

# ZAFFRE TWENTY7

RIGHTS GUIDE  
AUTUMN 2016

It is a great pleasure to introduce our 2016 Frankfurt rights guide.

We have had an exciting year building our team and are delighted at the talented people who have joined us. Although we bring experience from across the book industry we have rapidly developed our own culture and what we believe to be a new approach to publishing fiction.

Since our first titles hit the bookshops earlier this year, we have had our share of good fortune. Highlights include L S Hilton's global no.1 *Maestra*, David Young's debut, *Stasi Child*, James Swallow's *Sunday Times* bestseller *Nomad*, Irish no.1 *Little Bones* by Sam Blake and *The Hidden Legacy* by G J Minett.

2017 sees us move to a new level with a widening of our range of publishing across the genres of women's fiction, crime and thrillers. As well as L S Hilton's *Domina*, (book II in the *Maestra* trilogy), we have a new book from David Young and some exciting new voices. We are proud to introduce James Hazel, with a sensational debut thriller, *The Mayfly*, David Barbaree, whose compelling novel *The Deposed*, chronicles the epic fall and rise of the Emperor Nero and Patricia Wilson with *Island of Secrets*, set during the brutal Nazi occupation of Crete.

There is one other highlight: vlogger Louise Pentland's debut novel, which we publish next summer. Acquired in a fierce eleven-way auction, this is one of the most anticipated books of the year and we cannot wait to introduce Louise's memorable main character, Robin Wilde to a whole new audience.

I very much hope that you will find something here to entice and interest you and that you will partner us in bringing these books and authors to the audience they deserve.

Kate Parkin

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ZAFFRE

# James Hazel

## THE MAYFLY

**PUBLISHING:** June 2017

**WORLD RIGHTS**

**EXTENT:** 362pp

Before turning his hand to writing, **JAMES HAZEL** worked as a lawyer. He lives on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds with his wife and three children.

A high-octane thriller from an exhilarating new voice

**It's happening again.**

**A mutilated body discovered in the woods.**

**A murderous plan conceived in the past.**

**A reckoning seventy years in the making . . .**

Charlie Priest, ex-detective inspector turned London lawyer, is hired by influential entrepreneur Kenneth Ellinder to investigate the murder of his son. But Priest is no ordinary lawyer – he's brilliant, yet flawed – and, as he soon finds out, this case will push him, and those closest to him, to the edge.

Priest traces the evidence back to the desperate last days of the Second World War. Buried in the ashes of the Holocaust is a secret so deadly its poison threatens to destroy the very heart of the establishment.

With more victims going missing, Priest realises that not everyone should be trusted. As he races to uncover the truth, can he prevent history from repeating itself?

**Perfect for fans of Thomas Harris and M J Arlidge.**

History always repeats itself

THE  
MAYFLY



JAMES HAZEL

The electrifying thriller you MUST read

Patricia Wilson

## ISLAND OF SECRETS

**PUBLISHING:** May 2017

**WORLD RIGHTS**

**AGENT:** Andrew Mann

**EXTENT:** 350pp

**PATRICIA WILSON** was inspired to write when she dug up a WWII machine gun in her garden in the Cretan village of Amiras. She now lives on Rhodes. This is her first novel.

A gripping tale of love, drama, intrigue and the courage of women during the darkest days of the Nazi occupation of Crete

London-born Angie receives a letter from the grandmother she has never met, imploring her, against her mother's wishes, to visit her in the remote village on the island of Crete, where she lives, just as soon as she can. Before she dies, and before Angie marries, Maria needs to tell her story.

It's the story of a young woman during the German occupation of Crete in WWII, of horrors, love, courage and of the lengths to which a mother will go to protect her children. It's the story of bitter secrets that broke families apart, and of three enchanting women who come together to heal wounds that have damaged generations.

**Fans of Victoria Hislop's *The Island* and the novels of Santa Montefiore and Rosanna Ley, will fall hopelessly in love with this novel.**

*Island  
of Secrets*

Patricia Wilson



ZAFFRE

David Barbaree

## DEPOSED

THE TRAJAN TRILOGY

PUBLISHING: May 2017

WORLD RIGHTS

AGENT: Rogers, Coleridge &  
White

EXTENT: 350pp

DAVID BARBAREE is a lawyer and a graduate of the Curtis Brown Creative Writing School. He lives in Toronto with his wife and daughter. This is his debut novel.

A stunning chronicle of power, treachery and revenge.

In a darkened cell, a deposed dictator lies crippled – deprived of his power, his freedom – and his eyes.

On the edge of despair, his only companion is the young boy who brings him his meagre rations, a child who fears his own shadow. But to one who has held and lost the highest power, one thing alone is clear: even emperors were children once.

Eleven years later, the new ruler's son watches uneasily over his father's empire. Wherever he looks rebellion is festering, and those closest to him have turned traitor once before.

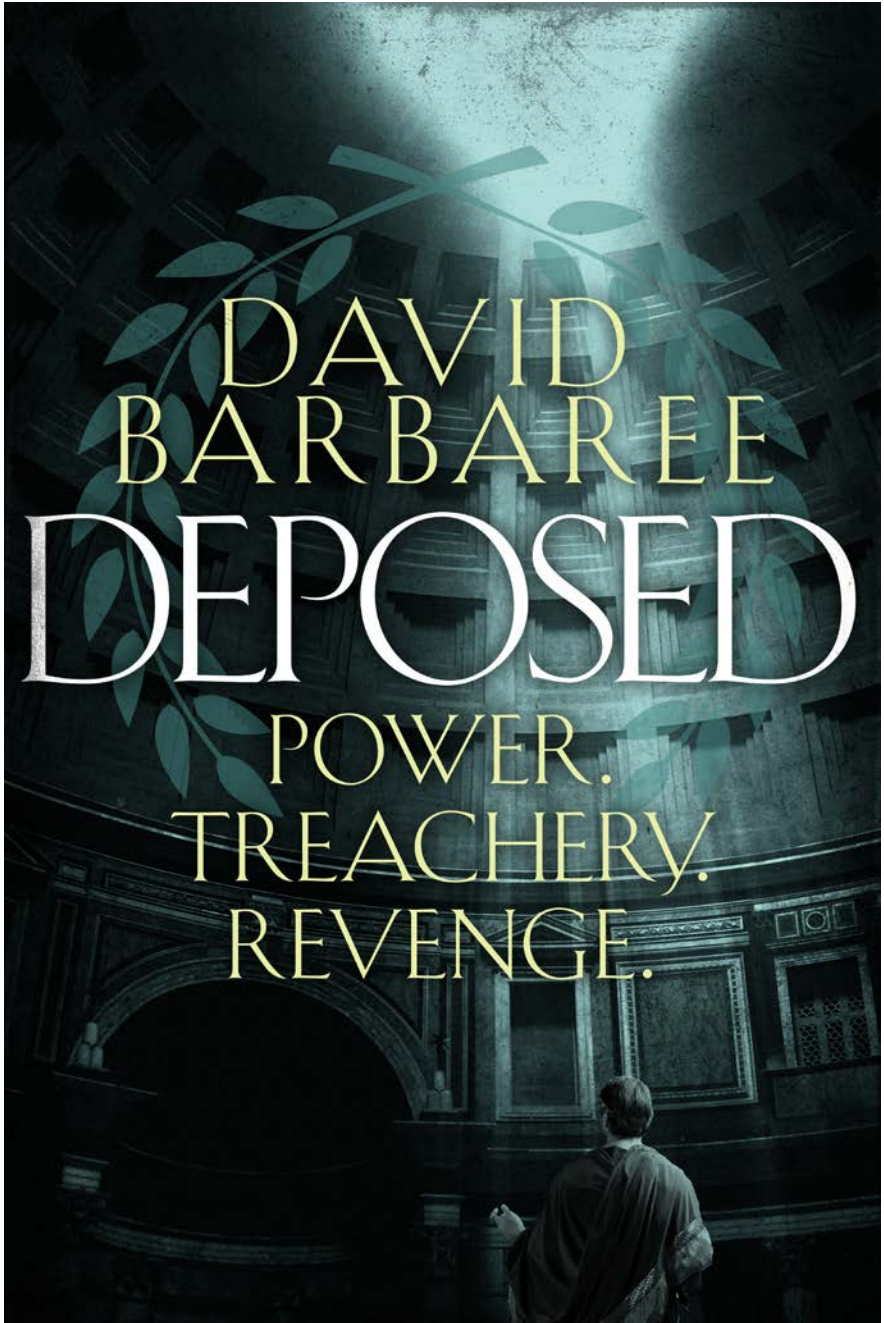
To this city in crisis comes a hugely wealthy senator from the very edge of the empire, a young and angry ward at his heels. He is witty but inscrutable, generous with his time and money to a leader in desperate need of a friend – and he wears a bandage over his blinded eyes.

The fallen emperor's name is Nero.

But this isn't his story.

Perfect for fans of (early) Robert Harris . . .





# LOUISE PENTLAND

As never before . . .

PUBLISHING: Summer 2017

WORLD RIGHTS

AGENT: Glead

SUMMER 2017 . . .

Meet Robin Wilde.

You'll make a friend for life. And she'll take you on a journey you'll never forget . . .

Uplifting. Empowering. Enchanting. Louise Pentland's debut novel is coming . . .

Louise Pentland is an international award-winning lifestyle and beauty blogger, fashion designer and UK number one bestselling non-fiction author.

Louise has 2.5 million YouTube followers, 1.8 million Twitter followers and 2.3 million Instagram followers. Hers is one of the fastest growing international social talent platforms.

Louise is a Global Ambassador For Gender Equality, was shortlisted for 2016's Glamour Woman Of The Year and won InStyle's Best High-Street Fashion YouTuber and the Shorty Best YouTube Guru awards. She's recently released her second collection for fashion retailer *Simply Be* (sizes 10-32) and is about to start her second sell-out *Louise Live* UK tour. Her non-fiction book *Life With A Sprinkle of Glitter* hit the *Sunday Times* number one spot in summer 2015.



Louise Pentland

L. S. Hilton

# MAESTRA DOMINA

**DOMINA PUBLICATION:**

March 2017

**MAESTRA PAPERBACK:**

September 2016

**AGENT:** Toby Mundy

**FILM RIGHTS:** Columbia  
Tristar Pictures

**RIGHTS SOLD:** Belgium,  
Bosnia, Brazil, Bulgaria,  
Canada, Catalonia, China,  
Czech Republic, Denmark,  
Estonia, Finland, France,  
Germany, Greece, Hungary,  
Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan,  
Korea, Latvia, Lithuania,  
Mexico, Netherlands, Norway,  
Poland, Portugal, Romania,  
Russia, Serbia, Slovakia,  
Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,  
Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey,  
Ukraine, USA and Vietnam

Internationally bestselling author L S Hilton  
has more to say . . .

Judith Rashleigh returns in a stunning  
new thriller.

Everything you thought you knew about  
MAESTRA, you don't.

*The Talented Mr Ripley* meets *Gone Girl* in this darkly  
decadent and compelling trilogy.

By day Judith Rashleigh is a put-upon assistant at a London  
auction house.

By night she's a hostess in one of the capital's unsavoury bars.

Desperate to make something of herself, Judith knows she has to  
play the game. She's learned to dress, speak and act in the interests  
of men. She's learned to be a good girl. But after uncovering a dark  
secret at the heart of the art world, Judith is fired and her dreams  
of a better life are torn apart.

So she turns to a long-neglected friend. A friend that kept her  
chin up and back straight through every past slight.

A friend that a good girl like her shouldn't have: *rage*.

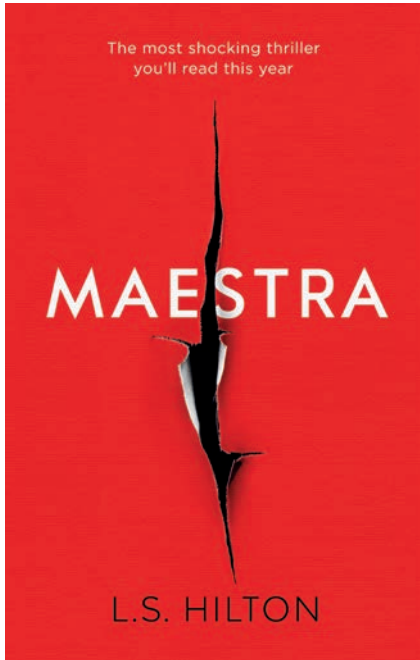
Film rights bought by Amy Pascal at Columbia Pictures

Scriptwriter Erin Cressida Wilson, wrote *The Secretary* and  
*The Girl on the Train*

'Maestra addresses the post-Fifty Shades generation: women who,  
totally uninhibited, lift the taboo from a whole lot of things, if not  
EVERYthing.' **LA REPUBLICA**

'The quality bestseller is back (and women are on top!)  
**VOGUE (Spain)**

'A mix of Eros and adrenaline, with shades of a seriously smart  
character – finally.' **IL FATTO QUOTIDIANO**



'A blockbuster and a half. A gripping thriller'  
**MAIL ON SUNDAY**

'Funny and clever, entertaining and well written  
... Destined for the bestseller charts'  
**TIMES MAGAZINE**

'Sharp and extremely well written' **DAILY MAIL**

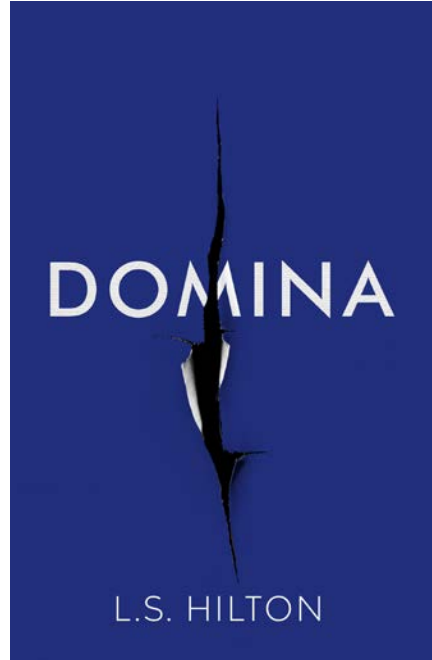
'It's a very sexy book, which will make you blush'  
**SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE**

'A first-class thriller ... Read it now before  
the entire world does' **GLAMOUR**

'If you can resist being scandalised, you won't put  
it down until the last page' **VANITY FAIR (Italy)**

'This year's most erotic novel makes *Fifty Shades  
of Grey* look like the bible ... Bount to be the It  
beach book of the summer'  
**NEW YORK POST**

'Deliciously decadent ... a glamorous  
and racy adventure' **SUNDAY MIRROR**



'Addictive from beginning to end, *Maestra* tells a  
tale that combines suspense, violence, sex, luxury,  
art and fashion' **GLAMOUR (Spain)**

'A psychological thriller set on the French  
Riviera, rather like Patricia Highsmith crossed  
with *Gone Girl*' **HARPERS BAZAAR**, '10 best  
Books for 2016'

'This book will make money and give pleasure'  
**SUNDAY TIMES**

'It's a killer book ... an al-nighter dripping  
with blood and glamour ... lewd, luscious and  
lowdown ... it ups the antee'  
**THE AUSTRALIAN**

'Set in a world of oligarchs, Mafiosi and dodgy  
art dealers, it also has in Judith Rashleigh a  
heroine you'll either love or loathe, at least two  
jaw-on-the-floor moments and sex scenes that  
would make Christian Grey blush' **RED**

Simon Booker

## WITHOUT TRACE

## PLAY WITH FIRE



**PUBLICATION:** February  
2016/June 2017

**RIGHTS SOLD:** Czech Republic  
& Slovakia

**AGENT:** Peters, Fraser  
& Dunlop

**EXTENT:** 320pp

**SIMON BOOKER** is a screenwriter. His partner is fellow crime writer M. J. McGrath. They often discuss murder over breakfast.

A taut psychological thriller series centred around setting right miscarriages of justice

Karl Savage is dead. He must be because his ex-lover, Anjelica, is in prison for murdering him in an arson attack. Forensic experts testified that his charred body was found in the ruins.

But Anjelica asks Morgan Vine to prove her innocence. It seems impossible . . . until Karl Savage walks past Morgan's window . . .

### WITHOUT TRACE

For years, journalist Morgan Vine has campaigned for the release of her childhood sweetheart, Danny Kilcannon – convicted, on dubious evidence, of murdering his stepdaughter.

When Danny is released from prison with nowhere else to go, he relies on single mum, Morgan, and her teenage daughter, Lissa.

But then Lissa goes missing and Morgan must re-think all she knows, and is forced to confront the ultimate question: whom can we trust . . . ?

'Fiendishly clever, cliff-hanger after cliff-hanger'

**DEBORAH MOGGACH**

'A cracking debut. A real page-turner with a compelling central character. Let's hope we see a lot more of Morgan Vine'

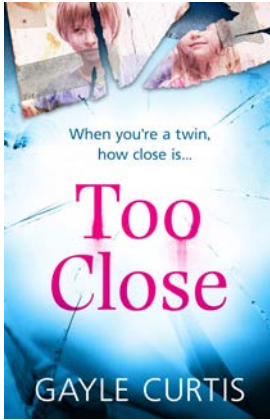
**MARK BILLINGHAM**

'Real end-of-the-pier-at-midnight scariness. Excellent!'

**KATE RHODES**

# Gayle Curtis

## TOO CLOSE



PUBLISHING: December 2016

WORLD RIGHTS

AGENT: The Feldstein Agency

EXTENT: 272pp

GAYLE CURTIS writes from a caravan in a field; the rest of the time she resides in an old chapel situated in North Norfolk.

A dark and disturbing psychological thriller: meet two new 'enfants terribles'

Cecelia and Sebastian have a connection like no other – more than just brother and sister. They'll go to any lengths to protect each other. Growing up in a bleak remote farmhouse, their mother gone and their father violent and abusive, the twins have only each other to keep them alive.

But when the secrets of their mother's disappearance start to emerge, and truth and lies are thrown into question, events take a shocking turn . . .

An unsettling story of a powerful and unshakeable twin bond, *Too Close* is a twisty and gripping tale where secrets, lies and illusions permeate the very essence of our beings.

For fans of *The Twins* by Saskia Sarginson and *I Know This Much is True* by Wally Lamb

'A horribly absorbing tale that uses the most innocent domestic details to paint an intimately disturbing nightmare'.

ANTHONY J. QUINN author of *DISAPPEARED*

C.J. Carver

## SPARE ME THE TRUTH TELL ME A LIE

PUBLICATION: April 2016/  
January 2017

WORLD RIGHTS

AGENT: Furniss Lawton

EXTENT: 528pp/400pp

CJ CARVER grew up on one of the country's first organic farms, before a holiday in Australia turned into a ten-year stay. She is a keen car enthusiast, having entered numerous rally challenges around the world, and she is the author of seven works of crime fiction

C.J. Carver won the Crime Writers' Association Debut Dagger and the Barrie Award for Best British Crime Novel

When everything you know turns out to be a lie, who can you trust?

Plunged into a conspiracy that will test each of them to their limits, three strangers are brought together in their hunt for the truth, whatever it costs. As their investigations become further intertwined, it becomes clear that at the centre of this tangled web is a threat more explosive than they ever imagined.

Perfect for fans of Mason Cross and Lee Child

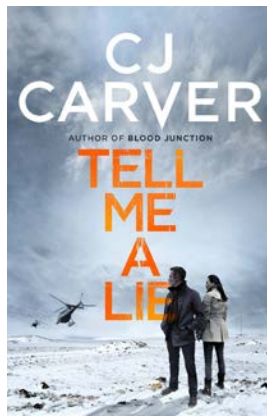
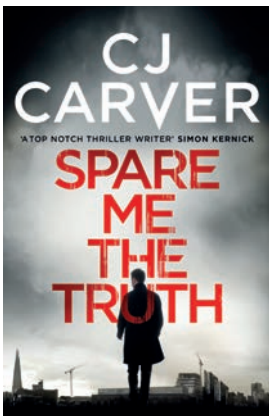
'High octane action, vivid characters and also thought-provoking mystery. Read it!' **MEG GARDINER**, *Edgar award-winning crime writer*

'C.J. Carver is a top notch thriller writer' **SIMON KERNICK**

'A tense thriller' **LITERARY REVIEW**

'Nothing short of brilliant . . . Carver has created a wonderful story here, sort of Jason Bourne meets *Silence of the Lambs*.'

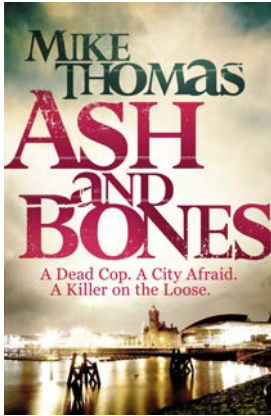
**MICHAEL JECKS**





Mike Thomas

## ASH AND BONES



A cop killer is on the loose in Cardiff – a dark and gritty voice in crime fiction

At a squalid flat near the Cardiff docks, an early morning police raid goes catastrophically wrong. A plain clothes officer is shot dead at point blank range, the occupant is left in a coma. The killer, identity unknown, slips away.

Young and inexperienced, Will MacReady starts his first day on the CID. With the city in shock and the entire force reeling, he is desperate to help – but unearths truths that lead the team down an increasingly dark path . . .

Perfect for fans of Stuart MacBride and David Mark

**PUBLISHED:** August 2016

**WORLD RIGHTS**

**AGENT:** Curtis Brown

**EXTENT:** 336pp

**MIKE THOMAS** served for more than two decades in the police, working some of Cardiff's busiest neighbourhoods. He left the force in 2015 to write full time.

Richard King

## A DEATH AT THE UNIVERSITY

## A BRUSH WITH DEATH

## THE BOOK REVIEW OF DEATH

**PUBLICATION:** March 2016/  
September 2016/March 2017

**WORLD RIGHTS**

**AGENT:** HMA

**EXTENT:** 336pp

**RICHARD KING** is a co-founder of Librarie Paragraphe Bookstore in Montreal and has served on the board of the Canadian Booksellers Association, including a stint as its president.

Introducing bookseller and intrepid amateur sleuth Sam Wiseman in the Bookshop Mysteries.

Sam Wiseman leads a simple life, until he apprehends a shoplifter in his bookshop and strikes a friendship with the investigating officer, Gaston Lemieux. Later, when Sam discovers the dead body of Professor Harold Hilliard in his University office, clutching a special order form from the bookshop, he is implicated in the murder. With the help of Lemieux, Sam must attempt to clear his name and find out what really happened.

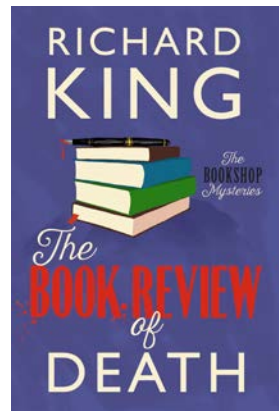
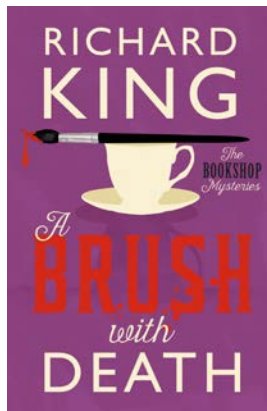
**Perfect for fans of Agatha Christie and M C Beaton**

'A literary mystery, crisply written and captivating'

**TIMES COLONIST**

'Engaging, fast-paced and finely written throughout.'

**THE CHRONICLE-HERALD**



A.J. MacKenzie

## THE BODY ON THE DOORSTEP

## THE BODY IN THE ICE

**PUBLISHED:** August 2016/  
April 2017

**WORLD RIGHTS**

**AGENT:** HMA

**EXTENT:** 288pp

**A.J. MACKENZIE** is the nom de plume of a highly regarded historian and a successful non-fiction author with over twenty books in print.

Murder and smuggling, conspiracy and treason – the start of an atmospheric new historical mystery series with a heroic prelate whose little grey cells come into their own

**KENT, 1796.** Shocked to discover a dying man on his doorstep – and lucky to avoid a bullet himself – Reverend Hardcastle finds himself entrusted with the victim's cryptic last words.

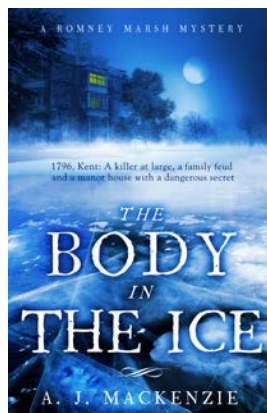
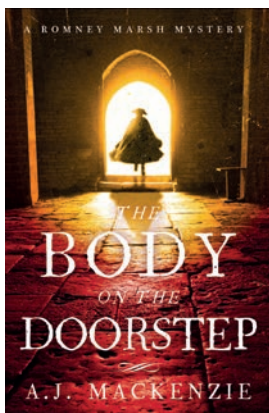
With smuggling rife on England's south-east coast, the obvious conclusion is that a dodgy deal has gone wrong. But why is the leader of the local customs service so reluctant to investigate?

Ably assisted by the ingenious Mrs Chaytor, Hardcastle sets out to solve the mystery for himself. But smugglers are not the only miscreants to lurk off the Kent coast, and the more he discovers, the more he realises he might have bitten off more than he can chew.

**For fans of Antonia Hodgson's, *The Devil in the Marshalsea*, and M.J. Carter's, *The Strangler Vine*.**

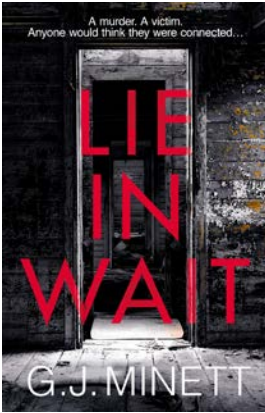
An enjoyable murder mystery with engaging characters, nicely observed historical detail and gentle humour'

**HISTORICAL NOVEL REVIEW**



G.J. Minett  
**LIE IN WAIT**

PUBLISHING: March 2017  
**WORLD ENGLISH**  
AGENT: Ampersand  
EXTENT: 350pp



A dark, gripping thriller, ingeniously plotted.

Owen Hall has always been different. A big man with an unusual fixation, who prefers to put his trust in numbers rather than in people, it's unsurprising that he'd draw the attention of a bully.

Or a murder investigation.

And, in the storm of emotions and accusations that erupts when a violent killing affects a small town, it soon becomes clear that a particularly clever murderer might just get away with it.

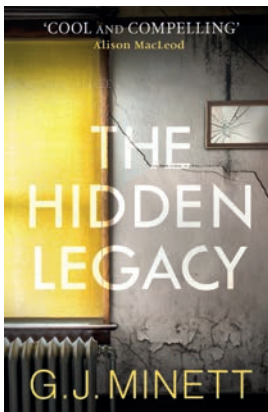
All they'd need is a likely suspect . . .

'Cool and compelling . . . hard to put down – and hard to forget'  
**ALISON MACLEOD**, author of **UNEXPLODED**

**THE HIDDEN LEGACY**

TOP 40 EBOOK BESTSELLER

PUBLISHED: August 2016  
EXTENT: 448pp



Once you know, you can't forget – a dark and suspenseful tale

1966: A horrifying crime in a school has devastating consequences for all involved.

2008: An astounding gift. If only the recipient can work out why . . .

Ellen Sutherland has received a life-changing inheritance and when she begins to find out who it was from, and why, little can she imagine how much she has to learn about her past . . .

For fans of Val McDermid and Liane Moriarty

'A thought-provoking, subtle novel' **JANE RUSBRIDGE**,  
author of **ROOK**

Deborah Bee

## THE LAST THING I REMEMBER



PUBLISHED: July 2016

WORLD ENGLISH

RIGHTS SOLD: France

AGENT: PFD

EXTENT: 304pp

DEBORAH BEE studied fashion journalism at Central St Martins. She has worked at various magazines and newspapers including *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, *The Times*, *The Guardian* etc, as a writer, fashion editor and later as an editor. Currently, she is Creative Director in luxury retail.

A slick psychological thriller with a clever, original premise – and a devilish twist

Sarah is in a coma.

She wakes in hospital but she doesn't know how she got there. And she doesn't know how she might get out and, indeed, if she will . . .

But then she discovers that her injury wasn't an accident.

Unable to speak, see or move, Sarah can only hear what others say around her. She is in mortal danger and must use every clue that she overhears to piece together the story of her own past . . . and work out who it is that keeps slipping into her room when no one is around . . .

'An enthralling thriller that takes the reader inside the mind of a woman in a coma. Utterly addictive, it's easy to see why the television rights have been picked up.' **Pick of the best domestic thrillers of 2016, STELLA, DAILY TELEGRAPH**

# David Young

## STASI CHILD

## STASI WOLF

**PUBLICATION:** February  
2016/February 2017

**WORLD ENGLISH**

**RIGHTS SOLD:** Canada,  
France, Israel, Italy, Spain, USA

**TV RIGHTS:** Euston Films

**AGENT:** PFD

**EXTENT:** 416pp

**DAVID YOUNG** was born near Hull and has worked a number of jobs including cleaning ferry toilets and driving a butcher's van, these were followed by a career in journalism with provincial newspapers, a London news agency, and international radio and TV newsrooms. He now writes in his garden shed and in his spare time supports Hull City AFC.

The Times Crime Book of The Month

Top 20 Bestseller

Shortlisted for the CWA Historical Dagger

*East Berlin, 1975.* When Oberleutnant Karin Müller is called to investigate a teenage girl's body at the foot of the Wall, she thinks she's seen it all before. She soon realises this is a death like no other: the girl was trying to escape – but from the West..

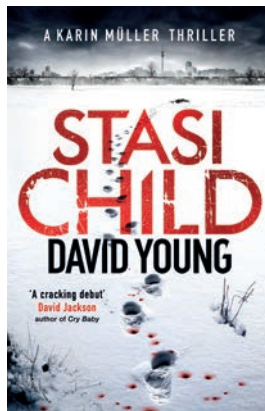
The evidence doesn't add up, and it soon becomes clear that the crime scene has been staged. But this is not a regime that tolerates a curious mind, and Müller doesn't realise that the trail she's following will lead her dangerously close to home.

'The premise is brilliant and the pacing just right – but what really carries it is the hauntingly atmospheric depiction of Berlin under the communists fist.' **METRO**

'Chilling' **DAILY TELEGRAPH**

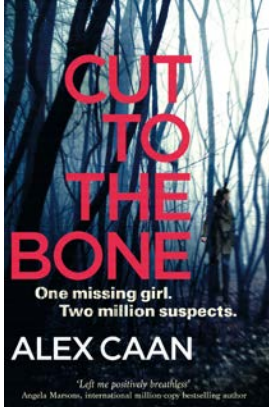
'Extremely engaging' **SUNDAY EXPRESS**

'A cracking read' **ELIZABETH BUCHAN**



Alex Caan

## CUT TO THE BONE



Everyone's watching. Nobody sees.

Ruby is a vlogger, a rising star of YouTube and a heroine to millions of teenage girls. And she's missing. She's an adult – nothing to worry about, surely? Until the video's uploaded. Ruby, in the dirt and pleading for her life. It soon becomes clear that the world of YouTube vloggers and social media is much, much darker than anyone could have imagined

A slick, dark contemporary thriller that will have you on the edge of your seat. . .

For fans of *The Fall* and Sarah Hilary

'A murder mystery story with a modern twist. Enjoyable read'

**THE TIMES**

PUBLISHING: November 2016

WORLD ENGLISH

RIGHTS SOLD: USA

AGENT: Luigi Bonomi

EXTENT: 320pp

ALEX CAAN was born in Manchester, and has spent over a decade working in Information Systems Security for a number of government organisations, and is currently specialising in Terrorism Studies. A lifetime passion for writing eventually led to Alex successfully completing an MA in Creative Writing, and writing *Cut to the Bone*.

Rachel Crowther

## EVERY SECRET THING

PUBLISHING: June 2017

WORLD RIGHTS

AGENT: Conville & Walsh

EXTENT: 320pp



A glorious new novel of friendship, betrayal and broken hearts.

Young and ambitious, five newly graduated friends travel together to the Lake District. Little do they imagine the events that will overtake them that fateful summer – and tear their fragile group apart.

Twenty years later, they return. It's not long before old friendships – and romances – are rekindled. But not long either before old rivalries re-emerge and mistakes are brought to view

How long does it take for past sins to be forgiven? And, when they are, will the love they crushed survive?

## THE THINGS YOU DO FOR LOVE

PUBLISHED: August 2016

EXTENT: 448pp



Perfect for fans of Joanna Trollope

'A wonderful page – turner of a novel about the complexity of female life by a new writer who understands it all too well. You can have it all, but only if you're prepared to pay the price'

FAY WELDON

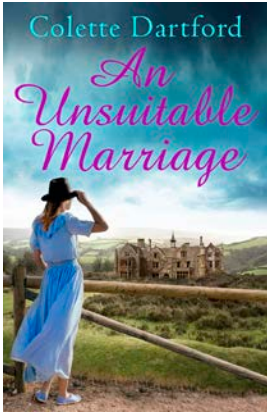
'The story, while being both structurally and emotionally thrillingly complex, is written with a kind of wonderful seamless balance as the different relationships and generations struggle and triumph with their own self absorbing lives . . . the very best sort of fiction that makes you really mind about those people who you have only just met but whose existence throbs with vitality'

JULIET NICOLSON, author of *A HOUSE FULL OF DAUGHTERS*



Colette Dartford  
**AN UNSUITABLE  
 MARRIAGE**

PUBLISHING: March 2017  
**WORLD RIGHTS**  
 AGENT: United Agents  
 EXTENT: 350pp



When your worst fears are realised, could your marriage survive?

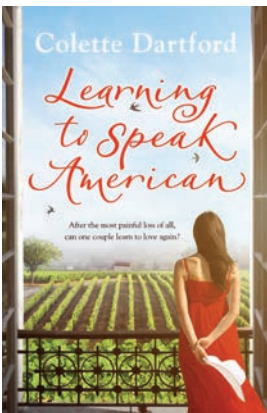
Olivia had the perfect life. A loving husband in Geoffrey, a thoughtful and intelligent son in Edward and a beautiful home in the countryside.

But all that changed when Geoffrey's business went under. Now Geoffrey is living with his formidable mother, whilst Olivia has been forced to take a job as housemistress at her son's elite boarding school.

But then Geoffrey meets Ruth. Wild, impetuous and free, she is a breath of fresh air – the thing he needs to help him forget . . .

**LEARNING TO  
 SPEAK AMERICAN**

PUBLISHED: July 2016  
 EXTENT: 384pp



A life-affirming story of heartbreak, love and learning how to start again

Having suffered in silence since the tragic death of their young daughter, Lola and Duncan Drummond's last chance to rediscover their love for one another lies in the renovation of a new house in the gorgeous Napa Valley

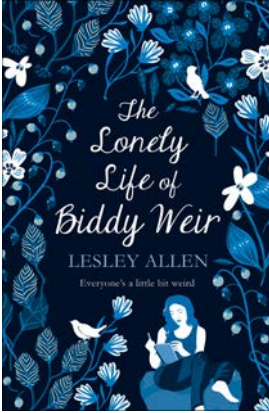
As Lola works on the house she begins to realise the liberating power of letting go. But just as she begins to open up, Duncan's life begins to fall apart.

'A moving and engaging debut novel . . . shortens the dark nights'  
**SANTA MONTEFIORE**

'A heartrending story, well-told . . . Dartford evokes strong, sympathetic characters while writing fluently and from the heart. I raced through it.' **HILARY BOYD, author of THURSDAYS IN THE PARK**

Lesley Allen

## THE LONELY LIFE OF BIDDY WEIR



PUBLISHING: November 2016

WORLD RIGHTS

AGENT: Feldstein Agency

EXTENT: 352pp

LESLEY ALLEN lives in Bangor, County Down, with her teenage daughter. She is a freelance copywriter and the press officer and programme developer for Open House Festival.

A stark but uplifting story of bullying and redemption, for anyone who's ever felt different

Almost too terrified to hold the phone, Biddy Weir calls a daytime television show. The subject is bullying, and Biddy has a story to tell.

Abandoned by her mother as a baby, Biddy lives in her own little world, happy to pass her time watching the birds – until Alison Fleming joins her school.

Popular and beautiful, but with a dangerous, malevolent streak, Alison quickly secures the admiration of her fellow students. All except one. And Alison doesn't take kindly to people who don't fit her mould . . .

A story of abuse and survival, of falling down and of starting again, and of one woman's battle to learn to love herself for who she is, *The Lonely Life of Biddy Weir* is Lesley Allen's startlingly honest debut novel, perfect for fans of Rowan Coleman and Julie Cohen.

"Lesley Allen has created one of those characters that gets under your skin and won't leave' **DOREEN FINN, Author of MY BURIED LIFE**

'Raw, real and authentic . . . You will be enthralled'  
**BIBLIOMANIAC**

# Madeleine Reiss

## THIS LAST KISS



**PUBLISHED:** June 2016  
**RIGHTS SOLD:** Germany  
**AGENT:** Luigi Bonomi  
**EXTENT:** 336pp

**MADELEINE REISS** is a journalist and publicist and her first novel, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, won The People's Novelist Competition.

A heart-stopping read . . . packed with kisses

*'As a child, Rora had imagined her own life captured like her grandmother's Book of Kisses, with her key moments taking place in forests and rose-filled gardens, moments that were important enough to be rendered in deep red and gold, and covered in tissue paper. What captured Rora's imagination was that the kisses, in all their variety – maternal, illicit, erotic, sorrowful and duplicitous – were not and end in themselves, but rather a moment in a story of what had been and what was yet to come.'*

Rora Raine is finally coming back to her seaside home twelve years after she left her grief-stricken father, and fled the love of her life, Carl.

Struggling to support her bright, but troubled young daughter, Rora has convinced herself she'll never love again.

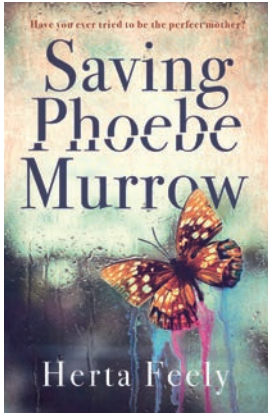
When she meets a bumblingly charming stranger, Rora's heart begins to thaw. Try as she might, she can't run from true love forever.

Intelligent, warm-hearted and deliciously romantic, *This Last Kiss* is the redemptive story of two star-crossed lovers, told through each seminal kiss in Rora's journey – a journey into her past and her future alike.

Funny, warm and romantic, *This Last Kiss* is the redemptive story of two star-crossed lovers, told through each and every kiss they share.

Herta Feely

## SAVING PHOEBE MURROW



PUBLISHING: October 2016

WORLD RIGHTS XCUSA

AGENT: Chrysalis

EXTENT: 416pp

HERTA FEELY was born in former Yugoslavia, she and her parents emigrated to Germany when she was three, and then to the United States at the age of seven. She has received the American Independent Writers' award. She now lives in Washington, DC.

A timeless story of mothers and daughters, with a sharp 21st Century twist

Isabel tries to be the perfect mother – hard-working and caring, supportive and interested in her daughter, Phoebe. In a perilous world of bullies and temptations, all she wants is to keep her safe.

Phoebe has just attempted suicide. She says it is Isabel's fault.

*Saving Phoebe Murrow* is a timely tale about an age-old problem – how best to raise our children, and how far to go in keeping them from harm. Set amidst the complicated web of relationships at the school gate, it tells a story of miscommunication and malice, frenemies and Facebook, prejudice and revenge.

'Insightful, gripping, and in the end thrilling. Most highly recommended.' **WAYNE JOHNSON**, bestselling author of *THE SNAKE GAME*

'Feely masterfully draws us into a domestic world . . . Mothers and daughters beware!' **ELLEN BRYSON**, author of *THE TRANSFORMATION OF BARTHOLOMEW FORTUNO*

Anna Bell

## THE BUCKET LIST TO MEND A BROKEN HEART

PUBLISHED: March 2016

WORLD ENGLISH

AGENT: Hardman & Swainson

RIGHTS SOLD: Germany,  
Norway

EXTENT: 432pp



A deliciously feel-good and funny romantic comedy

Abi's barely left her bed since Joseph dumped her, saying they were incompatible. When Joseph leaves a box of her possessions on her doorstep, she finds a bucket list of ten things she never knew he wanted to do. What better way to win him back than by completing the list, and proving they're a perfect match?

However, Abi's not exactly the outdoorsy type, and she's terrified of heights – not ideal for a list that includes climbing, cycling, and abseiling down the tallest building in town . . .

'Funny, relatable and fabulously written' *DAILY EXPRESS*

## THE GOOD GIRLFRIEND'S GUIDE TO GETTING EVEN

PUBLISHING: January 2017

EXTENT: 384pp



Vengeance is sweet

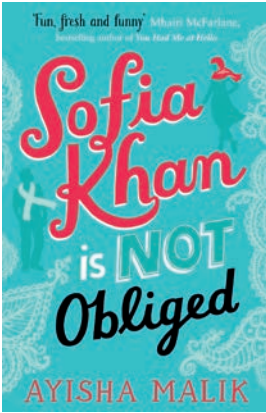
When Lexi's sport-mad boyfriend Will skips her friend's wedding to watch football – after pretending to have food poisoning – it might just be the final whistle for their relationship.

Lexi decides to even the score. When a couple of lost tickets and an 'accidentally' broken television lead to them spending extra time together, she's delighted to realise that revenge might be the best thing that's happened to their relationship.

And if her clever acts of sabotage prove to be a popular subject for her blog, what harm could that possibly do? It's not as if he'll ever find out . . .

Ayisha Malik

# SOFIA KHAN IS NOT OBLIGED THE OTHER HALF OF HAPPINESS



PUBLISHED: January 2016/  
April 2017

WORLD ENGLISH

AGENT: Peters Fraser  
& Dunlop

EXTENT: 464pp/400pp

AYISHA MALIK is a British Muslim. She has spent various spells teaching and working in publishing.

TOP 25 EBOOK BESTSELLER

The Muslim Bridget Jones.

A hilarious and warm-hearted contemporary romantic comedy

Sofia Khan is single once more, after her sort-of-boyfriend proves just a little *too* close to his parents. And she'd be happy that way too, if her boss hadn't asked her to write a book about the weird and wonderful world of Muslim dating. Of course, even though she *definitely* isn't looking for love, to write the book she does need to do a little research . . .

Laugh-out-loud funny and uncommonly frank, this is the story of a mixed-race marriage, a mixed-up family and the madness of love

'Snort-Diet-Coke-out-of-your-nostrils funny . . . will resonate with any woman who's looking for love' **SARRA MANNING**,  
author of *IT FELT LIKE A KISS*

'Fun, fresh and funny' **MHAIRI MCFARLANE**

## THE OTHER HALF OF HAPPINESS

What happens after the happy ending?

Sofia Khan is newly married, at last having found love even if it came in a rather unusual package.

She might still have to deal with the stresses and strains of her mad friends and family (must her widowed mother have such a frank attitude to love?) but at least she can do so with her husband by her side. Or at least that's the theory . . .

Because it's not long before she begins to notice that her beloved is acting strangely. and while at first she thinks it might be the unique strain of having Irish and Pakistani in-laws, it soon becomes apparent that he has something to hide. The trouble with love sweeping you off your feet is that you have to come crashing down somewhere. . .

Catherine Law

**A SUMMER STORM**

PUBLISHING: August 2017

WORLD ENGLISH

AGENT: Judith Murdoch

EXTENT: 320pp

**A romantic and moving novel**

1924. Eleven year old Alexa has everything she ever needed. Growing up in the beautiful Cornwall countryside with her loving mother and father, she doesn't realise that life could be any different. But when her mother dies, everything is thrown into turmoil, and she's sent away to boarding school.

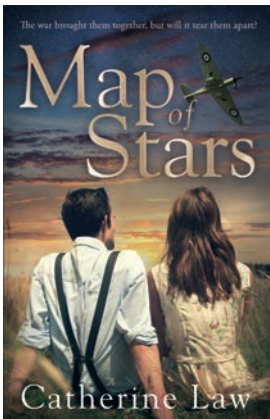
1931. Finished at school, and seeking adventure, Alexa takes a job as companion to a wealthy woman. Together they travel to Venice, and Alexa finds her life full of excitement and romance – although perhaps more than she bargained for .

When life doesn't go to plan, she realises that maybe the thing she's been looking for has been waiting at home all along . . .

**MAP OF STARS**

PUBLISHED: May 2016

EXTENT: 400pp

**Wartime drama and star-crossed lovers in the Garden of England**

Kent, 1939. Eliza is to be married to Nicholas, her childhood friend. But when they are involved in a car crash, Eliza is rescued by a stranger, Lewis, whose green eyes she will never forget.

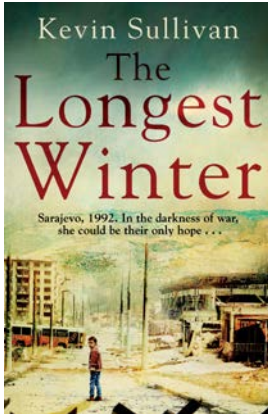
As the war begins, Eliza's world begins to fall apart. Torn between passion and duty, Eliza must choose whether to follow her conscience or her heart. But wartime has plenty of its own dangers, and Eliza must find the courage to serve her country in even the most heart-breaking circumstances.

'A touching tale of star-crossed lovers' **NEW MAGAZINE BOOK OF THE WEEK.**

**A tear-jerking love story for fans of Kathryn Hughes and Leah Fleming**

Kevin Sullivan

## THE LONGEST WINTER



**PUBLISHING:** October 2016

**RIGHTS SOLD:** Bosnia

**AGENT:** Peter Buckman

**EXTENT:** 336pp

**KEVIN SULLIVAN** covered the siege of Dubrovnik in 1991 and the war in Bosnia in 1992/93. He was seriously wounded in a land-mine explosion in early 1993. While recovering, he wrote an early draft of *The Longest Winter*. He now lives in Sarajevo with his wife and daughter.

Based on a true story of the assassination of a government minister in Sarajevo in the winter of 1992-93

Kevin Sullivan was a journalist, and then a speechwriter at the Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo

**Terry** is a British doctor on a mission to rescue a sick child in need of life-saving surgery.

**Brad** is an American journalist desperately trying to save his reputation following the disasters of his last posting.

**Milena** is a young woman from eastern Bosnia who has fled from her home and her husband, seeking refuge from betrayal amid the devastation of besieged Sarajevo.

In the terrifying aftermath of the vicious assassination of a government minister, three life stories are intertwined in a dramatic battle for survival and redemption.

**For fans of *Girl at War* and *The Cellist of Sarajevo***

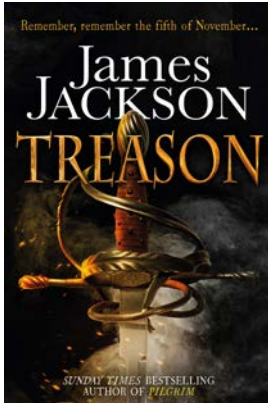
Compelling and deeply moving debut novel about the silent suffering and the forgotten acts of heroism in Sarajevo during the Bosnian War.



James Jackson

## TREASON

SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *PILGRIM*



PUBLISHING: October 2016

WORLD ENGLISH

AGENT: Furniss Lawton

EXTENT: 320pp

Born in London in the extraordinarily cold winter of 1962, JAMES JACKSON was very well-educated: at Cheam School, Wellington College, Bristol University, King's College London, the London College of Law, and the Inns of Court School of Law.

An atmospheric and gripping historical thriller

Remember, Remember, the Fifth of November . . .

Behind the famous rhyme lies a murderous conspiracy that goes far beyond Guy Fawkes and his ill-fated Gunpowder Plot . . .

In a desperate race against time, spy Christian Hardy must uncover a web of deceit that runs from the cock-fighting pits of Shoe Lane, to the tunnels beneath a bear-baiting arena in Southwark, and from the bad lands of Clerkenwell to a brutal firefight in The Globe theatre.

But of the forces ranged against Hardy, all pale beside the renegade Spanish agent, codenamed Realm.

A pulse-racing and dramatic thriller from *Sunday Times* bestselling author Jackson, shedding new light on one of the most dramatic events in British history.

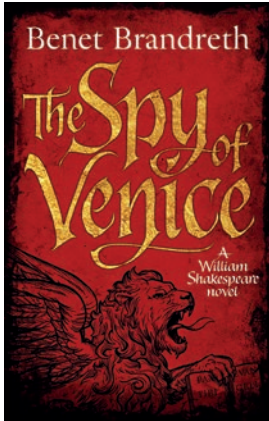
For fans of Con Iggulden and Bernard Cornwell.

'Epic adventure' **BOOKSELLER**

'There is no-one today writing fictionalised history, backed by ferocious research, like James Jackson. With his latest, *Treason*, he has done it again and the reading lamp just burns on through the night . . .'**FREDERICK FORSYTH**

Benet Brandreth

## THE SPY OF VENICE THE ASSASSIN OF VERONA



**PUBLISHED:** March 2016/  
September 2017

**WORLD ENGLISH**

**AGENT:** Ivan Mulcahy

**EXTENT:** 448pp/400pp

**BENET BRANDRETH** is a top IP lawyer, a lecturer on Shakespeare for the RSC, a rhetoric coach and has taken a one-man show to the Edinburgh Festival. As if this wasn't enough, he is also now an author.

Swords, treachery and murder: introducing an unfamiliar hero – one William Shakespeare

When he's caught out by one ill-advised seduction too many, young William Shakespeare flees Stratford to seek his fortune.

Cast adrift in London, Will falls in with a band of players – but greater men have their eye on this talented young wordsmith. England's very survival hangs in the balance, and Will finds himself dispatched to Venice on a crucial embassy.

Dazzled by the city's masques, and its beauties, Will little realises the peril in which he finds himself. Catholic assassins would stop at nothing to end his mission on the point of their sharpened knives, and lurking in the shadows is a killer as clever as he is cruel.

**For fans of Shakespeare in Love and The Three Musketeers**

'A Venetian romp that takes Shakespeare as its lusty hero'

**TELEGRAPH**

'A playful and inventive debut. The dialogue is wonderful, and Will's banter with his fellow actors sparkles' **THE TIMES**

'Entertaining and ebullient . . . The author knows his Shakespeare backwards . . . rejoices in its wordplay, loves his allusions and has a good time with his characters. So did I' **DAILY MAIL**

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