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BEYOND SUMMERLAND

Jenny Lecoat

ISBN 9781846976537

Publication 04 July 2024

Category HISTORICAL FICTION

BIC FV, FA

eBook 9781788856799

Price £9.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 288 pp

Rights World All Languages
inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The latest book from New York Times bestselling novelist Jenny Lecoat is set in the aftermath of the liberation of Jersey in June 1945
- It's a page-turning story of what happens to ordinary people in extraordinary times, when faced with the worst of circumstances and the cruellest of choices
- Jenny Lecoat's debut novel, *The Girl from the Channel Islands*, was a *New York Times* Top 10 bestseller, with rights sales across the world and sales of 10,000 copies in the UK
- Her own family's experience in Jersey during the war grants her a unique insight into the suspicion of occupation and the consequences of collaboration, subjects which are rarely
- Rights already sold to US (Graydon House, HC), Australia (Allen and Unwin), France (Mercure), Germany (Lubbe), Israel (Keter) and audio to Ulverscroft

'A vividly evoked story of love surviving, even triumphing, over oppression' - *Sunday Times*

DESCRIPTION

Jean Parris was a child when her adored father was taken away by the Nazis. As she and her mother wait desperately for news, Jean starts to question everything and everyone around her.

In the summer of 1945, a different kind of war has been unleashed on the island of Jersey: one of suspicion, accusation and revenge. With the common enemy removed, the islanders now begin to see each other for who they truly are. For all the heroism and sacrifice, there were those who walked a fine line in order to survive and now find themselves accused of being on the wrong side of history. Loved ones are still missing, some never to return, and the island and its people will never be the same again.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Jenny Lecoat was born in the Channel Islands, where her parents were raised under German Occupation, before moving to England as a teenager. An early career in comedy saw her nominated for a prestigious Perrier Award in 1986 and has enjoyed a distinguished career as a journalist and screenwriter. A love of history and her island roots brought about her feature film *Another Mother's Son* (2017), which starred Jenny Seagrove and John Hannah, as well as her first novel, *The Girl from the Channel Islands*.

Comparable Titles



PRAISE FOR THE GIRL FROM THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

‘A riveting story of survival against all odds, told by a masterful storyteller who also happens to be a fresh new voice in the genre. I ... recommend it highly, not just to fans of historical fiction, but to lovers of good books everywhere’

Karen Robards, NYT bestselling author of *The Black Swan of Paris*

‘A vividly evoked story of love surviving, even triumphing, over oppression’

The Sunday Times

‘a stimulating, emotional, and engaging novel, and has been chosen as one of our Debuts of the Month – a captivating, heartfelt and rewarding debut based on true events’

LoveReading

‘This gripping tale of forbidden love and survival will leave you breathless’

Sunday Post

‘an unforgettable tale of friendship, love, courage and survival. I loved every word of this fantastically engrossing novel. Jenny Lecoat is an author to watch!’

New York Times bestselling author Kelly Rimmer

‘Lecoat capably combines historical fact with the fictional narrative, and offers a cast rich with multidimensional characters. Readers will be riveted’

Publishers Weekly

‘An important contribution to historical fiction’

New York Journal of Books

‘Lecoat’s debut is based on true events, which will make readers even more curious about the backstory and motivations of Hedy, Kurt, and the somewhat enigmatic Dorothea. The unique Channel Island setting may intrigue readers of WWII-set women’s fiction’

Booklist

‘A riveting debut that reveals a rarely reported WWII story’

Toronto Star

‘Jenny Lecoat has used unexpected twists...to tell the compelling true story of a small group of friends trying to survive in difficult and often dangerous situations...a well-written story that many would enjoy’

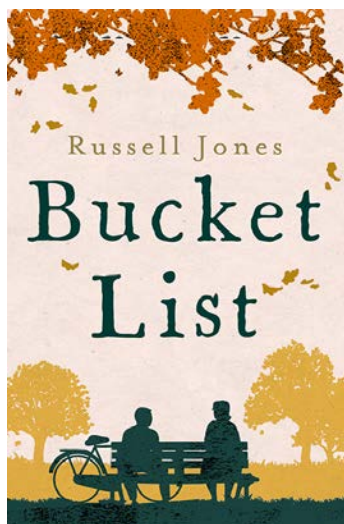
The Winnipeg Free Press

‘Thrilling and deeply moving’

Jersey Festival of Words

‘A strong story of a small island in the battle of WWII with characters you root for and a love story that makes you happy’

Red Carpet Crash



BUCKET LIST

Russell Jones

ISBN 9781846976544

Price £9.99

Publication 04 July 2024

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Fiction

Extent 256 pp

BIC F, FA

Rights World English Language

eBook 9781788856379

inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *The Bucket List* is a feel-good, life-affirming story about the power of friendship, community and lemon drizzle cake
- Dot and Max are a mould-breaking duo, and their story is both joyful and deeply moving, especially resonant in a world still struggling to deal with societal disconnection and social discord
- The charming cover and delightful story will appeal to readers across many different age groups and genres
- Perfect for fans of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, *The Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan and *The Lido* by Libby Page
- Russell Jones is a well-connected and experienced author of sci-fi and poetry, this is his first general fiction novel

DESCRIPTION

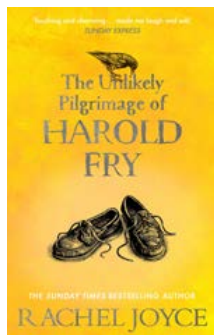
Dot is a cantankerous pensioner who lives her days alone, with no one to talk to. Max is a young offender doing community service, trying to get his anger issues under control. But a chance meeting in their local park will change everything for this unlikely pair. They soon find they share a wicked sense of humour, a passion for superheroes and a penchant for petty crime.

When Dot wins the lottery, Max helps her make a bucket list of all the things she's ever wanted to do but never had the chance. And Dot helps him turn his life around, opening his eyes to his own potential. From race cars and fun fairs to zombie films and random acts of kindness, the pair soon realise they've never been happier. Dot's astonished to find that her actions cause a ripple effect through her community – proving that it's not money that makes a difference, but people working together to make a change.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Russell Jones is an Edinburgh-based writer and editor. He was the UK's first Pet Poet Laureate, has published six poetry collections, three fantasy novels, one graphic novel and has edited three writing anthologies. Russell is the deputy editor of Scotland's only sci-fi magazine, organises sci-fi cabaret nights in Edinburgh and has a PhD in Creative Writing.

COMPARABLE TITLES



The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry • Pbk • 9780552778091



The Keeper of Lost Things • Pbk • 9781473635487



DIARY OF LIES

Philip Miller

ISBN 978184697XXXX

Publication April 2025

Category Crime & Thriller

BIC F, FA

Price £9.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 272 pp

Rights World English Language
inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *The Diary of Lies* plunges journalist Shona Sandison into a brutal political conspiracy, one that sets her on a collision course with the power centres of the British establishment
- The third mystery in this series from Phil Miller
- For fans of Denise Mina, Doug Johnstone and Liam McIlvanney
- Soho Press have published the first two books very successfully in the US – see accolades below. *The Wall Street Journal* compared him to Graham Greene and PW to Le Carre

'An ambitious and wonderfully realized work' - Tom Nolan, *The Wall Street Journal* on *The Goldenacre*

'An outstanding mystery thriller... Noir fans won't want to miss it' - *Publishers Weekly* (Starred)

DESCRIPTION

In *The Diary of Lies*, driven journalist Shona Sandison finds herself entangled in a sinister conspiracy that goes to the heart of the British Government. Still mourning the dreadful toll taken by the pandemic, Shona is at a glitzy media awards show in London when a mysterious businessman offers her the scoop of a lifetime. The next day, he is brutally murdered, and Shona is drawn into a complex web of loyalty and betrayal which threatens not only her life, her friends and her career, but the future of Scotland.

Aided by strange new allies and hunted by sinister agents, Shona Sandison must confront the price of love and uncover a story that could shock the world.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Philip Miller lives in Edinburgh. An award-winning journalist for twenty years, he is now a civil servant. His previous novels include *The Blue Horse*, *All the Galaxies*, *The Goldenacre* and *The Hollow Tree*, and his poetry has been published online and in print.

Related Titles



The Goldenacre • Pbk • 9781846975936 • £9.99



The Hollow Tree • Pbk • 9781846975936 • £9.99

PRAISE FOR *THE GOLDENACRE*

‘Philip Miller is **a fine, painterly writer** ... and he has created **a first-class thriller**’

– Times Crime Club, Pick of the Week

‘**Unusual and elegant**, Philip Miller’s third novel takes the Tartan Noir genre in some **new and unexpected** directions’

– Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

‘**outstanding mystery thriller**...In a style recalling the brutal dreariness of Le Carre, Miller describes a pivotal character as ‘sharp and severe as a snapped bone.’ It’s also an apt description of this biting tale of society in decline. **Noir fans won’t want to miss it**’

– *Publishers Weekly* (starred)

‘Its **vivid sense of location** is one of this engaging mystery’s great strengths’

– Alastair Mabbott, *The Herald*

‘The Goldenacre features a dense cast of vivid characters, not least Tallis, **a tortured pilgrim worthy of a Graham Greene tale**. The book – which explores through prose the interplay between light and darkness in the physical and moral worlds – is an **ambitious and wonderfully realized** work’

– Tom Nolan, *The Wall Street Journal*

‘A **riveting, brutal journey** into the high stakes world of legacy art and inherited wealth’

– Denise Mina, author of the *Garnethill* trilogy and *The Long Drop*

‘A **pacy tale of crime and deception** set in the world of fine art. **Beautifully written**, with a brilliantly vivid sense of place and a killer twist, The Goldenacre is **one to savour**’

– Liam McIlvanney, author of *The Quaker* and *Where the Dead Men Go*

‘This book is **a gripping exploration** of the darker side of modern society’

– *LoveReading*

‘Like its namesake, The Goldenacre **occupies its own unclassifiable space**, as much a meditation on beauty and loss as it is crime fiction’

– *Air Mail*

‘this story... is **mesmerizing in its use of atmosphere**, poetic language, and ingenious plot construction’

– Megan McLean, *Santa Fe New Mexican*

‘It is the magic way oddly juxtaposed words manage to convey the essence of a scene, the feelings of a character, or the ugliness of an act, **more vividly than any dictionary-precise language**, that makes *The Goldenacre* a thoroughly worthwhile read’

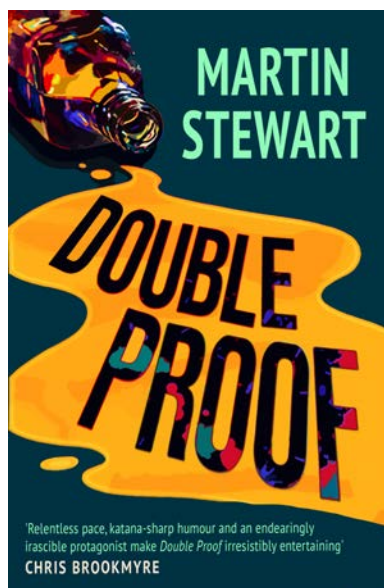
– *Portland Book Review*

‘*The Goldenacre* is a prime example of a good Edinburgh novel... **an excellent read for those who enjoy Tartan Noir** and want to read something different to your usual hard-bitten detective story’

– *Scottish Field*

‘Philip Miller has written **a stylish thriller** which is a breath of fresh air and which deserves to be acknowledged as such ... It’s **a crime novel for readers who think they don’t like the genre**, and a literary novel for people who would normally stick to crime’

– Alistair Braidwood, *Snack Magazine*



DOUBLE PROOF

Martin Stewart

ISBN 9781846976490

Publication 07 March 2024

Category Debut Crime Fiction

BIC FF, F

eBook 9781788856638

Price £9.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 272 pp

Rights WEL. including Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *Double Proof* is the debut adult crime novel from the highly successful children's and YA novelist Martin Stewart
- Funny, gripping and brilliantly plotted, *Double Proof* will be enjoyed by readers of Stuart McBride and Callum McSorley
- Protagonist Robbie Gould is a brilliant new creation for crime fans who love a twisted plot and dark humour

'Relentless pace, katana-sharp humour and an endearingly irascible protagonist make *Double Proof* irresistibly entertaining' – CHRIS BROOKMYRE

'A rollicking thrill-ride of a novel, whip-smart and shot through with the darkest comedy. Martin Stewart is a fresh and exciting new voice in Scottish crime fiction' – DOUG JOHNSTONE

DESCRIPTION

Robbie Gould is not psychic. Of course he isn't – that's not a real thing. So why is a woman standing in his driveway begging him for help in finding her son, Albie, who she's convinced has been kidnapped?

Years ago Gould, an ambitious reporter, was working on the horrific case of a missing girl when a moment of inspiration showed him, clear as day, where she was. After the girl's body was found where he said it would be, the resulting press furore destroyed both his career and marriage.

Gould, now living a hermit-like existence in the back of beyond, is in no position to turn down this plea for help. The family's fortunes are messy: they're tied up in a court case disputing ownership of the finest, rarest whisky their distillery has ever produced – the Double Proof. As Gould tries to find Albie he plunges deeper into the bizarre world of rare whisky and a twisted chain of drug dealers, bent cops, gangsters, social influencers and yakuza mobsters.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Martin Stewart is better known as a bestselling YA author published by Viking in the US. His books have been translated into various languages. *Double Proof* is his first adult novel. He lives on the west coast of Scotland with his wife and two children.

COMPARABLE TITLES



Squeaky Clean • Hbk • 9781782278368



LIES OF THE FLESH

F.J. Watson

ISBN 9781846976742

Publication 05 September 2024

Category Historical Fiction

BIC FV, FA

eBook 9781788856713

Price £9.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 336 pp

Rights World All Languages
inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *Lies of the Flesh* is a thrilling historical mystery that explores what happens when identities – whether relating to gender, social position, or nationality – are challenged within the crucible of war
- Shows the conflict between Scotland and England at its brutal and bloody worst, set during the brunt of Scottish attempts to force an end to the war on their terms immediately after the Battle of Bannockburn (1314)
- Second novel from historian F.J. Watson whose debut, *Dark Hunter*, was published to critical acclaim in 2022
- Will appeal to readers of historical mysteries such as C. J. Sansom's *Shardlake* series, S. J. Parris's *Giordano Bruno* series and S G Maclean's books on Alexander Seaton

PRAISE for DARK HUNTER

'Offers a fascinating glimpse of how the Scottish Wars of Independence may have been perceived from the other side' – Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

'An immersive and entertaining read' – Alastair Mabbott, *Herald*

'A book to be enjoyed by the fire on a cold evening' – *Historical Novel Society*

DESCRIPTION

Francis Hilton is distraught at the death of his father. They weren't close, but now Fran must face the consequences of Andrew Hilton's decision to bring his daughter up as a son. Torn between her desire to be herself and the freedom and power he has as a man, Fran feels desperately alone.

But he has more to worry about as the north of England braces itself for the arrival of Scottish raiders in the aftermath of the battle of Bannockburn. Dread turns to horror, however, when a monstrous figure is seen in the hills above Hilton and a grotesque offering is left in Warcop, three miles away. As violence and murder soon follow, it seems that Adam Fotheringill – a local man killed escaping from Bannockburn - has returned from the dead to wreak revenge. But for what?

With the threat from the Scots a priority for the authorities, Fran, Will Warcop, the local priest, and a motley band of Hilton's young people set out to deal with the Revenant. As they move closer to the truth, Fran finds friendship and even love. But when the truth is finally revealed, it threatens to tear them all apart.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Fiona Watson is a medieval historian and writer. She is the author of history books including *A History of Scotland's Landscapes* and *Scotland from Prehistory to the Present*, and was the presenter of the BBC TV series, *In Search of Scotland*. Her latest book is *Under the Hammer: Edward I and Scotland* (Birlinn) Fiona lives in Perthshire.



MRS BURKE AND MRS HARE

Michelle Sloan

ISBN 9781846976803

Price £9.99

Publication February 2025

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Historical Fiction

Extent 336 pp

BIC FV, F

Rights World All Languages
inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Second novel from the author of the critically acclaimed bestseller, *The Edinburgh Skating Club*
- Discover the women behind the notorious killers Burke and Hare who famously murdered 16 people and sold their bodies for dissection at anatomy lectures
- Sloan imagines the untold story of the scheming wives behind the well known killers

The Edinburgh Skating Club is an engaging read, in which discussions about art, politics, love and gender are woven deftly into the plot' - Kirsty McLuckie, *The Scotsman*

'Celebrates love and the unsung contributions of women to Scottish culture... both heart-breaking and enchanting in equal measure' - Kai Durkin, *Press and Journal*

DESCRIPTION

West Port, 1828. In the shadowy closes of Edinburgh's Old Town, two women aid and abet their husbands in the murders of sixteen people. Scheming, brutish Margaret ('Lucky'), wife of William Hare, and possessive, loose-tongued Helen 'Nelly' McDougal, common-law wife of William Burke, are helping to feed the insatiable need for fresh bodies for surgeon Dr Robert Knox's notorious anatomy classes. Only Burke swings for their heinous crimes, while Lucky, Nelly and Hare find themselves on the run from the angry mob, reinvention their only means of survival.

Years later, young journalist Roddy Fletcher hears rumours of numerous 'sightings' of Mrs Burke and Mrs Hare. Keen to impress his editor, Roddy suggests an investigation of the aftermath of the disturbing Burke and Hare trial. He elicits the help of Edinburgh cobbler Joseph Campbell, and their quest leads them south, to the grim streets of London, where they discover Lucky is still up to her old tricks.

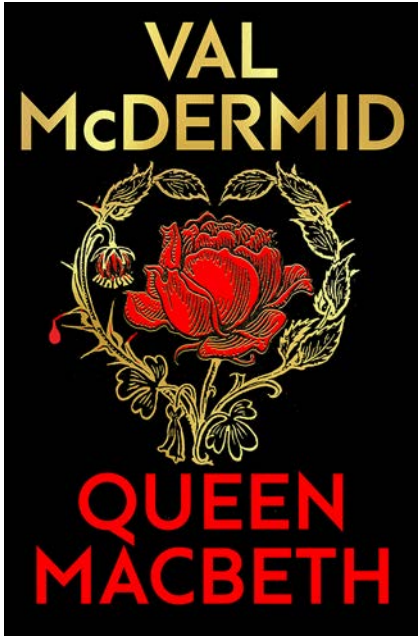
The horrors of the past collide with the grisly present: the time for retribution has come.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Michelle Sloan trained as a primary school teacher and studied drama and arts journalism. She now has a degree in Drama and Theatre Arts and is the author of several books for children. *The Edinburgh Skating Club* is her debut adults' novel. Originally from Edinburgh, Michelle now lives in Dundee with her family.

Related Titles





QUEEN MACBETH

Darkland Tales

Val McDermid

ISBN 9781846976759
Publication 02 May 2024
Category Historical Fiction
BIC F, FA
eBook 9781788856720

Price £10.00
Format 198 x 129 mm Hardback
Extent 152 pp
Rights EL UK & Commonwealth
exc. NA (LARGE PRINT ONLY)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *Sunday Times* Bestseller
 - Val McDermid plunges into medieval Scotland to take the reader on a journey of discovery, uncovering the real Lady MacBeth
 - Fifth book in the hugely successful and critically acclaimed **Darkland Tales** series from Polygon
 - The previous titles in the series now have combined UK print sales of 40,000 copies
- A propulsive and dynamic retelling that excavates the real character behind Shakespeare's infamous femme fatale

DESCRIPTION

A thousand years ago in an ancient Scottish landscape, a woman and her companions are on the run. If the men hunting her find them, they will kill her because she is the only one who stands between them and their violent ambition. She is no lady: she is the first queen of Scotland, married to a king called Macbeth.

As the net closes in on the queen, we discover a tale of passion, forced marriage, bloody massacre and the harsh realities of medieval Scotland. At the heart of it, one strong charismatic woman who survived loss and jeopardy to finally outwit the endless plotting of a string of ruthless and ambitious men. Her struggle won her a country. But now it could cost her life.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Val McDermid is a number one bestseller whose novels have been translated into more than forty languages, and have sold over nineteen million copies. She has won many awards, including the **CWA Gold Dagger** the **LA Times Book of the Year Award** and the **Cartier Diamond Dagger Award** for outstanding achievement. She writes full-time and divides her time between Edinburgh and East Neuk of Fife.

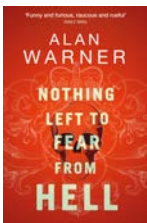
Comparable Titles



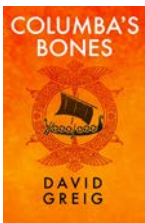
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NA, GER, Audio



Hex • WAL - Rights sold to:
GER, SPA, Audio



Nothing Left to Fear From Hell • WAL
Rights sold to: Audio



Columba's Bones • WAL
Rights sold to: NA



RABBITS

Hugo Rifkind

ISBN 9781846976704	Price £14.99
Publication 06 June 2024	Format 216 x 138 mm Hardback
Category Fiction	Extent 320 pp
BIC FA, FF	Rights World All Languages
eBook 9781788856621	inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *Rabbits* is the much-anticipated, long awaited new novel from columnist Hugo Rifkind
- Rifkind's fierce intelligence, acute eye for the absurd and biting sense of humour are well-known and relished by everyone who reads his weekly TV review or *My Week*, the diary parody in *The Times*
- *Rabbits* is a story of drugs, aristocracy, death and disputed inheritance, set in the 1990s – it's Iain Banks meets *The Secret History*, a journey into a different class and a coming-of-age story in a changing Scotland
- Hugo Rifkind is a columnist, critic and leader writer for *The Times*, a presenter on *Times Radio* and a regular panellist on BBC Radio 4's *The News Quiz*. He has over 210k followers on X (previously Twitter)
- Comparable to *The Great Gatsby* relocated to 90s Scotland

DESCRIPTION

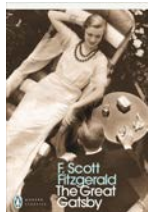
Tommo has just started at a new school when his friend Johnnie's brother is found dead in a Land Rover on a Perthshire farm. There's a shotgun at his feet. Nobody seems clear about exactly what has happened, least of all Tommo, who is already struggling to navigate a new world. His boarding school, a training ground for the Scottish elite, is spartan and brutal. A child of Edinburgh's middle class, Tommo now finds himself invited into distant, empty, crumbling houses. It's the early 1990s, though, and that elite is struggling for relevance. Alienated from the new Scottish mainstream, and running low on inherited wealth, his peers have retreated into snobbery and fatalism. Half-remembered military traditions mix with decadence and, in the countryside, an awful lot of small dead animals. And sometimes, not just animals.

Tommo's own life isn't super. His mother is terminally ill and his father, a writer struck by late success, is often away. With a new independence thrust upon him, he begins to realise that nobody else in this world seems to have much to do with their own families, either. Yet while his own loneliness is wistful and new, theirs is hardened and generational. Tommo is in awe of their poise and seduced by their hedonism, but increasingly aware of sinister currents beneath the surface that nobody seems willing to explain, or even acknowledge.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Hugo Rifkind is a columnist, critic and leader writer for *The Times* and a presenter on *Times Radio*, having formerly been a columnist for the *Spectator*, *GQ* and the *Herald*. He is a regular panellist on BBC Radio 4's comedy show *The News Quiz*, and an occasional guest on television shows that aren't supposed to be funny at all. He was born and raised in Edinburgh, studied in Cambridge, and now lives in North London in a house where everybody else speaks German, including the dog.

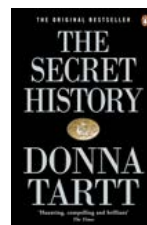
Comparable Titles



The Great Gatsby • Pbk • 9780141182636



The Great Gatsby • Pbk • 9780349139142



The Secret History • Pbk • 9780140167771



SUMMER HOURS

Alessandra Thom

ISBN 9781846976711

Publication 06 March 2025

Category Debut Fiction

BIC FA, FY

Price £10.00

Format 198 x 129 mm Hardback

Extent 196 pp

Rights World English Language inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A short, vivid, wry debut novel from a fresh literary voice who has just won a New Writers Award from the Scottish Book Trust
- *Summer Hours* tells a story of youth and desire, class and wealth, secrets and mistakes, sex and obsession
- UK and Commonwealth audio rights have already been sold to W F Howes

'Alessandra's writing is both vivid and compelling, combining raconteurial warmth with sharpness, poise and an enviable instinct for rhythm. Whether its subject is family legacy and memory or the precarities of young adulthood, this is writing attuned – apparently effortlessly – to both atmospheric subtleties and the timeless antagonisms of intimacy'

– Daisy Lafarge

DESCRIPTION

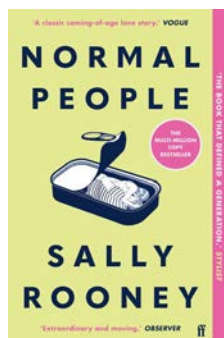
With no money and few friends, Roisin is bad at life. She is also in love with her best friend Eve – the bright shining centre of her otherwise uninspiring existence. She would follow Eve anywhere, do anything for her. And yet, Roisin can't tell her that. Where Eve seems to excel in all areas: money, boyfriends and confidence, Roisin prefers to call in sick or not show up, and instead spend her summer drinking lukewarm wine with Eve in the bathtub.

And then there's Claire: older, rich, married . . . and interested in Roisin. When Claire offers her a not insignificant sum under the guise of 'freelance work', suddenly she has money at her disposal – to pay rent, go shopping for groceries and buy things for Eve. But as this secret arrangement progresses, Roisin begins to realise she is in an awkward situation that she can't get out of.

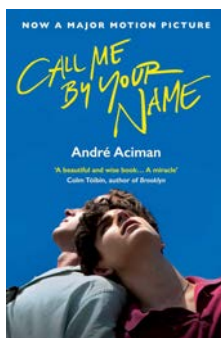
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Alessandra Thom is a Scottish writer from Aberdeenshire. Her fiction has appeared in *Gutter Magazine*. She holds an MLitt in Creative Writing from the University of St Andrews, where she worked with Daisy LaFarge and John Burnside.

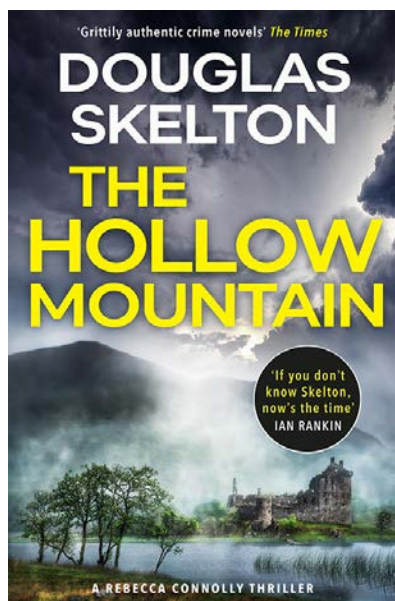
COMPARABLE TITLES



Normal People • Pbk • 9780571334650



Call Me By Your Name • Pbk • 9781786495259



THE HOLLOW MOUNTAIN

A Rebecca Connolly Thriller

Douglas Skelton

ISBN 9781846976636

Price £9.99

Publication 02 May 2024

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Crime & Mystery

Extent 320 pp

BIC FF, FH

Rights World All Languages inc. Audio

eBook 9781788856843

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Sixth book in the critically acclaimed Rebecca Connolly series of atmospheric thrillers set in the Scottish Highlands
 - Douglas Skelton is an accomplished crime writer with real investigative experience, and he has been longlisted for the McIlvanney Award for Scottish Crime Book of the Year
 - Rights to previous titles sold in US, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Greece
- The first four books in the Rebecca Connolly series were published by Arcade and consistently received glowing reviews. PW said of the fourth book, *Where Demons Hide*:
- ‘Set amid the dramatic beauty of the Scottish Highlands and threaded with Highland history and lore, the latest Rebecca Connolly thriller is another stellar crime novel from “a writer to watch” (Publishers Weekly)
- US rights are available for *Children of the Mist* (2023) and *The Hollow Mountain* (2024)

DESCRIPTION

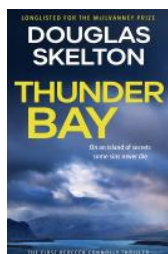
The Tunnel Tigers were an elite group of construction workers who specialised in a lucrative but hazardous profession – blasting tunnels through mountains and under rivers, in dangerous conditions few men could endure.

Alice Larkin, the headstrong daughter of a millionaire and former news reporter, claims her lover, a Tunnel Tiger, died in mysterious circumstances many years ago, and she wants journalist Rebecca Connolly to investigate. Intrigued, Rebecca throws herself into investigating the story, but she soon comes face to face with an old adversary. Family legacies and influential reputations are at stake – and danger is shockingly close to home.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Douglas Skelton was born in Glasgow. He has been a bank clerk, tax officer, taxi driver (for two days), wine waiter (for two hours), journalist and investigator. He has written several true crime and Scottish criminal history books but now concentrates on fiction. *Thunder Bay* (longlisted for the McIlvanney Prize), *The Blood Is Still*, *A Rattle of Bones*, *Where Demons Hide* and *Children of the Mist* are the first five novels in the bestselling Rebecca Connolly thriller series.

Related Titles



Thunder Bay • Pbk • 9781846974731 • £8.99



The Blood is Still • Pbk • 9781846975301 • £8.99



THE MALT WHISKY MURDERS

Natalie Jayne Clark

ISBN 9781846976780

Publication February 2025

Category Debut Crime Fiction

BIC FF, FH

eBook 9781788857161

Price £9.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 336 pp

Rights World All Languages
inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Darkly comic crime debut for fans of *Columbo*, *Midsummer Murders* and John Dickson Carr, set in remote Campbeltown on the Kintyre peninsula on the west coast of Scotland
- The location is as much a part of the book as plot and characterisation
- A finalist for Pitch Perfect and specially commended at Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival 2023
- Whisky is one of Scotland's key exports, full of heritage, history, and craft but remains a male-dominated industry – this book aims to highlight the work and experience of women in the industry
- Will appeal to fans of cosy crime, whisky-lovers, and anyone who enjoys a cast of charming and frustrating characters

DESCRIPTION

When a dilapidated whisky distillery comes up for sale in Campbeltown, a place once hailed 'Whisky Capital of the World', Eilidh and her wife Morag jump at the chance to run the first women-owned whisky distillery in Scotland. But a grisly, decades-old secret is soon revealed: two dead bodies have been stuffed into whisky barrels, perfectly preserved in single malt. To add to their woes, a TV crew has just arrived, and the locals won't leave them alone.

There are several close calls for the women as well as whisky tastings, ceilidhs, protests, scandals and everything you'd expect from a wee Scottish town imprisoned by its own geography. No matter how hard you try, the locals will *always* find out your secrets.

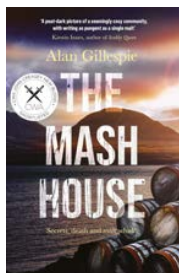
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Natalie Jayne Clark is a neurodivergent writer, editor and producer based in Perth. Natalie writes for *SNACK Magazine*, is the Assistant Producer for StAnza Poetry Festival, and works across the arts and culture industry in a variety of roles. Her poetry can be found in anthologies from Flapjack Press, Speculative Books, and Open Book, and she has won several poetry slams. She is also a certified whisky ambassador and is partial to a Springbank or a Bruichladdich.

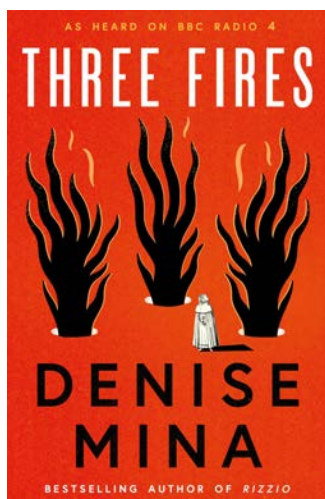
Comparable Titles



My Sister, the Serial Killer • Pbk • 9781786495983



The Mash House • Pbk • 9781789651195



THREE FIRES

Denise Mina

ISBN 9781846976384

Publication 03 August 2023

Category Historical Fiction

BIC FV, FA

eBook 9781788855846

Price £10.00

Format 198 x 129 mm Hardback

Extent 128 pp

Rights World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- New stand alone novel from the author of the bestselling *Rizzio*
- A book that draws parallels between the censorship of medieval Florence under Girolamo Savonarola and the culture wars of the present day
- Brings this fascinating historical period vividly to life, immersing the reader the tension of a city battling against corruption and fanaticism
- US rights sold to Pegasus. Audio rights (UK and Comm) sold to W F Howes

DESCRIPTION

Girolamo Savonarola was a Dominican friar living in Florence at the tail end of the fifteenth century. An anti-corruption campaigner his hellfire preaching increasingly spilled over into tirades against all luxuries that tempted people towards sin. These sermons led to the infamous 'Bonfire of the Vanities' - a series of fires lit throughout Florence for the incineration of everything from books, extravagant clothing, playing cards, musical instruments, make-up and mirrors, to paintings, tapestries and sculptures. Railing against the vice and avarice of the ruling Medici family, he was instrumental in their removal from power, and for a time became the puritanical leader of the city. After turning his attention to corruption in the entire Catholic Church, he was first excommunicated and then executed by a combination of hanging and being burnt at the stake.

Denise Mina brings a modern take to this fascinating historical story - drawing parallels between the febrile atmosphere of medieval Florence and the culture wars of the present day. In dramatising the life and last days of Savonarola she explores the downfall of the original architect of cancel culture and in the process explores the neverending tensions between wealth, inequality, and freedom of speech that so dominate our modern world.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Denise Mina was born in East Kilbride in 1966. Her first book, *Garnethill*, won the CWA Dagger for Best First Crime Novel. She has won the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year twice, and the MacIlvanney Prize twice. She is a presenter of TV and radio programmes, and appears regularly in the media. She is the author of *Rizzio*, the first book of the Darkland Tales series.

Related Titles



Praise for
THREE FIRES

'*Three Fires* is a **brisk, pointed and eminently readable** account that examines the virtues and failings of a remarkable individual, and helps us see our own world in relation to the late Middle Ages in a way that feels **bracingly relevant and alive**'
The Herald

'a slight but **powerful morality tale** about souring utopias and the dangers of absolute certainty'
Antonia Senior, *Times*, Best New Historical Fiction

'**Perfectly succinct and powerfully stirring, it's a tour de force of historic fiction**, delivered with sparkling style, astute social commentary and the kind of page-turning pace you'd hope for from **a rip-roaring thriller**' *LoveReading*, Star Book

'Mina **gives us literary gold** with this reimagining of the Bonfire of the Vanities... **exquisite prose**'
Sunday Post

'This little book is **beautifully done**... remarkable, moving and thought-provoking... **a rare achievement**'
Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

'A **fascinating book** that **works beautifully** at several different levels'
Ken Lussey, *Undiscovered Scotland*

'Denise's use of language **brings real humanity to her characters**... she also breathes humour into her tale'
Nora McElhone, *Dundee Courier*

'Short, **vibrant ... There is no mincing of words here**. Mina sees clear parallels between yesterday's horrors and today's challenges ... **Powerful stuff**'
Historical Novel Society

'[Mina] writes about the political and religious conflicts of the day with **well-informed precision**, but she does so with a cheekily contemporary flair... **Quite the gut punch for a novel of its slim stature**'
Book Reporter

'A **wholly satisfying, unnerving tale** with eerie connections to our modern world dominated by income inequality, grift and freedom of speech'
Toronto Star



TO PAY THE FERRYMAN

Pat Black

ISBN 9781846976797

Price £9.99

Publication February 2025 **Format** 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Crime Fiction

Extent 320 pp

BIC FF, FA

Rights World All Languages

eBook 9781788857178

inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The first instalment in a new thriller series featuring Glasgow detective D.I. Lomond
- A multi-threaded mystery where Lomond faces a race against time to stop a deranged serial killer
- Tackles themes of patriarchal power, female expression and independence, and the intolerance that is prevalent in our society today
- Will appeal to fans of Ian Rankin and Peter Oswald

DESCRIPTION

D.I. Lomond is a family man, and a good detective. However, a cold case from the start of his career, in the Britpop era of the 1990s, is about to confront him. It involved the killing of a young woman on an aristocratic Scottish estate, and Lomond believes that those involved in her death escaped justice through using their connections.

Now, there's a body in the River Clyde – a beautiful young woman who is connected to both the world of art and the world of adult streaming – and a Swedish feminist activist has arrived in the city to protest against the failure of the police to find the killer. Yet she too has a connection to Lomond's past.

The victims all seem to be drawn from the world of art and business. Is the cold case the answer, or just part of the key, and could the killer be about to get uncomfortably close to Lomond?

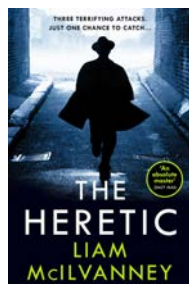
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Pat Black is a journalist for the *Associated Press* and the author of several thrillers published by Head of Zeus as (P.R. Black), including *The Family* and *The Winter House*. He has been published in magazines including *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. Pat was born and raised in Glasgow but now lives in Yorkshire with his wife and children.

COMPARABLE TITLES



Bloody January • Pbk • 9781609454487



The Heretic • Pbk • 9780008259990



BEDE: THE MAN WHO INVENTED ENGLAND

Edoardo Albert

ISBN 9781780278391

Publication May 2025

Category HISTORY

BIC HB, HD

Illustrations 8pp colour plates; maps

Price £18.99

Format 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Extent 256 pp

Rights WAL. inc Audio

eBook 9781788856690

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The first biography to explore in detail one of the most important historians of Dark Age Europe - the Venerable Bede
- In telling Bede's story, Edoardo Albert also considers how his ideas continue to form and shape debates into the 21st century
- For anyone interested in Dark Age history and English history

DESCRIPTION

What is England, and who are the English?

The man who first posed and answered these questions lived 1,200 years ago in Northumberland. The Venerable Bede spent almost his whole life in two monasteries looking over the North Sea, far from the centres of civilisation. Yet he became the foremost scholar of the first millennium, writing a history that continues to illuminate the Dark Ages, while also popularising our modern dating scheme.

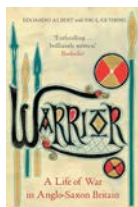
Faced with a Britain of competing kingdoms and peoples, it was Bede who first wrote of the English as a single people. It was his vision that created the story that has united and divided Britain ever since: an island divided into three countries.

Based on the most up-to-date research and historical and archaeological evidence, this book pieces together Bede's life and those of the monks and nuns, warriors and kings, farmers and merchants who made up the kingdoms in the contested realm of Britain.

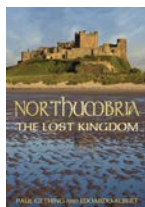
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Edoardo Albert is a London-based writer of Italian and Sri Lankan extraction who specialises in religion, travel and archaeology. His previous books include: *Warrior: A Life of War in Anglo-Saxon Britain* and *Northumbria: The Lost Kingdom*, both of which he co-authored with Paul Gething.

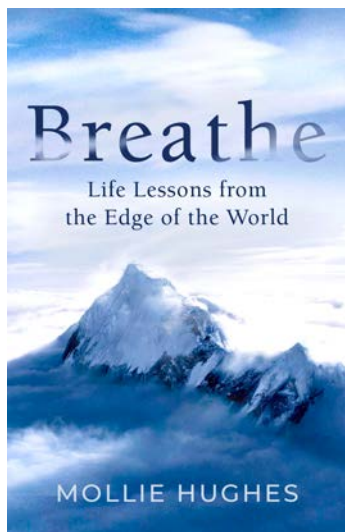
Comparable Titles



Warrior • Pbk • 9781783784431



Northumbria • Pbk • 9780752459707



BREATHE

Life Lessons from the Edge of the World

Mollie Hughes

ISBN 9781780278407

Publication April 2025

Category Biography /
Adventure **BIC** BG, WSS

Price £14.99

Format 216 x 138 mm Hardback

Extent 240 pp

Rights WAL inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Part memoir, part manifesto, *Breathe* is based on the simple premise that feats of great human endurance are chiefly indebted to our mindset, not our physicality
- Written by a strong female voice, this book challenges the traditional macho concept of bravery and the stereotype of adventure

DESCRIPTION

Guinness world-record breaking adventurer Mollie Hughes has explored some of the wildest environments on earth, from the top of Mount Everest to the vast frozen wastes of Antarctica, where she skied solo from the edge of the continent to the South Pole in a journey of over 700 miles through storm-force winds, 8-day whiteouts and temperatures as low as -45C.

With reference to her all-extreme experiences, and backed with psychological research, *Breathe* encompasses tales of bravery, risk and pressure on an epic scale and expertly turns them into valuable lessons that can be applied to our everyday challenges. In doing so Mollie shows how we can unlock our potential, control emotion, overcome fear, cope with psychological pressure and understand the importance of silence and headspace.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Mollie Hughes is a world record-breaking sports adventurer, mountaineer, polar explorer and international motivational speaker. In 2017 broke the world record for becoming the youngest woman to climb both sides of [Mount Everest](#) and in 2020 became the youngest woman to ski solo to the [South Pole](#). In December 2020 she was the first woman to become president of Scouts Scotland.

Related Titles



Blue Scotland • Pbk • 9781780277448 • £20.00



DRYSTONE

Reconnecting With the Past to Build My Future

Kristie De Garis

ISBN 9781846976469

Price £14.99

Publication April 2025

Format 216 x 138 mm Hardback

Category MEMOIRS

Extent 240 pp

BIC BM, BT

Rights WAL inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A groundbreaking and heartfelt memoir about using the past to help rebuild your future
- Kristie De Garis overcame racism, addiction and embraced her neurodiversity to build a better life for her and her future
- Draws parallels between the traditional craft of drystone walling and her personal journey

DESCRIPTION

Growing up as part of a mixed-race family in 90s Caithness, Kristie De Garis felt like an outsider. Despite having light skin, she experienced racism in many forms and never felt accepted by the people. She did, however, find great solace in the land and drystone structures around her. At 17 years old, struggling with her identity and in her haste to find belonging, she left Caithness, as well as many parts of herself, behind.

Determined to escape a past in which she felt she had no place, Kristie pushed forward, ignoring all the signs that she was doing damage to myself, and those around her, until declining mental health and addiction showed her that to move forward, she first had to look back.

Now with two daughters, Kristie discovered the motivation to build a healthy future and moved back to a rural area where, despite her reservations, she rediscovered her connection to the land around her. Finding pieces of herself left behind, finally ready to confront her past and rekindling her love for drystone, she was surprised to find great congruence between this traditional craft and her own journey.

Learning lessons from her past and from drystone walling, she was given insight into questions long unanswered and made changes in life that enabled her to see the great relevance of the past in building a future.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Kristie De Garis is a Scottish photographer, writer and drystone waller. She lives with her two daughters and two ex-husbands in Perthshire. Four years sober, a therapy veteran, and with a late diagnosis of ADHD, Kristie is learning to lean into her neurodivergence and the necessity of a quiet and carefully curated life. Kristie enjoys walking, gardening and travelling in Scotland.



MATCHLESS

The Rivalry That Made Women's Golf

Stephen Proctor

ISBN 9781913759193

Price £18.99

Publication 02 October 2025 **Format** 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Category Sport

Extent 288 pp

BIC WSBX, BT

Rights World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- From the author of the acclaimed *The Long Golden Afternoon* which was shortlisted for the *Sunday Times* Sports Book Awards for Best Sports Writing, and the USGA Herbert Warren Wind Book Award
- Tells the story of the rise of women's golf in Britain and the U.S. through the rivalry that developed in the 1920s between Joyce Wethered and Glenna Collett
- A story made all the more powerful as women's golf came of age as the Suffragette movement was gaining momentum worldwide, with an especially dramatic impact in the United Kingdom
- Features a foreword by Catriona Matthew, OBE

DESCRIPTION

From the moment women began hosting championships of their own in 1893, one of golf's burning questions became whether any woman would ever approach the mythical ideal of playing perfect golf. It took three decades of striving — at a time when Suffragettes were stubbornly fighting for women's rights — before Joyce Wethered and Glenna Collett delivered an unequivocal answer to that question.

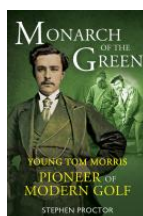
From their first meeting at Troon in 1925, through a decade highlighted by their breathtaking match at St Andrews, the Englishwoman and the American brought out in one another golf so sublime that rare was the player, man or woman, who could perform as brilliantly.

The rivalry between Wethered and Collett generated such widespread interest and respect that it paved the way for the birth of a women's professional tour. *Matchless* tells the story of these two incomparable golfers — women who personified the ambitions of their age.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Stephen Proctor has served as a senior editor at *The Baltimore Sun*, *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Houston Chronicle*. He is an avid golfer and has spent the past decade studying the history of the royal and ancient game. He is the author of *Monarch of the Green* and *The Long Golden Afternoon*, and lives in Malabar, Florida.

Related Titles



The Long Golden Afternoon • Hbk • 9781913759049 • £25.00

Monarch of the Green • Hbk • 9781909715752 • £16.99



NIGHT TRAIN TO ODESA

Covering the Human Cost of Russia's War

Jen Stout

ISBN 9781846976476

Publication 02 May 2024

Category True Stories

BIC KNTP, KNTJ

eBook 9781788856386

Price £17.99

Format 216 x 138 mm Hardback

Extent 256 pp

Rights World English Language inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- From March 2022 the author has covered the war in Ukraine, first in Romania on the border, then Odesa, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Kyiv, Donbas
- With a reputation for empathetic and vivid reporting on the human cost of war, the author has written for a variety of UK outlets, most frequently the *Sunday Post*
- Jen Stout's in-depth report on deportations in Kharkiv region was shortlisted for an Amnesty media award in 2023

'Jen Stout's writing is an antidote to the cynicism of war. *Night Train to Odesa* is unlike any other book you'll read on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Jen Stout, working alone (this is one-woman-war-coverage) takes us on a journey through the lives of those enduring and surviving the daily catastrophe of the conflict. Her reporting is caring and immediate and this account is honest, intelligent, and visceral; it is independent reporting at its finest'

- Quentin Sommerville

DESCRIPTION

When Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, millions of lives changed in an instant. Millions of people were suddenly on the move. In this great flow of people was a reporter from the north of Scotland. Jen Stout left Moscow abruptly, ending up on a border post in southeast Romania, from where she began to cover the human cost of Russian aggression. Her first-hand, vivid reporting brought the war home to readers in Scotland as she reported from front lines and cities across Ukraine. Stories from the night trains, birthday parties, military hospitals and bunkers: stories from the ground, from a writer with a deep sense of empathy, always seeking to understand the bigger picture, the big questions of identity, history, hopes and fears in this war in Europe.

Night Train to Odesa begins in Russia and continues to focus on people, relationships and individuals in Ukraine. It is the account of a young female reporter with no institutional backup or security. Both in language and themes, it is accessible and highly readable.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Jen Stout is a journalist, writer, and radio producer from Scotland, frequently working in Ukraine. Originally from Shetland she has lived in Germany and Russia. Her reports are often found in the *Sunday Post* and on BBC Radio.

COMPARABLE TITLES



Invasion • Hbk • 9781783352821



Overreach • Hbk • 9780008562748

Praise for
NIGHT TRAIN TO ODESA

‘Jen Stout’s book is not just a report of darkened cities and piteous survivors, but **a highly personal journal** of one young Scot’s first experiences of war . . . **moving and unforgettable**’

Neal Ascherson

‘In **evocative portraits** from homes, battlefields, rattling buses and trains we see the **determination, solidarity, heartache and humour** of a people at war’

Angus Bancroft

‘Jen Stout tells the story of her time covering war-torn Ukraine with clarity and **a deep compassion for those whose lives are being destroyed**. A **must-read** for anyone interested in the impact of the Russian invasion’

Dani Garavelli

‘A celebration of Ukraine and a lament for it. This **extraordinary book** may have been **written in compassion and anger**, but the note that rings out is love’

Peter Ross

‘Jen Stout is **a wondrous young writer from the Shetland Islands**, bursting with **humanity, boundless curiosity and an unrelenting enthusiasm** for life ... This is the work of a writer with an exciting future ahead of her’

Jon Lee Anderson

‘Night Train to Odesa is **a thrilling read**. Rich in reportage and infused with a deep knowledge of Ukraine, **it is a masterful book** from one of the best young journalists in Britain’

David Patrikarakos



UPLAND

A Journey through Time and the Hills

Ian Crofton

ISBN 9781780279138

Publication May 2025

Category Nature Writing

BIC WNW, WSZC

Illustrations Maps throughout

Price £20.00

Format 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Extent 304 pp

Rights World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A beautifully written and thought-provoking reflection on the hills and mountains of Britain
- Will appeal to readers of Robert Macfarlane, Nan Shepherd and W.H. Murray

DESCRIPTION

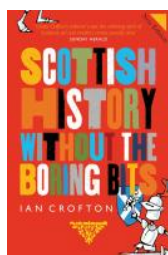
Britain's high places are many and varied, from the rolling hills and lush valleys of the Malverns to the vertiginous slopes of Snowdonia, the romantic peaks and vistas of the Lake District and the silent sub-Arctic tundra of the Cairngorms. As he explores our hills, moors and mountains, Ian Crofton is keenly aware of the echoes of those who have been there before, from prehistory to the present day. At the same time, he is finely tuned to the miracles of the present moment while among hills – a flash of bright moss in a bog, the swoop of an eagle above a skyline, a winter sun setting in a sea of cloud.

Drawing on a lifetime of walking and climbing across Britain – and following an arc from the gentle Downs of southern England to the wild peaks of Scotland's far north – Crofton is a well-informed and companionable guide, combining personal experiences with a keen curiosity about the history of mountain landscapes, the people who once lived, worked, suffered and died in them, and those who have wandered through them in wonder. The result is an enthralling meditation on the enduring yet ever-changing hills, on the transience of human experience, and on the shifts and twists of time itself.

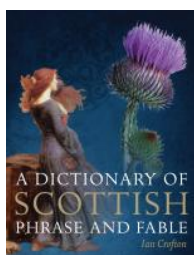
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

After many years working for Collins, **Ian Crofton** is now a freelance author and editor based in London. His previous bestsellers include *Kings and Queen of England* and *The Little Book of Big History*.

Related Titles



Scottish History Without the Boring Bits • Hbk • 9781780276106 • £12.99



A Dictionary of Scottish Phrase and Fable • Pbk • 9781780274287 • £14.99



Fringed With Mud & Pearls • Hbk • 9781780276656 • £20.00