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FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

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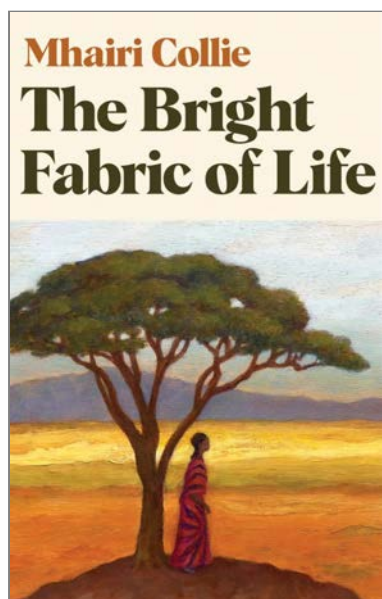
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FICTION



THE BRIGHT FABRIC OF LIFE

Mhairi Collie

New in Paperback

ISBN 9781846977268

Price £9.99

Publication 05 June 2025 Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Fiction

Extent 288 pp

BIC FA, FH

Rights World All Languages

eBook 9781788857277

KEY SELLING POINTS

- An engaging novel for readers who enjoy a story filled with romance, medical drama and an interest in the plight of women in Africa, as well as in the psyche of the female surgeon
- The author is a consultant surgeon who has worked in sub-Saharan Africa to treat women with childbirth injuries

'An uplifting tale with a focus on the life-changing connection between characters'

– *Sunday Post*

'Explores flashes of hope amid despair in her debut novel, *The Bright Fabric of Life*. This assuredness in opening up two worlds most of us know nothing about – that gives her novel its power'

– David Robinson, *The Scotsman*

DESCRIPTION

Thoughtful, beautifully written and brimming with tenderness, this is the story of two young women who make a life changing connection in Ethiopia. Sylvie is filled with hope and joy but her dreams are destroyed when a disastrous childbirth leaves her broken both emotionally and physically, facing rejection and isolation. Juliet is a feisty surgeon in London, about to embark on an extraordinary, rollercoaster of discovery in Africa.

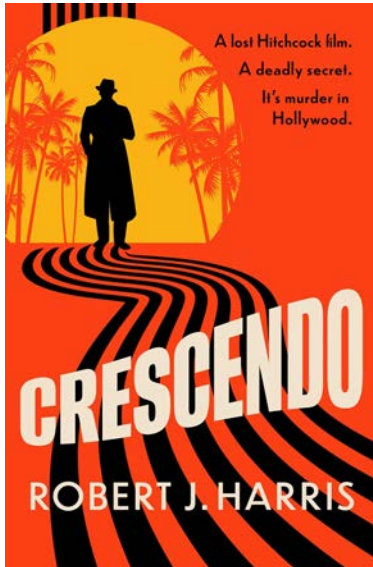
This heart-wrenching, intelligent novel could be described as *Gray's Anatomy* on tour to Africa: an insecure female surgeon with a complicated and evolving love life; an Ethiopian patient with a powerfully moving tragedy in her background, greatly in need of help; and an unfolding drama which brings them both together.

A compelling life-story set in Ethiopia and London, written with exceptional grace.

Published with the support of global best-selling writer Alexander McCall Smith. Proceeds from this book go to the Uganda Childbirth Injury Fund.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Mhairi Collie OBE is a consultant surgeon in Edinburgh. Since 2001 she has regularly undertaken surgery in sub-Saharan Africa to treat women with childbirth injuries. She initially worked for Médecins sans frontières, then co-founded the charity Uganda Childbirth Injury Fund. She is married, with two children and a very naughty springer spaniel.



CRESCENDO

Robert J. Harris

ISBN 9781846977008
Publication 04 June 2026
Category Mystery, Thriller
BIC FHD, APF
eBook 9781788857611

Price £9.99
Format 198 x 129mm Paperback
Extent 320 pp
Rights WAL inc. Audio,
NA rights sold to Pegasus

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





THE FALL OF FRANKENSTEIN

Dark Futures

Jenni Fagan

ISBN 9781846977534

Price £12.00

Publication 01 October 2026 **Format** 198 x 129 mm Hardback

Category Speculative Fiction **Extent** 176 pp

BIC FA, FH

Rights WAL. inc Audio

eBook 9781788858618

KEY SELLING POINTS

- This is the first in a thrilling new specially commissioned series of speculative fiction novellas from the very best of our modern writers
- Jenni Fagan's *HEX* from the Darkland Tales series has sold more than 17,000 copies
- Jenni Fagan's previous novel *Luckenbooth* has been reviewed widely and lauded for its ambition and originality. Her memoir was longlisted for the Women's Prize

'A rage-fuelled thunderbolt' – *Daily Mail* on *Hex*

DESCRIPTION

Words are disappearing from the contemporary world. So much so that an Independent Bureau of Lost Words has been created in a discrete location on Scotland's East Coast, run by a new Curator of Lost Words, Mary Shelley. What is the role being played by the scientist and expert in words, meanings and monsters, Victor Frankenstein? What have his experiments in AI and large language models unleashed? And is language itself reborn as Frankenstein's monster?

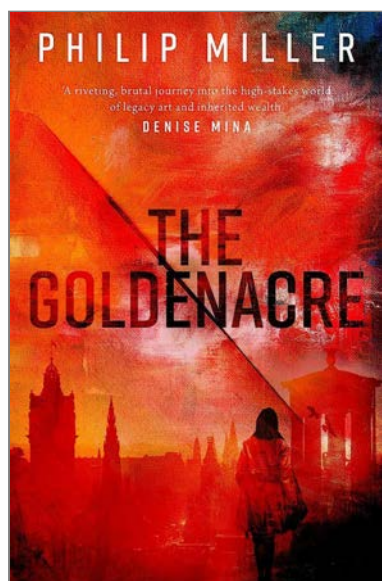
Blending Mary Shelley's classic story into a work of dazzling speculative fiction, Jenni Fagan presents a crazy, fast, funny and dark tale that drags readers into the belly of what language actually is and is not, and how it is used by us and against us.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Jenni Fagan is an award-winning poet, novelist and screenwriter. After the publication of her debut novel, *The Panopticon*, Jenni was selected as one of Granta's Best Young British Novelists. In 2022, Polygon published her most recent novel, *Hex*, and *The Bone Library*, a poetry collection written during her time as a Writer in Residence at the Dick Vet Bone Library. In 2024, her memoir *Ootlin* was published, as was her seventh poetry collection *A Swan's Neck on the Butcher's Block*.

Related Titles





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 World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Philip Miller has established himself as **one of the best reviewed crime writers in the US at the moment**
- Comparisons have ranged from **Graeme Green and John le Carre to Ian Rankin and Mick Herron**
- *The Goldenacre* (first in the Shona Sandison series) was **shortlisted for a Shamus Award for Best First PI Novel** and *The Hollow Tree* was a **finalist for Best Original Hardback PI Novel** and selected as **Wall Street Journal Best Mystery Book of 2024**
- *The Diary of Lies* (Book 3 in the Shona Sandison series) was published simultaneously in the US and UK in August 2025. Reviews included ***The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Air Mail* and *NPR*** (equivalent to BBC Radio 4 in the US)
- He has had an enormous amount of interest in **TV and film rights, most recently from Barbara Broccoli of James Bond fame**

PRAISE FOR THE LATEST IN THE SERIES

'Miller's outstanding third case for reporter Shona Sandison ... he enriches the proceedings with striking prose and lovable characters' – *Publishers Weekly*

'Strikingly written ... evokes a dark and dangerous world' – Tom Nolan, *Wall Street Journal*

'Miller's greatest gift is to get you to care about his characters long before you've figured out what they're looking for' – *Kirkus Reviews*

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, enthralled 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. He is the author of The Shona Sandison Mysteries, including *The Goldenacre*, *The Hollow Tree* and *The Diary of Lies*.

COMPARABLE TITLES

The Hollow Tree • Pbk • 9781846976483 The Diary of Lies • Pbk • 9781846976841

Praise for
THE GOLDENACRE

Winner of the Shamus Award for Best First P.I. Novel
A Free Lance-Star Best Book of 2022
An Air Mail Best Mystery Book of 2022 (ed Graydon Carter ex Vanity Fair)

‘Philip Miller is **a fine, painterly writer** – Edinburgh at dusk, for example, is “a weave of shadows hung in a net of light” – and he **has created a first-class thriller**’
Times Crime Club, Pick of the Week

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

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

‘The Goldenacre **features a dense cast of vivid characters**, not least Tallis, a tortured pilgrim worthy of a Graham Greene tale. . . . an ambitious and wonderfully realized work’
Tom Nolan, *The Wall Street Journal*

‘**A riveting, brutal journey** into the high stakes world of legacy art and inherited wealth’
Denise Mina, author of the *Garnethill* trilogy and *The Long Drop*

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

‘**Unputdownable**’
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

‘**Unusual and elegant**, ... takes the Tartan Noir genre in some new and unexpected directions’
Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

‘this story... is **mesmerizing in its use of atmosphere**, poetic language, and **ingenious plot construction**’
Megan McLean, *Santa Fe New Mexican*

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

‘[Philip Miller] constructs **an intricate and intelligent plot and peoples it with richly imagined and deeply realized characters** . . . An authoritative work on art and an accomplished work of art, The Goldenacre also represents a shrewd study of family dynamics and **a splendid sample of literary crime fiction**’
The Free Lance-Star

Praise for **THE DIARY OF LIES**

‘Strikingly written... what makes The Diary of Lies so engrossing is **the author’s accomplished prose**, which **evokes a dark and dangerous world**’

Tom Nolan, *Wall Street Journal*

‘Miller’s **outstanding third case for reporter Shona Sandison** effortlessly braids together three interconnected story lines... Miller doesn’t rush things, allowing the disparate strands of his sophisticated narrative to come together slowly, and he **enriches the proceedings with striking prose and lovable characters**’

Publishers Weekly

‘This is the third installment in **Miller’s excellent series** featuring Shona Sandison, an investigative journalist whose specialty is uncovering perfidy in high places. **Admirers of Mick Herron’s “Slow Horses” series will appreciate the similarly jaundiced tone**’

New York Times

‘Miller’s **greatest gift is to get you to care about his characters** long before you’ve figured out what they’re looking for’

Kirkus Reviews

‘The Diary of Lies is **deeply scary and all too believable**’

BookPage (US), Starred Review

‘Far from being one of those cozy British crime stories, **this novel offers a lament for a Great Britain that’s lost its bearings**’

NPR, John Powers

‘A top secret, sinister government project, an elderly spy chief out to avenge his murdered son and a treacherous plot within the UK’s most powerful institutions come together in this explosive read’

Sally McDonald, *Sunday Post*

‘Miller has been compared to fellow tartan-noir writers [...] for his jaundiced attitude toward the British government and intelligence services, but where Herron mocks their absurdity and incompetence, **Miller is chilling and doom-laden in his furiously poetic depiction** of a once great civilization going off the rails’

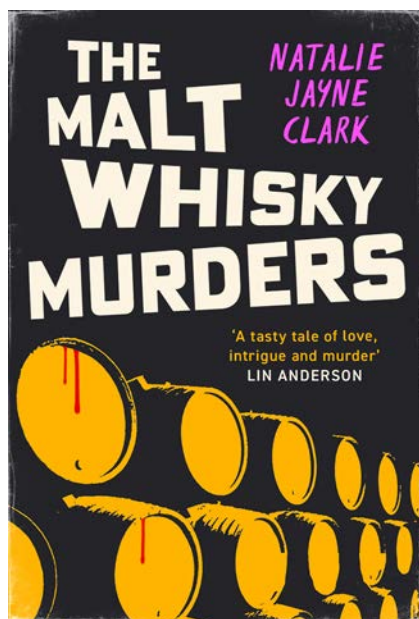
Air Mail

‘Miller **writes with such confidence and flair**... this is a novel that holds the attention, offers much rich entertainment and has **splendidly atmospheric** and even comic scenes’

Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

‘**captures the sense of fatigue and powerlessness that pervades the country** and underlines how much we need the decency and tenacity of the Shona Sandisons, who can still triumph against all the odds’

Alastair Mabbott, *The Herald*



THE MALT WHISKY MURDERS

Natalie Jayne Clark

ISBN 9781846976780

Publication 05 June 2025

Category Crime Fiction

BIC FF, FH

eBook 9781788857161

Price £9.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 336 pp

Rights WAL, Rights sold to Ulverscroft (Audio WEL ex. NA), Ediciones Maeva (Spain) and Alexandra Kiado (Hungary)

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
- Shortlisted for the **Bloody Scotland Debut Prize** with more than 5,000 copies sold
- The 4th bestselling book at the Edinburgh International Book Festival without an author event, and has been selected as one of Waterstones' Paperbacks of the Year in 2025

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



Whisky From Small Glasses • Pbk • 9781846973215

The Mash House • Pbk • 9781789651195

Praise for
THE MALT WHISKY MURDERS

‘a visceral authenticity, deliciously tempered with dark humour... **a bloody marvellous debut**’

Sunday Post

‘From the **fabulous opening sentence** to the final page, this tasty tale of love, humour, intrigue, **murder and distilling is the perfect dram**’

Lin Anderson

‘I raced through this **lively, funny, charming tale with great pleasure**, and learned a lot I didn’t know about whisky too’

Ajay Close

‘**A deft debut full of dry wit and enticing intrigue.** The Malt Whisky Murders announces Natalie Jayne Clark as a bold new writer for crime fiction, putting a welcome queer twist on Tartan Noir. **Savour this wee dram of mystery, mirth and murder**’

D. V. Bishop

‘**Hilarious**, brave and original’

Helen FitzGerald

‘This is **a novel which informs as it entertains as it thrills**, managing to achieve the **perfect balance between mystery and malt**’

Alistair Braidwood, SNACK Magazine

‘A tale **told with humour and intensity, jam-packed** full of murder, amateur sleuthing, relationships, community, and whisky!’

Liz Robinson, LoveReading, Book of the Month

‘an entertaining novel, **feather-light, flowing along at a good pace.** The main characters are likable... It is **brisk and frothy**’

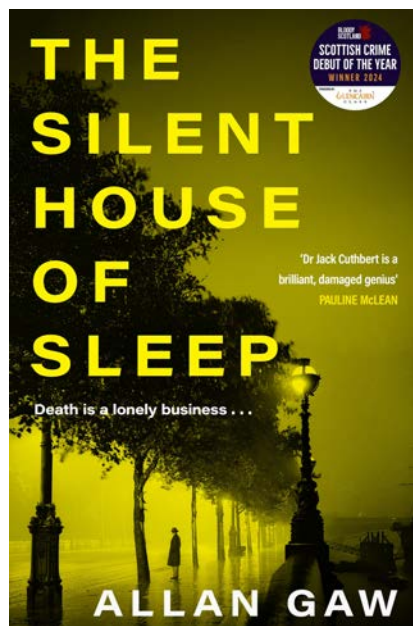
Allan Massie, The Scotsman

‘**such an entertaining read** . . . educational without being stuffy. And it is all delivered with **a generous dose of sincerity and fun**’

Ken Lussey, Undiscovered Scotland

‘[Clark is] the **next big thing** in crime fiction’

Alex Watson, The Courier



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 WAL (rights sold to North

eBook 9781788857994

America, France; audio sold to Bolinda)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Won the Bloody Scotland Crime Debut Award in 2024, and was a Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month
- 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
- His second book, *The Moon's Feeble Fire* was longlisted for the McIlvanney Prize in 2025

'Heartbreaking and harrowing in equal measure. Dr Jack Cuthbert is a brilliant, damaged genius you'll want to follow to hell and back' – Pauline McLean, BBC Scotland Arts Correspondent

'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.

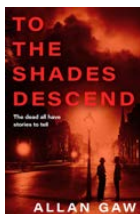
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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.

Also Available



The Moon's More Feeble Fire • Pbk • 9781846977237



To the Shades Descend • Pbk • 9781846977251



The Shadows and the Dust • Pbk • 9781846977244

ALSO AVAILABLE IN THIS SERIES...

THE MOON'S MORE FEEBLE FIRE Book 2

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. Pathologist Dr Jack 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, the doctor sets out to solve one of the most baffling cases of his career. One final question remains unanswered until a faded photograph reveals its tragic secret.

TO THE SHADES DESCEND Book 3

Glasgow, 1931. Visiting from London, Dr Jack Cuthbert unexpectedly finds himself at the centre of a horrifying crime. As an experienced pathologist, the local police call upon him to lead the forensic investigation and identify the victims of a bombing in the city. But this is no ordinary crime scene.

Cuthbert must navigate a political as well as a pathological minefield, with British fascists and the city's notorious razor gangs in the frame. To solve the case, Cuthbert needs to gather all the expertise he can from those around him. But, out of his usual surroundings and working with strangers, who can he trust?

THE SHADOWS AND THE DUST Book 4

London, 1931. When the body of a young boy is found in the grounds of a church orphanage, Dr Jack Cuthbert must steel himself for the task ahead. Dealing with children is the hardest part of his job, and the discovery forces the pathologist to revisit his own childhood grief.

The boy in the shallow grave has been interred with some ritual, but just how did he die? And why was he killed? Working closely with his assistant and the team at Scotland Yard, Cuthbert painstakingly reveals the terrible truth.

THE LAST GIFTS TO THE DEAD Book 5

A brutal murder, a complex investigation, a safe conviction. Or so everyone thinks until D.C.I. Mowbray hears the condemned man's last words just before he is hanged.

Now he needs Dr Jack Cuthbert to reopen the forensic investigation and prove that they have not been responsible for a tragic miscarriage of justice. Cuthbert had already worked hard on the case and is ninety-nine per cent sure he was right. But what about that last one percent? Might the unthinkable be true? Have they hanged the wrong man? It is now up to the pathologist to uncover the real truth.

SO MANY THOUGHTS OF BLOOD Book 6

A night at the theatre for Dr Jack Cuthbert proves to be the beginning of a baffling backstage murder investigation.

There is no doubt who the victim is, but just who would have wanted him dead and in such a brutal, theatrical way? The answer lies in his past: the social clubs when he started out, the the music-hall circuits before the First World War and all the way up to starring on the most prestigious of London's West End stages. In a world where almost no one is as they first appear, the pathologist and the team at Scotland Yard must painstakingly peel back the masks until they can discover the truth beneath.

BURDEN MY GRAVE WITH TEARS Book 7

When an ancient skeleton is discovered at a building site in the City of London, it is a routine call for Dr Jack Cuthbert. But this is no ordinary grave, and soon it's clear to him that there is more at play here than history.

The pathologist finds himself at the centre of two murder investigations, separated by almost two thousand years. Cuthbert slowly unravels the cryptic messages left behind by the bones – messages that reveal startling truths about the present and the past. In the end, the last of the questions are answered, but the cases are only finished when that past can finally be laid to rest.



VILLAGE OF SOULS

Merryn Glover

ISBN 9781846977541	Price £10.99
Publication 01 April 2027	Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback
Category Fiction	Extent 336 pp
BIC FA, FT	Rights WAL inc. Audio
eBook 9781788858625	

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Merryn Glover is the author of *OF STONE AND SKY*, winner of the Bookmark Book Festival Book of the Year and longlisted for the Highland Book Prize, and *THE HIDDEN FIRES*, shortlisted for the Boardman Tasker Award for Mountain Literature.
- Set in Australia and Nepal, this is a breathtaking tale that spans a century and the highest peaks in the world.
- Merryn is an Australian citizen who attended university in Melbourne, and has worked in education and community arts in Australia, India, Nepal and Scotland
- The title of the novel comes from the name Gurung people use for the place they go to after death.
- The novel explores themes of coming to terms with death and of how a 'good life' is measured

DESCRIPTION

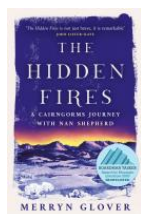
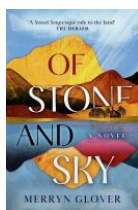
In Melbourne, two strangers from different backgrounds are brought together under unfamiliar circumstances. One hundred-year-old Peter Delaney is near the end, and, as he looks back on his life, he agonises over what it has amounted to and what might have been. Haunted by a tragedy on a mountaineering expedition in Nepal in 1960, can he put to rest the ghosts of the past? With him on this journey of remembrance is Maya, a Nepali woman who has come to the city looking for a new life. Together they share their stories and help each other come to terms with their pasts and realise that they have both known beauty, love and a sense of home.

The Village of Souls goes beyond idealised narratives of both the intrepid explorer and the Himalayan Shangri-la, to explore the complexities and paradoxes of both experiences and their mutual shaping.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Merryn Glover was born in a former Rana palace in Kathmandu and grew up in Nepal, India and Pakistan. Her first novel, *A House Called Askival* (2014), was published by Freight. Her second, *Of Stone and Sky* (2021) was published by Polygon and is set in the Highlands where she now lives. In 2019, she was appointed the first Writer in Residence for the Cairngorms National Park.

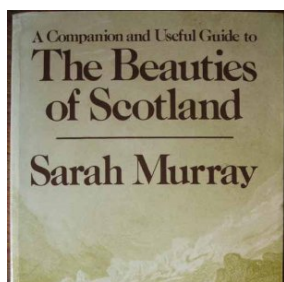
Related Titles



Of Stone and Sky • Pbk • 9781846976087 • £9.99

The Hidden Fires • Pbk • 9781846975998 • £10.99

NON-FICTION



A BOLD ADVENTURE FOR A WOMAN

The Travels of Sarah Murray

Paul Murton

ISBN 9781780279947

Publication October 2026

Category BIOGRAPHY: GENERAL

BIC BG, HBTB

Price £18.99

Format 234 x 156 mm Paperback

Extent 288 pp

Rights WAL inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- By the presenter of the acclaimed BBC series *Grand Tours of Scotland* and *Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands*, shown on BBC1 Scotland and BBC2 nationwide
- Paul Murton's books on Scottish travel have sold more than 15,000 copies
- Based on a little-known classic of travel writing from the late eighteenth-century, uniquely seen from a female perspective

DESCRIPTION

In 1796, Sarah Maurray, a 52-year-old widow from Kensington, set off on a journey to Scotland at a time when few visitors ventured there. The marvellously entertaining account of her trip – *A Companion, and Useful Guide to the Beauties of Scotland* – reveal her to be a witty, wise and outspoken observer and was instrumental in creating the romantic image of the Highlands of Scotland as a place of wild, untamed beauty, thus paving the way for floods of tourists in search of the 'sublime'.

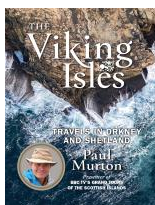
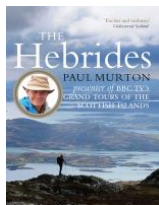
Paul Murton has often quoted Sarah Murray in his acclaimed TV series and books – not just her perceptive comments on Scotland during a time of immense change, but also the often-amusing practical tips she offers fellow travellers of the day.

In this book he follows in the footsteps of this extraordinary woman to evoke her Scottish adventures, putting her observations into context and counterpointing them with his own experiences of the places she visited.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Paul Murton is well known as a documentary film maker whose work includes *Grand Tours of Scotland* and *Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands* (4 series). He grew up in rural Argyll and has been an inveterate traveller since his teenage years.

Related Titles





BRITAIN'S SECRET ARMY

Alistair Moffat

ISBN 9781780279862

Price £20.00

Publication 01 October 2026

Format 234 x 153 mm Hardback

Category HISTORY

Extent 304 pp

BIC HB, HD

Rights WAL inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- One of the great untold stories of heroism during the Second World War by ordinary civilians, who risked their lives to thwart a Nazi invasion of Britain
- Told by the first time by popular historian Alistair Moffat, bestselling author of more than forty books

DESCRIPTION

Throughout Britain, all day, every day and in the dead of night, the secret listeners went about their solitary work. Hands on headphones, these men and women, drawn from all walks of civilian life, listened to the coded messages of German intelligence and passed hundreds of thousands of them on to Bletchley Park.

At the same time, men with firearms experience were recruited into secret patrols trained in sabotage and silent killing with knife or garotte. In June 1940, with a full-scale German invasion expected any minute, these auxiliary units were poised to undertake suicidal missions attacking enemy supply lines and assassinating anyone who helped the Nazis. In preparation for this, they dug operational bases in remote and hidden places – the ruins of many still exist today – and stashed them with supplies and weapons.

Alistair Moffat tells the half-forgotten stories of immense bravery by thousands of ordinary men and women. Sworn to secrecy, their heroic work has long been overlooked, yet it played a crucial part in the Allied victory in 1945. This book finally pays them their due.

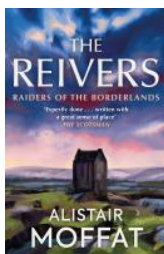
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Alistair Moffat was born and bred in the Scottish Borders. A former Director of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Director of Programmes at Scottish Television and founder of the Borders Book Festival, he is also the author of a number of highly acclaimed books. From 2011 he was Rector of the University of St Andrews. He has written more than thirty books on Scottish history, and lives in the Scottish Borders.

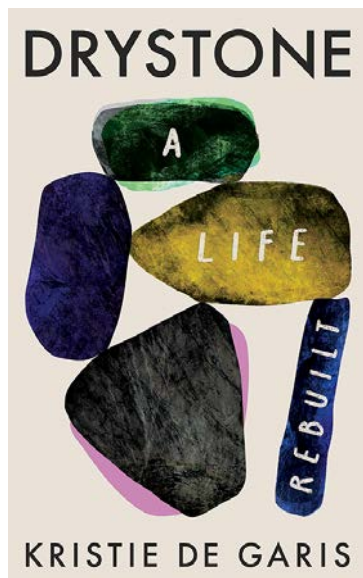
Comparable Titles



The Highlands and Islands of Scotland • Pbk • 9781780279572 • £14.99



The Reivers • Pbk • 9781780274454 • £12.99



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.

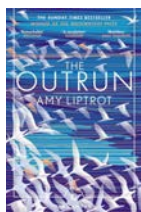
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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

Comparable Titles



Wild • Pbk • 9781782394860



The Outrun • Pbk • 9781786894229

Praise for
DRYSTONE

‘A **searingly honest, raw and visceral** read... In short it is a triumph’
Sunday Post

‘Tells the truth of rural Scotland through worlds **spun from a creative mind**’
The Times

‘An **incredibly powerful debut**, *Drystone* is an account of survival, strength, and quiet transformation that stays with you long after the final page. Written with clarity and compassion, it reflects not only life’s hardest moments, but its tender, deeply human ones too. **A life-affirming work**’
Rebecca Smith, author of *Rural: The Lives of the Working Class*

‘*Drystone* is as **beautifully rendered** as the walls De Garis creates’
Julie Vuong, *The Bookseller*

‘*Drystone* doesn’t pull any punches, it’s shockingly frank but also has **the most beautiful literary touch**. The child picking up a satisfyingly smooth pebble, the adult surviving what is thrown at her’
Tracy King, author of memoir *Learning to Think*

‘**Honest, funny, direct and moving**, this is a memoir of resilience and finding the life that suits you’
Books from Scotland

‘**Absorbing, enraging, funny and moving**, like a Scottish mixed-race Monica Heisey with bonus dry stone walling, De Garis unpacks the effects of racism, intergenerational trauma, and undiagnosed neurodivergence on her relationships and life, **deftly interweaving the work of walling with the slow, deliberated work of rebuilding something beautiful**, functional and sustainable’
Polly Atkin, author of *Some of Us Just Fall*

‘**Written with raw clarity, acerbic humour and emotional honesty**... written from the perspective of a single life, but with a sensitivity to the depth and breadth of **its underlying themes that will make it speak to many other lives**’
Kat Hill, author of *Bothy*

‘While De Garis’ memoir has its share of bleakness, *Drystone* is **filled with moments of humour . . . a readable, and emotionally balanced**, experience’
Bookmunch

‘The craft of *Drystone* only occupies a small portion of the book, but it supplies the central metaphor of taking something apart and rebuilding it more strongly... **uncompromisingly honest**’
Alastair Mabbott, *The Herald*



GLORIANA

The Life and Reign of Elizabeth I

Steven Veerapen

ISBN 9781780279930

Publication September 2027

Category HISTORY

BIC HB, BGH

Illustrations 16pp colour plates

Price £25.00

Format 234 x 156 mm Hardback

Extent 432 pp

Rights WAL inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A major new biography of one of history's most famous queens, Elizabeth I
- From the author of the bestselling *The Wisest Fool: The Lavish Life of James VI and I*
- His most recent titles, *Witches* and *Overlord*, have both been sold to Pegasus Publishers in North America

DESCRIPTION

Elizabeth I is England's most iconic queen. Her image, with its fiery wigs, ropes of pearls, and heavy-lidded dark eyes, is instantly recognisable. Not surprisingly, she has been a popular subject for historical nonfiction, stage dramas, TV shows and films. There have been as many Elizabeths as there have been historians, playwrights and actresses. She is simultaneously the domineering Gloriana, the flirtatious but chaste Virgin Queen, and the familiar and affectionate Good Queen Bess.

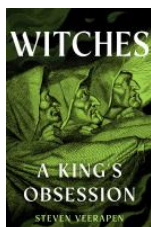
Personal histories of the queen have explored her relationships and iconography, but few have considered either her life or agenda in the context of British – not just English – history. Moreover, existing biographies have tended to peddle tired myths: of lurid white makeup, rivalries with supposedly stupider Scottish cousins, and secret spite towards her father, Henry VIII, which led to her ostensible disinterest in continuing his dynasty.

Drawing upon hitherto overlooked sources, *Gloriana* tells the story of a lion's daughter, a king in queen's clothing, and an inheritor of Henry VIII's chronic instability, cautious religious goals, and British imperialism. Elizabeth emerges not as an insecure sovereign but as the Tudor child who most revered, sought to emulate, and ultimately exceeded Henry in majesty and policy.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Steven Veerapen was born in Glasgow to a Scottish mother and a Mauritian father and raised in Paisley. Pursuing an interest in the sixteenth century, he was awarded a first-class Honours degree in English, focussing his dissertation on representations of Henry VIII's six wives. He is the author of *The Wisest Fool: The Lavish Life of James VI and I*, and lives in Glasgow.

Comparable Titles



Witches • Hbk • 9781780279527



The Wisest Fool • Pbk • 9781780278735



OVERLORD

The Life and Reign of Henry VIII

Steven Veerapen

ISBN 9781780279732

Price £25.00

Publication 02 September 2026

Format 234 x 153 mm Hardback

Category HISTORY

Extent 384 pp

BIC HB, HD

Rights World All Languages

Illustrations 16pp colour plates

rights sold to North America (Pegasus)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A major new book from bestselling historian Steven Veerapen, delving into the infamous life of Henry VIII
- Written by one of Britain's finest historical writers, with rights to both *Overlord* and *Witches* sold to Pegasus (US)
- 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

Henry VIII is one of history's best-known characters and England's most famous monarch. He is simultaneously the virtuous Renaissance prince gone wrong, the psychopathic, paranoid tyrant and the much-married glutton.

Yet Henry didn't see himself as simply King of England. *Overlord* tells Henry's story as he saw it: the tale of a titan whose dominions embraced Scotland, Ireland, Wales, England and, if he could achieve his grandiose ambitions, swathes of France. Drawing on archival sources from across the British Isles, Steven Veerapen shows how Henry created an image of himself as a law-abiding and benevolent emperor, and thereby a rival to his European counterparts. By fair means and foul – murder plots, marriage negotiations and military ventures – he did all he could to realize a hitherto overlooked British dream.

By busting myths about the king – he was not particularly gluttonous, not particularly prudish, and not particularly messy in his religious changes – the real Henry can emerge: a blustering, self-aggrandising actor who swaggered about the stage of the British Isles in search of an imperial fantasy.

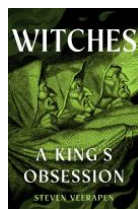
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Related Titles



The Wisest Fool • Pbk • 9781780278735 • £14.99



Witches • Hbk • 9781780279527 • £20.00



THE REINDEER MAN

Kenneth Steven

ISBN 9781780279145

Price £12.99

Publication 01 October 2026 **Format** 198 x 129 mm Hardback

Category Nature Writing

Extent 208 pp

BIC WN, RNKH

Rights WAL inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The extraordinary story of Britain's only free-ranging reindeer herd
- From tough beginnings in the 1950s, the herd now numbers 150 and is a major attraction in the Cairngorms National Park (2 million visitors annually)
- A must-read for nature writing enthusiasts, and visitors to the Cairngorms

DESCRIPTION

This is the extraordinary true story of Mikel Utsi, who came to the Scottish Highlands from Scandinavia with his Swedish-American wife, Ethel Lindgren, after the end of the Second World War.

Mikel was born into a Sami reindeer-herding family in Lapland and had spent his childhood with the herds, migrating up into the mountains and out to the coast of Norway each summer. For Sami people like him, reindeer were of profound significance, lying at the heart of their cultural and spiritual life. Ethel too was fascinated by the world of the reindeer, having observed reindeer-herders whilst exploring Mongolia.

Both fell in love with the Cairngorms and shared a common dream to re-introduce reindeer to Britain's last unspoilt wilderness. Gradually they made that dream come true. This beautifully written book tells how Mikel brought over the first few reindeer from his family's herd in the Swedish Arctic, overcoming numerous obstacles along the way, until the herd was finally established at Rothiemurchus. Now the descendants of Mikel's reindeers are some of the Cairngorms' best-loved residents, seen by thousands of visitors each year.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Kenneth Steven was born in Glasgow, grew up in Highland Perthshire and now lives in Argyll. He took his degree at the University of Glasgow and has studied and taught in Norway, and has translated from Norwegian. He is a widely published poet, novelist and children's author, with 14 book-length collections of poetry to his name.



REVOLUTION

The Making of the Beatles' *White Album*

David Quantick

ISBN 9781846977473

Price £9.99

Publication November 2027 Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category MUSIC

Extent 224 pp

BIC AV, AVG

Rights World All Languages inc. Audio

eBook 9781788858557

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The perfect companion to an extraordinary album by lifelong Beatles fan and Emmy award-winner David Quantick
- A frank and funny track-by-track breakdown of *The White Album* – one of the most important and successful albums of all time
- Completely revised since its original short-run publication in the States in 2002, *Revolution* will satisfy its original audience and appeal to a whole new generation of Beatles fans
- *Revolution* is constantly mentioned on the most popular Beatles podcasts as the book fans most want to see reissued (David's recent episode on I Am the Eggpod reached an audience of 175,000)
- *The White Album* sold 12 million copies in America alone and exerted a massive influence on artists such as Jay-Z and Beyoncé and pop culture in general
- The album's sixtieth anniversary is on 22 November 2028

DESCRIPTION

The White Album came at a turbulent time in the Beatles' story. The band were no longer

the cheerful Mop Tops of Beatlemania days. Now in their late twenties and growing apart, they were looking to solo careers, marriage, new interests. Adrift without their manager Brian Epstein, the band briefly came under the spell of the guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, wrote tons of songs in India, became disillusioned with mysticism and came together to create a fractious, wildly eclectic double album of thirty songs – their last great creative flowering.

Out of print since 2002, *Revolution* was praised by everyone from regular Beatles fans to Mark Lewisohn, quickly sold out and achieved cult status. In this updated new edition, David Quantick offers an entertaining take on an album that's become acknowledged as a towering moment in music and culture. This edition also includes a brand-new chapter by Scott Michaels, who advised Quentin Tarantino on *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, on Charles Manson's appropriation of the album.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

A former freelancer for *NME*, **David Quantick** is an Emmy award-winning writer (*Veep*, 2015), who has worked with Armando Iannucci, Steve Coogan, Chris Morris, Graeme Norton, Rob Brydon and Harry Hill and has contributed to iconic TV shows such as *Spitting Image* and *The Thick of It*. He has written biographies of Eddie Izzard and The Clash, as well as fiction and short stories.

COMPARABLE TITLES



And in the End • Pbk • 9781846975226