HEAD OF ZEUS
JANUARY 2015 - JUNE 2015

FICTION NEW TITLES  2
NON-FICTION NEW TITLES  56
PAPERBACKS  85
AGENTS & DISTRIBUTORS  96
THESE BOOKS LOOK AT poverty and the quest for happiness. They look at beauty and ugliness. They deal with the world of the real and the world of the fabulous. They look at Africa and they look at Europe.

What unites them is an abiding sense of the mystery of life and the magical nature of storytelling. My writings are enchantments, even when they deal with difficult realities, because for me it is not the realities that define us, but the consciousness with which we experience and face them.

BEN OKRI

The intoxicating new novel from Booker Prizewinner Ben Okri. World-weary travellers discover the meaning of life in a Swiss mountain village.

Eight weary film-makers, travelling from Paris to Basel, arrive at a small Swiss hotel on the shores of a luminous lake. Above them, strewn with lights that twinkle in the darkness, looms the towering Rigi mountain. Over the course of three days and two nights, the travellers will find themselves drawn in to the mystery of the mountain reflected in the lake. One by one, they will be disturbed, enlightened, and transformed, each in a different way.

Having shown a different way of seeing the world, Ben Okri now offers a different way of reading.

BEN OKRI was born in Nigeria in 1959. He won the Booker prize for *The Famished Road*, and has won a Commonwealth Writers Prize and the Aga Khan Prize. His work has been translated into 26 languages. He lives in London.
The epic first instalment in a sequence of novels set at the end of the Roman Empire, during the reign of the Emperor Constantine.

Aurelius Castus believes his glory days are over. He used to be a soldier in the elite legions of the Danube. Now he is stuck in Britain’s provincial backwater. But history takes a hand when the king of the Picts, the savage people beyond Hadrian’s Wall, dies in mysterious circumstances, and Castus is selected to command the Roman envoy sent to negotiate with the barbarians.

The diplomatic mission ends in bloody tragedy. Castus and his men are soon fighting for their lives and the legionary discovers that nothing about his doomed mission was ever what it seemed.

IAN ROSS has been researching and writing about the later Roman world and its army for over a decade. He spent a year in Italy teaching English, and now lives in Bath. This is his first historical novel.

THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE was an era of revolution, when the splendours of the classical age decayed and a newer and far stranger world arose from their ruins. It’s a fascinating period to me, and I wanted to portray it through the eyes of a single individual caught in the flux of history.

Aurelius Castus is an honest man, a soldier loyal to the traditions of Rome, struggling through a dangerous and fast-changing age. As he rises through the hierarchy of the Roman army, can he preserve his loyalties and his code of honour as the world around him grows darker and more corrupt?

IAN ROSS
In 1920s London, three sisters struggle to make ends meet and protect their mother from the violence of their father. This is the wonderful second novel from the author of Custard Tarts and Broken Hearts.

Milly, the eldest, works in Southwells jam factory. Elsie dreams of a career on the stage, while little Amy runs wild with her friends on the streets. As summer draws to a close, they join the hop pickers in Kent, for a short, blissful respite from a life of work and hardship.

All three of the girls fear the terrible, unforgiving temper of their father, and their courageous attempts to protect their defenceless mother will have dramatic – sometimes disastrous – consequences for them all. From 1923, through the General Strike, this is a gripping saga from a rising star.

MARY GIBSON was born and brought up in Bermondsey, where both her grandmother and great aunt were factory girls. She lives in Kent.

PRAISE FOR CUSTARD TARTS AND BROKEN HEARTS

‘A cracking tale full of warmth and history.’
BELLA MAGAZINE

‘A lovely read for anyone who enjoys historical fiction, family saga or romance... if she continues to write to this standard she could well become a household name.’
LEFT ON THE SHELF

‘I simply couldn’t put it down... Gibson sets the bar extremely high with her first novel and I can’t wait to see what she produces next. She is an exciting and promising new author.’
BOOKBAG

‘There were parts that tugged unrelentingly at my heartstrings and parts that left me wanting to jump for joy... A real triumph.’
NOVELICIOUS
A man who had no voice. A woman who helped him find it.
The new psychological thriller from the author of *The Lie of You*.

Rob and Anna have only just met Owen and Kim. Now they’ve chartered their beautiful old boat to take them to a far off island in the Caribbean.

With just the four of them on board, Rob dreams of lazy afternoons snorkelling. Anna looks forward to the silence and solitude of the sea. But why is Owen so secretive about his past? Why does Kim keep a knife zipped into her moneybelt?

Anna, a speech therapist, can usually make people tell her the truth... but does she want to this time?

JANE LYTHELL worked as a television producer and commissioning editor before becoming Deputy Director of the BFI and Chief Executive of BAFTA. Her first novel, *The Lie of You*, was widely acclaimed.

PRAISE FOR *THE LIE OF YOU*

‘Pumps up suspense like Gillian Flynn’s *Gone Girl*... delivered in a sharp, pragmatic style that is gripping and readable, but behind the adventure the plot hints at bigger, more complex questions about our society.’

SCOTSMAN

‘A very credible portrait of obsession to the point of madness in a clever, involving first novel.’

LITERARY REVIEW

‘Fascinating... clever... the author’s real skill is her ability to invent memorable, original characters. A thrilling read.’

DAILY MAIL

‘A clever psychological thriller exploring rivalry, manipulation and deceit... Lythell has a flair for leading the reader into assumptions then pulling away the foundations. Just when you think you understand this cleverly constructed tale the landscape changes completely.’

DAILY EXPRESS

AFTER THE STORM / JANE LYTHELL

PRAISE FOR *THE LIE OF YOU*

‘Pumps up suspense like Gillian Flynn’s *Gone Girl*... delivered in a sharp, pragmatic style that is gripping and readable, but behind the adventure the plot hints at bigger, more complex questions about our society.’

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DAILY EXPRESS
A charred corpse and a set of women’s footprints in the snow lead Celsius Daly into the twilight world of people trafficking.

Inspector Celsius Daly is hunting for a trafficked woman, Lena Novak, who mysteriously disappeared one winter’s night along the Irish border, leaving the corpses of two men in her wake.

Daly finds himself hooked together with a prostitute and a hit man in a life-or-death chase. His investigation leads them deep into border country, a wild terrain of disappearing lanes and blown-up bridges, abandoned ghost-estates and thick forests – the ultimate refuge for anyone who does not want to be found.

ANTHONY QUINN is an Irish author and journalist, born in Northern Ireland’s County Tyrone. His first novel, Disappeared, was named as one of the crime novels of the year by the Daily Mail.

PRAISE FOR DISAPPEARED

‘This should make Quinn a star, for it is unquestionably one of the crime novels of the year, written in peerless prose, with a delicate plot — this is a novel to be read slowly and to be savoured sip by sip, as its spider’s web slowly but surely snares you in its grip.’

DAILY MAIL

‘Beautifully haunting.’

THE TIMES

‘Tough yet lyrical.’

SUNDAY TIMES
A last-ditch defence on the blood-soaked field of Poitiers; a desperate pursuit across southern France; single combat high in the Alps. The second instalment of Master of War – a legend forged in battle.

At Crécy, the greatest army in Christendom was slaughtered when Thomas Blackstone and his fellow archers stood their ground and rained death on the steel-clad might of French chivalry. Blackstone left that squalid field a knight. Now, ten years later, he commands a war band and has carved out a small fiefdom in northern France.

Yet the wounds of war still bleed and a traitor has given the King of France the means to destroy first Blackstone’s family, and then the English knight himself.

DAVID GILMAN enjoyed a varied career including firefighter, paratrooper and photographer, before becoming an award-winning author and screenwriter.

‘Gilman does heart-pounding action superlatively.’
THE TIMES

‘Page-turning and gritty.’
DAILY MAIL

‘If you only read one historical debut this year, make it this one. The prose is sharper than a bodkin arrow, the pace faster than thought and it was a book I just couldn’t put down.’
FALCATA TIMES

‘A brilliant mix of characterisation, intrigue, battles, nationalities, history, enmity, courage, cowardice, fear and bravery.’
PARMENION
How can you be a mother if you can’t bond with your baby? The unputdownable new novel from bestseller Amanda Prowse.

Jessica has just had the wedding of her dreams, and now she’s setting up a new home with her lawyer husband Matthew. Even better, they are expecting a child.

But as they paint the nursery and shop for babygros, Jessica keeps waiting for the excitement to kick in. Why isn’t she transformed by maternal feelings? Where is the all-consuming love she’s supposed to feel for her child?

No-one told her that motherhood was so lonely and terrifying... no one told her what to do if you can’t bond with your baby.

AMANDA PROWSE is the author of six novels and a collection of short stories. She lives in the West Country with her husband and two children, where she writes full time.

A MOTHER’S STORY IS a powerful, disturbing look at what happens when a longed for baby arrives with the unexpected addition of severe postnatal depression. Newlyweds Jessica and Matthew find their happy world turned upside down as she struggles to bond with her newborn daughter. We watch with great sadness as Jessica unravels. Her feelings of self doubt and recrimination drag her into a dark pit of jealousy and madness where, blinded by this terrible affliction, she can see only one escape.

AMANDA PROWSE
‘It was worse than a nightmare because she knew that she wouldn’t wake up and find that she had dreamed it. The tireless shushing of the sea, and the hark-harrkharrrking of the gulls, and the monotonous chopping sound of the shovel as he filled in the hole making it impossible to escape.’

Katie Maguire hunts down a serial killer in county Cork in the new terrifying thriller from bestselling Graham Masterton.

It is a sunny Saturday in county Cork, and an Irish wedding is in full swing. No one could predict that the cutting of the cake would bring this wedding to a horrifying end.

The severed head of Micky Crounan, local baker, is grinning gruesomely up from the bottom tier of his own cake. Katie Maguire, of the Irish Garda, is baffled – until another local businessman goes missing in horrific circumstances. Soon Katie is on the trail of a debt-collecting gang calling themselves ‘The Kings of Erin’. Men who will stop at nothing to throw Katie off the trail...

GRAHAM MASTERTON was a bestselling horror writer who has now turned his talent to crimewriting. He lived in Cork for five years, an experience that inspired the Katie Maguire series.
Fay Weldon is one of the great lionesses of modern English literature. Now she presents a collection of brilliant short stories from a career at the forefront of contemporary fiction.

Reviewers have been describing Fay Weldon’s inimitable voice for years. Now, here is Fay Weldon in her own words, selecting and introducing twenty short stories from across her fifty-year career as one of Britain’s foremost novelists.

A beautifully produced hardback, full of Fay’s waspish, wise and witty stories, this is a collection to treasure for ever.

FAY WELDON’s work includes more than twenty novels, five collections of short stories, several children’s books, non fiction books, magazine articles, and a number of plays written for television, radio, and the stage. She was awarded a CBE in 2001.

‘Wickedly stylish.’
DAILY TELEGRAPH

‘Sharp, witty, incisive.’
THE TIMES

‘Readable, articulate and fascinating.’
SCOTSMAN

‘Wise, knowing, forthright.’
INDEPENDENT

‘Outrageously funny.’
DAILY EXPRESS

‘A queen of words.’
CAITLIN MORAN
I’VE ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED by those people who are absolutely convinced that the apocalypse is coming on some specific day. When that day comes and goes, what do they do the next day? How do they feel having put complete faith in something so big that didn’t come to pass? And could someone in that situation be driven to create a doomsday of his own? In Before He Finds Her, I knew I wanted my antagonist, Ramsey, to be a doomsdayer, but not for religious reasons. In fact, I wanted him to be downright scornful of religious faith, and for his belief instead to have more earthbound sources...

MICHAEL KARDOS

‘One of the most innovative and compelling thrillers in recent years. Read the first page and kiss the next 24 hours goodbye.’ JEFFERY DEAVER

She’s only alive because he thinks she’s already dead...

On a Sunday evening in September 1991, Ramsey Miller threw a block party, then murdered his beautiful wife and three-year-old daughter and disappeared.

But Ramsey’s daughter survived. Meg, now known as Melanie, has lived in hiding, protected by her adopted aunt and uncle. Now she is nearly eighteen and sick of living in fear. Melanie is determined to confront her father, but can she find him before he finds her?

MICHAEL KARDOS is the Pushcart Prize-winning author of the novel The Three-Day Affair and the story collection One Last Good Time. Originally from the Jersey Shore, he currently lives in Starkville, Mississippi.

FEBRUARY 2015
Fiction/Crime • 234x153mm • 256 pages
E 9781784082475 • HB 9781784082482 £18.99 • XTPB 9781784082499 £12.99
Territories: World xUSA xCAN • Rights: Audio
Paris in 1968 – a city full of revolutionaries and spies. Will Flemyng and his brother are caught in the thick of the action.

Paris, 1968: Will Flemyng’s world is turned upside down after a mysterious encounter on the metro and a chance revelation from a rival operative. In a city alive with talk of revolution, Will finds himself in the thick of the action. As a young spy, his first adventures behind the Iron Curtain have already given him a secret glamour. But now he gets news that threatens the closest and most complicated relationship in his life, with his younger brother.

This is the making of the man whose journey leads to The Madness of July – Will Flemyng, trapped with his friends and enemies in The Paris Spring.

JAMES NAUGHTIE is one of the best-known broadcasters in the UK. A presenter of Today on BBC Radio 4, and a prize-winning writer, he has written about politics in London and Washington for many years.

PRAISE FOR THE MADNESS OF JULY

‘Complex and psychologically detailed, I have seldom come across a novel so redolent of le Carré’s milieu and technique... evocative and eloquent.’
CHARLES CUMMING

‘A clever, intelligent story... a political novel by someone who knows the territory intimately.’
SPECTATOR

‘Echoes of John Buchan and John le Carré.’
The Sunday Times

‘Smoke screen writing sustains the tension in this 380-page novel... Naughtie has a gift for colourful images.’
INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

‘A fast-paced read full of intriguing insights into the impact of political life, from a man with 30 years’ experience of the corridors of power.’
DAILY MAIL
The electrifying new Joe Pickett novel from the rising star of US crime writing.

Joe Pickett has good reason to dislike Dallas Cates, rodeo champion. Now he has even more reason – Joe’s eighteen-year-old daughter April has run off with him.

And then comes even worse news: the body of a girl has been found in a ditch along the highway – alive, but just barely, the victim of blunt force trauma. The girl is April, and the doctors don’t know if she’ll recover. Cates denies having anything to do with it – says she ran off from him, too – but Joe knows in his gut who’s responsible. The problem is that there’s no proof.

But Joe’s going to find out the truth, if it kills him. And this time, it just might.

C.J. BOX is the winner of the Anthony Award, Prix Calibre 38 (France), the Macavity Award, the Gumshoe Award, the Barry Award, and the Edgar Award. He is also a New York Times bestseller. He lives in Wyoming.
‘Darn good. I loved the gods, the magic, and the world.’ MARK LAWRENCE
The second instalment in the critically acclaimed Grim Company trilogy.

Between the Demonfire Hills and the Shattered Realms, three rich and mighty cities flourished. Each city was protected by the power of their Magelord; each Magelord protected by an ancient truce. But no longer. The City of Shades is drowned. The Grey City enslaved. The barrier between the worlds is failing and only the Magelord of the City of Towers still lives to protect her people.

Until the arrival of a blind wanderer.
A man who calls himself Crow...

LUKE SCULL is the lead designer at game design company Ossian Studios. His first novel was shortlisted for the David Gemmell Morningstar Award, 2014. He lives and works in Warminster.

‘Extraordinary, bold and brilliant. A stellar example of what the genre has to offer today.’ TOR.COM
‘Impressive and thrilling.’ SFX
‘Gripping.’ GUARDIAN
‘The best fantasy you will read this year.’ SFBOOK
‘If you like your gizzards glistening and your mages mean, this rollicking debut will suit. Hugely enjoyable.’ DAILY MAIL
‘A writer who will hit the genre like an augmented hammer. My favourite fantasy of the year.’ PARMENION BOOKS
‘One of the bright new voices in epic fantasy.’ SPECULATIVE BOOK REVIEW
‘The sort of author you buy on publication date and read on the way home.’ BOOKBAG
From the internationally bestselling author of *The Thorn Birds* comes this charming novella about love, friendship and quiet rebellion.

For generations, the Hurlingford men have ruled the small town of Byron. Wealthy, powerful and cruel, they get what they want, every time.

Missy Wright’s mother, a Hurlingford by birth, has been shunned by her family since marrying for love, not money. Now widowed, the women live a quiet existence in genteel poverty. Plain, thin and unforgivably single, it seems Missy’s life is destined to be dreary.

But then a stranger arrives in town. A divorcée from Sydney. And she opens Missy’s eyes to the possibility of a happy ending.

**COLLEEN MCCULLOUGH** was born in New South Wales. She is the author of the bestseller *The Thorn Birds*, which has sold 30 million copies.

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**REVIEWS FOR THE LADIES OF MISSALONIGHI**

‘An extraordinary novel so full of surprises and delights it begs an immediate re-reading to prolong the pleasures. This is McCullough at her wicked best.’  
**DAILY POST**

‘Aimed at every woman who has ever wanted to kick down the door and escape to a more satisfying life.’  
**MELBOURNE HERALD**

‘Seductive and satisfying... miniaturized in scale as *The Thorn Birds* was vast, readers will want to devour it in one sitting.’  
**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**

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**REVIEWS FOR COLLEEN MCCULLOUGH**

‘McCullough is terrific... Her characters quiver with life.’  
**NEW YORK TIMES**

‘A master storyteller.’  
**LOS ANGELES TIMES**
She’s back – only it’s DCI Hanlon now – and undercover at an Oxford college to find a high end sadomasochistic killer.

Detective Inspector Hanlon is back. She’s been promoted and now she goes undercover in Oxford to find the sadomasochistic killer of two students.

Philosophy lecturer Dr Gideon Fuller, with his penchant for high end sadistic sex, is in the frame, but Hanlon is not convinced. From the specialist brothels in Oxford and Soho, to the inner sanctum of a Russian people trafficker with a taste for hurting women, the trail leads Hanlon deeper and deeper into danger – until she herself becomes the killer’s next target.

ALEX HOWARD studied Arabic and Islamic History at Oxford, and has worked in adult education. He lives in London with his wife and two children.

‘Meet my new favourite detective… DI Hanlon.

She’s not that likeable. But I loved her. She’s not always that trustworthy. But you would want her on your side. She has an innate sense of justice and doesn’t really care that much for the rules. If you get on her radar beware – yet if you gain her trust and loyalty, she will fight for you until her last breath… Brilliantly done.’

LIZLOVESBOOKS
PRAISE FOR SOLDIER’S WIVES

‘I couldn’t put it down.’
KATIE FFORDE

‘I can’t think of anything about this book that I didn’t like... A story of love, marriage, friendship, loyalty, deceit, bravery and danger with plenty of drama and action. A thoroughly enjoyable read.’
ELAING, AMAZON

‘I read Soldier’s Wives in one delicious go, barely pausing to take a sip of tea or check my twitter feed. A cracking story... way more convincing than Joanna Trollope’s The Soldier’s Wife. I can’t wait for the next one.’
EMMALEEPOTTER

A brilliant sequel to Soldiers’ Wives, in which the love lives and military careers of two schoolfriends criss cross each other.

This is the story of two girls who, on the surface, seem to have a lot in common.

Samantha Lewis will put everything into being the good soldier she thinks her father wants her to be. But her heart will lead her in a very unexpected direction, towards a man who seems to despise her.

Michelle Flowers also craves her father’s attention, but her impulsiveness will drive her into an obsession with the husband of another woman – with disastrous consequences.

FIONA FIELD joined the army at 18, married a bomb disposal expert at 21 and then, at 26, got thrown out for getting pregnant. Her youngest child is a soldier just returned from Afghanistan.

For 2,000 years the Immari kept to the shadows, searching for an ancient enemy - an adversary that could annihilate the human race. Now their search is over. Off the coast of Antarctica, a research vessel has discovered a mysterious structure buried deep in an iceberg. It is truly ancient, and something is guarding it.

The Immari understand the gravity of the threat and are prepared to sacrifice everything to defeat it - even the future of the human race as we know it. Is it a price worth paying? Scientist Kate Warner and intelligence agent David Vale aren’t convinced the Immari are telling the whole truth...

A.G. RIDDLE spent a decade in internet start ups before focusing on his true passion: writing. He lives in Parkland, Florida.

THE ATLANTIS TRILOGY
–Over 600,000 copies sold–
–Rights sold in 22 languages–
–Soon to be a major motion picture–

THE ATLANTIS GENE
A discovery is made. The countdown begins.

THE ATLANTIS PLAGUE
The human race stands on the brink of extinction.

THE ATLANTIS WORLD
The enemy is finally revealed.
I STARTED WRITING Orkney Twilight in 2010 during the sticky heat of a Washington DC summer, yearning for the cooler greys of home. I found myself drawn back to Orkney, where I spent many magical childhood holidays. My now long dead father was a policeman then, a onetime undercover cop. So I decided to build a plot around the family relationships that are often absent from books about cops and spies.

The story became a thriller – a bolshie teenager’s trip through her father’s surreal undercover world. But I hope Orkney Twilight also captures something more general about families, about the stories we tell, about different ways of coming to terms with the past and learning to live among the shadows.

CLARE CARSON

A daughter determines to find out the truth about her father, an undercover policeman, in this original, haunting thriller set in Orkney at midsummer.

Jim, an undercover policeman with alcohol issues and the gift of the gab, never talks about his past. His daughter Sam is a rebellious eighteen-year-old with an inquisitive streak. She is determined to find out the truth about her father.

On holiday in Orkney, beneath an endless midsummer sky, Sam shadows Jim as he runs secretive errands across the island. What did he take from the old watchtower on the edge of a cliff? Why is he so interested in Norse mythology? And why does Sam have the eerie feeling that she too is being watched? When Sam finally discovers the truth, it will draw her into a dangerous world of deception and double-dealing... and bring her closer to her dad than ever before.

CLARE CARSON is an anthropologist working in international development.

Her father was an undercover policeman in 1970s London.
The sequel to The Sentinel. The critically acclaimed journey into the dark heart of Spain continues.

1954: Comandante Guzmán has been posted deep into the Basque country to confront a man known only as ‘El Lobo’. It’s not the first time Guzmán’s been here. In the Civil War he led a brigade of shock troops notorious for their brutality. His past is about to catch up with him... if El Lobo doesn’t get him first.

2010, Madrid: Forensic Investigator Ana María Galindez has spent seven months in hospital recovering from the blast that nearly killed her. Her obsession with Guzmán’s fate has disturbed long dormant forces. Now she shall reap the consequences: she will be purposely humiliated, abandoned by colleagues and friends, accused of murder... and worse.

MARK OLDFIELD was born in Sheffield, and now lives in Kent. He holds a PhD in criminology.

PRAISE FOR THE SENTINEL

‘A sprawling, striking debut... Superbly told, and with a fine villain at its heart, this is a remarkable first thriller that bodes exceptionally well for Oldfield’s future.’
DAILY MAIL

‘Polished and impressive. Guzman is the star of the show... fans of Kate Mosse style thrillers will find The Sentinel propulsive and plausible.’
GUARDIAN

‘Remarkably accomplished... a credible and atmospheric picture of what life was like under the dictator.’
LITERARY REVIEW
I’M ON THE ROOF of a water tower high above London. With binoculars, I would be able to see cracks in the pavements, read the epitaphs in the cemetery. I could see into the windows of the canal boats, the houses and distant high-rises. With a powerful lens I could watch peoples’ lives.

From his water tower, unseen, Jack will see all this. He will learn who plans to murder. In the strange detached silence, too high for birds or traffic noise, he will think any sounds are his imagination. He won’t see the danger until it’s too late.

If the skylight, propped up on a strut, should slam down, I’ll be trapped. My phone is in the car and no one would hear me shout or see me wave.

Leaning on the parapet, I plan a new case for Stella and Jack.

LESLEY THOMSON

From the bestselling author of The Detective’s Daughter. A cold case is reopened in this absorbing crime novel starring unique female sleuth Stella Darnell.

October 1987: as a hurricane sweeps through Britain, a man’s body slowly rots, locked inside an old water tower in west London. His corpse is never claimed.

October 2013: the month of the great storm of St Jude. A man dies beneath a late night Piccadilly line train. His brother insists he was murdered, but Jack, a train driver, is sure it was suicide.

Jack and Stella uncover the secrets of the case – but Stella is carrying a secret of her own...

LESLEY THOMSON’s first novel, A Kind of Vanishing, won the 2010 People’s Book Prize. Her second novel, The Detective’s Daughter, was published in 2013 and sold over 300,000 copies.
The explosive final book in the Carnivia trilogy.
‘A genuinely thrilling thriller... outstanding.’ LITERARY REVIEW

THE RENDITION: An Italian Muslim has been snatched by the CIA.
His crime: a plot to engulf Venice in flames.

THE GOSSIP: Carnivia is awash with rumour and speculation.
Have the CIA extradited an innocent man?

THE EVIDENCE: Holly and Kat must find the powerful men who truly run Italy. But time is running out to save their city.

THE ABSOLUTION will destroy it all.

JONATHAN HOLT’s first novel in the Carnivia Trilogy, The Abomination, was a number one international bestseller translated into fourteen languages.
100 scary stories to read with the light on, selected and introduced by award-winning author Louise Welsh. The perfect gift for fiction lovers.

Haunted houses, mysterious counts, weeping widows and restless souls. Here is the definitive anthology of all that goes bump in the night.

Featuring an all-star cast of authors including: Kate Atkinson, Truman Capote, William Shakespeare, James Joyce, Edgar Allan Poe, and Hilary Mantel.

Hand-picked by one of our most exciting thriller authors, this beautiful collection of ghost stories will delight, unnerve and entertain any fiction lover brave enough...

LOUISE WELSH is the author of six novels, including The Cutting Room, The Girl on the Stairs and A Lovely Way to Burn. She has been awarded a CWA Dagger and the Glenfidditch/Scotland on Sunday on Sunday award.
Gritty, heartrending and unputdownable – the story of two sisters sent first to an English, then an Australian orphanage, in the aftermath of World War 2.

Rita and Rosie Stevens are only nine and five years old when their widowed mother marries a violent bully called Jimmy Randall and has a baby by him. Under pressure from her new husband, she is persuaded to send the girls to an orphanage – not knowing that the papers she has signed will entitle the charity which owns it to do what they like with the children. And it is not long before the powers that be decide to send a consignment of orphans to their sister institution in Australia. Among them – without their family’s consent or knowledge – are Rita and Rosie, the throwaway children.

DINEY COSTELOE had a successful writing career in the 1980s, then family life intervened. This novel marks her return to the top flight of saga writers. She lives in Somerset.

‘Rita didn’t tell Daisy she was planning to escape. She liked Daisy and was grateful for her kindesses, but Rita had learned a hard lesson in the past few weeks. Trust no one. Everyone she’d ever trusted had let her down in one way or another. And today, during the long afternoon spent sitting on her dormitory stool, she had realised that the only person she could trust was herself. Only Rita was going to look after Rita.’
The characters are engaging, the street scenes cinematic and the theme of the novel powerful.

**THE TIMES**

‘Angela’s Ashes with a scouse accent.’

**THE IRISH TIMES**

‘A vigorous and vibrant story of childhood in fifties Liverpool... As fast-paced as it is entertaining. An addictive novel to be devoured in one sitting.’

**SUNDAY EXPRESS**

‘A heartbreaking tale.’

**THE LIVERPOOL ECHO**

‘Catholic Liverpool, Irish immigrants and dark secrets... a funny and sometimes shocking saga. I couldn’t put it down.’

**CRISTINA ODONE**

The next gripping saga in The Four Streets series, set between Liverpool and Ireland, from the stunningly talented Nadine Dorries MP.

On Christmas morning, in the unforgiving harshness of a convent in Galway, Kitty Doherty gives birth to her baby – who is immediately taken away for adoption in America. But Kitty’s life is hanging by a thread, her only hope a dangerous journey through the ice and snow to Ballymara and her Irish family.

Meanwhile, in Chicago, Sean and Alice try to set up a new life, far away from the families they have deserted in Liverpool. And in the Four Streets change is afoot, as a new priest arrives and the mystery of Father James’s murder begins, at last, to unravel.

NADINE DORRIES grew up in a working-class family in Liverpool. She trained as a nurse, then established and sold her own business. She has been the MP for mid-Bedfordshire since 2005 and has three daughters.
A London City player collapses during a match in Athens. A heart attack? Or something more sinister? The second Scott Manson thriller from bestselling crimewriter Philip Kerr.

Scott Manson and London City are in Athens battling for the UEFA Champion’s League title. The situation is tense, and some of City’s players are so unpopular in Greece they’ve been assigned bodyguards.

Karaiskakis Stadium is packed to the rafters when tragedy strikes: Christoph Bundchen collapses and dies in the middle of the game. The team have a crucial match in England – but they can’t go home until the investigation is complete.

Can Scott Manson find the truth before his team is in danger again?

PHILIP KERR is the bestselling author of the Bernie Gunther thrillers, for which he received a CWA Dagger Award. He is a life-long supporter of Arsenal.

REVIEWS FOR PHILIP KERR

‘Powerful and impressive.’ 
GUARDIAN

‘Utterly convincing.’ 
INDEPENDENT

‘A cracking thriller... the story unfolds at a white-knuckle pace.’
THE TIMES

‘Rich, compelling, beautifully written.’
DAILY MAIL

‘Kerr is an unlikely genius.’
DAILY MIRROR

‘Kerr’s novels are modern classics.’
SIMON SEBAG MONTEFIOR
March Middleton is accused of murder in the next sparkling instalment in the Gower Street Detective series.

Gower Street, 1883: March Middleton is niece of London’s greatest (and most curmudgeonly) personal detective, Sidney Grice. March has just discovered a wealthy long-lost relative she never knew she had. When this newest family member meets with a horrible death, March is in the frame for murder – and only Sidney Grice can prove her innocence.

Grice agrees to investigate (for his usual fee) but warns that he is not entirely convinced of her innocence. If he were in her position, he might have been tempted. But the more he uncovers, the more all the clues point to Grice himself...

M.R.C. KASASIAN is also the author of The Mangle Street Murders and The Curse of the House of Foskett. He lives between Suffolk and Malta.
A kaleidoscopic picture of British society in the year of the Battle of Waterloo. Part of a major series evoking life at all levels during crucial years in our history.

1815 was the year of Waterloo, the British victory that thwarted Napoleon and ushered in a century of peace for Britain. But what sort of country were Wellington’s troops fighting for? And what kind of society did they return to?

Overseas, the bounds of Empire were expanding; while at home the population endured the chill of economic recession. As Jane Austen busied herself with the writing of Emma, John Nash designed Regent Street and Lord’s cricket ground held its first match in St John’s Wood.

Stephen Bates paints a vivid portrait of every aspect of Britain in 1815.

STEPHEN BATES is a former religious and royal affairs correspondent of the Guardian and author of Penny Loaves and Butter Cheap: Britain in 1846.
‘I HAVE ALWAYS ADORED Nancy Mitford, and feel strongly that she deserves to be seen as more than the sparkling product of her time, class and family. She was not, after all, merely one of the Mitfords, she was the creator of their myth: she was both of them and outside them. Over the years she has been adored, despised, pitied, shunned and has now – I rather think – come round to being adored again.’

LAURA THOMPSON
Pick, shovel, dynamite: the classic account of the men who built the railways.

This is the definitive story of the men who built the railways – the unknown Victorian labourers who blasted, tunnelled, drank and brawled their way across nineteenth-century England.

Preached at and plundered, sworn at and swindled, this anarchic elite endured perils and disasters, and carved out of the English countryside an industrial-age architecture unparalleled in grandeur and audacity since the building of the cathedrals.

TERRY COLEMAN is a historian, novelist, and award-winning reporter. His novel *Southern Cross*, was a worldwide bestseller.

‘A brilliant book about a magnificent and vanished race of men.’
W.G. HOSKINS IN THE *LISTENER*

‘A sensitive historian can do something to piece together a forgotten way of life. Mr Coleman’s vivid and perceptive study of Victorian railway navvies is something of a landmark.’
ASA BRIGGS IN THE *GUARDIAN*

‘Absorbing detail presented so readably that no one with a spark of imagination and a twinge of interest in people could fail to find this book a pleasure.’
*EVENING STANDARD*
A groundbreaking and controversial guide to the Universe from a rising star of popular science.

Only 4% of the Universe is made of matter that we can detect. That’s 100 billion galaxies, each containing 100 billion stars: a mere 4%. We infer that the other 96% consists of ‘Dark Matter’ and ‘Dark Energy’. This balances our equations and makes the Observable Universe tick along nicely according to Newton and Einstein’s rules. But we’ve spent a lot of time looking for Dark Matter and Dark Energy and we’re yet to find them. What if they are celestial phantoms?

In just ten chapters, The Unknown Universe presents a state-of-the-art guide to the science of cosmology, how it got to where it is now – and where it might go next.

Dr STUART CLARK is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, author of the Guardian blog ‘Across the Universe’ and astrology correspondent for New Scientist. His books have been translated into twenty languages.
A masterly account of how the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome came into being from a prize-winning Classicist.

A concise and accessible study of the foundations, development and enduring legacy of the cultures of Greece and Rome, centred on ten locations of seminal importance in the development of Classical civilisation.

Starting with Troy, Nigel Spivey explores the contrasting politics of Athens and Sparta, the eastward export of Greek culture with the conquests of Alexander the Great and the long Byzantine twilight of Antiquity.

NIGEL SPIVEY is a Senior Lecturer in Classics at Cambridge, and the author of The Ancient Olympics. He presented the TV series How Art Made the World.
UPTON PARK

Gotta go now, Dad, gotta go, line up, gotta line up for the game.
I think we’ll win, with Keeble and Dick, but I think it’s going to rain.
Can I have two bob for the bus and a hot dog? I’ll pay you back real soon.
The Hammers are playing Newcastle, Dad. I think they’re called the Toon.
You should see it there, Upton Park, thousands in claret and blue,
And the blokes let kids down in the front, dockers just like you.
They sing and cheer with their fags and beer, blowing bubbles to a man.
When a goal goes in, you should hear the din. East London. Our West Ham.
There’s a magic in the stadium, there’s magic in the air.
Is it true that once upon a time, Anne Boleyn lived there?
I bet she’d be a West Ham fan, if she was here today.
But her castle’s gone, she must have moved, so the boys could get to play.
I saw some players in the cafe, when I was in Green Street,
John Brown, Ken Brown and Noel Cantwell, sitting in their seats.
They signed my book and said hello. It was great, Dad, really good.
I’ve gotta go, I can’t be late. We’ll win today. We should.

A wonderful collection of lyrics and poems from the bestselling actor
and pop idol.

This wonderful collection of poems and lyrics by bestselling actor and pop idol,
David Essex, is an absolute delight. From the lyrics of smash hit ‘Rock On’,
to the schoolboy nostalgia of ‘Beano Day,’ from the elegant ‘John Lennon’, to
the jaunty rhythm of ‘Travelling Tinker Man’ and ‘Fairground Attraction’, or the
fiercely ironic ‘A Land Fit For Heroes’, here is something for everyone. Poems
from the heart by a man who has lived life – and loved life – to the full.

The amazing career of born-and-bred Londoner, DAVID ESSEX, has spanned
four decades, with hit songs like ‘Hold Me Tight’ and ‘Rock On’ and lead roles
in Godspell and Mutiny. Married, with five children, he lives in London.
IN THIS BOOK I set out to create my own snapshot of the situation in Roman Britain c. AD 130, during the reign of the emperor Hadrian. The book takes the form of a journey as it might have been experienced by a Roman citizen – an army officer, merchant or even perhaps a failed pantomime artist – travelling from the crowded streets of glossy Rome, to the damp and rather dangerous outpost that was the province of Britannia in the early second century. How long would the journey take? What route would you follow? Where would you stay? Who would you meet? And why on earth would you be going to that gloomy old island in the first place?

BRONWEN RILEY
A classic account of a decisive battle of the Second World War, in which the Japanese assault on British India was checked in the ‘jungle hell’ of Assam.

7 March 1944: Tokyo announced that the Japanese invasion of British India had begun. In bitter jungle fighting from early April, the British Fourteenth Army, under Field Marshal Slim, held the Japanese assault on Kohima Ridge. By late June the Japanese were in headlong retreat.

Drawing on documents and diaries from Japanese as well as Allied sources, Arthur Swinson presents a thrilling tale of heroism and combat action, from a man who fought there himself.

ARTHUR SWINSON was a British army officer, playwright, historian and BBC producer. He served in the 2nd British Division at Kohima.

‘When we first saw Kohima it was beautifully fresh and green – an attractive town perched on the hills...

Now the place stank. The ground everywhere was ploughed up with shellfire and human remains lay rotting as the battle raged over them. Flies swarmed everywhere and multiplied with incredible speed. Men retched as they dug in... the stink hung in the air and permeated their clothes and hair.’

GUNNER JOHN NETTLEFIELD ON THE HELL THAT WAS KOHIMA
IN CUTHBERT COLLINGWOOD I discovered, with delight, not just an unfairly neglected hero of British history, but also a very human, and humane, commander who wrote the most beautiful prose – about himself, his friend Nelson, the state of the world and the sacrifices and loyalties of a nation at war.

MAX ADAMS
JOHANNES VERMEER’s experiments with lenses and a camera obscura taught him how we see under different conditions of light and helped him create perhaps the most luminous works of art ever to be painted.

VAN LEEUWENHOEK’s work with microscopes revealed a previously unimagined realm of minuscule creatures: he was the first man to record microscopic observations of muscle fibres, bacteria, speramatozoa and the flow of blood in capillaries.

In their different ways, they would bring about a seismic shift in the idea of what it meant to see the world.

The remarkable story of how a painter and a scientist in 17th-century Holland transformed the way we see the world.

In October 1632, in the small town of Delft in the Dutch Republic, two geniuses were born. One was Johannes Vermeer, whose experiments with lenses and a camera obscura helped him create the most luminous works of art ever beheld. The other was Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, whose work with microscopes revealed a previously unimagined realm of minuscule creatures.

By intertwining the biographies of these two men, Laura J. Snyder tells the story of a historical moment in both art and science that revolutionized how we see the world today.

LAURA J. SNYDER has a PhD in Philosophy and a Certificate in History and Philosophy of Science. She is the author of The Philosophical Breakfast Club and Reforming Philosophy: A Victorian Debate on Science and Society.
Forty years and $37 billion later, on the eve of Episode VII, the first complete
history of Star Wars – from Lucas’s early drafts to the present day.

Why do most people know what an Ewok is, even if they haven’t seen Return of
the Jedi? How have Star Wars action figures come to outnumber human beings?
How did ‘Jedi’ become an officially recognised religion? When did the films’
merchandising revenue manage to rival the GDP of a small country?

Tracing the birth, death and rebirth of the epic universe built by George Lucas
and hundreds of writers, artists, producers, and marketers, Chris Taylor jousts
with modern-day Jedi, tinkers with droid builders, and gets inside Boba Fett’s
helmet, all to find out how Star Wars has attracted and inspired so many fans
for so long.

CHRIS TAYLOR is the deputy editor of Mashable, the world’s largest social
media and technology news website. He lives in Berkeley, California.
The story of cricket’s greatest rivalry, told through the tales behind 100 classic Ashes quotations.

From the celebrated mock obituary following England’s first ever defeat by Australia on home soil in 1882, to the on-pitch insults (or ‘sledges’) of today, Ashes cricket has spawned nearly as many memorable quotes as it has balls bowled and runs scored.

Blood on the Pitch charts the ebb and flow of Anglo-Australian cricketing fortunes across 131 years and 314 matches: from fast bowler Jeff Thomson’s classic ‘I enjoy hitting a batsman more than getting him out. I like to see blood on the pitch’ in 1975, to Michael Clark’s notorious advice to Jimmy Anderson to ‘get ready for a f****** broken arm’ in 2013.

ROB SMYTH is a Guardian and Telegraph sports journalist and the author of The Spirit of Cricket: What Makes Cricket the Greatest Game on Earth.

‘We have come to beard the kangaroo in his den – and try to recover those Ashes.’
England’s captain Ivo Bligh, 1882–3

‘Don’t give the bastard a drink. Let him die of thirst.’
Australian spectator to England’s captain Douglas Jardine during the ‘Bodyline’ series, 1932–3

‘I enjoy hitting a batsman more than getting him out. I like to see blood on the pitch.’
Australian fast bowler Jeff Thomson, 1974–75

‘How’s your wife and my kids?’
‘The wife is fine but the kids are retarded.’
Exchange between Australia’s Rodney Marsh and England’s Ian Botham, 1970s

‘Come on Ramps, you know you want to.’
Shane Warne sledges Mark Ramprakash into a rash shot, 2001

‘Get ready for a broken f****** arm.’
Michael Clarke to James Anderson, 2013–14
THE STORY OF THE GENIUS OF BRITISH ENTREPRENEURSHIP, TOLD THROUGH THE EXTRAORDINARY LIVES OF TEN TITANS OF COMMERCE

Sir Richard Rich (1587–1658), Puritan mercantilist
Thomas Pitt (1653–1726), merchant and saviour of the East India Company
Matthew Boulton (1728–1809), manufacturer
Nathan Rothschild (1777–1836), banker and financier
William Jardine (1784–1843), physician and merchant
George Hudson (1800–1871), railway financier
George Cadbury (1839–1922), chocolate manufacturer
Cecil Rhodes (1853–1902), mining magnate
William Lever (1851–1925), industrialist and philanthropist
John Spedan Lewis (1885–1963), retailing innovator

The inspiring stories of ten great British entrepreneurs from the Elizabethan age to the present.

Dragons tells the story of British business endeavour through the lives of ten titans of commerce. Liam Byrne traces an entrepreneurial golden line through men such as Thomas Pitt, saviour of the East India Company; financier Nathan Rothschild, creator of the modern bond market; William Lever, brand-builder, philanthropist, and creator of Britain’s first great multinational; and John Spedan Lewis, founder of the employee-owned John Lewis Partnership.

Dragons is both a rousing celebration of British business genius and a fascinatingly informative narrative of a neglected but essential strand of our island’s story.

LIAM BYRNE MP is Shadow Minister for Universities, Science and Skills. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the Harvard Business School.
A ‘traveller’s guide’ to the curious remains of Bede’s England
by one of the few scholars of the period.

Written by the Oxford historian Henrietta Leyser, Beda is a gazetteer of the remaining Anglo-Saxon ruins in England, many of them from the time of the Venerable Bede.

Concentrating on Bede himself, Beda is both an accessible history and a guidebook, beautifully illustrated with maps and photographs. It is the perfect introduction to the subject, and the only book of its kind.

HENRIETTA LEYSER is a historian who specializes in medieval England. The author of Medieval Women, she is an emeritus fellow of St Peter’s College, Oxford.

‘Bede’s great work, the Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum, completed in 731 in the monastery of Wearmouth, announces in its very title something of what this project meant. This is a church history of the ‘Anglian’ people; it is about how a gens acquired a meaningful history by being incorporated into the Church.’

ROWAN WILLIAMS
PAPERBACKS
‘This crazy, gorgeous family novel is one of the great literary achievements of the twentieth century. I carry it in my head the way I carry childhood memories; the scenes are of such precise horror and comedy that I feel I didn’t read the book so much as live it.’

JONATHAN FRANZEN ON THE MAN WHO LOVED CHILDREN

INTRODUCING THE APOLLO LIBRARIAN... MICHAEL SCHMIDT

Michael Schmidt is one of our foremost literary biographers. Author of two of the most comprehensive studies of prose and poetry in print (The Novel : A Biography, and Lives of the Poets), he is also the founder and editorial director of Carcanet poetry press, based in Manchester, and the Editor-in-Chief of Poetry Nation Review. He is a Professor of Glasgow University and a fellow of Cambridge University.

Launched in June 2015, the Apollo list is a programme of literary gems of the first half of the twentieth century.

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