage has to act fast to ensure he – the only witness to the murder – isn't implicated in either crime.

Unable to work with the authorities and struggling to grapple with his own sense of reality, things quickly spiral out of control. But is he in too deep to back out, teetering on the edge of a conspiracy that might just cost him his life? Or can Gage uncover what really happened that night, for both the husband's sake, and his own?

A Cleveland boy who has read and collected comics ever since the cover prices were a quarter, **Jeff Marsick's** been around life's block a few times as a Coast Guard officer, a chiropractor, and a financial analyst. Through it all, though, he's been a screenwriter and aspiring novelist, as well as co-creator and writer of the independently produced comic books, *Z-GIRL AND THE 4 TIGERS* and *DEAD MAN'S PARTY*.



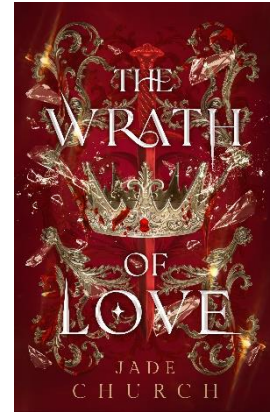
Jade Church

The Wrath of Love

Manuscript available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell

Currently on UK submission



***The Wrath of Love* is a standalone, spicy fantasy romance and is perfect for fans of *The Shadows Between Us*, *From Blood and Ash*, and *The Serpent and the Wings of Night*.**

'Til death do us part lasts a long time when forever never ends.

He is dark, powerful, cruel... and her husband-to-be.

Amaris is in love with a vampire set on revenge. But when her love, Celio, sends her to kill the new vampire king under the guise of marriage, she finds her allegiances shifting in ways she never could have foreseen.

Awakened as a new vampire and married to Severen, the king, Amaris is shocked to discover that perhaps her new husband is not what she expected. Caught between her promise of revenge to Celio and her traitorous heart, Amaris struggles to resist her attraction to her new husband, the dark king... and Celio's brother.

Jade Church is an avid reader and writer of spicy romance. She has self-published 12 titles (and counting) including the best-selling *Sun City* series and the vampire romance series *Ashvale*. She loves sweet and swoony love interests and bold female leads. All of her books are proudly sex and body positive. Jade currently lives in the UK and spends the majority of her time reading and writing, as well as binge re-watching *The Vampire Diaries*.



Contemporary Fiction

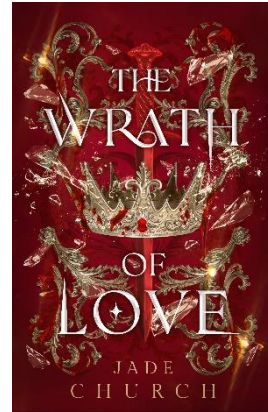
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Manuscript available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell

Currently on UK submission



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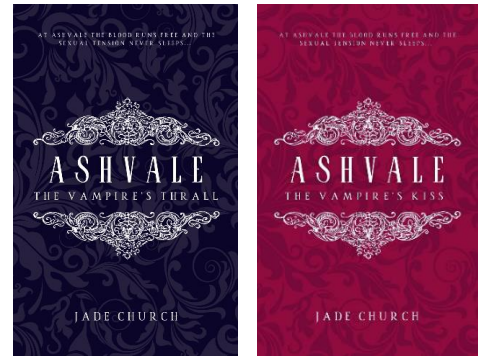
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Jade Church

World English rights: Jade Church
World English language audio rights: Tantor
All rights available unless noted otherwise

Manuscripts available
Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



The Ashvale Series

A paranormal vampire romance series filled with heat, secrets, and snark.

Leonora Romilly was murdered. The catch? She didn't stay dead.

Instead, she finds herself alive-ish and swept away to Ashvale to learn how to be a fully-functioning, albeit undead, member of society. With her would-be murderer still roaming free, a new-found love, and her lost memories on the line, can Leonora survive with both her head and her heart intact?

Kingdom of Stars duology

English, Dutch, French eBook rights: Kobo

Saiph must kill the mortal queen.

Sent to the mortal plane by her mother, Saiph finds herself caught in a bargain with one of the people she has been told to destroy – Auren, the rebel queen's guard.

Plagued by her growing feelings for the woman she's supposed to hate, Saiph is left torn between duty and love. With time running out to complete her task, Saiph must fulfil her bargain with Auren and choose her side in the upcoming battle, before it's too late.

Perfect for fans of *A Kiss of Iron*.



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World English language audio rights: Tantor
All other rights available

Manuscripts available
Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



Sun City Series

Standalone spicy college romances, set in the same universe

Get Even. Don't get mad, get even is advice Jamie Silver takes to heart when she discovers her boyfriend is sleeping with her best friend. **Revenge is a dish best served hot.**

Fall Hard. Falling in love with your best friend sucks – **especially when they don't love you back.**

Strip Bare. A kiss he can't take back and a friendship at stake. **Who knew one little white lie could cause so much chaos?**

Living in Cincy series

Romantic suspense novels

In Too Deep. When Rose DuLoe is forced to leave her comfortable city life for a mansion in the middle of nowhere, she feels out of control. Worse, the estate is owned by the man who drives her crazy. With a gala to plan and a stalker to catch, can Rose and Blake make it through without wanting to kiss – or kill – each other?

Tempt My Heart. Given an ultimatum by her paparazzo ex, Ali has sixty days to either stop him – with a little help from her boss – or be forced to leak the most exclusive wedding of the year, giving her ex the scoop of a lifetime and forcing her boss Christopher to betray his closest friend. As the deadline nears and tensions rise, Ali starts to wonder if her heart was the thing most at risk after all.



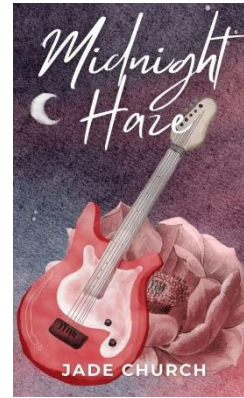
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Jade Church

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World English language audio rights: Tantor
All other rights available

Manuscripts available
Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



Midnight Haze

She's the queen of pop. He's a sports god. Together, the press is feral.

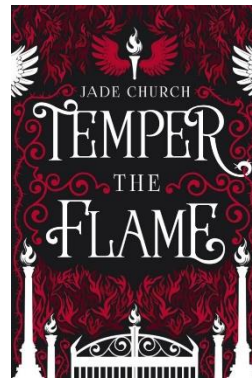
When Sienna is spotted leaving her own end-of-tour afterparty in a fierce lip-lock with the sports world's favourite dreamboat, she never could have anticipated the public's response. With a lot to gain and seemingly nothing to lose, the pair agree to date for six months – but when their time runs out and Sienna's new tour approaches, will they be able to let each other go?



Temper the Flame

A curse. A betrayal. A love that could break her...

A standalone paranormal fallen angel romance.



One Last Touch

I had never seen a ghost before I came to Alswell Manor...

Haunted by mysteries in her past, Georgina is determined to unravel the truth of what happened to her mother and their twisted connection to the house. **A standalone romantic horror.**



Three Kisses More

A spicy, Why Choose holiday romance.

Staying at a luxe ski resort in Finland for a business conference, the last thing Sephy's looking for is love, but when her ex rocks up with a hot new investor in tow, she knows she's in trouble...

Jade Church is an avid reader and writer of spicy romance. She has self-published 12 titles (and counting) including the best-selling *Sun City* series and the vampire romance series *Ashvale*. She loves sweet and swoony love interests and bold female leads. All of her books are proudly sex and body positive. Jade currently lives in the UK and spends the majority of her time reading and writing, as well as binge re-watching *The Vampire Diaries*.



Bianca Gillam

Bad Publicity

World All rights: Bloomsbury General

Publication date: February 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 Other Occupational Hazards

World All rights: Transworld

Publication date: April 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.



Sophie Crawford

Hope(Less) in Love

UK & Commonwealth rights (inc. audio, excl. Canada): Verve Books

Publication date: November 2025

Editor: Jenna Gordon

Manuscript available

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



Hope doesn't believe in signs, and she'd rather be dragged through fire than let go of the love-of-her-life. But even she has to admit: your eyes filling with blood at the sight of your ex is either an extreme reaction to a tarot reading or the illegal result of one.

Hope is a 32-year-old, recently dumped temp who gets her big break at work when she exorcises the ghost from the office-basement. Having given up on her dreams of a career in music, for Hope things can't get worse. Until they do.

After accidentally agreeing to play guitar in the band at her ex-girlfriend's wedding, Hope is determined to change her fate and become the master of her own destiny. She'll stop the wedding if it means winning ex, Julia back.

But after a tarot card reading gone wrong, the signs all seem to be pointing in a new romantic direction – fellow-bandmate and inventor-extraordinaire, Ruby. Around Ruby, Hope can see straight. When she's gone, strange things happen. Namely: fish raining from the sky and Hope's sudden ability to spit gemstones.

Will Ruby be able to show Hope the path to true happiness? Or is she destined to remain blind forever?

Sophie Crawford is an author, theatre maker and folk musician based in London. After studying English at Cambridge University, Sophie went on to work as a performer on the West End, at Shakespeare's Globe and touring internationally. She now helps runs the theatre company Glimmer Theatre, the monthly poetry and music night Patterned Ground, the monthly folk singing session The Singaround and the drag king band Boyz. She also works independently as a solo musician. Her debut album *Silver Pin* was released in 2018. She is interested in women's history, queer history, traditional music, dance, drag and the way all of these intersect.



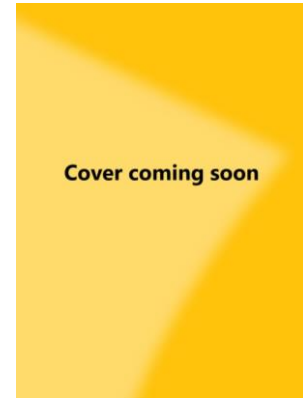
Mary Newnham

Stalemate

Manuscript available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell

Manuscript coming soon



Practical Amy can tick everything off her wedding to-do list... except sex with her fiancé.

Amy, the awkward physics teacher, is seven weeks away from marrying her ten-year partner, Josh. It's only when her sensual wedding dressmaker uncovers that the sex has dried up that Amy attempts to tackle the issue. Will she be able to relight the passion before her marriage begins?

Piglet if written by Dolly Alderton, *Stalemate* is a witty contemporary novel that observes the obstacles that impact sex in the millennial generation and the guesswork a woman can experience when the sex dries up.

Mary Newnham is a British female fiction writer. Mary found her love for writing when she started blogging about Bloody Marys. Her film production degree led her into the world of advertising, where she worked in the film department at a Soho ad agency. For a brief time, she lived in Australia as a constantly sunburnt producer before returning to England. She currently writes and records *The Quack*, a weekly blog featuring true stories and witty observations. Mary has an MA in Creative Writing at Oxford Brookes. She lives solo in Jericho, Oxford. She doesn't own a cat.



Eve Ainsworth

Somebody I Used to Love

World English rights: Canelo

World audio rights: Bolinda

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.



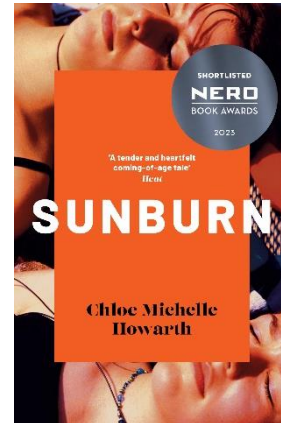
Chloe Michelle Howarth

Sunburn

UK & Commonwealth rights (excl. Canada): Verve Books
UK & Commonwealth audio rights (excl. Canada): W.F. Howes
North American rights: Melville House
German rights: Bastei Lübbe
Ukrainian rights: Laboratory LLC
Romanian rights: Popovici Media S.R.L.

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 and the British Book Awards Book of the Year in the Discover category; longlisted for the Polari First Book Prize 2024 and the 2024 Diverse Book Awards

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

Heap Earth Upon It

UK & Commonwealth rights (inc. audio, excl. Canada): Verve Books

Romanian rights: Popovici Media S.R.L.

Publication date: Autumn 2025

Editor: Jenna Gordon

Manuscript available

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



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?

Gráinne Murphy

Greener

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

Publication date: April 2024

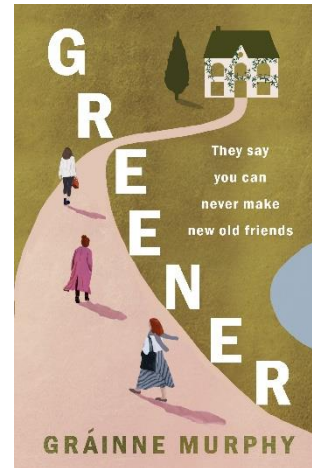
Editor: Cari Rosen

Ukrainian rights: Fabula Publishing

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

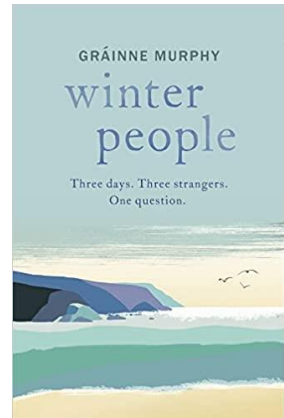
Publication date: September 2023

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

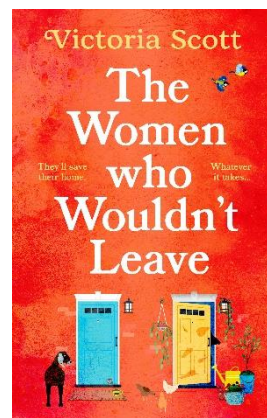
Publication date: Summer 2023

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.



Victoria Scott

Grace

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

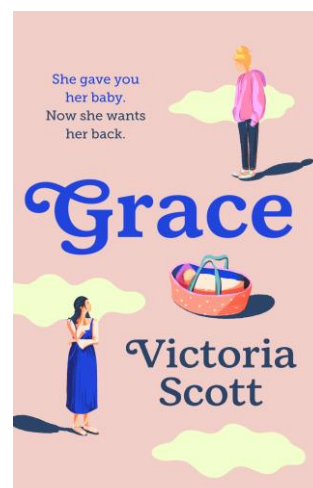
Publication date: August 2022

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

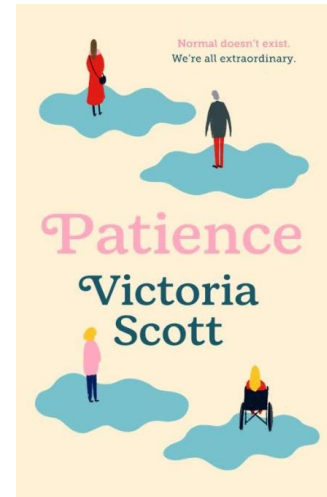
Publication date: August 2021

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.

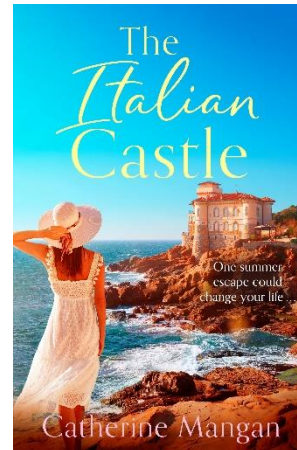
Or will they? When the Willows are offered the opportunity for Patience to take part in a new gene therapy trial to cure her Rett syndrome, they face an impossible dilemma. Are the very real risks worth the chance of the reward, no matter how small?

Catherine Mangan

The Italian Castle

World English rights: Sphere
Dutch option: HarperCollins Holland
Publication date: May 2025
Editor: Rebecca Roy

Manuscript available
All other rights available
Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



Escape to an Italian island with this perfect escapist summer romance, and fall in love with this irresistible holiday read, perfect for fans of Rosanna Ley, Nicky Pellegrino and Rebecca Raisin.

One summer escape could change your life . . .

After a devastating break-up, budding artist Emma escapes to the sun-drenched Italian island of Giglio with her two best friends, determined to not let her own heartbreak get in the way of the ultimate hen weekend.

With sprawling sandy beaches, glistening turquoise seas and delicious food, Emma finally feels like she can leave her troubles behind - until her best friend reveals a jaw-dropping secret that shakes Emma to her core. Unable to continue with her girls weekend, Emma goes off on her own and finds solace deep within Giglio's castle walls, where she meets Jack, an Irish artist in Italy for the art festival, and sparks an instant connection.

As the pair grow closer over their shared passion for art, Jack instils in Emma the confidence to finally follow her dreams. But Jack has secrets of his own, and under the heat of the Italian sun, will those secrets come to light?

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.

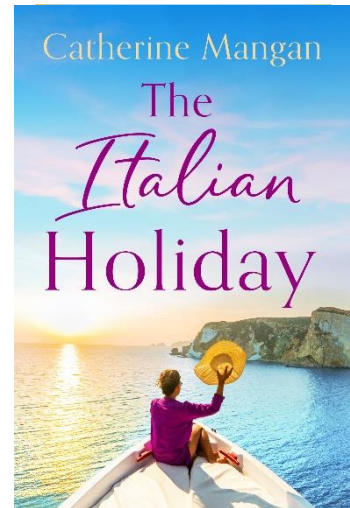


Catherine Mangan

The Italian Holiday

World English rights: Sphere
Dutch rights: HarperCollins Holland
Publication date: May 2024
Editor: Rebecca Roy

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

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

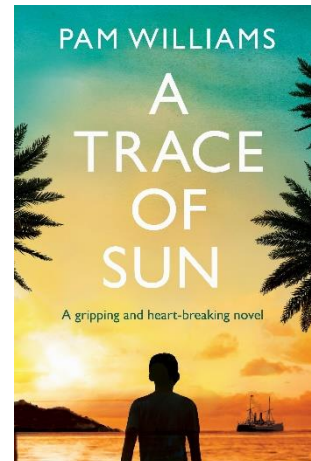
Publication date: March 2024

Editor: Cari Rosen

Manuscript available

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



Longlisted for the 2024 Women's Prize for Fiction

'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?

Rachel Wells

Alfie's Apprentices

Dutch rights: HarperCollins Netherlands

Italian rights: Garzanti Libri

Japanese rights: HarperCollins

Chinese (simplified) option: Beijing Savor Time Culture

Finnish option: Otava

French option: City Editions

German option: Bastei Luebbe

Polish option: Wydawnictwo Amber

Portuguese option: Porto Editora

Russian option: AST Publishers

Spanish option: Duomo

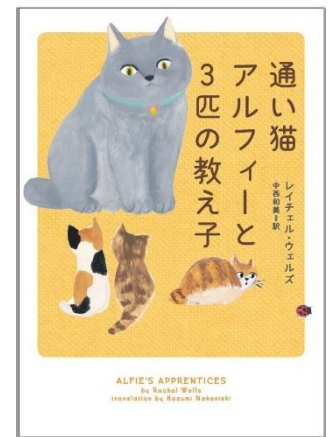
Czech option: Albatros

Manuscript available

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell

The eighth book in the bestselling adult fiction series about friend to the community Alfie the cat.



It's been a busy old time for Alfie. Not only the humans in his life who seem to be pretty full-on, but also his three grand-kittens who are more than a pawful.

Edgar Road has changed. Alfie has said goodbye to Polly and Matt and family, who have moved out of London due to Matt's work, taking the children and Pickles with them. Although he knows they will visit often, he misses them, having had them as part of his life for so long. They also had to say goodbye to Harold who had to go into a home due to dementia.

Alfie realises that he can kill two birds with one stone (not literally), by training up his grand kittens to take on the 'Alfie' mantle. However, 'Alfie' training isn't as easy as he first thought.

And when the cat food left down in the evening starts disappearing, Alfie thinks the kittens are stealing the food. But when other cats in the neighbourhood report strange happenings too, it's clear there's a mystery to solve. Can Alfie and his new recruits get to the bottom of it and restore order to Edgar Road?

Rachel Wells is a mother, writer and cat lover. She lives in Devon with her family and her pets and believes in the magic of animals. Rachel grew up in Devon but lived in London in her twenties, working in marketing and living in a tiny flat with an elderly rescue cat. After having a child, she moved back to Devon and decided to take the plunge and juggle motherhood with writing.



Rachel Wells

Alfie the Christmas Cat

World English language rights: Avon

Chinese (simplified) option: Beijing Savor Time Culture

Dutch rights: HarperCollins Netherlands

Finnish option: Otava

French option: City Editions

German option: Bastei Luebbe

Italian rights: Garzanti Libri

Japanese rights: HarperCollins

Polish option: Wydawnictwo Amber

Portuguese option: Porto Editora

Russian option: AST Publishers

Spanish option: Duomo

Czech option: Albatros

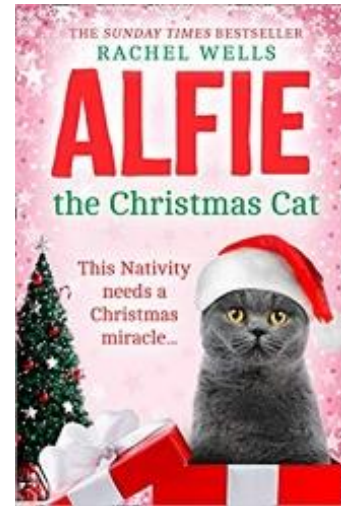
Publication date: November 2020

Editor: Molly Walker-Sharp

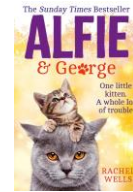
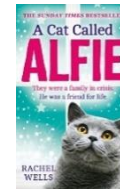
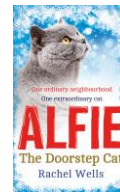
Manuscripts available

All other rights available

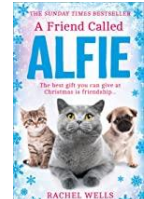
Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



Previous books in the series:



The seventh book in the bestselling adult fiction series about friend to the community Alfie the cat.



Christmas is around the corner, and Alfie and George can't wait. This year, the residents of Edgar Road have come together to put on a festive show and raise money for a local homeless shelter.

As December approaches, plans are in full swing: auditions are being held, props are being built, Alfie and George are rehearsing daily, and everyone is having a very merry time.

But then things start to go wrong. And when the residents arrive at the theatre one morning to discover their set has been trashed, it becomes clear someone is trying to sabotage their performance.

Alfie and George know it's up to them to find the culprit and save the day. Because, after all, the show must go on...

Rachel Wells is a mother, writer and cat lover. She lives in Devon with her family and her pets and believes in the magic of animals. Rachel grew up in Devon but lived in London in her twenties, working in marketing and living in a tiny flat with an elderly rescue cat. After having a child, she moved back to Devon and decided to take the plunge and juggle motherhood with writing.



Historical Fiction

Victoria Scott

The Storyteller's Daughter

World English rights: Boldwood Books

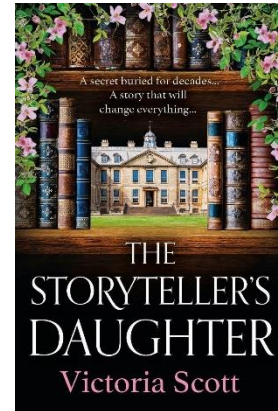
Publication date: January 2025

Editor: Rachel Faulkner-Wilcocks

Manuscript coming soon

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



A secret buried for decades... A story that will change everything.

1940: When twenty-one-year-old Nita Bineham is offered the chance of independence, away from the high walls of her family's Surrey estate, she grasps it with both hands. But her new role at a local newspaper coincides with the emergence of a sinister rumour in their quiet village: that there is a traitor in their midst. Nita is determined to prove herself by uncovering the truth, but is she prepared for revelations that could change her life forever?

2008: Following the death of her great aunt, Beth flees London for the privacy of rural Surrey. Within the confines of her family's dilapidated manor house, she hides from the dual wreckage of her career and her marriage. But when her aunt's dying words lead her to a stack of old newspaper articles, Beth finds herself drawn into a decades old mystery: about a long-buried secret, and an enemy dangerously close to home.

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.



Victoria Scott

The House in the Water

World English rights: Boldwood Books

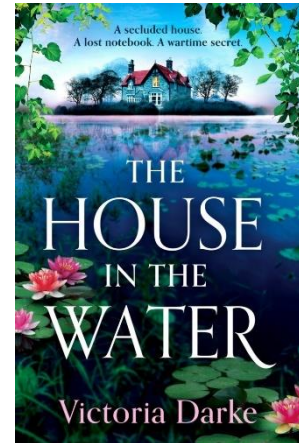
Publication date: 27 May 2024

Editor: Rachel Faulkner-Wilcocks

Manuscript available

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



A secluded house. A lost notebook. A wartime secret.

1942: Young Irish nurse Ellen arrives at May Day House, tasked with helping the men there rehabilitate. But there's something strange about the house, surrounded by water, on its own island in the Thames. And then there are the men: traumatised by their experiences of war, and subject to troubling methods in a desperate race to get them back to duty. As Ellen gets drawn into the world of May Day House, she starts to realise this will be no place to hide away from her own troubles...

2013: Philip and Meredith 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 the riverside community. As their plans for the rundown house meet resistance from the neighbours, Meredith finds herself slowly unravelling: she hears voices on the water, sees figures where there can be no one there. When she finds an old notebook from the war, she seeks solace in the stories about the former patients of the island.

But will shadows from the past threaten her future happiness – and even her life?

Michelle Kenney

The Mismatch of the Season

World English rights: One More Chapter

Publication date: Autumn 2024

Editor: Charlotte Ledger

Manuscript available

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



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.

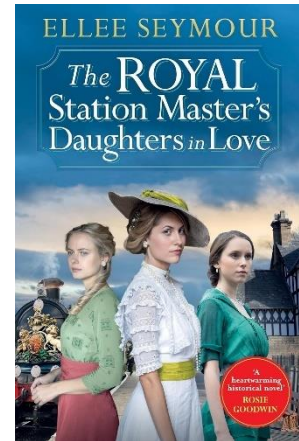


Ellee Seymour

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

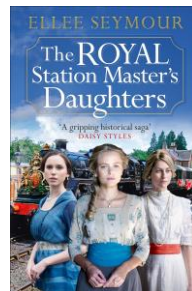


The bold new WWI saga series based on the Saward family, who ran the train station at Wolferton, the local stop for the Royal Sandringham Estate.

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

Jeff Marsick

Watcher On the Edge

Manuscript available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell

Currently on UK submission



In the few dozen jobs Gage had pulled since he'd left the Army, he'd never had one go so sideways as this one.

Gage, a twenty-six-year-old veteran with PTSD turned burglar-for-hire, makes a comfortable living in the sleepy suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio.

But when a particularly lucrative heist is interrupted by the owner shooting her husband dead, Gage has to act fast to ensure he – the only witness to the murder – isn't implicated in either crime.

Unable to work with the authorities and struggling to grapple with his own sense of reality, things quickly spiral out of control. But is he in too deep to back out, teetering on the edge of a conspiracy that might just cost him his life? Or can Gage uncover what really happened that night, for both the husband's sake, and his own?

A Cleveland boy who has read and collected comics ever since the cover prices were a quarter, **Jeff Marsick's** been around life's block a few times as a Coast Guard officer, a chiropractor, and a financial analyst. Through it all, though, he's been a screenwriter and aspiring novelist, as well as co-creator and writer of the independently produced comic books, *Z-GIRL AND THE 4 TIGERS* and *DEAD MAN'S PARTY*.



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

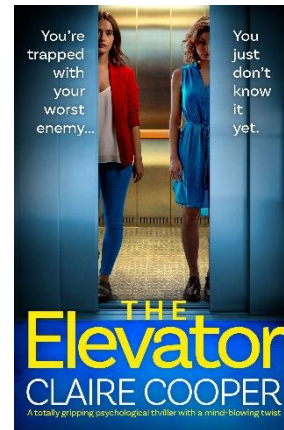
Publication date: August 2023

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.



Claire Cooper

The Couple on the Train

World English rights: Bookouture

World German option: Goldmann Verlag

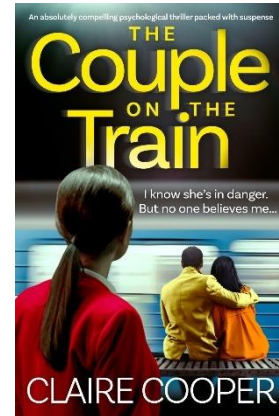
Publication date: August 2024

Editor: Ruth Tross

Manuscript available

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



A completely compulsive thriller that will have you on the edge of your seat! If you like Lisa Jewell, Andrea Mara and Shari Lapena, you'll love *The Couple on the Train*.

I look at where the woman was sitting. There's a scrap of paper tucked into the gap between the seats. With shaking hands, I pick it up. The note reads: *Help me*.

At first glance, the couple on the train look normal. But her hands are clenched on her floral patterned bag. The man with her is holding her too tightly.

She catches my eye and I see her desperation. I'm opening my mouth to speak when the train grinds to a halt and the man stands, hauling her away.

I find the message she left behind. *Help me*.

When I call the police, there's no sign of the couple on CCTV. The kind detective gently suggests that it's not surprising, with my history, that I am imagining things.

But I know what I saw. If no one will believe me, I'll find her myself.

Yet as I search, strange things start happening. I think I'm being followed. And some of my discoveries remind me of that terrible time ten years ago...

The hunt for the woman on the train is leading me where I should never go. Can I save her, or will I be next?

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 gizzly, 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.



Lisa Rookes

The Empty Cradle

World English rights: Orion

Publication date: August 2025

Editor: Leodora Darlington

Manuscript coming soon

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



A completely gripping and chilling suspense novel, with a shocking twist

Amy's so sure that her husband, Joel, is deeply invested in their future together. After all, it's his dream of a family together that has them trying so hard to have a baby, despite a series of disappointments. **It's this certainty that leaves Amy absolutely floored when she learns of Joel's affair with her best friend.**

Heartbroken and horrified, Amy flees to a dilapidated cottage in a Yorkshire village, a place she'd bought with dreams of making it feel homey and warm. In the new village, she feels like a clear outsider, but a group of local women soon take her under their wing. They gather for a routine book club, they say. **Before Amy knows it, these women are in her life, and in her home.**

Amy wakes one night to find herself outside in the fields. Strange offerings seem to be left on her doorstep. And the surveillance camera she installs shows shapes creeping around her house in the night. Strangest of all, she suddenly finds she's pregnant. A pregnancy that feels like a cruel joke.

The book club is incredibly invested in Amy's pregnancy. And it might just be in Amy's mind, but the women's interest doesn't always seem safe. **What do the women want with her? And what do they want with her baby?**

Christie Newport

Girl On Ward A

World English rights: Storm Publishing

Publication date: tbc

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

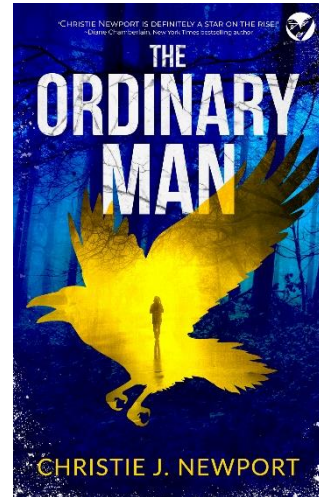
Publication date: February 2024

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.

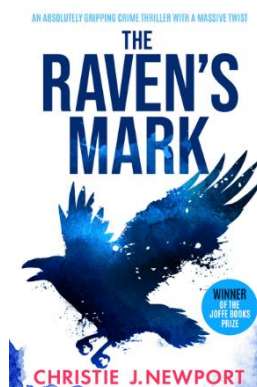
Telling you to get in.

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

A Killer of Influence

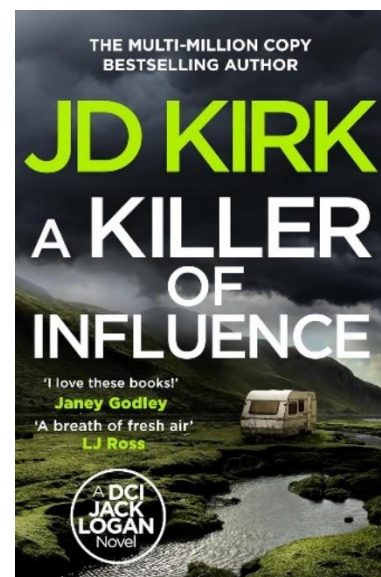
Book 20 in the DCI Jack Logan series

World English rights: Zertex Media
World English language print rights: Canelo
German option: Zertex Media
Bulgarian option: Studio of A Ltd
Czech option: Dobrovsky
Czech audio option: OneHotBook
Russian option: Eksmo
Danish digital option: People's Press

Manuscript available
All other rights available
Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell

Publication date: September 2024

Over 3 million copies sold



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

Following a convention in the Scottish Highlands, eight social media influencers vanish without a trace, leaving their followers – and families – in a state of shock, and the police clueless as to their whereabouts.

And then, the livestreams begin. Broadcast live from their squalid underground cells, the young influencers are forced into a sadistic battle for survival.

As the likes increase and the death toll rises, DCI Jack Logan and his team must traverse both the Scottish wilderness and the darkest corners of the internet to try and save the remaining captives. **But how do you catch a killer who is always one click ahead?**

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

Stateside

Book 5 in the Robert Hoon series

World English rights: Zertex Media

Danish option: Lindbak + Lindbak

Lithuanian option: Jotema

Macedonian option: Knigoholicari

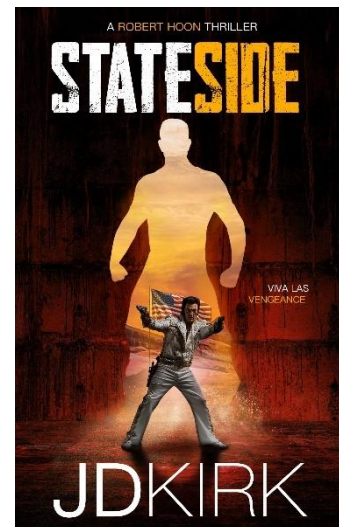
German option: Blanvaet

Publication date: July 2024

Manuscript available

All other rights available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



Viva Las Vengeance

All Bob Hoon ever wanted was a good whisky, and some peace and quiet.

But, when Hoon hears that his friend and MI5 agent, Miles Crabtree, has gone missing in the United States, he is dragged back into action once more.

The hunt leads him to the Florida Everglades, and into conflict with the violent locals, the terrifying wildlife, and a Sheriff with a sinister agenda of his own.

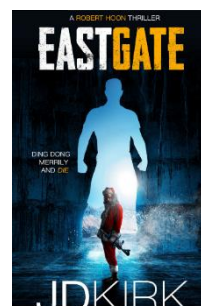
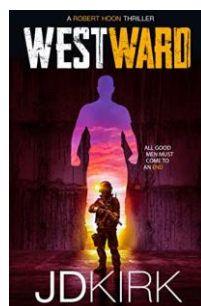
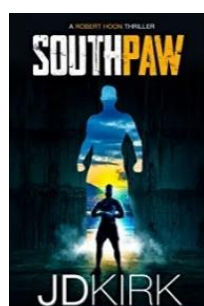
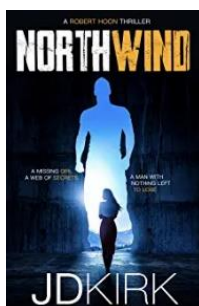
Carving a trail of destruction across America, Hoon crosses swords with a washed-out, Elvis-themed P.I. who might be his only chance of not only saving his friend, but of foiling a twisted conspiracy that could lead to the deaths of millions.

From the Highlands of Scotland, through the steamy dive bars of Florida, to the dazzling neon nightmare of Vegas, Hoon's quest for justice will expose the rotten underbelly of the American Dream.

And he might just cause a major international incident along the way.

Stateside is the fifth book in the Robert Hoon Thrillers series by internationally bestselling author, JD Kirk.

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 rights: 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:



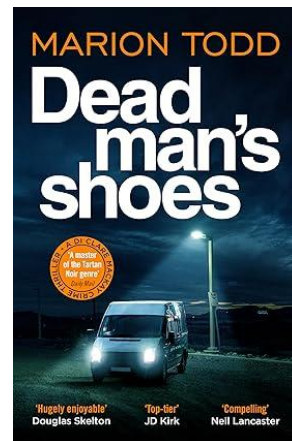
Marion Todd

Dead Man's Shoes

Book 9 in the DI Clare Mackay series

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

Manuscript available
All other rights available
Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



Over 500,000 copies sold

Will DI Clare Mackay end up with blood on her hands?

A young man is found dead near a nightclub. He has marks on his neck, the signature of the Choker, a killer who has been targeting gay men across the country. Now, it seems he's in DI Clare Mackay's territory.

She discovers this victim has links to notorious criminals in the area. Is it possible his death was at the hands of someone else?

More men, including ones linked to the victim, are attacked and left injured. It's only a matter of time before someone else is killed. But Clare's desire for justice leaves her with blindspots which put her job – and her life – at risk.

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

Blood Fountain

Book 19 in the DCI Harry Grimm series

World English rights: Weirdstone Publishing

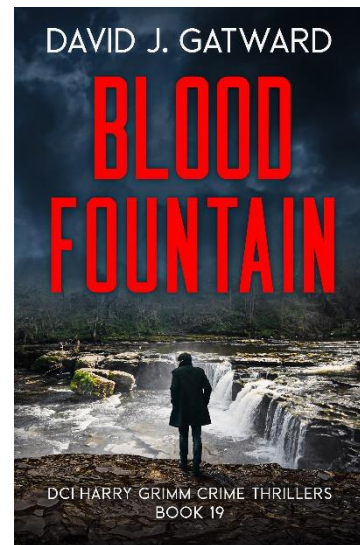
Publication date: October 2024

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.



Caught up in a conflict over embracing the present or preserving the past, can this big-city cop get to the bottom of a deadly backwater grievance?

With a solid investigative team at his back and a much-anticipated wedding engagement party to attend, Harry Grimm is basking in the quaint country lifestyle. But the intimidating detective's idyllic surroundings are thrown into chaos when a morning visit to the town pub's quoit pitch reveals a tourist's macabrely decapitated corpse.

Initially worried the murderer is escalating a sporting rivalry, Grimm goes back to square one when another victim turns up at a waterfall. Suspecting that the tension between locals and sightseers has bubbled over into something fatal, he races to make his way through a horrifyingly lengthy suspect list.

Can he identify which of his charming neighbours is a secret serial killer?

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 15th in the DCI Harry Grimm series, was shortlisted for the Kindle Storyteller Award.



David J Gatward

The Somerset Slayings

Book 1 in the DI Haig series

World English rights: Weirdstone Publishing

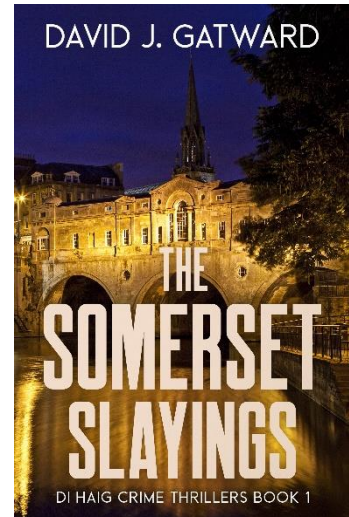
Publication date: September 2024

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. Dalglish, J. E. Mayhew, and J. R. Ellis.



A fresh start filled with ghosts and heartache. Can she face her own demons and stop a malevolent murderer?

Somerset, England. DI Gordy Haig is drowning in grief. Devastated and heartbroken, the dedicated Scot questions her decision to transfer and take on a new role in a town full of strangers. And just as she's tempted to give up, a body is found gruesomely displayed in the ruins of a castle.

Digging into the grisly crime, while still living out of a suitcase, the tenacious investigator puzzles over the staged homicide and its apparent mirroring of a death scene from a horror movie. As she battles with nightmares and little sleep, and struggles to focus on the day job, a second body is found - once again mirroring another grotesque cinematic murder.

As the clues reveal a link to an unfinished horror movie, can Gordy roll the credits on a mystery steeped in history and deceit?

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 15th in the DCI Harry Grimm series, was shortlisted for the Kindle Storyteller Award.



Will Jordan

Dark Harvest

World English rights: Blackstone

German rights: Blanvalet

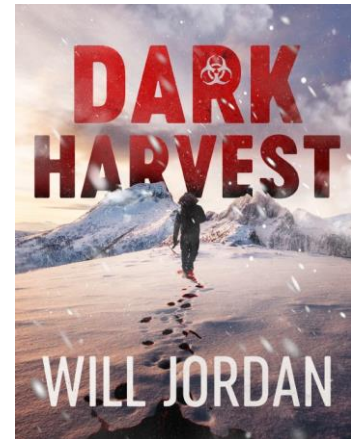
Publication date: August 2022

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

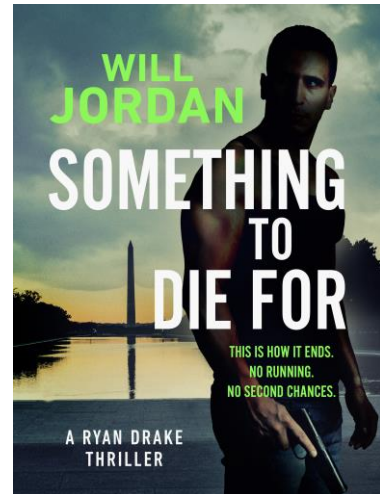
Publication date: November 2020

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

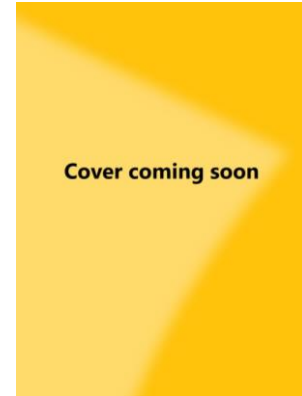
World ex. US rights: Bonnier Books UK

US rights: Alcove Press

Publication date: August 2025

Manuscript available

Principal agent: Elizabeth Counsell



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

Cursed to die whenever she suffers a broken heart, Sare 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 won't feel the sorrow of another heartbreak ever again. But in return the curse will claim her heart, and her ability to love along with it.

At Seventeen, Sare's final resurrection is spent when her mother commits suicide. But at the funeral, Sare discovers a grandfather she never knew existed. Puzzled over why her family and heritage has been hidden, she moves into her wealthy grandfather's mansion in Istanbul to start over.

As the 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 a 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

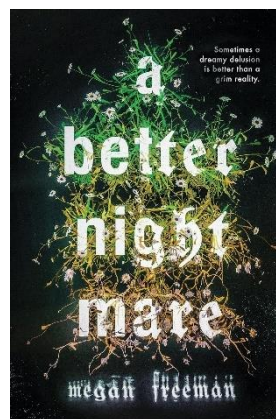
Italian rights: Rizzoli

Publication date: March 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.



Contact

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