

# Adult Fiction Rights Guide Spring 2022



## Film & television deals and options

*The Tattooist Of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris – Synchronicity Films

*Snowflake* by Louise Nealon – Element Pictures

*This Green And Pleasant Land* by Ayisha Malik – Eleventh Hour Films

*The Windsor Knot* by S.J. Bennett – Mammoth Productions

*The Shelf* by Helly Acton – Monumental Pictures

*The Holiday* by TM Logan – Channel 5

*The Phone Box At The Edge Of The World* by Laura Imai Messina  
– Cattleya

*Geiger* by Gustaf Skördeman – Monumental Pictures

*Killing It* by Asia Mackay – 42 Media

*The Ice Beneath Her* by Camilla Grebe – New Line Cinema

*The Nine* by Gwen Strauss – Kudos Film & TV

*The Familiars* by Stacey Halls – The Bureau

*Maestra Trilogy* by LS Hilton – Columbia/Sony

*We Begin At The End* by Chris Whitaker – Disney

CRIME/THRILLER

# The Messenger

## Megan Davis

**One man's path to redemption exposes the dark heart of the City of Light.**

Wealthy and privileged, Alex has an easy path to success in the Parisian elite his father mingles with. But the two have never seen eye to eye. Desperate to escape the increasingly suffocating atmosphere of their apartment, Alex seeks freedom on the streets of Paris where his new-found friend Sami teaches him how to survive. But everything has a price – and one night of rebellion changes their lives forever.

A simple plan to steal money takes a sinister turn when Alex's father is found dead. Despite protesting their innocence, the two friends are imprisoned for murder. Seven years later Alex is released from prison with a single purpose: to discover who really killed his father. Yet as he searches for answers and atones for the sins of his past, Alex uncovers a disturbing truth with far-reaching consequences.

Playing out against a backdrop of corruption, fake news and civil unrest, *The Messenger* exposes the gritty reality of a changing city through one man's journey to redemption.

**Lupin meets Rosamund Lupton in this chilling debut by an eclectic, cut-throat new voice in thriller writing.**

'The Messenger stood out for its style and confidence, and its compelling portrait of family relations. It is a gripping and cool literary thriller, that cleverly manages to be both a why- and who-dunnit.'

LUCY CAVENDISH PRIZE Judge



May 2023  
344 pp  
Crime/Thriller

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Rogers, Coleridge & White

MEGAN DAVIS was born in Australia and grew up in mining towns across the world. She has worked in the film industry and her credits include *Atonement*, *In Bruges*, *Pride and Prejudice* and the Bourne films. Megan is also a lawyer and is currently an associate at Spotlight on Corruption. Her debut *The Messenger* won the Bridport Prize for a First Novel in 2018, judged by Kamila Shamsie, as well as the Lucy Cavendish Prize for unpublished writers in 2021.

# The Launch Party

## Lauren Forry



June 2023  
Crime/Thriller

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

LAUREN FORRY was brought up in the woods of Pennsylvania before moving to New York City to earn her undergraduate degree in Cinema Studies and Screenwriting from New York University. She later earned her MA and MFA in Creative Writing and Publishing from Kingston University in London, England. There she was awarded the Faber and Faber Creative Writing MA Prize for her thesis work, *Abigale Hall*.

### Ten were chosen. How many will survive?

Ten lucky people have won a place at the most exclusive launch event of the century: the grand opening of the Royal Artemis, the first hotel on the moon. It's an invitation to die for. As their transport departs for its return to Earth and the doors seal shut behind them, the guests take the next leap for mankind.

However, they soon discover that all is not as it seems. The champagne may be flowing, but there is no one to pour it. Room service is available, but there is no one to deliver it. Besides the ten of them, they are completely alone.

When one of the guests is found murdered, fear spreads through the group. But that death is only the beginning. Being three days' journey from home and with no way to contact the outside, can any of the guests survive their stay?

Perfect for fans of Lucy Foley, Anthony Horowitz and Hanna Jameson.

**Agatha Christie meets Andy Weir in this ultimate locked room mystery.**

# The Winter Guest

## W. C. Ryan



January 2022  
352 pp  
Historical Thriller

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:**  
USA (Arcade)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

W. C. RYAN is also known as William Ryan, author of *The Constant Soldier* and the Korolev series of historical crime novels. His books have been shortlisted for numerous awards, including the CWA's Steel, Historical and New Blood Daggers, the Irish Fiction Award and the Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year. He has been published in 18 countries.

### 'Deftly plotted. A treat.'

THE TIMES

1921, Ireland. Though the Great War is over, a new civil war is raging in the country.

When Maud Prendeville, eldest daughter of the influential Lord Kilgogan, is killed in an ambush gone wrong, the aristocratic family is left reeling. The IRA unit behind the attack claims that Maud was alive when they left the scene – someone else must have been responsible for her fate.

Captain Tom Harkin, a veteran of the First World War working undercover for the IRA, is sent to investigate at the imposing Kilgolgan House where the family lives.

An unwelcome guest at the once-grand mansion, Harkin must delve into the house's secrets and discover where each family member's allegiances truly lie. But he too is troubled by the ghosts of the past and by his terrible experiences on the battlefields. Can he find the truth before the past and his strange unnerving surroundings overwhelm him?

*'This is the best historical crime novel set in Ireland I have read'*

LITERARY REVIEW

*'A dense plot in a thriller that bears comparison with both le Carré and Buchan... a ripping yarn'*  
SUNDAY TIMES (Ireland)

*'A clever whodunnit with a bracing whiff of the supernatural'*

DAILY EXPRESS

*'A snowflake of a novel: intricate, exquisite, and unlike any other'*

AJ Finn

# The Walled Garden

## Sarah Hardy



April 2023  
Historical Fiction

**World English**

**Translation, Television & Film**

**Rights:**

Aitken Alexander

SARAH HARDY has lived for the last 10 years in rural Suffolk, which is where her novel is set. Before that she lived in London and worked on national magazines and newspapers.

**The war is over, but in the village of Oakbourne, deep in the Suffolk countryside, it has left its mark.**

Everyone tells Alice Rayne that she is lucky. Lucky to have her husband Stephen return from the war when so many others have not. Lucky to return to their home, the grand Oakbourne Hall, when others have nothing. But Alice hardly recognises the angry, frightened man now living in their vast, cold, crumbling house. In the village too, many others are struggling to adjust to postwar life.

Then George Ivens, a young vicar from London, arrives in Oakbourne. A newcomer in this tight-knit community, George faces a hostile reception from some of the villagers, the vast, freezing landscape and his own treacherous weak heart. But while he attempts to help all those around him, he finds himself increasingly beguiled by the village's Big House and by Alice and Stephen, its damaged residents.

Facing a bleak, uncertain future, Alice must try to pick up the pieces of her marriage and save Oakbourne Hall from total collapse, beginning with the walled garden. As it starts to bear fruit, she finds herself drawn into a new, forbidden love.

A luminous debut novel about love, the trauma of war and the miracle of human resilience, for readers of Anna Hope, Sadie Jones and Elizabeth Jane Howard.

**WATCH  
THIS  
SPACE . . .**

# The Witches of Vardø

## Anya Bergman



January 2023  
464 pp  
Historical Fiction

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Marianne Gunn O'Connor

ANYA BERGMAN became interested in the Witch Trials of Vardø and the vivid folk tales of the North while living in Norway. Travelling to the Steilneset memorial, she became fascinated by their stories. Now resident in Edinburgh, she graduated with distinction from the Creative Writing programme at Edinburgh Napier University.

**Norway 1662. A dangerous time to be a woman . . .**

In the fishing community of Ekkeroy in the Varanger peninsular of the far North, there are women who cannot but stand out. Ingeborg is as clever and nimble as a cat, climbing the steep cliffs after gulls' eggs and taking responsibility for her mother and her strangely-gifted younger sister. Their wild and unapologetic cousin Maren, the daughter of a convicted witch, has desires and dreams that won't tie her down - only the Sami community, outsiders too, accept Maren's ways. Difference is difficult to accept and quick to attract censure.

Anna Rhodius also stands out. After first living at the Royal Court in Copenhagen, she has dangerously compromised her past relationship with the King and has been banished to the wildest corner of his realm, the fortress of Vardø. She must now seek a way to get his pardon and her old life of privilege back. And that might mean condoning the acts of her jailor, the Governor of Vardø, in his crusade against "witches".

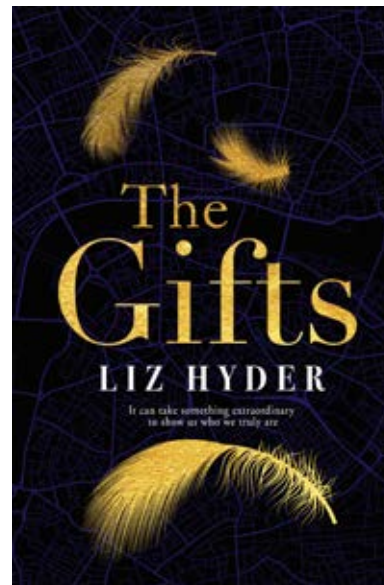
As the Witch Panic mounts, any act of agency can brand you a witch: dancing, drinking beer, midwifery, falling in love with a married man. When Ingeborg's mother is accused of witchcraft and imprisoned in the Vardø fortress, Ingeborg and Maren do all they can to help rescue her.

But, can Anna really turn her back on these women, to get her heart's desire? When Anna meets someone she wants even more than her own freedom, a power within her arises and she now knows whom she should side with.

The Witches of Vardø are stronger than even the King of Denmark. They refuse to be victims. They will have their justice. All they need do is show their power.

# The Gifts

## Liz Hyder



February 2022  
496 pp  
Historical Fiction

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:**  
Poland (Slown), USA & Canada  
(Sourcebooks)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Bird Literary Agency

LIZ HYDER is a writer, experienced workshop leader and award-winning arts PR consultant. In early 2018, she won the Bridge Award/Moniack Mhor's Emerging Writer Award. *Bearmouth*, her debut young adult novel, was awarded a Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the Branford Boase Award, and was chosen as Children's Book of the Year in *The Times*. *The Gifts* is her debut adult novel.

**In an age defined by men, it will take something extraordinary to show four women who they truly are . . .**

October 1840. A young woman staggers alone through a forest as a huge pair of wings rip themselves from her shoulders. Meanwhile, when rumours of 'fallen angels' cause a frenzy across London, a surgeon desperate for fame and fortune will find himself in the grips of a dangerous obsession, one that will place the women he seeks in the most terrible danger . . .

A gripping and ambitious novel set against the luminous backdrop of nineteenth-century London, *The Gifts* explores science, nature, religion, enlightenment, the knife-edge roles of women in society and the dark danger of ambition.

*'Your next obsession . . . A unique and captivating read.'*  
COSMOPOLITAN

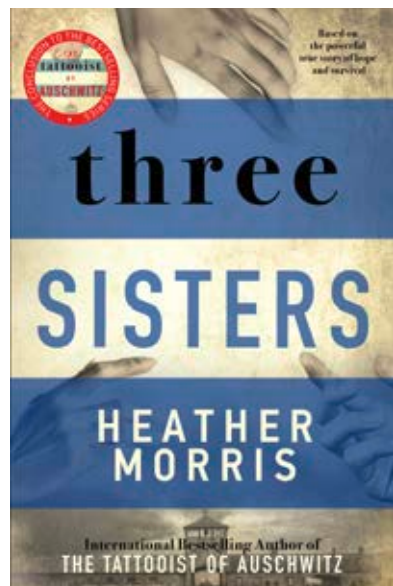
*'Haunting, thrilling, wonderful. I loved it'*  
Stacey Halls

*'A stirring tale of female empowerment, full of vivid imagery and evocative settings'*  
THE OBSERVER

*'A strong and powerful novel of identity and ambition, it's a boldly feminist novel that lingers long after the last page.'*  
Susan Stokes-Chapman

# Three Sisters

## Heather Morris



From the international bestselling author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and *Cilka's Journey* comes a novel of breathtaking power, the story of three brave sisters.

When they are girls, Cibi, Magda and Livia make a promise to their father that they will stay together, no matter what.

Years later, at just 16 years old, Livia is ordered to Auschwitz by the Nazis. Cibi, only 19 herself, remembers their promise and follows Livia, determined to protect her sister, or die with her. In their hometown in Slovakia, 18-year-old Magda hides, desperate to evade the barbaric Nazi forces. But it is not long before she is captured and condemned to Auschwitz too.

In the horror of the death camp, these three sisters are reunited. Though traumatised by their experiences, they are together. They make another promise: that they will live. Their fight for survival takes them from the hell of Auschwitz to a death march across war-torn Europe and eventually home to Slovakia, now under iron Communist rule. Determined to begin again, they embark on a voyage of renewal, to the new Jewish homeland, Israel.

*'Another heart-wrenching, deftly told tale . . . it is hard not to be moved by such a chronicle'*

MAIL ON SUNDAY

*'A story of hope, spirit and sheer human resilience'*

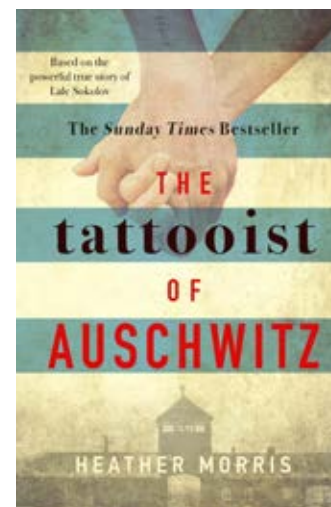
SUNDAY EXPRESS

October 2021  
Historical Fiction

**World Rights Rights Sold:**

Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, USA

HEATHER MORRIS is an international number one bestselling author who is passionate about stories of survival, resilience and hope. In 2003 she was introduced to an elderly gentleman who 'might just have a story worth telling'.



Over 8 million copies sold worldwide

Foreign rights sold in 52 territories

TV Rights sold to Synchronicity Films

Biggest selling fiction title of 2019 in the UK

Spent 25 weeks at #1 and 86 Weeks in the Top 5 of the New York Times Trade Paperback Fiction List

Empik Book of the Year in Poland

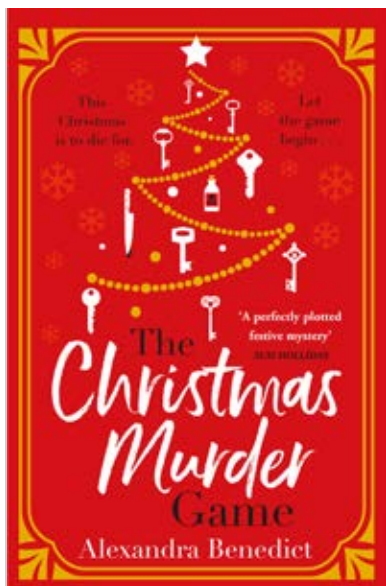
Nielsen Gold Bestseller Award 2019

Apple Book of the Year 2018



# The Christmas Murder Game

## Alexandra Benedict



**Twelve clues, twelve keys and twelve days of Christmas. But who will survive until Twelfth Night?**

When Lily returns home to her aunt's manor house, she discovers that in order to inherit, she and her estranged cousins must stay together and take part in a family tradition: the annual treasure hunt. But as they are drawn deeper into the game, the clues also seem to hold the key to a twenty-year-old mystery: who really murdered Lily's mother?

As a snowstorm cuts them off from the village, the game turns deadly. Lily is no longer fighting for an inheritance, but for her life. Does she have what it takes to survive?

Endgame House is to die for. Let the games begin . . .

**Christie meets *Cluedo* at Christmas!**

*'You'll be drawn in by the lavish, atmospheric setting.'*  
MY WEEKLY

*'One for book lovers that can't get enough of mystery fiction . . . even during Christmas.'*  
THE SUN

*'This Agatha Christie-esque murder mystery is superbly written and so cleverly plotted'*  
DAILY MIRROR

September 2021  
392 pp  
Cosy Crime

### World Rights

### Rights Sold:

Estonia (Rahva Raamat), Finland (Otava), France (LeDuc), Poland (Kobiece), Russia (Sindbad), USA (Sourcebooks)

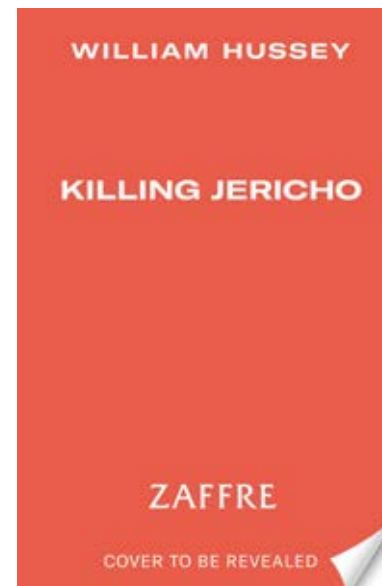
### Television & Film Rights:

Soloson Media

ALEXANDRA BENEDICT composed film and television soundtracks, as well as performing as a musician before becoming a full-time writer in 2012. As A. K. Benedict, she published the critically acclaimed *The Beauty of Murder* and *The Evidence of Ghosts*.

# Killing Jericho

## William Hussey



**The gothic, helter-skelter thriller debut that introduces crime fiction's first ever Traveller detective, Scott Jericho.**

Fresh out of prison, former Detective Constable Scott Jericho is a desperate man.

Disgraced and penniless after his assault on a violent suspect, he is forced to seek refuge with the fairground family he once rejected. Now, troubled by his failure, Jericho's brilliant mind is stagnating.

That is until a series of bizarre murders reawaken his interest. Men and women with no obvious link to each other are being ritualistically slaughtered.

Slaughtered in ways that recall an old legend of the Jericho Travelling Fair.

In a race against time, he must unpick the threads of a baffling mystery. But as his investigation unfolds and the corpses pile up, a shocking truth awaits him. A revelation that will test not only Jericho's formidable intellect and sleuthing instincts but challenge the very core of his morality . . .

*'Crime fiction is crying out for more diversity, and in Scott Jericho we have been gifted a blisteringly new brand of hero.'*

Sarah Hilary

March 2023  
Crime/Thriller

### World Rights

### Television & Film Rights:

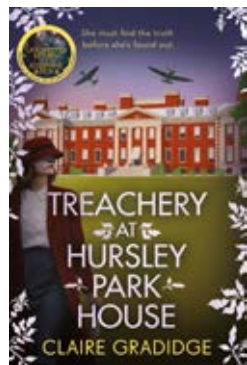
David Higham

WILLIAM HUSSEY is the award-winning author of over a dozen novels, including the Crime Fest award-nominated *Hideous Beauty* and *The Outrage*. Born the son of a travelling showman, he has spent a lifetime absorbing the history, folklore and culture of fairground people, knowledge he has now put to work in his *Scott Jericho* thrillers. William lives in the seaside town of Skegness with his faithful dog Bucky and a vivid imagination.

WARTIME  
MYSTERY

# Claire Gradidge

## The Unexpected Return of Josephine Fox Treachery at Hursley Park House A Conflict of Interests



### The Mitford Murders meets Maisie Dobbs in this thrilling historical crime trilogy

1941, England is under attack. When Josephine Fox returns to her hometown of Romsey to finally uncover the truth about her parentage, she finds herself embroiled in a murder investigation alongside her childhood friend, coroner Bram Nash.

The two prove a formidable sleuthing pair and as the war rages on Jo is sent undercover to Hursley Park House, where the top-secret military documents are hidden, to investigate rumours of espionage. When a boy is found dead in the grounds, Bram joins the hunt for a traitor who will do anything to avoid being caught.

Jo seems to be ready to put all of her efforts into her new investigating role but all of that is brought into question when a body is found inside a burning car and Jo learns that her ex-husband Richard is somehow involved. Bram ends up in hospital with an infection and Jo is left to face this latest mystery on her own. Will she be ready for what is to come and what will be left for her when all is revealed?

August 2019 / October 2021 /  
October 2022  
384 pp / 384 pp / 384 pp  
Wartime Mystery

#### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Czech Republic (Beta),  
Spain (Libros del Seda)

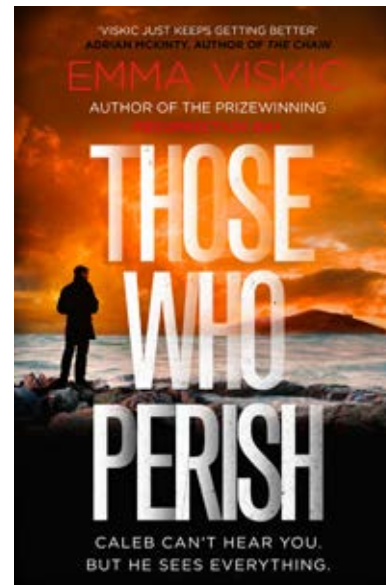
**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

CLAIRE GRADIDGE was born and brought up in Romsey, UK. She was awarded a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Winchester in 2018. Her debut novel, *The Unexpected Return of Josephine Fox*, was the Winner of the Richard & Judy Search for a Bestseller Competition.

CRIME/THRILLER

# Emma Viskic

## Resurrection Bay / And Fire Came Down / Darkness for Light / Those Who Perish



### All he trusts is betrayal.

Deaf since early childhood, Caleb Zelic has always lived on the outside, estranged from family and friends. Then one night his addict brother Anton reappears, begging for help. A man has been murdered and it looks as though Anton will be next. Caleb vows that this time he won't let his brother down. Together, they return to the wind-punished island where Anton has been seeking treatment from a controlling doctor with a troubling past. There, Caleb finds an isolated community where secrets run deep and resentments deeper.

As Caleb hunts for the killer, any misstep will ruin his tentative reconciliation with Anton. And when body parts begin to wash up on shore, it looks as though the killer is growing more desperate. With storms pounding the coast, the brothers must rely on each other to survive.

But trust comes at a deadly price in the final book in the Caleb Zelic series . . .

- Winner of the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction and of three Davitt Awards: Best Adult Novel (twice), Best Debut and Readers' Choice.
- Shortlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger and the CWA John Creasy Award for New Blood.
- Longlisted for the International Dublin IMPAC Literary Award.
- Barry Award nomination in the USA.

September 2015 / August 2017 /  
December 2019/ March 2022  
Crime/Thriller

#### World Rights

**Rights Sold:**  
Canada (Pushkin), Czech Republic (Grada), France (Seuil), Germany (Piper), The Netherlands (Luitingh Sijthoff), Poland (Muza), Romania (RAO), USA (Pushkin)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Fred & Bob Films

EMMA VISKIC is a classical clarinetist by training and divides her time between writing, performing and teaching. She has won an unprecedented number of awards for her debut novel in the series. In order to write the character of Caleb Zelic, Emma learned Auslan (Australian sign language).



# The Whistleblower

## Robert Peston

One man's secret is another man's weapon . . .

1997. A desperate government clings to power; a hungry opposition will do anything to win. And journalist Gil Peck watches from the sidelines, a respected commentator on the sport of power politics. He thinks he knows how things work. He thinks he knows the rules.

But when Gil's estranged sister Clare dies in a hit-and-run, he begins to believe it was no accident. Clare knew some of the most sensitive secrets in government. One of them might have got her killed.

As election day approaches, Gil follows the story into the dark web of interests that link politics, finance and the media. And the deeper he goes, the more he realises how wrong he has been.

Power isn't sport: it's war. And if Gil doesn't stop digging, he might be the next casualty.

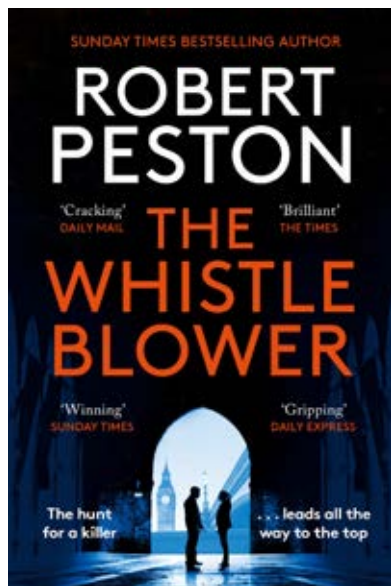
**Over 46,000 copies sold**  
**Top 10 HB Fiction debut of 2021**

*'Brilliant. Politically insightful, scary, satirical [and] beautifully paced.'*

THE TIMES

*"This debut novel is a hell of a read."*

THE OBSERVER



September 2021  
422 pp  
Political Thriller

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:**  
Poland (Zysk)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Curtis Brown

Robert Peston is the UK's foremost political journalist. He has written four critically acclaimed non-fiction books. He has won more than 30 awards for his journalism, including Journalist of the Year and Scoop of the Year (twice) from the Royal Television Society. *The Whistleblower* is his first novel.

# Falling Sky

## Harry Sidebottom

In the Alps of Gaul, Ballista and his cavalry must repel armies – and treachery . . .

This is the latest (seventh) instalment in the bestselling *Warrior of Rome* series set during the great crisis of the Roman empire in the mid-Third Century AD.

Journeying from the war-torn borders and the rising power of Sassanid Persia in the East to the Black Sea and the client kingdoms of the Caucasus mountains in the North, the series is an epic of empire, of heroes, of courage, and most of all, a story of brutal bloody warfare.

Harry Sidebottom is a leading authority on ancient warfare – he applies his knowledge with a spectacular flair for sheer explosive action and knuckle-whitening drama.

For fans of Bernard Cornwell and Ben Kane.

**300,000 copies sold in the *Warrior of Rome* series.**

*'Sidebottom's prose blazes with searing scholarship.'*

THE TIMES

*'An exceptionally gifted storyteller.'*

TIM SEVERIN



October 2022  
Historical Adventure

### Translation Rights

**US, Television & Film Rights:**  
United Agents

HARRY SIDEBOTTOM teaches Ancient History at Oxford University. His career as a novelist began with his *Warrior of Rome* series, which has sold over half a million copies.

# The Love Algorithm

## Claudia Carroll



DRAFT COVER

August 2022  
385 pp  
Romance

### Translation Rights

**US, Television & Film Rights:**  
Marianne Gunn O'Connor

CLAUDIA CARROLL lives in Dublin and is Ireland's #1 bestseller author. With Zaffre she published *The Secrets of Primrose Square* which reached #2 in the Irish charts and its sequel *The Women of Primrose Square*. She has sold more than half a million copies, and three of her books have been optioned for film and TV. Claudia also stars in the Dublin-based soap opera *Fair City*.

### True love is just a swipe away? Right?

Iris is great at numbers. Educated, cultured and career-driven, the only thing missing from her perfectly calibrated life is a partner. After almost 20 years of searching, she has tried it all. Now, she approaches disappointing dates like research, gathering statistical evidence and formulating hypotheses on why she just cannot seem to find 'the one'. But something still alludes her - that unquantifiable spark.

Kim is too busy being the life and soul of the party to be looking for love. Her terrible dates make great stories for her friends and co-workers as long as she's not caught by her strict boss, Iris.

Recently widowed Connie is single for the first time since the 1970s. Her daughter, Kim, is determined to get her to try online dating. But suffice to say, a lot has changed.

Using her extensive research to create the most scientifically accurate algorithm for love, Iris decides to launch Analysed, a dating app like no other. She soon ropes in Kim and Connie as guinea pigs, setting them up with their scientifically-approved soulmates.

After all, love is just a numbers game . . . isn't it?

Praise for the author:

*'Hilarious, effervescent, heart-warming'*  
IRISH INDEPENDENT

# Virtual Strangers

## Sam Canning



March 2023  
336 pp  
Romance

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
SoloSon Media

SAM CANNING is a Northern Ireland born and Edinburgh-based writer. *Virtual Strangers* is her debut novel. In her spare time she can be found roaming the city in search of the weirdest things she can find and desperately trying to keep her one and only plant Stanley alive. (It could be going better).

### Do you believe in love at first type?

**A modern *You've Got Mail* meets *When Harry Met Sally*.**

When Ada and Toby find themselves freelancing from the same café together every day they strike up a mutually beneficial friendship. Toby saves their favourite table when Ada is running late, Ada watches over his laptop when he nips out and they both answer the calls the other wants to avoid, posing as assistants.

As they work side-by-side Ada can't help but notice how attractive Toby is, and how well they get along. But when Ada's friend - and part-time matchmaker - puts her in touch with a mystery man, Toby is back to faux-assistant. As Ada's messages with the mystery man become deeper and more honest, she thinks she's falling for him.

When they finally meet, Dan is dashing and fun and they get on brilliantly. But why doesn't the conversation flow like it did in their late-night messages, and why can't Ada stop thinking about Toby?

# Time After Time

## Louise Pentland



July 2022  
Women's Fiction

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Gleam Futures

LOUISE PENTLAND is the *Sunday Times* bestselling author of the *Wilde* novels trilogy. She featured on the 2019 *Sunday Times* Top 100 Influencers list and was crowned as the number one 'mumfluencer' of 2019 by *Mother & Baby*. She was an UN Global Ambassador for Gender Equality. Louise is also involved in the support and encouragement of childhood literacy through the charity BookStart, alongside Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall.

**Sometimes you have to go back, to move forwards.**

Tabitha is stuck. She still lives in the small town she grew up in . . . the town she's barely ever left.

So, when her dad drops a bombshell over their weekly Sunday dinner, Tabitha takes a serious look at her own life. She lives firmly in her comfort zone and doesn't know how to break out. Sometimes she wishes she could go back and start it all again.

When she meets Bea, a free spirit like no one else she's ever known with an 'interesting' sense of style, Tabitha quickly befriends her, recognising in Bea the change she's been craving. But soon it becomes clear that more has changed than her new friend. Somehow Tabitha has been transported back to the 1980s.

With the chance to reinvent herself in another time, will Tabitha finally manage to move forward?

Perfect for fans of Paige Toon, Giovanna Fletcher and Lindsey Kelk.

Praise for the author:

*'Louise is a beautiful writer.'*

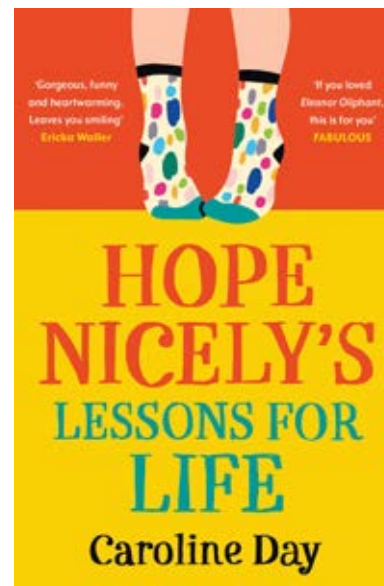
Lindsey Kelk

*'Totally hilarious'*

HEAT MAGAZINE

# Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life

## Caroline Day



July 2021  
464 pp  
Feel-Good Fiction

### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Albania (Living), France (L'Archipel)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Lutyens & Rubinstein

CAROLINE DAY is a freelance journalist and consultant editor. She is an alumnus of the Curtis Brown Creative novel-writing course. There is no direct connection to FASDs in her family but she has worked with a support group which inspired Hope's story.

**Top 10 Hardback Bestseller**

**Winner of the Romantic Novelists Association award**

Hope Nicely hasn't had an easy life. But she's happy enough living at 23 Station Close with her adoptive mother, Jenny. She's a bit different, but her mum always tells her, she's a rainbow person, a special drop of light.

And yet she's always had troubling questions about her past and her birth mother who abandoned her as a baby. In a bid to find answers she starts writing her autobiography and signs up for an evening writing course. Little does she know that this will turn her life into an adventure. She'll soon make new friends and a couple of enemies, and she'll understand that not everything in the world is what it seems. And when Jenny suddenly falls ill, Hope realises there are many more lessons to come . . .

A heartwarming coming-of-age novel about loneliness, friendship, acceptance and, above all, hope.

*'This uplifting debut oozes heart, and you'll fall in love with Hope.'*

DAILY MIRROR

*'This touching, big-hearted debut is funny, sensitive and has lessons for us all about optimism and perseverance.'*

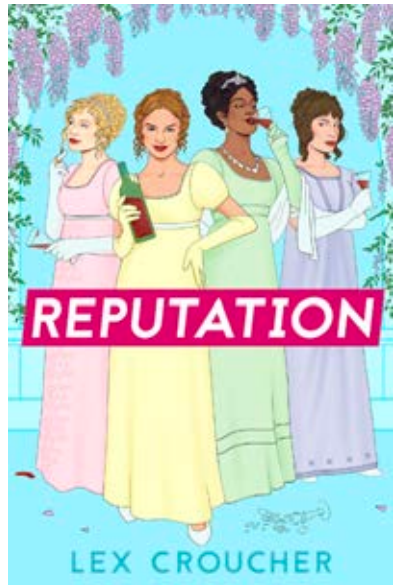
THE MAIL ON SUNDAY

*'A gorgeous tale about love, acceptance, and living your best life no matter what.'*

THE SUN (Pick of the Week)

# Reputation

Lex Croucher



**Mean Girls meets Bridgerton in this historical romcom for the modern woman.**

Abandoned by her parents, middle-class Georgiana Ellers has moved to a new town to live with her dreary aunt and uncle. When she meets the enigmatic France Campbell and falls in with her unfathomably rich and improper friends, Georgiana is introduced to a new world of drunken debauchery and mysterious young men with strangely arresting hands. But the price of entry to high society might just be higher than she is willing to pay . . .

*'Everything I didn't know I wanted from a book; gossip, bonnets, breeches, and high debauchery with a feminist swing'*

Abigail Mann

*'If Bridgerton and Fleabag had a baby, it would be Reputation. . . I inhaled it in one sitting.'*

Sarra Manning

*'Bridgerton crossed with Sex Education.'*

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

*'A fierce, fresh, feminist Regency romcom that is brilliant on friendship and fitting in.'*

Cressida McLaughlin

July 2021  
448 pp  
Historical Romance

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:**

Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, USA

**Television & Film Rights:**

Madeleine Milburn

LEX CROUCHER is a YouTuber and former book blogger. She co-hosts the podcast 'Make Out With Him', and she co-founded the Women on YouTube panel at VidCon and uses her platform to help empower women and girls. Her YouTube videos have reached over 15 million people.

# You Had Me At Halloumi

Ginger Jones



**Not just another cheesy holiday romance?!**

When Freya first found Charlie on a dating app he seemed like her ideal match – a foodie who was into photography, loved to travel and had huge ambition. A year into their relationship she's now realising this translates to 'loves a cheeky takeaway', 'spends a long time filtering iPhone pics of food Freya has cooked', 'likes a holiday' and the ambition was just for Arsenal winning some cup.

Freya basically runs the kitchen at the Mediterranean restaurant she works in but they refuse to make her Head Chef. Craving change and some excitement, Freya decides she needs to take matters into her own hands. Ending things with Charlie and quitting her job, Freya packs a bag and swaps Nottinghamshire for Paphos, Cyprus.

Signing up for the prestigious Golden Spoon culinary competition, Freya is determined to rediscover her passion for food and life, what she doesn't expect to discover is Xanthos. As gorgeous as he is charming – he's quite the dish – Freya is instantly attracted to him, but this trip was about being single, doing something for herself, proving she doesn't knead a man and working out what she wants.

But if she walks away, will Freya spend the rest of her life wondering What If?

Witty, warm and relatable, and perfect for fans of Laura Jane Williams and Lucy Vine, this will be the perfect escapist summer read.

April 2022  
400 pp  
Romance

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:**

Poland (Kobiece)

**Television & Film Rights:**

SoloSon Media

GINGER JONES is a fiery redhead with a love for chocolate, spicy food and swimming al fresco. She collects chintzy china teacups, drinks loose leaf Darjeeling and loves fifties fashion. Most of her writing time is spent in the company of Lulu, her schnoodle who has helped and hindered the creation of *You Had Me at Halloumi*.

# The Girls of Lake Evelyn

## Averil Kenny



August 2022  
448 pp  
Historical Fiction

### World Rights (excl. Germany)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Selwa Anthony

AVERIL KENNY is a writer living in the lush, enchanted tropics of Far North Queensland. Averil writes women's fiction with an evocative flair, featuring strong, sassy heroines. She grew up on a dairy farm and studied Journalism at the University of Queensland.

**An irresistible story of love, family, secrets and mystery set in the lush region of tropical north Queensland.**

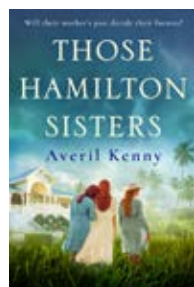
Society bride Vivienne has left her groom at the altar, fleeing the most anticipated wedding of 1958. With the help of Uncle Felix, she flees to the small town of Barrington Downs in tropical north Queensland where she rents a secluded lodge. But the place she thought would be her refuge seems to house a ghostly presence, amid stories of women lured to their drowning at the local lake.

She soon befriends Owen Monash and his sister Josie, farmhand and aspiring actress, caring for her father and four older brothers on their dairy. Josie is determined to dispel the superstition around the lake by staging a play based on the life of the first drowning victim, the glamorous Celeste Star. Vivienne is cast in the lead role, but as the opening night approaches, a chain of dark events is set off with drama and intrigue and a web of secrets touching everyone in the small town.

Perfect for fans of Kate Morton, Fiona McIntosh and Lucinda Riley.

*'Gripping and well-paced, with a satisfying final revelation...'*

BOOKS AND PUBLISHING



# The Accident

## Katie McMahon



August 2022  
384 pp

### World Rights

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Soloson Media

KATIE MCMAHON is a medical doctor and writer. Her first novel, *The Mistake*, was published internationally in 2021. Katie has also written articles for *The Age* and *The Quarry*. Katie grew up in Frankston, and now lives in Hobart with her family. *The Accident* is her second novel.

**In this psychological drama set in middle-class Hobart, the intersecting stories of three women move inexorably towards an event that will change their lives forever.**

Told from multiple points of view, *The Accident* unfolds around the complex events leading up to a traffic accident outside a Hobart school. In this insightful, witty, sharply-observed novel, the author of the critically acclaimed *The Mistake* explores the ways in which our formative years shape our future.

Katie McMahon reveals the inner and everyday lives of three women whose worlds are linked through shared – but not always obvious – connections to friends, family and lovers. Through their relationships and their actions, *The Accident* explores the resonating influence of first love and unrequited love, and contrasts loneliness and social rejection with the healing power of friendship.

Reviews for *The Mistake*:

*'I absolutely loved this novel... I didn't want it to end!'*  
Liane Moriarty

*'Addictive storytelling from an exciting new talent'*  
Fiona McIntosh



# Lynda La Plante

## Sunday Times Bestselling Detective Jack Warr Crime Series



Over 550,000 copies sold in the UK

April 2020 / April 2021 / March 2022  
448 pp / 320 pp / 432 pp  
Crime/Thriller

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Romania (Crime Scene Press)

**Television & Film Rights:**  
La Plante Global

LYNDA LA PLANTE was born in Liverpool. She trained for the stage at RADA and worked with the National Theatre and RSC before becoming a television actress. She then turned to writing - and made her breakthrough with the phenomenally successful TV series *Widows*. With 37 bestselling novels, over 5 million copies sold in the UK alone, and a place in crime writing Hall of Fame, Lynda is truly crime fiction royalty.

**The third book in the bestselling series from the Queen of Crime**

When an eccentric elderly widow claims she is being stalked, Detective Jack Warr is the only person willing to dig into the truth behind her wild claims.

Jack soon finds himself embroiled in an international drugs operation, art theft – and a murder investigation. On the back foot throughout, he is forced to play second fiddle to the Drug Squad, confront an old adversary, and even fight off accusations of assault.

But Jack believes that every aspect of this multi-faceted case is simply a distraction from the one person who lies at the heart of it all – the widow's elusive stalker. Find him, and the truth will come out...

*'Lynda La Plante practically invented the thriller'*  
Karin Slaughter

# Tennison Series

Over half a million copies sold in the UK alone



August 2022  
432 pp  
Crime/Thriller

DRAFT COVER

**World Rights**

**Television & Film Rights:**  
La Plante Global

Helena Lanark is an elderly woman, living in a luxurious care home. The heiress of an immense family fortune, she keeps the secret to the horror which once occurred within the Lanark family house.

Jane Tennison is leading a murder investigation into the recent brutal death of a young girl, her decomposed starved body discovered in an old air raid shelter in the garden of the Lanark's now derelict house. Initially the focus is on identifying the victim, until another body is found, hidden in the walls of the shelter.

As the investigation and search for answers intensifies, Jane travels to Australia. There she discovers the dark secret, that the Lanark family has kept hidden for decades. A secret, that not only threatens to bring down a family dynasty, but also places Jane Tennison in mortal danger . . .



**Tennison must lift the lid on the most chilling murder case of her career to date . . .**

# Titans of War

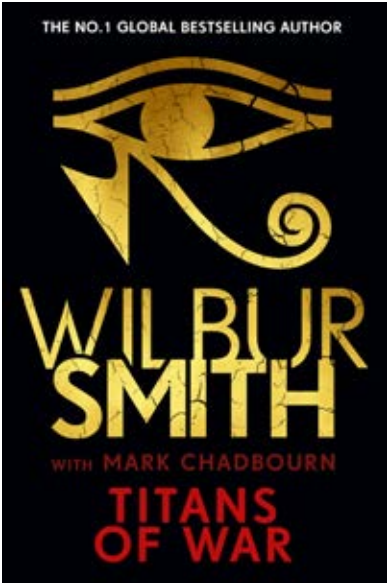
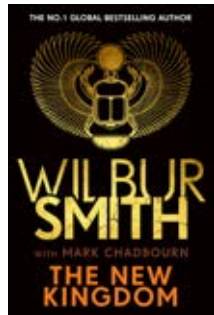
Wilbur Smith

**A brand new Ancient Egyptian epic from the greatest master of adventure.**

For over fifty years Egypt has been ravaged by a bloodthirsty war brought on by the invasion of the Hyksos, a barbarian people from the distant east. Times are desperate, but throughout the conflict, a brave resistance fights on under the great Taita, a slave who has risen far beyond his ranks to help guide the very destiny of Egypt.

Piay has grown up with Taita as his master, entrusted into his care by his parents at the age of just 5, and trained up to become a great spy, unmatched by any other. But living a life of luxury and abundance has led to Piay becoming entitled and reckless. Taita sets him a task, designed to prove his worth, and sends him to the lands of the north to find allies to help defend their Kingdom. Piay embarks on a dangerous journey to Mycenae, through the heart of Hyksos land and across the great sea, through pirate infested waters.

As the situation becomes increasingly precarious, and Piay's life, as well as Egypt's fate are hanging in the balance, can Piay succeed in his mission - or will this mean the end of the glory that is Egypt once and for all?



September 2022  
432 pp  
Historical Adventure

DRAFT COVER

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold for THE NEW KINGDOM:** Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, USA

**Television & Film Rights:**  
Tibor Jones

WILBUR SMITH is a worldwide phenomenon and one of the most successful novelists of our time. The author of over forty international bestsellers, he has built up a devoted readership over more than five decades of writing with sales of over 130 million books in twenty-six languages.

# Storm Tide

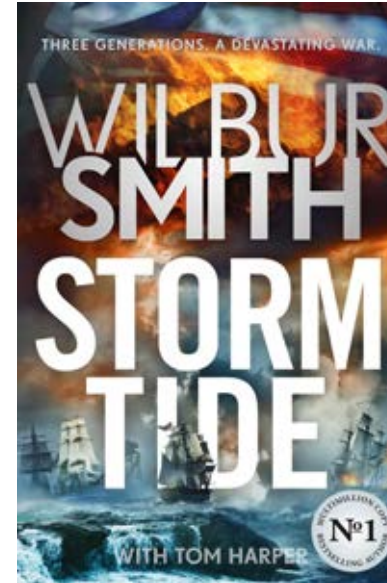
Wilbur Smith

**Two brothers divided over the future of a country on the brink of revolution.**

1774. Rob Courtney has spent his whole life in a quiet trading outpost on the east coast of Africa, dreaming of a life of adventure at sea. When his grandfather Jim dies, Rob takes his chance and stows away on a ship as it sails to England, with only the family heirloom, the Neptune Sword, to his name.

Arriving in London, Rob is seduced by the charms of the big city and soon finds himself desperate and penniless. That is until the navy comes calling. Rob is sent across the Atlantic on a ship to join the war against the rebellious American colonists.

But on the other side of the Atlantic, unbeknownst to Rob, his distant cousins Cal and Aidan Courtney are leading a campaign against the British. Their one desire is American independence, and they are determined to drive the British out of America - by whatever means necessary. . .



April 2022  
464 pp  
Historical Adventure

**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Czech Republic (Alpress), Denmark (Lindhardt) The Netherlands (Xander),

Praise for the author:

*'Best historical novelist.'*

Stephen King

*'Wilbur Smith is one of those benchmarks against whom others are compared.'*

THE TIMES



# The Summer of Secrets

## Patricia Wilson

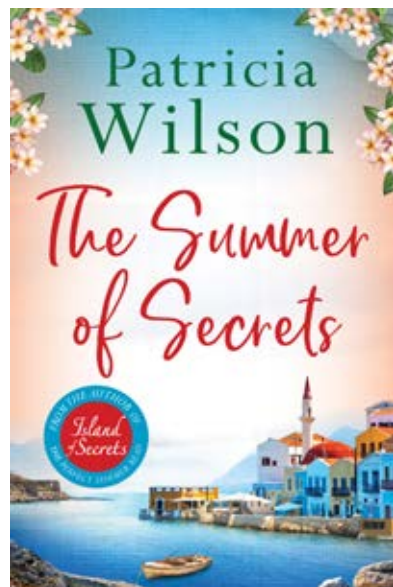
400,000 copies sold

Devasted at the dissolution of her marriage and the death of her dear mum, Olivia needs a change of scenery. So, she packs a bag and heads for the beautiful Greek island of Kastellorizo, where her mother was born.

Olivia has always wondered about her heritage but her Nanna Sofia was reluctant to speak of the past. Now, she's returned to their home, Olivia is determined to discover her history and find out what caused the rift that tore her family apart.

As Olivia uncovers secrets dating back to World War 2, will she discover some things are best left in the past?

Perfect for fans of Victoria Hislop and Lucinda Riley.



May 2022  
464 pp  
Women's Fiction

### World Rights

#### Rights Sold for ISLAND OF SECRETS:

Croatia (Mozaik), France (City), Greece (Patakis), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Serbia (Vulkan)

#### Television & Film Rights:

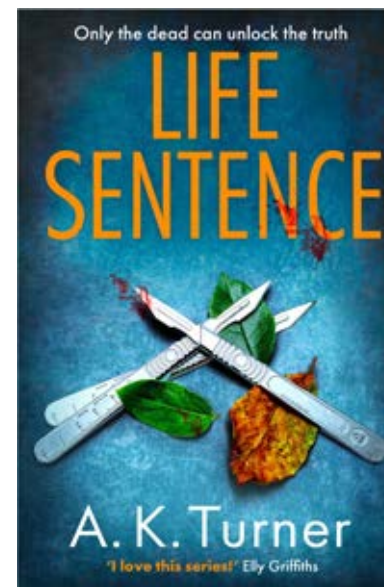
SoloSon Media

PATRICIA WILSON was born in Liverpool, and is now settled on Rhodes. She was first inspired to write when she unearthed a rusted machine gun in her garden – one used in the events that unfolded during World War II on the island of Crete.



# Life Sentence

## A. K. Turner



April 2022  
360 pp  
Crime/Thriller

### World English

#### Translation, Television & Film

Rights:  
David Higham

A K TURNER's latest foray into crime fiction is *Body Language*, the first in a new series which has been described as a fresh take on the forensic pathology genre. The heroine is crime-solving goth-girl mortuary technician Cassie Raven, who originally appeared in two crime shorts on BBC Radio 4.

### Family ties are binding . . .

Camden mortuary assistant Cassie Raven has spent her life thinking that her parents were killed in a car accident when she was four. It's one of the reasons why she has such an affinity for the dead and why she has gone into forensic science.

But now she has discovered that what she thought she knew isn't the truth at all. The truth is that her father killed her mother and up until a few years ago, he was in prison for murder.

Compelled to learn more about her past, Cassie asks friend DI Phyllida Flyte for help. She's expecting details on an open-and-shut case, but what she finds is that there might be more to her mother's murder than meets the eye . . .

Praise for the series:

*'Spellbinding storytelling'*

Val McDermid

*'A first rate crime novel. I loved it'*

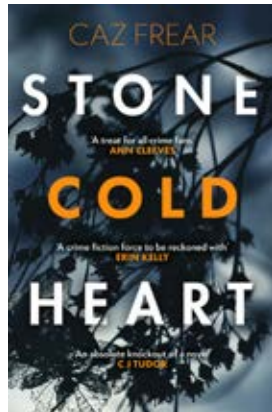
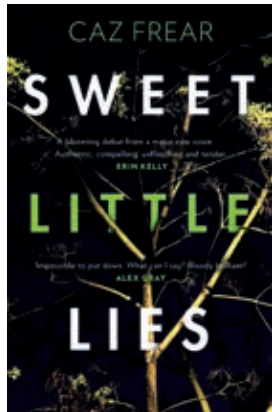
Elly Griffiths





# Caz Frear

**Sweet Little Lies / Stone Cold Heart /  
Shed No Tears**



**WINNER OF THE RICHARD & JUDY SEARCH FOR A BESTSELLER COMPETITION.  
Four victims. Killer caught. Case closed. Or is it?**

June 2017 / June 2019 / July 2020  
480 pp / 480 pp / 496 pp  
Crime/Thriller

#### World Rights

#### Rights Sold:

Bulgaria (Milenium), Canada (HarperCollins), Croatia (24sata), Czech Republic (Grada), Hungary (Alexandra), Italy (Newton Compton), Norway (Pantagruel), Poland (Czarna Owca), Spain (Alianza), Sweden (Lind), USA (HarperCollins)

#### Television & Film Rights:

42 mp

CAZ FREAR grew up in Coventry and spent her teenage years dreaming of moving to London and writing a novel. Her debut novel, *Sweet Little Lies*, has sold over 250,000 copies to date.

Christopher Masters, known as 'The Roommate Killer', strangled three women over a two-week period in a London house in November 2012. Holly Kemp, his fourth victim, was never found.

Until now.

Her remains have been unearthed in a field in Cambridgeshire and DC Cat Kinsella and the Major Investigation Team are called in for what should be an open-and-shut case. But immediately Cat has questions and with Masters dead and few new leads, she has little to go on except her gut instinct, which is telling her that the real killer is still out there.

But if you'd got away with murder, how far would you go to keep the past where it belongs?

*'Tense, twisting and terrific'*

LANCASHIRE EVENING POST

*'(A) standout thriller (...) Sharply written and expertly plotted'*

Chris Whitaker

# All or Nothing

Ollie Ollerton



**Publication:** November 2021  
**World Rights**

**The next Alex Abbot thriller from bestselling author and SAS: Who Dares Wins star**

Revenge is a game you can't afford to lose...

Praise for the series:

*'Crisp, brisk and powerful'*

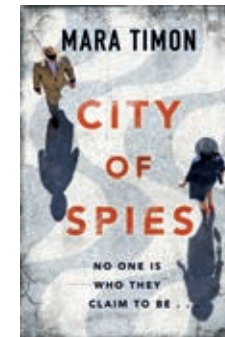
FINANCIAL TIMES

*'Enough to put Bond and Bourne to shame.;*

THE SUN

# City of Spies Resistance

Mara Timon



**Publication:** September 2020 /  
September 2021

#### World Rights

**Rights Sold:** Portugal (Presenca)

**Shortlisted for the Specsavers Debut Crime Novel Award**

*Foyle's War meets The Bletchley Circle in this thriller where no one is who they claim to be . . .*

*'De Mornay is a welcome recruit to the ranks of female spies'*

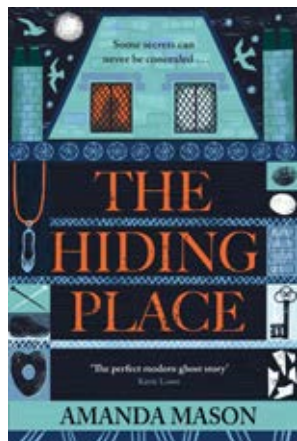
THE TIMES

*'An engaging tale of government secrets . . . This debut novel is a hell of a read'*

THE OBSERVER

## The Hiding Place

Amanda Mason



**A chilling novel of truth and deception. A feminist twist on the traditional gothic novel from a modern du Maurier . . .**

A brilliant and atmospheric novel about the lengths people will go to to obtain power over their own lives.

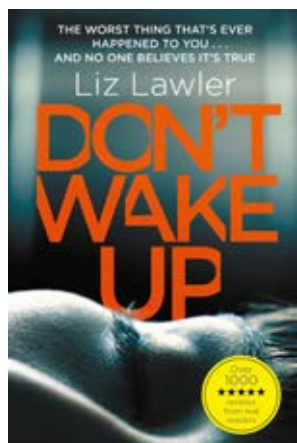
*The perfect modern ghost story – evocative, unsettling and genuinely spine-tingling. With vividly realised characters and a chilling mystery at its heart, I truly couldn't put it down.*

Katie Lowe, author of *The Furies*

**Publication:** November 2021  
**World Rights**

## Don't Wake Up

Liz Lawler



**A dark and gripping debut psychological thriller with a horrifying premise and a stinging twist.**

Alex Taylor wakes up tied to an operating table. The man who stands over her isn't a doctor. The choice he forces her to make is utterly unspeakable.

But when Alex re-awakens, she's unharmed - and no one believes her horrifying story . . .

**Publication:** October 2017  
**World Rights**

**Rights Sold:** Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Taiwan, USA

## Cave Diver

Jake Avila



**WINNER OF THE WILBUR SMITH ADVENTURE WRITING PRIZE AND CLIVE CUSSLER GRANDMASTER AWARD.**

**A high-octane, fast-paced novel from a new voice in adventure writing.**

*'Terrific entertainment . . . Avila thrillingly conveys the unfamiliar dangers of one of the last wild places on Earth'*

THE TIMES

**Publication:** August 2021  
**World Rights**

## The Long Journey Home

Cecily Blench



**WINNER OF THE WILBUR SMITH ADVENTURE WRITING PRIZE: BEST UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT AWARD.**

**A moving and powerful novel of love, secrets and redemption in a country torn apart by war.**

For readers of Kate Furnivall and Dinah Jefferies

**Publication:** June 2021  
**World Rights**

## Prizes and bestsellers

2021 CWA Gold Dagger Award  
*We Begin At The End* by Chris Whitaker

Theakston's Crime Novel of The Year  
*We Begin At The End* by Chris Whitaker

Crime Writers' Association John Creasy Debut Dagger Award Winner  
*Tall Oaks* by Chris Whitaker

Crime Writers' Association Endeavour Historical Dagger Award Winner  
*Stasi Child* by David Young

Best Swedish Crime Novel of The Year  
*After She's Gone* by Camilla Grebe

Best Swedish Crime Novel of The Year Shortlist  
*End of Summer* by Anders de la Motte

Glass Key Award (Best Nordic Crime Novel)  
*After She's Gone* by Camilla Grebe

Crime Writers' Association Historical Dagger Award Winner  
*Nucleus* by Rory Clements

Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction  
*Resurrection Bay* by Emma Viskic

Ned Kelly International Award  
*We Begin at the End* by Chris Whitaker

Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction  
*The Student* by Iain Ryan

Davitt Award for Best Adult Novel  
*Resurrection Bay* by Emma Viskic  
*And Fire Came Down* by Emma Viskic

Apple Book of the Year  
*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

Eason Book of the Year  
*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

Nielsen Gold Bestseller  
*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris  
*The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

Nielsen Silver Bestseller  
*Lies* by T.M. Logan  
*The Holiday* by T.M. Logan

Aspen Words Literary Prize  
*The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

Betty Trask Award  
*The Familiars* by Stacey Halls

Irish Book Awards for Best Newcomer  
*Snowflake* by Louise Nealon

Bookmark Festival Book of the Year Shortlist  
*We Begin At The End* by Chris Whitaker

RNA Romantic Saga Award  
*Bobby's War* by Shirley Mann

Portico Prize Shortlist  
*Mrs England* by Stacey Halls

The Sunday Times #1 Bestseller  
*Maestra* by L.S. Hilton  
*Wilde Like Me* by Louise Pentland  
*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris  
*Courtney's War* by Wilbur Smith

The Sunday Times #2 Bestseller  
*Mothering Sunday* by Rosie Goodwin  
*A Mother's Grace* by Rosie Goodwin

*Good Friday* by Lynda La Plante  
*Wilde About The Girl* by Louise Pentland  
*The Foundling* by Stacey Halls  
*Blunt Force* by Ollie Ollerton  
*Buried* by Lynda La Plante

The Times Book of The Month  
*Resurrection Bay* by Emma Viskic

Irish Times #1 Bestseller  
*The Tattooist Of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

The Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller  
*The Last Hour* by Harry Sidebottom  
*Hitler's Secret* by Rory Clements  
*Cilka's Journey* by Heather Morris  
*The Familiars* by Stacey Halls  
*The Holiday* by T.M. Logan  
*Ghost Fire* by Wilbur Smith  
*King of Kings* by Wilbur Smith  
*A Maiden's Voyage* by Rosie Goodwin  
*The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

*Wilde Women* by Louise Pentland  
*One Enchanted Evening* by Anton Du Beke  
*An Orphan's Journey* by Rosie Goodwin  
*Call of the Raven* by Wilbur Smith  
*Mrs England* by Stacey Halls  
*A Daughter's Destiny* by Rosie Goodwin  
*Songbirds* by Christi Lefteri  
*Three Sisters* by Heather Morris  
*The New Kingdom* by Wilbur Smith  
*Unholy Murder* by Lynda La Plante  
*Legacy of War* by Wilbur Smith  
*Judas Horse* by Lynda La Plante  
*Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life* by Caroline Day  
*Trust Me* by T.M. Logan  
*Blunt Force* by Lynda La Plante

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