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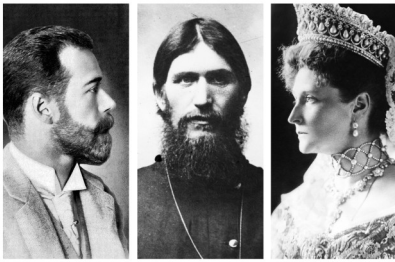
**HIGHLIGHTS**

# **NEW NON-FICTION**

# RASPUTIN AND THE DOWNFALL OF THE ROMANOVS

**Antony Beevor**

## RASPUTIN AND THE DOWNFALL OF THE ROMANOVS



**ANTONY  
BEEVOR**

**UK:** Weidenfeld & Nicolson

**US:** Viking

**Publication Date:** 15th May 2026

**Available material:**

- Unedited MS

**Length:** 244pp

**Illustrations:** TBC

**Rights sold:**

Brazil - Planeta (Critica)

Denmark - Lindhardt og Ringhof

Finland - WSOY

France - Calmann-Lévy

Germany - Philipp Reclam

Italy - Rizzoli

Japan - Hakusui-Sha

Korea - Gyoyangin

The Netherlands - Ambo Anthos

Norway - Cappelen Damm

Poland - Znak

Portugal - Bertrand

Romania - Grup Media Litera

Spain - Editoria Critica

Sweden - Historiska Media

**Primary Agent:** Michael Dean

**Antony Beevor** is the author of 13 works of nonfiction, including *Crete: The Battle and the Resistance* (1991), which was awarded a Runciman Prize; *Stalingrad* (1998), which won the first Samuel Johnson Prize, the Wolfson Prize for History and the Hawthornden Prize for Literature; and *D-Day: The Battle for Normandy* (2009), which received the Prix Henry Malherbe in France and the Westminster Medal from the Royal United Services Institute, and was a No 1 Bestseller in seven countries. His most recent work is the 2023 Sunday Times bestseller *Russia: Revolution and Civil War 1917-1921*. Educated at Sandhurst, Beevor served as regular officer with the 11th Hussars, leaving the Army after five years to write.

When Russia's Dowager Empress was pregnant with the future Tsar, she dreamed that a peasant would one day kill her son. The idea terrified her, and for the rest of her days she 'lived under the pressure of the prophecy'.

Rasputin had no official position. A barely literate moujikh from Siberia, he had no forces at his command. He was a devoted monarchist, not a revolutionary. And yet, through his uncanny seduction of the imperial household, he contributed more than any other individual to the collapse of the greatest autocracy in the world. 'This man was unique', observed one writer. 'Like a character out of a novel, he lived in legend, he died in legend, and his memory is cloaked in legend.'

In this extraordinary new work, Antony Beevor, master of narrative history on the grandest scale, sharpens his focus to pierce the fog of fantasy that has only grown denser over time. The result is an unparalleled portrait of one of history's most dubious masterminds.

'A stunning achievement of psychological insight, deep research, and evocative prose ... A must read for understanding the epic downfall of the Romanov dynasty'

– **Douglas Smith, author of *Rasputin: Faith, Power, and the Twilight of the Romanovs***

# LA DIETA TERMODINAMICA (The Thermodynamics Diet)

**Dario Bressanini**



**Italy:** Mondadori

**Publication Date:** October 2025

**Available material:**

- Italian MS
- English translated excerpts

**Length:** 296pp

**Illustrations:** None

**Primary Agent:** Giulia de Biase

From Italy' most beloved professor of chemistry  
A 500k copies, #1 bestseller,  
comes the definitive book about diets.

**Your body obeys physics. It's time your diet did too.**

How many diets have you tried, or heard of, or would like to try, always with that dear old goal in mind: losing weight and keeping it off for good?

In this book, readers will discover **the science behind the most common, controversial, and even bizarre diets**. You will be guided through their scientific foundation, and the fascinating genesis of some of them. And most importantly, will shine a much-needed light on why they work or why they fail.

But Bressanini, who is a professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Insubria in Italy, goes way beyond simply explaining diets.

He personally **tested all of them on himself while writing this book**. He has registered every single change of his wellbeing, his moods, his routines and, of course, his weight. His conclusions?

That **the secret to weight control isn't in trendy superfoods or miracle fasts, but in the fundamental laws of physics**. This approach is grounded in the First Law of Thermodynamics - *energy cannot be created or destroyed; it can only be transformed*. This fundamental, no-nonsense approach cuts through nutritional hype and delivers a brutally honest, science-backed framework for real, lasting results.

This is a book that finally delivers a truth in a field where there is so much background noise and so many false myths; much like *Spillover* by David Quammen did for viruses, or *The Emperor of all Maladies* by Siddharta Mukherjee for cancer, *The Thermodynamics Diet* finally says it all on the topic of diets and weight loss. (And yes: Dario lost weight while writing the book).

**Dario Bressanini** has a PhD in chemistry, is a university professor, a best-selling author and one of Italy's most trusted science communicators with a penchant for food and cooking. He built a massive online following on YouTube and Instagram (more than 1M followers) with his accessible yet rigorous explanations of the science of food, cooking and nutrition.

## THE AGE OF IMPERFECTION:

### *Medieval Adventures in Being Human*

#### **Irina Dumitrescu**



The Age of Imperfection is about medieval people struggling with how best to live a life. It is a history that spans a millennium, starting in the midst of the cultural upheaval of the third and fourth centuries, when ambitious ascetics around the Mediterranean took to the desert in search of holiness, and ending in the fifteenth century, when extended wars and the plague forced people to come to terms with their own frailty and mortality.

The men and women of this story are not only here because they teach us about the Middle Ages. They allow us to glimpse humanity at its most achingly real, torn between shining ideals and the beauty of imperfection. Irina Dumitrescu takes us on a quest to learn how a person can face the demands of the world, and how, ultimately, we can become our fullest, truest selves even as we are merely human.

**UK:** Faber

**US:** Riverhead

**Publication Date:** Spring 2028

**Available material:**

- Proposal
- Sample chapter
- MS due Autumn 2026

**Illustrations:** TBC

**Rights sold:**

Germany - Beck Verlag

**Primary Agent:** Charlotte Merritt

**Irina Dumitrescu** is a writer, critic, and professor of medieval literature. She has a PhD from Yale and now teaches at the University of Bonn. She has held fellowships at Columbia University and the Free University of Berlin and has been extensively published for an academic audience. Irina also writes a monthly column at the *Times Literary Supplement* and contributes to a wide array of newspapers and journals, including *Harper's Magazine*, the *London Review of Books*, the *New York Review of Books*, the *New York Times*, and *Longreads*. She is the co-host, with Mary Wellesley, of *Medieval Beginnings* and *Medieval LOL's*, both podcasts at the *London Review of Books*.

## 13 WOLVES (13 Woelfe):

*About the Powerful Forces in Relationships and the Courage to Meet them*

### Laura & Tobias Goldfarb



Couples therapy meets storytelling: **A Practical and Entertaining Relationship Guide** by Berlin Couple's Therapists **Laura and Tobias Goldfarb**.

This insightful and humorous guide explores the complexities of romantic relationships through the lens of **13 symbolic “wolves”**—each representing a typical conflict or challenge couples face. With **clear examples, tested exercises, and scientifically grounded methods**, the book helps readers:

- Understand and resolve recurring arguments
  - Navigate closeness-distance dynamics
  - Break free from toxic patterns and outdated role models
- Strengthen intimacy and emotional connection

Written in an inclusive and relatable style, this book is ideal for anyone looking to **deepen their partnership** and **build a healthier, more fulfilling relationship**. Whether you're just starting out or have been together for years, this guide offers **practical tools** to take your relationship to the next level.

**Germany:** Graefe & Unzer  
(HarperCollins)

**Publication Date:** 18th February  
2026

**Available material:**  
- German MS

**Length:** 256pp

**Illustrations:**

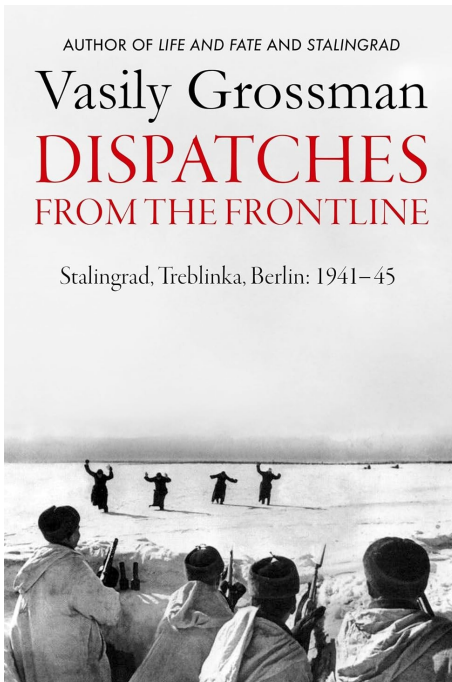
**Primary Agent:** Sabine Pfannenstiel

Laura and Tobias Goldfarb have been a couple for fifteen years and married for eleven years. Their shared experience as a couple shapes their work as much as their technical expertise. They are convinced that almost every relationship has a chance – if you learn to communicate constructively.

This book is for readers of and Julie and John Gottmann as well as Ester Perel.

**Laura Goldfarb** is a systemic couple and family therapist as well . She is also known as a systemic sex therapist and a mediator. She works with couples, groups and individuals in conflict and crisis situations. **Tobias Goldfarb** is a couple's counsellor, author and trained mediator.

## DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONTLINE:

*Stalingrad - Treblinka - Berlin 1941-45***Vasily Grossman**

**UK:** MacLehose Press,  
**US:** NYRB

**Publication Date:**

1st September 2025

**Available material:**

- Russian MS
- English outline
- Uncorrected English translation
- Final English translation due in November

**Length:** 363pp**Illustrations:** TBC**Rights sold:**

Italy - Adelphi Edizioni  
 Spain - Galaxia Gutenberg

**Primary Agent:** Doug Wallace

June 22, 1941: Launch of Operation Barbarossa. Hitler invades the Soviet Union. Vasily Grossman soon begins a new career as a war reporter. During the next four years, he covers all the major battles of the Eastern Front, from Stalingrad to Berlin, crafting brutally vivid reports that were read by millions of soldiers and civilians alike. And, as the war draws to a close, he was one of the first to expose the horrors of the Treblinka death camp. Grossman had a remarkable memory and the ability to win the trust of men and women from all walks of life: snipers, generals, fighter pilots, peasants, soldiers in a Soviet penal battalion and German prisoners of war. And his ability to write so vividly, and with such understanding, about world-changing events while they were still unfolding may well be unique. This collection brings together the best of the forty-nine articles he wrote for the Red Star newspaper, often in newly unearthed versions that have not been distorted by censors. It demonstrates more clearly than ever what an extraordinary amount Grossman witnessed during only a few years. Translated from the Russian by Robert and Elizabeth Chandler. Introductory material, notes and editorial apparatus by Robert Chandler and Julia Volohova.

**Vasily Grossman** (1905-1964) is best known as the author of *Life and Fate*, rated by many as the greatest Russian novel of the twentieth century. Among his most acclaimed works of fiction are *Stalingrad*, *Life and Fate*, *Everything Flows* and the short stories collected in *The Road*.

## VERSUS:

*10 Arguments that Define the West***Paul Ham**

Most people know a little bit about the intellectual rivalry of figures like Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, or Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. But how many of us can claim truly to understand the clashes of these intellectual titans? And there are even more examples that we are less aware of, but of no less consequence to human history, like Mary Wollstonecraft and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, say, or arguments that cut across centuries, like the fight between the ideas of Karl Marx and Friedrich von Hayek.

Great intellectual debate is the engine of human progress, but big ideas can be hard to communicate, especially in an accessible format. Enter VERSUS. In each chapter, Paul Ham sets two great thinkers, the vanguards of their schools of thought, in opposition with one another, before refereeing an intellectual prize-fight. A rich debate unfolds as each thinker is profiled; the reader is guided through the clash of their ideas; and finally their impact on human history, and the world today, is reckoned with. What emerges is a succinct, accessible distillation of the intellectual history of the West.

**UK:** Robinson (Hachette)

**Publication Date:** 2027

**Available material:**

- Proposal

**Length:** 90,000 words

**Illustrations:** TBC

**Primary Agent:** Michael Dean

For buyers and readers of titles like *The Little Book of Philosophy* by Rachel Poulton (Summersdale, TCM 26,000+) or *A Little History of Philosophy* by Nigel Warburton (TCM 56,000+), the VERSUS series brings accessible, robust intellectual debate from the fields of philosophy, politics, economics, religion and more to a wide audience

**Paul Ham** is a historian, lecturer and journalist, and the author of a dozen histories of war, religion and politics. In 2024 he completed *The Soul: A History of the Human Mind* (published by Penguin Random House), an extraordinary quest in search of the font of human willpower and the engine of human history. He has previously published *Passchendaele: Requiem for Doomed Youth* (Penguin Random House), *Hiroshima Nagasaki* (Pan Macmillan USA and PRH UK), *Sandakan* (PRH UK and Australia), *1914* (PRH UK and Australia) and several more. All his books have won or been shortlisted for literary prizes and several have been translated into multiple languages.

Paul teaches two courses in narrative history at SciencesPo in France. Previously he worked as a foreign correspondent, for 12 years, for *The Sunday Times* (UK), was a financial journalist with the *Sunday Times* and the *FT* Group and edited the British journal of Amnesty International. In the 1990s he co-founded, built and sold a successful start-up, publishing financial newsletters. He has a Masters degree in Economic History from the London School of Economics. He lives in Paris

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEAD:

### *Meetings with Human Remains*

#### **Cat Irving**



*Conversations with the Dead* blends history, ethics and science to ask why dead bodies matter – and what can they tell us about different times and cultures. Spanning from four millennia ago to the present day, each chapter will introduce a different person whose remains Cat Irving has met and whose story she wants to share. With empathy and humour, Cat breathes life into the dead and gives them back their voice. But this is also Cat's story about being a human remains conservator and how she navigates this world of the dead. And as ethical debates swirl about how we should treat human remains, *Conversations with the Dead* will take the reader on a journey through their own bodies and ask them to weigh some of these questions about death for themselves.

**UK:** HarperCollins

**Publication Date:** TBC

**Available material:**

- Proposal

**Length:** TBC

**Illustrations:** Yes

**Primary Agent:** Charlotte Merritt

**Cat Irving** has been the Human Remains Conservator for Surgeons' Hall in Edinburgh since 2015 and has been caring for anatomical and pathological museum collections for over twenty years. A licensed anatomist, she began by removing brains and sewing up bodies at the Edinburgh City Mortuary. Following training at the Royal College of Surgeons of England she worked at the Hunterian Museum at Glasgow University, where she is now Consultant Human Remains Conservator. Cat gives regular talks on anatomy and medical history and has spoken across the UK, US and Europe at a wide variety of universities and museums. She has been published extensively academically and has contributed to various publications including the Routledge Handbook of Museums, Heritage and Death. Cat can frequently be found as a guest on podcasts and radio, talking about subjects relating to death and the human body. She lives in Edinburgh and *Conversations with the Dead* is her first book for a trade audience.

## HOW NOT TO SAVE THE WORLD:

*Doing Good Without Annoying Everyone*

**Anthea Lawson**



**UK:** Oneworld

**Publication Date:** 4th June 2026

**Available material:**

- Final MS

**Length:** 368pp

**Illustrations:** None

**Primary Agent:** Charlotte Merritt

As the world burns, wars are claiming thousands of innocent lives and governments do nothing, activism offers the antidote to our growing sense of hopelessness.

But then why does it sometimes feel like direct action is hindering rather than helping? Shouldn't people be addressing the climate catastrophe head-on, rather than gluing themselves to trains at rush hour or throwing soup at paintings?

Anthea Lawson has been an activist for over two decades, campaigning for an international ban on cluster bombs and guerilla gardening in Parliament Square. This book will not tell you how to start a petition, devise a campaign plan or avoid getting arrested at a protest. What it will do is teach you how to improve the world... without alienating the very people you need to convince.

Too often activists fall into old traps – setting impossible purity tests, forgetting the cultural baggage we bring with us, ignoring diverse perspectives – undermining their cause. Practical, candid and hopeful, *How Not to Save the World* puts forward a compelling 'what not to do' for direct action. Because, when we understand why activism fails, it allows us to campaign more effectively – and maybe save the world.

**Anthea Lawson** is an activist and writer who has worked on campaigns to shut down tax havens, prevent banks from facilitating corruption and environmental devastation, and control the arms trade. At Global Witness, she launched a prize-winning campaign that changed the rules on secret company ownership and resulted in new laws in dozens of countries. Anthea began her career as a reporter at *The Times*, where she also had a book review column, and has published opinion pieces in the *Financial Times*, *Guardian* and *New York Times*. She lives in Devon and is still campaigning to get a safe pedestrian crossing at the end of her road.

# A RAINBOW OF OUR MAKING:

## *The Colours That Shaped Queer History*

### Eleanor Medhurst



*A Rainbow of Our Making* explores the idea that, in queer history, colour is everywhere. From the shade of flowers used as secret codes and favoured hues in art and fashion, to the palettes of modern-day pride flags, colour illuminates LGBTQ+ culture. *A Rainbow of Our Making* brings these stories to life, diving into moments from antiquity to the present day and mapping a queer history of the Western world through a rainbow lens. Perfect for fans of *The Secret Lives of Colour*, *Rainbow History Class* and *Bad Gays*.

#### Praise for Eleanor Medhurst's debut, *Unsuitable*

**WEL:** Footnote (Bonnier)

**Publication Date:** July 2026

**Available material:**

- Proposal
- Unedited MS due October 2025

**Illustrations:** Yes (image collection in progress)

**Primary Agent:** Gyamfia Osei

‘While *Unsuitable* painstakingly traces the style aspect, it also examines the reasons lesbian fashion has been lost to history. While homophobia against women is nothing new, Medhurst underscores how it even permeates the fashion world.’

— *Vogue*

‘An essential addition to both fashion studies and queer history ... Let us hope [Medhurst] has many more to come, as this is a strong opening volley.’

— *PopMatters*

Charts the myriad styles of women-loving women through the ages.’

— *The Guardian*

Takes all the great work Medhurst has done to preserve this key component of queer history and wraps it up into one absolute must read.’

— *Pride*

‘Shines a much-needed spotlight on an entire group that’s too often been overshadowed, celebrating the ever-evolving style of the lesbian community.’

— *Marie Claire*

**Eleanor Medhurst** is the founder of popular blog, Dressing Dykes, where she built a dedicated readership by sharing her research on lesbian fashion history following her Master's in History of Design and Material Culture. Since 2021, her academic work has reached an expansive new audience via her TikTok @elliemedhurst where she now has over 106k followers and 2.1 million likes. Eleanor's debut book, *Unsuitable: A History of Lesbian Fashion* was released in June 2024 and hit the ground running, from a sold-out tour to rave reviews in *Vogue*, *Pop Matters* and *The Guardian*. *A Rainbow of Our Making* is her second book.

# THE SCIENCE OF SKIN

*A Dermatologist's Guide to the Scientific Secrets Behind the Perfect Skincare*

**Dr. Luigia Panariello**



**SOLD AT AUCTION TO HARPER COLLINS ITALY  
A LEAD TITLE FOR SPRING 2026**

**Skincare & beauty: what if we had a manual that finally  
explains the science behind it all?**

Following the path of popular science books authored by medical doctors (e.g. *The Gut* by gastroenterologist Julia Enders), *The Science of Skin* is a skincare manual written by one of the most popular Italian dermatologists — an Aesthetic Dermatology lecturer at the University of Federico II, with 50k followers on Instagram (@dermatologa.luigiapanariello), and collaborations with leading international online magazines and international dermo cosmetic brands.

Grounded in ongoing research and constant scientific updates, with a pop, accessible, and engaging approach and a lot of practical advice, this book reveals the science behind every skincare step and product, guiding readers on a journey to discover the real factors that impact skin quality—beyond mere cosmetic treatments.

In a word, *The Science of Skin* promises to be the ultimate dermatologist-approved guide to skin health and beauty. More than just a book of the moment —it's a reference to return to, providing clear and medical answers to all skincare questions, with all the potential to become a long-seller.

**Italy:** Harper Collins, at auction

**Publication date:** Spring 2026

**Available material:**

- English proposal and table of contents
- Italian MS due in November 2025, chapters available in English or Italian

**Illustrations:** None

**Primary Agent:** Giulia de Biase

**Dr Luigia Panariello** graduated in medicine with a specialization in dermatology from the University of Naples, has almost 20 years experience of clinical and medical practice, and attends dozen of scientific conferences every year. She is a member of the most important Italian associations of dermatologists and is constantly contacted by cosmetic companies and media channels for medical outreach contributions. Her IG page dedicated to skin quality (@dermatologa.luigiapanariello) has over 45k followers. She has patients from all over Italy (her clinic near Naples is fully booked until 2026). She never leaves home without sunscreen and a touch of foundation (she won't reveal the brand, but will share the ingredients).

# HOMER-HAUNTED:

## *A Poetic Odyssey*

### Henry Power



**UK:** Bloomsbury Continuum

**Publication Date:** July 2026

**Available material:**

- Proposal
- Sample chapter
- MS due December 2025

**Illustrations:** None

**Primary Agent:** Charlotte Merritt

*Homer-Haunted* is a cultural history of Homer told through twelve moments of creativity and change. For more than four centuries, countless poets have turned to Homer. The *Iliad* and *Odyssey* have been fought over and reshaped by so many significant figures in literature including Alexander Pope, John Keats, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Ezra Pound, Derek Walcott, Thom Gunn and Alice Oswald.

Beginning with George Chapman, the eccentric and disreputable playwright who first translated the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* into English in 1616, Henry Power takes us on a journey to meet the poets who have been haunted by Homer, introducing the reader to some extraordinary characters and telling a new story about poetry. This matters because to write a version of Homer is to say something fundamental about love, war, and what it means to be human.

*Homer-Haunted* also asks: why Homer? What is it about these ancient poems that has animated so many people across the world?

**Henry Power** is Professor of English at the University of Exeter. His particular interest is in the afterlife of Greek and Roman texts and ideas, and the way they have helped shape the literature of the English-speaking world. He read Classics and English at Brasenose College, Oxford, and his Cambridge PhD looked at ancient influences on the early English novel. He has published widely on the literature of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and his edition of Alexander Pope's *Major Works* will be published by Oxford University Press in 2025. Other topics on which he has recently written include modern Greek literature, neo-Latin verse, the history of the essay, Victorian novels, contemporary poetry, and recipe books. He has been awarded a British Academy Fellowship and was recently awarded a Leverhulme Fellowship to support him writing this book. He is a regular contributor to publications such as the *TLS*, *Evening Standard* and *Literary Review*.

## OUR MAN IN PRAGUE

**Daniela Richterova**



**UK:** Viking

**US:** Ballantine

**Publication Date:** 2027

**Available material:**

- Proposal

**Illustrations:** Yes

**Primary Agent:** Michael Dean

In 1970s Prague, Miroslav Kroča was a decorated veteran of the Czechoslovak State Security Service (StB). As an ambitious young recruit, he had even been selected for advanced training in Moscow and cooperation with the KGB. His fellow intelligence officers knew him as a successful operative and a loyal apparatchik, an expert in running counterintelligence against the British. What they did not know: Kroča was an MI6 spy, code-named FREED. A double agent for almost a decade, his unmasking, upon his death in 1976, would bring the KGB's most valuable satellite service to its knees and change the course of the Cold War.

OUR MAN IN PRAGUE is the incredible untold story of Miroslav Kroča and his betrayal of the StB, but it is also the story of how British intelligence penetrated the Iron Curtain at the height of the Cold War, detailing with unparalleled access the hidden work of the men and women who ran one of MI6's longest serving and most trusted double agents – among them Richard Dearlove, Kroča's last handler, who later rose to become SIS Chief.

For readers of THE SPY AND THE TRAITOR by Ben Macintyre, THE BILLION DOLLAR SPY by David E. Hoffman, and THE SPY IN THE ARCHIVE by Gordon Corera, OUR MAN IN PRAGUE is thrilling Cold War espionage at its very best. Daniela Richterova is uniquely positioned to uncover this shockingly overlooked case and tell it in full for the first time. Fluent in Czech, Slovak and English, Richterova holds the largest collection anywhere of documents related to the Kroča case, including thousands of declassified StB files, and has personally interviewed key figures who were close to Kroča on both sides, including senior personnel in the StB and from across the British intelligence establishment.

**Daniela Richterova** is Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Intelligence Studies in the Department of War Studies at King's College London, where she is also Director of the MA in Intelligence and International Security, and Co-Director of the King's Centre for the Study of Intelligence. She is the author of *Watching the Jackals: Prague's Covert Liaisons with Cold War Terrorists and Revolutionaries* (Georgetown University Press, 2025), described by Michael Morell, former acting CIA director, as 'a must-read', and by Professor Christopher Andrew as 'path-breaking and pioneering', as well as being positively reviewed in the *Guardian*, *Spectator* and *New York Times*. Daniela regularly appears on podcasts including *True Spies*, *Spycraft101*, *Cold War Conversations* and *The War Studies Podcast*. OUR MAN IN PRAGUE is her first book for a general readership.

# THE IRRITATED WOMAN (Die Gereizte Frau)

## How Society and My Menopause are Connected

### Miriam Stein



**Germany:** Goldmann Verlag  
(Penguin Randomhouse  
Germany)

**Publication Date:** April 2022

**Available material:**  
- German MS

**Length:** 256 pages

**Primary Agent:** Sabine  
Pfannenstiel

When the author begins to experience hot flashes, sleep disturbances, and other unpleasant signs of menopause, she is caught off guard. This prompts her to reexamine the role society has assigned her as a woman, especially within a patriarchal framework. Slightly annoyed, she realizes that menopause remains one of the last taboos in women's health. Even today, myths and misinformation dominate the conversation: menopause is often portrayed as an embarrassing hormonal deficiency.

The woman who is no longer fertile – and therefore supposedly no longer attractive – is expected to reinvent herself, as if her entire identity was lost in the hormonal shift.

In *DIE GEREIZTE FRAU*, Miriam Stein debunks outdated prejudices and brings menopause out of the shadows. Blending personal experience with sharp feminist critique, she tackles the common symptoms of menopause and the misogynistic clichés that surround them. With wit and insight, she rewrites the narrative of female aging.

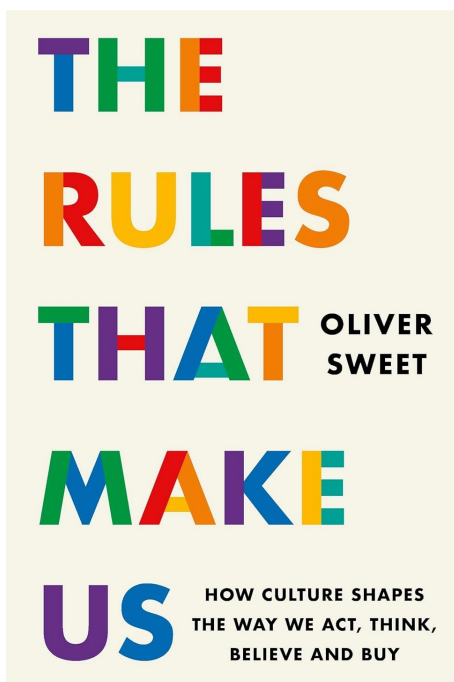
This is an essential read for every woman who wants to age on her own terms.

**Miriam Yung Min Stein** is a journalist and author who lives in Berlin with her family. She was born 1977 in South Korea and grew up with her adopted parents in Germany.

# THE RULES THAT MAKE US

*How Culture Shapes the Way We Act, Think, Believe and Buy*

**Oliver Sweet**



Why do we do what we do? We might think it's our unique personality and individual differences that guide our choices, but more often than not, it's actually culture shaping our behaviour. From the ways we bring up children to the products we buy, the culture we live in creates who we are.

In *The Rules That Make Us*, business anthropologist Oliver Sweet reveals the secrets to successful people-watching and how we can better understand consumers, voters and our relationships. His decades-long, trailblazing work uses cultural insights to help businesses, governments and NGOs achieve their goals - whether he's working with the Gates Foundation to encourage South African men to get HIV tests, helping a pet food company break into a new market in Brazil, or researching why 'nudge' techniques often backfire.

Drawing on research conducted in thirty-five countries, Sweet maps culture's hidden rules: how they govern our behaviour, create our assumptions, even how they help us predict the future. *The Rules that Make Us* gives us a model for thinking about culture that reveals a new way of understanding our families, colleagues, customers and ourselves.

**UK:** Wildfire (Headline)

**US:** Basic Books (Hachette)

**Publication Date:** 26th February 2026

**Available material:**

- Proposal
- Final MS due November 2025

**Illustrations:** TBC

**Primary Agent:** Charlotte Merritt

**Oliver Sweet** is a business anthropologist who offers an unfiltered view of people and culture through international research. He educates companies and governments on how to change consumer and citizen behaviour. His work for Ipsos MORI has spanned over 35 different countries around the world where he has worked on topics such as public health, sustainability and brand development. Oliver strongly believes the issues faced by business and government can be solved with high quality, human insight and has a team of 30 anthropologists working to solve these challenges. He is a guest lecturer at University College London (UCL) and Goldsmith University. He lives in London.

## MOTHERLAND:

*The Untold History*

## Lyuba Vinogradova



**UK:** Viking

**US:** Holt

**Publication Date:** July 2027

**Available material:**

- Proposal

- Sample chapters due November 2025

**Illustrations:** TBC

**Rights sold:**

France - Calmann-Lévy

Italy - Laterza

Poland - Znak

**Primary Agent:** Michael Dean

A definitive and uncensored retelling of the Eastern Front (1941-45) as seen through the eyes of Soviet women. In *Motherland*, we hear the voices of those so often erased from the story of the Second World War: Soviet women. We meet women working the land while strapped into the plough; women tending the wounded and fighting on the frontlines; women who must make unimaginably difficult decisions to survive what were, until now, truly unspeakable horrors. It is said the women in occupied territories responded in two ways: they made themselves “bright”, to attract the attentions of soldiers and the rewards of food and safety this would bring, or they tried to appear “grey”, covering themselves in soot or dirt to avoid predatory advances. We read about food shortages so bad that children are kept at home for fear of cannibals, and babies who perished in such large numbers through winter that they were kept in barrels, to be buried in mass graves come spring. Written by the world’s leading Soviet archival researcher, *Motherland* draws on three decades of Lyuba’s research, including unpublished diaries and exclusive interviews with survivors, as well as the author’s own family history. It is a long-overdue account of a war that still holds disturbing echoes in contemporary conflicts.

‘Explosive ... Vinogradova dares to go into the taboo areas which even the Nobel-prize-winner Svetlana Aleksievich avoided’

– **Antony Beevor**

‘The story of women who found themselves prisoners of the world war has never hitherto been properly explored by any serious historian, and nobody is better equipped to do this, and to write a compelling narrative, than Lyuba Vinogradova’

– **Max Hastings**

‘Fascinating, important, gripping, unrepeatable ... Vinogradova is a leading authority on the role of women in the Soviet armed forces during World War II, and has an uncanny knack for finding stories that bring the period vividly to life’

– **Anna Reid**

‘Lyuba Vinogradova is a pioneering historian. The quality of her original research, her impeccable scholarship and her ability to write a gripping and sensitive narrative means that I look forward keenly to the publication of *Motherland*’

– **Jonathan Dimbleby**

**Lyuba Vinogradova** is ‘one of the most successful historians you have never heard of’ (*The Sunday Times*). She is widely regarded as the world’s preeminent researcher of Soviet archival material and has worked with many leading historians, including Anne Applebaum, Antony Beevor, Max Hastings, Margaret MacMillan and Simon Sebag Montefiore. She is co-author with Antony Beevor of *A Writer at War*, a collection of wartime non-fiction prose by Vasily Grossman, which was published in more than 25 languages. She has written about Soviet women fighter pilots (*Defending the Motherland*) and snipers (*Avenging Angels*), and this is her first book with Viking/Penguin.

# NEW FICTION

## APRIL IS A STRANGE SEASON or MATRYOSHKA

**Gabriella Ambrosio**



**SOLD IN A PREEMPT TO GRAMMA (FELTRINELLI)  
SOLD IN GERMANY, AT AUCTION, TO DTV**

**The incredible story of a life lived for love. And love has no gender.**

*My father's name was Michele. My mother's name was Luisa. My name, on the other hand, I have never really understood.*

Following the path of works like *Orlando* and *Middlesex*, and with the same urgency of *Call me by your name*, this is one of those rare novels where the boundaries of gender, which so often define who we are and how we live, are transcended by a broader humanity, capable of holding everything within: male and female, and then again, female and male, like a Russian nesting doll.

**Italy:** Feltrinelli Gramma

**Publication Date:** April 2026

**Available material:**

- Italian MS
- English MS

**Length:** 122pp

**Right sold:**

Germany - DTV- at auction

**Primary Agent:** Giulia de Biase

From a postwar Neapolitan childhood—rendered with haunting tenderness by the author, Neapolitan by birth—to adolescence in a boarding school, our protagonist loves men and women and is loved by both, and feels male or female, never shying away from just feeling. He will become a filmmaker, will go through everything from heartbreak to loss to family life joys, living a thousand lives within a single one. While, in the meantime, XXth's century Italian history unfolds...

A unique novel, the return of a great Italian literary voice, a writer whose writing, as Colum McCann put it reviewing a previous book, is a true “journey in empathy”.

**Gabriella Ambrosio** is a sociologist and former advertiser. She is also the author of *Prima di lasciarsi (Before We Say Goodbye)*, the heartbreaking story, inspired by true events, of an Israeli girl and her Palestinian peer who both die in an attack and whose bodies are mixed up because the two girls were, in fact, so similar. It was first published in Italy by Nutrimenti and later translated by Gallimard, Fischer, Planeta, Kemzi Kitabevi, Pardes Publishing House, Palestinian Media Development, Joongang Books, Phsicogios, Jeili Publishing House as well as in both Arabic and Hebrew.

# THE FALLEN SUN

**C. M. Basma**



The *Fallen Sun* is the first book in an epic fantasy duology inspired by Middle Eastern folklore and Lebanese culture, for fans of R.F. Kuang's *The Poppy War* and Saara El-Arifi's *Faebound*.

Thrice-born, of the Sun, the Moon and the Void, Laena Redan harnesses the magic of her three Sky Folk ancestors. But having been born on the poisoned island of Persiphyl, she has been a captive of the human king for her entire life, her magic and that of her people's suppressed.

When the poison begins to afflict her little brother, Laena is forced to act. She plans an escape across the perilous sunken border. Only after being rescued by a hidden resistance does she uncover the depth of her power on a land free from poison and learns the lengths she is willing to go to tear the human king from his throne.

**UK:** Del Rey (PRH)

**US:** Delacorte (PRH)

**Publication Date:** May 2027

**Available material:**

- MS

- Edited MS due May 2026

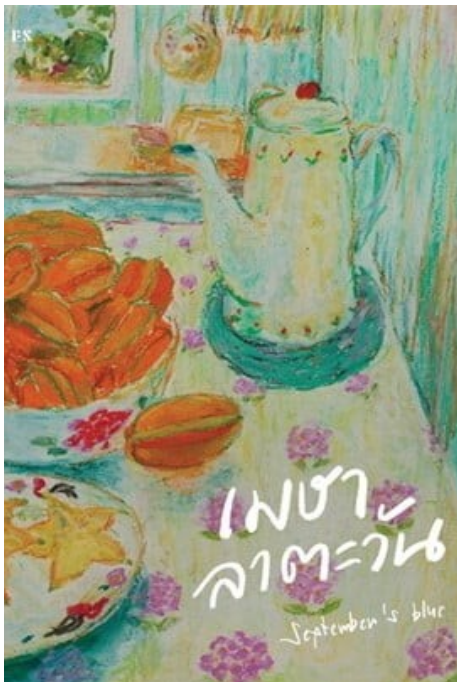
**Length:** 420pp

**Primary Agent:** Gyamfia Osei

C.M. Basma is a British-Lebanese fantasy author. She learnt English at the age of 5 and received her first literary award aged 9, solidifying her unbreakable belief that writing was her life's calling. When she's not writing, Celine is on stage at spoken word events reciting her poetry, working as a Marketing Executive for an award-nominated financial podcast, or talking endlessly about her favourite books online. She has grown a dedicated online following across TikTok (@bookishwithb), where she has amassed over 119,800 followers and 6.1 million likes, YouTube (@celineistalking) and Instagram (bookishwithb\_).

# GOODBYE, SUNRAY

## September's Blue



*If Sunray was as bright as his name then Night was the shadows – Sunray and Night – daylight and darkness, and I was just a grey day.*

GOODBYE, SUNRAY is a coming-of-age story that follows the life of Maysa, a sensitive Thai teenager grappling with the aftermath of his parents' separation and his relationship with his emotionally distant, overworked mother.

Set in a conservative, rural town amid sweltering heat and relentless rain, Maysa is hemmed in by small town gossip. Rootless and adrift, Maysa forges tentative yet profound connections with two classmates: Tawan ("Sunray"), a recently-arrived half-Western boy with blond hair and an exuberant personality, which masks deep wounds; and "Night", a reserved, stoic friend who bears his own personal trauma and family hardship in silence. The trio swing between affection, jealousy, misunderstandings, and solidarity, forming a makeshift club, "Outsiders Only", as an emotional refuge. Each short chapter is a vignette of ordinary adolescence: school rituals, birthdays, errands, stormy weather, and snacking after school. The three boys, desperate to belong at a time of great change, lean into the transformative power of the club, their chosen family.

As the boys confront their families' disarray, parental re-marriages, absence, and neglect, their friendships are tested by jealousy, evolving affections, and the unspoken burden each bears. The story closes on a bittersweet note with the hope that everyone's light may be touched by their own "Sunray."

September's Blue explores sexual awakening, broken families and the power of friendship to heal in this bestselling Boys' Love debut from Thailand, where it has become a bestselling phenomenon, selling more than 50,000 copies sold and receiving critical acclaim. For readers of Fredrik

Backman MY FRIENDS, André Aciman CALL ME BY YOUR NAME; a CATCHER IN THE RYE for a new, international generation.

**Thailand:** P.S. Publishing

**Publication Date:** January 2024

**Available material:**

- Thai MS
- English MS

**Length:** 237pp

**Rights sold:**

Taiwan - China Times

**Primary Agent:** Big Techakijjathorn

**Sirikamon Tanoi** is a Thai literary translator known for translating Matt Haig, Will Storr and Dr. Guy Winch among others. As 'September's Blue she is a rising star of Thai literary fiction. GOODBYE, SUNRAY It has been selected as one of the best fiction titles for the Thailand Creative Culture Agency's 2025 Translation fund and will be supported for worldwide promotion.

# AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DATES

## Jasmine Burke



**UK:** Quercus

**Publication Date:** July 2026

**Available material:**

- Draft MS

**Length:** N/A

**Publisher of *Quarter-Love Crisis*:**

Germany - Luebbe

**Primary Agent:** Silé Edwards

Amorie is terrified of dating. The apps, the terrible first dates, the awful innuendo laden flirting. The ghosting. Desperate for somewhere to vent, and a hobby to stick to, she decides to revisit her lifestyle vlog, which quickly spirals into a series of full-blown dating app rants, a confession that she feels like she is failing and just wants to quit her job to travel.

The videos go viral. Mega viral. So viral that she gets a load of emails from people asking to work with her, including a commissioning editor for a major outlet seeking new voices. They want a column from a young internet voice mixing travel and modern dating, and they're willing to pay big money for the right idea. Blinded by the figure they present her, and determined to be that voice, Amorie spouts off the first thing that comes to her mind: she'll go around the world in 80 dates. They love it. They want it, and they want her to start pronto. The process is simple: one date = one article = one portion of the money she very much needs to survive her trip. Only one real problem... She's never properly dated and, if she's honest, she doesn't know how.

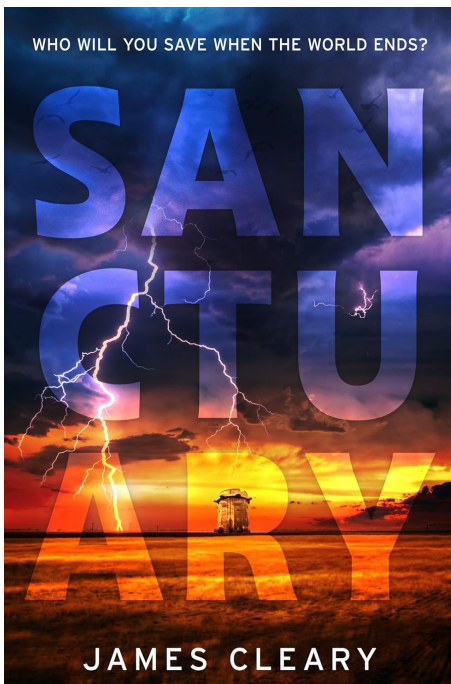
First day of her trip, she meets Noah, who's on his own mission. He's never been in a long-term relationship and now that the last of his friends is tying the knot, that fact is starting to become more apparent. So apparent that he has run away to Europe for the summer to escape his perpetual seventh wheel status. Especially since his friend has cracked down on him: he gets no plus one to his wedding unless they're in a serious relationship. Him and Amorie make a pact: she'll teach him how to date for love, if he teaches her how to date for fun.

It's a foolproof plan. Because there's no way Amorie is going to risk the biggest opportunity to live her dream life for a man, and there's not a single chance that Noah would fall for the girl who doesn't tick any of his newly drawn boxes . . . right?

**Jasmine Burke** is a content creator, writer and podcast host. As well as achieving a degree in English and Philosophy, she spent most of her late teens and early twenties creating her blog and working in marketing and PR. She has been building a loyal and engaged audience by vlogging about balancing full time work and writing on TikTok. If she's not writing, she's looking for a cute cafe or hotel lobby to do some writing in.

## SANCTUARY

James Cleary



US: Berkley

UK: HQ

**Publication Date:** April 2026**Available material:**

- Draft MS

**Length:** 379 pp**Rights sold:**

France – Editions Gallmeister

Germany - Hoffmann &amp; Campe

Italy - Newton Compton

**Primary Agent:** Sara O'Keefe

**In an America of the near-future, one billionaire and his family seek sanctuary in their luxury underground bunker while the world burns. A darkly gripping, unputdownable high-concept thriller in the vein of Michael Crichton and Robert Harris.**

Everyone knew the tipping-point was coming; with half the country under water and the other half a dust-bowl, it was only a matter of time before civil unrest would morph into something darker, something unstoppable. Billionaire John Brandt had seen this coming, had channelled his money, power and influence into being ready for the great unravelling.

Now Brandt and his family must retreat to Sanctuary, their underground bunker – a vast luxury mansion beneath the parched earth of the Nebraskan Great Plains. But they are not alone. A family such as theirs has staff, not to mention a private army to keep the rest of the world at bay. But once down there, deep underground, whose kingdom is it; Brandt, master of global markets – or the guys with the guns, who have been dumped on for most of their lives by men just like Brandt? And what of those outside the bunker, desperate to find a way in?

As tensions mount both inside and out, battle lines are drawn – between the haves and have-nots, between decency and expediency, between life and death. *Sanctuary* is a gripping, thought-provoking, utterly unputdownable novel that serves both as a wildly compelling thriller and an excoriating examination of the dream that is America.

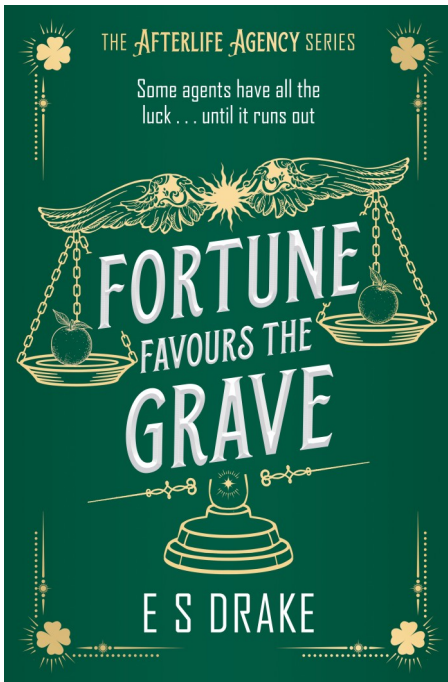
‘If Michael Crichton had written about billionaires, bunkers and the fall of the United States, I suspect it would have been a lot like *Sanctuary*. Fascinating, horrifying and all too believable, it's easily one of the most gripping and tense books I have ever read. Open the blast doors, descend into the darkness and see for yourself...’

**- Bestselling author, Catherine Ryan Howard**

**James Cleary** is a native of Long Island, NY. He is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for Fiction. James is also a theatre professional, and has worked extensively as an actor, director, and playwright. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild and Actors Equity Association.

# FORTUNE FAVOURS THE GRAVE

**E. S. Drake**



**WEL:** Bonnier

**Publication Date:** April 2026

**Available material:**

- Edited MS

**Length:** 265pp

**Primary Agent:** Gyamfia Osei

**When agents of luck are targeted by an unknown force, the newly formed Medusa Division are sent to investigate in this brand-new delightful urban fantasy.**

For the agents of the Fortuna Division, being lucky isn't just their blessing, it's their business. Responsible for handing out doses of good fortune to oblivious mortals, they are known for being invincible to disaster. However, when agents of luck begin to turn up dead, it is clear their own fortunes have taken a turn for the worse.

Fearing what this means for the Afterlife Agency as a whole, a small team are thrown together for the sole purpose of unravelling this mystery. Agents Erron Grover and Nikita Wolf face an almost insurmountable challenge, but it transpires they are hunting a mortal man, one who has developed an uncanny ability to see the auras of agency staff and piece together their role in controlling destiny.

It isn't long before they uncover an underground network of similarly gifted individuals who are more than willing to risk publicly exposing the agency's existence in a bid to take back control of their fate. This is one problem that maybe croissants and ice cream cannot solve. Has the agency's luck finally run out?

Praise for E.S. Drake:

"The perfect balance of fast paced and fun ... It hit me in the heart with a gold arrow!"

**- ROSE BLACK, author of *Til Death Do Us Bard***

"This is the perfect book. It's joyful and funny and sad and flamboyant: everything I always went to Terry Pratchett for"

**- NATASHA PULLEY (on *Acts of Cupidity*)**

**E. S. Drake** grew up in Bedford and currently lives in Bodmin Moor, where she works for the Devon and Cornwall police. *Fortune Favours the Grave* is the second book in The Afterlife Agency trilogy, following on from her debut *Acts of Cupidity*, and is inspired both by her policing work and the archery business that she runs.

## A SPIDER IS SATURDAY DAWN

Jeong Duk-si



“When I say that my pet Duhee, with whom I shared my twenties and thirties has passed away, people console me. However, when they find out she was a spider, most can’t hide their discomfort.”

Suhyun is mourning the death of Duhee, her tarantula, and companion of seventeen years. In the midst of this, she hears that Juan, her former lover has returned to Korea from his studies in South America. Their love had been a secret and how it fell apart, was known only to Duhee. Duhee had been a comfort and inspiration for Juan. Through Juan's outpouring of grief for Duhee, Suhyun also begins to grieve.

As the depth of Duhee's loss dawns on her, Suhyun questions her desires and what humans value in our own brief lives.

**Korea:** EunHaeng NaMu

**Publication Date:** November 2024

**Available material:**

- Korean MS
- English partial

**Length:** 240pp

**Rights sold:**

- US - Europa Editions
- UK - Europa Editions
- Italy - Edizioni E/O

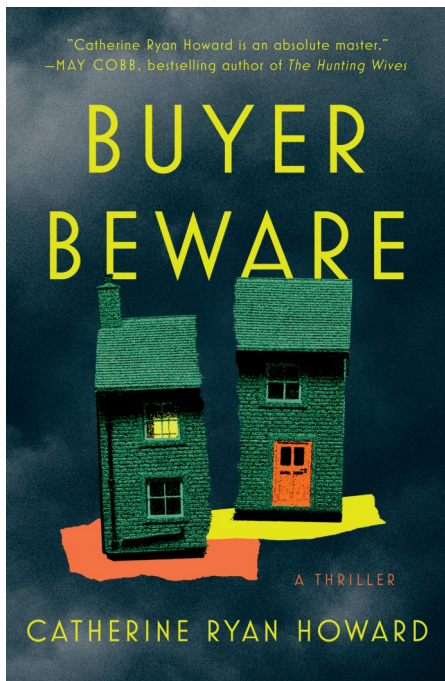
"In the novels of our time, nonhuman protagonists usually appear with the mission of refuting the anthropocentrism of the past. However, strictly speaking, it is not easy to find a novel case that completely succeeds in such reflection. This is because the reflection itself can be anthropocentric. Jeong Deok-si's novel «The Spider is Saturday Dawn» is a rare ethical work that explores how we can 'welcome' nonhuman objects while avoiding the persistent 'anthropomorphism'."

- **Kim Hyung-joong (literary critic)**

**Jeong Duk-si** started her writing career by winning the 1st ARTE Literary Award in 2024 in fiction category. *A Spider is Saturday Dawn* is her first novel.

# BUYER BEWARE

Catherine Ryan Howard



From the internationally bestselling author of *The Trap*, comes a page-turning thriller about a woman who seeks solace in a new house, only to discover that her dream home has become a living nightmare.

*If these walls could talk, they'd scream...*

When Ellie moves into 1 Delaney Row, all she has to her name is the house, a small suitcase and the terrible secrets she's desperate to keep. But what she doesn't know is that her new home is already hiding someone *else's* secrets – and the people determined to keep them are watching her.

When a grim discovery prompts Ellie to find out more about the house's past, she unwittingly puts herself on a deadly collision course not just with her new home's history, but with her own as well...

*Inspired by so-called 'stigmatised properties' – houses with dark and violent pasts – Buyer Beware is an intricate puzzle-box of a thriller with a pulsing emotional heart, from an author at the very top of her game.*

**UK:** Transworld, PRH

**US:** Simon and Schuster

**Publication Date:** 16th July 2026

**Available material:**  
- Pre-copyedit MS

**Length:** 85k words

**Primary Agent:** Sara O'Keeffe

## Praise for Catherine Ryan Howard

'Catherine Ryan Howard has once again delivered the perfect thriller. Superbly paced, effortlessly elegant writing, and complex characters who keep you on your toes throughout the narrative. I loved it!'

**- L. V. Matthews, author of *The Twins***

'At or near the top of any list of superb Irish thriller writers these days is Catherine Ryan Howard.'

**- Washington Post**

'Catherine Ryan Howard is ridiculously talented.'

**- Chris Whitaker**

'The queen of high-concept crime fiction.'

**- Jane Casey**

**Catherine Ryan Howard** is an award-winning, internationally bestselling crime writer from Cork, Ireland. Her debut thriller, *Distress Signals*, was published on both sides of the Atlantic in 2016. It was an Irish Times and USA Today bestseller, and was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards Crime Fiction Book of the Year and the CWA John Creasey/New Blood Dagger. Her subsequent work has been shortlisted for the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger and the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for Best Novel. She has had two No. 1 Irish bestsellers, her novels have been translated into 17 languages and a number have been optioned for screen. Catherine's thriller, *56 Days*, was picked as Barnes and Noble Book of the Month in the US for August 2022 and *Run Time* was selected for the prestigious Indie Next Pick, September 2022. Catherine's latest novel, *The Trap*, published in August 2023 to great critical acclaim.

# IN AWE OF THE LIGHTNESS

**Wutthichai Krisanaprakornkit**



สำนักพิมพ์แมทิจอน มติชน จำกัด  
กรุงเทพฯ โทร. 02-254-1111  
www.matichonbooks.com

**Thailand:** Matichon

**Publication Date:** October 2021

**Available material:**

- Thai MS
- English MS

**Length:** 240pp

**Primary Agent:** Big Techakijjathorn

Imagine figuring out what to do with your life on the day it falls apart.

As the monsoon rains broke over Bangkok, seven lives collide in the slow-motion tragedy of a fatal crash: a writer adrift in life, a driver grieving his long-gone father, an elderly street vendor at a bus terminal, a mistress desperate for affection, an architect leading two lives, a store cashier crying over her boyfriend, and a stray dog.

Set in the weightless moment of the crash, the victims' burdens are briefly lifted, while it's already too late for some, reunion and a new dawn awaits those who are left behind.

Wutthichai K's story of connection, purpose and responsibility in a disconnected world is a profoundly humane work that explores how the bonds we forge and the weight we carry define our lives.

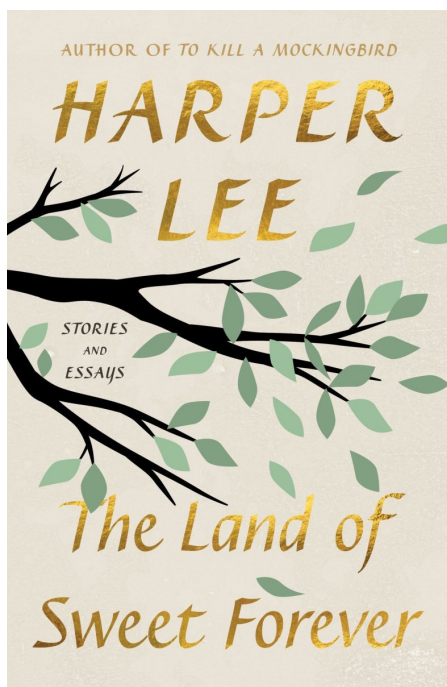
*In Awe of the Lightness* is a truly moving story about the acts of kindness and bravery that can set us free.

**Wutthichai Krisanaprakornkit** is a former journalist, columnist, and editor-in-chief for many well-known magazines. He was an acclaimed and trusted social, technology, and pop-culture critic for almost two decades. His debut novel *IN AWE OF THE LIGHTNESS* received a lot of attention and great reviews in Thailand, and was nominated for multiple big awards.

# THE LAND OF SWEET FOREVER:

## Stories and Essays

### Harper Lee



**From one of America's most beloved authors, a posthumous collection of newly discovered short stories and previously published essays and magazine pieces, offering a fresh perspective on the remarkable literary mind of Harper Lee.**

The publication of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in 1960 created an overnight sensation: the novel won the Pulitzer Prize and went on to sell in the millions. Scout, Jem, Atticus, and the other indelible characters helped to create a landmark in the American canon. Another, darker version of small-town Alabama in the late 1950s emerged in *Go Set a Watchman*, Lee's only other novel, published in 2015 after its rediscovery. Less remembered, until now, however, is Lee the dogged young writer, who crafted stories in hopes of magazine publication; Lee the devoted friend, who cultivated rich connections in Alabama and New York and accompanied her childhood companion Truman Capote to Kansas as he prepared to write the genre-defining *In Cold Blood*; and Lee the moviegoer, New Yorker, scholar, and citizen, who peppered the pages of *McCall's* and *Vogue* with humane, thoughtful, wryly comic, and acutely observed essays in the latter part of the twentieth century.

**US:** HarperCollins

**UK:** Hutchinson Heinemann

**Publication Date:** 21st October 2025

**Available material:**

- Digital manuscript, under NDA

**Rights sold:**

Brazil - Jose Olimpio

Bulgaria - Bard

Denmark - Lindhardt og Ringhof

France - Grasset

Germany - Penguin Verlag

Hungary - Geopen

Italy - Feltrinelli

Korea - The Open Books

The Netherlands - De Bezige Bij

Poland - Rebis

Portugal - Relogio d'Agua

Romania - Polirom

Russia - AST

Serbia - Laguna

Spain - Penguin Random House

Sweden - Modernista

Vietnam - Nha Nam

**Primary Agent:** Michael Dean

**Harper Lee** was born in 1926 in Monroeville, Alabama. One of America's most celebrated and influential writers, she is the author of the acclaimed novels *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman* as well as the story and essay collection, *The Land of Sweet Forever*, published posthumously in 2025. Lee was awarded numerous literary awards and honors including the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She died in 2016 at the age of eighty-nine.

*The Land of Sweet Forever* combines Lee's early short fiction and later nonfiction in a volume as indispensable for her many fans as it is for students of American literature. From the Alabama schoolyards of Lee's youth to the luncheonettes and movie houses of midcentury Manhattan, from Lee's reflections on the responsible teaching of children to a delightful account of Gregory Peck and the *To Kill a Mockingbird* film set, *The Land of Sweet Forever* broadens our understanding of Lee's extraordinary talent. For the first time, readers can see Lee's inimitable voice define itself both before and after *Go Set a Watchman* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, touching on still-vital conversations about politics, equality, travel, love, fiction, art, the American South, and what it means to lead an engaged and creative life.

This collection comes with an introduction by Casey Cep, Harper Lee's appointed biographer, which provides illuminating background for our reading of these stories and connects them both to Lee's life and to her two novels.

# THE GAP OF SORROW

Geum-yi Lee



**Korea:** Sakyejeul

**Publication Date:** 15th August 2025

**Available material:**

- Korean MS

- Sample English translation

**Length:** 450pp

**Primary Agent:** Doug Wallace

**Previous titles:**

*Can't I Go Instead* (Sakyejul, 2017)

Egypt - Aser Al-kotob (world Arabic)

Italy - Mondadori

Japan - Satoyama-sha

USA - Forge

UK - Scribe

*The Picture Bride* (Changbi, 2020)

Egypt - Mahrousa Center for Publishing (world Arabic)

Germany - Märchenwald Verlag

Italy - Mondadori

Japan - Futabasha

Russia - Mann, Ivanov and Ferbe

Thailand - Jamsai

UK - Scribe Publications

US & Canada - Forge/Macmillan

**Lee Geum-yi** was born in 1962, in her grandmother's house in the small, mountainous village of Chungcheongbuk-do, Korea. She became enthralled with the charms of storytelling early on, having spent her childhood under the influence of her grandmother's bedtime stories. Since then, Lee Geum-yi has published over fifty books in South Korea, and her work has been translated around the world. Beloved by readers and literary critics alike, many of her books have been adapted into TV series, musicals, and webtoons. The author lives in Seoul, South Korea, with her husband, son, and her old rescue dog, Lulu. You can find out more about her at: [www.leegeumyi.com](http://www.leegeumyi.com)

THE GAP OF SORROW is a colonial history of a forgotten community bound together by women.

We follow Dan-ok, an outspoken young woman, inquisitive about the world around her. She overcomes hardship through a strong sense of duty to her family and a determined, pioneering spirit to take control of her life.

Dan-ok moves with her family from Joseon in Korea to a Japanese colony, Sakhalin Island, where she is reunited with her Korean father, a conscript forced into labour by Korea's Japanese rulers. In this foreign land she experiences the upheavals of history firsthand. Having left Korea in the hope of a better life, she loses her family and hometown and becomes 'stateless'. Unbowed, she refuses to allow these turbulent events define her life.

THE GAP OF SORROW is the third novel by Lee Geum-yi that centres the lived experience of women from the Korean diaspora under Japanese rule, following *CAN'T I GO INSTEAD?* (Rights sold: USA, UK, Japanese, Italian, Arabic) and *THE PICTURE BRIDE* (Rights sold: UK, US, Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan, Thai, Arabic).

## Praise for Geum-yi Lee

'Lee Geum-yi has a gift for taking little-known embers of history and transforming them into moving, compelling, and uplifting stories. I loved Willow from the first page to the last. Loved her courage, and her tenacious, yet caring, beautiful soul. The Picture Bride is the ultimate story of the power of friendship - a must read!'

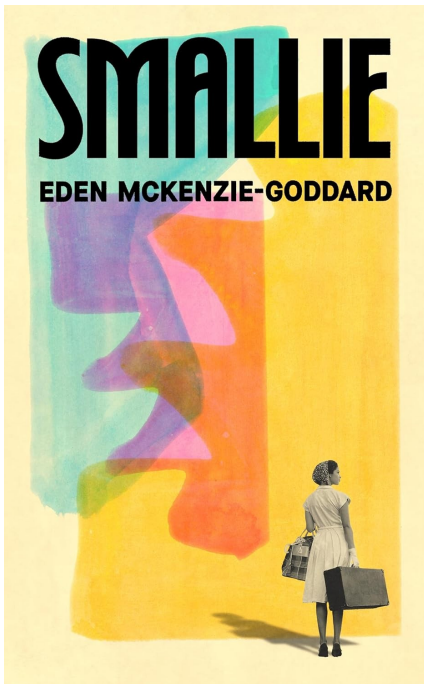
- **Heather Morris, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and *Three Sisters***

'Heartfelt, beautiful, and immersive, The Picture Bride is a fascinating historical fiction book.'

- **The Register-Herald**

## SMALLIE

## Eden McKenzie-Goddard



**UK:** Viking

**Publication Date:** Spring 2026

**Available material:**

- Page proofs

**Length:** 224pp

**Primary Agent:** Rory Clarke

[Watch Author video here](#)

Written in richly descriptive prose for fans of Derek Owusu, Natasha Brown and Caleb Azumah Nelson - *Smallie* is a probing yet tender novel about three generations of a Bajan family, exploring immigration, generational trauma, mental health and the Windrush scandal.

In 1956, 23-year-old Lucinda Brown travels to the UK a Bajan woman in search of her past lover, Clarence Braithwaite, a jazz musician who departs Barbados to join the British army. Upon arriving, Lucinda meets Raldo, a renegade Trinidadian, who offers her the freedom Britain and Barbados fail to fulfil. However, once Lucinda finds Clarence, he is no longer the saxophonist she fell in love with, but instead a veteran at war with himself.

60 years later Patrick Braithwaite, the eldest of seven, a father, husband and business owner from North London suffers a relapse in an addiction that shreds his life apart, and his mother receives a letter from the home office that will not only change how he sees himself, but how Britain sees people like him.

“An enlightening and beautifully crafted story.”

- **JJ Bola, author of *The Selfless Act of Breathing***

“It is not too often that the significance of someone's work strikes you between the eyes from the first page, but this is what Eden has achieved with *Smallie*. And that knowledge is drawn expertly throughout this novel which weaves poignancy, pride and pain into something touching, infuriating and unforgettable. *Smallie* reminds us of what it means to unite in powerlessness and how our futures often rest in the palms of the unjust. Told with stunning language and underlining the plight of the Windrush generation in the UK, this novel is one that will live with me indefinitely.”

- **Onyi Nwabineli, author of *Allow Me to Introduce Myself***

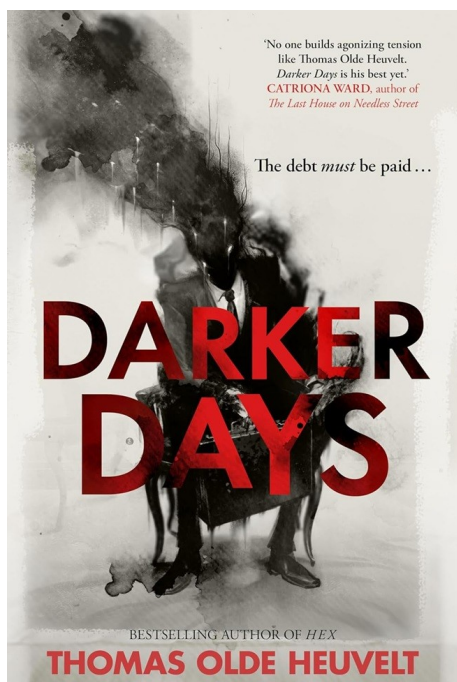
“With *Smallie*, McKenzie-Goddard has achieved a paradoxical feat: making a singular type of pain feel indisputably collective without sacrificing each unique aspect of such a dangerous time in recent history. Emotive, careful and wearing, McKenzie-Goddard's grasp of language is just as strong as the effect this outstanding debut will have on every reader.”

- **Ore Agbaje-Williams, author of *The Three of Us***

**Eden McKenzie-Goddard** is a UK-based writer and podcaster, with Barbadian-Jamaican roots. His work often sheds light on the lives of the forgotten and brings their stories to the forefront. In 2018, Eden co-founded the top 30 music and culture podcast *Don't Alert The Stans* – commended by Apple Podcasts, Complex, Beats By Dre and more. Eden has a degree in English Literature and Creative Writing from University of Westminster and has worked in the publishing industry for the last decade. This is his first novel.

## DARKER DAYS

Thomas Olde Heuvelt



**The Netherlands:** Prometheus  
**UK:** Transworld  
**US:** Harper  
**Film/TV:** Under Option with Sony Pictures Television

**Publication Date:** 30th October 2025

**DARKER DAYS** was published originally as NOVEMBER (Boekerij, Heyne)

**Available material:**  
 - English MS

**Length:** 335pp

**Rights sold:**

Germany - Heyne  
 Italy - Oscar Mondadori  
 Spain - Nocturna  
 Ukraine - Zhorzh/Ranok

**Primary Agent:** Jenny Savill

**When the darker days fall, the debt must be paid, . . . get ready for the chilling new folk horror from the Hugo Award-winning, bestselling author of HEX - perfect for fans of Shirley Jackson and Stephen King.**

In Lock Haven, a quiet little town in Washington State, there is a very special street. Bird Street. The residents of Bird Street are all successful, wealthy, healthy and happy. And their children are all well-mannered and smart and high achievers. At least they are for eleven months of the year.

In November, however, the 'Darker Days' begin. For November's the month when things take a turn for the worse: accidents, bad luck, familial conflict and illness take hold. And it is in November that a stranger comes to Bird Street to collect the debt owed by the residents. Because, you see, there is a price that must be paid for all the happiness and good fortune they enjoy for the other eleven months of year. And that price is one human life. Every November. Without fail.

And so it has been for over a hundred years. To ease their guilt, the residents of Bird Street seek out individuals – usually the elderly or the terminally ill – who wish to die with dignity and are content to be helped on their way. But this year, things don't go to plan. This year events take a terrifying turn . . .

Propulsive and haunting, *Darker Days* is a devastating modern take on the Faustian pact, and begs the question: how far would you go for your own happiness?

“The Netherlands-born author digs deep into the conflicts and consequences arising from such a premise, his tale neatly and slyly probing the rotten roots of privilege, all the way to a gut-punching final twist.”

– **Financial Times**

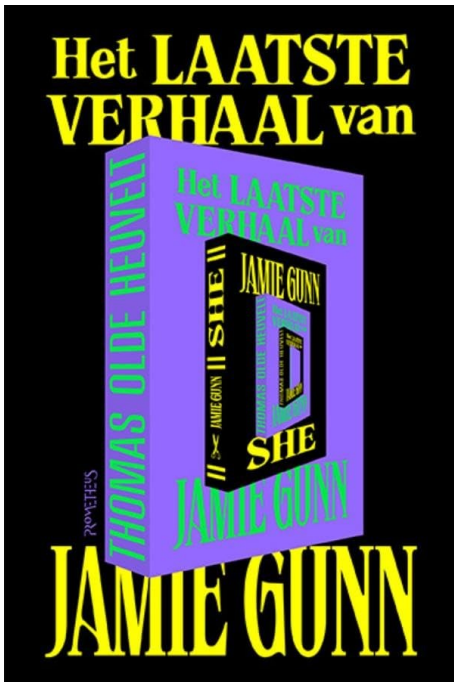
“Thomas Olde Heuvelt is back with another wicked, fascinating, chilling tale, expertly balancing the supernatural with the horrors inherent in human nature. *Darker Days* reinforces that Olde Heuvelt is one of the most vital and exciting voices in modern horror”

— **Mike Flanagan, director of *Life of Chuck*, *Dr. Sleep*, *The Haunting of Hill House* and *The Fall of the House of Usher***

**Thomas Olde Heuvelt** is the international bestselling author of *HEX* and *Echo*. *HEX* was published in over twenty-five countries around the world and is currently in development for TV. Olde Heuvelt, whose last name in Dutch dialect means “Old Hill,” was the first ever translated author to win a Hugo Award for his short fiction. He lives in The Netherlands and the south of France.

# THE LAST STORY OF JAMIE GUNN

**Thomas Olde Heuvelt**



**The Netherlands:** Prometheus  
4/11/25

**UK:** Transworld

**Publication Date:** October  
2026

**Available material:**

- Dutch MS
- English Synopsis
- English translation due at the end of the year

**Length:** N/A

**Primary Agent:** Jenny Savill

Jamie Gunn loves stories. His hero is his father, the world's greatest storyteller. But then Jamie's father dies. To find meaning in his father's premature death, Jamie embarks on a quest to collect the stories of strangers. He meets Sheila Higginbottom, an odd recluse, who tells him the beginning of a perilous tale, the end of which, if you hear it, she says, will kill you. Time passes and Jamie grows up. In his early 20's, he breaks through as an author. His book is chilling, and becomes an international bestseller. But soon Jamie's book appears to be having a strange and disastrous effect on his readers. Jamie fears the story isn't finished with him. Can he save his readers, and himself, from the end?

An epic, labyrinthine, metafictional novel about trauma, grief and guilt as generative and destructive forces in storytelling, *THE LAST STORY OF JAMIE GUNN* is also a terrifying meditation on what happens when the stories we tell to survive take on a life of their own and refuse to let us go.

Whatever you do, don't read the last page.

**Praise for *Darker Days***

"The pursuit of happiness as an existential nightmare and a hellishly good read".

- **John Ajvide Lindqvist, author of the modern vampire classic *Let the Right One In!***

"Darker Days is a remarkable and disturbing morality tale about the true cost of lucky lives. It's a tremendous achievement by Thomas Olde Heuvelt as well as a frightening gift for readers."

- **Owen King, author of *The Curator***

"Darker Days is a novel of reckoning, calculating the balance between what you want and what it will cost, and a meditation on unthinkable bargains. An ingeniously constructed chronicle of fear from a master storyteller"

- **Angela "A.G." Slatter, award-winning author of *The Crimson Road***

"What price would you pay for a life of privilege? Darker Days is a new take on the Faustian bargain completely in keeping with our new age of greed and entitlement, with a twist at the end you won't see coming. This is Olde Heuvelt at the height of his powers."

- **Alma Katsu, author of *Fiend* and *The Hunger***

**Thomas Olde Heuvelt** is the international bestselling author of *HEX* and *Echo*. *HEX* was published in over twenty-five countries around the world and is currently in development for TV. Olde Heuvelt, whose last name in Dutch dialect means "Old Hill," was the first ever translated author to win a Hugo Award for his short fiction. He lives in The Netherlands and the south of France.

# IL TRUCCO DEL DIAVOLO (The Devil's Trick)

**Fabiano Massimi**



**Italy:** Longanesi

**Publication Date:** Spring 2026

**Available material:**

- Italian MS
- Long synopsis in English available

**Length:** 400pp

**Primary Agent:** Barbara Barbieri

**A highly entertaining and thoroughly-researched historical thriller, set against the backdrop of a hidden Rome which becomes the battleground between the forces of Darkness and the Light of reason.**

Rome, 1773. A cruel murderer who signs himself 'Diabolus' has been killing various high-society women, leaving behind only mysterious cartouches that seem impossible to decipher. Although the victims are found in different parts of the city, they are all discovered in the same position: placed between two mirrors, creating a play of infinite reflections known as the "devil's trick", which appears to point to fright itself as the cause of death.

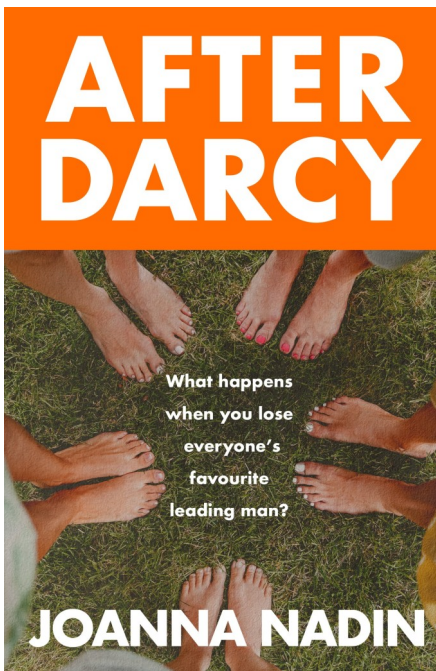
After his inquisitors fail to make any progress in the case, Pope Clemente reaches out to the King of France for help. In response, the King sends his loyal and enlightened adventurer, Xavier Gallant. In the past, Gallant has successfully untangled complex investigations using his exceptional practical and intellectual skills. As a foreigner in the Eternal City, he is joined by two unlikely allies: Artemio, a young and highly intelligent Jesuit, and Lea, a fascinatingly ambiguous lay sister. Together, they begin to unravel the mysteries surrounding the murders, starting with a manuscript written in an undecipherable alphabet and filled with delirious images. Known as the Voynich manuscript, it is also referred to as the "the most mysterious book in the world".

Diabolus appears to be particularly interested in the manuscript, leading Gallant's investigation deep into the realm of closely-guarded ancient secrets. From the arcane knowledge of Roman alchemists and the secretive schemes of the Masons, to the inventions of Athanasius Kircher and the trickery of Cagliostro, the trail grows darker and more complex. It all culminates in a shocking discovery that predates by centuries the dream, or perhaps the nightmare, of artificial intelligence.

**Fabiano Massimi** was born in Modena in 1977 and lives in Formigine, where he manages the local public library. After graduating in Philosophy between Bologna and Manchester, he worked for years as a fiction editor and translator for some of the main Italian publishers (Einaudi, Feltrinelli, Longanesi). He writes historical thrillers and contemporary crime published by Longanesi and Mondadori. His debut novel *L'angelo di Monaco* has appeared in 10 languages, garnering awards both in Italy and abroad (most recently, the renowned Grand Prix de Lecteurs in France). A German-French TV series is currently in production. With Longanesi, he published *The Demons of Berlin* in 2021, *If Forgiveness Exists* in 2023 and *The Furies of Venice* in 2024. He is also the author of *The Montecristo Club* (2021) and *Live Hidden* (2022), which were published by Mondadori.

# AFTER DARCY

Joanna Nadin



**WEL:** Bedford Square Publishers

**Publication Date:** March 2026

**Available material:**

- Page proofs

**Length:** 347pp

**Primary Agent:** Jenny Savill

**A riotously comic, achingly romantic, contemporary-set sequel to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.**

AFTER DARCY reimagines Longbourn and Netherfield in contemporary Hertfordshire, and the Bennet sisters either in or approaching middle age, with all the accompanying hell that is menopause, internet dating, toddlers peeing on the doorstep and teens sexting instead of revising for GCSEs. Two years after the deaths of Darcy and Bingley in a depressingly mundane traffic accident on the A1, the arrival home of a drunk Lydia, just as Wickham proposes to Jane, plunges the family into a comedic freefall, but eventually prompts all of them to face up to their own pride, prejudices and demons, and what it is that is keeping them from happiness.

Spanning one year, and written with wit, in Austen's free indirect speech, often using the same emotional beats and well-loved turns of phrase when describing characters, AFTER DARCY is fast, funny and heartfelt. Reading it feels like sinking into something comfortingly familiar yet imbued with freshness and bite. It will appeal to both devoted Austenites and fans of novelists like Marian Keyes and Beth O'Leary.

### **Praise for Joanna Nadin**

'I bloody adored this perceptive, funny, unflinching novel about growing up, love, sex, mothers and everything'

- **Kate Eberlen, author of *Miss You*, on *The Queen of Bloody Everything***

'A bittersweet delight. Perfectly captures the awkwardness and longing of those who don't quite fit in'

- **Sarra Manning, author of *After the Last Dance* and *House of Secrets* on *The Queen of Bloody Everything***

'Atmospheric, thrilling, sexy and so clever'

- **Laura Pearson, bestselling author of *The Day Shelley Woodhouse Woke Up* on *The Double Life of Daisy Hemmings***

'Beautifully written and deliciously clever - the characters will stay with you for a long time and you'll find joy on every page.'

- **Matson Taylor, author of *The Miseducation of Evie Epworth* on *The Talk of Pram Town***

**Joanna Nadin** is a former broadcast journalist, speechwriter and special adviser to the Prime Minister. Since leaving politics, she's written numerous books for children, teens and adults, including *Joe All Alone*, which is now a BAFTA-winning BBC drama, the Sunday Times no 1. bestselling *Worst Class in the World* series, and the critically acclaimed *The Queen of Bloody Everything*. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Bristol, and a tutor for Arvon and John Yorke Story. She lives in Bath.

# SKIN DEEP

## Georgia Pactat



**UK:** Transworld (pre-empt)

**Publication Date:** Spring 2026

**Available material:**

- Unedited MS

**Length:** 205pp

**Rights sold:**

Italy - Rizzoli

**Primary Agent:** Sara O'Keeffe

*Skin Deep* is a deeply moving elevated love story that uses just a touch of magical realism to explore the complex subjects of gender and identity. It will appeal to fans of Gabrielle Zevin's *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*, with its gorgeous, tender writing, original premise and heart-breaking denouement.

When Anthony meets Oliver at age eight, he knows he has met his person, his best friend for life. Only Anthony has a secret that he can't share with Oliver...

Most of the time, Anthony is himself – ordinary, a little shy, quietly unremarkable. Yet there are days when Anthony wakes to find his whole body burning with discomfort. On those days, Anthony becomes June, a radiant little girl with blond hair and eyes like the sea. Anthony wishes he could share June with his best friend, Oliver, but before he can do so, his parents intervene and move the family away.

It takes more than a decade for Anthony to find Oliver again. When he does, they are now young men, yet the connection between them is just as powerful as it was before. Only this time, Anthony's feelings for Oliver deepen into something more than friendship. What follows is a love story that is as profound as it is heartbreaking. It asks questions about what happens when we fall in love. Do we fall for a body or a soul or some ineffable intertwining of both? What do we mean when we say, 'I love you, no matter what?'

*Skin Deep* is an extraordinary debut that introduces a blazing new voice in fiction.

**Georgia Pactat** is twenty seven years old and grew up in Surrey, England. She went to medical school before working as a doctor in London during the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, she is living with friends in Perth, Australia, where she is writing and working in Emergency Medicine. Georgia plans to return to the UK. *Skin Deep* is her debut novel.

# THE THERAPIST'S SECRET

**Kingsley Pearson**



**WEL:** Orion

**Publication Date:** August 2026

**Available material:**

- Unedited MS
- Copyedited MS due December

**Length:**N/A

**Primary Agent:** Silé Edwards

When Aaron arrives on the Isle of Wight to start afresh as a therapist, he discovers his new workplace is implicated in suspicion and tragedy. His predecessor, Victor, killed a patient and then himself - or so the police claim. But Alba, one of Victor's ex-patients, is convinced something else went on, and orders Aaron to uncover the truth.

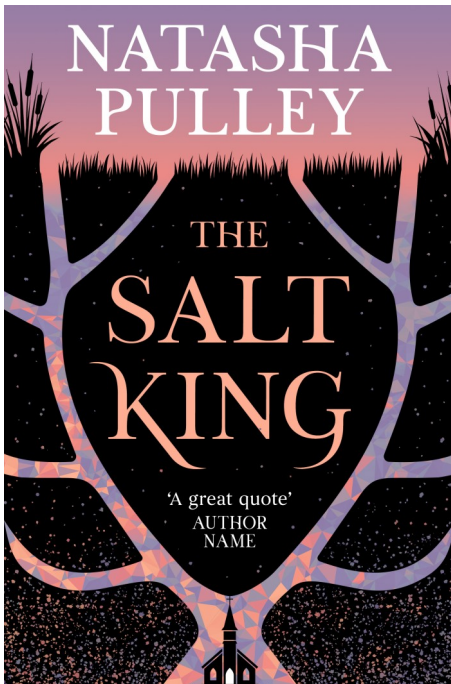
He seems to be reluctantly drawn into investigating what really happened, but is there more to Aaron's involvement, and his reasons for coming to the Isle, than he has let on? His growing obsession with clearing Victor's name threatens to unravel his job, his new life and his budding romance with local police officer Simu.

Was Victor really a victim, or is Aaron just refusing to accept that a therapist like him could be a killer? And, if so - what would that mean Aaron himself is capable of?

**Kingsley Pearson** works as a Clinical Psychologist in Digital Mental Health (think delivering therapeutic experiences through AI, apps, Virtual Reality). He has completed courses with the Arvon Foundation, Faber Academy, and Curtis Brown Creative, and graduated from the HarperCollins Author Academy. His writing is informed by both his personal and professional backgrounds, and has been longlisted for the Penguin Michael Joseph Undiscovered Writers Prize, and shortlisted for the Mo Siewcharran and the Joffe Books Prizes.

# THE SALT KING

**Natasha Pulley**



**UK:** Gollancz

**US:** Bloomsbury

**Publication Date:** August 2026

**Available material:**

- Un-copied MS

**Length:** 329pp

**Primary Agent:** Jenny Savill

## **At a shrine in the Fens, a man has turned to salt.**

Investigating is difficult: Hreodwater has its own language and its own culture, completely isolated from the rest of England. The Vatican sends the only Hreod speaker they have, Avelyn Brocken. Once a salt miner and now a Jesuit, Avelyn hates the idea of going back. It took him years to unlearn his belief in the god of the mine- the Salt King - and the catastrophic, toxic mythology that killed his whole family. Still, go he must.

The gentle dean of the abbey, Jericho, is worried that the ‘miracle’ isn’t to do with anything supernatural but a substance in the mine called salt light, which he thinks is increasing to poisonous levels. Hreod people, including Avelyn, can see it, and there is definitely something to Jericho’s theory: there’s far more salt light in the mine than there should be. The miners all say the same thing. The Salt King is waking up.

But strange problems with salt aren’t only happening in Hreodwater. At an archaeological dig on the Dead Sea, everyone’s electronic devices froth salt from their wiring; at another salt mine in Russia, a KGB officer finds the bodies of five tourists who seem to have turned to salt, and at the huge salt works at Wieliczka in Poland, all communication is lost, and rumours circulate of a nuclear blast.

Soon, people are seeing lights in the sky and feeling an overpowering surge of joy whenever the lights go overhead. As planes fall from the sky and cities erupt into salt, Avelyn must struggle not only to stay alive, but to find where to lay his faltering faith: in the Church, or in the Salt King.

*The Salt King* is speculative folk horror pitched somewhere between *Good Omens* and *The Exorcist*. It’s about the war in heaven, the apocalypse, the nature of faith - and an angel who wears purple Doc Martens.

## **Praise for Natasha Pulley**

“Pulley’s hallucinatory exploration of the god of wine ... had me hooked from the first page ... The Hymn to Dionysus probes the boundaries of mythos and love, leaving readers laughing through bittersweet tears.”

**- Washington Independent Review of Books**

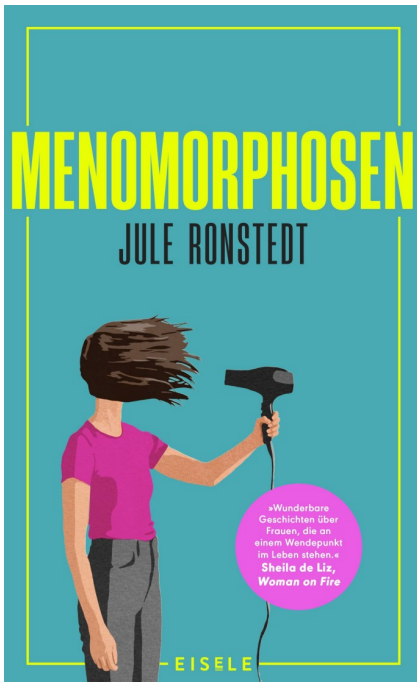
“one of the best and most consistently stunning novelists of our time ... Pulley’s ability to weave reality, history, and fantasy is unmatched.”

**- A Cineaste’s Bookshelf**

International bestselling author **Natasha Pulley’s** first novel, *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street*, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller, won a Betty Trask Award and was shortlisted for the Authors’ Club Best First Novel Award. Her second novel, *The Bedlam Stacks*, was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature’s Encore Award and longlisted for the Walter Scott Prize. *The Lost Future of Pepperbarrow* was published in 2020 to widespread critical acclaim, cementing Natasha’s reputation as one of the most original and exciting writers at work. This was followed in 2021 by *The Kingdoms*, in 2022 by *The Half Live of Valery K*, shortlisted for the Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize, and in 2024 by *The Mars House*. Natasha has lived in Japan as a Daiwa Scholar, as well as China and Peru. She was a 2016 Gladstone Writer in Residence, and she teaches on Bath Spa University’s Creative Writing BA and MA, alongside short courses at the Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education. She lives in Bristol.

# MENOMORPHOSEN

**Jule Ronstedt**



**Germany:** Eisele Verlag

**Publication Date:** 25th September 2025

**Available material:**

- German MS

**Length:** 240pp

**Primary Agent:** Sabine Pfannenstiel

Stories of women in midlife – funny, combative, and encouraging.

Menopause can turn life on its head — relationships once thought unshakable, a body you've only just begun to truly understand, and long-held life plans can all be called into question. Yet within this upheaval lies a wealth of possibility: a chance to reimagine, to reconnect, and to embrace a new chapter with clarity and strength.

Actress, director, and screenwriter Jule Ronstedt has experienced it herself: Menopause brings emotional turmoil, physical challenges, the end of a long marriage, and the suddenly empty nest. With *Menomorphosen*, she breaks the silence around these experiences, sharing 26 monologues — from Annemarie to Frida — that reflect the lives of women in their late forties. Every woman will see herself in one story or another, feeling recognised, understood, and uplifted.

“Wonderful stories about women who have arrived in the middle of their life and realize: it's time to become the woman I've always wanted to be.”

- Sheila De Liz, *Woman on Fire*

**Jule Ronstedt**, born in Munich in 1971, is an actress, director, and screenwriter. She got the idea for her literary debut *Menomorphosen* after conversations with friends who inspired her to make the voices of women in midlife heard. Jule Ronstedt still lives in Munich.

# ROK OCH SPEGLAR (Smoke and Mirrors)

Mårten Sandén



**Sweden:** LB Forlag

**Publication Date:** 10th  
September 2025

**Available material:**  
- Swedish MS  
- English sample translation

**Length:** 318pp

**Primary agent:** Ylva Monsen

Moa Aydemir and Leonard Sahlgren are battling for the title of Sweden's greatest crime writer. They are total opposites and bitter enemies.

When their eccentric publisher Rutger Adlon is found murdered, both Moa and Leonard become suspects. Someone seems to have lured them into a carefully planned trap, and to prove their innocence, they must work together. But who wants to save their worst enemy?

The hunt for the real killer takes them from the highest heights of the cultural world to suburban squares, shady gun shops and wanted outlaws. By the time the showdown takes place, in one of Stockholm's most glamorous places, both Moa and Leo have changed fundamentally.

SMOKE AND MIRRORS is an irreverent cozy crime and the first in the Deckerduon series, set in the Stockholm publishing world. Readers will be reunited with Moa and Leo in autumn 2026 for their next adventure together.

"Fantastically entertaining reading."

- Anders Kapp, Kapprak

**Mårten Sandén** was born in 1962 and lives in Stockholm. He is a full-time author and songwriter, but has a degree in psychology and a B.A. in social sciences. He is a member of the Swedish Academy of Crime Fiction and the Swedish Academy of Children's Books and sits on the jury for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. He has written around fifty children's and young adult books, for which he has received several prestigious awards, and is best known for *The Petrini Detectives*. *Smoke and Mirrors* is his adult debut.

# PS YOU'RE THE WORST

Chloe Seager



**UK:** HQ

**US:** William Morrow

**Publication Date:** 20th  
November 2025

**Available material:**  
- Page proofs

**Length:** 319pp

**Publishers of *Open Minded*:**

Brazil - Record

Germany - DTV

The Netherlands - A.W. Bruna

**Primary Agent:** Silé Edwards

From the author of *Open Minded* comes another original romcom about the messy realities of millennial life.

She tried to get a job she cared about, but after multiple ridiculously competitive interviews went nowhere, she's working in recruitment. She tried moving out of home, but after rent prices went through the roof, she's back at home with her (overbearing) mother. She's been on a lot - a lot - of terrible dates on every app going, but she can't meet anyone better than her ex-boyfriend Max who she still loves. She's watched his perfect life on social media, but always failed to pluck up the courage to reach out to the father who abandoned her. It doesn't help that her (smug) friends are all starting to get married and set up actual businesses. Seeking comfort and advice, Becky visits a tarot reader on the eve of her 30th birthday...who tells her she's going to die.

Convinced she's a goner, and panicked about having done nothing with her life, Becky finally takes action. She writes a series of letters quitting her job, professing her undying love to Max, asking her mum to back off, contacting her dad, telling her friends what she really thinks about them. And she waits. Only...The next day, she's still very much alive.

With her life totally in tatters, can Becky pick up the pieces and rebuild something better?

## Praise for Chloe Seager

"Chloe Seager's debut adult novel is a candid, often funny account of two women well outside their comfort zones... with just the right balance of laughs and compassion."

- *The Times*

"[A]n effervescent chronicle of two women's inverse dating lives and their illuminating friendship... Readers will fall in love with this one."

- *Publishers Weekly*

"Holly and Fliss' stories demonstrate that it's unwise to elevate monogamous romantic relationships over all other forms of connection, including friendships, which can be just as precious. A worthwhile read for those interested in open relationships."

- *Kirkus Reviews*

**Chloe Seager** is an agent for Children's and YA books. She represents a range of award-winning and bestselling authors. Chloe has also written books for a younger audience. She penned the *Emma Nash* books, a YA series published with HQ, and collaborated on a new middle-grade series with the hosts of Capital FM's breakfast show.

# ONE OF YOUR NUMBER

**L. J. Shepherd**



Leonie is one of twelve jurors. Chosen to decide the fate of a nurse accused of murdering his patients with lethal doses of adrenaline. But just as deliberations begin, an usher bursts in with news that will change everything. Britain is under chemical attack, and the courthouse is locked down.

Instructed not to leave for their own safety, the jurors quickly realise that the real threat lies inside the building. The accused has escaped his cell and is on the loose. He's playing twisted games with the group. And Leonie is his next target.

Because he knows something about her. A secret she's kept hidden from the others - about just how far she'll go to tip the scales of justice in her favour.

The latest twisty, nail-biting court room thriller from real-life barrister, L. J. Shepherd .

**UK:** Vertigo/Pushkin Press

**US:** Sourcebooks

**Publication date:** April 2026

**Available material:**

- MS

**Length:** 356pp

**Primary Agent:** Jenny Savill

## **Praise for *The Trials of Lila Dalton***

‘Unputdownable’

**Sophie Hannah**

‘A mind-blowing, audaciously inventive thriller’

**Chris Whitaker**

‘Original and feverishly compulsive’

**Sabine Durrant**

‘Stuart Turton meets Agatha Christie... A truly intriguing and intelligent mystery’

**Sarah Moorhead**

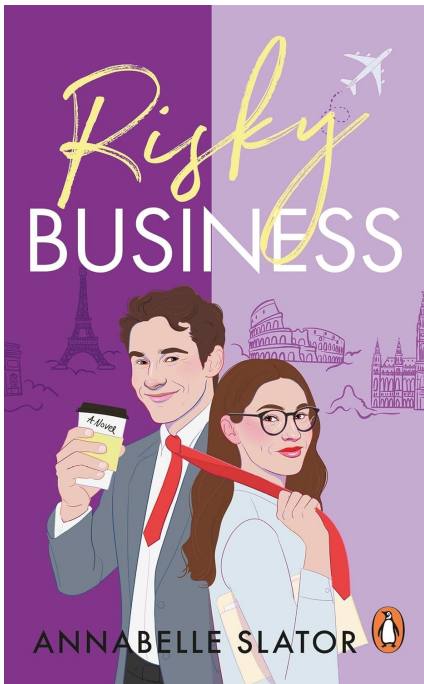
‘A strikingly clever debut and high concept legal thriller which grips from the first page’

**Guy Morpuss**

**L. J. Shepherd** lives in Cardiff with her rescue cat, Coral. She studied English Literature at Christ Church, Oxford. After graduating, she decided to pursue a career in law. While studying to become a barrister, she taught martial arts on a part-time basis. When she had time, she would write. She began practising as a barrister in 2017, and has enjoyed a mixed practice. The most dubious of pleasures, however, has been in googling her name + “Crown Court” and discovering the imaginative array of headlines awarded to her cases. As ever, the comments section is where the real intrigue lies.

# RISKY BUSINESS

**Annabelle Slator**



**UK:** Transworld

**US:** Avon

**Publication date:** 12th February 2026

**Available material:**

- Final MS

**Length:** 400pp

**Publishers of *The Launch Date*:**

Brazil - Alta

Germany - Goldmann Verlag

Turkey - Nemesis Yayıncılık

Ukraine - Knigolove

**Primary Agent:** Silé Edwards

**The new forced proximity, forbidden workplace romance, by Annabelle Slator perfect for fans of *The Hating Game* and early Ali Hazelwood.**

When tech founder Jess Cole is struggling to gain funding for her company, she begins to wonder if it's because she's a woman in the male-dominated tech industry—especially due to a former incident and subsequent NDA that's been following her for years. In an act of financial desperation, she applies to a competition for start-ups using her twin brother Spencer's name, pretending to be a man. To her surprise, it works! As though she's discovered the ultimate industry cheat code, Jess and Spencer are invited into the exclusive world of Tech Rumble, an annual innovation competition hosted on the world's stage by tech darling Dominic Odericco.

During wild nights in Rome, secret rendezvous in Paris, and luxurious parties in Vienna, Jess must navigate the competition and try to stay on top of her lies, especially when someone from her past comes sniffing around, putting her ruse at risk.

A nod to the early 2000s Shakespeare adaptations, this twist on *The Twelfth Night* is a fast-paced steamy ride from start to finish!

'Risky Business is the kind of romcom that will have you clawing at the pages, desperate to know what happens next. Sharp, witty and hot as hell!'

**- Chloe Ford, author of *Work Trip* and *House Party***

Annabelle Slator is a master of the workplace romance. Packed with her signature humour, real-world issues surrounding women in tech, and characters you root for from page one, *Risky Business* is the perfect investment for your TBR.

**- Georgia Stone, author of *The Friendship Fling***

"Annabelle Slator has cemented herself as one of my favourite new voices in romance. Fresh and hilarious, *Risky Business* is full of nail biting drama, rich character growth, and a strong message, proving that romance is anything but fluff."

**- Jack Strange, author of *Look Up, Handsome*.**

**Annabelle Slator** grew up writing stories in the depths of the British countryside. After achieving a degree in creative writing spent most of her late teens and early twenties writing social media and blog posts for start-ups and tech companies in London. Nowadays, if she isn't spending time writing, you can almost always find her obsessing over niche internet drama, practicing her fencing parry or mooching around vintage fairs and flea markets with her husband and two mini dachshunds, Gruffalo and Gryffin. *The Launch Date* is Annabelle's first book, inspired by her time working at the global dating app, Bumble.

## LA VITA SEMPRE (*Life Always*)

**Elena Varvello**



**Italy:** Ugo Guanda, sold at auction

**Publication Date:** January 2026

**Available material:**

- Italian manuscript
- English synopsis
- Partial English translation

**Length:** 340 pp

**Publishers of *La Vita Felice*:**

France - Du Masque

Greece - Psychogios

Italy - Einaudi

Poland - Wydawnictwo Literackie

Spain - Alianza

World English: Hodder & Stoughton

**Primary Agent:** Barbara Barbieri

*“There are no photographs portraying my mother’s parents next to each other. There are no letters nor postcards. Even her, who was born in 1940, didn’t have a memory of them together.*

*Of her lost father’s life – a tall, handsome man, as well as a gambler, unrepentant liar, seducer, and deserter – which lasted merely twenty-nine years, passed through the Piedmonts’ mountains of the first partisan Resistance, and ended in 1945 in a German lager after an escape in the frost of winter, there was almost nothing left: five blurry pictures and two legendary tales of rebellion in the lager, stories of pride, tenacity, and bravery. Nothing else. Yet he’s nearly always seen smiling in those photographs, as if laughing about the times that await him, the chaos that will separate him from his young wife and daughter, and the blind force that is about to wash over them. He laughs.*

*Alba is their story – reconstructed, reenacted, imagined – as well as the story of life attempting to resist History, and that, anywhere and always, raises its song to the sky – a love song – with the hope that someone will finally listen to it.”*

From fragments of her family history, Varvello has woven a poignant and immersive love story between her grandparents, set against the turbulent backdrop of two decades of Italian and European history.

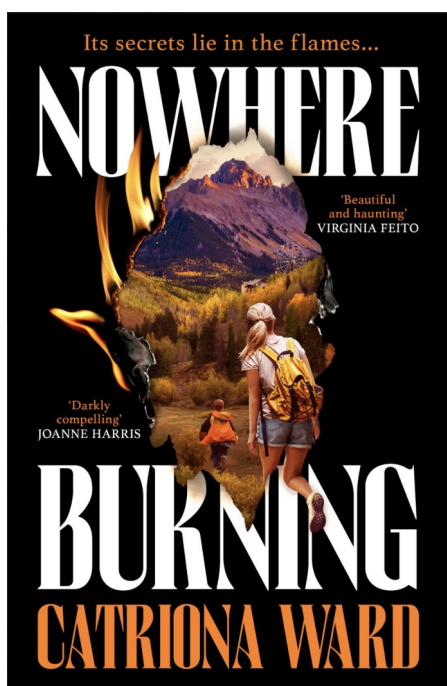
Through lyrical and evocative prose, she seeks to fill in the gaps of her family’s past and bring a sense of closure to history.

In the tradition of Emmanuel Carrère and Elsa Morante, Varvello depicts smaller histories meeting the big, inevitable History, shaping a fascinating encounter between literature and real lives.

**Elena Varvello** was born in Turin. After completing a Masters Degree in Creative Writing she published two collections of poetry, *Perseveranza è salutare* (Endurance Is Healthy) (2002) and *Atlanti* (Atlases) (2004). The short story collection *L’economia delle cose* (The economy of things) (2007), selected for the prestigious Premio Strega, won the Premio Settembrini and the Premio Bagutta Opera Prima. A short film of the same title has been based on the short story *La pistola* (The gun). Her first novel, *La luce perfetta del giorno* (The Perfect Light of Day), was published by Fandango in January 2011. In May 2016, her second novel, *La vita felice* (Can You Hear Me?), was published by Einaudi to critical acclaim. The UK edition received an English PEN Award and was selected as Waterstones Thriller of the Month in June 2018. Her following novel, *Solo un ragazzo* (Just a Boy), was published by Einaudi in September 2020. Elena teaches Creative Writing at the Scuola Holden in Turin. She lives with her husband and two sons in a small village in the woods, not far from her birthplace.

## NOWHERE BURNING

Catriona Ward



Set in the unforgiving maw of the Rocky Mountains, *Nowhere Burning* is the latest novel from bestselling author Catriona Ward, perfect for fans of Riley Sager and the series *Yellowjackets*.

Secrets in the flames. Answers in the ashes.

In the middle of the night, Riley pulls her younger brother Oliver out of bed, and the two run away from home. Riley is intent on joining a group of teenagers squatting in the abandoned ruins of an infamous movie star's ranch, Nowhere. For actor Leaf Winham, Nowhere was a place to hide from his fame, and to hide his crimes—until a fire ravaged his home and exposed him as a murderer.

It is rumored that the ranch nestled in the peaks of the Rocky Mountains is now home to group of feral children, a place where adults cannot enter, and Riley hopes to find a new family there. But the Nowhere Kids are fierce in defending their turf and their clan, and Riley quickly realizes that while she and Oliver may have left the devil they knew, this group is a new type of diabolical.

UK: Viper

US: Tor Nightfire

Publication Date: 19th  
February 2026

Available material:  
- Page proofs

Length: 384pp

Rights sold:  
Spain (World) - Alianza Editorial  
Spain (Catalan) - Obscura

Primary Agent: Jenny Savill

For something dark lives in the burned shell of Nowhere, something which asks a terrible price for sanctuary...

'I loved NOWHERE BURNING: it's darkly compelling, and so well-drawn with such a range of believable, engaging characters. I read it in one marathon drive (with only a couple of stops for Powerbars and tea :-)  
'Terrific!'

- Joanne Harris

'Gripping and beautiful and haunting and virtuously crafted, NOWHERE BURNING will make all those other books you're reading look bad. A thrilling, sinuous reflection on the lengths we go to for family, you won't be able to stop reading. *Epic!*'

- Virginia Feito, author of *Mrs March*

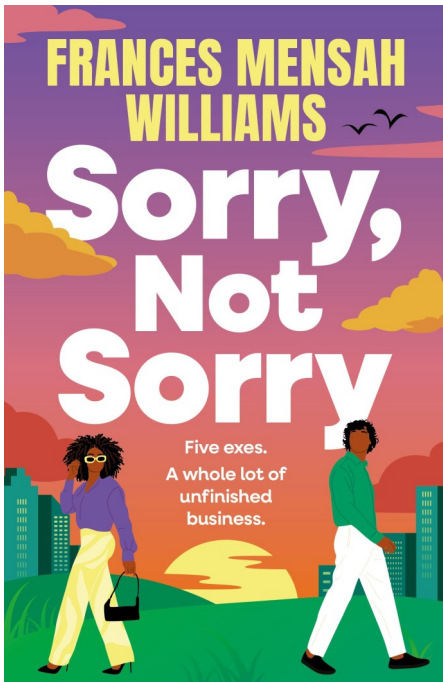
'This unforgettable novel invokes Stephen King and Charles Dickens, Pinocchio and Hollywood, Westerns and fairy tales -- but it's very much an original, a story for anyone who likes to smile, to scream, to shudder... and to marvel at a remarkable storyteller in full flower.'

- Dan Mallory

**Catriona Ward** was born in Washington, DC and grew up in the United States, Kenya, Madagascar, Yemen, and Morocco. Her debut *Rawblood* (W&N, 2015) won Best Horror Novel at the 2016 British Fantasy Awards, was shortlisted for the Author's Club Best First Novel Award and a WHSmith Fresh Talent title. Her second novel, *Little Eve* (W&N, 2018) won the Shirley Jackson Award 2018, was a Guardian best book of 2018 and won the August Derleth Award for Best Horror Novel 2019. Catriona is the only woman to have won the August Derleth Award three times. Catriona's third novel, *The Last House on Needless Street*, was published to acclaim in March 2021 in the UK by Viper and in the US by Tor Nightfire. It has so far sold in over 25 languages, and was Times Book of the Month, Observer Book of the Month, March Editor's Pick on Open Book, a Between the Covers BBC2 book club selection, and a Times bestseller. Viper published Catriona's fourth novel, *Sundial*, in March 2022, and her fifth, *Looking Glass Sound*, in April 2023. She lives in London and Devon.

# SORRY, NOT SORRY

Frances Mensah Williams



**WEL:** Boldwood Books

**Publication Date:** 28th September 2025

**Available material:**

- Final MS

**Length:** 304pp

**Primary Agent:** Gyamfia Osei

## Relationship Expert. Emotional Disaster.

Trainee relationship counsellor Delilah Braithwaite is better at breaking couples up than bringing them together. But after one break-up too many, she's suspended and ordered to get to grips with her own baggage if she hopes to get her job back.

Desperate to prove she's not the problem, Delilah accepts a challenge from her sister: track down five exes and make amends for dumping them all with no good reason. But when she runs into Noah - the fiancé she left at the altar - her plans take a complicated turn.

While Delilah seeks redemption, her own therapy sessions begin to unearth hidden secrets and painful truths she's long avoided. But only when she's forced to confront the trauma of her past does she begin to understand that love means a whole lot more than just saying sorry.

**Sorry, Not Sorry is a heartwarming, feel-good and hilarious journey of healing, second chances, and the courage it takes to face the honest truth about yourself.**

## Praise for Frances Mensah Williams

'Readers are sure to enjoy this uplifting work.'

- **Publishers Weekly**

'I very much enjoyed this brilliantly written novel.'

- **Dorothy Koomson**

'A celebration of sisterhood. You won't want to put the story down till it ends.'

- **Chibundu Onuzo**

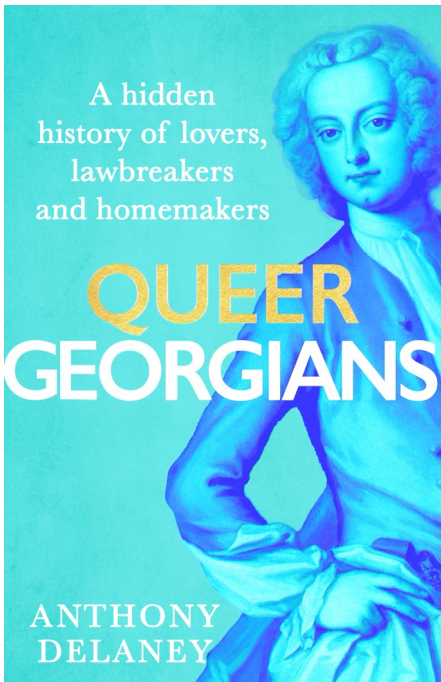
Born in Ghana, **Frances Mensah Williams** spent her early childhood between the USA, Austria, and Ghana before settling in the UK. In 2015 Frances's acclaimed first novel *From Pasta to Pigfoot* was published by Jacaranda Books and was selected by WH Smith Travel as one of the top 25 of its 100 Summer reads. Frances was awarded a CBE by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the 2020 New Year's Honours List for services to the African community in the UK and in Africa. In the same year, Frances published *Imperfect Arrangements*, described by bestselling novelist Dorothy Koomson as 'a brilliantly written novel'. *The Second Time We Met* (2022) and *Strictly Friends* (2023) were published by Lake Union, Amazon and Frances' latest contemporary romance novel *Sorry, Not Sorry* publishes with Boldwood in Autumn 2025.

**RECENTLY PUBLISHED  
NON-FICTION**

## QUEER GEORGIANS:

### *A Hidden History of Lovers, Lawbreakers and Homemakers*

**Anthony Delaney**



Mother Clap's Holborn coffee house is open to all comers, a place of companionship and community, until a tip-off leads to a midnight raid.

Two women, exiled from their families, set up a utopian homestead in a remote Welsh cottage, inspiring a generation of Romantic poets.

The celebrated Chevalier d'Éon, soldier, diplomat and spy, challenges a rival to a fencing match. The sweepstake is not over who will win, but whether the Chevalier is a man or a woman.

In this dazzling work of restorative history, Dr Anthony Delaney has traced the stories of people daring to challenge society's expectations, unearthing archives and court records to reveal the tragedies and the joys of queer life three centuries ago. Breathing new life into the forgotten and offering radical new interpretations of celebrated figures such as Anne Lister, *Queer Georgians* is an invitation to view our shared history in a whole new light.

**UK:** Doubleday (Transworld),  
**US:** Grove Atlantic

**Publication Date:** 4th  
September 2025

**Available material:**  
- Final MS

**Length:** 304 pp

**Illustrations:** A few black and white images integrated within the text.

**Primary Agent:** Charlotte Merritt

[Watch author video here](#)

'In this moving and revelatory book, Anthony Delaney gives a voice to women and men whose lives have been written out of history. At heart, *Queer Georgians* is about the triumph of love in adversity.'  
- **Hallie Rubenhold, author of *The Five and Story of a Murder***

'*Queer Georgians* is utterly riveting.'  
- **Irish Independent**

'Anthony Delaney is a superb public historian, words drop off his tongue and flow from his pen with a fluency that is the envy of us all.'  
- **Dan Snow, broadcaster and author of *Death or Victory***

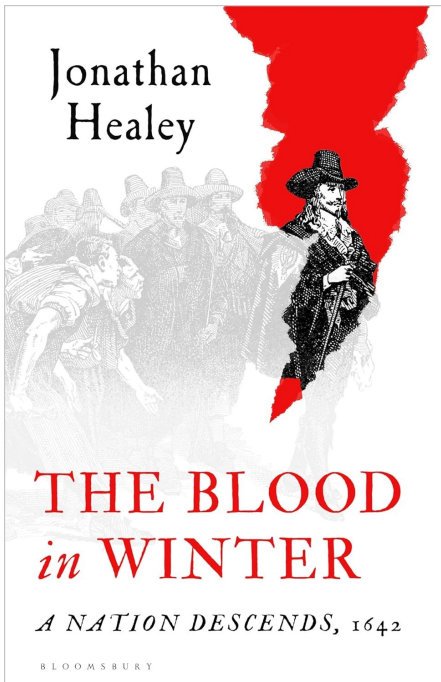
'A rare combination of bold ideas, rigorous archival research, and a personal voice, *Queer Georgians* introduces us to a fascinating range of characters.'  
- **Emma Donoghue, author of *Room* and *Passions Between Women***

**Anthony Delaney** is an actor, historian and broadcaster. He has worked across stage and screen since he graduated from the Central School of Speech and Drama in 2010 and currently plays DS Jordan MacDonald in *Harry Wild* (Acorn TV & AMC+), starring Jane Seymour. He holds a PhD from the University of Exeter, where he is an Honorary Fellow, and specialises in queer history and culture. He has delivered lectures and seminars for institutions such as The National Trust, The British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Sorbonne University, and Kensington Palace. As a broadcaster, Anthony is the co-host of History Hit's hugely popular podcast *After Dark*. He lives in London.

# THE BLOOD IN WINTER:

*A Nation Descends, 1642*

**Jonathan Healey**



**UK:** Bloomsbury

**US:** Knopf

**Publication Date:** 26th June 2025

**Available material:**

- Final MS

**Length:** 336pp

**Illustrations:** None

**Publishers of *The Blazing World*:**

China - Yilin Press

**Primary Agent:** Charlotte Merritt

**A thrilling political history about the months that brought England to the cusp of civil war, from the acclaimed author of *The Blazing World*.**

In 1641, England exits a plague-ridden and politically unstable summer having reached a semblance of peace: the English and Scottish armies have disbanded, legislation has passed to ensure Parliament will continue to sit and the people are tentatively optimistic. But King Charles I is not satisfied with peace - he wants revenge.

So begins England's winter of discontent. As revolutionary sects of London begin to generate new ideas about democracy, as radical new religious groups seek power and as Ireland explodes into revolt, Charles hatches a plan to restore his absolute rule. On 4 January 1642 he marches on Westminster, seeking to arrest and impeach five Members of Parliament - and so sets in motion a series of events that will lead to bloodshed and war, changing a nation forever.

## **A NEW YORK TIMES 'BEST 5 BOOKS OF THE WEEK'**

'An old-fashioned Westminster thriller . . . You could hardly find a more engrossing or exciting story'

**- Dominic Sandbrook, *Sunday Times***

'A rollicking history, packed with fire and excitement.'

**- Telegraph**

'Gripping history from below as well as from above,'

**- Financial Times**

'Healey has done it again. *The Blood in Winter* is history as it should be told, where new light is cast upon one of the most dramatic years in British history. Shaped by meticulous research and a narrative worthy of any political thriller, the result is masterful.'

**- Alice Loxton, author of *Eighteen***

Born in Leeds in 1982, **Jonathan Healey** is a historian of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. He writes history from the bottom up, focusing on ordinary people - their lives, loves, culture and politics. He is Associate Professor in Social History at the University of Oxford. His previous book, *The Blazing World: A New History of Revolutionary England*, was selected as a book of the year by the *Telegraph*, *Economist* and *New Yorker*. He lives in Oxford.

# THE NAZI MIND:

## *12 Warnings from History*

Laurence Rees



From the bestselling author of *The Holocaust*, a groundbreaking narrative history of the motivation and mentality behind the Nazis and their supporters.

How could the Nazis have committed the crimes they did? Why did commandants of concentration and death camps willingly – often enthusiastically – oversee mass murder? How could ordinary Germans have tolerated the removal of the Jews? In *The Nazi Mind*, bestselling author Laurence Rees combines history and the latest research in psychology to help answer some of the most perplexing questions surrounding the Second World War and the Holocaust.

Ultimately, he delves into the darkness to explain how and why these people were capable of committing the worst crime in the history of the world. Rees traces the rise and eventual fall of the Nazis through the lens of ‘twelve warnings’ – whilst also highlighting signs to look out for in present day leaders who, for example, take control of the media, propound conspiracy theories, and talk about ‘them’ against ‘us’.

**UK:** Viking

**US:** Public Affairs

**Publication Date:** 23rd January 2025

**Available material:** Final MS

**Length:** 448pp

**Illustrations:** Yes

**Rights sold:**

Croatia - Stilus

Finland - Tammi

France - Editions Arpa

Italy - Bompiani

Korea - Cum Libro

The Netherlands - Ambo Anthos

Poland - Wielka Litera

Portugal - Vogais/PRH

Spain - Critica

Taiwan - The Commercial Press Ltd

Thailand - Arrow Publishing

Turkey - Kronik

Vietnam - Quang Van

Rees uses previously unpublished testimony, unavailable to other scholars, from former Nazis and those who grew up in the Nazi system, and in-depth psychological insights including cutting edge work on obedience, authority and the brain. *The Nazi Mind* is a revelatory new way of understanding how ordinary people committed the most appalling crime of the 20th century.

**\*\*\*SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER\*\*\***

“This is a brilliant piece of work: learned, compelling and frankly terrifying”

- *Telegraph*

“A baleful, brilliant, modern and revelatory interrogation”

- *Independent*

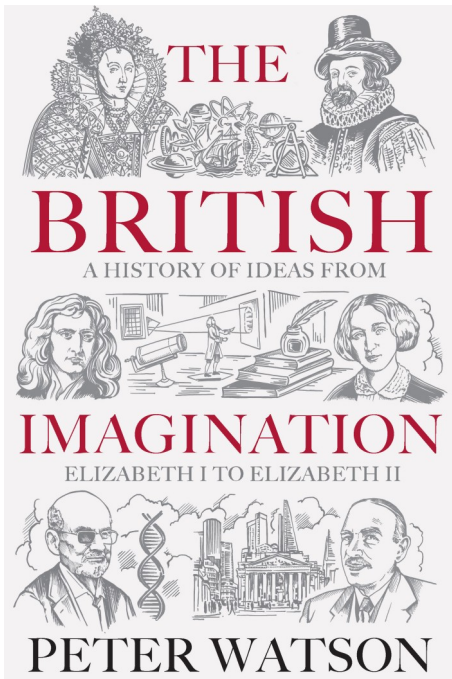
**Primary Agent:** Michael Dean

**Laurence Rees** is the author of several acclaimed books on the Second World War and is a former Head of BBC TV History programmes. His work includes the television series and bestselling books *The Nazis: A Warning from History*, *Auschwitz: The Nazis and the 'Final Solution'*, *World War II: Behind Closed Doors* and *The Dark Charisma of Adolf Hitler*. In 2017, his *The Holocaust: A New History*, was a Sunday Times bestseller. Educated at Oxford University, Rees holds honorary doctorates from the University of Sheffield and the Open University. His many awards include a British Book Award, a BAFTA, a George Foster Peabody award, a Broadcasting Press Guild award, a Grierson award, a Broadcast award, two International Documentary awards and two Emmys.

# THE BRITISH IMAGINATION:

*A History of Ideas from Queen Elizabeth I to Queen Elizabeth II*

**Peter Watson**



**UK:** Simon & Schuster

**Publication Date:** 22nd May 2025

**Available material:**  
- Final MS

**Length:** 352pp

**Illustrations:** TBC

**Rights sold:**

China - Yilin Press

Korea - Cum Libro

Turkey - Say Dagitim

**Primary Agent:** Michael Dean

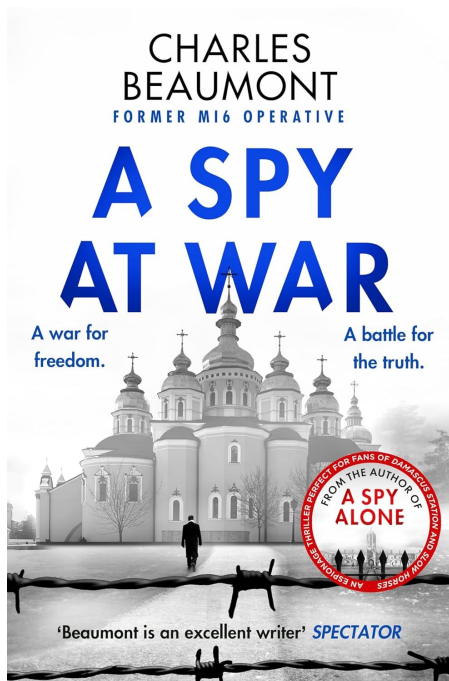
A majestic survey of 500 years of ideas that changed the world, by Britain's foremost intellectual historian. Before the 16th century Britain was a small, out-of-the-way backwater, lagging far behind other global powers in terms of power and innovation. This all changed when Queen Elizabeth I was crowned. During her reign, creative and intellectual life flourished as never before, and Britain became one of the leading nations of 'the West'. What happened in the last five hundred years to bring about this change, and to maintain it? And what can it tell us about the unique nature of British identity and exceptionalism today? The British Imagination is a masterful journey through 500 years of history, from Shakespeare to Woolf, the Royal Society to the industrial revolution, and from the first New World colonies to the empire that by the 1920s had colonised a quarter of the world. The key tenets of British history, Peter Watson argues, are religion, science, commerce and empire. Breathtaking in scope, covering everything from astronomy to geology, philosophy to literature, The British Imagination is a spellbinding tour of the most influential ideas – and the extraordinary people – that made Britain what it is today.

**Peter Watson** was born in 1943 and was educated at universities in Durham, London and Rome. He has been on the staff of the *Sunday Times* and *The Times*, and has written for many other newspapers. He is the author of over a dozen books including *Ideas: A History from Fire to Freud* and *The German Genius*. He lives in London.

**RECENTLY PUBLISHED  
FICTION**

# A SPY AT WAR

Charles Beaumont



**WEL:** Canelo

**UK audio:** Ulverscroft

**US audio:** Tantor Media

**Publication Date:** 27th March 2025

**Available material:**

- Final MS

**Length:** 368pp

**Publishers of *A Spy Alone*:**

Portugal - Lua de Papel

Ukraine - Knigolove

**Primary Agent:** Michael Dean

Book Two in the Oxford Spy Ring series that has sold over **100,000 copies**

**Russia is struggling to defeat Ukraine on the battlefield. But can it win the war for influence?**

August 2022. Simon Sharman is out for revenge, pursuing the assassin of his former colleague across war-torn Ukraine. Back in London, a Russian spy ring at the heart of the British Establishment remains active, attempting to sabotage the West's support for Ukraine.

In the fiercely contested Donbas region, Simon finds himself sucked into a terrifying shadow conflict between Russia and the West. Can a lone spy make a difference to the course of a conflict?

**From the ruins of Bakhmut to the corridors of Whitehall, *A Spy at War* reveals the secret struggle for Ukraine, on the frontlines and in the arena of global public opinion.**

‘The most exciting new spy writer in Britain’  
- **Tim Shipman**

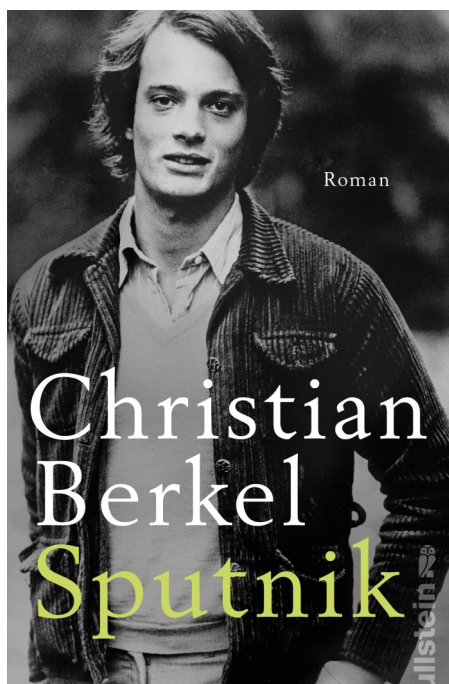
‘An unadorned take on the brutal realities of the Ukrainian war, told with literary flair and an insider’s insights into the corrupt political forces at work behind the trenches’  
- **Paul Vidich, author of *Beirut Station***

‘Beaumont has done it again: a gripping spy thriller, this time set in war-torn Ukraine, which is so true to life you feel you are there. It’s also about Britain, now, and how so many in the Establishment have sold their souls for Russian gold’  
- **John Sweeney, author of *Killer in the Kremlin***

**Charles Beaumont** worked undercover as an MI6 operative in war zones, on diplomatic missions and in international business. His work spanned two decades and four continents.

## SPUTNIK

## Christian Berkel



**Germany:** Ullstein Verlag

**Publication Date:** 30th May 2025

**Available material:**

- German MS, English sample to come

**Length:** 400pp

**Publishers of *Der Apfelbaum*:**

France - Fayard

Germany - Ullstein

Greece - Joconda/Mikroskopio

Italy - Mondadori

Netherlands - A.W. Bruna

Poland - Świat Książki

Russia - Eksmo

Spain - HarperCollins Iberica

**Primary Agent:** Sabine Pfannenstiel

**About the traces of a life and the question of who we really are**

On October 4, 1957, the first satellites reach Earth's orbit and shortly afterwards, Sputnik is born in West Berlin. He grows up between the stories of Sala, his beloved mother who holds up her own pictures to reality, and the books of his father Otto. Early on, the world becomes a stage for him, everyone seems to play a role, and how else should one understand life?

As a teenager, he runs away to Paris: into the world of literature and to Annie, who taught him desire, love and jealousy. He returns to Germany right into the middle of the theatre world of the 70s, which was shaped by new beginnings. A wild time of experimentation begins, until Sputnik begins to suspect who he is, or at least who he could be.

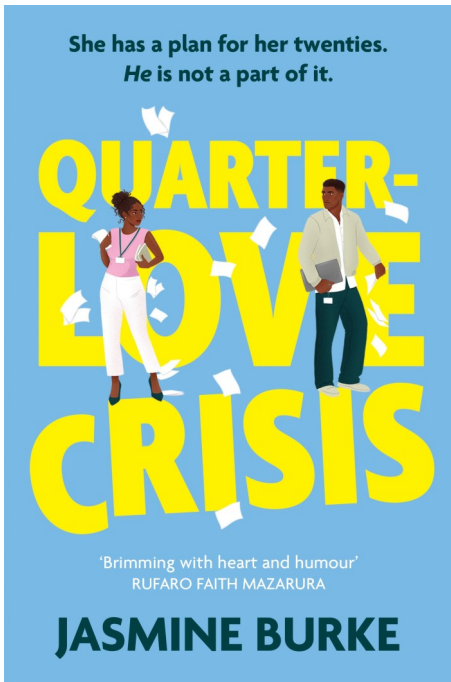
In his third novel, Christian Berkel once again follows in the footsteps of his life, but even more than a look back, this story is the journey into a frighteningly changed present, in which we will never truly understand who we are without the past.

**More than 500,000 copies sold of *Der Apfelbaum* and *Ada***

**Christian Berkel** was born in Berlin, Germany. His first novel, *Der Apfelbaum* (*The Apple Tree*), was published by Ullstein in 2018 and became a bestseller. His most recent novel is *Ada*, published by Ullstein in October 2020. From the age of 14 he lived in Paris where he took drama lessons with Jean-Louis Barrault and Pierre Berlin. He then trained at the German Film and Television Academy in Berlin and appeared on stage in Augsburg, Düsseldorf, Munich, Vienna and at the Schiller Theatre, Berlin. He has appeared in many German television productions and secured a major role in the Academy Award-nominated film *Downfall* as Dr. Ernst-Günther Schenck. He has followed this with significant roles in the Paul Verhoeven-directed Dutch movie *Black Book* and the big-budget American movies *Flightplan*, *Valkyrie* (in which he portrayed Colonel Albrecht Mertz von Quirnheim) and Quentin Tarantino's Academy Award-nominated *Inglourious Basterds*. He lives with his family in Berlin.

# QUARTER-LOVE CRISIS

**Jasmine Burke**



**UK:** Dialogue Books

**Publication Date:** 17th July 2025

**Available material:**  
- Final MS

**Length:** 368 pp

**Rights sold:**  
Germany - Luebbe

**Primary Agent:** Silé Edwards

A rivalry as old as time. . . *The Hating Game* meets *Honey and Spice* in this sizzling, hilarious and utterly relatable rivals-to-lovers workplace rom-com about surviving - and maybe even thriving - in your twenties.

Maddison Clarke has always lived by tick-lists, schedules, and five-year plans. So, she didn't foresee being this close to thirty and still living at home, in an assistant role, with the closest thing to a committed relationship being her grocery delivery driver. But when she lands the opportunity to lead on the company's biggest event to date, Maddison sees a chance to get her life back on track.

There is just one problem: she needs to join forces with Aiden Edwards, her long-time rival and the infuriatingly handsome bane of her existence. Aiden and his casual arrogance and absolute lack of urgency test her at every turn, so when he promises to walk away if she can give up her notebooks and live spontaneously, Maddison agrees. . . even if the concept is entirely alien to her.

But as the two are forced closer together, Maddison begins to wonder if this whole dare is Aiden's way of trying to help her, rather than ruin her. And if that's the case, can they truly insist this simmering tension between them is nothing more than hate? Maddison's quarter-life crisis seems to be turning into a quarter-love crisis. . . and that was not part of the plan.

**Jasmine Burke** is a content creator, writer and podcast host. As well as achieving a degree in English and Philosophy, she spent most of her late teens and early twenties creating her blog and working in marketing and PR. She has been building a loyal and engaged audience by vlogging about balancing full time work and writing on TikTok. If she's not writing, she's looking for a cute cafe or hotel lobby to do some writing in.

# THE GLASS HOUSE

Rachel Donohue



**UK:** Corvus

**Publication Date:** 6th February 2025

**Available material:**  
- Final MS

**Length:** 384pp

**Primary Agent:** Sara O'Keeffe

A darkly compelling tale of two sisters haunted by the absence of a long-dead father and the terrible secrets he kept, from the author of *The Temple House Vanishing*, an *Irish Times* bestseller

**1963:** At the stark and isolated modernist mansion of controversial political philosopher Richard Acklehurst, the glittering annual New Year party has not gone quite as planned. Considered a genius by some, and something far darker by others, by the end of the evening Acklehurst will be dead in mysterious circumstances that are never fully explained. And although the popularity of his work waxes and wanes over the coming years, a core of acolytes remains true to his vision.

**1999:** Richard Acklehurst's remains are defiled in the country graveyard where they have lain undisturbed for over thirty years, forcing his daughters - Aisling and Stella, teenagers at the time of his death - to return to their childhood home where they must finally confront the complex and dark dynamic at the heart of their family.

Moving from the West of Ireland to Dublin, London, Florence and back, *The Glass House* is a captivating and compelling tale of two sisters and their secrets, of love, regret and vengeance.

## Praise for Rachel Donohue:

'Steamily atmospheric . . . A twisted Gothic tale'  
- *The New York Times Book Review*

'Subtle, intriguing and very well written.'  
- *The Guardian*

'Rachel Donohue is a beautiful writer. Lyrical prose with ominous secrets saturating its deepest core. Just the sort of mystery I adore.'  
- **Alex Marwood**, bestselling author of *The Wicked Girls*

'I absolutely loved this beautifully written, gorgeously atmospheric, and darkly brooding novel about sisters, secrets and how fame casts a long and toxic shadow'  
- **Carole Hailey**, author of *The Silence Project*

**Rachel Donohue** is the author of two literary mysteries. *The Temple House Vanishing* was an *Irish Times* bestseller in 2020; nominated for an An Post Irish Book Award in the Best Newcomer Category and for the Kate O'Brien Award for best debut by an Irish female author. It was named a CrimeReads debut of the month and one of the best thrillers of 2021 by the *New York Times*. Her second novel, *The Beauty of Impossible Things*, was published by Atlantic in the UK, to critical acclaim.

# BURN AFTER READING

Catherine Ryan Howard



UK: Transworld

**Publication Date:** 10th April 2025

**Available material:**

- Final MS

**Length:** 400pp

**Rights sold:**

Italy - Fazi Editore

Lebanon - All Prints (World Arabic)

**Primary Agent:** Sara O'Keeffe

A ghostwriter is locked in an interview room with a man who might be a murderer, in this gripping new mystery thriller from the #1 bestselling author of *56 Days* and *The Trap*.

The night Jack Smyth ran into flames in a desperate attempt to save his wife from their burning home, he was, tragically, too late - but hailed a hero. Until it emerged that Kate was dead long before the fire began.

Suspicion has stalked him ever since. After all, there's no smoke without fire.

A year on, he's signed a book deal. He wants to tell his side of the story, to prove his own innocence in print. He just needs someone to help him write it.

Emily has never ghostwritten anything before, but she knows what it's like to live with a guilty secret. And she's about to learn that there are some stories that should never be told . . .

'Burn After Reading is a masterclass in suspense, utterly addictive, intelligently crafted, and impossible to put down.'  
- Clémence Michallon, author of *The Quiet Tenant*

'Burn After Reading is a scorcher . . .'  
- Jane Casey, bestselling author of *A Stranger in the Family*

'Catherine Ryan Howard is one of the most exciting writers working today. In *Burn After Reading*, she delivers another fascinating, thrilling and truly unputdownable book. I devoured it in a single sitting'  
- Catherine Kirwan, author of *A Lesson in Malice*

'Catherine Ryan Howard will glue your eyes to the page with *Burn After Reading*! This is one red hot thriller... Five sizzling stars'  
- Janice Hallett, bestselling author of *The Appeal*

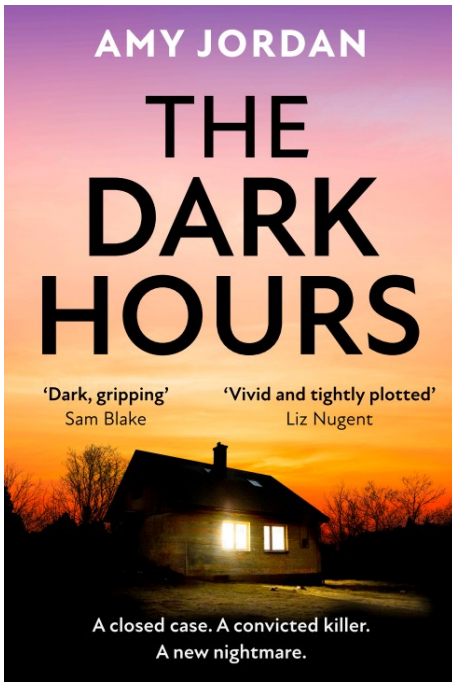
'*Burn After Reading* is scary and surprising, a tightly-plotted thriller with an unstinting sense for guilt and complicity. Catherine Ryan Howard is brilliant'  
- Flynn Berry, author of *Northern Spy*

'An utterly gripping read. *Burn after Reading* gets its hooks in right from that memorable first scene, not letting go as it builds an exquisite tension'  
- Mary Watson, author of *The Cleaner*

**Catherine Ryan Howard** is an award-winning, internationally bestselling crime writer from Cork, Ireland. She has had three No. 1 Irish bestsellers, her novels have been translated into 17 languages and a number have been optioned for screen.

# THE DARK HOURS

**Amy Jordan**



**UK:** HQ

**US:** MIRA

**Publication Date:** 30th January 2025

**Available material:**

- Final MS

**Length:** 352 pp

**Rights sold:**

Germany - Piper

**Primary Agent:** Sara O'Keeffe

## **A closed case.**

1994: When Gardaí Julia Harte and Adrian Clancy are called out to a sleepy Cork housing estate, what they find will haunt Julia for the rest of her career, and leave her terrified of the dark. Unwittingly, they stumble into a monstrous trap, the work of a notorious serial killer. And they will pay the heaviest price for it.

## **A convicted killer.**

30 years on, Julia lives alone in a remote seaside village, her illustrious detective career behind her. James Cox, the killer she caught and convicted all those years ago, has long been incarcerated. But then the news breaks that Cox has died, and shortly afterwards two young women are found brutally murdered – killed in the same way as the Cox victims.

## **A new nightmare.**

How can it be happening again? With her worst fears reawakened, Julia must find the strength to face a darkness which hides a vicious killer, and the past she has tried so hard to bury.

‘Subverted my expectations at almost every turn... Jordan shows how the aftermath of violence affects all those who witness it.’ *New York Times*  
‘Immersive, atmospheric, heart-stopping – I tore through it in a single day’

**- Louise Candlish**

‘Clever, immersive and utterly engrossing, *The Dark Hours* is a triumph’

**- Andrea Mara**

‘A relentlessly twisty one-sitting read’ Catherine Ryan Howard  
‘I LOVED Julia Harte. What an original and complex character. I raced through this gripping novel; Amy Jordan is an impressive new voice’

**- Edel Coffey**

‘Pace and pathos, insight and inspiration! A cracking whirlwind serial killer story’

**- Gill Perdue**

‘I loved the fact that the protagonist was an older woman... A strikingly original lead character, vivid characterisation and tight plotting... a very enjoyable read’

**- Liz Nugent**

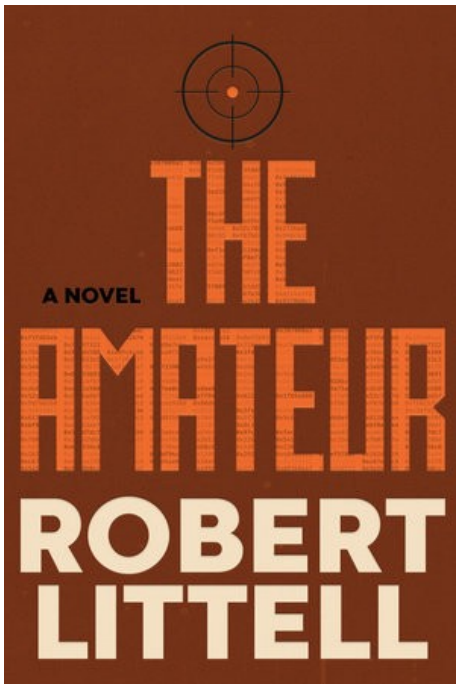
‘Amy Jordan takes us on a twisty and terrifying journey to the darkest of places’

**- Catherine Kirwan**

**Amy Jordan** lives by the sea with her husband and young children in Cork, Ireland. A former tutor at Munster Technological University, she worked in the Irish civil service for several years before pursuing her passion for crime and thriller writing. Amy’s novel, *The Dark Hours*, sold in a pre-emptive offer from HQ, HarperCollins on the eve of London Book Fair 2023 and the US rights sold shortly after to MIRA, HarperCollins US.

# THE AMATEUR

**Robert Littell**



**US:** Soho Press  
**UK:** Penguin Press

**Publication Date:** March 2025

**First published in 1981**

**Available material:**  
- Final MS

**Length:** 338pp

**Rights sold:**  
France - J'ai Lu  
Germany - Dotbooks (ebook)  
Japan - Shinchosha

**Publishers of *Comrade Koba*:**  
France - Editions Baker Street  
Greece - Medusa-Selas  
Romania - Publishing Solutions SRL

**Primary Agent:** Michael Dean

**A spy thriller classic, soon to be a major motion picture starring Rami Malek, Rachel Brosnahan, Caitriona Balfe, and Laurence Fishburne**

Before Robert Littell vaulted onto the bestseller lists with his *New York Times* bestselling CIA novel *The Company*, *The Amateur* established him as a contemporary master of the espionage thriller.

Charlie Heller is an ace cryptographer for the CIA, a quiet man in a quiet back-office job. But when his fiancée is murdered by terrorists and the Agency decides not to pursue her killers, Heller takes matters into his own hands. The fact that he is an amateur makes him all the more dangerous. Mind-blowing in its intelligence, pulse-pounding in its suspense, *The Amateur* is a sleek and stunning novel of revenge.

**Now with a Foreword by Mick Herron, author of *Slow Horses*.**

“A taut, chilling plot and a protagonist as memorable as one of Len Deighton’s, or le Carré’s Smiley.”  
—*The New York Times Book Review*

“A first rate thriller . . . Littell is a terrific writer.”  
—*Chicago Tribune*

“One of the best . . . a thoroughly professional and surprise-filled work.”  
—*Los Angeles Times*

**Robert Littell** was born, raised, and educated in New York. A former Newsweek editor specializing in Soviet affairs, he left journalism in 1970 to write fiction full time. Connoisseurs of the spy novel have elevated Robert Littell to the genre’s highest ranks, and Tom Clancy wrote that “if Robert Littell didn’t invent the spy novel, he should have.” He is the author of fifteen novels, including the *New York Times* bestseller *The Company* and *Legends*, the 2005 L.A. Times Book Award for Best Thriller/Mystery. He currently lives in France.

# BAD INFLUENCE

**Rosie Nixon**



**UK:** HQ

**Publication Date:** 14th August 2025

**Available material:**

- Page proofs

**Length:** 384pp

**Publishers of *The Stylist*:**

Canada (French language) - Guy Saint

-Jean Editeur

Poland - Wydawnictwo Kobiectwo/

Illuminato

Romania - Grup Media Litera

Serbia - Vulkan

**Publishers of *Amber Green Takes Manhattan*:**

France - Editions J'ai Lu

Poland - Wyawnictwo Kobiectwo/

Illuminato

**Primary Agent:** Jenny Savill

**Rosie Nixon** is an author, broadcaster and coach. She is the author of three novels and the *Be Kind* book. After a long career in women's magazines, latterly as the award-winning Editor and Editor in Chief of *Hello!* magazine, Rosie now enjoys a portfolio career and hosts the *Hello!* and M&S female leadership podcast Shake The Table. A qualified life coach, Rosie loves helping clients through career transitions, enabling them to find the tools to realise a more fulfilling way of life. She has recently founded her business Rosie's Reinvention Retreats, a curated series of day retreats to support midlife women navigate the next chapter in their career, business and wellbeing. Rosie is a proud ambassador for the women's health charity Wellbeing of Women and anti-FGM charity, Educate Not Mutilate. Rosie is a keen believer in the power of kindness and thrives in communities with a common goal to inspire female empowerment and spread joy. Rosie lives with her family in Surrey.

## Crushing it online...crashing in real life

Following an eventful stint styling Manhattan's elite, Amber Green is back in London and ready to style her biggest client yet.

Superstar influencer Mandy Sykes is all-American and all-wrong for her new Surrey surroundings. Desperate to endear herself to the British upper crust, and to win likes from a new fanbase, the brash celebrity tasks Amber with providing all the smoke and mirrors she might need.

With only twelve weeks to prove her worth – and to earn the bonus which will secure her dream flat with her steady boyfriend, Rob – Amber's biggest challenge is to keep her flats firmly on the ground.

But when your new boss has a private life as colourful as her designer wardrobe, and a brother-in-law whose ridiculously good looks can't help but catch your eye, it becomes hard to tell who's a genuine influencer, and who is simply a bad influence...

'This is a must read for Devil Wears Prada and Shopaholic fans!'

**- Adele Parks**

'Absolutely riveting, and so true!'

**- Joan Collins**

'This riotous romp is a thrilling and fun ride'

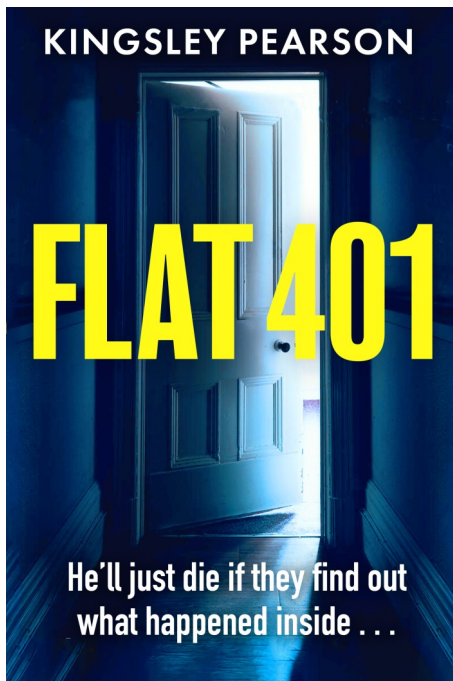
**- Heat**

'Funny, showy, but also poignant, this is a fashionista's dream book'

**- The Sun**

FLAT 401

**Kingsley Pearson**



**UK:** Orion

**Publication Date:** 3rd July 2025

**Available material:**

- Final MS

**Length:** 368pp

**Primary Agent:** Silé Edwards

All Jay wants is to start again, to set himself up in a small, quiet town where no one knows him. Because here, no one will let him forget what they think he did the day his neighbour died in Flat 401.

He just needs to keep doing what he's always done: treat people with kindness and respect, and try to stay out of trouble. But when a threatening note makes its way into the hostel he's forced to call home - Everyone is going to know what you really did - his hope for a fresh start begins to crumble.

Jay fears that the secret he's fought so hard to hide, that he went to prison to protect, might finally come out. How far is he willing to go to keep his freedom alive? And with a shadowy figure from his past tracking Jay's every move, perhaps it's not just his freedom Jay should be worried about being taken from him, but his life...

***Flat 401* is a tense, character-driven thriller perfect for fans of Lisa Jewell, Paula Hawkins and Mark Billingham.**

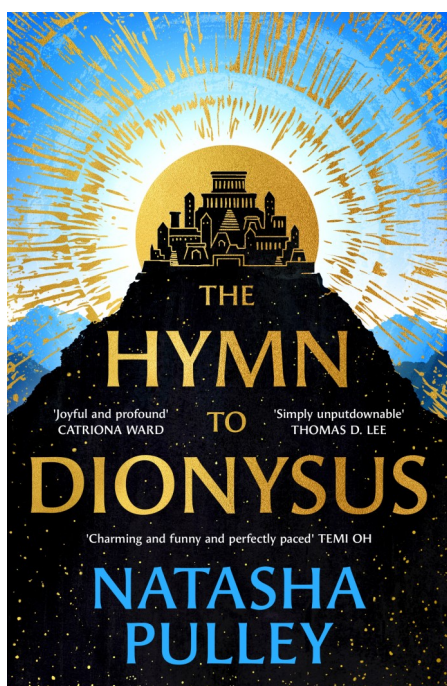
"*Flat 401* is a brutally raw story of how corrosive shame and longing can spiral into terrible tragedy, and is a nuanced exploration of the legacy of guilt and the desperate fight to free ourselves from the mistakes of the past."

– **Philipa East, Author of *Little White Lies***

**Kingsley Pearson** works as a Clinical Psychologist in Digital Mental Health (think delivering therapeutic experiences through AI, apps, Virtual Reality). He has completed courses with the Arvon Foundation, Faber Academy, and Curtis Brown Creative, and graduated from the HarperCollins Author Academy. His writing is informed by both his personal and professional backgrounds, and has been longlisted for the Penguin Michael Joseph Undiscovered Writers Prize, and shortlisted for the Mo Siewcharran and the Joffe Books Prizes.

# THE HYMN TO DIONYSUS

**Natasha Pulley**



**UK:** Gollancz

**US:** Bloomsbury

**Publication Date:** 3rd April 2025

**Available material:**

- Final MS

**Length:** 416pp

**Rights sold:**

Germany - Klett-Cotta

**Primary Agent:** Jenny Savill

A timely and timeless reimagining of the story of Dionysus, Greek God of ecstasy and madness, revelry and ruin, for readers of *The Song of Achilles* and *Elektra*. Raised in a Greek legion, Phaidros has been taught to fight for the homeland he's never seen and to follow his commander's orders at all costs. But when he rescues a baby from a fire at Thebes's palace, his commander's orders cease to make sense: Phaidros is forced to abandon the blue-eyed boy at a temple, and to keep the baby's existence a secret. Years later, after a strange encounter that led to the death of his battalion, Phaidros has become a training master for young soldiers. He struggles with panic attacks and flashbacks, and he is not the only one: all around him, his fellow veterans are losing their minds. Phaidros's risk of madness is not his only problem: his life has become entangled with Thebes's young crown prince, who wishes to escape the marriage his mother, the Queen, has chosen for him. When the prince vanishes, Phaidros is drawn into the search for him—a search that leads him to a blue-eyed witch named Dionysus, whose guidance is as wise as the events that surround him are strange. In *Dionysus's* company, Phaidros witnesses sudden outbursts of riots and unrest, and everywhere Dionysus goes, rumours follow about a new god, one sired by Zeus but lost in a fire. In *The Hymn to Dionysus*, bestselling author Natasha Pulley transports us to an ancient empire on the edge of ruin to tell an utterly captivating story about a man needing a god to remind him how to be a human.

“A dazzling labyrinth of a book that pulls you in with both hands.

Pulley’s wild, charismatic Dionysus is sure to win your heart, and Phaidros’s indefatigable spirit and wry humor will keep readers glued to the page. A fitting tribute to the god of divine madness.”

- **Luna McNamara**, author of *Psyche and Eros*

"Pulley's *The Hymn to Dionysus* is a brilliant reimagining of the Greek myth. With a tormented hero, a captivating love story, and worldbuilding that will leave you breathless, this novel twists the ideas of duty and honor, exploring the depths of humanity and the power of connection in a world consumed by chaos. An absolute must-read."

- **Crystal King**, author of *In the Garden of Monsters*

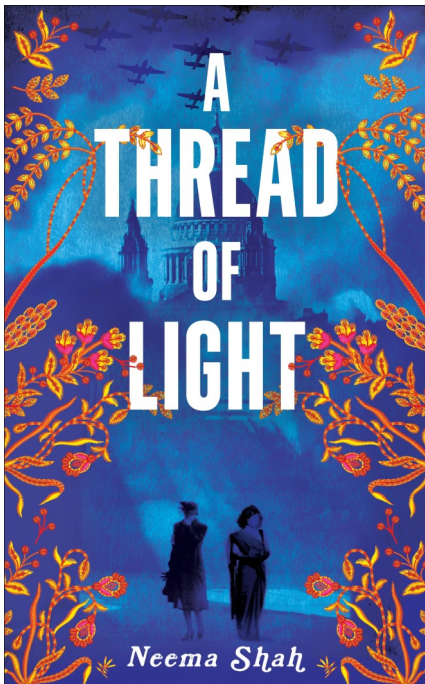
‘This love story is witty, bittersweet, surprising, and compellingly readable.’

- **Kirkus Reviews**

International bestselling author **Natasha Pulley’s** first novel, *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street*, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller, won a Betty Trask Award and was shortlisted for the Authors’ Club Best First Novel Award. Her second novel, *The Bedlam Stacks*, was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature’s Encore Award and longlisted for the Walter Scott Prize. *The Lost Future of Pepperbarrow* was published in 2020 to widespread critical acclaim, cementing Natasha’s reputation as one of the most original and exciting writers at work. This was followed in 2021 by *The Kingdoms*, in 2022 by *The Half Live of Valery K*, shortlisted for the Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize, and in 2024 by *The Mars House*. Natasha has lived in Japan as a Daiwa Scholar, as well as China and Peru. She was a 2016 Gladstone Writer in Residence, and she teaches on Bath Spa University’s Creative Writing BA and MA, alongside short courses at the Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education. She lives in Bristol.

# A THREAD OF LIGHT

Neema Shah



UK: Picador

Publication Date: 10th July  
2025

Available material:

- Final MS

Length: 336pp

Primary Agent: Jenny Savill

**When the world is burning, how much is there to lose?**

**London, 1941.**

As the city thrums with Blitz bombers, lonely air raid warden Ruby is drawn into the unfamiliar world of the India Forum, where a group of Londoners are working tirelessly to free India from British rule.

Ruby has her own secret motives for joining the fight, but when she meets Satyajit, charming, aloof, and potentially dangerous, she finds herself torn between head and heart.

Lawyer Kitty is helping Indian men in Britain challenge conscription. Having left her family behind in Bombay to marry the man she loves, now she risks losing him as well.

As Kitty and Ruby's lives collide, the threat of violence closes in. Just how far are they willing to go for the people they love?

**A story of sacrifice and betrayal, belonging and loss, *A Thread of Light* is the stunning second novel by Neema Shah, author of *Kololo Hill*.**

'Fiercely passionate and highly original, Neema Shah's new book *A Thread of Light* is aptly named, illuminating as it does a fascinating moment in history too often overlooked: the impact of the Second World War on India's fight for independence. With its rich blend of history, culture and intoxicating sensory detail, readers of historical fiction are sure to love it.'

**- Carolyn O'Brien, author of *The Song of Peterloo***

'*A Thread of Light* has everything you want in a story; compelling history and riveting suspense experienced by utterly believable characters. Whether you are already a devoted fan or new to Neema Shah's beautiful fiction you won't be disappointed by this truly absorbing novel.'

**- Helen Paris**

'*A Thread of Light* is a deeply moving novel set within the crucible of wartime Britain and the Indian struggle for independence. Here, Shah has created a multi-layered story not only of two women's struggle for survival but also of nations battling for autonomy and their own humanity. An illuminating, visceral, and essential read.'

**- Stephanie Scott, author of *What's Left of Me is Yours***

**Neema Shah** was born and raised in London, spending many school holidays with family in East Africa. After leaving university, she built a career in marketing, specialising in TV, digital and brand strategy for companies including the BBC. She'd always been an avid reader, but only rekindled her early love of writing in 2015 while doing a short course. Her grandparents left India for East Africa in the 1940s. *Kololo Hill* is inspired by their lives, as well as those who were expelled from Uganda by brutal ruler Idi Amin. Through her writing, she wants to shed light on the the British Asian stories that have been lost in history. Alongside writing she also now helps writers with their own writing and marketing and is particularly proud to help those from underrepresented backgrounds.

# THE LAUNCH DATE

## Annabelle Slator



**To get her dream job, she'll have to date her worst nightmare...**

Grace Hastings is in a rut. Her career is stagnating, her boss is a leech, and she feels like a fraud working for Fate, a dating app whose ethos she no longer believes in. And don't even get her started on the state of her love life.

So when the company's CEO offers her an opportunity for a big promotion and the chance to work on the launch of a dating app that she actually cares about, Grace can't believe her luck.

That is, until she discovers that she must test drive a series of 'first dates' with her competition for the job: notorious socialite playboy and Grace's biggest work rival, Eric Bancroft.

But Grace refuses to give up her dream job because of a man. And besides, how romantic can a handful of fake dates with your biggest rival really be?

**UK:** Transworld

**US:** Avon

**Publication Date:** 20th  
February 2025

**Available material:**

- Final MS

**Length:** 400pp

**Rights sold:**

Brazil - Alta

Germany - Goldmann Verlag

Turkey - Nemesis

Ukraine - Knigolove

**Primary Agent:** Silé Edwards

**There's absolutely no way it's an office romance waiting to happen.**

'This debut is everything you could want: a fabulously funny and relatable leading lady and a swoon-worthy man with just the right amount of brood. Prepare to fall in love with Eric and Grace as they battle it out for a promotion and try very hard not to fall in love. *The Launch Date* is a witty, sparkly, and hilarious book for fans of *The Hating Game*. Prepare to put Annabelle Slator on auto-buy.'

**-Lizzy Dent author of *The Summer Job***

'Flirty and full of heart, Annabelle Slator's debut is a dream date in book form. With a deeply relatable heroine who recovers her faith in romance amid enemies-to-lovers tension and workplace hijinks, *The Launch Date* has everything'

**- Emily Wibberley and Austin Siegemund-Broka, authors of *The Roughest Draft***

'*The Launch Date* is what rom-com dreams are made of! With a swoony hero and a relatable heroine, the chemistry between the two is magical and sexy. I couldn't put it down! I adored this phenomenal debut!'

**- Katie Holt, author of *Not in my Book***

**Annabelle Slator** grew up writing stories in the depths of the British countryside. After achieving a degree in creative writing spent most of her late teens and early twenties writing social media and blog posts for start-ups and tech companies in London. Nowadays, if she isn't spending time writing, you can almost always find her obsessing over niche internet drama, practicing her fencing parry or mooching around vintage fairs and flea markets with her husband and two mini dachshunds, Gruffalo and Gryffin. *The Launch Date* is Annabelle's first book, inspired by her time working at the global dating app, Bumble.

# **EVERGREEN TITLES**

## CHRISTIAN BERKEL - Backlist titles

**Christian Berkel** was born in Berlin, Germany. His first novel, *Der Apfelbaum* (*The Apple Tree*), was published by Ullstein in 2018 and became a bestseller. His most recent novel is *Ada*, published by Ullstein in October 2020. From the age of 14 he lived in Paris where he took drama lessons with Jean-Louis Barrault and Pierre Berlin. He then trained at the German Film and Television Academy in Berlin and appeared on stage in Augsburg, Düsseldorf, Munich, Vienna and at the Schiller Theatre, Berlin. He has appeared in many German television productions and secured a major role in the Academy Award-nominated film *Downfall* as Dr. Ernst-Günther Schenck. He has followed this with significant roles in the Paul Verhoeven-directed Dutch movie *Black Book* and the big-budget American movies *Flightplan*, *Valkyrie* (in which he portrayed Colonel Albrecht Mertz von Quirnheim) and Quentin Tarantino's Academy Award-nominated *Inglourious Basterds*. He lives with his family in Berlin.

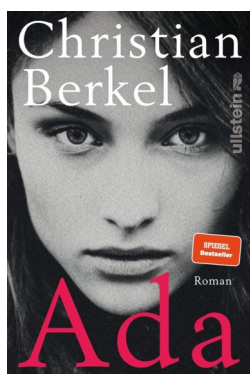


**Germany:** Ullstein Verlag,  
October 2018

**Rights sold:**

France - Fayard  
Germany - Ullstein  
Greece - Joconda/  
Microskopio  
Italy - Mondadori  
Netherlands - AW Bruna  
Poland - Świat Książki  
Russia - Eksmo  
Spain - HarperCollins Iberica

**Primary Agent:** Sabine  
Pfannenstiel



**Germany:** Ullstein Verlag,  
October 2020

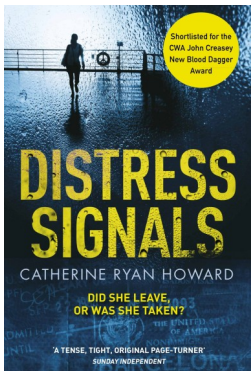
**Rights sold:**

Russia - Eksmo

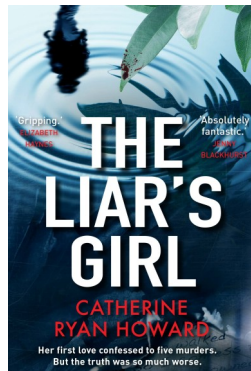
**Primary Agent:** Sabine Pfannenstiel

## CATHERINE RYAN HOWARD - Backlist Titles

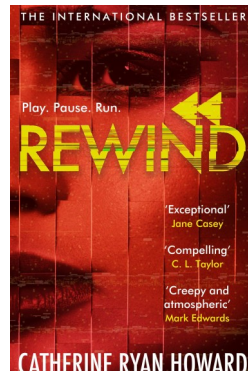
Catherine Ryan Howard is an award-winning, internationally bestselling crime writer from Cork, Ireland. Her debut thriller, *Distress Signals*, was published on both sides of the Atlantic in 2016. It was an Irish Times and USA Today bestseller, and was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards Crime Fiction Book of the Year and the CWA John Creasey/New Blood Dagger. Her subsequent work has been shortlisted for the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger and the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for Best Novel. She has had two No. 1 Irish bestsellers, her novels have been translated into 17 languages and a number have been optioned for screen. Catherine's thriller, *56 Days*, was picked as Barnes and Noble Book of the Month in the US for August 2022 and *Run Time* was selected for the prestigious Indie Next Pick, September 2022. Catherine's latest novel, *The Trap*, published in August 2023 to great critical acclaim.



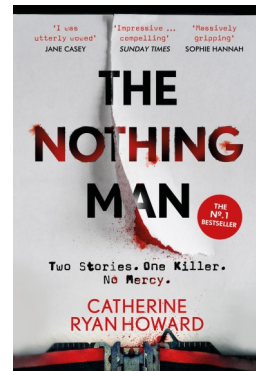
**UK:** Cordy, January 2017  
**US:** Blackstone, January 2017  
**Rights Sold:**  
 Japan - Tokyo Sogensha  
 Taiwan - Srong Publishing



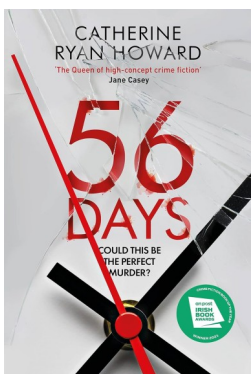
**UK:** Corvus, January 2019  
**US:** Blackstone, January 2019  
**Rights Sold:**  
 Poland - Świat Książki  
 France - L'Archipel



**UK:** Corvus, August 2019  
**US:** Blackstone, August 2019  
**Rights Sold:**  
 Hungary - Lettero  
 Poland - Świat Książki



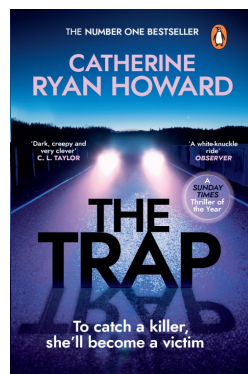
**UK:** Corvus, August 2020  
**US:** Blackstone, August 2020  
**Rights Sold:**  
 China - Dook Media  
 France - L'Archipel  
 Japan - Shinchosha  
 Lebanon (World Arabic) - All Prints  
 Poland - Świat Książki



**UK:** Corvus, August 2021  
**US:** Blackstone, August 2021  
**Rights Sold:**  
 Japan - Shinchosha  
 Lebanon (World Arabic) - All Prints  
 Poland - Świat Książki  
 France - L'Archipel



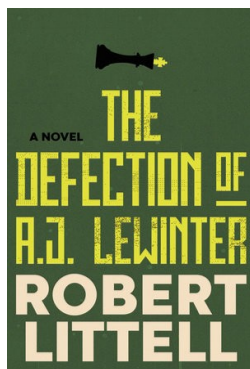
**UK:** Corvus, August 2022  
**US:** Blackstone, August 2022  
**Rights Sold:**  
 Estonia - Ühinend Ajakirjad  
 Ukraine - Old Lion Publishing House



**UK:** Bantam Books / Transworld, March 2023  
**US:** Blackstone, August 2023  
**Rights Sold:**  
 Germany - Bastei Lübbe  
 Japan - Shinchosha

## ROBERT LITTELL - Reissued titles

**Robert Littell** was born, raised, and educated in New York. A former Newsweek editor specializing in Soviet affairs, he left journalism in 1970 to write fiction full time. Connoisseurs of the spy novel have elevated Robert Littell to the genre's highest ranks, and Tom Clancy wrote that "if Robert Littell didn't invent the spy novel, he should have." He is the author of fifteen novels, including the *New York Times* bestseller *The Company* and *Legends*, the 2005 *L.A. Times* Book Award for Best Thriller/Mystery. He currently lives in France.



US: Soho Press, March 2025

**First published in 1973**

**Previous publishers (expired):**

France - J'ai Lu

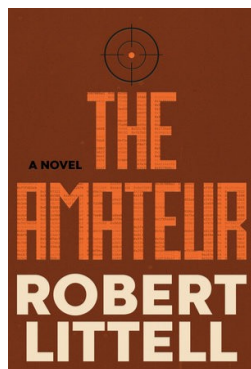
The Netherlands - A.W.

Bruna

Spain - Circulo de Lectores

SA

**Primary Agent:** Micheal Dean



US: Soho Press, March 2025

**First published in 1981**

**Rights sold:**

Germany - Dotbooks (ebook)

Japan - Shinchosha

**Previous publishers**

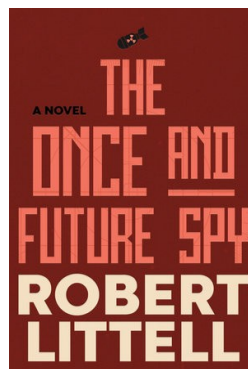
**(expired):**

Czech Republic - Moravska

Bastei

France - Presses de la Cite

**Primary Agent:** Micheal Dean



US: Soho Press, March 2025

**First published in 1981**

**Rights sold:**

France - J'ai Lu

Germany - Dotbooks (ebook)

**Previous publishers (expired):**

The Netherlands - Uitgeverij

Unieboek | Het Spectrum

**Primary Agent:** Micheal Dean

## SHEILA DE LIZ - Backlist titles

**Dr. med. Sheila de Liz**, born in 1969 in New Jersey, came to Germany at the age of 15 and studied medicine in Mainz. Since 2006, she has been working in her own practice for gynaecology and obstetrics in Wiesbaden. In 2022, she also founded the HormonOnlineKlinik. She is a sought-after expert on all topics related to women's health. In 2019, her book *Unverschämt* was published. All about the fabulous female body, followed by *Woman On Fire* in 2020. All about the fabulous menopause and 2022 *Girl on Fire*. All about "fabulous" puberty. All books became instant bestsellers.



**Germany:** Rowohlt Verlag,  
March 2019

### Rights sold:

China - Beijing Science & Technology Press  
Czech Republic - Nakladatelstvi Kazda  
Italy - Gribaudo  
Japan - Sunmark  
Korea - Eunhaengnamu  
The Netherlands - Fontaine  
Russia - AST  
Vietnam - General Publishing House

**Primary Agent:** Sabine Pfannenstiel



**Germany:** Rowohlt Verlag,  
September 2020

### Rights sold:

Brazil - Sextante  
China - Beijing Science & Technology Press  
Croatia - Mozaik  
Czech Republic - Kazda  
France - Hachette (Marabout)  
Greece - Klidarithmos  
Hungary - XXI. Szazad  
Italy - Gribaudo/Feltrinelli  
Korea - Eunhaengnamu  
Latvia - Lina  
The Netherlands - De Fontein  
Poland - Otwarte  
Russia - AST  
Serbia - Laguna  
Slovakia - E.J. Publishing  
Spain - Kitsune  
Taiwan - Yuan Liou  
Turkey - Pegasus  
Vietnam - General Publishing House

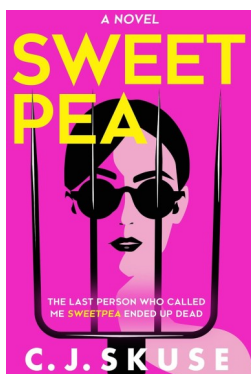
## C. J. SKUSE - The Sweetpea Series

CJ Skuse is the author of the novels *Pretty Bad Things*, *Rockabolic*, *Dead Romantic*, *Monster* and *The Deviants*. She was born in 1980 in Weston-super-Mare. She has First Class degrees in Creative Writing and, aside from writing novels, works as a freelance fiction consult and lectures at Bath Spa University. *Sweetpea* is now a major TV series from Sky Atlantic/SeeSaw Films starring Ella Purnell.



Billed as a "coming of rage" story, *Sweetpea* is one of those rare limited series that leave you desperate for more; a perfect autumn binge-watch, it's amplified by Isabel Waller-Bridge's killer soundtrack.

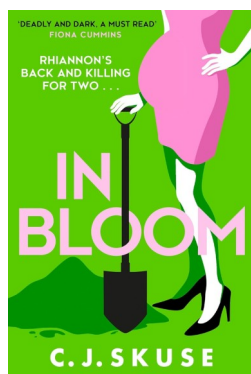
- Radio Times



WEL: HQ,  
April, 2017

**Rights sold:**

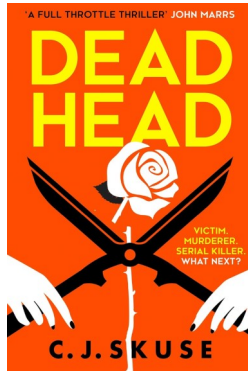
China - Beijing White Horse  
France - Editions Denoel  
Italy - Fanucci  
Taiwan - Spring International  
Russia - Everbook  
Turkey - Hep Kitap  
Ukraine - Knigolove



WEL: HQ,  
August, 2018

**Rights sold:**

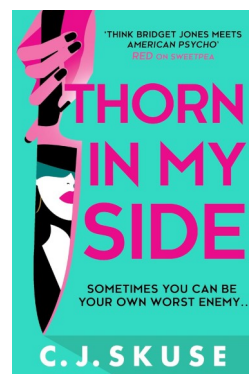
China - Beijing White Horse  
France - Editions Denoel  
Italy - Fanucci  
Russia - Everbook  
Turkey - Hep Kitap



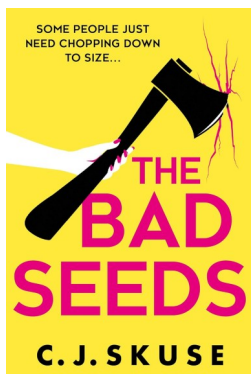
WEL: HQ,  
February 2021

**Rights sold:**

Italy - Fanucci  
Russia - Everbook



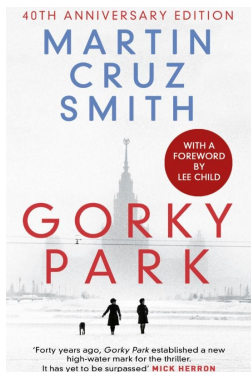
WEL: HQ,  
January 2024



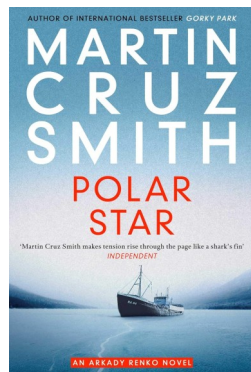
WEL: HQ,  
October 2024

## MARTIN CRUZ SMITH - Backlist Titles

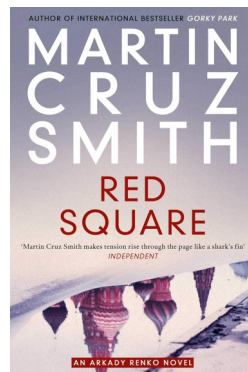
Martin Cruz Smith's novels include *Gorky Park* (1981), *Stallion Gate* (1986), *Polar Star* (1989), *Red Square* (1992), *Rose* (1996), *Havana Bay* (1999), *Wolves Eat Dogs* (2005), *Stalin's Ghost* (2007) and *Three Stations* (2010). A recipient of the CWA Gold Dagger for fiction in the UK, he was also two-time winner of the Hammett Prize in the United States. He was awarded the Italian Grinzane Cavour Prize at the Piemonte Noir Festival in 2008. His final novel *Hotel Ukraine* was published shortly before his death in 2025.



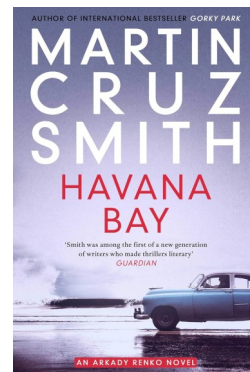
**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 1st March 1981



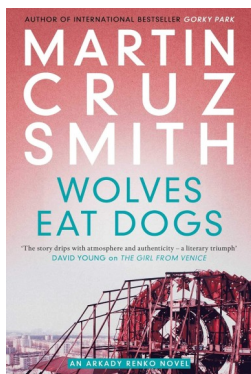
**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 1st June 1989



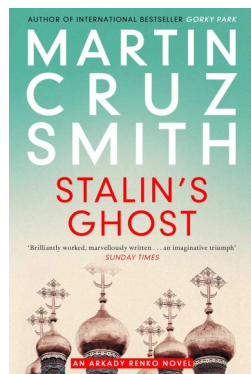
**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 1st November 1992



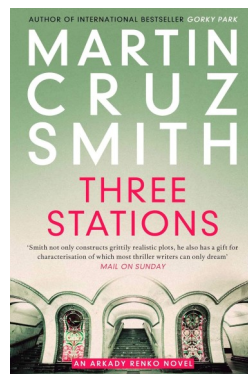
**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 11th May 1999



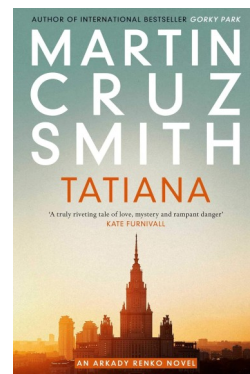
**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 16th November 2004



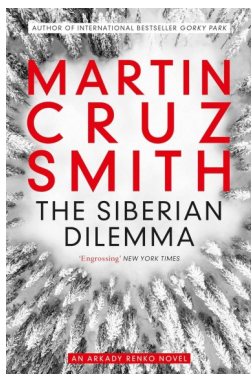
**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 12th June 2007



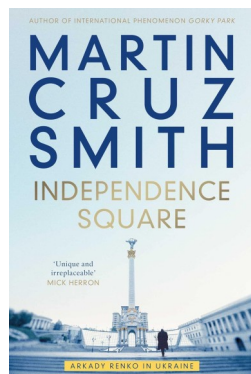
**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 1st January 2010



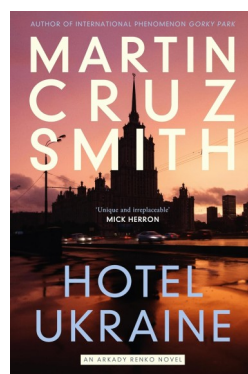
**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 12th November 2013



**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 14th November 2019



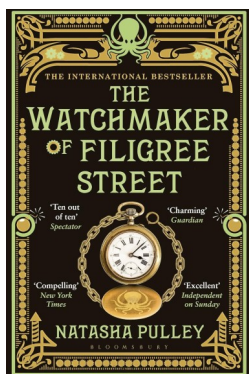
**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 11th May 2023



**UK:** Simon & Schuster  
**US:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication date:**  
 17th July 2025

## NATASHA PULLEY - Backlist Titles

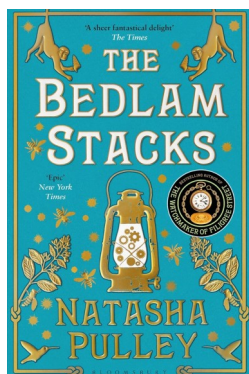
International bestselling author Natasha Pulley's first novel, *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street*, was a Sunday Times bestseller, won a Betty Trask Award and was shortlisted for the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award. Her second novel, *The Bedlam Stacks*, was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature's Encore Award and longlisted for the Walter Scott Prize. *The Lost Future of Pepperharrow* was published in 2020 to widespread critical acclaim, cementing Natasha's reputation as one of the most original and exciting writers at work. This was followed in 2021 by *The Kingdoms*, in 2022 by *The Half Life of Valery K*, shortlisted for the Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize, and in 2024 by *The Mars House*. Natasha has lived in Japan as a Daiwa Scholar, as well as China and Peru. She was a 2016 Gladstone Writer in Residence, and she teaches on Bath Spa University's Creative Writing BA and MA, alongside short courses at the Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education. She lives in Bristol.



**UK:** Bloomsbury  
**US:** Bloomsbury

### Rights Sold:

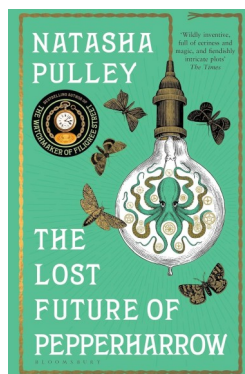
Denmark - Frydenlund/  
Alhambra  
Germany - Klett-Cotta  
(Hobbit Press)  
Italy - Rizzoli Libri  
Japan - HarperCollins Japan  
The Netherlands - De Fontein  
Russia - AST  
Spain (World) - Lumen  
Spain (Catalan) - Rosa dels  
vents  
Sweden - Tallbergs  
Turkey - Pegasus



**UK:** Bloomsbury  
**US:** Bloomsbury

### Rights Sold:

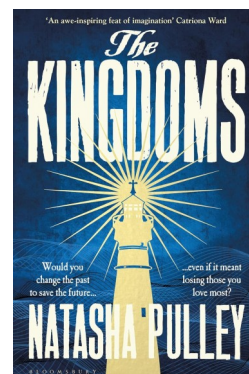
Italy - Bompiani  
Spain - PRH  
The Netherlands - De  
Fontein  
Russia - AST



**UK:** Bloomsbury  
**US:** Bloomsbury

### Rights Sold:

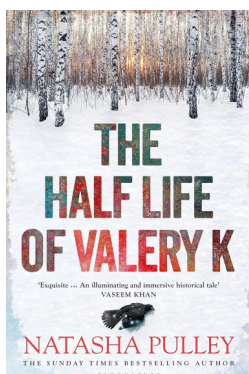
Italy - Bompiani  
Netherlands - De Fontein



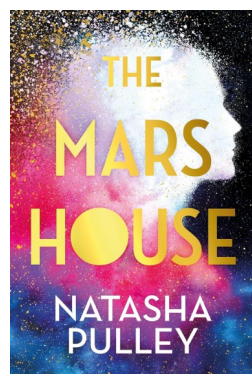
**UK:** Bloomsbury  
**US:** Bloomsbury

### Rights Sold:

Czech Republic - Argo  
Germany - Klett-Cotta  
Italy - Bompiani  
The Netherlands -  
Uitgeverij De Fontein  
Russia - Everbook



**UK:** Bloomsbury  
**US:** Bloomsbury



**UK:** Gollancz  
**US:** Bloomsbury

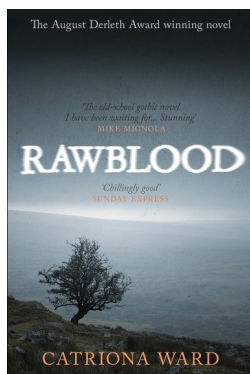
### Rights Sold:

Czech Republic - Argo  
Germany - Klett-Cotta  
Italy - Bompiani  
The Netherlands - Uitgeverij  
De Fontein  
Russia - Everbook

# CATRIONA WARD

## Backlist Titles

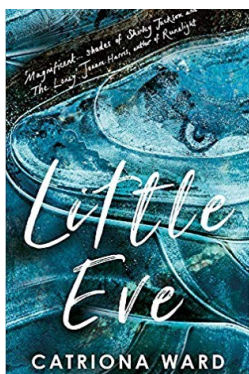
Catriona Ward was born in Washington, DC and grew up in the United States, Kenya, Madagascar, Yemen, and Morocco. Her debut *Rawblood* (W&N, 2015) won Best Horror Novel at the 2016 British Fantasy Awards, was shortlisted for the Author's Club Best First Novel Award and a WHSmith Fresh Talent title. Her second novel, *Little Eve* (W&N, 2018) won the Shirley Jackson Award 2018, was a Guardian best book of 2018 and won the August Derleth Award for Best Horror Novel 2019. Catriona is the only woman to have won the August Derleth Award three times. Catriona's third novel, *The Last House on Needless Street*, was published to acclaim in March 2021 in the UK by Viper and in the US by Tor Nightfire. It has so far sold in over 25 languages, and was Times Book of the Month, Observer Book of the Month, March Editor's Pick on Open Book, a Between the Covers BBC2 book club selection, and a Times bestseller. Viper published Catriona's fourth novel, *Sundial*, in March 2022, and her fifth, *Looking Glass Sound*, in April 2023. She lives in London and Devon.



**UK:** W&N,  
September 2015

**Rights sold:**

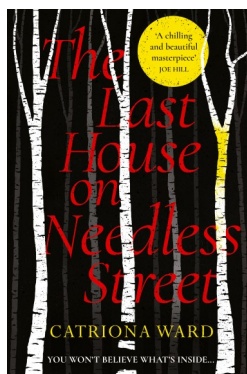
Germany - Festa Verlag  
Italy - Sperling & Kupfer  
Spain - Alianza



**UK:** W&N, July 2018  
**US:** Tor, September 2022

**Rights sold:**

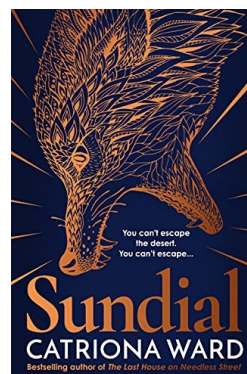
Germany - Festa Verlag  
Spain - Alianza



**UK:** Viper, March 2021  
**US:** Tor, September 2021

**Rights sold:**

Brazil - Pensamento  
Croatia - Sonatina  
Czech Rep - Dobrovsky s.r.o  
Denmark - Screaming Books  
France - Sonatine Editions  
Germany - Festa Verlag  
Greece - Metaihmio  
Italy - Sperling & Kupfer  
Japan - Hayakawa  
Korea - Sigongsa  
The Netherlands - Meulenhoff Boekerij  
Poland - Wyd. Poznańskie  
Portugal - Porto Editora  
Romania - Corint Books  
Russia - Eksmo  
Spain - Alianza  
Taiwan - Spring International  
Thailand - Biblio Co. Ltd  
Turkey - Ithaki  
Ukraine - Vivat  
*Plus 6 other territories*



**UK:** Viper, March 2022  
**US:** Tor, March 2022

**Rights sold:**

Denmark - Screaming Books  
France - Sonatine Editions  
Germany - Festa Verlag  
Greece - Metaihmio  
Italy - Sperling & Kupfer  
The Netherlands - Meulenhoff Boekerij  
Poland - Wyd. Poznańskie  
Russia - Eksmo  
Spain (World) - Alianza  
Turkey - Ithaki



**UK:** Viper, April 2023  
**US:** Tor Nightfire, August 2023

**Rights sold:**

Brazil - Pensamento  
France - Sonatine Editions  
Lithuania - Tyto Alba  
The Netherlands - Meulenhoff Boekerij  
Russia - Eksmo  
Spain - Alianza