

# BIRLINN & POLYGON

LONDON BOOK FAIR 2026

## TRANSLATION RIGHTS GUIDE

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Introduction by  
KIRSTIN INNES

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wens



THE  
MALT  
WHISKY  
MURDERS

NATALIE  
JAYNE  
CLARK

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'A fresh and exciting new  
DOUG JOHNSTONE



Birlinn Limited | Polygon

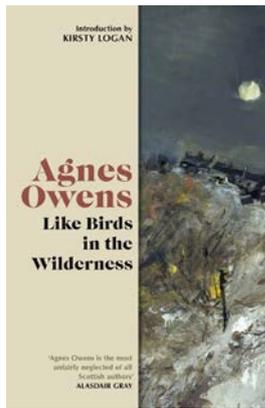
**FICTION**

*Polygon*

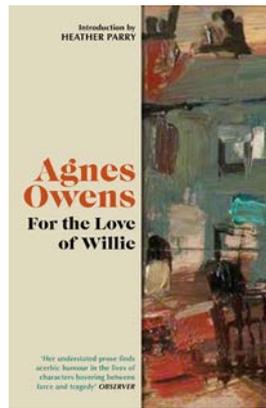
# Agnes Owens

## Celebrating a Scottish Literary Icon

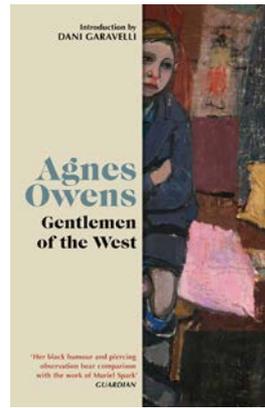
### Publishing May 2026



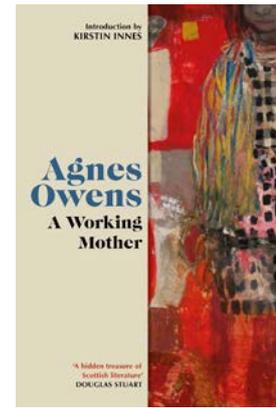
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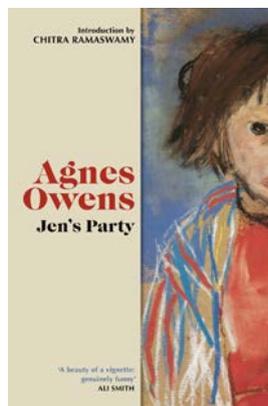


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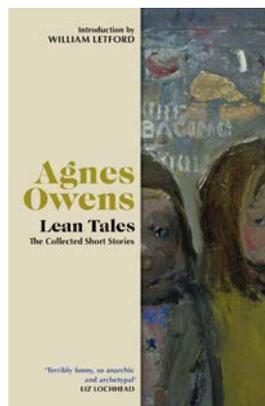


9781846977015

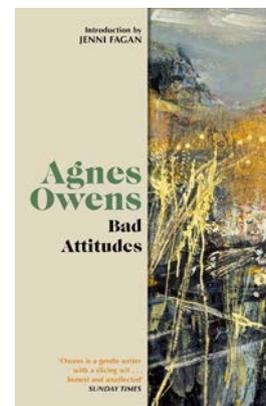
### Publishing September 2026



9781846977039



9781846977046



9781846977022

**'Characters in Agnes Owens' short stories are capable of anything . . . In Owens' world, family relationships are never straightforward'– THE TIMES**

**'Owens is a gentle writer with a slicing wit . . . honest and unaffected' – SUNDAY TIMES**

**'Bad Attitudes is a mini-masterpiece – a delicious, wicked, beautifully observed little black comedy' – INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY**

### **Rights Held: WORLD ALL LANGUAGES (inc. Audio)**

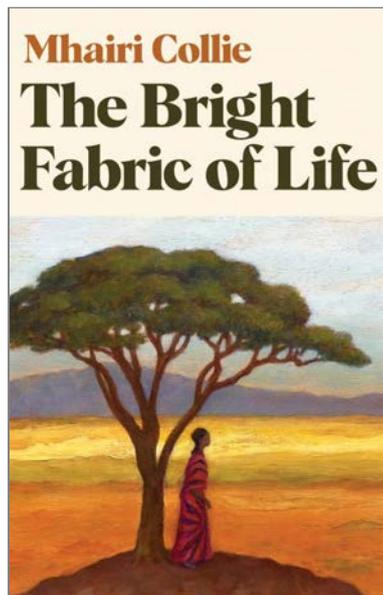
Rediscovering a Scottish literary legend

Rights to the novella *A Working Mother* have been sold to McNally Editions (USA) and Muneco Rusa (Spain). *The Complete Novellas* have been sold to Dmyzero (Italy)

Douglas Stuart (Booker Prize winning author of *Shuggie Bain*) championed Agnes Owens as one of his greatest influences 'I was baptised by the explosion of Scottish writing that burst forth in the nineties such as James Kelman and Irvine Welsh but Agnes Owens, Liz Lochhead, Janice Galloway and Alasdair Gray were like rock stars to me, they were just so cool and very real'

The covers features artwork by Joan Eardley whose exhibition coincides with publication

**Featuring specially commissioned introductions from:**  
KIRSTY LOGAN | JENNI FAGAN | WILLIAM LETFORD | DANI GARAVELLI  
KIRSTIN INNES | CHITRA RAMASWAMY | HEATHER PARRY



# THE BRIGHT FABRIC OF LIFE

Mhairi Collie

New in Paperback

**ISBN** 9781846977268

**Publication** 05 June 2025

**Category** Fiction, Romance

**BIC** FA, FH

**eBook** 9781788857277

**Price** £9.99

**Format** 198 x 129 mm Paperback

**Extent** 288 pp

**Rights** WAL. inc Audio  
(Distributed in North America)

## KEY SELLING POINTS

- An engaging novel for readers who enjoy a story filled with romance and medical drama  
Grey's Anatomy relocated to Africa
- The author is a consultant surgeon who has worked in sub-Saharan Africa to treat women with childbirth injuries
- 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
- Gives a fascinating insight into the psyche of a female surgeon and the plight of women in Africa

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

'Explores flashes of hope amid despair' - David Robinson, *The Scotsman*

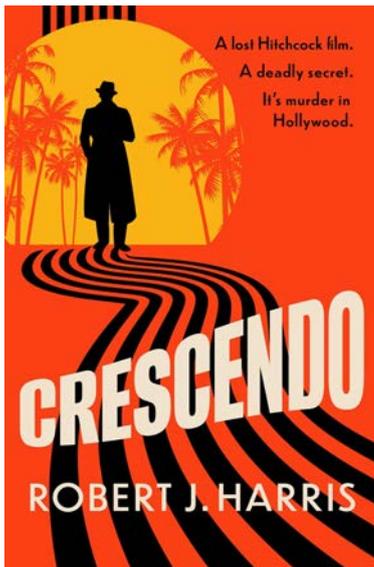
## DESCRIPTION

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 strong-willed surgeon in London, about to embark on an extraordinary, rollercoaster of discovery in Africa.

This heart-wrenching, intelligent novel follows 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.

## 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 rights sold to Pegasus (NA)

## 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.**

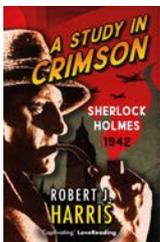
*Hollywood, 1959.* When struggling mystery writer Bobby Burgoyne is hired by Alfred Hitchcock to work on the script for his new film *Crescendo*, he thinks his future success is assured at last. Instead he is swept into a swirling maelstrom of madness and murder. Someone, it seems, is willing to kill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



A Study in Crimson • Pbk • 9781846975967

The Birds and Other Stories • Pbk • 9781844080878

Psycho • Pbk • 9780719810817



# DAVID GREIG

## NEW TITLE (tbc)

### David Greig

**ISBN** 9781846977664

**Publication** June 2027

**Category** HISTORICAL FICTION

**BIC** FV

**Price** £12.00

**Format** 198 x 129 mm Hardback

**Extent** 160 pp

**Rights** WAL inc. Audio

## KEY SELLING POINTS

- David Greig is the author of *Columba's Bones* which was published as part of the Darklands Tales
- Rights were sold to Europa in the US where it was published as *The Book of I* to great critical acclaim ('A small treasure...A bloody and beautiful sojourn in the distant past' — *Kirkus Reviews*)
- An award-winning playwright, his fresh take on dialogue and humour translates seamlessly from stage to page
- In *Columba's Bones* he told a story from the perspective of a viking left behind during a raid, in his new book he tells a story from the perspective of a Caledonian gladiator in Ancient Rome
- Emma Donoghue, prize-winning author of *Room* was a big fan of his debut: 'A dazzlingly fresh take on early medieval life, as funny as it's moving.'
- **Praise for his first novel: 'Written with a vividness that reduces the distance between AD825 and our time to what feels like a thin curtain' — *Times Literary Supplement***  
**'Spans themes of love, death and faith while unpacking the brutality of the mythologised Norsemen with comedy and romance' — *Scotland on Sunday***  
**'Is it historical fiction or delirious fantasy?...I haven't read many books that are at once so murderous and so breezily cheerful' — *The Wall Street Journal***

## DESCRIPTION

In the year 305 AD, ill and old, The great Emperor Diocletian announced his retirement to a crown of tearful legionaries. Born a herdsman in what is now Croatia, he had been hailed as 'the bringer of eternal peace', brought unity to the Empire, enacted bold administrative reform, and successfully suppressed Christianity in favour of the old gods.

Now he wanted to rest. He handed over his empire to his chosen successors: Galerius in the East, and Constantius in the West, before repairing to his palace in Split where he would spend his time gardening. Three years later, the empire had fallen once more into chaos as his successors and their sons, challenged each other in vicious civil wars. Eventually Galerius sent a messenger to Split asking Diocletian to come back to the imperial throne and bring peace once more. Diocletian sent the messenger back with a cabbage, and a note: *'If you could see this cabbage, which I planted with my own hands, you would know not to suggest that I exchange the peace and happiness of my garden for the storms of a greed that can never be satisfied.'*

The civil war carried on for another twenty years until Constantine the Great finally won. Now, as sole emperor, Constantine made Christianity the Imperial religion of the Rome. Sometimes the world turns on a cabbage.

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

**David Greig** is a Scottish playwright who studied Drama and English at Bristol University. He is currently the Artistic Director at Edinburgh's Lyceum Theatre and is the author of *Columba's Bones*.



The Book of I • 9798889661276



Columba's Bones • 9781846976735



# THE FALL OF FRANKENSTEIN

## Dark Futures

### Jenni Fagan

**ISBN** 9781846977534

**Publication** 04 February 2027

**Category** Speculative Fiction

**BIC** FA, FH

**eBook** 9781788858618

**Price** £12.00

**Format** 198 x 129 mm Hardback

**Extent** 176 pp

**Rights** WAL. inc Audio

## 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 2025 and won the Gordon Burn Prize 2025

'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



Hex • Pbk • 9781846976223



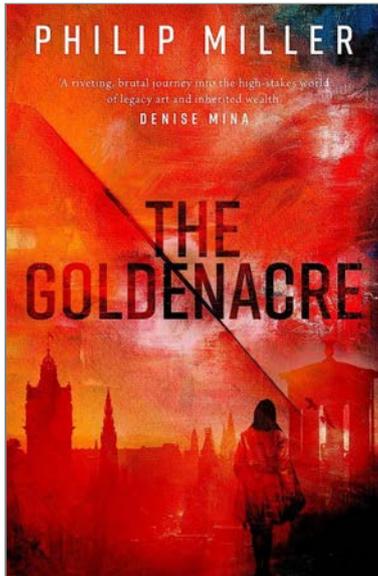
Rizzio • Pbk • 9781846976094



Benbecula • Hbk • 9781846977312



The Book of I • Hbk • 9798889661276



# 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, sold to Soho Press (NA)

(translation for Books 2 & 3 with Robbie Guillory, Underline Literary Agency)

## KEY SELLING POINTS

- Book 1 in the series **sold to Soho Press in the US**, all translation rights are available
- 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, enthrals the art world, but behind it lies a dark and violent mystery.

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*

‘**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*



# THE MALT WHISKY MURDERS 2

Natalie Jayne Clark

**ISBN** 978184697XXXX  
**Publication** May 2027  
**Category** Crime Fiction  
**BIC** FF, FH  
**eBook** 978178885XXXX

**Price** £9.99  
**Format** 198 x 129 mm Paperback  
**Extent** 336 pp  
**Rights** WAL, Book 1 rights sold to Ulverscroft (Audio WEL ex. NA), Ediciones Maeva (Spain) and Alexandra Kiado (Hungary)

## KEY SELLING POINTS

- Darkly comic crime featuring a delightful cast of charming, diverse and frustrating characters
- For fans of Midsomer Murders and Death in Paradise (with a Scottish twist)
- 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
- More than 8K copies sold and features constantly on the Scottish bestseller list
- The Malt Whisky Murders was one of the bestselling books at the Edinburgh International Book Festival and was selected as one of Waterstones Paperbacks of the Year 2025
- Two further books have been signed, featuring whisky and the Scottish landscape, and the two queer woman from *The Malt Whisky Murders*

## PRAISE FOR THE MALT WHISKY MURDERS

'A visceral authenticity, deliciously tempered with dark humour... a bloody marvellous debut' - *Sunday Post*

'A tale told with humour and intensity, jam-packed full of murder' - *LoveReading*, Book of the Month

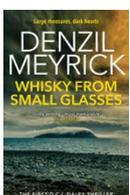
'An entertaining novel, feather-light, flowing along at a good pace... It is brisk and frothy' - Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

'Lashings of dry wit and plenty to keep the amateur sleuth happy' - *Scottish Field*

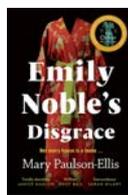
## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

**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  
9781846973215



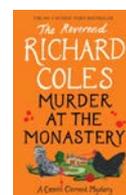
Emily Noble's Disgrace  
9781529036190



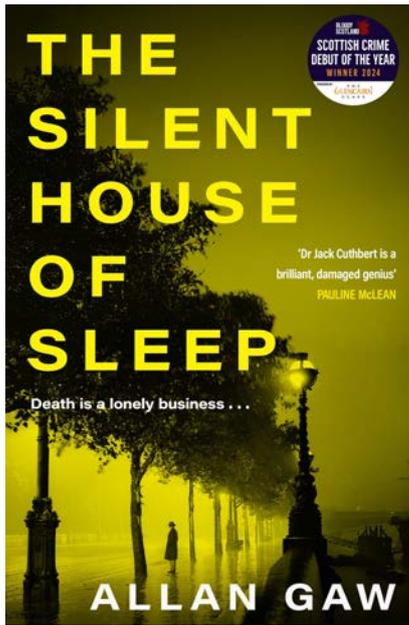
The Mash House  
9781789651195



Fingersmith  
9780349018508



Murder at the Monastery  
9781474612722



# 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 Mysterious Press (NA), Maison Pop (FR), Bolinda (audio))

eBook 9781788857994

## 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
- Rights have been sold to North America (Mysterious Press) and France (Maison Pop)

'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.

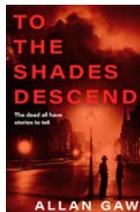
## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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



To the Shades Descend



The Shadows and the Dust



The Last Gifts to the Dead



So Many Thoughts of Blood

## **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 (Sept 2026)**

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 (Jan 2027)**

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 (Sept 2027)**

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.



# THE LIGHT OF ALL THINGS

Merryn Glover

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**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

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## KEY SELLING POINTS

- Merryn is an Australian citizen who attended university in Melbourne, and has worked in education and community arts in Australia, India, Nepal and Scotland
- Her second novel OF STONE AND SKY won the Bookmark Book Festival Book of the Year and was longlisted for the Highland Book Prize
- This new novel, set in Australia and Nepal, is a breathtaking tale that spans a century and the highest peaks in the world
- A deeply engaging novel from a talented author, this book is one that will stay with you long after reading.
- 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

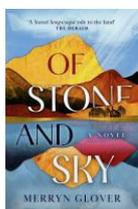
In Melbourne, two strangers from different backgrounds are brought together under unfamiliar circumstances. One hundred-year-old Peter Delaney is near the end, and, as he looks back on his life, he agonises over what it has amounted to and what might have been. Haunted by a tragedy on a mountaineering 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 Light of All Things* 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.

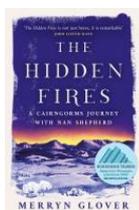
## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

**Merryn Glover** was born in a former Rana palace in Kathmandu and grew up in Nepal, India, Pakistan and Australia. 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. She was the first Writer in Residence to be appointed for the Cairngorms National Park.

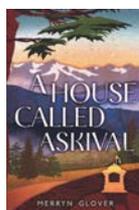
## Related Titles



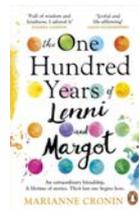
Of Stone and Sky • Pbk  
9781846976087



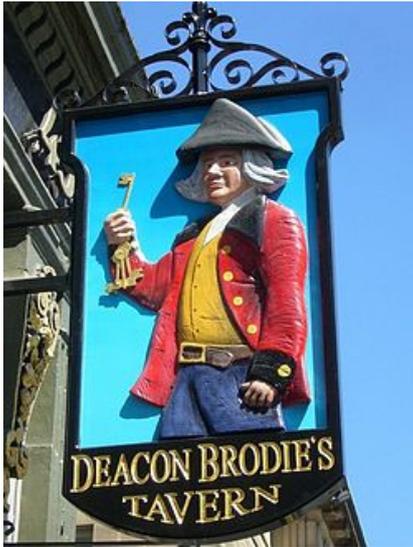
The Hidden Fires • Pbk  
9781846975998



A House Called Askival • Pbk  
9781914368011



The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot • Pbk  
9781529176247



# THE STRANGE CASE OF JACOBINA BRODIE

Michelle Sloan

**ISBN** 9781846977633

**Publication** July 2027

**Category** HISTORICAL FICTION

**BIC** FV, FF

**Price** £9.99

**Format** 198 x 129 mm Paperback

**Extent** 288 pp

**Rights** WAL inc. Audio

## KEY SELLING POINTS

- From the author of two critically-acclaimed novels, *The Edinburgh Skating Club* and *Mrs Burke and Mrs Hare* Her previous novels have sold more than 9,000 copies
- Her books explore the hidden history of women in the shadows of well-known men
- Michelle Sloan delves into the story of Jacobina 'Jamie' Brodie, sister of Edinburgh's Deacon Brodie - a criminal who was executed in Edinburgh in 1788 and allegedly inspired the novel *Jekyll and Hyde*
- Historical fiction for fans of S.G. Maclean, Sara Sheridan and Ambrose Parry

## DESCRIPTION

*Sister, Daughter, Trickster, Thief.*

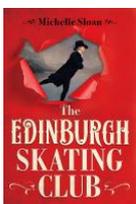
In the Old Town of Edinburgh in the mid-eighteenth century, Jacobina 'Jamie' Brodie and her older brother Will – known in the city as the respectable Deacon Brodie – discover a taste for duplicity. But while Will uses his secret life to fund his gambling habit, Jacobina forms a clandestine society of women, called The Furies, to aid women whose lives have been ruined by men. But when duplicity becomes competitive, risk becomes addictive and peril is an escape from the mundane, how far will Jacobina go?

Years later, in the New Town of Victorian Edinburgh, a sickly boy, Robert, is entertained by his cousin Katherine de Mattos with forbidden 'bogey stories' and penny dreadfuls. But it is his nanny, Cummy, who tells them of the shadowy deeds of Deacon Brodie and his younger sister, the mysterious Jacobina, and the secrets held within the Brodie Cabinet which stands at the foot of young Robert Louis Stevenson's bed.

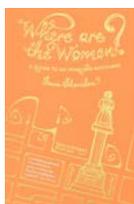
## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

**Michelle Sloan** trained as a primary school teacher and studied drama and arts journalism. She is the author of several books for children. She is the author of two bestselling novels, *The Edinburgh Skating Club* and *Mrs Burke and Mrs Hare*. Originally from Edinburgh, Michelle now lives in Broughty Ferry with her family.

## Related Titles



The Edinburgh Skating Club  
9781846975950



Where are the Women?  
9781849173087



Mrs Burke & Mrs Hare  
9781846976803



Scotland: Her Story  
9781780275987



The Way of All Flesh  
9781786893802



# WHOLENESS

## Chris Barkley

**ISBN** 9781846977640

**Publication** July 2027

**Category** Speculative Fiction

**BIC** FA, FH

**Price** £9.99

**Format** 198 x 129 mm Paperback

**Extent** 288 pp

**Rights** WAL inc. Audio (exc.India)

## KEY SELLING POINTS

- A tender and darkly beguiling speculative novel from the author of *The Man on the Endless Stair*, perfect for fans of *Never Let Me Go* and *Station Eleven*
- Chris Barkley has a growing reputation as an author to look out for, and his following on social media, with just under 65,000 followers, is growing rapidly
- He was shortlisted for Best Rising Scottish Author Award 2025

## PRAISE FOR THE MAN ON THE ENDLESS STAIR

*'An eerie, deeply atmospheric tale of hidden treasure and trauma' – The Times*

*'Close, claustrophobic, evocative. It feels like an unearthed classic' – Hugo Rifkind*

*'The conclusion is a humdinger, a mind-blowing fever dream that will leave readers' heads spinning' – BookPage (US)*

## DESCRIPTION

Beth Harper cannot love, or so she's been told. She has been raised by custodians at Ailsa Craig House in the Scottish Highlands, where children are taught that love can be measured. Custodians take couples before an entity named 'The Judge', and interview them. Couples deemed 'whole' are granted eternal bliss by the judge, while the 'incorrect' are sacrificed.

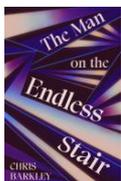
But Beth starts to question things when her closest friends, Daniel and Saskia, are told that they are fated to love. As Beth grows up within Ailsa Craig, she must contend with what she has been taught and what she feels for Daniel.

What Beth doesn't yet know is that the custodians have greater plans for her and the deeper she delves into the mysteries of the judge, the more its will seeps into her . . .

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

**Chris Barkley** was born in the US and educated in England. He achieved a distinction on the MSt in Creative Writing at the University of Oxford. He was appointed Writer in Residence by the Edinburgh International Book Festival in 2022. He won the Oxford University Kellogg Writing Competition in 2021, as well as the Bedford International Writing Prize. He has been shortlisted for the Cambridge Short Story Prize and is the author of *The Man on the Endless Stair*. He lives in Edinburgh and teaches creative writing at Yale University. His parents still live in the US.

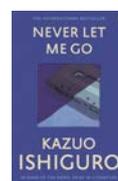
## Related Titles



The Man on the Endless Stair • 9781846976896

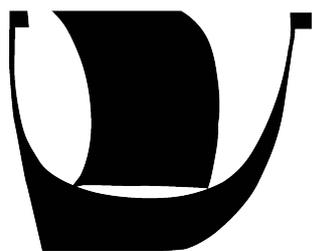


Station Eleven • 9781447268970

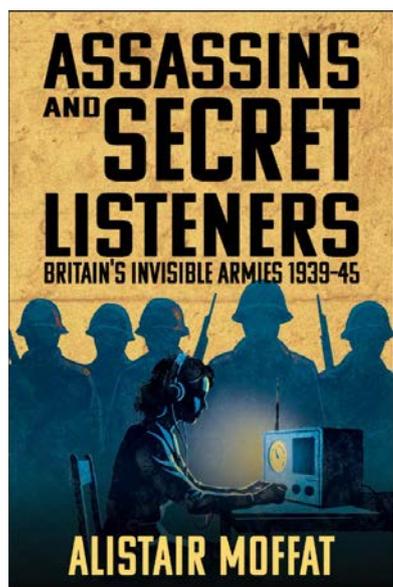


Never Let Me Go • 9780571272136

# NON-FICTION



BIRLINN



# ASSASSINS AND SECRET LISTENERS

Britain's Invisible Armies, 1939-45

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.

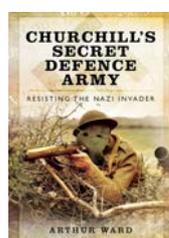
## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

**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.

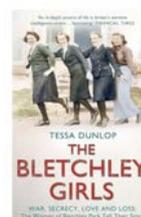
## Comparable Titles



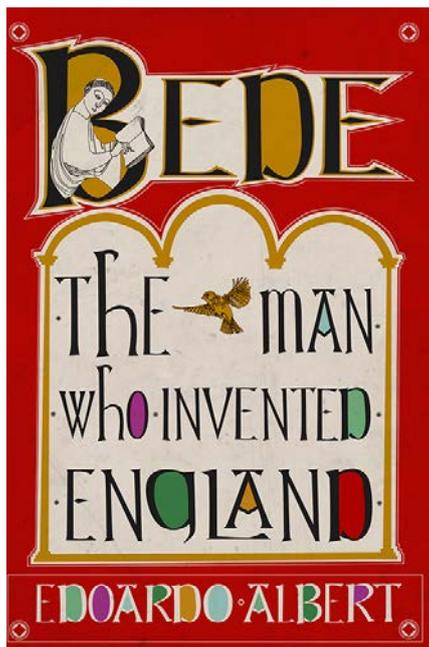
The Secret War • 9780007503902



Churchill's Secret Defence Army • 9781848848085



The Bletchley Girls • 9781444795745



# BEDE: THE MAN WHO INVENTED ENGLAND

Edoardo Albert

**ISBN** 9781780278391

**Publication** 04 June 2026

**Category** HISTORY

**BIC** HB, HD

**Illustrations** 8pp colour plates;  
maps

**Price** £17.99

**Format** 234 x 156 mm Paperback

**Extent** 320 pp

**Rights** WAL inc. Audio

**eBook** 9781788856690

## KEY SELLING POINTS

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

## DESCRIPTION

**What is England, and who are the English?**

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

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

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

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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



# 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 in North America
- Steven Veerapen is one of the best young historians writing in the UK today

### 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*, *Witches: A King's Obsession* and *Overlord: The Life and Reign of Henry VIII*. He lives in Glasgow.

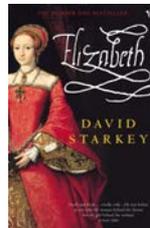
### Comparable Titles



*Witches* • 9781780279527



*The Wisest Fool* • 9781780278735



*Elizabeth* • 9780099286578



*Elizabeth I* • 9781399021135

# PRAISE FOR STEVEN VEERAPEN

## PRAISE FOR THE WISEST FOOL

‘It does not flinch from the flaws of character ... a real page-turner for lovers of history’  
**Philippa Gregory**

‘Shows that James VI and I was no fool...this is a very engaging book’  
**Allan Massie, The Scotsman**

‘An extremely well-balanced account of James’ character... a highly accomplished and well-written work of creative non-fiction’  
**Country Life**

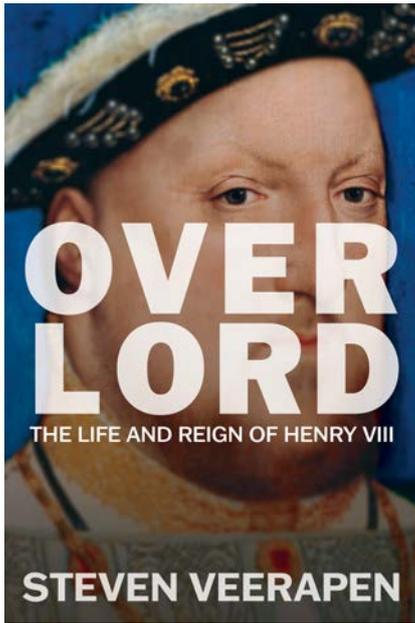
a sensitive portrait of a king who, despite errors of judgement managed to negotiate a period of exceptional political and religious turbulence... this is a probing, wellrounded and very readable account  
**Rosemary Goring Herald**

## PRAISE FOR WITCHES

‘An insightful, brilliant account – and analysis – of a dark chapter in history. In Veerapen’s hands, the spectre of the witch and the witch-hunter are brought to life, as are the complex and fascinating details of how King James and his people saw the supernatural world. Bone-chilling and compelling’  
**Gareth Russell, author of Queen James**

‘This judicious study offers a nuanced understanding of of James VI and I’s preoccupation with witches and witchcraft... gives the story an overdue subtlety’  
**Stuart Kelly, The Scotsman**

‘A fascinating read for anyone interested in early modern history, witch hunts, or the rationale behind the irrational’  
**Books from Scotland, Bookseller Books of the Year**



# OVERLORD

## The Life and Reign of Henry VIII

Steven Veerapen

**ISBN** 9781780279732

**Publication** 06 August 2026

**Category** HISTORY

**BIC** HB, HD

**Illustrations** 16pp colour plates

**Price** £25.00

**Format** 234 x 153 mm Hardback

**Extent** 384 pp

**Rights** WAL inc. Audio

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
- By one of Britain's finest young 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.

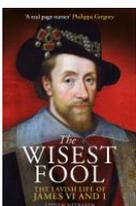
Yet Henry didn't see himself as simply King of England. *Overlord* tells Henry's story as he saw it: the tale of a titan whose dominions embraced Scotland, Ireland, Wales, England and, if he could achieve his grandiose ambitions, swathes of France. Drawing on archival sources from across the British 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.

### 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*, *Witches: A King's Obsession* and *Overlord: The Life and Reign of Henry VIII*. He lives in Glasgow.

### 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

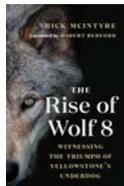
**Kenneth Steven** was born in Glasgow, grew up in Highland Perthshire and now lives in Argyll. He took his degree at the University of Glasgow and has studied and taught in Norway, and has translated from Norwegian. He is a widely published poet, novelist and children's author, with 14 book-length collections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



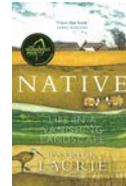
Wilding • 9781509805105



Regeneration • 9781780277592



The Rise of Wolf 8 • 9781771647809



Native • 9781780277073



# 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.



And in the End  
9781846975226



With a Little Help From their Friends  
9780008705862



One, Two, Three, Four  
9780008340032



With the Beatles  
9781914227691



# WILD PINES

## In Search of Scotland's Forgotten Woodlands

Andrew Painting

**ISBN** 9781836920212

**Publication** May 2027

**Category** Nature Writing

**BIC** WN, RGLB

**Illustrations** 8pp colour plates; maps

**Price** £20.00

**Format** 234 x 153 mm Hardback

**Extent** 256 pp

**Rights** WAL inc. Audio

### KEY SELLING POINTS

- A powerful ecological tale of loss, adventure, and (partial) redemption
- Andrew Painting is the author of the acclaimed *Regeneration: The Rescue of a Wild Land*, also published by Birlinn

'Hugely enjoying and inspiring' - Isabella Tree

'Companionable, humorous and buoyant' - *BBC Countryfile* magazine

### DESCRIPTION

The Caledonian Pinewoods once covered huge swathes of the Scottish Highlands and are a living testament to more than 9,000 years of cultural and ecological history. Now, at a time of nature and climate emergency, their future hangs in the balance.

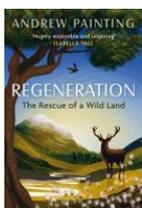
This book tells the story of a band of ecologists who are working to save the forgotten remnants of this remarkable habitat and restore them to their former glory. Camping out in the misty hills, they search ravines, rivers, long-abandoned villages and snow-clad scree slopes for ancient trees clinging on to life. Clues from placenames, old maps and local knowledge complement their painstaking, footsore work as they strive to fill in the gaps in our understanding of one of the jewels in the crown of Scottish nature.

What begins as a search for our last wild pines becomes a quest for hope in a time of ecological crisis and poses larger questions: can we live in partnership with nature in a changing world? What is the place for the Caledonian Pinewoods as we enter the Anthropocene?

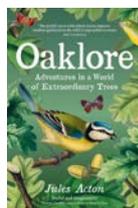
### AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

**Andrew Painting** grew up in the south of England and studied English at King's College, London and Environmental Anthropology at Aberdeen University. He moved to Scotland to volunteer with the RSPB and since 2016 has been Assistant Ecologist at the Mar Lodge Estate.

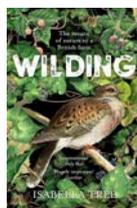
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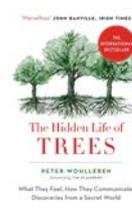
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