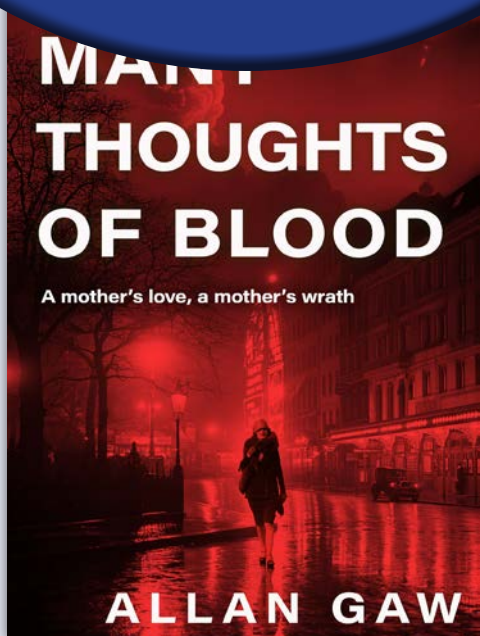
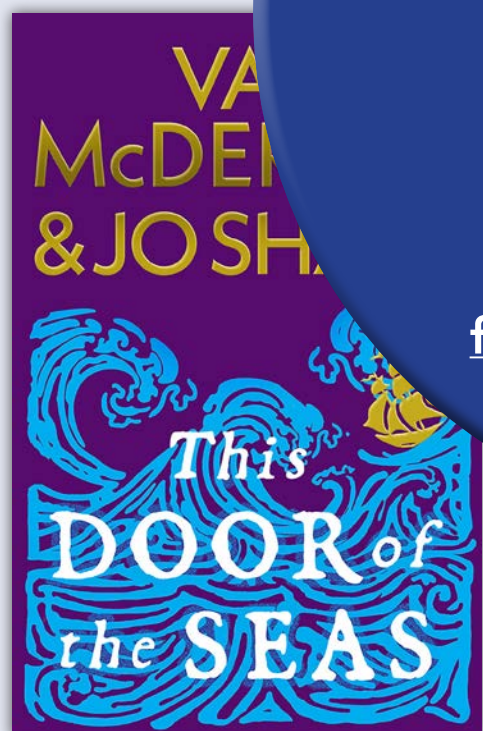
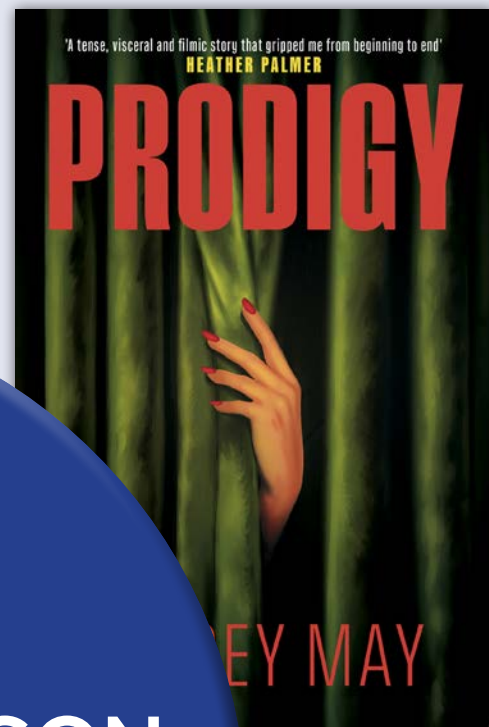
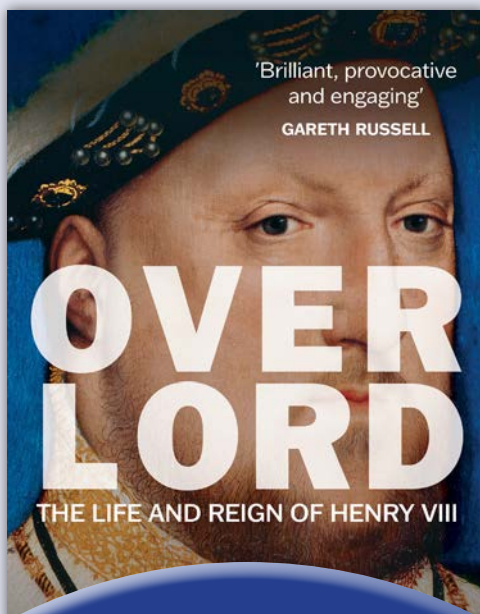
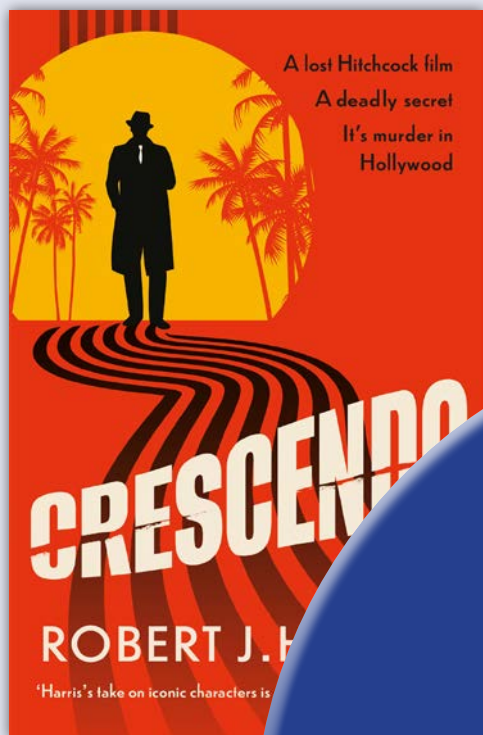




BIRLINN & POLYGON

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR
2026 RIGHTS GUIDE

RIGHTS REPRESENTED BY
FIONA BROWNLEE
fiona@brownleedonald.com

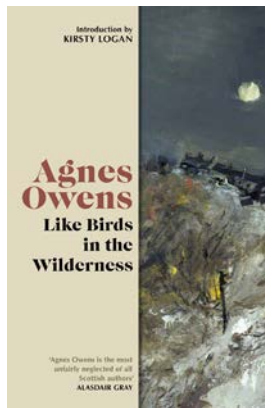
FICTION

Polygon

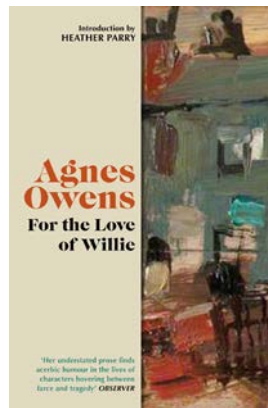
Agnes Owens

Celebrating a Scottish Literary Icon

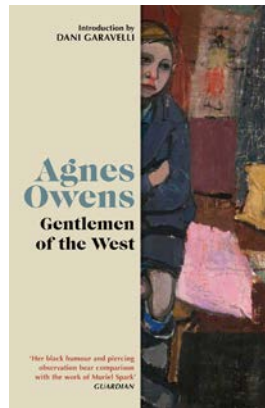
Publishing May 2026



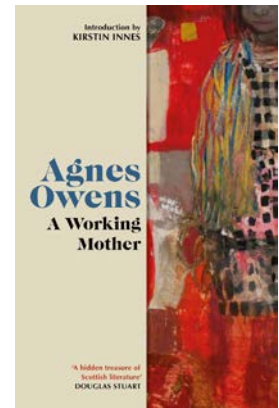
9781846977596



9781846977589

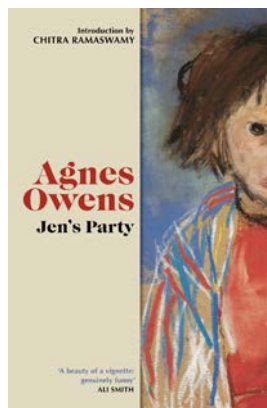


9781846977602

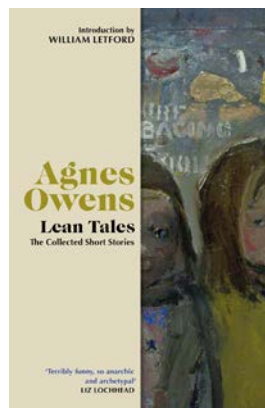


9781846977015

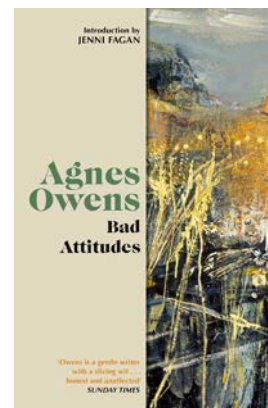
Publishing September 2026



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 Muñeca Infinita (Spain). *The Complete Novellas* have been sold to Safarà (Italy). Rights for all titles have been sold to Nilsson Forlag in Sweden.

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



A BEAR AMONG WOLVES

C.C. Kilpatrick

ISBN 9781846977558

Price £10.99

Publication May 2027

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Speculative Fiction

Extent 560 pp

BIC FA

Rights WEL inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *A Bear Among Wolves* set in 1950s America is a debut thriller by a US author
- In the vein of *1984*, *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Brave New World*, *A Bear Among Wolves* has poignant resonance today
- It balances high concept with an intimate cast of well-developed and empathetic characters
- It will appeal to fans of *Fatherland*, *The Man in the High Castle* and *Station Eleven*

EARLY REVIEWS

'An incredibly gripping and powerful novel with tremendous pace' – Peter Straus

'A brilliant debut . . . a thoughtful, magisterial alternate history' – Philipp Meyer

DESCRIPTION

October 1957, Sputnik 1 streaks across the American skies. But, in this world, it's not the opening shot in a space race but the final proof of Russian domination across the Atlantic. The USA is now a fading memory – the disastrous consequence of FDR's early assassination and Washington's atomic pact with Hitler – and the People's Republic of America, the Soviet Union's most promising new vassal state, is our reality.

On the face of it *A Bear Among Wolves* is thriller about the 'patriots' trying to reclaim America from the Russians. An America which was invaded by Germany during the war then liberated. An America where the stars on the US flag have been replaced by a hammer and sickle. However, it's far more layered than that, featuring two protagonists on opposing sides both equally convinced that they are the good guys.

Zhenya, a disgraced colonel in the Russian army born in America who is freed from a labour camp and sent back to the US to find out who is compromising the stability of the new joint regime, in return for being reunited with her child.

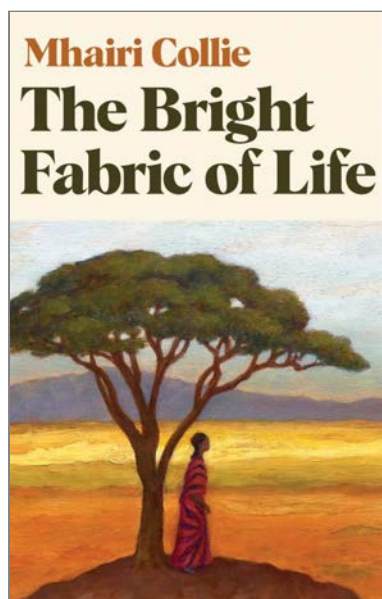
Nick, whose parents were killed and sister raped by Russians when they 'liberated' America who is committed to sabotaging them in any way he can. In what could echo conversations today, Nick's allies '*didn't talk about blood and soil. They talked about family. Tradition. Honour. And, some of them, God. Building a better world for free men who didn't have to be afraid.*'

He thinks he is on the right side when in fact he is anything but. The parallels are frightening.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

The author **C.C. Kilpatrick** is a screenwriter living in Florida with his wife and children. He was born and raised in Texas and holds a FMA from Sarah Lawrence College. His short fiction has appeared in *McSweeney's* and *Post Road*. This is his first novel.

A Bear Among Wolves was acquired for Polygon by editor-at-large, James Crawford, who when he's not commissioning books for the Polygon list, is the presenter of the main BBC Radio 4 books programme, *Take Four Books*. It will be published by Polygon in March 2027.



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*

'It is impossible not to be moved by this gravely beautiful book' - Alexander McCall Smith

'A story that should be told. Mhairi Collie's writing is full of compassion and thoughtfulness' - Kirsty Young

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.



THE BUREAU OF SECOND CHANCES

Sheena Kalayil

ISBN 9781846973925 Price £8.99

Publication June 2017 Format 195 x 130 mm Paperback

Category Fiction

Extent 320 pp

BIC FA, FRD

Rights WAL exc. North America

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Sheena Kalayil has been longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2026
- Winner of the **Writers' Guild Best First Novel Award** and Shortlisted for the **Edward Stanford Travel Awards - Fiction With a Sense of Place**
- A beautifully written novel, charting the bittersweet twists and turns of love and the human yearning for happiness
- Mainly set in the lush and sensual Kerala, on the west coast of India, this charming story will appeal to fans of both the novel and film adaptation of Deborah Moggach's *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*

DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

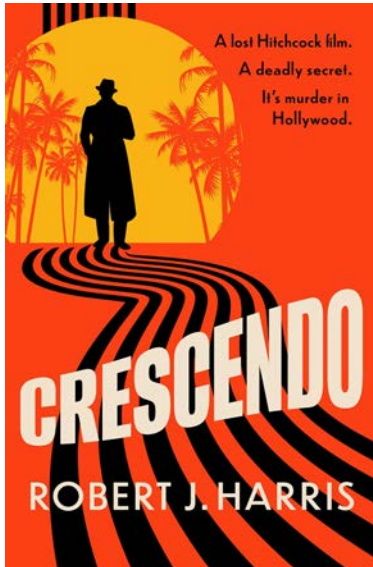
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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

Related Titles



The Others • Pbk • 9781915789389



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.

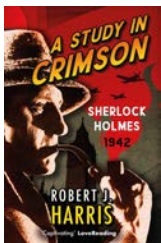
Hollywood, 1959. When struggling mystery writer Bobby Burgoyne is hired by Alfred Hitchcock to work on the script for his new film *Crescendo*, he thinks his future success is assured at last. Instead he is swept into a swirling maelstrom of madness and murder. Someone, it seems, is willing to kill to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

PRAISE FOR CRESCENDO

‘Crescendo is a pitch-perfect pastiche that will delight fans of Raymond Chandler as well as those of Hitchcock ... comes to a fittingly swoony climax when revelation upon revelation leads to romance. Now all we need is someone to film it’

Mark Sanderson, *The Times*

‘Harris brings 1950s Tinseltown to life with sparkling dialogue and Easter Eggs galore, and the core mystery is gloriously unpredictable. For film buffs this is a sure thing’

Publishers Weekly (US)

‘Harris clearly had a great time writing his latest mystery ... an entertaining romp through noir’s most recognisable tropes, from femme fatales to wise-cracking dames, as well as hard drinking, car chases, gangster goons, family secrets and lucky escapes’

Scotland on Sunday

‘Well-paced, ably-plotted and with characterisation, dialogue and writing all working. Deserves much attention and, to take the spiral further, a film’

Jeremy Black, *The Critic*

‘With witty yet preceptive dialog, Harris captures Hollywood’s brassy soul and Hitchcock’s magnetic mastery. This slam-dunk novel is sure to make Harris, alongside Hitchcock, a household name for mystery fans of all ages’

Barbara Conaty, *Library Journal (US)*

‘[A] swaggering stylish historical thriller set in Hitchcock’s Hollywood ... Harris is adept at bringing history to vibrant life’

Liz Robinson, *LoveReading*

‘Harris is adept at smart guy interior monologues in the spirit of Raymond Chandler. Hitchcock aficionados will enjoy spending time with the big man and fans of Chandler will enjoy the wise guy exchanges as Burgoyne and Tess track the villain across Tinseltown and into a climactic resolution worthy of any noir thriller’

Historical Novel Society



DIOCLETIAN'S CABBAGE

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 DRIVING SEAT

Abigail Abbas

ISBN 9781846976926

Publication 02 April 2026

Category Debut Fiction

BIC FV, F

Price £9.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 288 pp

Rights WEL, rights sold to W.F. Howes (audio), Henry Holt (NA)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Polygon's lead debut of 2026
- *The Driving Seat* is a darkly comic domestic noir with compelling plotting and an electrifying final showdown
- Perfect blend of Muriel Spark's dry wit, Nicola Barker's humanity and Lucy Foley's plot twists
- The acquiring editor at Henry Holt in the US compared it to *Sorrow and Bliss* by Meg Mason
- 'A thrill from start to finish ... full of wit and warmth' - **Natalie Jayne Clark**
- 'Delightfully eccentric' - **Esther Walker, journalist and author of 'Well, This is Awkward'**

DESCRIPTION

Emma Propeller thought she'd swerved the wreckage of her marriage.

When her husband returns from rehab with a new lover, Emma bolts with her baby on a midnight train to a castle in the Scottish Highlands. A job as a live-in driver for a glamorous marchioness promises safety and the chance to reinvent herself. Everything seems to have fallen into place.

But the castle is no sanctuary. Dark secrets stalk its halls, the marchioness's behaviour spirals into the unhinged and someone, Emma suspects, is following her. She hasn't steered herself out of danger – she's driven straight into it.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

After graduating with a first in English, **Abigail Abbas** began her career in financial PR. She left the City to raise her children and worked as an illustrator, later embarking on an MA in Illustration at Camberwell College of Art. She lives in London.

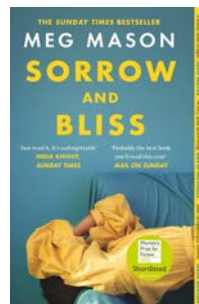
COMPARABLE TITLES



The Guest List • 9780008297190



My Year of Rest and Relaxation • 9781784877477



Sorrow and Bliss • 9781474622998



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



Denise Mina • Pbk • 9781846976094



Benbecula • Hbk • 9781846977312



The Book of I • Hbk • 9798889661276



GRYLA

A Midwinter Tale

Sally Magnusson

ISBN 9781846977770**Publication** October 2027**Category** HISTORICAL FICTION**BIC** FV, FT**Price** £12.00**Format** 198 x 129 mm Hardback**Extent** 176 pp**Rights** WAL (inc. Audio)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The first book in the Midwinter Tales, a brand-new series of Christmas-themed novellas from some of Scotland's most exciting authors
- A fresh and original novel that takes in Icelandic and Scottish Christmas traditions set in the beautifully atmospheric Cairngorms
- A light-hearted, humorous novel that shows the importance of kindness, respect and humanity
- Grýla is the hideous troll-mother of the Icelandic Yule lads, who, in a deeply unsettling tradition reaching back to the 13th century, were believed to come down from the mountains on the thirteen days leading up to Christmas Eve

DESCRIPTION

85-year-old Inga is a new resident of a care home in the Highlands. Lonely and disorientated, she is convinced that the mountain range she can see through the window is Esja, the one she saw every day growing up in Iceland.

But as the countdown to Christmas begins, Inga notices strange goings on in – an intruder in the kitchen, figures sneaking about at night, strange noises, meals being tampered with. She tells everyone it's the Yule Lads. But the person she's really worried about is Grýla. But no one seems to be taking Inga seriously.

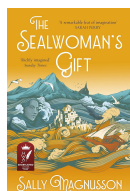
Worst of all, people are disappearing. First frail, sweet-natured Chrissie, who doesn't turn up for breakfast one day. Then a shouty old man is heard being dragged to a car against his will. Who will Grýla go after next? And will people start to believe what Inga is saying?

In a heartwarming, darkly funny tale of friendship, courage and the magic of being heard, a group of residents discover that they are stronger together – and that sometimes, at Christmas, the most extraordinary things happen when you choose to believe.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Sally Magnusson has written 10 books. Her debut novel, *The Sealwoman's Gift*, was a Radio 2 Book Club and Zoe Ball Book Club selection, and was shortlisted for several prizes, including the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award, the Saltire Fiction Book of the Year, the Paul Torday Memorial Prize, the McKitterick Prize, the Waverton Good Read Award and the HWA Debut Fiction Crown. *The Ninth Child*, her second novel, was published in spring 2020, and was followed by *Music in the Dark* in 2023.

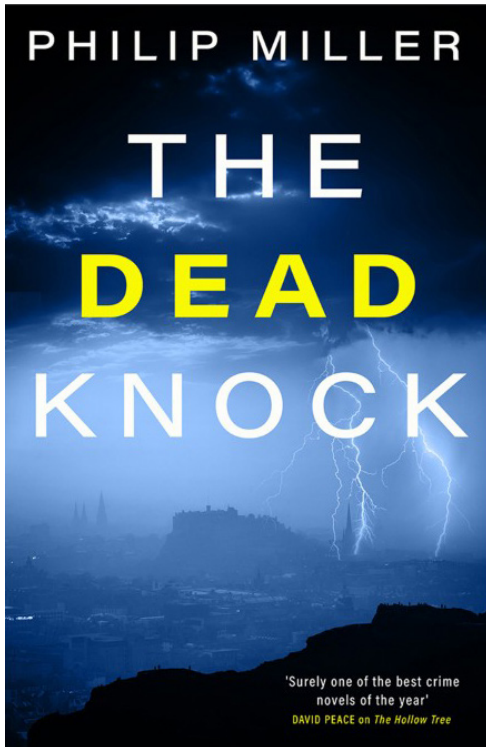
Related Titles



The Sealwoman's Gift • pbk • 9781473638983

THE SHONA SANDISON MYSTERIES

Philip Miller



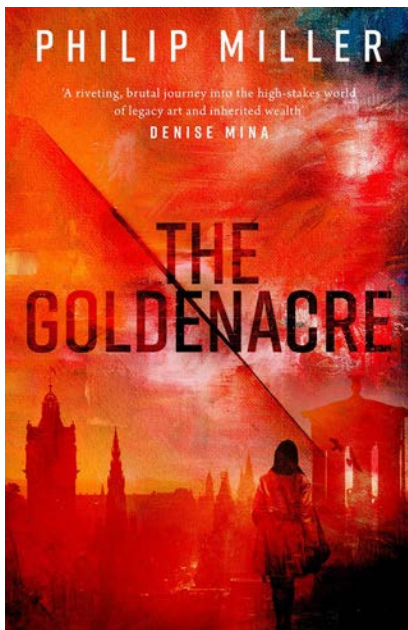
THE DEAD KNOCK

9781846977626 | £9.99 pbk | March 2027

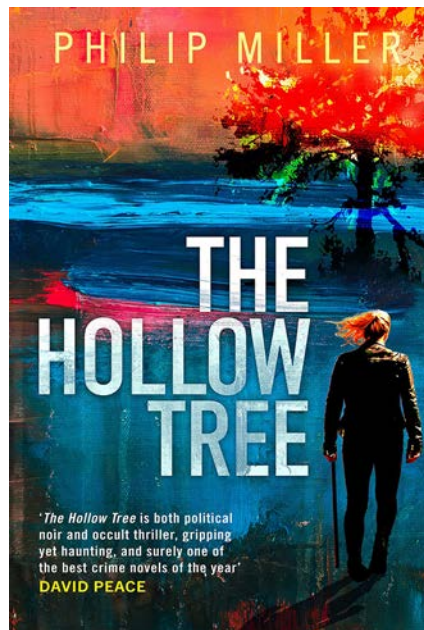
World All Languages inc. Audio

Shona Sandison returns to investigate sinister crimes forged in the shadows of Edinburgh's buried past. After being caught in a deadly blast that rips through the city's Old Town, Sandison unearths a dark trail that uncovers the city's century-old secret and the sinister plans of one of the world's most powerful men.

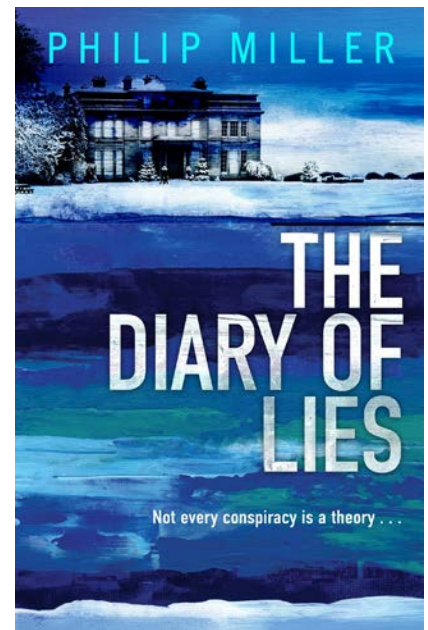
Encountering strange new allies, old friends and an ancient riddle, Shona's perilous path leads to a brutal confrontation with the ruthless ambition of those whose wealth and power is never enough.



THE GOLDENACRE
9781846975936



THE HOLLOW TREE
9781846976483



THE DIARY OF LIES
9781846976841

Rights Held: WORLD ALL LANGUAGES (inc. Audio)

North American rights sold to Soho Crime

Bulgarian rights sold to Aviana

Audio rights sold to W.F. Howes

'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

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



MURDER COMES TO WHISKY CASTLE

Natalie Jayne Clark

ISBN 9781846977657 Price £9.99

Publication July 2027 Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Category Crime

Extent 272 pp

BIC FF, FA

Rights World All Languages

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A whodunit for fans of *Knives Out*, *The Traitors*, Iain Banks, Lucy Foley and all lovers of crime and whisky, *Murder Comes to Whisky Castle* is a sharp-eyed, witty look at the world of celebrity whiskies and toxic influencer culture
- *Murder Comes to Whisky Castle* is the follow-up to bestseller *The Malt Whisky Murders* – with more than 10,000 copies sold – after being shortlisted for the Bloody Scotland Debut Prize in 2025, and features the same protagonists
- Rights for her previous title *The Malt Whisky Murders* were sold to Hungary (Alexandra Kiado) and Spain (Ediciones Maeva) with audio sold to Ulverscroft
- Dufftown, Speyside, is the Malt Whisky Capital of the World

DESCRIPTION

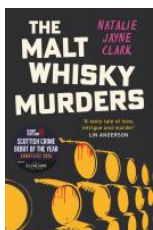
When Eilidh and her wife Morag receive an invitation to spend Christmas in rural isolation at the sumptuous Whisky Castle, they pack their bags immediately. A week in Dufftown is just what they need after the stress of getting their Campbeltown distillery up and running. Along with other industry professionals, they'll be creating content for a celebrity couple who are keen to rebrand themselves and shift from reality TV into the whisky business.

Unfortunately, events take a sinister turn when Eilidh discovers a body in the castle turret. As a snow storm engulfs the castle, trapping all the guests, Eilidh has to navigate whisky tastings, power cuts and secret passageways – and everyone becomes a suspect.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Natalie Jayne Clark is a neurodivergent writer, editor and producer based in Perth. Natalie writes for *SNACK Magazine*, is the Assistant Producer for StAnza Poetry Festival, and works across the arts and culture industry in a variety of roles. She first became interested in whisky as a student in Stirling, and has since passed her Whisky Ambassador tests with full marks and become an accredited Whisky Ambassador. She has visited several distilleries across Scotland and Ireland, and hopes to one day visit more distilleries across the world. She is the author of the bestselling *The Malt Whisky Murders* (Polygon, 2025).

Comparable Titles



Praise for THE MALT WHISKY MURDERS

Shortlisted for the Bloody Scotland Debut Prize 2025

‘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... while the thrills and literal spills are ramped up, a love for the drink and fascination with the industry shines through’

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

‘A terrific novel’

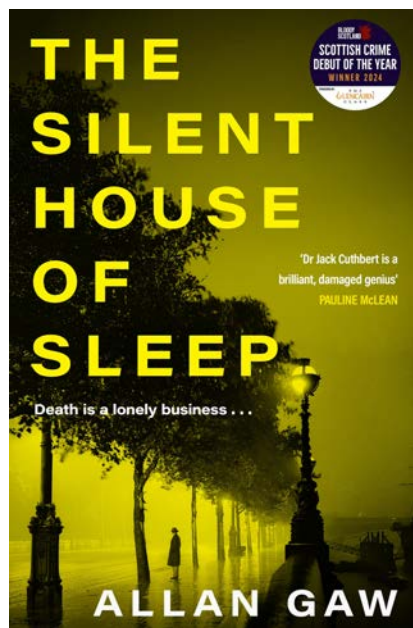
Nicola Meighan, A Kick Up the Arts podcast

‘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 Mysterious

eBook 9781788857994

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

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.

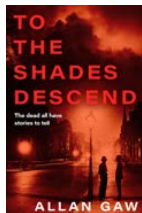
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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.

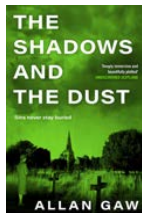
Also Available



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)

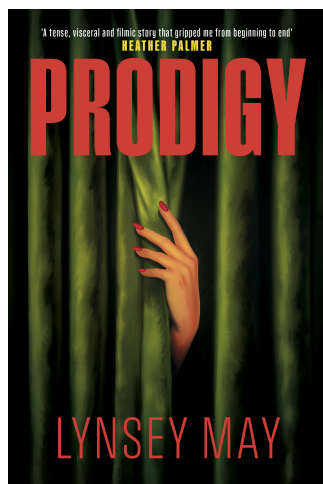
A night at the theatre for Dr Jack Cuthbert proves to be the beginning of a baffling backstage murder investigation.

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.



PRODIGY

Lynsey May

ISBN 9781846977459 Price £12.99

Publication April 2027 Format 198 x 129 mm Hardback

Category Fiction

Extent 272 pp

BIC FA, FH

Rights WEL inc Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A compelling novel about a former Hollywood child star who comes to Scotland to shoot an indie horror film, only to realise that the monster she's awakening might be within
- For fans of Rebecca K. Reilly's *Greta and Valdin*, Jean Beagin's *Big Swiss* and Claire Powell's *At the Table*
- In June 2024, Lynsey was selected as one of '10 Rising Stars of UK Writing' as part of ILX 10, an international Lit Exchange programme from the National Centre of Writing
- *Prodigy* takes its cues from Jeanette McCurdy's *I'm Glad My Mom Died* and Silvia Moreno-Garcia's *Silver Nitrate* in its depictions of Hollywood, but Meri's voice – breezy, confident yet also vulnerable – is completely her own

'Brutal and brilliant' – Heather Palmer, author of *Deathbound* and *Bloodbound*

'An unforgettable tale of familial betrayal and the dark side of the entertainment industry... May's voice is a force to be reckoned with' - Allyson Shaw, author of *Ashes & Stones*

DESCRIPTION

Meridith Baxter is a former child star on the brink of obscurity. Famous for being the unacknowledged love child of Hollywood heartthrob Richard Thorne as well as her roles in classic sitcoms, Meri's career ended abruptly after her performance as a teenage scream queen in cult horror movie, *Kin*.

When old clips of *Kin* go viral, ambitious director-duo Calum and Kiran seize the moment. They're filming a low-budget indie horror, *Prodigy*, set in Scotland – and they want *her*. Meri jumps at the chance, and why wouldn't she? Her toxic mom Cici's megachurch is trying to recruit her, the bills for her beloved New York apartment are suffocating, and no one's stopping her on the street any more. Meanwhile, her childhood frenemy Savannah is the hottest pop star on the planet.

But when filming starts, online rumours swirl about a certain producer who gave Meri and Savannah their big breaks. And as Cici sharpens her claws in the heat of LA, Meri begins to unravel on set in the dark woods of Burntisland. Will resurrecting her career unearth secrets from the past Meri would rather keep buried?

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Lynsey May lives, loves and writes in Edinburgh. She won first place in the Fresh Ink novel contest in 2020, a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award in 2013, a Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship in 2015 and a spot as Cove Park's Emerging Scottish Writer in 2016. Her short fiction has been published in various journals and anthologies, including *The Stinging Fly*, *Gutter*, *New Writing Scotland* and *Banshee*.

Comparable Titles



Greta and Valdin • Pbk • 9781804946077



Weak Teeth • Pbk • 9781846976629



THE LIMITS

Emily Munro

ISBN 9781846977527
Publication July 2027
Category Debut Fiction
BIC FA, FH
eBook 9781788858601

Price £9.99
Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback
Extent 272 pp
Rights World English Language
 inc. Audio

KEY SELLING POINTS

- *The Limits* is a multi-POV speculative debut novel that deals with environmental, technological and political themes
- Set in a near-future where emergency measures have been implemented to halt fossil fuel extraction worldwide
- Literary fiction with genre elements of cli-fi, speculative, thriller
- Will appeal to fans of Emily St John Mandel and Martin MacInnes

'An ambitious and impressive novel . . . It's elegantly written, full of interesting speculation and taut action, and reminded me in places of Ned Beaman's recent novels. With this outstanding debut, Munro is clearly a writer to watch' – MARTIN MACINNES

DESCRIPTION

In a technologically advanced and ecologically devastated future, The Denizen corporation has converted a North Sea oil rig into a flagship wellness retreat. At New Province all needs are catered for in line with the philosophies of Dr Agwe whose self-help book, co-authored by an AI named Jared, has become a touchstone for the rich.

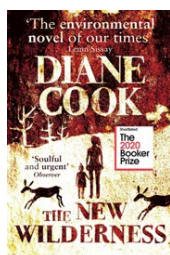
Lenna and Paul Grant, together with daughter Mimi, have invested everything to end their current lives at New Province. Placing their trust in Dr Agwe, they hope to be reanimated in the future. But their plans are disrupted when Mimi goes missing and the Grants are captured by The Limits, a masked militant group who want to put Paul on trial for ecological crimes. Their luxury suite transforms into sinister courtroom while the hotel slides into meltdown, leaving Lenna and Paul at a crossroads. Should they fight back or comply with the kidnappers demands?

Told from multiple perspectives, *The Limits* explores the problem of a fractured society ruled by corporations, where technology has become a lifeline and a curse. It asks how love is possible and in what forms when people are divided and the gap between those who have choices and those who do not grows ever wider.

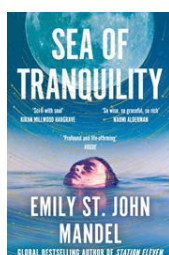
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Emily Munro is an author, filmmaker and curator. She has an MLitt in Creative Writing from Glasgow University and was selected for Creative Scotland's writers' development scheme, Our Voices, in 2022. Her archive documentary *Living Proof: A Climate Story* (2021) received critical acclaim and was nominated for the prestigious FOCAL International Awards (2022).

COMPARABLE TITLES



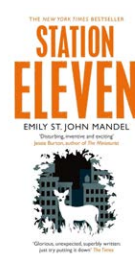
The New Wilderness • 9780861540013



Sea of Tranquility • 9781529083514



In Ascension • 9781838956271



Station Eleven • 9781447268970

PRAISE FOR THE LIMITS

'The Limits is an ambitious and impressive novel of the near future, where an extinct oil platform attracts techno-spiritual gurus intent on digital immortality. It's elegantly written, full of interesting speculation and taut action, and reminded me in places of Ned Beaman's recent novels. With this outstanding debut, Munro is clearly a writer to watch'

MARTIN MACINNES, author of *In Ascension*

'The Limits is a biting satire on late-stage capitalism, shirked responsibilities, and the extreme effort people will make to put distance between themselves and what they've done . . . a timely, sharp and deeply humane novel about all the other things we'll be doing as the world comes to an end'

NEIL D.A. STEWART, author of *The Glasgow Coma Scale*

'Intricately plotted, tender and terrifying, The Limits is a sharply realised vision of climate collapse, corporate guilt and the human longing to be saved. I couldn't put it down'

SETH INSUA, author of *Human, Animal and Man and Wife*

'I found myself drawn into Emily Munro's brilliantly imagined dark dystopia . . . A stunning and powerful debut from a writer with a huge future'

**JOHN IRONMONGER, author of
*The Whale at the End of the World***

'A tense, terrifying vision of an all-too-plausible future, written with extraordinary tenderness for the humans trapped in it. Emily Munro is a beautiful writer, and a new voice well worth listening to'

KIRSTIN INNES, author of *Scabby Queen*



THE LIGHT OF ALL THINGS

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 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

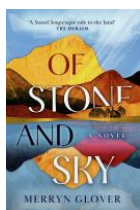
In Melbourne, two strangers from different backgrounds are brought together under unfamiliar circumstances. One hundred-year-old Peter Delaney is near the end, and, as he looks back on his life, he agonises over what it has amounted to and what might have been. Haunted by a tragedy on a mountaineering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

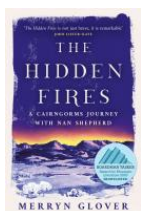
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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.

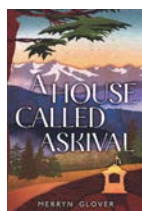
Related Titles



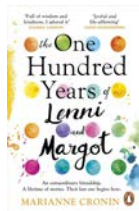
Of Stone and Sky • Pbk
9781846976087



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.

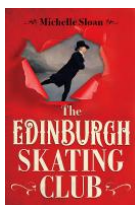
In the Old Town of Edinburgh in the mid-eighteenth century, Jacobina 'Jamie' Brodie and her older brother Will – known in the city as the respectable Deacon Brodie – discover a taste for duplicity. But while Will uses his secret life to fund his gambling habit, Jacobina forms a clandestine society of 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.

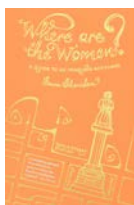
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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.

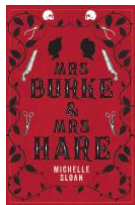
Related Titles



The Edinburgh Skating Club
9781846975950



Where are the Women?
9781849173087



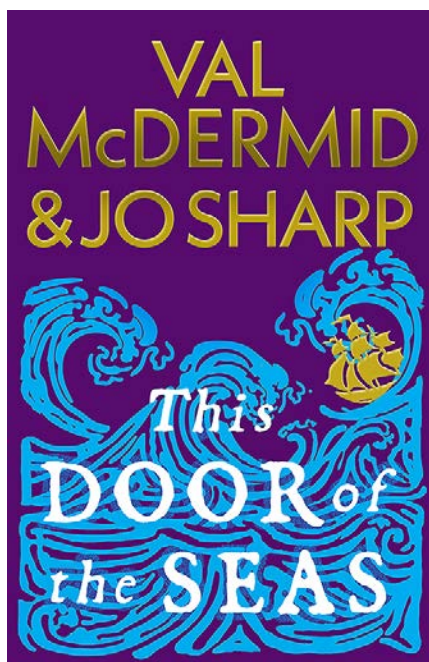
Mrs Burke & Mrs Hare
9781846976803



Scotland: Her Story
9781780275987



The Way of All Flesh
9781786893802



THIS DOOR OF THE SEAS

Darkland Tales

Val McDermid, Jo Sharp

ISBN 9781846977466

Publication 06 August 2026

Category Historical Fiction

BIC FJH, FH

eBook 9781788858540

Price £12.00

Format 198 x 129 mm Hardback

Extent 160 pp

Rights EL UK & Commonwealth
(Large Print Only)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Val McDermid is a No.1 *Sunday Times* bestselling author and she has sold over 4 million copies through Bookscan
- Latest book in the hugely successful and critically acclaimed Darkland Tales series from Polygon; Val is also the author of the bestselling Darkland Tale, *Queen Macbeth*
- The previous titles in the series now have combined UK print sales of 40,000
- A retelling of the Darien disaster that bankrupted the Scottish Nation and led to the Union with England in 1707
- Darien Was an area of Panama that the Scots sought to colonise at the end of the 17th Century
- Told from the perspective of the first Geographer Royal - James Wallace - by the current Geographer Royal, Jo Sharp

DESCRIPTION

Darien. The singular event at the end of the 17th century that fundamentally altered Scotland's future. It took place on the other side of the world. And most of us know next to nothing about it.

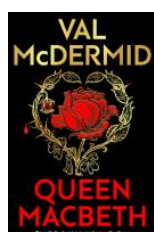
Now it's time to remedy that. Award-winning novelist Val McDermid and Geographer Royal for Scotland Jo Sharp unite in this revelatory novella that traces the story of Scotland's only colony from high hopes that united the whole country to disastrous failure that bankrupted an already impoverished nation, and propelled it towards union with England. Written as a series of letters home from colonist James Wallace, both to the first Geographer Royal, and to his wife, this epistolary novel reveals 17th century Scotland's global ambitions, and tells a devastating story of the forces that destroyed the nation's dreams.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Val McDermid is a number one bestseller whose novels have been translated into more than forty languages, and have sold over nineteen million copies. **Jo Sharp** is a Scottish geographer. She researches and writes on geopolitics and feminist geography. In April 2022 she became Geographer Royal for Scotland, the first woman to hold the title.

The Darkland Tales series has been created and commissioned by editor-at-large and presenter of BBC Radio 4's Take Four Books programme James Crawford.

Related Titles



Queen Macbeth • Pbk • 9781846977077



Rizzio • Pbk • 9781846976094



Benbecula • Hbk • 9781846977312



Columba's Bones • Pbk • 9781846976735



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

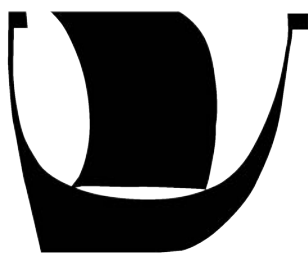


The Man on the Endless Stair • 9781846976896

Station Eleven • 9781447268970

Never Let Me Go • 9780571272136

NON-FICTION



BIRLINN

JAMES CRAWFORD

James Crawford is a writer and broadcaster, and for over a decade he worked for and researched Scotland's national collection of architecture and archaeology.

He is the author of nine books including *Wild History: Journeys into Lost Scotland*, *Fallen Glory: The Lives and Deaths of History's Greatest Lost Buildings* and *The Edge of the Plain: How Borders Make and Break Our World*, two of which were shortlisted for Non-Fiction Book of the Year at Scotland's National Book Awards.

He is the writer and presenter of the BBC One series *Scotland from the Sky*, the presenter of **BBC Radio 4's Take Four Books** and in 2024 he was appointed Chair of the Board of the Edinburgh International Book Festival.



PRAISE FOR JAMES CRAWFORD

Wild History: Journeys into Lost Scotland

'An absolutely riveting journey through time and space'
The Scotsman

'An excellent book full of awe-inspiring places'
Outdoor Photography Magazine

'A guidebook with a difference and a travelogue with an attractive personal underlay'
Current Archaeology

The Edge of the Plain: How Borders Make and Break Our World

'A thoughtful consideration of the imaginary lines that hold meaning for so many'
Kirkus Reviews

'Crawford's essays, through vivid accounts of historical episodes and contemporary problems, illuminate how the world acquired its current shape . . . Eye-opening'
Literary Review

Fallen Glory: The Lives and Deaths of History's Greatest Buildings

'Conveys superbly these absorbing tales of hubris, power, violence and decay'
Sunday Times

'Witty and memorable . . . moving as well as myth-busting'
- Mary Beard, *Times Literary Supplement*

Scotland from the Sky

'A stunning combination of aviation adventure and historical detective work'
Press and Journal

'Crawford is a genuine, risk-taking adventurer'
Daily Express

We are currently in negotiations for a new work of non fiction which will have international appeal. More information will be supplied as soon as we are able to release it.



ELECTRIC BEES AND TALKING TREES

Wildlife as You've Never Seen It Before

Ellen Bradley

ISBN 9781836920328

Publication May 2027

Category Nature, Popular Science

BIC HB, HD

Illustrations 8pp colour plates

Price £14.99

Format 216 x 138 mm Hardback

Extent 240 pp

Rights WEL. inc Audio

eBook 978178885XXXX

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A fascinating and engaging new book from one of the UK's most influential environmental campaigners
- Introduces readers to some of the most weird and wonderful plants and animals on the planet
- Blending scientific research with personal experience and an engaging writing style, *Electric Bees and Talking Trees* is the perfect introduction to the magic of our natural world

DESCRIPTION

Ellen Bradley explores the awe and wonder of the natural world in thirty extraordinary stories unearthed by scientific research, from cuttlefish brains to aphrodisiac beetles and parasitic plants that smell their way to their prey; from predatory butterflies disguised as baby ants to spiders flying 4 kilometres in the air and bumblebees that tune in to the electromagnetic fields around flowers, and ending with bacteria that hijack the water cycle to travel through the clouds.

Written to engage and excite with a light-hearted and personal tone with memorable, fast-paced content, Ellen speaks with scientists across the globe, interweaving stories from her own experience. The result is a completely fresh, fascinating, surprising and engrossing take on the amazing wildlife with which we share our planet.

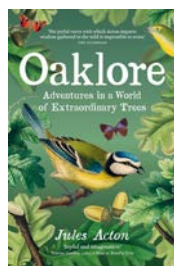
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Ellen Bradley is an environmental campaigner and communicator with extensive experience of working with young adults within the environmental movement. She is Co-Director of UK Youth for Nature; Trustee of Young Sea Changers Scotland, freelance consultant working with Butterfly Conservation; and General Manager of Curlew Action. She regularly speaks and runs workshops at environmental conferences and events, including Global Birdfair, and has been quoted in various news outlets including *The Guardian* and *iNews*.

Comparable Titles



Blue Machine • 9781804991961



Oaklore • 9781778403330



Raising Hare • 9781837260867



Breathe • 9781780279619



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.

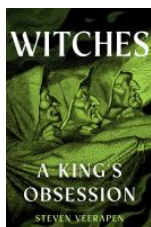
Personal histories of the queen have explored her relationships and iconography, but few have considered either her life or agenda in the context of British – not just English – history. Moreover, existing biographies have tended to peddle tired myths: of lurid white makeup, rivalries with supposedly 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.

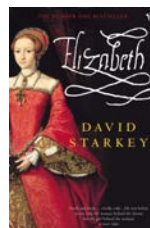
Comparable Titles



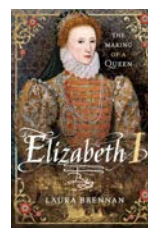
Witches • 9781780279527



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

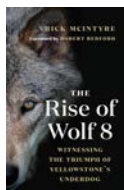
Kenneth Steven was born in Glasgow, grew up in Highland Perthshire and now lives in Argyll. He took his degree at the University of Glasgow and has studied and taught in Norway, and has translated from Norwegian. He is a widely published poet, novelist and children's author, with 14 book-length collections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



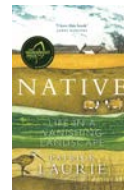
Wilding • 9781509805105



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

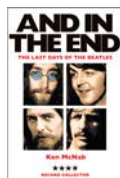
The White Album came at a turbulent time in the Beatles' story. The band were no longer

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



WHISKYPEDIA

The Ultimate Guide to Scotch Whisky

Charles MacLean

6th Edition

ISBN 9781780278896

Publication 07 July 2024

Category Spirits & cocktails

BIC WBXD3, GBC

Illustrations Colour throughout

Price £15.99

Format 198 x 129 mm Paperback

Extent 448 pp

Rights WAL (exc. NA & China)

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Since its first publication, *Whiskypedia* has sold over 45,000 copies and has become the essential handbook for all whisky lovers
- This new edition is fully revised and updated with new entries on the latest distilleries in Scotland
- Charles MacLean has spent more than thirty years researching, writing and lecturing about Scotch whisky and is acknowledged as one of the world's leading experts on the subject
- This is an informative and entertaining guide for all connoisseurs which includes an ingenious Flavour Map and Flavour Wheel – a much acclaimed and innovative approach to understanding and enjoying Scotch malt whisky
- Rights sold to Babel Publishing in China and Skyhorse in North America
- Charles Maclean's sons - Ewan, Jamie and Lachlan - are the authors of the forthcoming *Three Brothers in a Boat* being published by Canongate in September 2026

DESCRIPTION

The ultimate guide to Scotch whisky.

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

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

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

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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