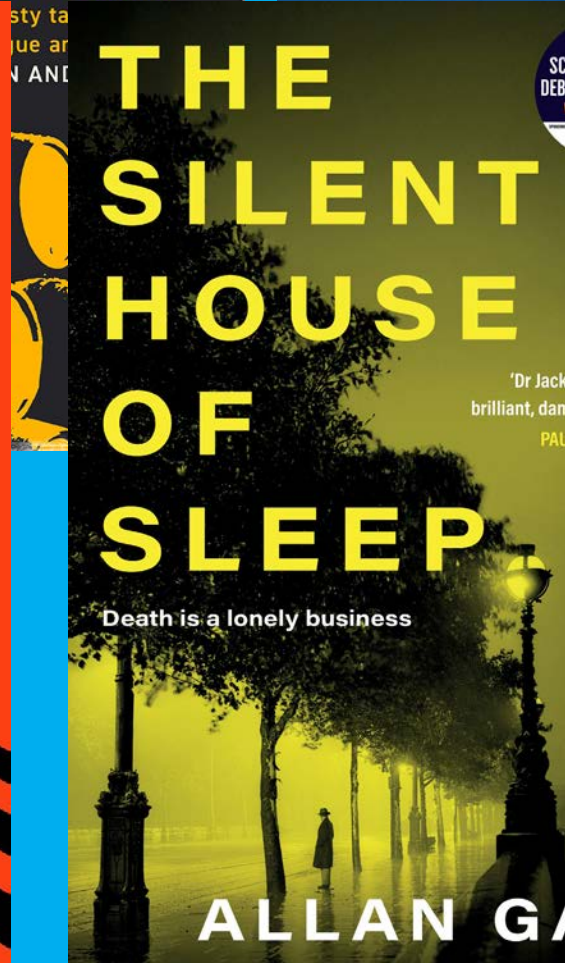
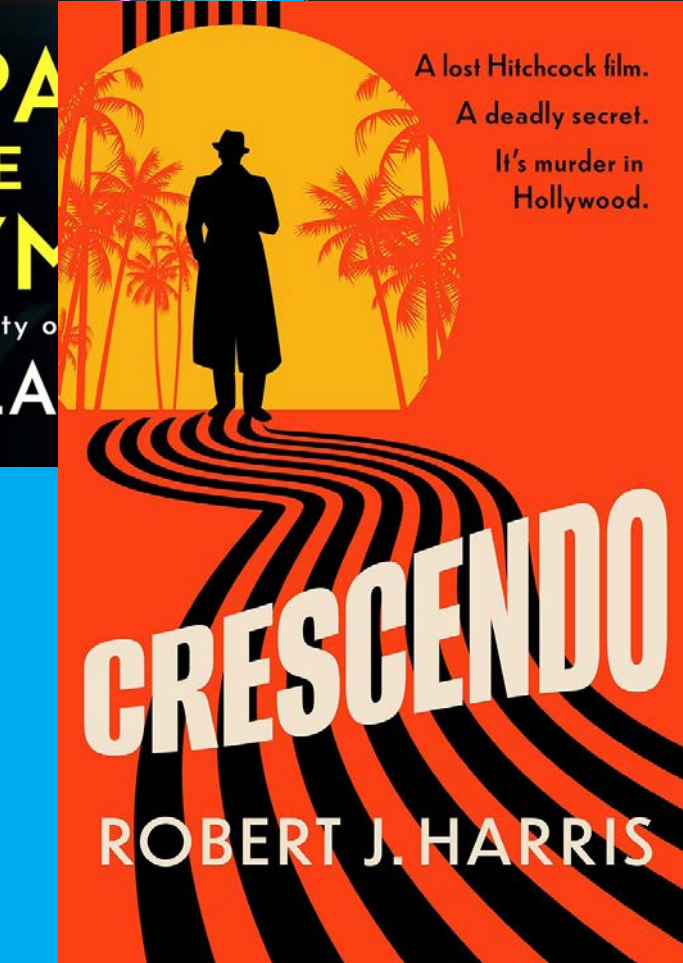
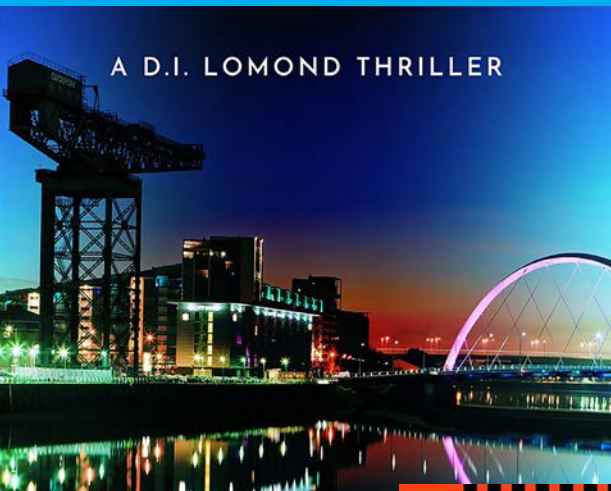


BIRLINN & POLYGON

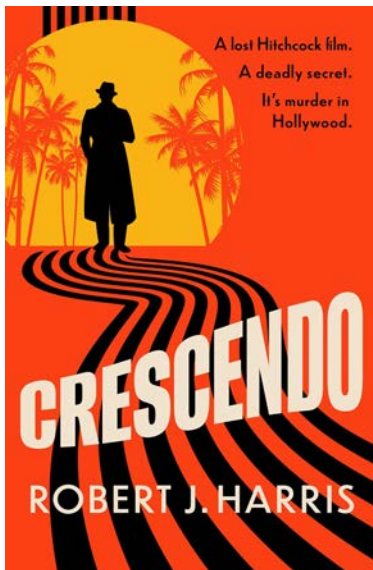
LONDON BOOK FAIR

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BIRLINN & POLYGON
FICTION



CRESCENDO

Robert J. Harris

ISBN 9781846977008

Publication March 2026

Category Mystery, Thriller

BIC FHD, APF

eBook 9781788857611

Price £9.99

Format 198 x 129mm Paperback

Extent 320 pp

Rights WAL inc. Audio

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 Hitchcock film. A deadly secret. It's murder in Hollywood.

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.

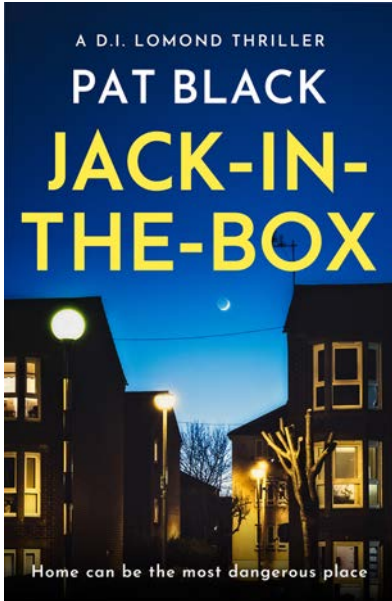
With a ruthless killer in pursuit, Bobby discovers that behind the obscure novel Hitch has based his movie on lies a true tale of abduction, amnesia and death. To save his own life as well as Hitch's career, Bobby must penetrate to the heart of the mystery and confront a final, shocking revelation.

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





JACK-IN-THE-BOX

A D.I. Lomond Thriller

Pat Black

ISBN 9781846977176	Price £9.99
Publication February 2026	Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback
Category Crime Fiction	Extent 320 pp
BIC FF, FA	Rights World All Languages,
eBook 978178885XXXX	WEL (ex NA) Audio to Ulverscroft

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A fresh and exciting crime novel from Polygon set in Glasgow
- Pat Black's plotting is superb, with a wonderfully dry sense of humour, relieving the darkness of the storyline with many laugh-out-loud moments
- D. I. Lomond is not divorced. He is not a recovering alcoholic. He doesn't have an empty fridge. He's not even grumpy. He's a devoted family man, he's a feminist, and he adores the women in his life
- Will appeal to fans of Ian Rankin and Peter Oswald
- **'Pat Black has breathed new life into the police procedural in *To Pay the Ferryman*, the first novel in what promises to be a highly entertaining series' – Mark Sanderson, *The Sunday Times***

DESCRIPTION

They had cameras, alarms, lights, even guard dogs. They had storm doors and locks on their windows. They knew martial arts, they had knives to hand, and one of them even had a gun. And he still got in . . .

A terrifying killer is haunting Glasgow's affluent suburbs – invading homes and smothering people left on their own. The tabloids have a name for the murderer based on his method of folding the bodies into tiny spaces, as well as his uncanny knack of seemingly springing out of nowhere: Jack-in-the-Box.

Inspector Lomond has an impossible case to crack. The houses involved have state-of-the-art security systems and were all securely locked at the time of death. There is no evidence of forced entry, and video footage shows no sign of any intruders. How is he getting in? How is he getting out? And who will be next?

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.

PRAISE FOR PAT BLACK

‘Pat Black has **breathed new life into the police procedural** in *To Pay the Ferryman*, the first novel in what **promises to be a highly entertaining series**’

Mark Sanderson, *The Sunday Times*

‘**Arresting writing**... The art theme works very well, and **the villain is a surprise**’

Jeremy Black, *The Critic*

‘**With a well-worked plot and credible, sympathetic characters**, this is an enjoyable slice of Tartan Noir’

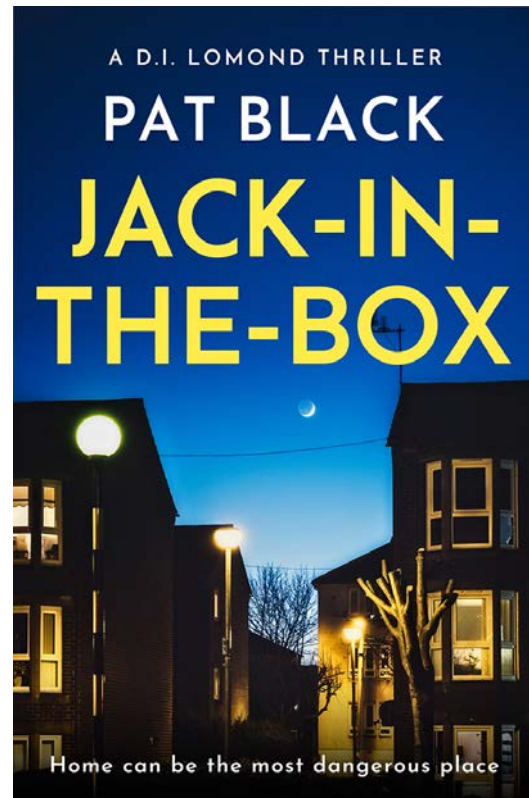
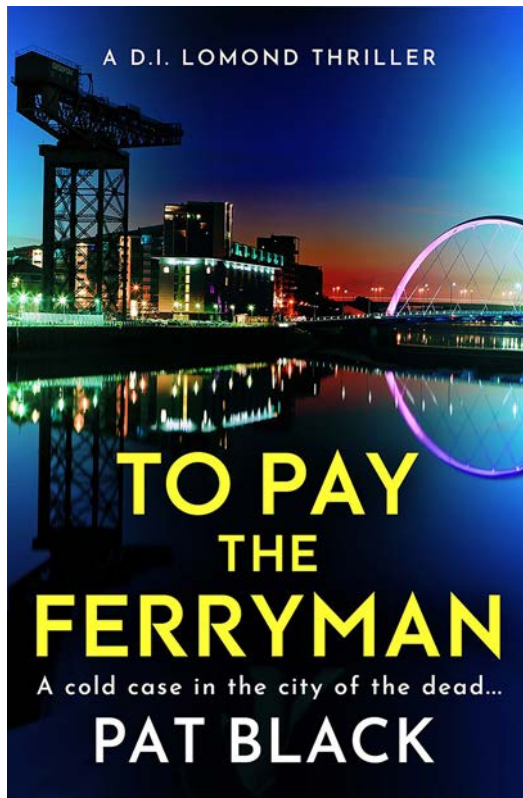
Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

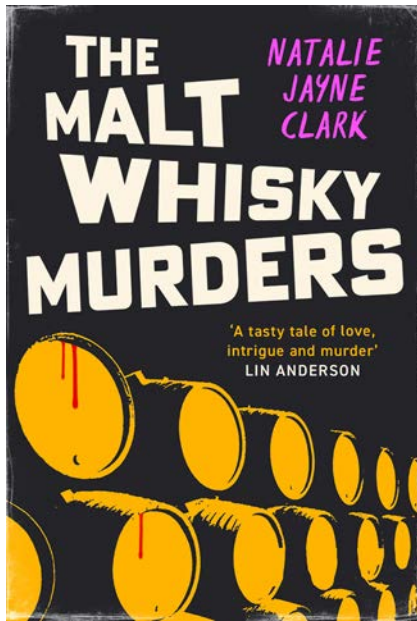
‘**a gripping, multi-faceted mystery** with a cast of engaging characters and **a delicious dose of camaraderie spiced with dark humour**... the first in an exciting new series’

Sally McDonald, *Sunday Post*

‘**a smartly-written thriller**’

Alastair Mabbott, *The Herald*





THE MALT WHISKY MURDERS

Natalie Jayne Clark

ISBN 9781846976780

Price £9.99

Publication 01 May 2025

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Crime Fiction

Extent 336 pp

BIC FF, FH

Rights World All Languages,

eBook 9781788857161

WEL (ex NA) Audio to Ulverscroft

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Darkly comic crime debut featuring a delightful cast of charming, diverse and frustrating characters
- For fans of Midsomer Murders and Death in Paradise with a Scottish twist!
- 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
- Women now make up 40% of whisky drinkers in the UK, and only 17% of all drinkers are over the age of 55, challenging the traditional demographics associated with the drink.
- This book aims to highlight the work and experience of women in the whisky industry
- Sold to Spain (Maeva) and Hungary (Alexandra Kiado)
- Classic crime: cosy meets locked room on the west coast of Scotland
- 'a welcome queer twist on tartan noir' – D V Bishop
- 'lively, funny, charming tale' – Ajay Close

DESCRIPTION

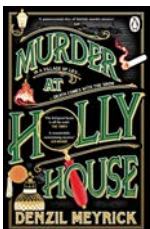
When a dilapidated whisky distillery comes up for sale in Campbeltown, a place once hailed 'Whisky Capital of the World', Eilidh and her wife Morag jump at the chance to run the first women-owned whisky distillery in Scotland. But a grisly, decades-old secret is soon revealed: two dead bodies have been 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.

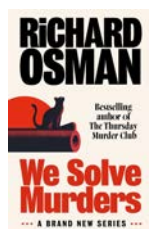
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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 is also a certified whisky ambassador and is partial to a Springbank or a Bruichladdich.

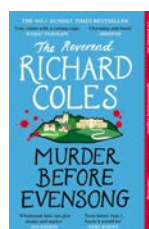
Comparable Titles



Murder at Holly House
• Pbk • 9781804992357



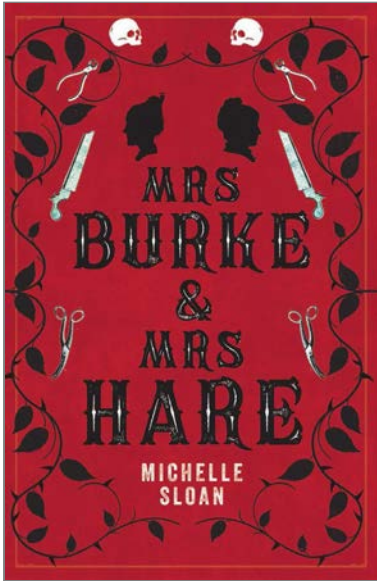
We Solve Murders
• Hbk • 9780241608364



Murder Before Evensong
• Pbk • 9781474612647



SPANISH EDITION
COVER



MRS BURKE AND MRS HARE

Michelle Sloan

ISBN 9781846976803 **Price** £9.99
Publication 03 July 2025 **Format** 198 x 129 mm Paperback
Category Historical Fiction **Extent** 288 pp
BIC FV, F **Rights** World All Languages,
eBook 9781788857185 WEL (ex NA) Audio to Ulverscroft

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Second novel from the author of the critically acclaimed bestseller, *The Edinburgh Skating Club*
 - Discover the women behind the killers - the scheming wives of notorious serial killers Burke and Hare
 - A story that takes the reader deep into the darkness of Victorian Scotland, where sinister events unfold
- Stand-alone historical novel inspired by one of Scotland's most famous true crimes

DESCRIPTION

In the shadowy closes of Edinburgh's Old Town, sixteen people are murdered to feed surgeon Dr Robert Knox's insatiable need for his anatomy classes. Burke and Hare and their wives, Lucky and Nelly, are all complicit, but only Burke swings for their crimes. Lucky, Nelly and Hare go on the run from the angry mob, reinvention their only means of survival.

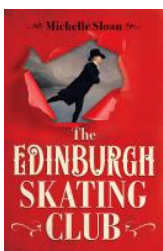
Years later, journalist Duncan Fletcher hears rumours of sightings of the two women. Keen to impress his editor, Duncan investigates the aftermath of the murder trial. With cobbler Joseph Campbell in tow, Duncan's quest leads him to the backstreets of London, where the horrors of the past collide with the present.

The time for retribution has come.

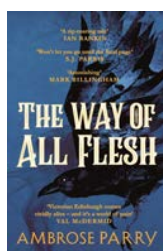
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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* was her first adult novel. Originally from Edinburgh, Michelle now lives in Broughty Ferry with her family.

Related Titles



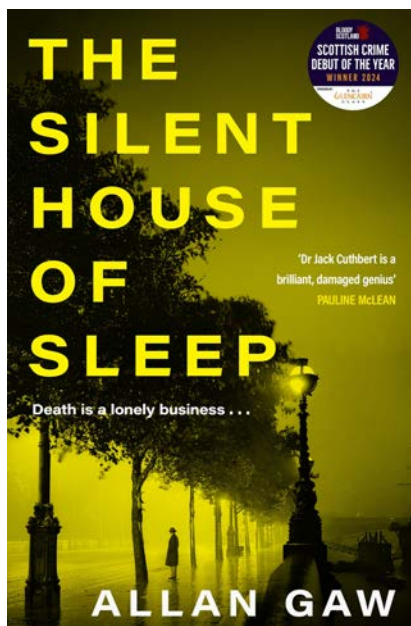
The Edinburgh Skating Club • Pbk • 9781846975950



The Way of All Flesh • Pbk • 9781786893802



The Secrets of Blythswood Square • Pbk • 9781399701594



THE SILENT HOUSE OF SLEEP

The First Dr Jack Cuthbert Mystery

Allan Gaw

ISBN 9781846977206

Price £9.99

Publication 02 January 2025

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category CRIME & MYSTERY

Extent 288 pp

BIC FF, FH

Rights World All Languages,

eBook 9781788857994

WEL (exc.NA) Audio to Bolinda

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *The Silent House of Sleep* is the award-winning first novel in a new mystery series
- Charismatic protagonist Dr Jack Cuthbert is a queer, war-damaged Scottish pathologist working in 1920s London
- An immersive and visceral read underpinned by ingenious plotting and meticulous research
- Originally self-published, Polygon picked up rights when Allan Gaw won the **Bloody Scotland Debut Prize** for crime writing in September 2024
- Waterstones selected *The Silent House of Sleep* as Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month for January 2025
- By the end of the month it was at the top of the Scottish bestseller list
- 'This murder mystery makes for compelling reading... Cuthbert himself is a finely conceived and drawn character' – Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

DESCRIPTION

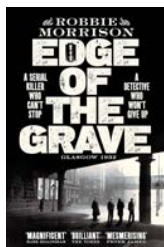
No one likes death. It just happens to be our business.

No one who meets Dr Jack Cuthbert forgets him. Tall, urbane, brilliant but damaged, this Scottish pathologist who works with Scotland Yard is the best the new DCI has seen. But Cuthbert is a man who lives with secrets, and he still battles demons brought back from the trenches. When not one but two corpses are discovered in a London park in 1929, Cuthbert must use every tool at his disposal to solve the mystery of their deaths. In the end, the horrifying truth is more shocking than even he could have imagined.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Allan Gaw studied medicine at Glasgow and trained as a pathologist. Having worked in the NHS and universities in the UK and the US, he took early retirement and now devotes his time to writing. His published non-fiction works include medical textbooks and magazine articles on topics as diverse as the thalidomide story, the medical challenges of space travel and the medico-legal consequences of the Hillsborough disaster. He lives in Glasgow.

Comparable Titles



Edge of the Grave • Pbk • 9781529054033



The Way of All Flesh • Pbk • 9781786893802

Rights Also Available



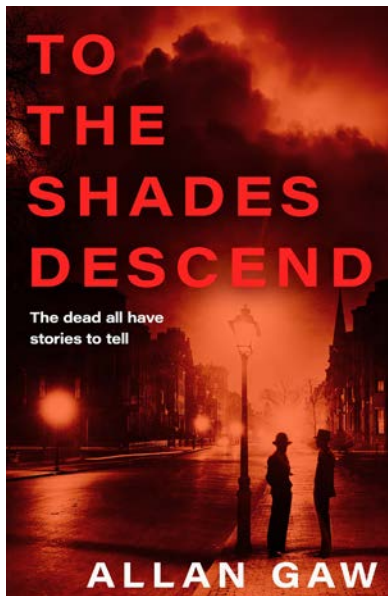
The Moon's More Feeble Fire

She was someone's daughter . . .

In 1930, the killing of a Soho prostitute is hardly a priority for Scotland Yard. But when a second, similar murder comes to light, and then a third, everything changes. Cuthbert and his team find themselves in a nightmarish world of people-trafficking, prostitution and drug use amongst the upper classes.

Using all his forensic skills, Cuthbert sets out to solve one of the most baffling cases of his career.

APRIL 2025



To the Shades Descend

Giving them back their names is one thing; giving them justice is quite another.

A visit to Glasgow for a job interview in 1931 unexpectedly places Cuthbert at the centre of a devastating crime. Unwittingly, he finds himself working at the intersection between rising British fascism, anti-Semitism and the infamous Glasgow razor gangs. To solve the case, Cuthbert needs to rely on all the expertise he can gather from those around him. But who can he trust?

JUNE 2025



The Shadows and the Dust

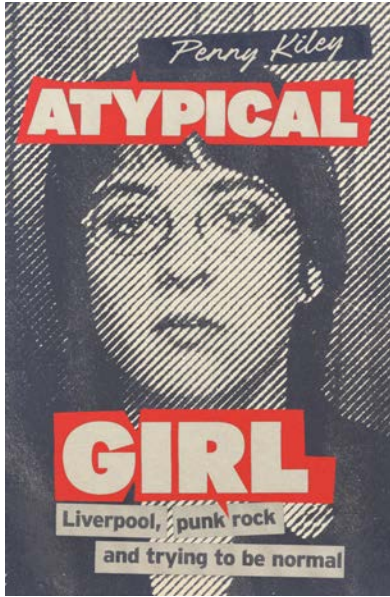
You may call it a sin; I say it was an act of desperation.

Like all pathologists, Cuthbert finds dealing with dead children the hardest part of his job. However, when the body of a young boy is found in the grounds of a church orphanage, Cuthbert not only has to steel himself for the task ahead, he is also forced to revisit his own childhood grief. The boy in his shallow grave has been interred with some ritual, but just how did he die?

And why was he killed?

SEPTEMBER 2025

BIRLINN & POLYGON
NON-FICTION



ATYPICAL GIRL

Liverpool, punk rock and trying to be normal

Penny Kiley

ISBN 9781846976919

Publication 02 October 2025

Category Memoir, Music

BIC FV, F

Price £9.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 288 pp

Rights WAL inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *Atypical Girl* is a memoir about Liverpool, 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 and it really captures a moment that resonates strongly with me'**
– Andy McCluskey, *Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark*
- **'Penny Kiley's adventures in punk and post-punk and beyond create a love letter to the narrative that has affected all our lives'** – John Robb (musician and journalist)

DESCRIPTION

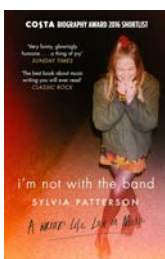
The story begins in 1976, when punk rock has just hit Liverpool. The legendary Eric's club is home to the city's rebels, posers and misfits. It's a place of attitude, adventure and new possibilities, and it changes lives. Some – like Pete Dinklage, Julian Cope and Holly Johnson – become pop stars; Penny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

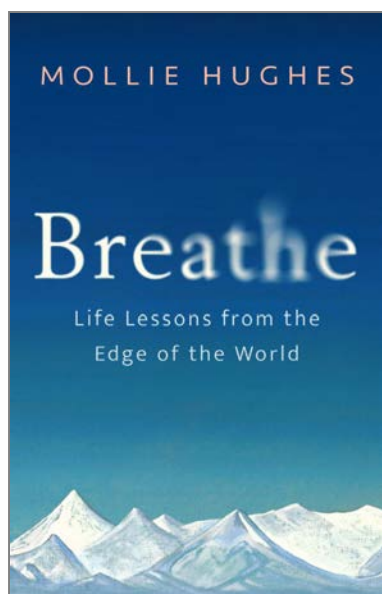
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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.

COMPARABLE TITLES



I'm Not With the Band • Pbk • 9780751558708



BREATHE

Life Lessons from the Edge of the World

Mollie Hughes

ISBN 9781780278407

Publication 01 May 2025

Category Memoir, True Stories

BIC BG, WSS

eBook 9781788856737

Price £14.99

Format 216 x 138 mm Hardback

Extent 240 pp

Rights World All Languages,
Audio WEL (ex NA) to Bolinda

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Mollie Hughes is a world record-breaking sports adventurer, mountaineer, polar explorer and international motivational speaker
- Part memoir, part manifesto, *Breathe* shows how Mollie's experiences at the extremes of human endurance can be applied to help us cope with everyday issues, problems and dilemmas
- The book also challenges the masculine stereotypes around adventure and exploration
- Each of the seven sections features an interview from another world-renowned explorer such as Jasmine Harrison (youngest solo female to row the Atlantic), Ann Daniels (described by The Daily Telegraph as one of the top 20 Great British Adventurers of all time) and Cal Major (first person to stand up paddleboard from Land's End to John O'Groats)
- **'Mollie's positive mindset is infectious – if there is something you'd like to achieve, consume each lesson in this book and they will take you one step closer' – Gail Porter**

DESCRIPTION

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 29 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 more everyday challenges. In doing so, Mollie shows how we can unlock our potential, regulate emotion, overcome fear, cope with psychological pressure and understand the importance of silence and headspace in our mental wellbeing.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Mollie Hughes is a world record-breaking adventurer, mountaineer, polar explorer and international motivational speaker. In 2017 she 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.

Comparable Titles



Solo • Pbk • 9781783254736



Where there's a Will • Pbk • 9781788161527



BUILDING CHAMPIONS

The Secrets of 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** WAL inc. Audio

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
- **Features a foreword by Billie Jean King**

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.

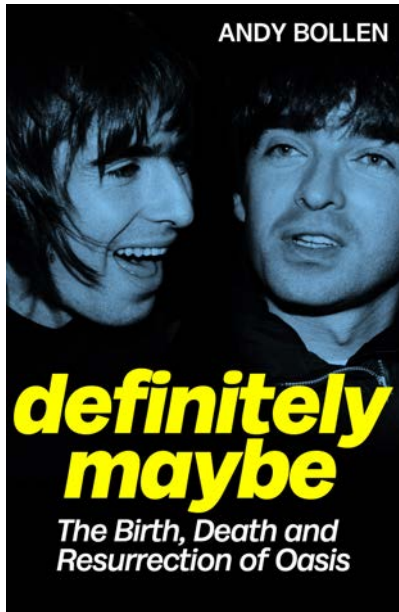
In the last decade alone, there have been 10 female one-slam wonders, compared to four males. What is most striking about these numbers, is that they are not all serve bots or baseline bruisers hailing from the tennis academy system. Instead, the origin stories of these stars differ considerably. A generation 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. *Building Champions* 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*. 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. She lives in Surrey.

COMPARABLE TITLES

The Racket • Pbk • 9781844886401



DEFINITELY MAYBE

The Birth, Death and Resurrection of Oasis

Andy Bollen

ISBN 9781846977190 **Price** £9.99
Publication 01 May 2025 **Format** 198 x 129 mm Paperback
Category MUSIC **Extent** 288 pp
BIC AV, HBT **Rights** World All Languages (inc Audio)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Published ahead of the Oasis reconciliation tour, commencing in July 2025, which sees the band perform in forty sold-out global gigs across the world: UK 4 July to 17 August, North America 24 August to 7 September, South Korea 21 October, Japan 25-26 October, Australia 31 October- 8 November, South America 15-23 November
- The unprecedented demand for concert tickets and the media attention around the reunion highlights just how popular the iconic brothers remain to millions
- This is a rollercoaster ride of a Britpop memoir that will connect with lifelong fans and newcomers, offering a unique insider view from the very beginning of the Gallagher's musical journey - the author was beside Alan McGee when he offered Oasis a record deal in King Tut's, Glasgow, in 1993

DESCRIPTION

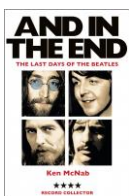
Few bands in British musical history have achieved the mythical status of Oasis. Emerging from the streets of 1990s Manchester, their meteoric rise was fuelled by a relentless drive and swagger that left an indelible mark on pop history. *Definitely Maybe* is a comprehensive account of that journey – from their humble beginnings and label signing in King Tut's to Britpop jousts with Blur and a 250,000 sell-out crowd at Knebworth.

Bollen explores the Gallagher brothers' chemistry and rivalry, the backstage fights, their Irish blood and English hearts, the substance abuse and intense media circus that swirled around them. Oasis became the band of the people by giving the people what they wanted: rock 'n' roll. They were Artful Dodgers from a housing scheme, who enjoyed their fame and created stadium anthems that connected with millions.

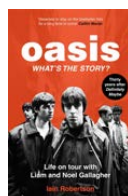
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Andy Bollen has written about football, sports and politics, as well as being a comedy writer for BBC TV and a columnist with the *Sunday Mail* and *Glasgow Herald*. His music books include *Nirvana: A Tour Diary* and *Labelled with Love: A History of the World in Your Record Collection*. He lives in Lanarkshire.

Comparable Titles



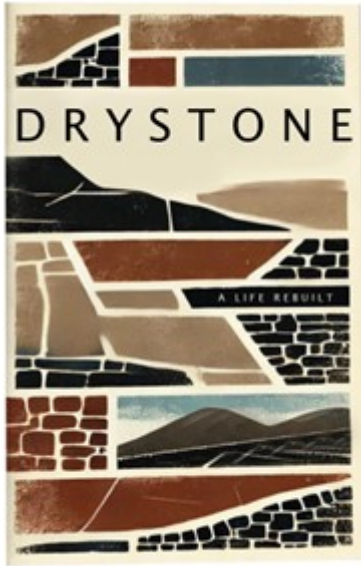
And in the End • Pbk • 9781846975226



Oasis: What's The Story? • Pbk • 9781789467512



Getting High • Pbk • 9781911413707



DRYSTONE

A Life Rebuilt

Kristie De Garis

ISBN 9781846976469

Price £14.99

Publication 07 August 2025 **Format** 216 x 138 mm Hardback

Category Debut, Memoir

Extent 240 pp

BIC BM, BT

Rights World All Languages

eBook 9781788856669

inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A groundbreaking and heartfelt memoir about using the past to help rebuild your future
- As a light-skinned, mixed-race woman in Scotland, De Garis walks a tightrope between visibility and erasure and the nuances of belonging
- *Drystone* gives an unvarnished insight into how neurodivergence shaped the author's self-perception and relationships, and how the pain of the past shapes the present: the ongoing, often self-defeating work of becoming a cycle-breaker for intergenerational trauma
- The author's version of feminism is a quiet, deeply personal commitment to the daily work of reclaiming her life, body and voice – touching on body image, sex, dating and parenting within non-traditional family structures
- With brutal honesty and biting humour, De Garis writes about her struggle with alcohol addiction and the challenge of maintaining recovery when escape is much easier than real healing

DESCRIPTION

Kristie De Garis spent years running – from places, people and parts of herself. But chaos always followed.

When she moved to rural Scotland, she hoped to find peace. Instead, in the space and silence, she was forced to confront everything she had tried to escape: racism, trauma, undiagnosed ADHD, addiction and the stark realities of motherhood.

Then, in the land around her – and in the slow, stubborn craft of drystone walling – she began to see a different life. One that was quiet, deliberate, and her own.

Drystone: A Life Rebuilt is unflinchingly honest and unexpectedly funny. A story about the weight of the past, resilience and the hard work of living on your own terms.

Some things may never change. What matters is the life you build anyway.

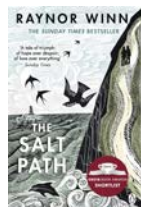
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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.

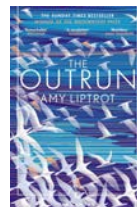
Comparable Titles



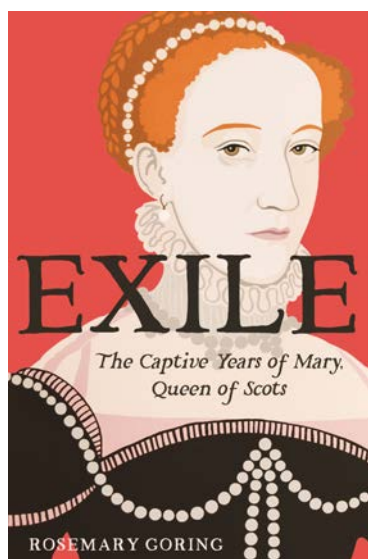
Wild • Pbk • 9781782394860



The Salt Path • Pbk • 9781405937184



The Outrun • Pbk • 9781786894229



EXILE

The Captive Years of Mary, Queen of Scots

Rosemary Goring

ISBN 9781780278384

Price £20.00

Publication 03 July 2025

Format 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Category HISTORY

Extent 320 pp

BIC HB, BGH

Rights WAL inc. Audio

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

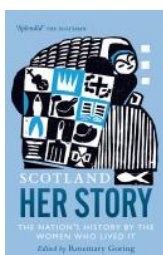
From the moment Mary, Queen of Scots set foot on English soil in May 1568, she was the prisoner of her cousin, Elizabeth I of England. Her tumultuous years in Scotland, where she had returned on after the death of her husband, Francis II of France, had ended in failure and abdication.

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





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 WAL inc. Audio

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

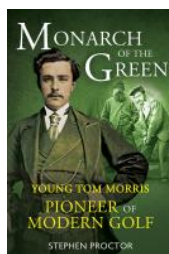
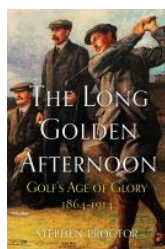
Matchless tells the story of women's golf against the backdrop of the intense rivalry between two players who set a new standard for performance - American Glenna Collet and England's Joyce Wethered. That head-to-head competition spanned a decade, from their first meeting at Troon in 1925 through to 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

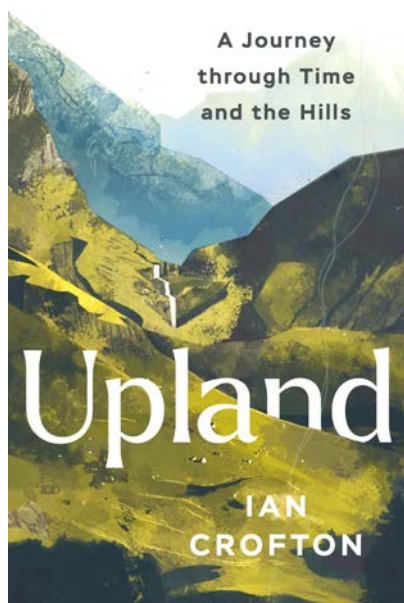
Stephen Proctor has served as a senior editor at *The Baltimore Sun*, *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Houston Chronicle*. He is an avid golfer and has spent the past decade studying the history of the royal and ancient game. He is the author of *Monarch of the Green* and *The Long Golden Afternoon*, 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 01 May 2025

Category Nature Writing

BIC WNW, WSZC

Illustrations Maps throughout

Price £18.99

Format 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Extent 304 pp

Rights WAL inc. Audio,

already distributed in NA

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

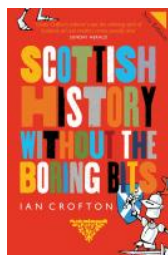
Britain's high places are many and varied, from the rolling hills and lush valleys of the Malverns to the vertiginous slopes of Snowdonia, the romantic peaks and vistas of the Lake District and the silent sub-Arctic tundra of the Cairngorms. As he explores our hills, moors and mountains, Ian Crofton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

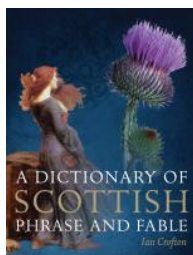
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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*.

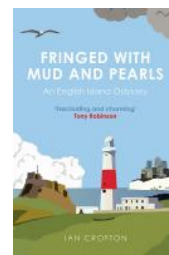
Related Titles



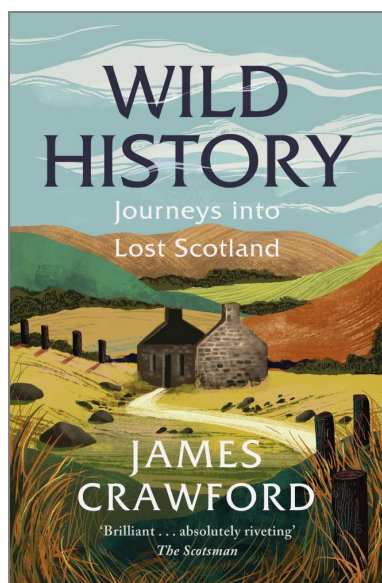
Scottish History Without the Boring Bits • Hbk • 9781780276106 • £12.99



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



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



WILD HISTORY

Journeys into Lost Scotland

James Crawford

New in B-Paperback

ISBN 9781780279268

Publication 03 April 2025

Category History / Travel

BIC HB, HD

Illustrations 2 x 16pp colour plates

Price £12.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 272 pp

Rights World All Languages

eBook 9781788855259

KEY SELLING POINTS

- New in B format, this groundbreaking book explores beautiful, poignant, ruined and forgotten sites all over Scotland
- By the presenter of the new flagship BBC Radio 4 show *Take Four Books*, with 1 millions listeners a week
- Features stunning photography which captures the unique atmosphere and beauty of these locations
- Perfect for those who wish to explore these evocative places as well as the armchair traveller and historian
- **James Crawford is the chair of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, a well-known TV presenter, and presenter of the new Radio 4 *Take Four Books* Programme**
- **Selected for Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month in April 2025**

'The idea behind it is brilliant...an absolutely riveting journey through time and space' - *The Scotsman*

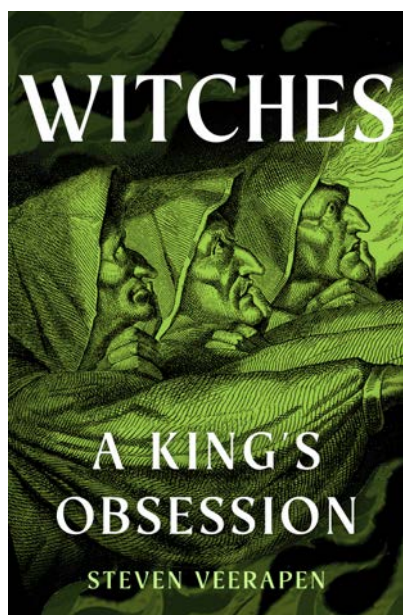
DESCRIPTION

You scramble up over the dunes of an isolated beach. You climb to the summit of a lonely hill. You pick your way through the eerie hush of a forest. And then you find them. The traces of the past. Perhaps they are marked by a tiny symbol on your map, perhaps not. There are no plaques to explain their fading presence before you, nothing to account for what they once were – who made them, lived in them or abandoned them. Now they are merged with the landscape. They are being reclaimed by nature. They are *wild* history.

In this book acclaimed author and presenter James Crawford introduces many such places all over the country, from the ruins of prehistoric forts and ancient, arcane burial sites, to abandoned bothies and boathouses, and the derelict traces of old, faded industry.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

James Crawford is a writer and broadcaster. His first major book, *Fallen Glory: The Lives and Deaths of History's Greatest Buildings* was shortlisted for the Saltire Literary Award for best non-fiction. His other books include *Who Built Scotland: 25 Journeys in Search of a Nation*, *Scotland's Landscapes* and *Aerofilms: A History of Britain from Above*. His most recent book is *The Edge of the Plain: How Borders Make and Break Our World*. In 2019 he was named as the Archive and Records Association's first-ever 'Explore Your Archives' Ambassador. He lives in Edinburgh.



WITCHES

A King's Obsession

Steven Veerapen

ISBN 9781780279527

Publication 04 September 2025

Category History

BIC HBJD, HB

Illustrations 8pp colour plates

Price £25.00

Format 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Extent 336 pp

Rights WAL inc. Audio

eBook 9781788857871

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.

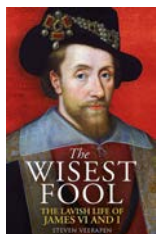
But where did our perception of witches – good and bad – come from? What motivated wide-scale panics about witchcraft during certain periods? How were alleged witches identified, accused, and variously tortured and punished?

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



The Wisest Fool • Hbk • 9781780278162 • £25.00