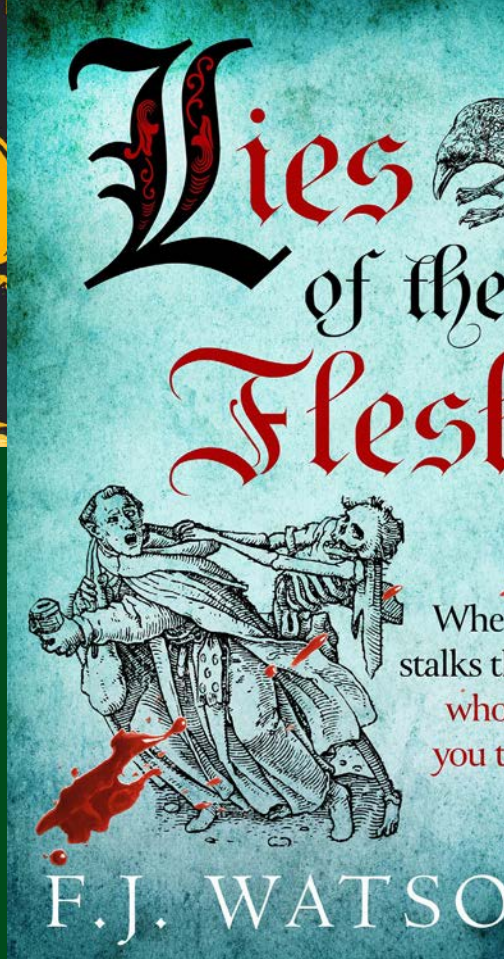
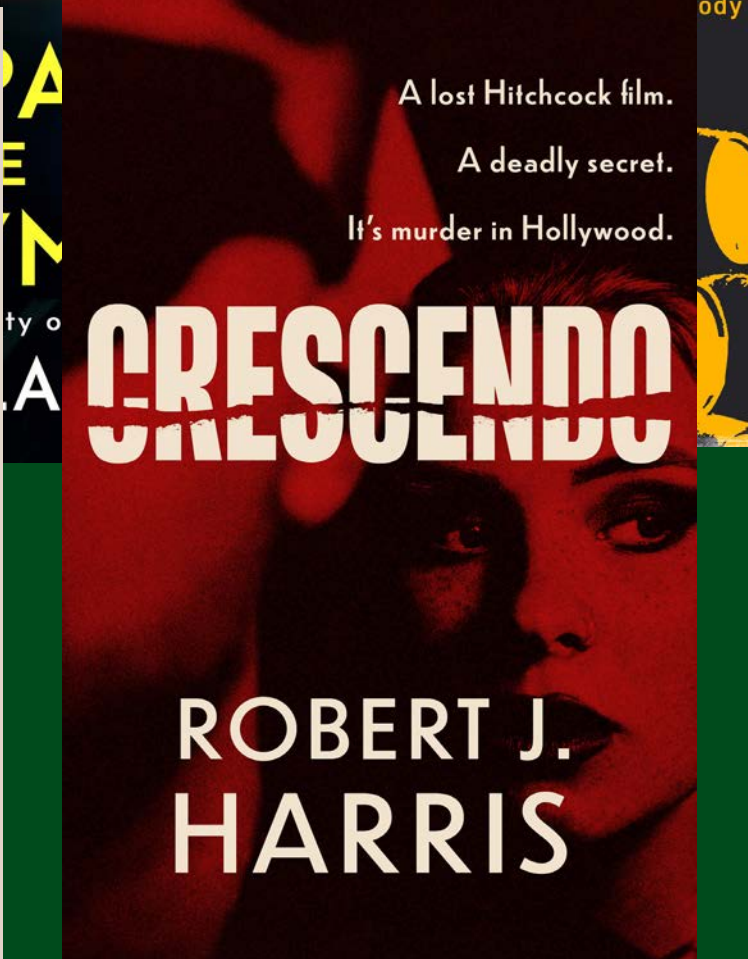
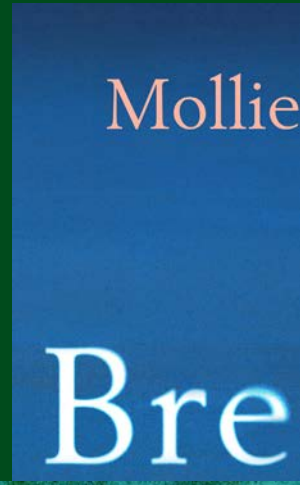
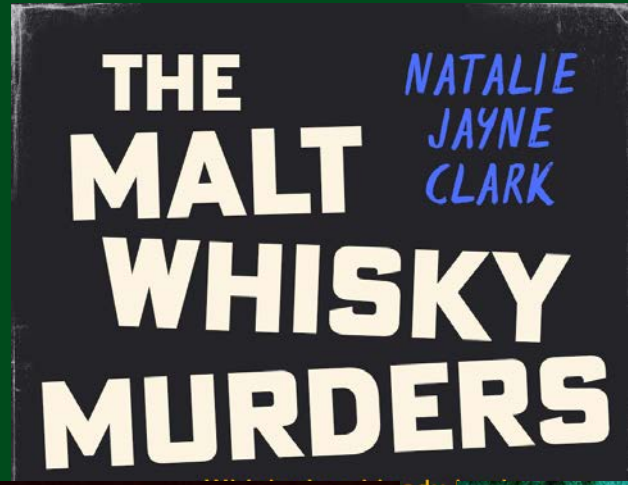
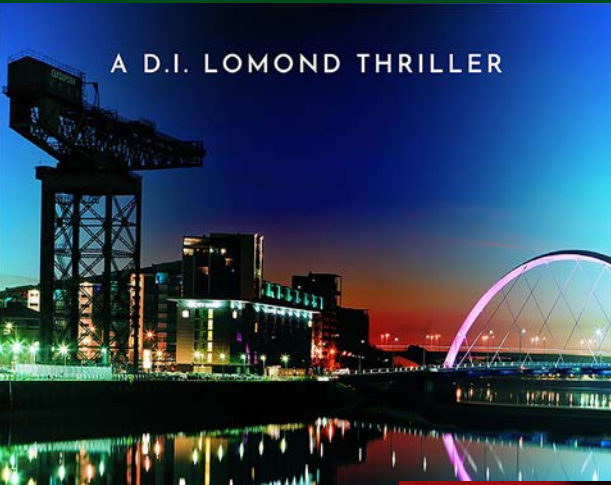


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FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

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BIRLINN & POLYGON
FICTION



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

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
- This is a moving and provocative novel of long-buried secrets, of mothers and daughters, of collaboration and betrayal, truth and redemption

'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*. She lives in Brighton.

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’

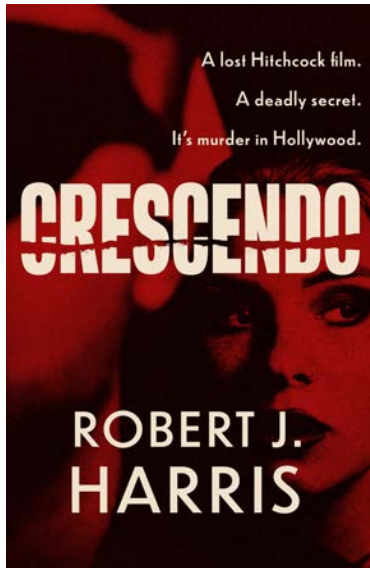
The Winnipeg Free Press

‘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



CRESCENDO

Robert J. Harris

ISBN 9781846977008

Price £9.99

Publication September 2025

Format 198 x 129mm Paperback

Category Mystery, Thriller

Extent 320 pp

BIC FHD, APF

Rights WAL inc. Audio

eBook 9781788857611

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Alfred Hitchcock is the most legendary and recognisable director in the history of cinema. All across the world he is regarded as the master of suspense
- Hitchcock was famous for making cameo appearances in his films, but in *Crescendo* he's right in the centre of the action - and the danger - in this murder mystery set in 1950s Hollywood
- Filled with the trademark twists and excitement of Hitchcock's classic films, Robert J Harris' novel is both a gripping thriller and a brilliantly conceived tribute to the works of the master
- For anyone who loves Hitchcock, films, or thrillers, *Crescendo* is the ultimate experience in mystery and suspense
- Robert J Harris is the author of *The Thirty-One Kings*, which was a Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month and listed by *The Scotsman* as one of the fifty best books of the year

DESCRIPTION

A lost film. A deadly secret.

Hollywood, 1959. When struggling mystery writer Bobby Burgoyne is hired by Alfred Hitchcock to work on the script for his new film *Crescendo*, he thinks his future success is assured at last. Instead he is swept into a swirling maelstrom of madness and murder. Someone, it seems, is willing to kill to keep the film from being made and Hitch needs Bobby to find who or what is behind the sabotage.

With a ruthless killer in pursuit, Bobby discovers that behind the obscure novel Hitch has based his movie on lies a true tale of abduction, amnesia and death. To save his own life as well as Hitch's career, Bobby must penetrate to the heart of the mystery and confront a final, shocking revelation.

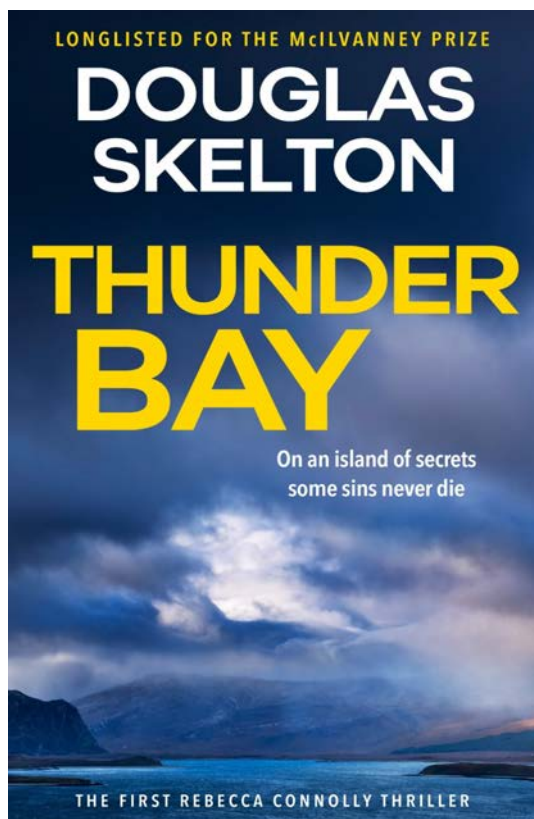
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Robert J. Harris was born in Dundee and studied at the University of St. Andrews where he graduated with a first class honours degree in Latin. He is the designer of the bestselling fantasy board game *Talisman* and has written numerous books, including the popular *World Goes Loki* series, the *Artie Conan Doyle Mysteries*, as well as the bestselling *The Thirty-One Kings* and *Castle Macnab*. He lives in St. Andrews with his wife, Debbie.

Comparable Titles



THE REBECCA CONNOLLY THRILLERS



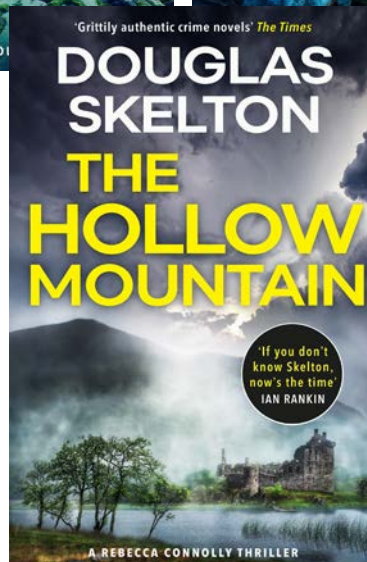
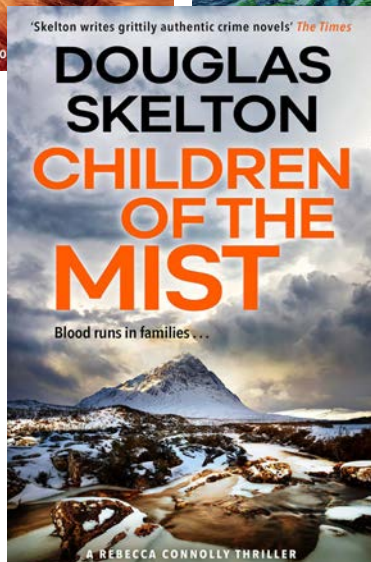
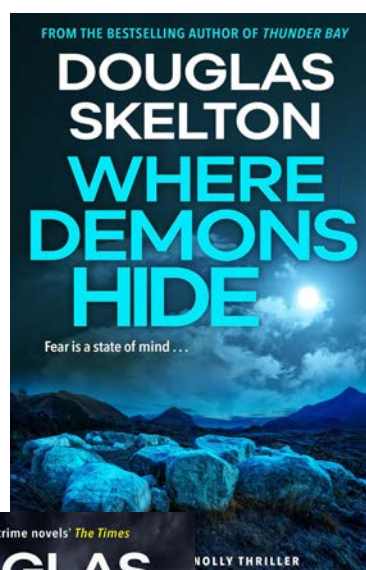
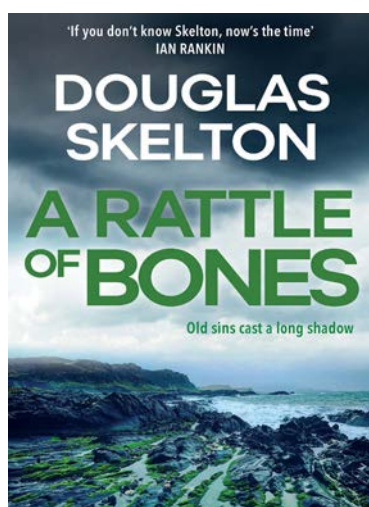
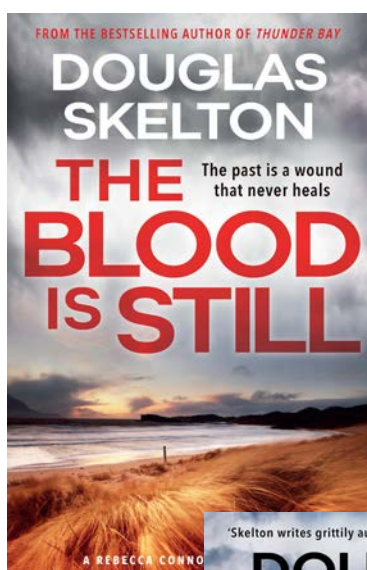
THUNDER BAY

On an island of secrets, some sins never die.

When reporter Rebecca Connolly is told of Roddie Drummond's return to the island of Stoirm she senses a story. Fifteen years before he was charged with the murder of his lover, Mhairi. When he was found Not Proven, Roddie left the island and no one, apart from his sister, knew where he was or what he was doing.

Now he has returned for his mother's funeral – and it will spark an explosion of hatred, bitterness and violence.

9781846976254 | £9.99 | 320pp
B-fmt Paperback
World All Languages inc. Audio



PRAISE FOR DOUGLAS SKELTON

‘Exquisite language, credible characters, and unrelenting suspense – this crime novel has it all’

– *Publishers Weekly on Thunder Bay*

‘An enthralling thriller that pulls you along at a cracking pace. A thoroughly enjoyable read that we’d highly recommend’ – *Undiscovered Scotland on Thunder Bay*

‘A corking read... Skelton’s talent is casting his descriptive eyes on the familiar and rendering truthful characters with a believable backstory’

– *The Scotsman on The Blood is Still*

‘One’s absolute attention is demanded right to the last. Thunder Bay was a fine book; The Blood is Still is several rungs higher’ – *Journal of the Law Society of Scotland*

‘This is an intriguing Highland mystery peopled with quirky characters and peppered with wit’

– *Times Crime Club on A Rattle of Bones*

‘A page turning novel in a fine series.. going from strength to strength’

– *Scotland on Sunday on Where Demons Hide*

‘Skelton writes grittily authentic crime novels... fast-paced and straight to the point – like a well-aimed literary projectile’ – *Times Scotland on Where Demons Hide*

THUNDER BAY and A RATTLE OF BONES

both Longlisted for the McIlvanney Prize (2019 & 2022)

RIGHTS SOLD

THUNDER BAY

Skyhorse (US)

Gyldendal (Denmark & Norway)

Work Audio Publishing (Sweden)

DuMont (Germany)

Gema Publications (Greece)

Audio (Isis Audio)

THE BLOOD IS STILL

Skyhorse (US)

Gyldendal (Denmark & Norway)

Work Audio Publishing (Sweden)

DuMont (Germany)

Gema Publications (Greece)

Audio (Isis Audio)

A RATTLE OF BONES

Skyhorse (US)

Gyldendal (Norway)

Work Audio Publishing (Sweden)

DuMont (Germany)

Gema Publications (Greece)

Audio (Ulverscroft)

WHERE DEMONS HIDE

Skyhorse (US)

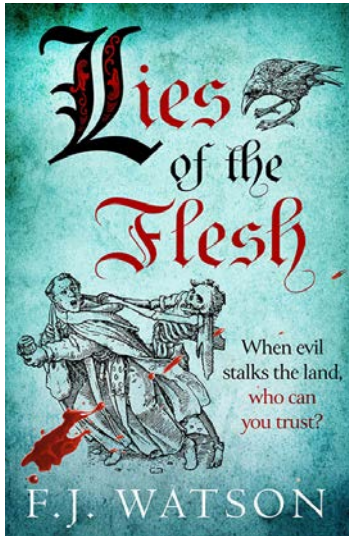
Gyldendal (Norway)

Work Audio Publishing (Sweden)

Audio (Isis Audio)

Rights available in:

FRANCE, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, POLAND, ASIA and EASTERN EUROPE



LIES OF THE FLESH

F.J. Watson

ISBN 9781846976742

Price £9.99

Publication 05 September 2024

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Historical Fiction

Extent 336 pp

BIC FV, FA

Rights World All Languages

eBook 9781788856713

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 in the period after Bannockburn
- 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*

DESCRIPTION

Autumn 1314. In the aftermath of the Scottish victory at the Battle of Bannockburn, the villagers of Warcop wait desperately for the return of loved ones. When brothers Wat and Rob Dickinson bring news of the death of their companion, Adam Fothergill, as they fled home, there is no one to mourn him. But when a monstrous figure is seen in the hills nearby, it seems Adam has returned from the dead to wreak revenge. But for what?

Three miles away, young Fran Hilton is mourning the death of his father and wrestling with the responsibilities of becoming lord of the manor. When he catches sight of the Revenant, he is terrified, but the mystery of Adam's death fascinates him. With a motley band of Hilton's young people, Fran sets out to confront Adam.

As terror turns to murder, Fran realises the truth has been buried deep within a pack of lies – and he, too, harbours a secret of his own, the revelation of which could mean losing everything and everyone he loves most.

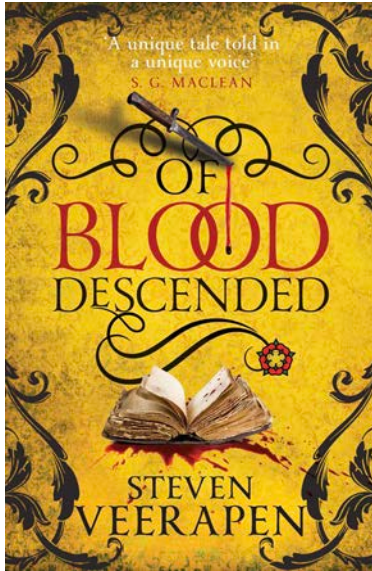
Lies of the Flesh is a gripping exploration of what happens when identities – gender, social position or nationality – are challenged within the crucible of war.

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.

THE ANTHONY BLANKE TUDOR MYSTERIES

by Steven Veerapen



OF BLOOD DESCENDED

Discover murder and mayhem in the court of Henry VIII

At the court of Henry VIII a historian charged with proving the king's descent from King Arthur is found murdered, his body posed in a gruesome tableau.

A reluctant Anthony Blanke is charged with investigating the crime, and his mission takes him through ancient monastic libraries and the back streets of London.

9781846976131 | £8.99 | 384pp
B-fmt Paperback
World All Languages

Ingenious historical crime fiction set at the court of the young Henry VIII, inspired **by the first black man** recorded at the court of Henry.

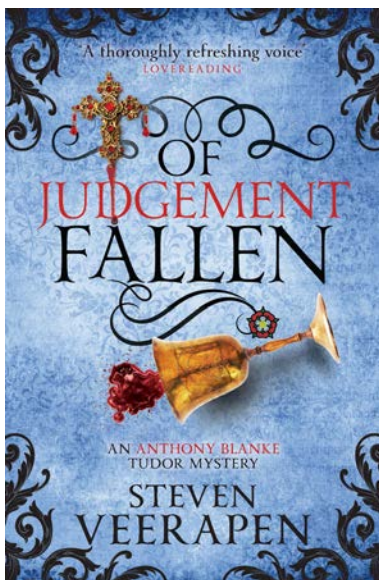
The series explores this well-known period from **a new perspective**, that of a figure on the margins, neither black nor white, not quite part of the English system nor outside of it, and from a writer who himself **draws on the rich heritage** of a Scottish mother and Mauritian father.

PRAISE FOR OF BLOOD DESCENDED

'A **splendidly enjoyable** novel crying out for a sequel'
Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

'This is **a wonderfully evocative portrait** of the earlier Tudor world, beautifully written with at times startlingly refreshing use of language and imagery. **A unique tale told in a unique voice**'
S.G. Maclean

'This **rip-roaring account of murder and monastic intrigue** in the court of Henry VIII reels with atmosphere and a **thoroughly refreshing** voice.'
LoveReading

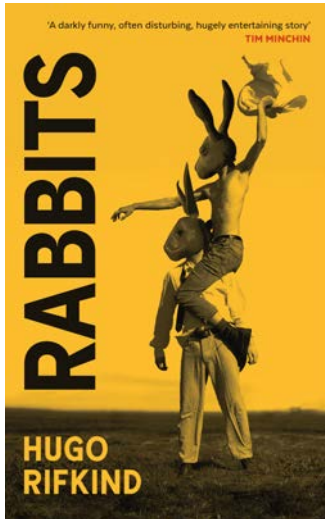


ALSO AVAILABLE: OF JUDGEMENT FALLEN

'A **cracking good read** because it gives you an insight into life in those times'
Breege Smyth, *Oban Times*

'If you enjoy an historical mystery that **demonstrates a deep understanding of its period**, then this is for you.'
Michael Lynes, *Historical Novel Society*

'[Veerapen's] depiction of the world of the English court in the 1520s is **rich, detailed and satisfying and everything feels just right**...an engaging and enthralling story that keep you guessing right to the end'
Ken Lussey, *Undiscovered Scotland*



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

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)

DESCRIPTION

Tommo has just moved to a prestigious boarding school. A product of the middle class, and with new-found independence thrust upon him, he finds himself invited into fading crumbling country houses.

It's the early nineties and the elite he is now surrounded by is struggling for relevance. Alienated from the mainstream, and running low on inherited wealth, his peers have retreated into snobbery and fatalism. Initially awed by their poise and seduced by their hedonism, Tommo gradually becomes aware of sinister undercurrents and a suppressed rage that threatens to explode into violence.

In this world, half-remembered traditions mix with decadence and an awful lot of small dead animals. And sometimes, not just animals. When Tommo's friend Johnnie's brother is found dead, a shotgun at his feet, he realises there are secrets that everyone knows, but no one speaks about, or even acknowledges. And those secrets can no longer be hidden.

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.

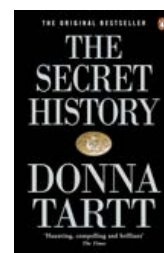
Comparable Titles



The Steep Approach to Garbadale • Pbk • 9780349139142



Mayflies • Pbk • 9780571273713



The Secret History • Pbk • 9780140167771

Praise for
RABBITS

‘Darkly funny as *Saltburn*, **but with kilts**’
Val McDermid

‘**Sometimes sad, often funny** coming-of-age story... **a fine novel**. It is moving, as novels of time lost and time recovered always are’
Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

‘a coming-of-age story with **a mind-blowing opening paragraph** . . . moves among the fading elite of society and the sinister undertow of their world, **holding the reader in a vice-like grip all the way to the final page**’
Sunday Post

‘Hot on the heels of *Saltburn* and Jonny Sweet’s *The Kellerby Code*, Hugo Rifkind’s **entertaining new novel** offers another jaded look at the antics of the posh . . . **keeps the outrageous laughs and twists coming** in equal measure’
Alexander Larman, *Observer*

‘**It is terrific**... really captures the anxiety of youth’
Matt Chorley, Times Radio

‘Rabbits is **an instantly compelling novel**; it is simultaneously poignant, peculiar, tragic, and very, very funny. **Highly recommended**’
Sathnam Sanghera

‘**A remarkable achievement** ... recreates a world unknown to most readers, like *Saltburn*, rather creepily repellent, but with all its fascination to the outsider’
Linda Grant, Booker Shortlisted author of *The Clothes on Their Backs*

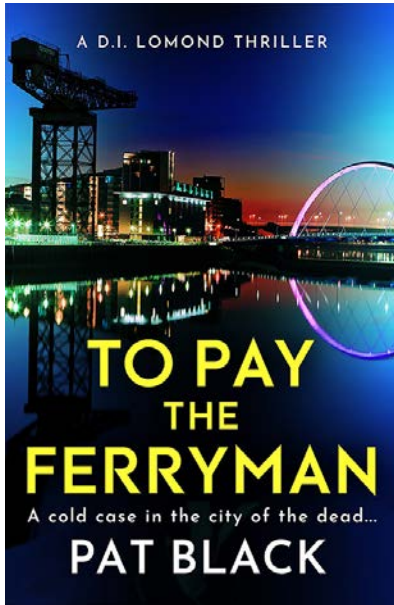
‘The best 2 a.m.-whisky story of madly evocative nineties’ youth ... **A queasy, hilarious joy**’
Caitlin Moran

‘The leap from journalism to fiction is not always an easy one, but in Rifkind’s case, my only frustration is that he took so long to take the leap. **A darkly funny, often disturbing, hugely entertaining story**’
Tim Minchin

‘Rabbits **pulls you in and doesn’t let go**. A dazzling, compelling novel’
John Niven, author of *Kill Your Friends*

‘**A menacingly funny story** of dark secrets, coming-of-age faltering, and the dirty seduction of being sucked into elite circles... *Rabbits* is **a droll, bold, disturbing dynamo of a book**’
Joanne Owen, *LoveReading*

‘**A poignant story of doomed love**... a “proper debut”, a coming of age story drawing heavily on his own background and experience’
Herald



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	

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
- Second book in the series, *Jack-in-the-Box* is contracted and will publish in 2026

DESCRIPTION

D.I. Lomond is a devoted family man. A good detective.

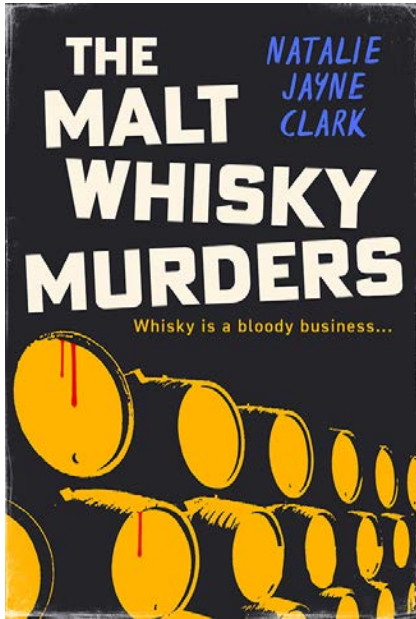
When the body of a young woman involved in the worlds of art and adult streaming is found in the River Clyde, Lomond believes there may be echoes of a cold case from the start of his career: an unsolved death on a rural Scottish estate in the 1990s.

Then, a Swedish feminist activist, who also has a connection to Lomond's past, arrives in the city to protest against the failure of the police to find the killer.

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 and his family?

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Pat Black is a journalist for the *Associated Press* and the author of several thrillers published by Head of Zeus, 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.



THE MALT WHISKY MURDERS

Natalie Jayne Clark

ISBN 9781846976780

Price £9.99

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

Category Crime Fiction

Extent 336 pp

BIC FF, FH

Rights World All Languages

eBook 9781788857161

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Darkly comic crime debut for fans of *Columbo*, *Midsummer Murders* and John Dickson Carr
 - When two bodies are discovered in a whisky distillery, Eilidh and her wife, Morag, are plunged headlong a storm of murder, suspicion, intrigue and small town bureaucracy
 - 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
- Author came second in Pitch Perfect at Bloody Scotland 2024 and Polygon immediately picked up the book

DESCRIPTION

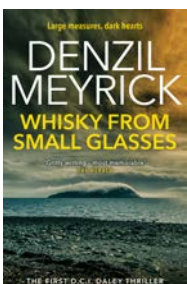
When a dilapidated whisky distillery comes up for sale in Campbeltown, a place once hailed 'Whisky Capital of the World', Eilidh and her wife Morag jump at the chance to run the first women-owned whisky distillery in Scotland. But a grisly, decades-old secret is soon revealed: two dead bodies have been 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. She first became interested in whisky as a student in Stirling, and has since passed her Whisky Ambassador tests with full marks and become an accredited Whisky Ambassador. She has visited several distilleries across Scotland and Ireland, and hopes to one day visit more distilleries across the world.

Comparable Titles



Whisky From Small Glasses • Pbk • 9781846973215



The Mash House • Pbk • 9781789651195



MRS BURKE AND MRS HARE

Michelle Sloan

ISBN 9781846976803	Price £9.99
Publication July 2025	Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback
Category Historical Fiction	Extent 336 pp
BIC FV, F	Rights World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Second novel from the author of the critically acclaimed bestseller, *The Edinburgh Skating Club*
- Discover the women behind Edinburgh's scheming serial killers Burke and Hare
- A story that takes the reader deep into the darkness of Victorian Edinburgh, where sinister events unfold

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.

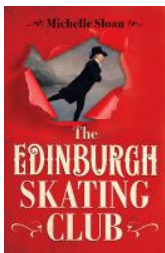
Years later, young journalist Robert Fletcher hears rumours of numerous 'sightings' of Mrs Burke and Mrs Hare. Robert is compelled to investigate the aftermath of the disturbing Burke and Hare trial. He elicits the help of Edinburgh cobbler Joseph Campbell, and their quest leads them south, to the grim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

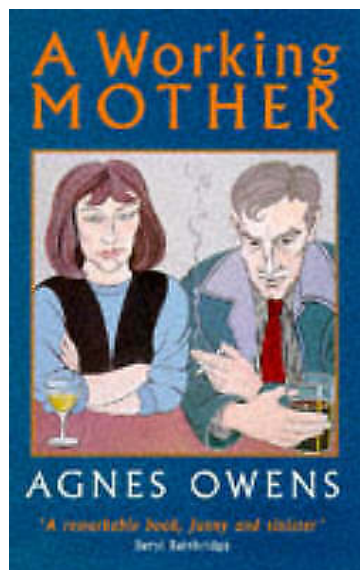
The horrors of the past collide with the grisly present: the time for retribution has come.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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

Related Titles





A WORKING MOTHER

Agnes Owens

ISBN 9781846977015
Publication Spring 2026
Category Fiction
BIC FV, F

Price £9.99
Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback
Extent 144 pp
Rights World All Languages

PRAISE FOR AGNES OWENS

'Agnes Owens' hallmarks have been a frank irony, a deadpan gothic quality and a down-to-earth insistence on the surreality of most people's normality' - Ali Smith

'Owens pulls no punches. Her understated prose finds acerbic humour in the lives of characters hovering between farce and tragedy' - *Observer*

'Owens is a gift to the Scots urban world' - *The Sunday Times*

'Her black humour and piercing observation bear comparison with the work of Muriel Spark' - *Guardian*

'Owens has a voice no one could imitate, and humour to match . . . Scottish life as lived by those far from the comfort zone, depicted less with loathing than with love' - Rosemary Goring

'Agnes Owens is the most unfairly neglected of all living Scottish authors. I don't know why' - Alasdair Gray

DESCRIPTION

Agnes Owen's sharp wit, humour and lean prose is beautifully displayed in this tragi-comedy. Betty's husband Adam broods and seeks solace at the bottom of a glass – to be matched at times by Betty, just to be sociable – while she flirts with their best friend Brendan, and tries to cope with her two smart-mouthed children and the roving hands of her sinister employer.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Agnes Owens was born in 1926 and worked in a factory, as a typist and as a school cleaner among other things. She was married twice and has seven children. Agnes is the author of *Gentlemen of the West*, *Lean Tales* (with Alasdair Gray and James Kelman), *Like Birds in the Wilderness*, *A Working Mother*, *For the Love of Willie*, *Bad Attitudes* and *Jen's Party*. *The Complete Short Stories* was published by Polygon in 2008. She died in October 2014.

RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE (WAL)



BIRLINN & POLYGON
NON-FICTION



ATYPICAL GIRL

Penny Kiley

ISBN 9781846976919

Price £9.99

Publication October 2025

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Memoir, Music

Extent 288 pp

BIC FV, F

Rights World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *Atypical Girl* is a memoir about journalism, punk rock and trying to be normal
- Set against the backdrop of the Liverpool music scene of the 1980s and beyond, this is a story about the search for identity and the role that music plays in all our lives
- *Atypical Girl* is a vivid and evocative picture of a time and place, as well as an honest and moving personal story

Fabulous. It really captures a moment that resonates strongly with me'

– **Andy McCluskey**, *Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark*

'Penny Kiley's adventures in punk, post-punk and beyond create a love letter to the narrative that has affected all our lives' – John Robb, *Louder Than War*

DESCRIPTION

The story begins in 1976, when punk rock has just hit Liverpool. The legendary Eric's club is home to the city's rebels, posers and misfits. It's a place of attitude, adventure and new possibilities, and it changes lives. Some – like Pete Dinklage, Julian Cope and Holly Johnson – become pop stars; Penny Kiley becomes a music journalist.

The book traces the Liverpool music scene over the years, and Penny's relationship with it, from the turbulent political times of the 1980s into the changing culture of the twenty-first century. Throughout these years, Penny never stops being a misfit, and the question remains: how do you navigate normal life when punk is dead, and you don't know you're autistic?

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Penny Kiley was Liverpool correspondent for *Melody Maker* during the post-punk years of the late 1970s and 1980s. She also wrote for *Smash Hits* and was pop columnist for the *Liverpool Echo*. She was diagnosed as autistic at the age of sixty.



BEDE: THE MAN WHO INVENTED ENGLAND

Edoardo Albert

ISBN 9781780278391

Publication 03 July 2025

Category HISTORY

BIC HB, HD

Illustrations 8pp colour plates; maps **eBook** 9781788856690

Price £18.99

Format 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Extent 256 pp

Rights World All Languages

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.

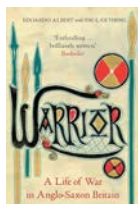
Faced with a Britain of competing kingdoms and peoples, it was Bede who first wrote of the English as a single people. It was his vision that created the story that has united and divided Britain ever since: an island divided into three countries.

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.

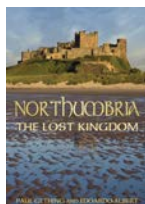
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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.

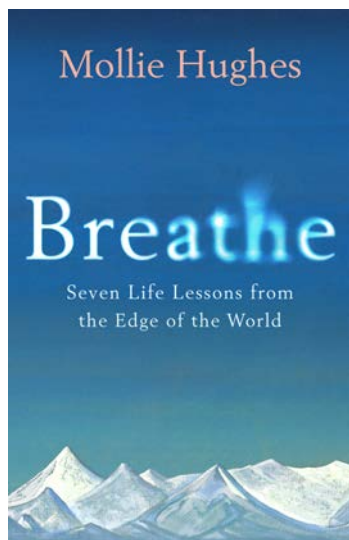
Comparable Titles



Warrior • Pbk • 9781783784431



Northumbria • Pbk • 9780752459707



BREATHE

Seven Life Lessons from the Edge of the World Mollie Hughes

ISBN 9781780278407

Publication May 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 at the age of 30 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.

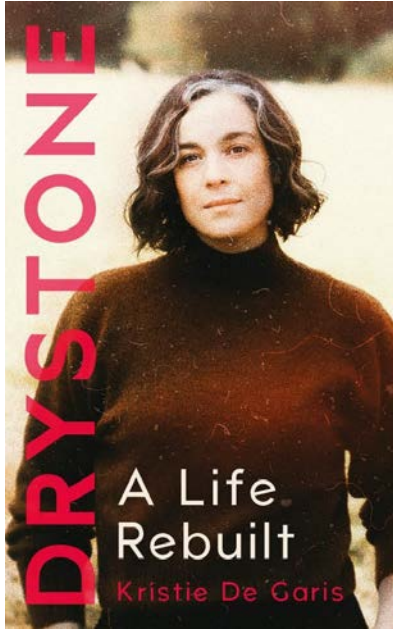
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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

A Life Rebuilt

Kristie De Garis

ISBN 9781846976469

Publication August 2025

Category Debut, Memoir

BIC BM, BT

Price £14.99

Format 216 x 138 mm Hardback

Extent 240 pp

Rights World All Languages

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 herself, her family and her future
- Draws parallels between the traditional craft of drystone walling and her personal journey

DESCRIPTION

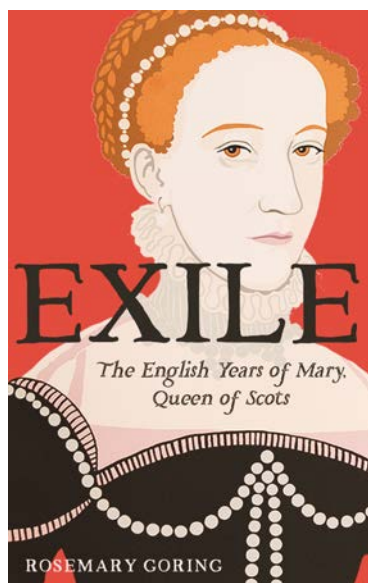
Growing up as part of a mixed-race family in Caithness in the nineties, Kristie De Garis felt like an outsider. She experienced racism in many forms and never felt accepted by people. Yet she found great solace in the land – especially the drystone structures she saw around her. Aged seventeen, struggling with her identity, she left the North of Scotland 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 herself and those around her, until mental ill health and addiction showed her that to move on she must first look back.

Now with two daughters, Kristie discovered the motivation to build a healthy future when she moved back to rural Perthshire and rediscovered her profound connection to the land and nature through drystone walling. Her love for this traditional craft was rekindled and she was finally ready to confront her past and build a future.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Kristie De Garis is a writer, photographer and drystone waller based in Perthshire, Scotland. With her two children and two ex-husbands she lives a quiet and carefully curated life. *Drystone: A Life Rebuilt* is her first book.



EXILE

The English Years of Mary, Queen of Scots

Rosemary Goring

ISBN 9781780278384

Price £22.00

Publication 03 July 2025

Format 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Category HISTORY

Extent 320 pp

BIC HB, BGH

Rights World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The sequel to the acclaimed *Homecoming: The Scottish Years of Mary, Queen of Scots*
- Written with reference to one of the most significant historical finds in recent years – a treasure trove of 57 encrypted letters written by Mary recently decoded by an international team of code-breakers
- Rosemary Goring is a bestselling historian and author

DESCRIPTION

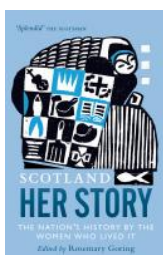
From the moment Mary, Queen of Scots set foot on English soil in May 1568, she was the prisoner of her cousin, Elizabeth I of England. Her tumultuous years in Scotland, where she had returned on after the death of her husband, Francis II of France, had ended in failure and abdication.

Exile tells the story of Mary's English years – almost half her life – with reference to the latest research and the many locations where she was held captive. Unlike her years on the Scottish throne, the dramatic events during these years mainly took place beyond her sight. But while trouble was perpetually simmering beyond her prisons, within their walls Mary was anything but docile or resigned, and only towards the end did she lose hope of one day returning to her homeland as rightful ruler. No wonder she was viewed as a deadly threat by Elizabeth. Given her attitude and actions and those of her estranged son James – was her tragic death all but inevitable? If more willing to compromise, might she have negotiated her release? Acclaimed author Rosemary Goring addresses these, and other, questions in this remarkably penetrating psychological portrait of one of history's great queens.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Rosemary Goring was born in Dunbar and studied at the University of St Andrews. She worked at W&R Chambers as a reference editor before becoming literary editor of *Scotland on Sunday*. She was also the literary editor for *The Herald* and *Sunday Herald*, and is the author of two historical novels, *After Flodden* and *Dacre's War*.

Related Titles





HEY JUDE

The Rise and Rise of Jude Bellingham

Graeme Croser

ISBN 9781913759216

Price £14.99

Publication 07 November 2024

Format 216 x 138 mm Paperback

Category Ball games

Extent 240 pp

BIC WSJ, BGS

Rights World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Published following Real Madrid's 2023/24 La Liga and Champions League exploits and England's Euro 2024 campaign
- A portrait of one of world football's most exciting talents, exploring the key issues surrounding a remarkable rise to hero status with club and country
- Expert insight from leading figures in British and European football, with a series of exclusive interviews examining Bellingham's impact on the game and the football landscape in England, Germany and Spain that provides the backdrop to a compelling sporting story.

DESCRIPTION

A superstar, a role model, an inspiration. Even before his 21st birthday Jude Bellingham had proved to be all of those things after a stratospheric surge to the peak of world football. The Real Madrid and England hero has broken new ground on his path from the playing fields of the Midlands to the bright lights of the Bernabeu, a player marked out for greatness from a young age and one intent on devouring every opportunity with a hunger that has set him apart from his peers.

Named the 2023 Golden Boy as the undisputed best young player in Europe, Bellingham appears to be on an inexorable march towards the ultimate prize of the Ballon d'Or. But what sits behind the blistering ascent of football's brightest rising star? How was the raw talent finessed, where does the burning desire to succeed come from? *Hey Jude* charts the story of a unique sporting talent through the eyes of those who have been beside him on the journey.

Exploring the wider issues surrounding Bellingham's path from Birmingham to the Bundesliga and beyond, painting a candid portrait of life in the football hotbed of Madrid, it represents the first instalment in one of football's most captivating success stories.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Graeme Croser is an award winning sports writer with close to 25 years of experience in the regional and national press covering domestic, European and international action. The Napier University journalism graduate served with the *Edinburgh Evening News* before spending 19 years with the *Scottish Mail on Sunday*. A past winner of the Jim Rodger Memorial Award, recognising the work of Scotland's best young sports writers, he serves on the committee of the Scottish Football Writers' Association.

Comparable Titles



HOW TO BUILD A CHAMPION

The Blueprint to Success in Women's Tennis

Molly McElwee

ISBN 9781913759230	Price £14.99
Publication 05 June 2025	Format 234 x 156 mm Paperback
Category Sports	Extent 256 pp
BIC WS, JFSJ1	Rights World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Published to coincide with Wimbledon 2025 and including the latest insight and analysis from the full 2024 season
- An authoritative study of the global game, exploring the accomplishments of an all-star cast of grand slam winners and the foundations of their success
- Featuring contributions from key figures in the sport, including players, coaches and those in the inner circle of the circuit's leading lights.

DESCRIPTION

Tennis is one of the only worldwide sports in which women have consistently played on the same stage as men for the past 50 years. The environment has allowed the women's game to create its own culture and narrative. While the men's headlines have been grabbed by the Big Three of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, on the women's side shocks have emerged regularly and variety has reigned. Once the game was defined by heavyweight rivalries - from Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova in the 1980s to Steffi Graf and Monica Seles in the 90s, before the turn of the century brought the Williams sisters. Even in the midst of the Serena Williams dominance, there have been a succession of bolt-from-the-blue champions to create a sense of unpredictability and drama unrivalled in elite sport.

Since 2000, 36 different women have lifted grand slam singles trophies. Only 22 men have. In the last decade alone, there have been 10 female one-slam wonders, compared to four males. What is most striking about these numbers, is that they are not all serve bots or baseline bruisers hailing from the tennis academy system. Instead, the origin stories of these stars differ considerably. A generation of Czech talent eclipsing the richest tennis nations; child prodigies like Coco Gauff modelled by her parents; Kim Clijsters defying the odds to become a comeback champion after giving birth; and Emma Raducanu crafting a coaching rotation system to achieve her fairytale in New York.

How to Build a Champion explores the complex, remarkable stories of winning players from across the globe and asks what this generation can tell us about the future of women's tennis.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Molly McElwee is a freelance sports journalist writing about women's sport, football, tennis, Olympic and Paralympic sport. Molly spent more than five years as a sportswriter for the *Daily Telegraph*, with a key focus on women's sports and tennis. She has covered major championships at Wimbledon, Roland Garros and in New York as well as the 2019 Women's World Cup, the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo and the 2024 Olympics in Paris. In 2024, Molly won the Tom Perrotta Prize, awarded by the International Tennis Writers' Association (ITWA) to a writer aged 35 or under who shows excellence in tennis journalism.



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

- Published to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of golf's greatest rivalries, charting the lives and careers of American player Glenna Collet and English counterpart Joyce Wethered
- An in-depth and methodically researched historical account of a defining period in the women's game, exploring key topics and characters
- Examines the links between sporting and social change, and the role of star players in the right for equality on and off the course
- Written and researched by leading golf historian Stephen Proctor, acclaimed author of *Monarch of the Green* and *The Long Golden Afternoon*

DESCRIPTION

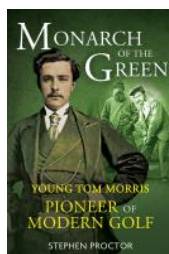
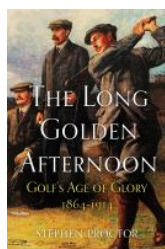
Matchless tells the story of women's golf against the backdrop of the intense rivalry between two players who set a new standard for performance - American Glenna Collet and England's Joyce Wethered. That head-to-head competition spanned a decade, from their first meeting at Troon in 1925 through to Wethered's tour of the US in 1935. The key moment, and the dramatic focal point for this unique account, is their match at St Andrews in 1929 in the final of the Ladies Amateur Championship. It is widely considered to be the defining moment in women's golf.

Stephen Proctor delves deep into the story of that golden period and the colourful history of the women's golf up to that point and beyond, charting the remarkable characters who graced the fairways and blazed a trail for today's superstars of the sport. Through the achievements and tribulations of Isette Pearson, Cecil Leitch, Alexa Stirling and a cast of key protagonists the reader is transported back to a pivotal time in the development of the game.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

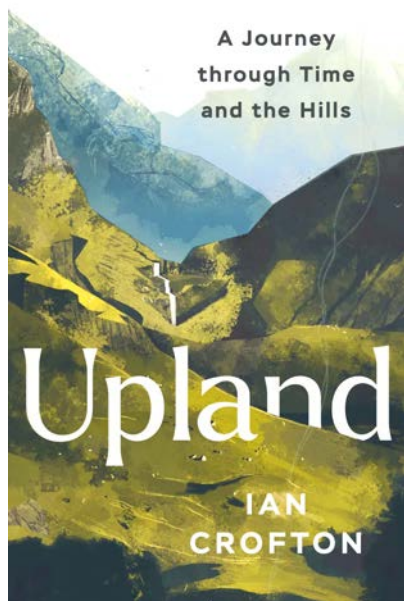
Stephen Proctor has served as a senior editor at *The Baltimore Sun*, *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Houston Chronicle*. He is an avid golfer and has spent the past decade studying the history of the royal and ancient game. He is the author of *Monarch of the Green* and *The Long Golden Afternoon*,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

Related Titles



The Long Golden Afternoon • Hbk • 9781913759049 • £25.00

Monarch of the Green • Hbk • 9781909715752 • £16.99



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

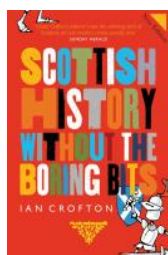
Britain's high places are many and varied, from the rolling hills and lush valleys of the Malverns to the vertiginous slopes of Snowdonia, the romantic peaks and vistas of the Lake District and the silent sub-Arctic tundra of the Cairngorms. As he explores our hills, moors and mountains, Ian Crofton 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.

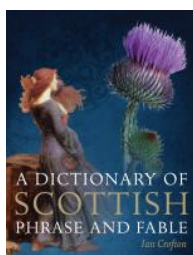
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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



WITCHES

A King's Obsession

Steven Veerapen

ISBN 978178027XXXX

Publication September 2025

Category History

BIC HBJD, HB

Illustrations 8pp colour plates

Price £22.00

Format 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Extent 320 pp

Rights World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A major book on a subject of perennial interest - the witch hunting of James VI and I
- Written by one of Britain's finest young historical writers, and author of the bestselling *The Wisest Fool*
- Compelling narrative history which will appeal to the general reader, lovers of historical biography and fans of Philippa Gregory, Alison Weir and Antonia Fraser with its vivid and absorbing style

DESCRIPTION

Witches – whether broomstick-riding spell-casters or Wiccan earth-worshippers – have been culturally relevant for centuries. For centuries, too, belief in the potency of witchcraft has been debated, accused witches have been hunted and punished, and film and TV productions have brought the witch and the witch-hunter to big and small screens.

But where did our perception of witches – good and bad – come from? What motivated wide-scale panics about witchcraft during certain periods? How were alleged witches identified, accused, and variously tortured and punished?

Steven Veerapen traces witches, witchcraft, and witch-hunters from the explosion of mass-trials under King James VI and I in the late sixteenth century to the death of the witch-hunting phenomenon in the early eighteenth century. Based on documents and the latest historical research, he explores what motivated widespread belief in demonic witchcraft throughout Britain as well as in continental Europe, what caused mass panics about alleged witches, and what led, ultimately, to the relegation of the witch – and the witch-hunter – to the realm of fantasy and the fringes of society.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Steven Veerapen was born in Glasgow to a Scottish mother and a Mauritian father. He graduated with 1st Class Honours from the University of Strathclyde and was awarded a PhD in 2014. He is currently teaching associate in English at Strathclyde. In addition to his academic work, he has also written a number of historical novels, and his crime mysteries featuring Anthony Blanke, set in Tudor England, is published by Polygon.

Comparable Titles

