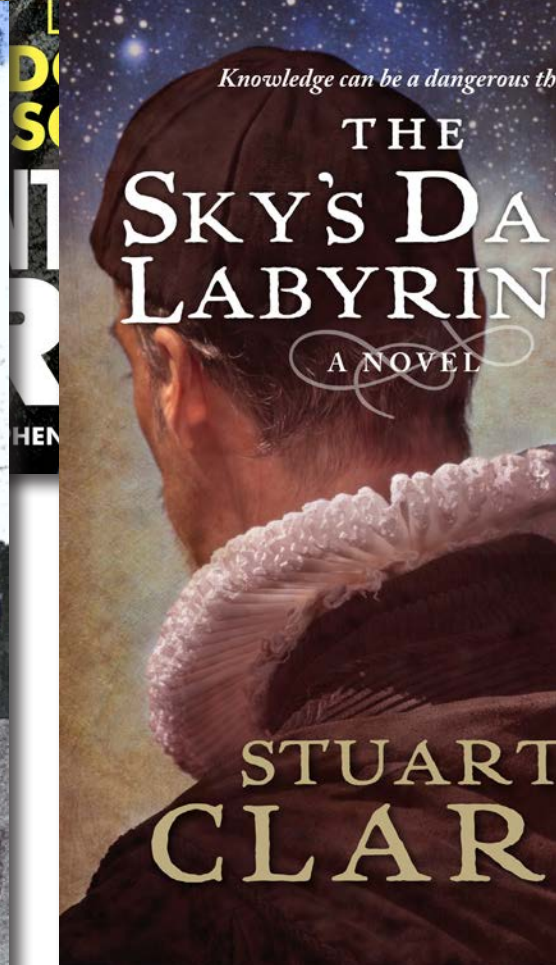
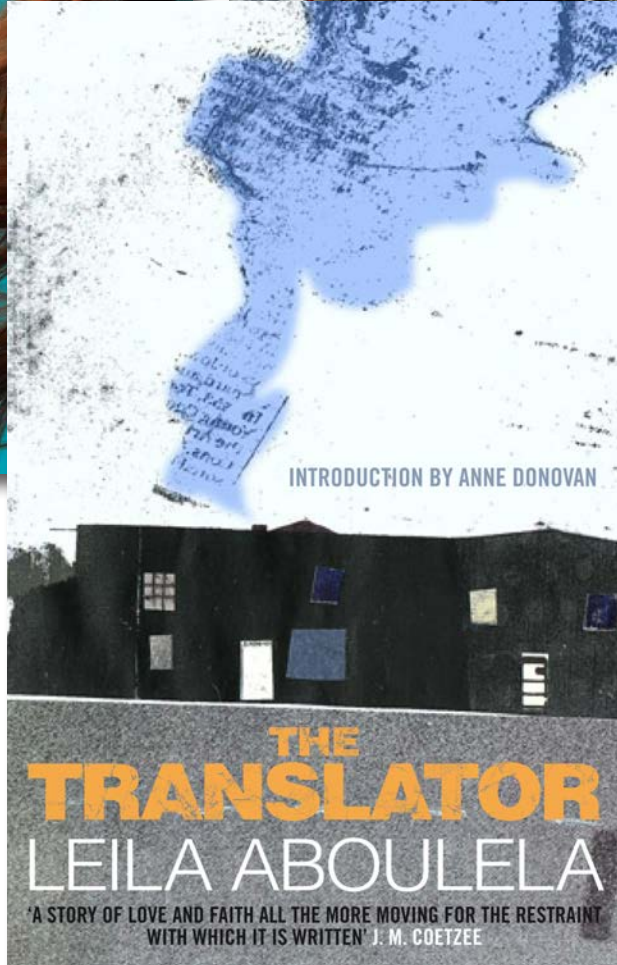
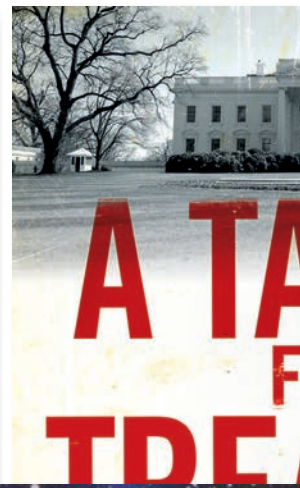
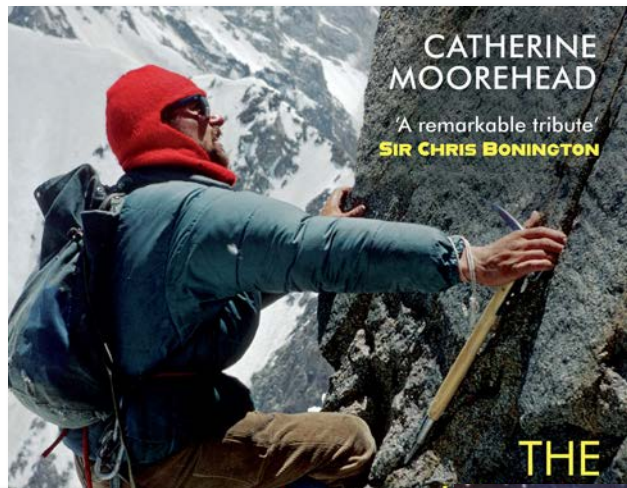


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FICTION



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 WAL, rights sold to France (Mercure), Australia (Allen & Unwin), Germany (Bastei), North America (Harlequin), Audio (Soundings)

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.

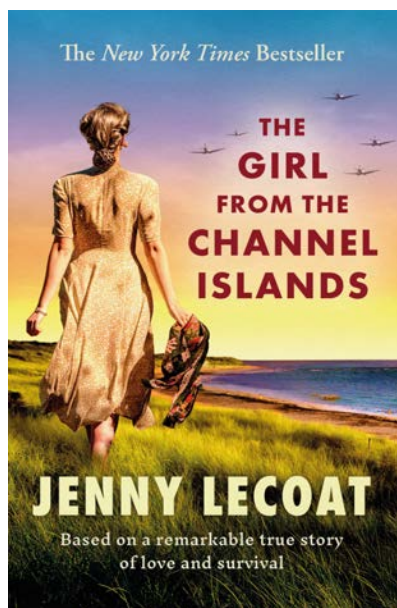
In the summer of 1945, a different kind of war has been unleashed on the island of Jersey: one of suspicion, accusation and revenge. With the common enemy removed, the islanders now begin to see each other for who they truly are. For all the heroism and sacrifice, there were those who walked a fine line 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





THE GIRL FROM THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Jenny Lecoat

ISBN 9781846976186	Price £8.99
Publication 07 July 2022	Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback
Category Historical Fiction	Extent 272 pp
BIC FV, FH	Rights World All Languages
eBook 9781788852784	(excluding those listed below)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Based on an extraordinary true story, Jenny Lecoat's novel is a tense, emotional story of forbidden love, deception and survival against the odds
- The novel is centred around the true story of Hedy Bercu, a young Jewish girl who, having fled to Jersey to escape the Anschluss, finds herself trapped on Jersey during the German Occupation
- The novel was a Top 10 bestseller in the USA and Germany - rights have been sold to: Allen and Unwin (Australia), Aschehoug (Norway), Bastei (Germany), Graydon House (US), Grupo ILHSA (Spain), Harlequin (Switzerland), Historika (Sweden), Mercure (France), MOBA (Czech), Modan Publishing (Israel), Porta Editoria (Portugal), Prestige (Romania), Prószyński (Poland) and Soundings (Audio)

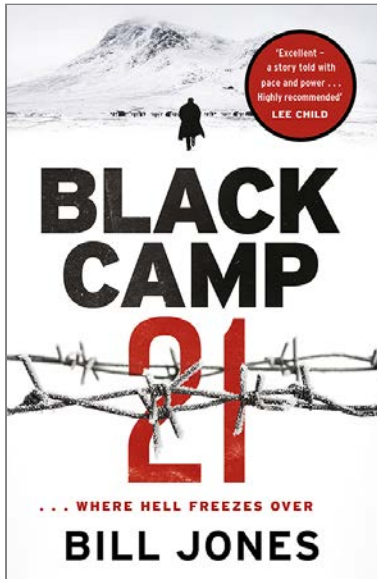
DESCRIPTION

In June 1940, the Channel Islands becomes the only part of Great Britain to be occupied by Hitler's forces. Hedy Bercu, a young Jewish girl from Vienna who fled to Jersey two years earlier to escape the Anschluss, finds herself once more entrapped by the Nazis, this time with no escape.

The Girl From the Channel Islands follows her struggle to survive the Occupation and avoid deportation to the camps. Despite her racial status, Hedy finds work with the German authorities and embarks on acts of resistance. Most remarkable of all, she falls in love with a German lieutenant – a relationship on which her life soon comes to depend.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Born in Jersey, Channel Islands, **Jenny Lecoat** was nominated for a prestigious Perrier Award in 1986. She has enjoyed a successful and distinguished career as a journalist and screenwriter for *Cosmopolitan*, the *Observer*, *Birds of a Feather* and *The Catherine Tate Show*. A love of history and a return to her island roots brought about her feature film *Another Mother's Son* (2017), which starred Jenny Seagrove and John Hannah, and attracted major coverage.



BLACK CAMP 21

Bill Jones

ISBN 9781846974601

Publication October 2018

Category THRILLER / SUSPENSE

BIC FH, FHD

eBook 9781788850629

Price £8.99

Format 195 x 130 mm Paperback

Extent 352 pp

Rights WAL, rights sold to Hungary (Lazi Konyvkiado), Audio (ISIS)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Debut novel from award-winning biographer Bill Jones
- This World War II thriller is based on true events at Cultybraggan POW camp in Perthshire
- Shortlisted for the McIlvanney Scottish Crime Debut Prize

DESCRIPTION

'A story told with pace and power . . . highly recommended' – Lee Child

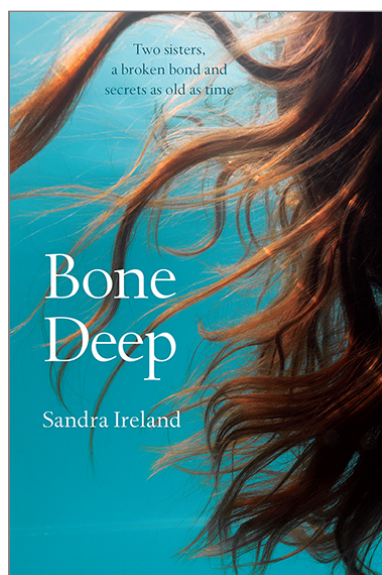
All over Britain, POW camps are filling up with defeated German soldiers. Every day, thousands more pour in on ships from France. But only the most dangerous are sent to Camp 21 – 'black' prisoners – SS diehards who've sworn death before surrender. Nothing will stop their war, unless it's a bullet.

As one fanatic plots a mass breakout and glorious march on London, Max Hartmann dreams of the oath he pledged to the teenage bride he scarcely knows and the child he's never met. Where do his loyalties really lie? To Hitler or to the life he left behind in the bombed ruins of his homeland? Beneath the wintry mountains, in the hell of Black Camp 21, suspicion and fear swirl around like the endless snow. And while the Reich crumbles – and his brutal companions plan their assault – Max's toughest battle is only just beginning.

Inspired by terrifying actual events, *Black Camp 21* takes readers on a gut-wrenching journey from the battlefields of France to its shocking climax in a camp which still stands today.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Bill Jones was born in Bridlington and currently lives in Ampleforth, North Yorkshire. He was a journalist before joining Granada Television in Manchester in the 1980s where he worked on hundreds of documentaries for the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and many others. After thirty years in broadcasting, he turned to a career in writing. His first biography, *The Ghost Runner*, was shortlisted for the William Hill Award and won him *The Times* Best New Writer in the 2012 British Sports Book Awards.



BONE DEEP

Sandra Ireland

ISBN 9781846974182	Price £8.99
Publication July 2018	Format 195 x 130 mm Paperback
Category THRILLER	Extent 272 pp
BIC FH, F	Rights WAL, rights sold to S&S (US),
eBook 9781788850230	Bee Books (India), Audible (W.F. Howes)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Sandra Ireland's new psychological thriller is another spellbinding, tension packed examination of how past actions can have devastating consequences on the present
- Her debut *Beneath the Skin* was critically acclaimed on publication and was shortlisted for the First Book of the Year prize by the Saltire Society, Scotland's most prestigious book awards
- Rights sold to Atria, S&S in the US, Bee Books in India and Audible (W.F. Howes)

DESCRIPTION

What happens when you fall in love with the wrong person?

The consequences threaten to be far-reaching and potentially deadly. *Bone Deep* is a contemporary novel of sibling rivalry, love, betrayal and murder. This is the story of two women: Mac, who is bent on keeping the secrets of the past from her only son, and the enigmatic Lucie, whose past is something of a closed book. Their story is underpinned by the creaking presence of an abandoned water mill, and haunted by the local legend of two long-dead sisters, themselves rivals in love, and ready to point an accusing finger from the pages of history.

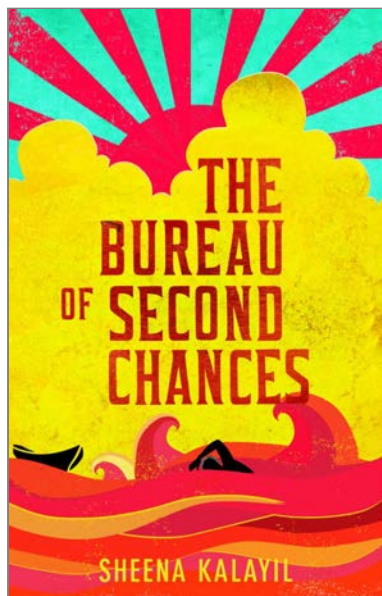
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Sandra Ireland was born in Yorkshire, lived for many years in Limerick, and is now based in Carnoustie. She began her writing career as a correspondent on a local newspaper but quickly realised that fiction is much more intriguing than fact. In 2013 Sandra was awarded a Carnegie-Cameron scholarship to study for an MLitt in Writing Practice and Study at the University of Dundee, graduating with a distinction in 2014. Her work has appeared in various publications and women's magazines.

Related Titles



Beneath the Skin • Pbk • 9781846973611



THE BUREAU OF SECOND CHANCES

Sheena Kalayil

ISBN 9781846973925 Price £8.99

Publication June 2017 Format 195 x 130 mm Paperback

Category Fiction Extent 320 pp

BIC FA, FRD Rights WAL exc. North America

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Winner of the **Writers' Guild Best First Novel Award** and Shortlisted for the **Edward Stanford Travel Awards - Fiction With a Sense of Place**
- A beautifully written novel, charting the bittersweet twists and turns of love and the human yearning for happiness
- Mainly set in the lush and sensual Kerala, on the west coast of India, this charming story will appeal to fans of both the novel and film adaptation of Deborah Moggach's *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*

DESCRIPTION

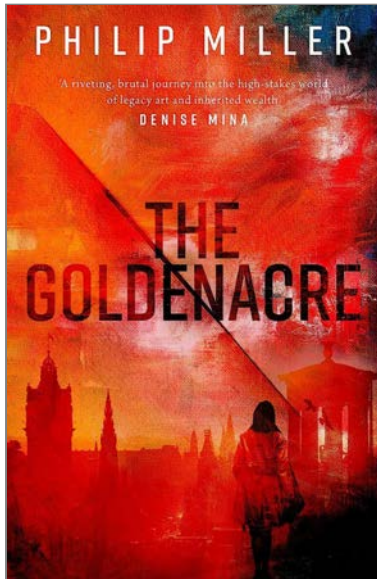
After more than thirty years in London, recently-widowed Thomas Imbalil returns to India. He spends his first months in uncluttered isolation in his house overlooking the Arabian Sea, in a small fishing village in Kerala.

But when he agrees to look after his friend's business, Chacko's Optical Store, he meets and befriends Rani, the young assistant who reveals herself as a much more complex individual than he had first imagined, and while he had envisaged a quiet re-acquaintance with his homeland, Thomas finds himself becoming more and more entangled with the lives of those around him.

'A bittersweet, uplifting tone makes it impossible to put down ... Kalayil writes beautifully, painting colourful portraits of her characters and managing her story's unexpected twists with aplomb' - *Scotland on Sunday*

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Sheena Kalayil was born in Zambia in 1970 where her parents were teachers seconded from India. She arrived in the UK aged eighteen and, after graduating, worked all over the world in countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Equatorial Guinea, Slovenia and Spain, before returning to the UK, to Edinburgh in 2002. She has a doctorate in Linguistics and teaches at the University of Manchester. She is the author of three novels, and lives near Manchester with her husband and two daughters.



THE GOLDENACRE

Philip Miller

ISBN 9781846975936
Publication 02 June 2022
Category Crime & Mystery
BIC FA
eBook 9781788855020

Price £9.99
Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback
Extent 256 pp
Rights WAL, rights sold to North America (Soho Press), Bulgaria (Aviana), Audio (W.F. Howes)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- An enthralling, multi-threaded literary thriller
- Murder and history combine, plunging the reader into a world of scandals, inheritance and fine art
- Phillip Miller is an author, poet and award-winning journalist

'A riveting, brutal journey into the high stakes world of legacy art and inherited wealth' - Denise Mina

DESCRIPTION

The Goldenacre – a masterpiece by the painter and architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh – has been given to the people of Scotland. The beautiful canvas, the last work by the artistic genius, enthrals the art world, but behind it lies a dark and violent mystery. Denise Mina, author of the Garnethill trilogy and *The Long Drop*, said: "A riveting, brutal journey into the high stakes world of legacy art and inherited wealth."

Thomas Tallis, an art expert with a trouble past, is trying to uncover the truth about the painting's complex history, while dogged newspaper reporter Shona Sandison is investigating a series of shocking murders in Edinburgh.

Both investigators soon become engulfed in the machinations of money, crime and identity in a literary thriller set amid the seen and unseen forces at work in modern Scotland.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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



IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE

Isla Dewar

ISBN 9781846974540 **Price** £9.99
Publication July 2018 **Format** 195 x 130 mm Paperback
Category Mystery, Cosy **Extent** 352 pp
BIC FF **Rights** WAL, rights sold Audio (ISIS), Portugal (LeYa), China (TianJin Manyu Books)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- An excellent Summer Reading title for the fans of commercial women's fiction such as *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* and *The Rosie Project*
- Isla Dewar is the author of *A Winter Bride*, *Secrets of a Family Album*, and *Women Talking Dirty*
- 'I completely adored this offbeat book, set in Seventies Edinburgh ... a wonderful, funny novel full of insight in which kindness and love take centre stage - but with absolutely none of the mushiness that implies' - Daily Mail

DESCRIPTION

Charlie Gavin was abducted as a baby. He didn't know who he was or where he came from. His mission was to find himself. And when he did, he decided to spend his life finding other lost souls by opening the Be Kindly Missing Persons Bureau.

Martha Walters, his assistant, has had her fifteen minutes of almost fame and failed. Now, dealing with her guilt and pain, she lives with her mum and dotes on her young daughter. Charlie appears to be a man who is a loser and dreamer, but, hey, his office is near her house, she can lie in of a morning, take her kid to school and the work isn't too heart-breaking. Or is it . . . ?

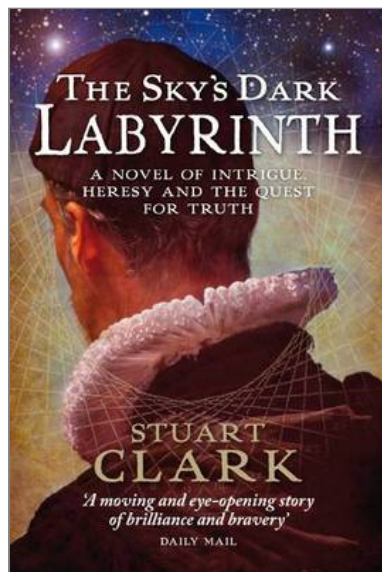
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Isla Dewar worked as a magazine journalist (it was all rock'n'roll and other delicious agonies) before writing her first novel, *Keeping Up With Magda*. Her books have been listed for various awards and translated into seventeen languages. One, *Women Talking Dirty*, was filmed. Isla lived for many years in Fife. She died in June 2021.

Comparable Titles



Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine • Pbk • 9780008172145



THE SKY'S DARK LABYRINTH

Stuart Clark

ISBN 9781846972157 **Price** £8.99
Publication October 2011 **Format** 198 x 129 mm Paperback
Category Historical Fiction **Extent** 320 pp
BIC FV, FA **Rights** WAL inc Audio, rights sold to
eBook 9780857900142 Italy (Edizioni Dedalo), Greece (Travlos),
 Korea (Sallim), Japan (Kobunsha)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Inspired by true events of scientific genius and discovery
- Will appeal to all fans of historical fiction, with impeccable historical research underpinning a thrilling story
- First of a trilogy of novels inspired by key historical events in man's quest to understand the Universe

DESCRIPTION

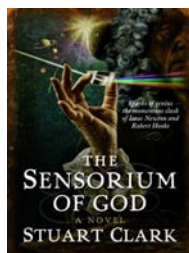
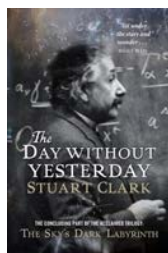
At the dawn of the seventeenth century everyone believed that the sun revolved around the earth. Yet some men knew that the heavens did not move as they should. And some men began to suspect that this heresy was in fact the truth. As Europe convulsed in conflict between Catholic and Protestant, these men prepared to die for that truth. This is the story of Kepler and Galileo, two men whose struggle with themselves, with the evidence and with the forces of reaction changed not simply themselves but our world.

The Sky's Dark Labyrinth is the first of a trilogy of novels inspired by the dramatic struggles, personal and professional, and key historical events in man's quest to understand the Universe.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

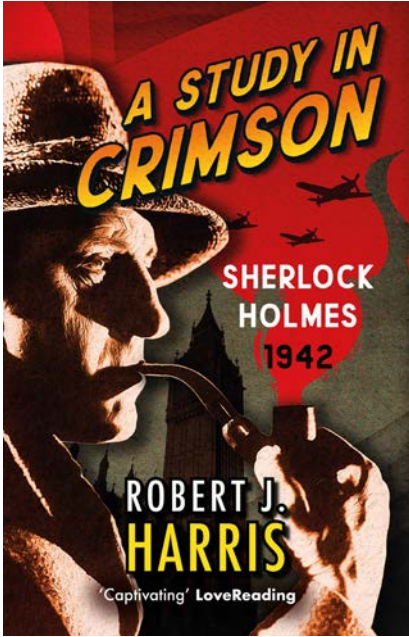
Stuart Clark is a widely read astronomy journalist whose career is devoted to presenting the complex world of astronomy to the general public. Stuart holds a first class honours degree and a PhD in astrophysics. He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, a former Vice Chair of the Association of British Science Writers and is the cosmology consultant for *New Scientist*.

Related Titles



The Day Without Yesterday • Pbk • 9781846972829

The Sensorium of God • Pbk • 9781846972379



A STUDY IN CRIMSON

Sherlock Holmes: 1942

Robert J. Harris

ISBN 9781846975967

Publication 03 February 2022

Category Espionage & spy thriller

BIC FHD, APF

Price £8.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 288 pp

Rights WAL, rights sold to North America (Pegasus), Korea (Somy Media) Spain (RBA Libros), Audio (Tantor)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Sherlock Holmes returns in a brand new adventure, by the author of the bestselling *Thirty-One Kings*
- A tribute to the classic Universal Pictures Sherlock Holmes film series starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, which updated Holmes and Watson to wartime London
- This thrilling murder mystery pits the world's greatest detective against a new incarnation of its most notorious killer
- Sherlock Holmes is a perennially popular character, and recent reinventions have been incredibly successful - *The House of Silk* sold almost 300,000 copies

'Robert J Harris captures the character of Holmes and Watson wonderfully well in this intriguing mystery'
- *Irish Independent*

'The book is very well written, well-paced, and extremely entertaining' - *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*

DESCRIPTION

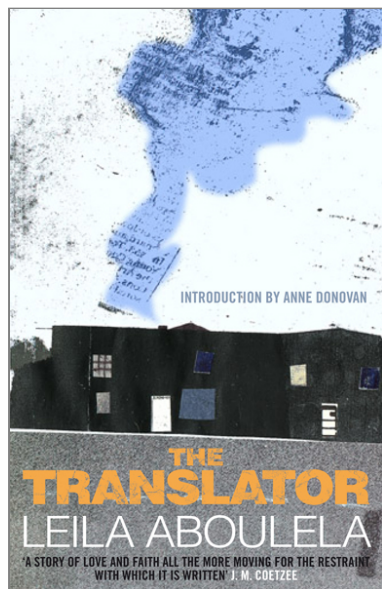
LONDON, 1942. A killer going by the name of 'Crimson Jack' is stalking the wartime streets of London, murdering women on the exact dates of the infamous Jack the Ripper killings of 1888. Has the Ripper somehow returned from the grave? Is the self-styled *Crimson Jack* a descendant of the original Jack or merely a madman obsessed with those notorious killings?

In desperation Scotland Yard turn to Sherlock Holmes, the world's greatest detective. Surely he is the one man who can sift fact from legend and track down Crimson Jack before he completes his tally of death. As Holmes and the faithful Watson tread the blacked out streets of London, death waits just around the corner.

Inspired by the classic film series from Universal Pictures starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, which updated Sherlock Holmes to the 1940s, this is a brand new adventure from the acclaimed author of *The Thirty-One Kings*, *Castle Macnab* and the *Artie Conan Doyle Mysteries*.

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.



THE TRANSLATOR

Leila Aboulela

ISBN 9781846970801	Price £7.99
Publication May 2008	Format 195 x 130 mm Paperback
Category Fiction	Extent 208 pp
BIC FA, F	Rights WAL exc. North America
eBook 9780857907196	

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Longlisted for the Orange and IMPAC Prizes
- Continues to be a popular text and is on academic teaching lists at several universities, including Glasgow University and York
- Sales of more than 11,000 copies

DESCRIPTION

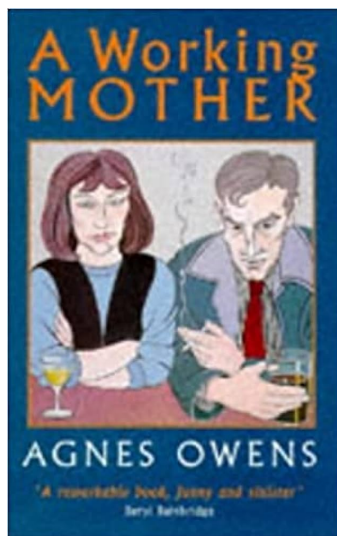
The Translator is a story about love, both human and divine.

Sammar is a young Sudanese widow, working as an Arabic translator at a British university. Following the sudden death of her husband and estrangement from her young son, she drifts – grieving and isolated. Life takes a positive turn when she finds herself falling in love with Rae, a Scottish academic. To Sammar, he seems to come from another world and another culture, yet they are drawn to each other.

'Aboulela is a wonderfully poetic writer ... It is a pleasure to read a novel so full of feeling and yet so serene' – *The Guardian*

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Leila Aboulela was born in 1964, grew up in Khartoum and moved to the UK in her twenties to study at the London School of Economics. In 1992, while living in Aberdeen with two young children and a husband working offshore, Leila found comfort through writing about her home city. She attended creative-writing workshops which helped to broaden her reading and introduced her to Scottish writers. Her last novel *Minaret*, published by Bloomsbury, was short-listed for the Orange Prize. Leila Aboulela now lives in Abu Dhabi and is currently working on her third novel.



A WORKING MOTHER

Agnes Owens

ISBN 978184697XXXX

Price £12.99

Publication Spring 2026

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Fiction

Extent 320 pp

BIC FV, F

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

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.

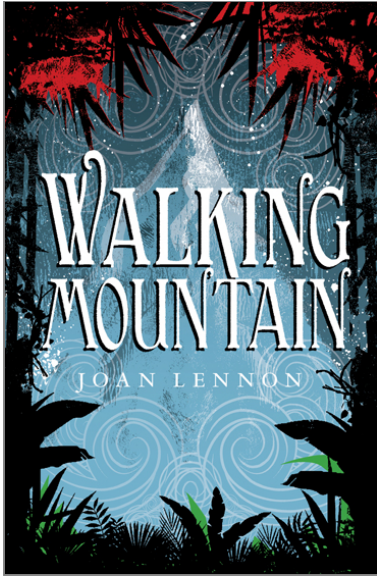
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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.

ADVANCE INFORMATION



An imprint of Birlinn Ltd
West Newington House
10 Newington Road
Edinburgh EH9 1QS



WALKING MOUNTAIN

Joan Lennon

ISBN 9781780274560

Publication June 2017

Category Children's fiction (8-12)

BIC YFG, FJ

eBook 9780857909282

Price £6.99

Format 195 x 130 mm Paperback

Extent 224 pp

Rights WAL inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A story of boundless imagination and adventure, *Walking Mountain* will delight readers of all ages
- Her previous book, *Silver Skin*, was shortlisted for The Scottish Teenage Book Prize
- Will appeal to fans of the *His Dark Materials* trilogy by Phillip Pullman and *The Edge Chronicles* by Paul Stewart
- **'Another compelling futuristic story, fantastic and baroque. Lennon's world is laced with captivating detail, from the strange animals, gows and marmoldes, to the extraordinary figure at the heart of the story, The Meteor Driver'** - Vicky Allan, *The Herald*
- **'One of the best books I've read in a long time ... a hidden treasure'** - *The Bookwitch*

DESCRIPTION

Every year, for as long as anyone can remember, the Mountain has moved a little northwards. But now it's moving in the opposite direction. And it's picking up speed.

Pema is sent by his grandparents to consult the Sisters of the Snow, the Keepers of the Mountain, but his enquiries are met with stony denial. Singay, a rebellious apprentice Sister knows different and secretly shows Pema cracks in the rock. Then she invites him inside the Mountain where they meet Rose, the Meteor Driver who is literally trying to hold everything together. This unlikely trio embark on an epic adventure which leads them far beyond the safe, closeted world they know.

And as they learn the terrible truth about the Walking Mountain their journey becomes a race against time to save the entire planet from disaster.

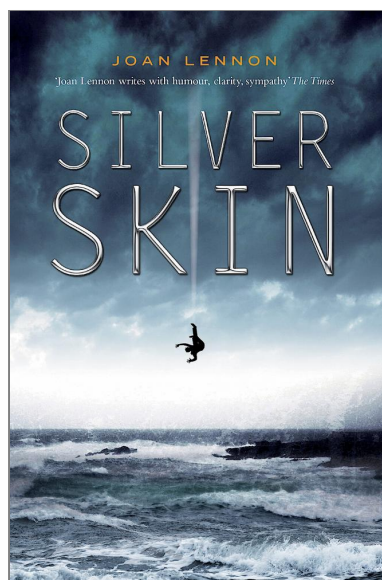
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Joan Lennon is a well-known writer of novels, poetry and short stories who has appeared all over the UK at book festivals, libraries and schools, where she gives talks and leads workshops for readers and writers of all ages. She has been a Hawthornden Fellow, the Jessie Kesson Fellow, a resident at the Chateau de Lavigny, and has received a Creative Scotland Writer's Bursary.

ADVANCE INFORMATION



An imprint of Birlinn Ltd
West Newington House
10 Newington Road
Edinburgh EH9 1QS



SILVER SKIN

Joan Lennon

ISBN 9781780272849	Price £6.99
Publication May 2015	Format 195 x 130 mm Paperback
Category Children's (12+)	Extent 208 pp
BIC YFG, YFT	Rights WAL inc. Audio
eBook 9780857908476	

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Sci-fi meets prehistory in this extraordinary story of a time-traveller from the far future who accidentally ends up in Neolithic Scotland
- Inspired by the Neolithic remains at Skara Brae, Orkney, this is a powerful and gripping novel for readers 14
- Shortlisted for the Scottish Teenage Book Prize
- 'Refreshingly original ... Fascinating, absorbing and exciting to read' - *The Bookbag*

DESCRIPTION

Skara Brae, Orkney, during the Neolithic period. The sun is dying, crops are failing and the local inhabitants fear that the end of the world is near. When a strange boy appears from nowhere, dressed in an odd silver suit - his 'silver skin' - the community is thrown into confusion. Who is he, where is he from, and why has he come? Is he a selkie or seal person, a mythical being believed to have magical powers?

For Cait, herself an outsider in the community, the boy, Rab, arouses a strange fascination as she finds herself strangely drawn towards him. For Voy, the Old Woman, Rab represents the only hope for the sun's regeneration, but only if his silver skin is burnt in a huge sacrificial blaze. As the pyre is built, Rab must fight for his life if he is ever to be able to return to his own time. And if he succeeds, what will be the fate of the islanders he will leave behind?

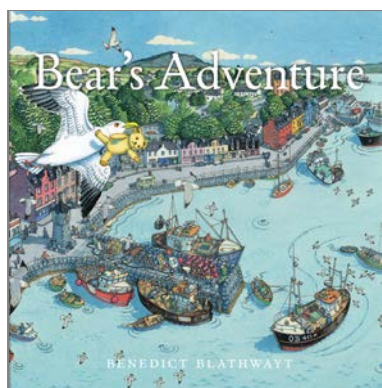
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Joan Lennon is a well-known writer of novels, poetry and short stories who has appeared all over the UK at book festivals, libraries and schools, where she gives talks and leads workshops for readers and writers of all ages. She has been a Hawthornden Fellow, the Jessie Kesson Fellow, a resident at the Chateau de Lavigny, and has received a Creative Scotland Writer's Bursary.

ADVANCE INFORMATION



An imprint of Birlinn Ltd
West Newington House
10 Newington Road
Edinburgh EH9 1QS



BEAR'S ADVENTURE

Benedict Blathwayt

ISBN 9781780273655

Publication May 2016

Category Children's (3-5)

BIC YFB, YFP

Illustrations Colour throughout

Price £6.99

Format 200 x 200 mm Paperback

Extent 32 pp

Rights WAL, rights sold to France

(Editions du Genevrier), China (Beijing Popular Culture)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A beautiful picture flat telling the story of a little bear going on a big adventure!
- Benedict Blathwayt is an acclaimed children's author and illustrator who is best known for his *Little Red Train series*, with sales of almost 800,000 copies
- Benedict Blathwayt's children's books with Birlinn have sold over 100,000 copies

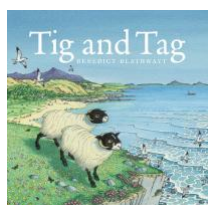
DESCRIPTION

Bear is one of the family. He goes everywhere with his young companions. Then one day, somehow, Bear is left behind at the seaside. As the sun goes down, the tide comes in, and Bear begins his great adventure. Find out how he gets home in this delightful story written and illustrated by one of Britain's favourite children's authors.

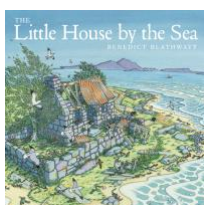
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Benedict Blathwayt spent much of his youth, childhood and early years of married life on Mull. He has written and illustrated over 50 picture books for Julie MacRae, Walker Books, Hutchinson, OUP and Rex Fox, among others, and his work has appeared in 14 languages. He won the Smarties Prize in 1988 for *Tangle and the Firesticks*.

Related Titles

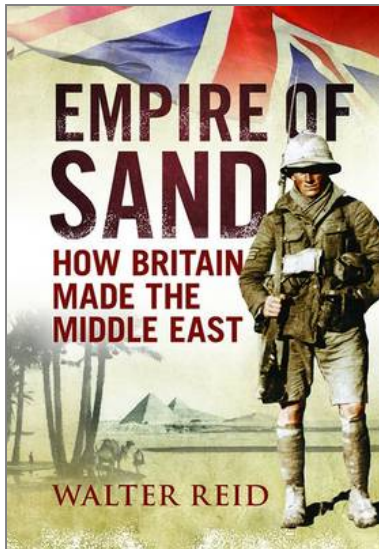


Tig and Tag • Pbk • 9781780273129 • £6.99



The Little House by the Sea • Pbk • 9781780273143 • £6.99

BIRLINN & POLYGON
NON-FICTION



EMPIRE OF SAND

How Britain Made the Middle East

Walter Reid

ISBN 9781780270616

Price £12.99

Publication September 2013

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Middle Eastern history

Extent 472 pp

BIC HBJF1, HBJD1

Rights World All Languages

Illustrations Illustrations

rights sold to Tantor (Audio)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- This is the first major assessment of Britain's role in the Middle East
- With continuing conflict in Gaza, consequences of British involvement in the region can still be felt today
- Walter Reid is a respected historian and author of several books on British history, including *Keeping the Jewel in the Crown: The British Betrayal of India* and *Five Days From Defeat: How Britain Nearly Lost the First World War*
- **'Structured in an accessible and intelligent way [...] Empire of Sand is a useful, meticulously written introduction to a complex history, of direct relevance to our own times'** - *Journal of Israeli Foreign Affairs*
- **'Extremely well written and enjoyable to read'** - *European Review of History*

DESCRIPTION

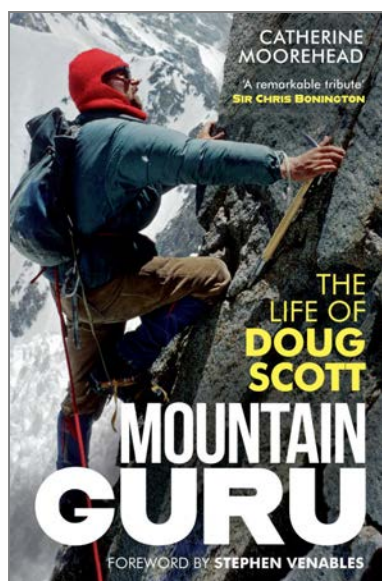
At the end of the First World War Britain and to a much lesser extent France created the modern Middle East. The possessions of the former Ottoman Empire were carved up with scant regard for the wishes of those who lived there. Frontiers were devised and alien dynasties imposed on the populations as arbitrarily as in medieval times.

From the outset the project was destined to failure. Conflicting and ambiguous promises had been made to the Arabs during the war but were not honoured. Brief hopes for Arab unity were dashed, and a harsh belief in western perfidy persists to the present day. Britain was quick to see the riches promised by the black pools of oil that lay on the ground around Baghdad. When France too grasped their importance, bitter differences opened up and the area became the focus of a return to traditional enmity. The war-time allies came close to blows and then drifted apart, leaving a vacuum of which Hitler took advantage.

Working from both primary and secondary sources, Walter Reid explores Britain's role in the creation of the modern Middle East and the rise of Zionism from the early years of the twentieth century to 1948, when Britain handed over Palestine to UN control. From the decisions that Britain made has flowed much of the instability of the region and of the world-wide tensions that threaten the twenty-first century. How far was Britain to blame?

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Walter Reid studied at the universities of Oxford and Edinburgh and is the author of a number of acclaimed biographies and books of military and political history. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.



MOUNTAIN GURU

The Life of Doug Scott

Catherine Moorehead

Foreword by Stephen Venables

ISBN 9781780278315

Price £25.00

Publication 05 October 2023 Format 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Category Mountaineering

Extent 368 pp

BIC WTL, BG

Rights WAL, rights sold to Italy (Solferino)

eBook 9781788855938

Illustrations Colour & b/w throughout

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The authorised biography of one of the giants of mountaineering and the first English climber to reach the summit of Mount Everest
- Based on unique access to Scott's private archives and interviews with many of the world's most distinguished mountaineers

DESCRIPTION

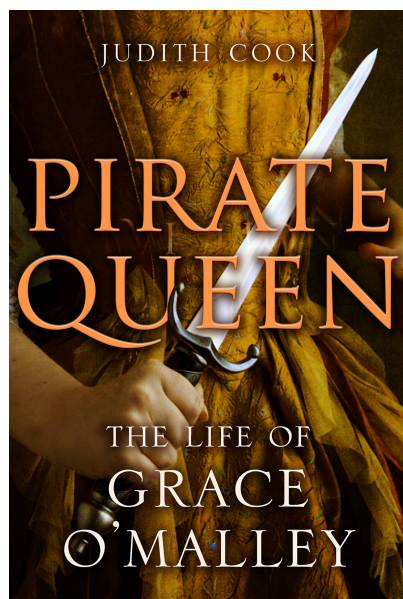
Doug Scott was a legend among mountaineers. His expeditions, undertaken over a period of five decades, are unparalleled achievements. This book describes the extraordinary drama of them all, from the Himalaya to New Zealand, Patagonia, Yosemite and Alaska. It includes his famous 'epic' on The Ogre, one of the hardest peaks in the world to climb, his ascent of Kangchenjunga without supplementary oxygen and his ascent, with Dougal Haston, of Everest in 1975.

Catherine Moorehead also uncovers the elusive man behind the obsessive mountaineer. From his rumbustious youth in Nottingham through two tempestuous marriages to a secure third marriage, she shows how Scott matured in thought and action as his formidable global reputation increased. In doing so she reveals him to be a clash of opposites, an infuriating monomaniac who took extraordinary risks yet who developed a deep interest in Buddhism and inspired widespread affection.

Scott spent almost as long as his climbing career in founding and developing Community Action Nepal, providing schools and health posts in remote parts of Nepal, where he is still much revered. Doug Scott died in 2020.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Catherine Moorehead was born in Nairn, Scotland and was educated at Edinburgh University before embarking on a teaching career. Widely travelled in many countries, she has led numerous mountaineering expeditions, particularly in Central Asia. She 'completed' her Munros in 1996.



PIRATE QUEEN

The Life of Grace O'Malley

Judith Cook

Reissue

ISBN 9781780277158

Price £9.99

Publication 06 May 2021

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category HISTORY

Extent 208 pp

BIC HB, BGH

Rights WAL, rights sold to Ireland (Mercier Press), Audio (Tantor)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The extraordinary life of Grace O'Malley, the world's most famous woman pirate
- The subject of the movie *Grainne Uaile* (Ciaran Davies, 2020) and the Netflix series *Grace O'Malley: The Sea Queen* coming in 2021
- Grace O'Malley also appeared in the first *Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls* book, and she is now an inspirational figure to a new generation of young women
- A tale of adventure, mayhem, murder and intrigue that will enthral readers who enjoy both narrative non-fiction and historical drama
- For fans of Alison Weir's books on medieval and Tudor queens

DESCRIPTION

In a life stranger than any fiction, Grace O'Malley, daughter of a clan chief in the far west of Ireland, went from marriage at fifteen to piracy on the high seas. She soon had a fleet of galleys under her commander, but her three decades of plundering, kidnapping, murder and mayhem came to a close in 1586, when she was captured and sentenced to hang.

Saved from the scaffold by none other than Queen Elizabeth herself – another powerful woman in a man's world – Grace's life took another extraordinary turn, when it was rumoured she had become intelligencer for the queen's spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham. Was this the price of her freedom?

Judith Cook explores this and other questions about the life and times of this remarkable woman in a fascinating, thrilling and impeccably researched book.

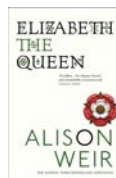
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Well-known for her columns in the *Guardian's* women's page and as an anti-nuclear campaigner (she founded the organisation Voice of Women after the Cuban missile crisis of 1962), **Judith Cook** was also a prolific biographer and investigative journalist. Her subjects included J.B. Priestley, Daphne du Maurier and Hilda Murrell, the anti-nuclear campaigner who died in mysterious circumstances 1985. Born in Manchester, Judith Cook lived for many years in Cornwall, where she died in 2004.

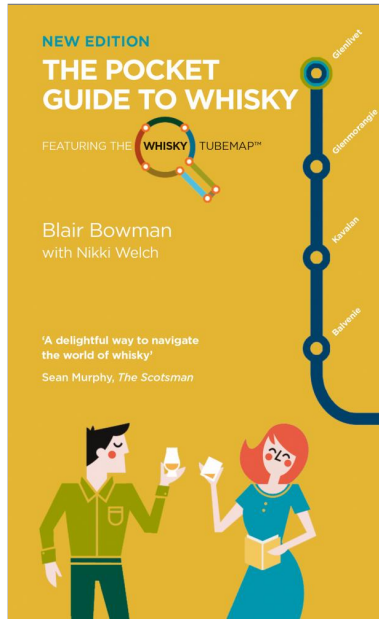
Related Titles



Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls • Hbk • 9780120420476 • £20.00



Elizabeth the Queen • Pbk • 9780099524250 • £10.99



THE POCKET GUIDE TO WHISKY

Featuring the Whisky Tube Map

Blair Bowman, Nikki Welch

New Edition

ISBN 9781780276885

Publication 02 July 2020

Category Spirits & cocktails

BIC WBXD3, WBXD

Illustrations Colour throughout

Price £8.99

Format 178 x 111 mm Paperback

Extent 144 pp

Rights WAL inc. Audio, rights sold to Germany (Goldmann)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- New edition of the bestselling guide to whisky, with 8,000 copies sold in less than 2 years
- The unique layout has been designed to help the user easily navigate by taste and find the next step on their whisky journey. Whether a novice to expert, this guide enables whisky lovers to find out more about the brands they already like and to make informed choices as they explore further.
- As well as traditional favourites from Scotland, Ireland and beyond, this book also features whiskies from Taiwan, Australia, Japan and the US
- Blair Bowman is the founder of World Whisky Day which is now celebrated every year and on every continent in the world, including Antarctica

DESCRIPTION

The ever-expanding world of whisky can be a daunting one, with a deluge of new brands, distilleries and literature on the subject making it all but impossible for the amateur whisky drinker to find their way. Blair Bowman provides a compact and accessible, easy-to-use guide to help budding whisky enthusiasts on their way.

The Pocket Guide to Whisky explores every kind of whisky, from the well-known Scottish giants of Glenlivet, to the exotic Japanese Hibiki, and includes the ever-growing and hotly debated blended whiskies too!

This little volume will tell you everything you need to know, from what to look for in whisky and what to avoid, to getting the best value for money to the perfect accompaniments to your dram and the ideal whisky for every occasion.

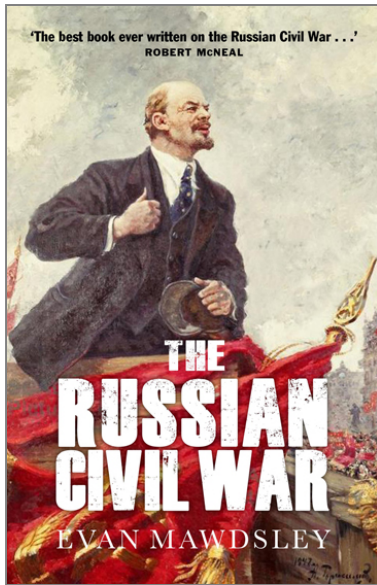
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Blair Bowman has been a whisky enthusiast since helping found Aberdeen University's Malt Whisky Society. He currently writes for Scottish Field as their Whisky Columnist and is a contributing editor to the *Cask & Still*, Scotland's newest whisky magazine.

Nikki Welch is the creator of the WineTubeMap and flavour tube map concept, and author of the bestselling *Pocket Guide to Wine*. She has worked in the wine trade for 15 years.

Related Titles





THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

Evan Mawdsley

ISBN 9781780274799

Price £14.99

Publication September 2017 Format 195 x 130 mm Paperback

Category European history Extent 504 pp

BIC HBJD, HBLW

Rights WAL inc Audio, rights sold

Illustrations 16pp b/w plates to US (Pegasus), Spain (Desperta Ferro)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- New edition of the “best book ever written on the Russian Civil War”, one of the most significant and important events of the 20th century
- Evan Mawdsley is an expert on Russian history and his work is highly acclaimed
- This edition contains illustrations, new high quality maps and a new introduction by the author
- The previous edition has sold over 10,000 copies and is regarded as the definitive work on the subject
- **'The best book ever written on the Russian Civil War ... a first-rate work of scholarly synthesis' - Robert McNeal**

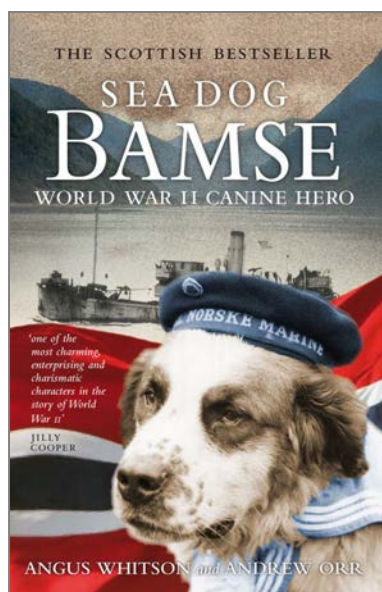
DESCRIPTION

The Russian Civil War of 1917-1920, out of which the Soviet Union was born, was one of the most significant events of the twentieth century. The collapse of the Tsarist regime and the failure of the Kerensky Provisional Government nearly led to the complete disintegration of the Russian state. This book, however, is not simply the story of that collapse and the rebellion that accompanied it, but of the painful and costly reconstruction of Russian power under a Soviet regime.

Evan Mawdsley's lucid account of this vast and complex subject explains in detail the power struggles and political manoeuvres of the war, providing a balanced analysis of why the Communists were victors. This edition includes illustrations, a new preface and an extensively updated bibliography.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Evan Mawdsley is Professor of History at Glasgow University. He has written numerous books and articles on Russian history and is the co-author of *The Soviet Elite from Lenin to Gorbachev*. He lives in Glasgow.



SEA DOG BAMSE

World War II Canine Hero

Angus Whitson, Andrew A. Orr

Reprint

ISBN 9781841588490

Publication 05 May 2022

Category Military History

BIC BTM, HBWQ

Illustrations 16pp b/w plates

Price £8.99

Format 195 x 130 mm Paperback

Extent 224 pp

Rights WAL inc Audio, rights sold

to Norway (Tun Forlag)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Presents the story of one of the Second World War's most unusual animal heroes - a 14-stone St Bernard dog who became global mascot for the Royal Norwegian Forces and a symbol of freedom and inspiration for Allied troops throughout Europe
- Sales of over 15,000 copies

DESCRIPTION

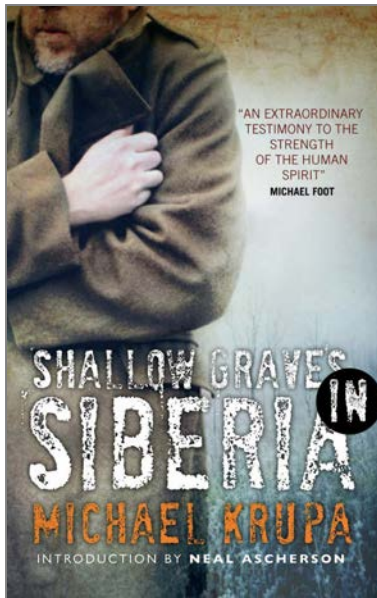
This is the remarkable story of one of the Second World War's most unusual animal heroes - a 14-stone St Bernard dog who became global mascot for the Royal Norwegian Forces and a symbol of freedom and inspiration for Allied troops throughout Europe. From a happy and carefree puppyhood spent as a family pet in the Norwegian fishing town of Honningsvåg, the gentle giant Bamse followed his master at the outbreak of the war to become a registered crew member of the mine-sweeper *Thorodd*. Often donning his own steel helmet as he took his place in the *Thorodd's* bow gun turret, Bamse cut an impressive figure and made a huge contribution to the morale of the crew, and he gallantly saved the lives of two of them. After Norway fell to the Germans in 1940, the *Thorodd* operated from Dundee and Montrose, where Bamse became a well-known and much-loved figure, shepherding the *Thorodd's* crew-members back to the boat at pub closing time, travelling on the local buses, breaking up fights and even taking part in football matches.

Mourned both by locals and Norwegians when he died in 1944, Bamse's memory has been kept alive both in Norway, where he is still regarded as a national hero, and in Montrose, where a larger-than-life statue of him was unveiled in 2006 by HRH Prince Andrew. Written from extensive source material and eyewitness accounts, *Sea Dog Bamse* is a fitting tribute to the extraordinary life of an extraordinary dog.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Angus Whitson studied law at Edinburgh University, and has worked as a solicitor, independent financial adviser and freelance copywriter. He writes the weekly column in the *Dundee Courier*, 'Man With two Dogs'.

Andrew Orr worked as a GP in Montrose for many years. He is a founder member of the Montrose Heritage Trust and chairman of the Montrose Bamse Project.



SHALLOW GRAVES IN SIBERIA

Michael Krupa

ISBN 9781843410126

Publication July 2004

Category True war & combat stories

BIC BTM, HBW

Price £7.99

Format 200 x 130 mm Paperback

Extent 192 pp

Rights WAL, rights sold to Poland (REBIS), Audio (Audible)

DESCRIPTION

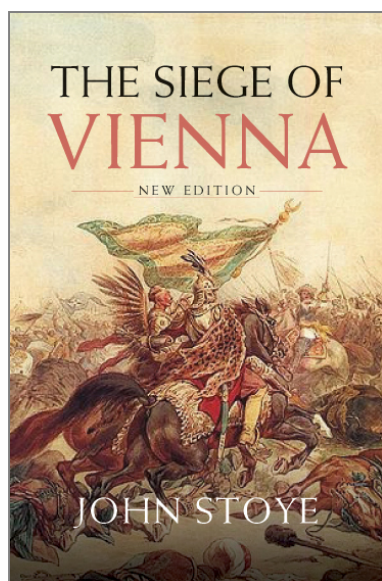
Michael Krupa was born into a poor family in south-west Poland, and in his teens was accepted into a Jesuit seminary. He ran away before taking his final vows and joined the army. Soon afterwards, the German tanks rolled into Poland and easily defeated her antiquated forces - the Polish cavalry were armed with sabres. Krupa survived Hitler's invasion, but was arrested in Soviet-occupied eastern Poland and accused of spying. After enduring torture in Moscow's notorious Lubianka prison, he was sentenced to ten years' corrective labour and deported to the Pechora Gulag.

Most prisoners there were worked and starved to death within a year. But Krupa managed again to escape, and in the chaos following the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union made one of the most extraordinary journeys of the war - from Siberia to safety in Afghanistan. Krupa's Jesuit training had given him an inner strength and resilience which enabled him to survive in the face of appalling brutality and cruelty. Luck and the kindness of strangers helped him complete his epic journey to freedom.

'an extraordinary testimony to the strength of the human spirit when it has to contend with beasts in human form. Anyone who still hankers after Stalin's Russia should be made to read it, and repent. The rest of us can read it and admire his strength of heart' - Michael Foot

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Michael Krupa was born in Rudnik, near Krakow, and trained to be a Jesuit before joining the 13th regiment of the Polish cavalry in 1937. After his extraordinary exploits during the Second World War he moved to Britain and settled in West Yorkshire.



THE SIEGE OF VIENNA

John Stoye

2nd Revised edition

ISBN 9781843410379

Publication February 2007

Category European history

BIC HBJD, HBLH

Illustrations 16pp b/w plates

Price £9.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 320 pp

Rights WAL inc Audio, rights sold to Germany (ARES Verlag), Turkey (Egmont), North America (Pegasus), Italy (Societa Editrice)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The definitive account of one of the turning points in European history
- A must-read for anyone interested in the Ottoman Empire and the survival of European nations
- The siege of Vienna is widely regarded to be the real-life inspiration for J.R.R. Tolkien's battle of Minas Tirith in *The Lord of the Rings*
- **'Worthy of the pen of a Thucydides or a Herodotus ... it is a measure of the fascination of Mr Stoye's subject that one should think of comparing his treatment of it with the work of the greatest historians'**
Times Literary Supplement

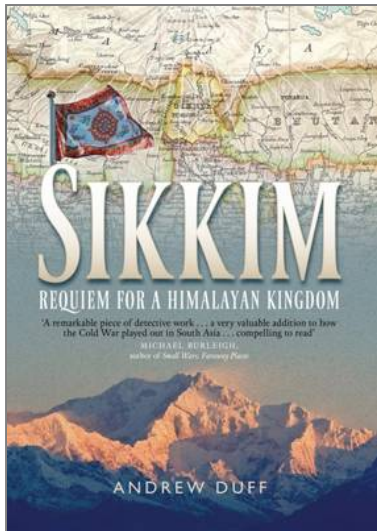
DESCRIPTION

The Siege of Vienna in 1683 was one of the turning points in European history. It was the last serious threat to Western Christendom and so great was its impact that countries normally jealous and hostile sank their differences to throw back the armies of Islam and their savage Tartar allies.

The consequences of defeat were momentous: the Ottomans lost half their European territories and began the long decline which led to the final collapse of the Empire, and the Hapsburgs turned their attention from France and the Rhine frontier to the rich pickings of the Balkans. The hot September day that witnesses the last great trial of strength between Cross and Crescent opened an epoch in European history that lasted until the cataclysm of the First World War in 1914.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

John Stoye was among the foremost historians of 17th-century Europe; he was Tutor in Modern History at Magdalen College, Oxford, from 1948 to 1984 and a Fellow of the college for 68 years. He passed away in 2016 at the age of 99.



SIKKIM

Requiem for a Himalayan Kingdom

Andrew Duff

ISBN 9781780275628

Publication October 2018

Category Asian history

BIC HBJF, WTLC

Illustrations 16pp b/w plates

Price £14.99

Format 235 x 160 mm Paperback

Extent 320 pp

Rights WAL inc Audio, rights sold to India (PRH), Thailand (Suan Ngue Mee Ma Co Ltd)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A tale of intrigue, love and Cold War politics in the heart of Asia
- Features newly released intelligence files shedding light on the Cold War in Asia
- **'Clearly the most comprehensive account so far of Sikkim's fall... a masterly skill in story-telling' - Calcutta Telegraph**

DESCRIPTION

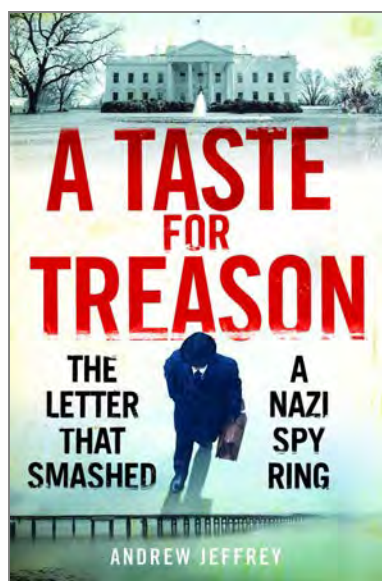
This is the true story of Sikkim, a tiny Buddhist kingdom in the Himalayas that survived the end of the British Empire only to be annexed by India in 1975.

It tells the remarkable tale of Thondup Namgyal, the last King of Sikkim, and his American wife, Hope Cooke, thrust unwittingly into the spotlight as they sought support for Sikkim's independence after their 'fairytale' wedding in 1963. As tensions between India and China spilled over into war in the Himalayas, Sikkim became a pawn in the Cold War in Asia during the 1960s and 1970s. Rumours circulated that Hope was a CIA spy. Meanwhile, a shadowy Scottish adventuress, the Kazini of Chakung, married to Sikkim's leading political figure, coordinated opposition to the Palace. As the world's major powers jostled for regional supremacy during the early 1970s Sikkim and its ruling family never stood a chance. On the eve of declaring an Emergency across India, Indira Gandhi outwitted everyone to bring down the curtain on the 300 year-old Namgyal dynasty.

Based on interviews and archive research, as well as a retracing of a journey the author's grandfather made in 1922, this is a thrilling, romantic and informative glimpse of a real-life Shangri-La.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Andrew Duff is a freelance journalist based in London and Scotland who writes on India and related subjects. In the UK his work has appeared in *The Times*, *The Financial Times* and the *Sunday Telegraph*, and in India in the *Times of India* and the *India Quarterly*. He travels frequently in India and East Asia.



A TASTE FOR TREASON

The Letter That Smashed a Nazi Spy Ring

Andrew Jeffrey

ISBN 9781780277882

Publication 06 October 2022

Category Military history

BIC HBW, JPSH

Price £14.99

Format 234 x 156 mm Paperback

Extent 240 pp

Rights WAL, rights sold to Hungary (Corvina), Audio (Tantor)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The untold true story of how a Nazi spy's letter, intercepted in Scotland, broke spy rings across Europe and North America
- Ideal for fans of Ben Macintyre (*Agent Zig-Zag* and *The Spy and the Traitor*)

DESCRIPTION

When Dundee housewife Mary Curran became suspicious of flamboyant hairdresser Jessie Jordan's frequent trips to Nazi Germany in 1937, she could not have known that she would become one of the world's most successful amateur spycatchers. Thanks to Mary's tip-off, MI5 and the FBI began major spy hunts on both sides of the Atlantic and security services in other countries rounded up yet more nests of Nazi spies. And so, again thanks to Mary, the Anglo-American special intelligence relationship was born.

Featuring parallel Nazi espionage plots in Europe and North America that converged on a Scottish post office and set against a dramatic background of mounting international tension, this is a story shot through with all the staples of spy thrillers – seedy traitors, alluring *femmes fatales*, sinister Nazi thugs and glamorous movie stars. And all of it is true.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Dr Andrew Jeffrey has written extensively on military and maritime history. He authored a trilogy of books on Scotland's role in the Second World War: *This Dangerous Menace*, *This Present Emergency* and *This Time of Crisis*. Media work includes research and on-air contributions for *The Thistle*, *The Crown* and *The Swastika* (BBC 1995), *Salvage Squad* (Channel 4 2001), *Timeframe* (SMG 2004), a BBC educational project on the Second World War (BBC 2010), the Dutch documentary *The O-13 Mystery – Still on Patrol* (Wing TV 2013) and the French documentary *Submarines against the Nazis* (ZED for RMC Découverte 2019).

Related Titles



The Spy and the Traitor • Pbk • 9780241972137



Agent Sonya • Pbk • 9780241986950



Agent Zigzag • Pbk • 9781408885406



WHISKYPEDIA

The Ultimate Guide to Scotch Whisky

Charles MacLean

6th Edition

ISBN 9781780278896

Publication 07 July 2024

Category Spirits & cocktails

BIC WBXD3, GBC

Illustrations Colour throughout

Price £15.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 448 pp

Rights WAL inc Audio, rights sold to North America (Skyhorse), Russia (EXEM), China (Babel Publishing)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Since its first publication, *Whiskypedia* has sold over 45,000 copies and has become the essential handbook for all whisky lovers
- This new edition is fully revised and updated with new entries on the latest distilleries in Scotland
- Charles MacLean has spent more than thirty years researching, writing and lecturing about Scotch whisky and is acknowledged as one of the world's leading experts on the subject
- This is an informative and entertaining guide for all connoisseurs which includes an ingenious Flavour Map and Flavour Wheel – a much acclaimed and innovative approach to understanding and enjoying Scotch malt whisky

DESCRIPTION

The ultimate guide to Scotch whisky.

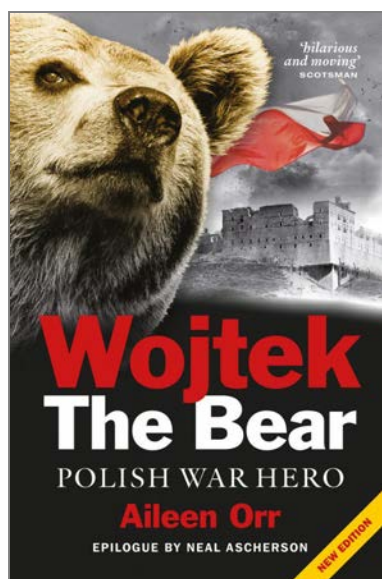
Why does Scotch whisky taste as it does? Where do the flavours come from? How might they have changed over the years? The flavour of Scotch whisky is as much influenced by history, craft and tradition as it is by science. *Whiskypedia* explores these influences. Introductory sections provide an historical overview, and an explanation of the contribution made by each stage of the production process.

Each entry provides a brief account of the distillery's history and curiosities, lists the bottlings which are currently available, details how the whisky is made, and explores the flavour and character of each make.

Fully revised and updated edition with new entries on the latest distilleries at Portintruan, Uile-beist, Port of Leith, Jackton, Cabrach, Dunphail and Kythe.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Charles MacLean is the author of nine books on the subject, including the standard work on whisky brands, *Scotch Whisky*, and the authoritative *Malt Whisky*, both of which were short-listed for Glenfiddich Awards. His *Scotch Whisky: A Liquid History* won Wine & Spirits Book of the Year in the 2004 James Beard Awards and Best Drink Book in the World at the Food Media Awards. He is a consultant to the whisky industry, and to Bonhams International Auctioneers, and sits on the judging panel of the International Wine & Spirits Awards.



WOJTEK THE BEAR

Polish War Hero

Aileen Orr

ISBN 9781843410652

Publication June 2014

Category Military history

BIC HBWQ, HBT

Illustrations 8pp b/w plates

Price £8.99

Format 195 x 130 mm Paperback

Extent 224 pp

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KEY SELLING POINTS

- This is the inspiring and charming true story of one of the Second World War's most unusual combatants – a 500-pound cigarette smoking, beer-drinking brown bear
- Sales of more than 14,000 copies
- In an extended introduction, journalist and historian Neal Ascherson reflects on the Polish experience in the Second World War and gives full recognition to the Poles' heroic sacrifice and the extraordinary influence they had on the countries in which they served
- Wojtek has memorials at the Imperial War Museum, Edinburgh Zoo and in Canada, and he is a national hero in his native Poland

DESCRIPTION

This is the inspiring and charming true story of one of the Second World War's most unusual combatants - a 500-pound cigarettesmoking, beer-drinking brown bear. Originally adopted as a mascot by the Polish Army in Iran, Wojtek soon took on a more practical role, carrying heavy mortar rounds for the troops and going on to play his part as a fully enlisted 'soldier' with his own rank and number during the Italian campaign.

After the war, Wojtek, along with some of his Polish compatriots from II Corps, came to Berwickshire, where he became a significant member of the local community before subsequently moving to Edinburgh Zoo. Wojtek's retirement was far from quiet: a potent symbol of freedom and solidarity for Poles around the world, he attracted a huge amount of media interest that shows no sign of abating almost 60 years after his death.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Aileen Orr was born in Dumfries and raised in Lockerbie before going on to study at the London School of Economics.