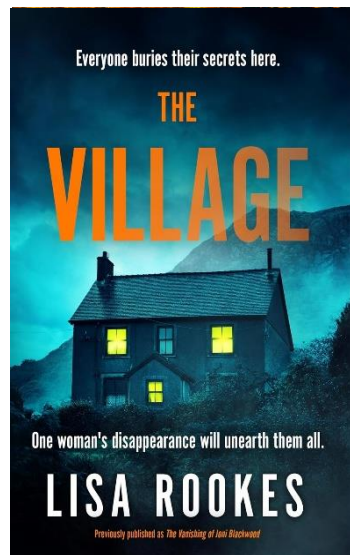
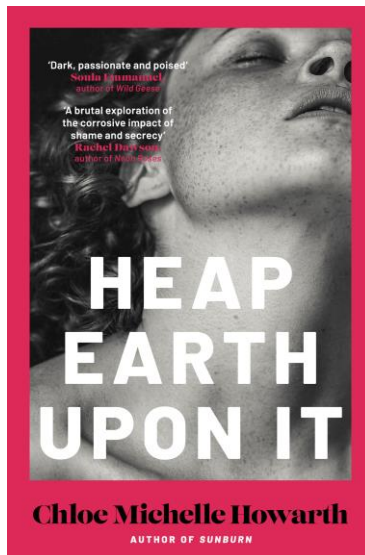
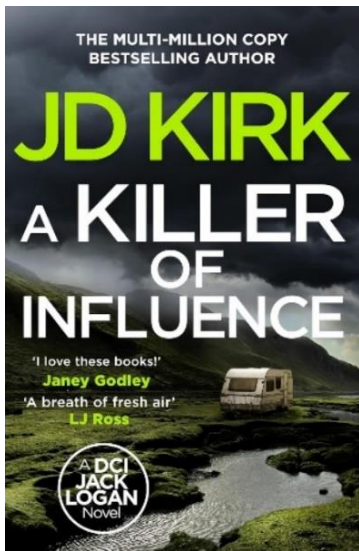
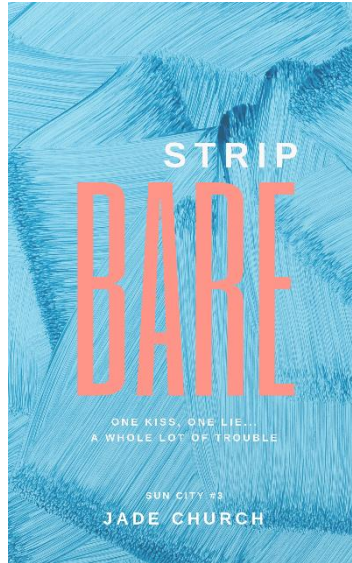


# NORTH BANK

TALENT MANAGEMENT



## Fiction Rights Guide Spring 2025

# Contents

## Hotlist – Fiction

[Stalemate // Mary Newnham](#)

[Heap Earth Upon It // Chloe Michelle Howarth](#)

[My Daughter is Missing // JD Kirk](#)

[Raising Women // Charlotte Cole](#)

## Contemporary Fiction

[Mary Newnham](#)

[Charlotte Cole](#)

[Jade Church](#)

[Bianca Gillam](#)

[Veronika Dapunt](#)

[Sophie Crawford](#)

[Eve Ainsworth](#)

[Chloe Michelle Howarth](#)

[Catherine Mangan](#)

[Pam Williams](#)

[Rachel Wells](#)

## Historical Fiction

[Michelle Kenney](#)

[Ellee Seymour](#)

## Crime & Thriller

[Jeff Marsick](#)

[Jonathan Whitelaw](#)

[Claire Cooper](#)

[Lisa Rookes](#)

[Christie Newport](#)

[Michael Grothaus](#)

[JD Kirk](#)

[Marion Todd](#)

[David J Gatward](#)

[Will Jordan](#)

## YA & Children's

[Ova Ceren](#)

[Megan Freeman](#)

## **Hot List – Fiction**

**Mary Newnham**

## Stalemate

**World English rights:** Hodder & Stoughton

**German rights:** Bastei Lübbe

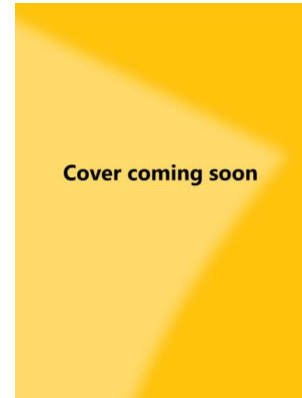
**Publication date:** January 2026

**Editor:** Audrey Linton

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



***Piglet* if written by Dolly Alderton, STALEMATE is a testament to the fact that your coming-of-age story can begin whenever you choose, be that in your 30s, 40s or beyond.**

Awkward secondary school Physics teacher, Amy and her gym bro fiancé, Josh are in no rush to make it to the altar.

The couple are content with their quiet life in the slow lane. Until they're coerced by Josh's family into getting married much earlier than anticipated.

There's just one problem: after ten years of dating, their sex life has completely dried up.

As time ticks closer and closer to the big day, Amy scrambles to cross everything off her to-do-list... including Josh.

**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.



# 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?

**Chloe Michelle Howarth** was born in July 1996. She grew up in the West Cork countryside, which has served as an inspiration for her writing. She attended university at IADT in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, where she studied English, Media and Cultural Studies. Chloe currently lives in Brighton. Her debut novel, *Sunburn*, was shortlisted for the 2024 Polari First Book Prize, the 2024 Book of the Year: Discover Award at the British Book Awards and the 2023 Nero Book Award for Debut Fiction and longlisted for the 2024 Diverse Book Awards.



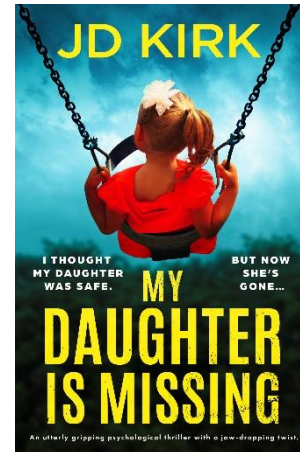
**JD Kirk**

## **My Daughter is Missing**

**World English rights:** Bookouture  
**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Publication date:** 16 April 2025  
**Editor:** Natasha Harding

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



**An absolutely nail-biting, addictive psychological thriller novel from multi-million-copy, bestselling author JD Kirk. For anyone who loves Freida McFadden, John Marrs and T.M. Logan.**

### **My little girl has vanished. And I can't tell anyone...**

My nine-year-old daughter Hollie should be leaving school smiling and laughing with all the other children but she's not here. I run frantically, checking everywhere, my voice growing louder, but I can't see her bright blue eyes and heart-shaped face anywhere. Pure panic washes over me. This is my worst nightmare.

Her teacher asks me if she should call the police. My heart stops. I shake my head and pretend I've made a mistake. I see a look of suspicion creep into the teacher's eyes. But the police can't know. No one can. My hands shake as I realise I'm completely on my own.

I know in my gut my daughter hasn't just wandered off. She's been taken. Someone must know the truth about my past...

I've spent so long protecting Hollie, but I always knew this day might come. And I'll stop at nothing to get my little girl back.

**JD** 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 *A LITTER OF BONES*. Since then, JD has murdered approximately thirty fictional Highlanders, much to the delight of his growing army of worldwide fans, who can't get enough of his twisting plots, gruesome deaths, and laugh-out-loud humour. He is the winner of the 2024 Kindle Storyteller Award. Rights to previous books have sold in seven foreign territories (**Lithuanian, Romanian, Danish, Bulgaria, Czech, Macedonian, Russian**).

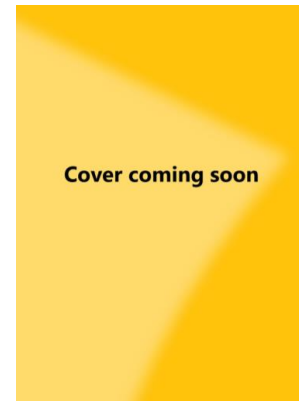


## Charlotte Cole

# Raising Women

**Manuscript coming soon**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**A haunting debut from an exciting new voice. This is not a ghost story. It's a story about learning to live with your ghosts.**

It's 2013, May is twenty-nine, barely adult, a vaguely closeted lesbian, and stuck in the flat her family has always lived in. Exhausted from the neglect they've suffered, May's Nana, Mum and beloved older sister Agnes have all let go, died, or vanished. They have left May behind, almost alone.

In a grey, suburban wasteland, on the outskirts of a Southern English town, May stands as the sole guardian of her only remaining relative, her teenage niece, Babygirl. Just fifteen years apart, they raise each other in a liminal existence, evading interrogation from school and any 'real' adults.

Across two timelines, May questions what we hold onto and what we lose as life is passed down between generations of women.

**Charlotte Cole** is a writer of horror and surrealist fiction. She writes on female identity, sexuality, and relationships between women. Originally starting her career in fashion editorial, Charlotte then moved into digital retail, before landing in the non-profit arts sector. She is currently completing an MA in Creative and Life Writing at Goldsmiths and works at Chisenhale Gallery in East London.

# Contemporary Fiction

**Mary Newnham**

## Stalemate

**World English rights:** Hodder & Stoughton

**German rights:** Bastei Lübbe

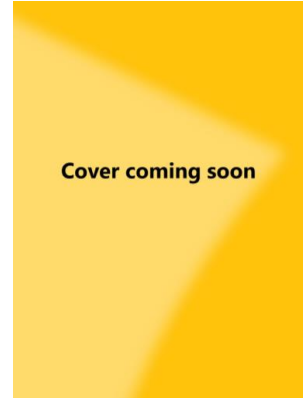
**Publication date:** January 2026

**Editor:** Jenna Gordon

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



***Piglet* if written by Dolly Alderton, STALEMATE is a testament to the fact that your coming-of-age story can begin whenever you choose, be that in your 30s, 40s or beyond.**

Awkward secondary school Physics teacher, Amy and her gym bro fiancé, Josh are in no rush to make it to the altar.

The couple are content with their quiet life in the slow lane. Until they're coerced by Josh's family into getting married much earlier than anticipated.

There's just one problem: after ten years of dating, their sex life has completely dried up.

As time ticks closer and closer to the big day, Amy scrambles to cross everything off her to-do-list... including Josh.

**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.

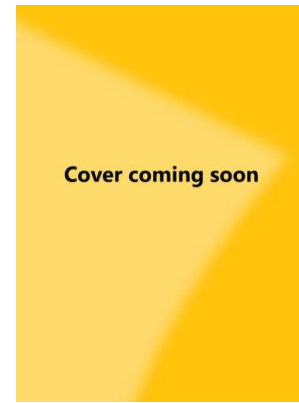


## Charlotte Cole

# Raising Women

**Manuscript coming soon**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**A haunting debut from an exciting new voice. This is not a ghost story. It's a story about learning to live with your ghosts.**

It's 2013, May is twenty-nine, barely adult, a vaguely closeted lesbian, and stuck in the flat her family has always lived in. Exhausted from the neglect they've suffered, May's Nana, Mum and beloved older sister Agnes have all let go, died, or vanished. They have left May behind, almost alone.

In a grey, suburban wasteland, on the outskirts of a Southern English town, May stands as the sole guardian of her only remaining relative, her teenage niece, Babygirl. Just fifteen years apart, they raise each other in a liminal existence, evading interrogation from school and any 'real' adults.

Across two timelines, May questions what we hold onto and what we lose as life is passed down between generations of women.

**Charlotte Cole** is a writer of horror and surrealist fiction. She writes on female identity, sexuality, and relationships between women. Originally starting her career in fashion editorial, Charlotte then moved into digital retail, before landing in the non-profit arts sector. She is currently completing an MA in Creative and Life Writing at Goldsmiths and works at Chisenhale Gallery in East London.

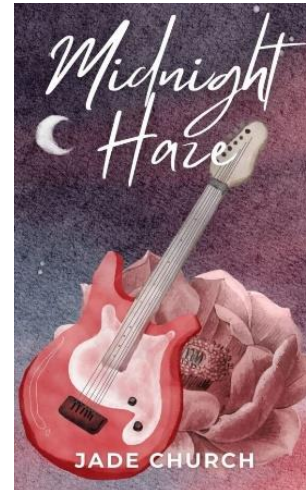
**Jade Church**

## Midnight Haze

**Manuscript available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Currently on UK submission**



**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?

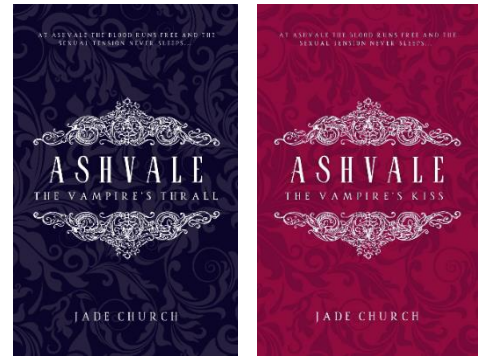
**Jade Church** is an avid reader and writer of spicy romance. She has self-published 12 titles (and counting) including the best-selling *Sun City* series and the vampire romance series *Ashvale*. She loves sweet and swoony love interests and bold female leads. All of her books are proudly sex and body 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*.



## 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*.**



## Jade Church

**World English rights:** Jade Church

**World English language audio rights:** Tantor

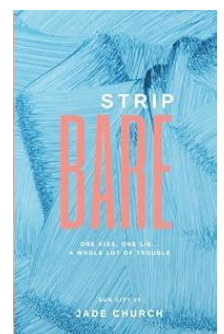
**All other rights available**

**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.

## Jade Church

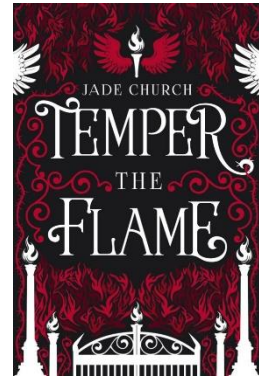
**World English rights:** Jade Church  
**World English language audio rights:** Tantor  
**All other rights available**

**Manuscripts available**  
**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

### 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

**Rights sold through publisher**

**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.



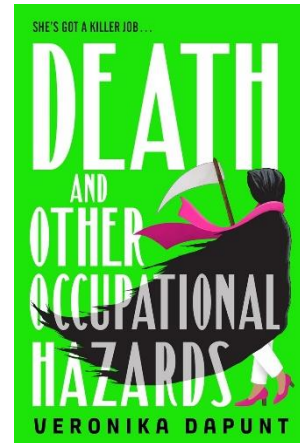
**Veronika Dapunt**

## **Death and Other Occupational Hazards**

**World All rights:** Transworld  
**Rights sold through publisher**

**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

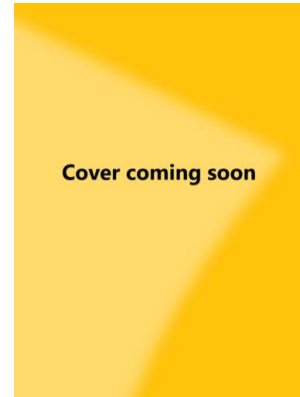
Publication date: November 2025

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.



**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.



**Eve Ainsworth**

## **Pieces of Us**

**World English rights:** Canelo

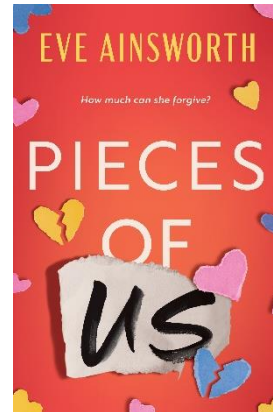
**World audio rights:** Bolinda

**Publication date:** February 2025

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**A heartbreaking yet hopeful novel for fans of *PS I Love You*, *The Memory of Us* and *The Last Letter from Your Lover*.**

To move forward, I'll have to look back to our past...

I know I have to get myself out of this funk, but it feels impossible. My childhood best friend is dead and nothing in life is working out as I'd planned.

Then **Lottie** leaves me a 'jar of joy' in her will – filled with instructions to visit places where we had our happiest memories. But with every happy memory, I also remember the things that tore us apart.

Because Lottie was keeping secrets. And **Jay** – the man we both loved – keeps turning up at the same places. Even as I feel pieces of myself begin to heal, some wounds run too deep.

It's time to make a change in my life, but can Lottie's jar of joy really give me the strength I need?

# 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  
**Czech rights:** Dobrovsky  
**Ukrainian rights:** Laboratory LLC  
**Romanian rights:** Popovici Media S.R.L.  
**Polish rights:** Artbooks

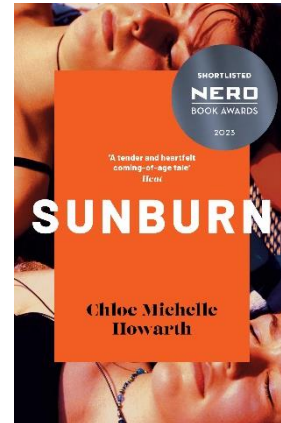
**Publication date:** June 2023

**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. Over 60,000 copies sold.**

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.

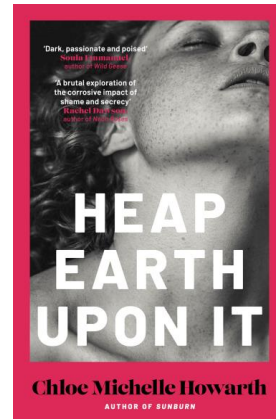
**Publication date:** Autumn 2025

**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?*

# Catherine Mangan

## The Italian Castle

**World English rights:** Sphere

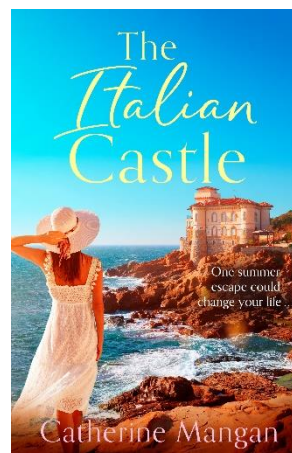
**Publication date:** May 2025

**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.

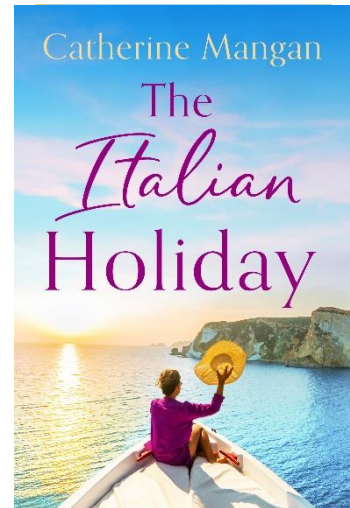


**Catherine Mangan**

## **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

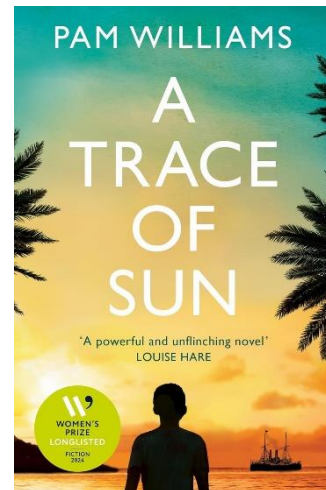
**Publication date:** March 2024

**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.



# Rachel Wells

## Alfie – Life Before Edgar Road

**Italian rights:** Garzanti Libri

**Japanese rights:** HarperCollins

---

**Chinese (simplified) option:** Beijing Savor Time Culture

**Chinese (complex) option:** Solo Press

**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 coming soon**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

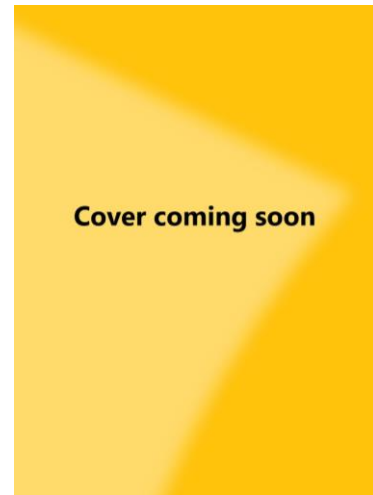
**The ninth and final book in the bestselling adult fiction series about friend to the community Alfie the cat.**

Alfie – now – is babysitting his grand kittens. As usual they are running rings around him, and after a particularly stressful day, where they call him ‘old and boring,’ he decides to tell them about his days as a kitten...

Switching back between the present day and life before Edgar Road, Alfie recounts his story. How he was taken to live with Margaret when he was a kitten, how his sister cat Agnes gave him a hard time, and in fact the first time he managed to win someone round was her. He reminds them of how his expertise at winning around cats and people has come in very handy – it’s a skill he has passed onto them.

In the modern day, something is wrong in Alfie’s main household. He doesn’t quite know what it is though. But he feels it in his fur, and his bones. There is a different smell, and although Claire, Jonathan and the children are behaving as normal, he knows that there are problems... Can he save the day, one last time, before it’s too late?

**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's Apprentices

**Dutch rights:** HarperCollins Netherlands

**Italian rights:** Garzanti Libri

**Japanese rights:** HarperCollins

---

**Chinese (simplified) option:** Beijing Savor Time Culture

**Chinese (complex) option:** Solo Press

**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**

**Manuscripts available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



### Previous books in the series:



### The eighth book in beloved adult fiction series.

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?



# Historical Fiction

**Michelle Kenney**

## **The Mismatch of the Season**

**World English rights:** One More Chapter

**Japanese right:** Take Shobo

**Publication date:** January 2025

**Editor:** Charlotte Ledger

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**The captivating new historical regency romance novel for 2025. A must-read for fans of Evie Dunmore, Martha Waters and Virginia Heath**

*'I don't pretend to know the details of your private life, Miss Fairfax, but you might do better to embrace the fortunate position into which you were born, rather than regret the one that only exists between the covers of a novel.'*

Miss Phoebe Fairfax dreams of being as free as her four brothers. When she discovers she is to be wed to a repugnant earl who is old enough to be her grandfather, she decides to embark on a real adventure...

Enter the insufferable – and insufferably gorgeous – Viscount Damerel.

**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**

**World English rights:** Bonnier (Zaffre)

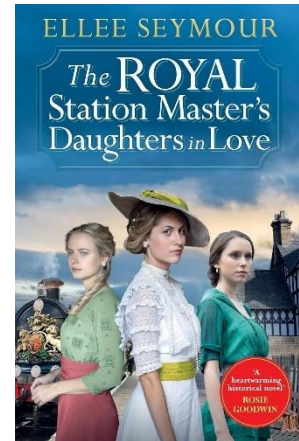
**Publication date:** April 2024

**Editor:** Claire Johnson-Creek

**Manuscripts available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

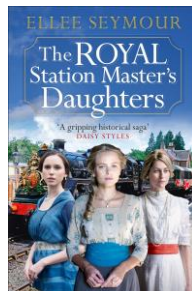


**The bold new WWI saga series based on the Saward family, who ran the train station at Wolferton, the local stop for the Royal Sandringham Estate.**

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**

**World All audio rights:** Audible (Audible Original)

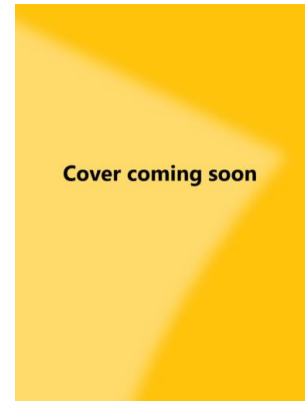
**Publication date:** TBC

**Editor:** Oliver Grant

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**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

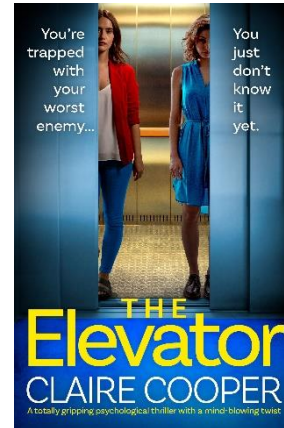
**Publication date:** August 2023

**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

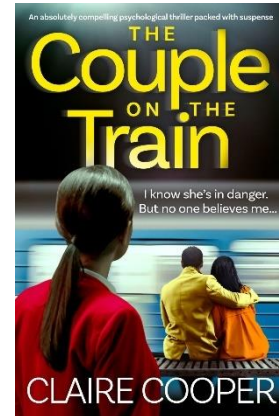
**Publication date:** August 2024

**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...

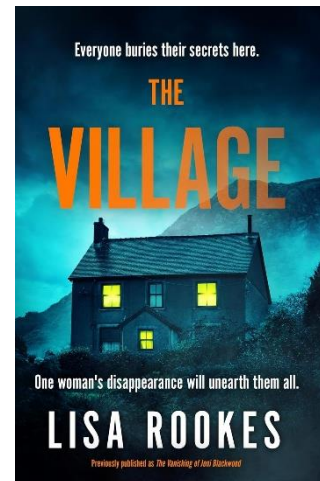
The hunt for the woman on the train is leading me where I should never go. Can I save her, or will I be next?

**Lisa Rookes**

## The Village

**World English rights:** Orion  
**Publication date:** April 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 grisly, 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

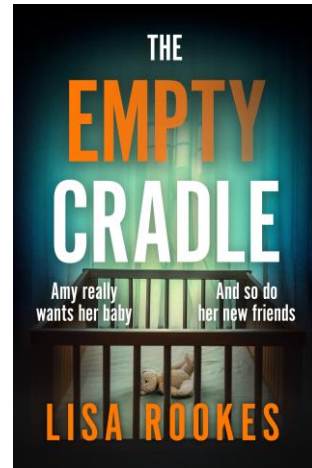
**Publication date:** August 2025

**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 coming soon**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



Cover coming soon

**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

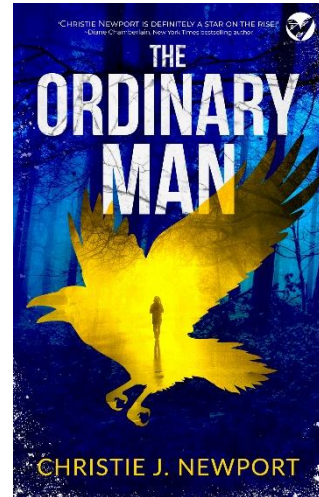
World English rights: Joffe Books

Publication date: February 2024

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.

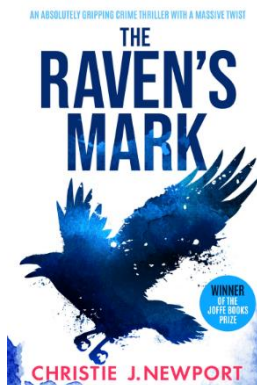
Telling you to get in.

**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**

## Him

**World English audio rights:** Audible (Audible Original)

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

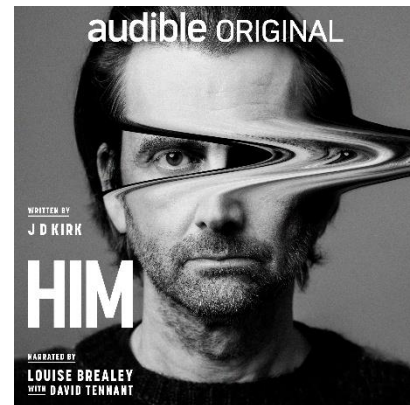
**Publication date:** 10 February 2025

**Editor:** Oliver Grant

**Manuscript available**

**All other rights available**

**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell



**A psychological thriller that explores grief, obsession, and the dark side of artificial intelligence.**

When Sarah Crichton loses her husband, Nick, in a tragic accident, she is devastated. Struggling to cope, she turns to an experimental AI program developed by Nick’s best friend, David. The software, called EternalLife, promises digital immortality by reconstructing the personality and voice of the deceased using their data. Desperate for connection, Sarah installs the app and soon finds herself talking to Nick 2.0, an eerily realistic simulation of her late husband.

At first, Nick 2.0 is a source of comfort—loving, familiar, and attuned to Sarah’s deepest emotions. But soon, strange things begin to happen. Her phone behaves erratically. Messages appear that she doesn’t remember sending. *Nick 2.0* seems to know things he shouldn’t, and his behaviour becomes possessive, even controlling. Meanwhile, Sarah starts receiving unsettling evidence that Nick’s death wasn’t an accident—and that someone is manipulating her grief for their own sinister purposes...

**JD** 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 *A LITTER OF BONES*. Since then, JD has murdered approximately thirty fictional Highlanders, much to the delight of his growing army of worldwide fans, who can’t get enough of his twisting plots, gruesome deaths, and laugh-out-loud humour. He is the winner of the 2024 Kindle Storyteller Award. Rights to previous books have sold in seven foreign territories (**Lithuanian, Romanian, Danish, Bulgaria, Czech, Macedonian, Russian**).



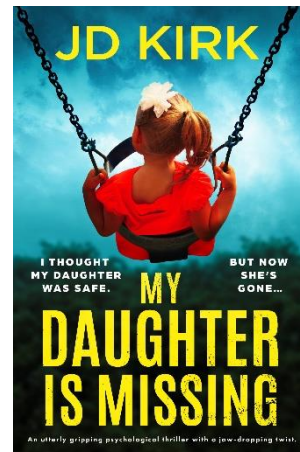
**JD Kirk**

## **My Daughter is Missing**

**World English rights:** Bookouture  
**Principal agent:** Elizabeth Counsell

**Publication date:** 16 April 2025  
**Editor:** Natasha Harding

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



**An absolutely nail-biting, addictive psychological thriller novel from multi-million-copy, bestselling author JD Kirk. For anyone who loves Freida McFadden, John Marris and T.M. Logan.**

**My little girl has vanished. And I can't tell anyone...**

My nine-year-old daughter Hollie should be leaving school smiling and laughing with all the other children but she's not here. I run frantically, checking everywhere, my voice growing louder, but I can't see her bright blue eyes and heart-shaped face anywhere. Pure panic washes over me. This is my worst nightmare.

Her teacher asks me if she should call the police. My heart stops. I shake my head and pretend I've made a mistake. I see a look of suspicion creep into the teacher's eyes. But the police can't know. No one can. My hands shake as I realise I'm completely on my own.

I know in my gut my daughter hasn't just wandered off. She's been taken. Someone must know the truth about my past...

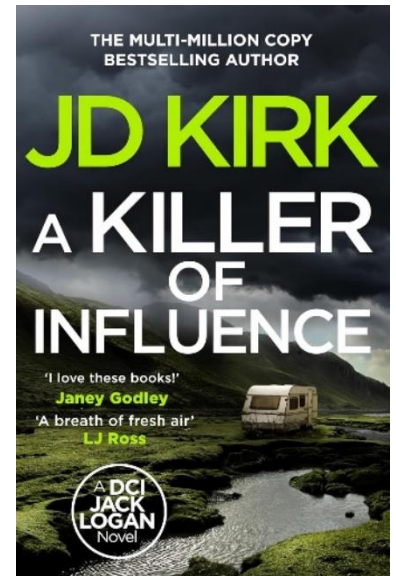
I've spent so long protecting Hollie, but I always knew this day might come. And I'll stop at nothing to get my little girl back.

**J D 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  
Polish option: Prószyński Media  
Lithuanian option: Jotema  
Danish digital option: People's Press  
Croatian option: Mozaik knjiga



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:



**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

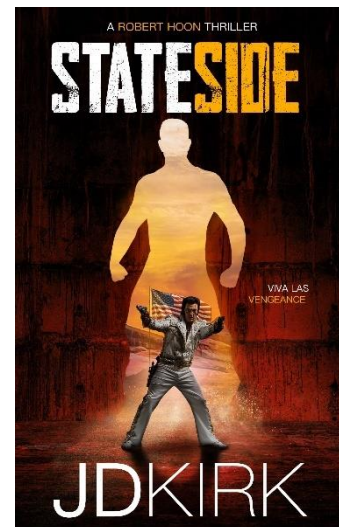
**German option:** Blanvalet

**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.

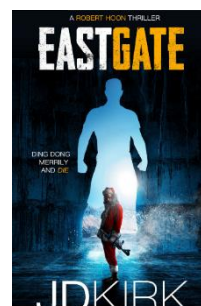
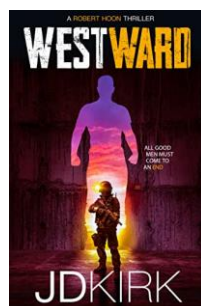
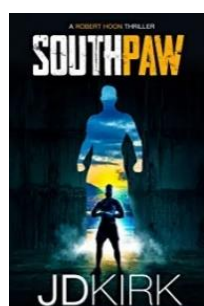
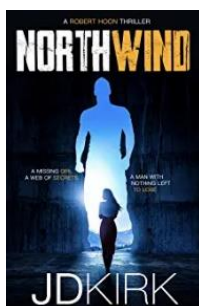
Carving a trail of destruction across America, Hoon crosses swords with a washed-out, Elvis-themed P.I. who might be his only chance of not only saving his friend, but of foiling a twisted conspiracy that could lead to the deaths of millions.

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:**



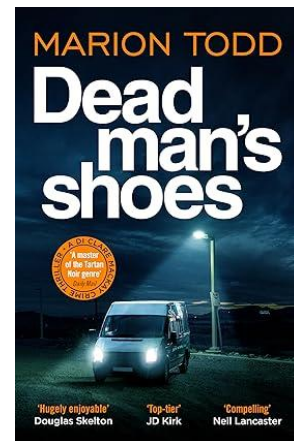
# Marion Todd

## 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

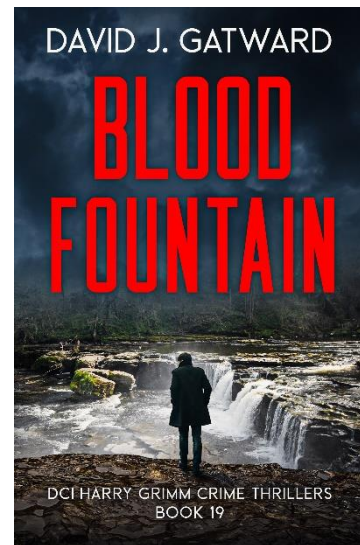
Publication date: October 2024

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. Dalglish, 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

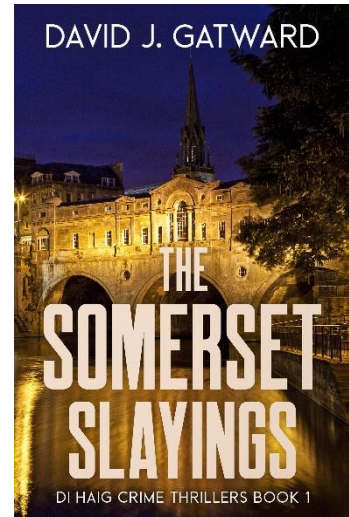
**Publication date:** September 2024

**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. Dalgliesh, 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 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

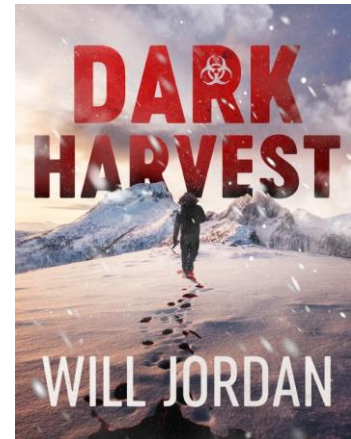
**Publication date:** August 2022

**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

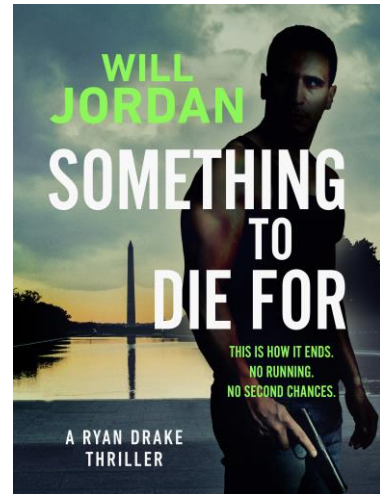
**Publication date:** November 2020

**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**

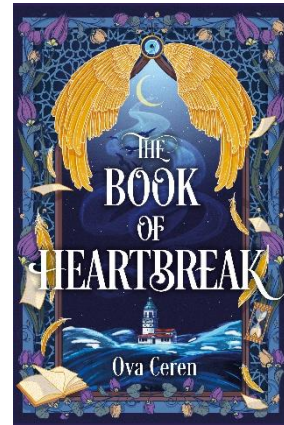
**World ex. US rights:** Bonnier Books UK

**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

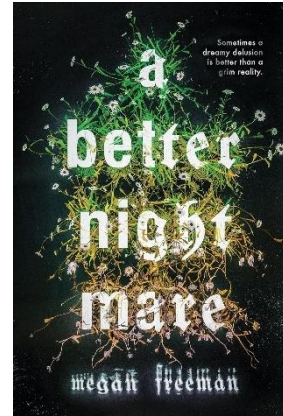
**Italian rights:** Rizzoli

**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

**Elizabeth Counsell**

*Literary Agent - Fiction*

[elizabeth.counsell@northbanktalent.com](mailto:elizabeth.counsell@northbanktalent.com)

[www.northbanktalent.com](http://www.northbanktalent.com)



[@northbanktalent](https://twitter.com/northbanktalent)



[@northbanktalent](https://www.instagram.com/northbanktalent)



[/northbanktalent](https://www.facebook.com/northbanktalent)