HEAD OF ZEUS
JANUARY – JUNE 2018

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**Breakout at Stalingrad:**

**A Timeline**

1908 Heinrich Gerlach is born in Königsberg in East Prussia.

1938 Gerlach is called up by the Wehrmacht.

1939 Germany invades Poland: outbreak of World War II.

1942 (Aug) Start of the Battle of Stalingrad on the Eastern Front, in which Gerlach is involved as an intelligence officer.

1942 (Nov) German army encircled by Soviets at Stalingrad.

1943 (Feb) 91,000 German troops surrender at Stalingrad; Gerlach is imprisoned in a Soviet PoW camp and starts to write a novel about his experiences.

1945 (May) Germany surrenders. Still in captivity, Gerlach completes his novel Breakout at Stalingrad.

1950 Gerlach is released by the Soviets who confiscate his novel before freeing him. He returns to Germany where he works as a teacher.

1951 Gerlach undergoes hypnotherapy to help him remember his novel.

1956 Gerlach delivers his remembered Stalingrad novel to a Munich publishing house.

1957 Gerlach’s novel is published as The Forsaken Army. It becomes a bestseller in Germany and elsewhere.

1991 Heinrich Gerlach dies at the age of 82.

2012 (Feb) Professor Carsten Gansel discovers the original, 600-page manuscript of Breakout at Stalingrad in the Russian State Military Archive.

2016 (Mar) Durchbruch bei Stalingrad (Breakout at Stalingrad) is published in Germany by Kiepenheuer & Witsch.

2018 (Jan) The English-language version of Breakout at Stalingrad (translated by Dr Peter Lewis) is published by Head of Zeus.

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**Praise for Breakout at Stalingrad**

‘A revelation... Anyone who wants to know what Stalingrad was really like should read this book.’

*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

‘An impressive and deeply disturbing anti-war novel.’

*Hamburger Abendblatt*

‘There are books that tell a story, and there are books that have such an extraordinary genesis that they need to be read for that reason alone.’

*Die Welt*

‘An exciting and revealing chapter of German military and literary history.’

*Süddeutsche Zeitung*

‘A great novel.’

*literaturkritik.de*

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Captured by the Soviets after the Battle of Stalingrad, Heinrich Gerlach wrote a novel based on his experiences. In 1949, however, the KGB confiscated his manuscript. Gerlach returned to Germany in 1950, and, with the help of his family, his fellow PoWs and a hypnotherapist, slowly pieced together his narrative. It was published in 1957 under the title *The Forsaken Army* and became a bestseller. In 2011 Professor Carsten Gansel made a sensational find in a Moscow archive: the original manuscript of Gerlach’s novel. *Breakout at Stalingrad* differs sharply in tone from the novel published in 1957. Here, an emphasis on German war crimes and the author’s feelings of guilt form a descant to his narrative of the battle and reflections on the pointlessness of war. *Breakout at Stalingrad* includes an appendix by Gansel, telling the full story of the novel. After seventy years, a classic of twentieth-century war literature can be enjoyed in its original version.
Room Little Darker
June Caldwell

A debut collection of deranged, brilliant and wildly imaginative stories from one of Ireland’s most radically original writers.

Room Little Darker explores the clandestine aspects of modern life through jagged, visceral tales of sex, broken relationships, homelessness and futuristic nightmares.

A couple with an appetite for S&M discover their escapades have led them into something unimaginably grim; a desperate addict scours the depths of degradation in a nightmare Dublin; an unborn foetus narrates her torturous experience of the Irish legal system; a paedophile acquires a sex therapy robot and contemplates how they’ll get along.

At once hilarious, profoundly moving and startling, June Caldwell’s stories probe raw sexuality and disturbing psychology, the love (and hate) of family and the darkness and light that lives inside us all.

‘A mark-maker... This is an unflinching collection which thuds with life and kicks with horror.’ Sunday Times

‘The roar of fury and clarity that Irish fiction has been needing. You haven’t read anything like this before... just brilliant.’ Belinda McKeon

‘An unsparing portrait of a city and a nation, with a singular voice heard throughout, lost in grief and longing, interrogating every motive and intention. It is banshee bold... A work more attentive to — and understanding of — the terrible derangements of simply being alive I have not read in a long time.’ Ian Samson, Guardian

‘Perhaps the most important Irish short story collection since Dubliners... Macabre, menacing, misanthropic, and sometimes misandrist, these are truly horrifying stories that somehow manage suddenly to switch into hilarity... Caldwell brings the reader from stifling terror to cathartic release.’ Spiked
The son of a Swiss butcher, Beat Sterchi was trained in his father’s trade but left the family business to work and study in Canada. Over the years he has taught English in Honduras and German in Montreal, and won numerous Swiss and German literary prizes for his shorter writing. Beat Sterchi’s books have been published in six languages.

The Cow
Beat Sterchi

An extraordinary Swiss–German novel which serves as a damning indictment of the relationship between man and the animal world.

The Cow is the story of a Spanish agricultural labourer, Ambrosio, who goes to Switzerland as a Gastarbeiter. He is bound for Innenwald, a village in the Swiss highlands, and the novel begins as he is about to spend a summer working for Farmer Knuchel. It ends in the abattoir of the neighbouring city, at the end of the seven hard years of labour that have destroyed him. There he sees Blosch, the once magnificent lead cow on Knuchel’s farm, now a sad, condemned creature in the abattoir.

The Cow was acclaimed as a contemporary classic on first publication. Now more than ever it must be read as a book of archaic power about man, his work and his food.

‘Memorable and great fiction.’ OBSERVER

‘An original, powerful, important novel.’ SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

‘Over Christmas of 1983, I was asked to look at a German book and recommend whether it was worth publishing in English. It was a first novel, Blosch, by Beat Sterchi (neither name meant anything to me), and it and he were actually Swiss.

A few days later, gripped and shaken and in no doubt that I had read a masterpiece, I covered several pages with my report, including, from memory, the sentence “I doubt whether you will be offered a better book from the German in the next eight or ten years.” With hindsight, it was the merest understatement, though I was desperately trying to stick my neck out.

What makes Blosch – or, now belatedly, The Cow – worth talking about is, firstly, its own uncompromising magnificence as a work of art, and secondly, the – unpredicted and unpredictably unhelpful – topicality of its subject. In the ten years of its unavailability, there probably wasn’t a day when the newspapers didn’t carry a story about meat, about beef, about health, about the interconnected lives of human beings and domestic cattle, about the ominous initials BSE, CJD and the rest of them.

All this is anticipated, contextualised, made sense of, sung, you could almost say, in The Cow.’

MICHAEL HOFMANN, TRANSLATOR
Victor Lodato is a playwright, poet and novelist. His debut novel, Mathilda Savitch, was awarded a PEN USA Award for Fiction. His short stories have appeared in The New Yorker, Granta, and The New York Times.

victorlodato.com

Edgar & Lucy
Victor Lodato

An artfully constructed, beautifully written novel exploring love, life, family, death and grief.

Eight-year-old Edgar remembers nothing of the terrible accident his father died in. He only knows his father is dead, his mother has a limp, and his grandmother believes in ghosts. When Edgar meets a man with his own tragic story, the boy begins a journey into a secret wilderness where nothing is clear – even the line between the living and the dead.

Edgar & Lucy is a thrilling adventure and an unlikely love story, combining a wonderfully rendered family epic with a desperate search for a little boy who’s lost.

‘I do think, in many ways, that this book is a true gothic, in that it’s about Edgar and Lucy’s complicated connection to the past, and there’s definitely a sense of the past as a source of malignant influence. And of course all of this is happening in an updated version of the ruined castle.

Ultimately, I want to write stories that have transformative power – for the reader, for the characters, for myself. I guess I’m a romantic in that I want to read and write books that will change me, change my life. I like books that are grounded in emotional truth, but that can also feel mythic. Of course, I never think about myth at the front of my brain while writing. It’s more something I feel in my gut – a sort of physical sensation, a sense that this story is a matter of life and death.’

VICTOR LODATO
Hotel Estoril
Dejan Tiago-Stankovic

A poignant novel about exile, divided loyalties and fear and survival, set in a luxurious grand hotel just outside Lisbon at the height of the Second World War.

Set in a hotel just outside Lisbon at the height of the Second World War, Hotel Estoril’s guests include spies, fallen kings, refugees from the Balkans, Nazis, American diplomats and stateless Jews. The Portuguese secret police broodingly observe the visitors, terrified that their country’s neutrality will be compromised.

The novel seamlessly fuses the stories of its invented characters with appearances by historical figures like the ex-King Carol of Romania, the great Polish pianist Jan Paderewski, the British agent Ian Fleming, the Russian chess grandmaster Alexander Alekhine and the French writer and flyer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, who forms a poignant friendship with a young Jewish boy living alone in the hotel.

Estoril is a novel based on true events. It is set in a grand hotel, which still exists, and during the Second World War the hotel was full of refugees, spies and double agents. The ex-King of Romania, the former Prime Minister of Poland (and great pianist), the wealthy Yugoslavs, the Nazi agents: they were all there. The stories I found were so good that I did not have to invent very much; I retold them in my own way.

The first character I heard about was Popov, the charming and charismatic Serbian double agent who is central to my story. I was still a student in Belgrade when I heard a friend’s grandmother saying: ‘That relative of mine, Duško, he was quite a shady character, and not only because he was a multiple spy during the war’. I thought nothing more about it at the time, but her casual reference must have stayed in my mind.

Years later, when I was living in Portugal, I learned that a compatriot of mine, a Yugoslav, a double secret agent, had been there during the war, had met Ian Fleming in the Casino and made a deep impression on him and that he had served as a model for James Bond. I checked, and it was the same guy, Duško Popov. So I dug deeper into his story, read a lot about the period, and discovered a unique setting for a historical novel: a little oasis of fragile peace that existed on the Lisbon Riviera between 1940 and 1945.

It is not surprising that wartime Estoril caught my attention. People from all over Europe flocked there, if they could afford the journey or were desperate enough to flee the war. Estoril looked nothing like a refugee camp, but that is what it was, and I have a soft spot for refugees. In London, in the 1990s, during the Balkan conflict, I was an illegal immigrant and unable to return home for years. I was not too happy in London. I know how war feels, even when you are out of danger.

DEJAN TIAGO-STANKOVIC

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DEJAN TIAGO-STANKOVIC
Michael Andreasen is a recent graduate of the University of California, where he received the McDonald Harris Prize for Fiction. His story, The King’s Teacup at Rest, was published by The New Yorker. He’s working on his first novel.

The Sea Beast Takes a Lover

A fiercely original debut collection of stories about moral and physical metamorphoses, odd love and idiosyncratic faith.

A lovesick kraken slowly drags the object of its desire – a ship of sailors – into the sea; a group of cantankerous saints materialize in a well-appointed parlour, and must unravel the mystery of how they got there; aging fathers are sunk to the bottom of the ocean in pressure-sealed crates in a time-honored ritual.

Michael Andreasen’s stories romp through the lunatic and surreal with a tender generous ease; there is a joyous absurdity to each premise. Just because a sister is born without a head doesn’t mean her brother won’t love and protect her; just because an adulterous tryst ends in alien abduction doesn’t mean the man doesn’t miss his wife.

An extremely funny, very weird, brilliantly constructed set of stories from an exciting young writer.

‘Andreasen has a big, roomy imagination, and a command of language to furnish the worlds he creates with both precision and grandeur. These stories are, by turns, timeless and urgent, dreamy and nightmarish, heartbroken and hopeful. A brilliant collection.’

CHARLES YU, author of Sorry Please Thank You and How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe

‘Uncannily inventive yet unfailingly grounded in all-too-familiar struggles of the heart, these are stories that vary widely in subject matter. For what is more exciting to a reader than discovering a new way to see the world? This thrillingly original debut gives us just that in every story, on every page.’

JOSH WEIL, author of The Age of Perpetual Light

‘The Sea Beast Takes a Lover is a treasury of fantastic tales – full of mermaids, prophetic dancing bears, exploding children, and distraught time travellers. It’s also a collection of longing, of loss, of loving deeply, and of learning what it means to care for others. A brilliant book, daring and wonderful.’

ALEXANDER WEINSTEIN, author of Children of the New World

‘The Sea Beast Takes a Lover sits on a small shelf of books that I will read a dozen times over. It is full of explosions of magic, aching tenderness and star-bright writing. This is a book that will make you want to tap the person next to you and say, “I’m sorry to interrupt, but you have to hear this.”’

RAMONA AUSUBEL, Author of Sons and Daughters of Ease and Plenty and A Guide to Being Born
Malcolm McKay’s Glasgow Trilogy has been nominated for several international prizes. The Necessary Death of Lewis Winter was shortlisted for the Edgar Awards’ Best Paperback Original, the CWA John Creasey (New Blood) Dagger, and the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award and How a Gunman Says Goodbye won the Deanston Scottish Crime Book of the Year Award. His fourth novel, The Night the Rich Men Burned, was shortlisted for the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger. McKay was born in Stornoway on Scotland’s Isle of Lewis, where he still lives.

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‘With small, quiet brushstrokes that it’s hard to see building up, McKay turns each of his characters into real people – people with interests and back stories and all the small, inconsequential things that make up a life – and ends up with a wholly believable and unnerving portrait of organised crime.’

Alison Flood, Guardian

‘Mackay’s writing is clean and spare, with flashes of dark humour.’ The Herald

‘There is a generosity of feeling in the novel which is rare in crime fiction. The world portrayed is a grey one in which right and wrong are not matters of black and white. People act in response to the circumstances which constrain them.’

Allan Massie, The Scotsman

Malcolm McKay is the author of the acclaimed Glasgow trilogy, which was nominated for several international prizes. The Necessary Death… was shortlisted for the Edgar Awards’ Best Paperback Original, and How a Gunman Says Goodbye won the Deanston Scottish Book of the Year Award. Mackay was born in Stornoway on Scotland’s Isle of Lewis, where he still lives.

In the Cage Where Your Saviours Hide
Malcolm Mackay

A dark, gripping, atmospheric crime novel set in a richly imagined independent Scotland.

The independent kingdom of Scotland, whose bankers and merchants grew rich after conquering much of Central America in the seventeenth century, flourished until the beginning of the last century. Its great trading port of Challaid, in the north west of the country, sent ships around the world.

But Scotland is not what it was, and the docks of Challaid went into a decline. The huge infrastructure projects collapsed, like the dangerous railway tunnels under the city. And above ground the networks of power and corruption are what survive of Challaid’s glorious past.

Darian Ross, a young private investigator whose father, an ex-cop, is in prison for murder, takes on a case brought to him by a charismatic woman, Maeve Campbell. Her partner has been stabbed; the police are not very curious about the death of a man who laundered money for the city’s criminals. Ross is drawn into a world in which no one can be trusted.
‘A couple of years ago, I started stringing together a story about love and loyalty. I knew I wanted a dog in it, because the affection for and of a dog is meant to be everything that human love isn’t — uncomplicated, instinctive, and predetermined. I built the family from the dog up.

Ultimately, all acts of love and betrayal boil down to decisions made in time. Memories outlive the decisions, and mortality outweighs them. I think of a family, or any relationship, as being the anxious sum of its memories and hopes, and this story is also about my own relationship to memory, and love.

For as long as I can remember, I have kept lists of memories — I hoard them, I chart them chronologically, I give them assumed names and hide them in stories. Parts of this story are real-life fiction, other parts are made-up memories.

In the end, what I tried to write was a love letter to my family, and I suppose like all love letters, underneath the exaggeration, addiction, and drama, is the most committed form of understanding.’

SARAH FRANÇOISE
The Underneath
Melanie Finn

A dark, gripping, atmospheric contemporary literary thriller, set in Vermont.

Ex-journalist Kay and her family are spending the summer in a rented farmhouse in Vermont. Kay is haunted by her traumatic past in Africa, and her marriage is under strain. Then her husband is called away unexpectedly on business and Kay finds herself alone with the children, obsessed by the idea that something terrible has happened to the owners of the house. The locals are reticent when she asks about their whereabouts; and she finds disturbing writing scrawled across one of the walls...

As she starts to investigate she becomes involved with a local man, Ben, whose life is complicated by his own violent past, his involvement in a drug-trafficking operation, and his desire to adopt an abused child. Their two stories collide and intertwine, heading towards a dramatic denouement. The Underneath is a tense, gripping and dark novel exploring the lives we build and the secrets we harbour beneath them.

‘Driving cross-country with my three-year-old daughters a few years ago, we spent the night at a decrepit motel off the interstate in Oklahoma. The place was trashed – rusting shopping trolleys in the empty pool, mildew on the walls. On my way out to the car I saw a young couple scurrying in, tweeking badly. The woman looked at me, and I felt some kind of communication from her – as Ben does in the book – ‘down in the earth of the mind’. There was a child in her car, about the age of my two, he sat like a doll, no seatbelt, no expression. I can’t be clear on what his mother was trying to tell me or share – shame, perhaps, at her failure.

I didn’t want to write a drug novel, but I kept coming back to that motel in Oklahoma, the mysterious interaction with that other mother, and this deeper idea of how we love our children and how we fail them...

While I began The Underneath with a strong, thrillery plot foremost in my mind, it evolved (often against my will) into a personal exploration of marriage and motherhood, and – I admit here – my own destructive addiction to anger. Kay became my more obvious projection, her isolation as a writer, mother and a wife, the glamorous, mendacious past she can’t let go. But Ben does the dirty work, struggling against the shadows – the terrible things that have been done to him and to his childhood friend, Frank. ”Man hands on misery to man,” Philip Larkin wrote; how do the damaged among us become capable, loving parents?’

MELANIE FINN
The tower curved and ended and at its end she saw that it was burnt and broken. The walls were blackened and twisted and the whole front face of the building had been torn off and she could see the construction of the floors and pipes and rooms that were laid bare and leaning to one side. The rooms and halls were caved in. Bits of concrete stuck to rusted pipes like the sparse leaves on the branches of a winter tree. The walls and rooms were black and open to the sky... It was beyond the end of the world. It was the end of all things.

This is a wonderful debut novel, and Laurie Canciani is a startling new voice in British fiction. I was immediately struck by the effortless way it straddles genres and themes. In part it is a mythical work about loss, deprivation and the quest for redemption. From another point of view, it is a chilling evocation of life on a housing estate, where drug-dealers rule and children are enslaved. And from yet another, it is about the magic of childhood and the possibility of seeing beauty and redemption even in the most terrible environment. All these layers — and others, like sexual awakening and the different forms of love — are folded together in a single, moving narrative, creating an extraordinarily rich and rewarding texture.

This is above all a novel about how people, especially the young, make a world for themselves out of the most unlikely material.

HELEN FRANCIS, EDITOR

Laurie Canciani was born in 1986 and grew up in Bridgend in South Wales. She was kicked out of school at sixteen and battled with agoraphobia. Rediscovering her love of writing in her twenties she earned an MA in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University.

The Insomnia Museum
Laurie Canciani

A lyrical, magical, disturbing debut novel, and the emergence of a powerful new voice in Welsh fiction.

Anna lives in a flat with dad. He is a hoarder, and together they have spent the last twelve years constructing the Insomnia Museum, a labyrinth built from dead TVs, old cuckoo clocks, stacks of newspapers and other junk Dad has found. Anna is seventeen. She can’t remember ever having seen outside the flat, but noises penetrate her isolated world: dogs bark in the walls; music plays in the floor, and a ship sails through the canyons between the tower blocks. Then one day Dad falls asleep and won’t wake up, and Anna must leave the museum and try to survive in a place that turns out to be stranger and more dangerous than she could have imagined.

In this dazzlingly original debut novel, Laurie Canciani has created a world that is terrible, magical, and richly imagined.
Duo Ji Zhuo Ga is a Han-Tibetan author living in Lhasa. She wrote her first novel, Tibetan Marriage, in 2009 and has since published seven novels. She serves as the Vice-Chair of the Tibet Writers Association.

Love in No Man’s Land
Duo Ji Zhuo Ga

Tibet’s bestselling author published in English for the first time with an epic saga reminiscent of The Kite Runner.

The Changthang Plateau lies in the centre of Tibet. A vast, rolling grassland stippled with azure-blue lakes and ringed by snow peaks, it is home to seven-year-old Gongzha and his family who live, as their ancestors have done for centuries, by herding and hunting. But it is 1967 and the Cultural Revolution is seeping across China. Not even the grasslands of Tibet are immune. As the Red Guard systematically loot and destroy Tibet’s monasteries, Gongzha helps hide two treasures belonging to his local temple: an ebony-black Buddha and a copy of a twelfth-century text, the Epic of King Gesar, written in gold ink. The repercussions of his act will echo across the decades.

Gongzha will be taken far from home, to mountain peaks and subterranean labyrinths. He will lose love and find it. He will battle wolves, bears, outlaws and his own self as legend and history are interwoven in the story of a young man’s quest to find happiness in a time of uncertainty and unrest.

In the distance, the herders walked slowly along with the yaks and sheep. Their long shadows stretched across the plain like a moving watercolor painted in black ink. Occasionally, a man or an animal quickened its pace or lingered, and the shadows intersected, creating a new image. The lake in the distance was always clear and shimmering, the sun’s rays gleaming on it like diamonds. The snow mountain had always stood there, for a thousand years, even for ten thousand years; it seemed as if it had never changed, and yet each day it was different. There were always eagles overhead, swooping or circling, embellishing the landscape at just the right point. This painting had life – it had a quickness and grace.
Natalia Ginzburg (1916–91) is recognized as one of the foremost Italian writers of the twentieth century, and one of the most eloquent and incisive commentators on postwar Italy.

All Our Yesterdays
Natalia Ginzberg

A moving and unsentimental portrait of a generation at war by the Italian novelist Natalia Ginzburg.

Written in 1952, this is one of the great books by Italian novelist Natalia Ginzburg, whose husband was atrociously murdered by the Nazis in 1944. She herself, the daughter of a distinguished Jewish intellectual family, was an active antifascist, but this is not an obviously political or polemical novel.

It is a scrupulous examination of the feelings of a young woman and her friends, and a portrait of two families against the subtly drawn, epic background of war, of invasion and the collapse of fascism. One of the families is rich, the other much poorer but both endure anxiety, disappointment and grief. People die in air raids or are murdered for their politics, but family quarrels, an adulterous affair or an illness or a suicide are given equal importance, and are equally tragic. The young people drift and collide with each other during these cataclysmic years and world events only occur when they are seen by her characters. This is a moving, strange and unsentimental portrait of a generation at war.

‘An author commonly ranked with Umberto Eco as one of Italy’s most important writers of fiction.’

New York Times

‘There is something of Beckett in Ginzburg’s prose; of Chekhov, whom she greatly admired; and of Shakespeare’s late plays, in which tragedy most often occurs offstage.’

The New Yorker

‘Ginzburg was a masterful writer, a witty, elegant prose stylist and a fiercely intelligent thinker.’

Kirkus (starred review)
Margaret Laurence (1926–1987) grew up in the small prairie town of Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada. Recognised as one of the greatest Canadian writers, her masterwork is The Manawaka sequence.

The Fire-Dwellers
Margaret Laurence

A vivid portrait of female mid-life crisis from one of Canada’s leading writers.

‘Manawaka is a whole literary world... The Fire-Dwellers pursues the pulp of present day (...) but it is proof of Margaret Laurence’s genius that out of such stuff she makes something deep and rich and complex.’ Liz Lochhead

Stacey Cameron, on the cusp of her forties, feels it’s time for a change. Her marriage has worn threadbare and the children no longer need her. Should she have an affair? Take to drink? Or finally confront the woman in the mirror?

The Manawaka sequence includes five novels of which The Fire-Dwellers is the third. The first, The Stone Angel, and the second, A Jest of God, are both available from Apollo.
A graduate of Yale and Cambridge, Ron Chernow won the National Book Award in 1990 for his first book, *The House of Morgan*, which the Modern Library cites as one of the hundred best non-fiction books of the twentieth century.

Grant
Ron Chernow

A majestic biography of Ulysses S. Grant, one of the greatest and most misunderstood figures in American history.

Grant’s story is astonishing, even by the epic standards of a country on its rise to fabulous wealth and global domination. An intelligent young graduate of West Point, he fought in the Mexican War of 1846, but when he was posted to remote forts after that war he engaged in disastrous business ventures and became a chronic alcoholic.

In a very few years, this disgraced, hopeless loser brought his drinking problem under control and proved himself to be the most effective officer in the Union Army. He was Lincoln’s most trusted general, rising through the ranks as he led first a brigade and then whole armies to crucial victories at Shiloh and the siege of Vicksburg on the Mississippi. He commanded an army of over half a million men as he took the fight to the legendary Robert E. Lee in the east, and crushed the Confederacy - and slavery, which he had come to hate.
Max Boot is the author of Invisible Armies, War Made New and Savage Wars of Peace. He has been a writer for the Christian Science Monitor, and Wall Street Journal and is a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

maxboot.net
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The Road Not Taken
Max Boot

The extraordinary story of a former advertising man who became one of America’s most notorious and effective shadow warriors.

In this ambitious biography of Edward Lansdale (1908–87), the man said to be the model for Graham Greene’s The Quiet American, bestselling historian Max Boot demonstrates how Lansdale pioneered a ‘hearts and mind’ diplomacy, first in the Philippines and later in Vietnam. It was a visionary policy that was ultimately crushed by America’s giant military bureaucracy, steered by elitist generals and diplomats who favoured napalm bombs over winning the trust of the people.

Through dozens of interviews and access to documents that have never been seen before – including long-hidden love letters – Boot recasts this cautionary American story, tracing the bold rise and the crashing fall of the roguish ‘T. E. Lawrence of Asia’ from the battle of Dien Bien Phu to the humiliating American evacuation from Saigon in 1975.

‘A brilliant biography of the life – and a riveting description of the times – of Edward Lansdale, one of the most significant figures in post-WWII Philippines and then Vietnam. Just as David Halberstam did in The Best and the Brightest, Max Boot uses superb storytelling skills to cast new light on America’s agonizing involvement in Vietnam. The Road Not Taken not only tells Edward Lansdale’s story with novelist’s verve but also situates it wonderfully in the context of his tumultuous experiences – and offers important lessons for the present day.’

General David Petraeus (U.S. Army, Ret.)

‘Max Boot, one of the premier military historians writing today, has created a fascinating portrait of Edward Lansdale, a maverick in the mold of T.E. Lawrence. But The Road Not Taken is much more than a biography, begging comparison with monumental narratives like Neil Sheehan’s A Bright Shining Lie. Boot gives us a compelling look back on the Vietnam tragedy, showing that it was by no means the inevitable result of forces beyond the control of our political and military leaders.’

Philip Caputo, author of Rumor of War

‘I couldn’t stop reading this engrossing biography of Edward Lansdale, a man who loved his country’s ideals and who secretly fought for them in the Philippines, Vietnam, and Washington, DC. Lansdale’s story is relevant today, because he was a key figure in the debate over how and how not to use military force to achieve American foreign policy aims. Through Lansdale’s efforts we got it right in the Philippines, but no one listened to him in Vietnam. He was forgotten by the time we moved into Afghanistan and Iraq. I fervently hope our policy makers read this book.’

Karl Marlantes, author of Matterhorn
Paul Kenyon has traversed Africa in the footsteps of the dictators. He is a distinguished BBC correspondent and BAFTA award-winning journalist and author.

@paulkenyonTV

The dictator who grew so rich on his country’s cocoa crop that he built a 35-storey-high basilica in the jungles of the Ivory Coast. The austere, incorruptible leader who has shut Eritrea off from the world in a permanent state of war. In Equatorial Guinea, the paranoid despot who thought Hitler was the saviour of Africa and waged a relentless campaign of terror against his own people.

And behind these almost incredible stories of fantastic violence and excess lie the dark secrets of Western greed and complicity, the insatiable taste for chocolate, oil, diamonds and gold that have encouraged dictators to rule with an iron hand, siphoning off their share of the action into mansions in Paris and banks in Zurich and keeping their people in dire poverty.
David Andress is Professor of Modern European History at the University of Portsmouth. He is the author of The Terror: Civil War in the French Revolution, 1789: The Revolutions that Shook the World and Beating Napoleon.

@ProfDaveAndress

Cultural Dementia
How the West has Lost its History, and Risks Losing Everything Else
David Andress

A blistering assessment of the West’s abandonment of history as it succumbs to an attack of social and cultural dementia, by leading historian David Andress.

The author argues that we are suffering from an attack of social and cultural confusion and amnesia.

The former great powers of the historic ‘West’ – especially Britain, the USA and France – seem to be abandoning the wisdom of maturity for senescent daydreams of recovered youth. Along the way they are stirring up old hatreds, giving disturbing voice to destructive rage, and risking the collapse of their capacity for decisive, effective and just governance. At the core of this is an abandonment of political attention to history, understood as a clear empirical grounding in how we reached our present condition. Historical stories are deployed in public debate as little more than dangerous fantasies.

The history of the UK, France and the USA since 1945 is marked indelibly by a sense of entitlement to greatness. Today’s politics place that greatness in an unjustly stolen past, and seeks to scapegoat others as responsible for the theft. Donald Trump’s election slogan ‘Make America Great Again’ booms it out with particular vigour, but the logic of the Brexit campaign’s ‘Take Back Control’ is exactly the same. Marine Le Pen’s slogan, On est chez nous, says more than just ‘we are at home’, its menacing subtext being ‘This is OUR home (and not yours, immigrant)’.

All three of these nations’ political cultures are currently beset by ideas that draw together a closed national labour market, a wide outflow of trade, and the undisputed sovereign power to maintain those things for the benefit of the core, white, population. At first glance, this may seem like simple nostalgia, but it is in fact a distorted, demented version of the past. Britain, France and the USA never existed as entities both closed-off and commanding. Waves of immigration shaped their populations even at the height of imperial splendour, while the cost of maintaining that empire, and the resistance to it, was crippling – and indeed, on this side of the Atlantic, a core reason for hastening towards ‘Europe’ as a more rational and attainable form of greatness. Generations of politicians steered their countries through tempests and rapids where, looking back, many populists now see only the calm waters of a safe harbour.
What really marked out Edith Thompson was something timeless: a profound allure, an intensity of femaleness. She was not beautiful, or at least not always: her looks were protean, ambiguous, both delicate and opulent. Her letters to her lover, Frederick Bywaters, a virile-looking ship steward some eight years her junior, show her to have been childlike, excitable... with a peculiar quality of absorption in life and her feelings about it. Her soul was in those letters, and they decided her fate.

Prejudice changes with the times, yet it is always essentially the same; that is to say, resistant to reason... Even today there would be prejudice against Edith Thompson. Indeed she would probably arouse the same mixture of misogyny and sanctimony that killed her in 1923: the image of the rapacious, devious cougar inciting her pretty-boy plaything would still hold sway. No law can eradicate prejudice. In fact it can allow it to flourish, by giving it apparent legitimacy. Perhaps the most terrifying thing about the Thompson-Bywaters case is the way in which the justice system, while proclaiming its impartiality, made prejudice seem like common sense.
Henrietta Knight lives in West Lockinge, where she trained the great racehorse Best Mate with her late husband Terry Biddlecombe. She is the author of three bestselling books, *Best Mate: Chasing Gold*, *Best Mate: Triple Gold* and *Not Enough Time* – a memoir of Terry.

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The Jumping Game
How Trainers Work and What Makes Them Tick
Henrietta Knight

Retired racehorse trainer and bestselling author Henrietta Knight probes the secrets of thirty top National Hunt trainers in England and Ireland.

As the woman who trained the great Best Mate to win three consecutive Cheltenham Gold Cups, no one could be better qualified than Henrietta Knight to discover what makes today’s top jumps trainers succeed.

From eccentric, outspoken Yorkshireman Mick Easterby, to elegant, aristocratic Venetia William; from Irish wizard Willie Mullins to perfectionist champion trainer, Paul Nicholls and young pretender, Dan Skelton here is a dazzling cast of extraordinary characters, all with their quirks and foibles, but with one single-minded ambition – finding first-class horses and training them to win big races. Their stories are fascinating, each one illustrated with unique photographs from private albums.

PRAISE FOR *NOT ENOUGH TIME*

‘Not Enough Time is as much a love story as a memoir... Knight writes movingly about their unexpected joy together and the emptiness and loss it left behind.’ The Observer (2015 Books of the Year)

‘A love story in the real sense of those words about her life with one-time hellraiser and reformed alcoholic... Anybody who can read either the prologue or the conclusion without a moistness in the eye must have something other than blood flowing through their veins.’ The Spectator

‘I read the book in one night, gripped. Yes, it’s sentimental, but it’s beautifully written, funny and tearjerking and a reminder never to give up on true love.’ Country Life

‘Henrietta Knight’s latest book gives a glimpse into the life that she shared with her great love Terry Biddlecombe... The beautifully written narrative feels truly honest and flows in a way that makes it seem as though Hen is there, telling you the story personally.’ Horse and Hound

There is no cannier, or more careful, man in racing than Sheriff Hutton trainer Mick Easterby. He started from humble beginnings with a handful of horses that he had to exercise in an unsuspecting neighbour’s field. Since then, with a career spanning over half a century, he has raced literally thousands of winners, including Classic-winning filly Mrs McArdy.

Venetia Williams was an amateur National Hunt jockey until forced to retire after suffering a broken neck in 1988. In 2009, Venetia became the second female trainer to win the Grand National with Mon Mome and is now one of the top ten trainers in the country.

In a tough, competitive industry, these trainers and many more share their dramatic journeys, methods and secrets with retired trainer Henrietta Knight. For the trainers, every win reignites the thrill of the sport and a craving for success that never dies.
• Legend has it that the origins of the stethoscope date from 1816, when an embarrassed French physician, René Théophile Hyacinthe Laënnec, wished to listen to the heart of a young, rather plump, female patient, but felt it inappropriate to place his head close to her breasts. So he rolled up his notebook and put one end on the young lady’s chest and the other to his ear. Voilà!

• The official medical term used to describe the act of picking one’s nose is ‘rhinotillexomania’.

• Boys at Eton College were ordered to smoke pipes during England’s Great Plague of 1665–6, tobacco smoke then being regarded as a means of preventing infection.

• George Washington did not enjoy the same standards of medical care and excellence as his twenty-first century American presidential successors: in 1799, after the ex-president caught a chill, he was placed in the care of three expert physicians; first they removed several pints of blood; then they gave him a mercury-based emetic; and then dried beetles were applied to his neck. The former president did not last the night.

• The mid-thirteenth-century Eye Book of Master Peter of Spain includes a cure for the loss of eyebrows. ‘Tried and true: lizards of the walls are cooked three times in oil and (when removed) from the oil are smeared on eyebrows.’
**Matchstick Man**

**Julia Kelly**

An unforgettable account of living with Alzheimer’s Disease by the wife of a brilliant artist whose mind is collapsing.

Unbearably honest and exceptionally well written, this is the story of a mind’s disintegration and its effects on the partner and family of the man they are losing to confusion, distress and amnesia.

Julia Kelly is an Irish novelist whose partner, a successful artist, fell prey to the ravages of Alzheimer’s. In Matchstick Man she describes – quietly and unsentimentally – his increasingly disturbing behaviour and the sequence of dreadful epiphanies that characterize his decline. A heartbreaking account of a destructive and distressing disease and the relationships it affects.

‘At least we have our Nipe. The wee bat,’ he says, smiling at the thought of her – our beautiful, solid, perfect, healthy child, five doors down from us now. ‘I can still see his face. The back of his head. The back of his head came off in my hand,’ he says, holding his shaking fingers high and stiff in the air. He looks at them, wild eyed, reimagining the horror and wanting me to imagine it with him, as though this was his first time to describe Michael’s death to me. ‘It never goes. His face. The poor wee thing.’ He is remembering our tiny baby at birth and the bleeding head of the boy who had died in his arms. The two events, the two deaths, have somehow merged, become muddled, in Charlie’s mind.

I yell goodbye, make a dash for the car, holding my satchel over my head, yelping like a teenager. It’s only as I’m reversing, at the gate and about to turn the wheel hard to the right to face towards Greystones, that I notice Charlie. He is at the sitting-room window, perched on the back of the sofa, his feet against the window ledge, watching me as I leave, watching the rain. Even in those few moments I can see that he is not simply crying, but howling so deeply, with such primal force and pain, that his face is entirely contorted.
FOOTPRINTS IN THE HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION

The Landmark Library is a record of the achievements of humankind from the late Stone Age to the present day. Each volume in the series is devoted to a crucial theme in the history of civilization, and offers a concise and authoritative text accompanied by a generous complement of images. Contributing authors to Landmark Library are chosen for their ability to combine scholarship with a flair for communicating their specialist knowledge to a wider, non-specialist readership.
Hadrian’s Wall
Adrian Goldsworthy

A beautifully produced account of the history and importance of Hadrian’s Wall by a bestselling author and expert on Ancient Rome.

Located at the far-flung and wild edge of the Roman Empire, Hadrian’s Wall was constructed by Emperor Hadrian in the 120s AD. Vast in size and stretching from the east to the west coast of the northern part of Britannia, it took ten years and thousands of hands to build the seventy-three miles of wall and its impressive forts.

Perhaps the greatest physical reminder and monument of Roman Britain, the remnants of the wall are still visible on the uplands of Cumbria and Northumberland, and it is one of the most visited heritage sites in the country.

Adrian Goldsworthy considers why and how the Vallum Aelium was built and discusses the fascinating history, afterlife and archaeology of this unique ancient monument.

James Hamilton is an art historian and biographer. He is the author of A Strange Business: Making Art and Money in Nineteenth-Century Britain and Gainsborough: A Portrait. His biography of Turner was shortlisted for the James Tait Black Memorial Award.

jhhamilton.co.uk

The British Museum
James Hamilton

A concise history of one of the world’s greatest museum collections, from its founding in 1753 to the present day.

A product and symbol of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment, the British Museum is as iconic an expression of that cultural tendency as Johnson’s Dictionary, the French Encyclopédie and Linnaean plant classification. Its collections embody the raw material of empiricism – the bringing together of things to enable the widest intellectual experiment to take place.

James Hamilton explores the establishment of the Museum in the 1750s (from the bequest to the nation of the collections of Sir Hans Sloane); the chosen site of its location; the subsequent development, expansion and diversification of the Museum, both as a collection and as a building, from the early nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries; the controversy occasioned by some of its acquisitions; and the legacy and influence of the Museum nationally and globally.
Skyscraper  
Dan Cruickshank

The story of the first great skyscraper, and the transformation of the modern city.

Chicago's beautiful Reliance Building, fourteen stories tall, was designed in 1890 by John Root. In its construction – metal frame, large areas of plate glass, fire-proof brick and terracotta cladding – it pioneers all the key elements of twentieth century high-rise architecture, and many of the tenets of Modernism.

Cruickshank reflects on the extraordinary architectural, artistic and engineering world of the 1890s and its great figures such as Louis Sullivan, Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Otto Wagner. He looks forward to the Reliance building's immediate progeny, such as the 1902 Flatiron Building in New York and to the hubristic high-rise architecture of the twenty-first century.

This is also the story of Gilded Age Chicago, which was burned to the ground in 1871. The city – corrupt, violent and fabulously wealthy – was ready to try anything, even revolutionary forms of architecture.

The Reliance was the most architecturally consistent, functionally excellent, visually restrained, structurally rational and technologically innovative high-rise ever built. In the aesthetic expression of its techniques of construction, it was the key prototype for high-rise architecture of the coming century.

As the architectural historian Carl Condit put it: 'the building is the triumph of the structuralist and functionalist approach of the Chicago school. In its grace and airiness, in the purity and exactitude of its proportions and details, in the brilliant perfection of its transparent elevations [the Reliance Building] anticipated the future.'
Håkan Nesser is a Swedish author and teacher who has written a number of successful books. He has won Best Swedish Crime Novel Award three times, and the Glass Key award in 2000. His books have been translated into more than twenty languages.

Norton is probably one of the most well-travelled dogs in the world. He has chased down tennis balls in Central Park, checked out the fairer sex in Kensington Gardens and rescued a woman in distress on the Swedish island of Gotland.

Norton and Håkan got to spend eleven years together. They shared many adventures and developed an enormously strong bond of love and friendship. In these memoirs, Norton the dog and philosopher recounts his numerous travels, his best tips for enjoying life, and the many wisdoms he has amassed from living his life with the two-legged race called human beings.

Composed with love, tenderness and subtle sense of humour, Norton’s Philosophical Memoirs is Håkan Nesser’s small, thoughtful and celebratory volume to his beloved dog Norton. A book that will suit both dog lovers as well as anyone who has ever wondered what human behaviour actually looks like to our four-legged friends.
Because I Said So
And Other Unreasonable Tales of Motherhood
Shari Low

Hilarious, heartfelt stories of a mother and her two sons from egg to empty nest.

The glossy perfection of the ‘yummy mummy’ era is well and truly over, and at last we can celebrate the truth about motherhood in all its sleep-deprived, frazzled glory.

Has your three year old locked himself in a toilet because he didn’t want to change his Buzz Lightyear pull-up pants? Have you survived eight bouts of chicken pox with your little ones? Because I Said So is Shari’s collection of her favourite stories of motherhood including all the embarrassing mistakes, disastrous summer holidays and childhood milestones along the way.

This is the book that will make every mum smile for ten minutes even on the most catastrophic of days.

10 Things My Two Boys Have Taught Me

#1 I am destined to sit on a wet toilet seat for the rest of my life.
#2 Farting is not a bodily function, it’s a form of entertainment surpassed only by surreptitious nose picking and anything to do with Power Rangers.
#3 The best time to announce that you’ve learned a new swear word is in a crowded shop. Ditto asking mum to explain words relating to bodily functions or body parts.
#4 At the end of every day, boys slump into exhaustion – until you mention the word ‘bed’. This is the trigger for an energy surge strong enough to attempt to set a new world record for complaining.
#5 Felt pen is permanent even when it’s not supposed to be.
#6 It is compulsory to attain food stains and suspicious damp patches on the way to visit relatives.
#7 Words of complaint, annoyance or indignation should always have at least six vowels. Aaaaaaw Muuuuuum!
#8 There are three standard replies to all accusatory questions: ‘It wasn’t me.’ ‘I wasn’t there.’ And ‘He did it.’
#9 Scented candles can provide momentary relief, they cannot however perform miracles.
#10 Nothing, but nothing swells the heart like two gorgeous wee guys showering you with kisses and vowing that they’ll never leave their mum. Although I do realise that the effect of this may change when said guys reach middle age.
My hip was resurfaced in July 2014: Mr L. cut through skin and muscle, whipped the top off my femur and screwed a titanium hemisphere in its place. Since I was clearly falling apart, I had two options: to give up and grow fat; or behave as if the past two years of pain had been aberrations, and ignore the example of my sedentary friends. I decided to keep on searching and striving: I didn’t want to put the cork back in the bottle and call it a night.

I’ve always loved surfing, although I’ve never been as good at it as I hoped. I’ve always wanted to realise a teenage dream, to catch a tube... Tubes occur when deep-water swells slam up against a shallow coast, and the crest of a wave pitches forward to create a temporary tunnel along its face. The aim is to ride inside the tunnel as it closes behind you, but before it rolls you up and spits you out. My friends who have caught one say that time inside a tube is time outside time...

So why not try to catch one now? If time really slowed down or stopped inside them, then perhaps I could steal a few seconds back from the clock: pause time’s arrow mid-flight, if only for the space of a single heartbeat?

Iain Gately was born in 1963 and brought up in Hong Kong. He studied law at Cambridge before working in corporate finance. He is the author of several critically acclaimed books including *Drink*, *La Diva Nicotina* and *Rush Hour*. The Secret Surfer is an exploration of an activity that attracts loners, obsessives and eccentrics; a lyrical evocation of places in Devon, Cornwall, Galicia and the Canary Islands; and a rousing call to all of us not to give up too soon. Gately’s quest, whether it ends in triumph or in failure, offers a mixture of introspection and adventure, and a search for self-knowledge and physical endeavour.
Well Seasoned
Russell Brown and Jonathan Haley

A complete guide to living a seasonal life with fantastic recipes that make the most of Britain's seasonal ingredients.

Have you ever wanted to pick wild garlic, fish for mackerel, and hunt for mushrooms – and learn how to cook them?

Structured month by month, Well Seasoned is the complete guide to British seasonal living. Packed with fantastic recipes that make the most of Britain’s seasonal ingredients every month of the year, this book is not only an inspiration but also a practical guide that will show you how to source and cook with the finest and freshest ingredients all year round.

Well Seasoned is perfect for anyone interested in living a holistic, seasonal life.

If you've ever wanted to know exactly when the asparagus season starts, this book is for you. If you like the idea of picking wild garlic but aren’t quite sure where to begin, you’re in the right place. And if you’re looking for fantastic recipes that make the most of Britain’s finest seasonal produce every month of the year, we can definitely help you.

We’ve picked gooseberries in June, foraged cobnuts in October, caught cuttlefish in July and roasted venison in November. Along the way, we've learned how everything we see, eat and experience, from the height of summer to the depths of winter, is inextricably linked to the seasons.

To date, other food writers have only told half the story. It’s all very well knowing that crayfish are in season in May, but how much better to know how and where to catch them yourself? Spiced squash is the perfect Halloween dish, but so much more satisfying when you’ve picked your own pumpkin or spiced it with home-grown chillies.

Without learning more about seasonality and the impact it has on the world around us, ‘seasonal food’ is only an abstract concept. So, this book isn’t merely a guide to seasonal eating but to seasonal living.
Pixie Turner is a food blogger, biochemist (BSc), nutritionist (MSc, AfN), writer, and speaker. As well as organising food events in London, she has also been featured in various publications as both a nutritional expert and recipe developer.

plantbased-pixie.com @plantbasedpixie

The Wellness Rebel
Pixie Turner

The complete guide to sorting nutrition fact from fiction using evidence-based science and delicious recipes.

The healthy eating market continues to thrive, with authors like Joe Wicks seeing record-breaking sales for accessible books. In recent months, however, there has been a backlash against certain healthy lifestyle brands, particularly those without scientific qualifications who promote ‘clean eating’. The Wellness Rebel explores the aftermath of this, looking at where balanced healthy eating will go next and how we can get back to evidence-based basics and enjoy eating well.

With each chapter themed around a common healthy food ‘myth’ such as ‘Alkaline’, ‘Raw’ and ‘Superfoods’, The Wellness Rebel explores the basics of nutrition in an accessible and entertaining way, with Pixie sharing her tips, tricks and tastiest recipes – including her much-loved Pixie Plates – for a truly healthy diet, with no detoxes, no elimination diets, no restrictions – and absolutely no nutribollocks.

Pixie’s Top 10 Tips for Detecting Nutribollocks

One single answer to all problems, regardless of cause
One size fits all approach to eating and living
‘Miracle’ foods/superfoods, with no evidence to support them
Reliance on ancient wisdoms
Reliance on conspiracy theories
Complete rejection of any evidence that doesn’t support the argument (cherry-picking studies)
Reliance on anecdotes
Telling you your body is full of toxins, followed by how to ‘detox’ it
Naturalistic fallacy (‘natural is always better’)
Excessive fearmongering of foods and ingredients
’I never intended to create a book about street art. Through painting buildings and architecture, street art had become an incidental motif within my work. The buildings I was drawn to and found visually appealing were the dusty ones, the dilapidated ones, the tired ones. The exact same buildings in the same parts of town that welcomed the street artists.

Yet by replicating the street art on my version of painted walls, something strange and new happened. The art and the place became unified and made one through the watercolour washes. No longer paint on brick, but the representation of paint on brick, through paint on paint.

Henri Cartier-Bresson said “Photography is an immediate reaction, drawing is a meditation.”

They say that the more you know about something, the more you know you don’t know. This book is a collection of moments and meditations on these places, yet at the end of this set of travels I realised that I had barely scratched the surface and could probably spend a lifetime visiting a thousand cities to hear a thousand stories.

This is, therefore, just the beginning. It is in no way comprehensive but the first tentative steps in trying to understand the world a little better by looking at the writing on the wall.’
An informal Facebook poll was in order to see if the women I knew had any behaviour in their teenage pasts that could hold up to the epic stupidity of teenage boys. Here are some of the responses I received from sensation-seeking sisters:

**Friend One**
We jumped off ropes into waterholes. Drank goon around fires near the cliffsides. Crossed train tracks to bush hideouts to smoke bongs. Packed eight people in a car to go search for magic mushrooms.

**Friend Two**
The fad with the cool girls in Year 7 was the ‘passing out’ game – basically depriving yourself of oxygen, so that when you came to you got a little head spin.

**Friend Three**
Spraying aerosol deodorant into a lid and drinking it for the alcohol.

**Friend Four**
We bonnet-bashed while drunk on West Coast Cooler – clinging to the bonnet of the car as it drove around a paddock.

**Friend Five**
We’d turn aerosol deodorant into blowtorches.

**Friend Six**
We’d pile into a Torana, drunk, and speed along the notoriously dark and windy roads of the park at the top end of town, with the headlights off.

To these I can add my own youthful adventures:

Buying every legal high in Camden Market, then ticking off every illegal one: hash, acid, mushrooms, mescaline, ecstasy, speed, cocaine, ketamine, heroin, crack. Lighting fires in the bathroom.

Practising the art of escape, daily, by jumping drunk out of my parents’ second-storey bathroom window. Crashing the family car on a forty-five-second joy-ride. Getting into the car of drunken strangers, which caught fire when it swung off an embankment and into a tree.

Insisting my (largely mute) mini-taxi driver cut short his shift and join me in Soho’s premier glam-metal club, Gossips. Getting frogmarched out of a venue for being sexy in the toilets.

Falling down a staircase into a table of cocktails at a celebrity violinist’s house and punching a fellow guest.

Jenny Valentish is a regular contributor to the Sydney Morning Herald and the Saturday Paper, as well as a former editor of Time Out Melbourne and Triple J’s Jmag. She grew up in Slough and moved to Australia in 2006.

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**Woman of Substances**

Jenny Valentish

A young woman’s journey into addiction and treatment.

Journalist Jenny Valentish investigates the female experience of drugs and alcohol, using her own story to light the way. From her childhood in suburban Slough to the London indie-rock scene, we follow her journey to Australia and later treatment facilities and AA groups. Mining the expertise of leading researchers, she explores the early predictors of addiction, such as childhood trauma and temperament, and teenage impulsivity.

Drawing on neuroscience, she explains why other self-destructive behaviours – such as eating disorders, compulsive buying and high-risk sex – are interchangeable with problematic substance use.

Valentish follows the pathways that women, in particular, take into addiction – and out again. *Woman of Substances* is an insightful, rigorous and brutally honest read.
Badass Baby Names

500 rebel names inspired by the most awesome / fearless / cool men and women in history

Marvella Nomine

Growing a baby? Got to name it? No sweat. Take naming inspiration from the ultimate, most kickass men and women in history.

This baby name book is an A–Z of total badasses, explains what gives them serious swagger and the reasons why they are worthy of being your future son or daughter’s moniker. From the world-changers and fearless adventurers, to the whip-smart inventors and scientists of the last five centuries, why not name your little bundle after humans to admire, celebrate and love?

Take name ideas from those who kicked Fascist ass, the kings and queens taking bravery to another level, or from a doctor with so much badassitude he saved his own life blindly removing his appendix in the middle of the Antarctic.

This is the book for every parent-to-be looking for inspirational name ideas for their future badass baby.
Yaba Badoe is an award-winning Ghanaian-British documentary filmmaker and writer. In 2014 Yaba was nominated for the Distinguished Woman of African Cinema award.

@yaba_badoe

A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars
Yaba Badoe

A powerful, haunting, contemporary debut that steps seamlessly from the horrors of people-trafficking to the magic of African folklore, by an award-winning Ghanaian-British filmmaker.

Sante was a baby when she was washed ashore in a sea-chest laden with treasure. It seems she is the sole survivor of the tragic sinking of a ship carrying migrants and refugees. Her people.

Fourteen years on, she’s a member of Mama Rose’s unique and dazzling circus. But, from their watery grave, the unquiet dead are calling Sante to avenge them:

A bamboo flute. A golden bangle. A ripening mango which must not fall... if Sante is to tell their story and her own.

Rich in the rhythms and colours of Africa and glittering circus days, unflinching in its dark revelations about life, Yaba Badoe’s novel is beautiful and cruel and will linger long in the memory.

Photo credit: Samuel Mbaya

Artwork: Leo Nickolls
Dr Ben Garrod lectures at Anglia-Ruskin University. He broadcasts regularly on TV and radio and is trustee and ambassador to a number of key conservation organisations. So You Think You Know About Dinosaurs? is his debut series and he will tour the UK in Spring 2018 to talk about it.

@Ben_garrod

Here are five things you may not have known before you got the chance to read Ben’s books, the most UP-TO-DATE dinosaur books on the market.

- *Chickens are dinosaurs. Pterodactyls are not.*

- *Monkey puzzle trees developed their spiny leaves to avoid becoming dino brunch and still have them 66 million years later.*

- *Some dinosaurs cooed like pigeons or honked like geese. Dinosaurs didn’t all roar.*

- *T. rex could lift at least 200 kg with its arms. A human would definitely not win an arm-wrestle with a T. rex.*

- *Ask an Expert and you’ll discover that T. rex may have been able to walk or run at 40kph.*

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‘To make a kid fall in love with science is the greatest thing we very lucky few can give back to society.’

Ben Garrod

Patron of NatSCA (Natural Sciences Collections Association) • Trustee of the Jane Goodall Institute • Ambassador of the Wildlife Trust • Ambassador of the Marine Conservation Society • Ambassador of Bristol Museum

So You Think You Know About Dinosaurs?

So You Think You Know About Dinosaurs?

Dr Ben Garrod

The most up-to-date dinosaur books on the market.

Ben Garrod’s So You Think You Know About Dinosaurs? is fun, funny and informative. This highly collectible, pocket-size series launches with Tyrannosaurus Rex, Diplodocus and Triceratops, with Velociraptor, Stegosaurus and Spinosaurus following in September 2018.

TV scientist, Dr Ben Garrod, is proud to be a geek as he mixes hard science and humour to prove that science is for everyone. All children know their dinosaurs but Ben encourages them to think differently, revealing how new discoveries and breakthroughs occur in science every day. By looking at the evolutionary arms race, prey, predators, place, time, groups and species, Ben reveals new-look dinosaurs. Each book contains additional sections: Ask an Expert, New Science and Fossil Finder as well as quizzes to test your dinosaur knowledge.

Photo credit: Darren Williams

PALEODART BY SCOTT HARTMAN AND GABRIEL UGUETO

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ETHAN KOČAK
‘Mam, it’s Danny. What’s the marra?’ I shouted.
The crying stopped, dead quick.
‘Go downstairs, Danny,’ she screamed.
The way her voice sounded scared me more than the crying.
‘Y’alreet, Mam?’ Stupid question.
‘Yes.’ Stupid answer.
Course she wasn’t all right. You don’t cry like that when you’re all right. Not unless there’s something really sad on telly. Or somebody’s dead. Or a pet.
‘Have you hurt yourself?’
‘Go away, Danny, please.’
Wanted to. Didn’t.
‘What’s happened?’
‘Nothing.’

My novel was inspired by my time at Comic Relief, and one incident in particular. As Creative Director, I visited a project that helped women and children who had suffered as a result of domestic violence. I was particularly moved by one teenage boy, who could barely speak as a result of the abuse he’d witnessed. I began thinking about what might be going on in this young boy’s head. He became the inspiration for Danny, the main character in my story.

I was born and brought up in Tyneside and regularly visit the North East to see my mam, friends and relatives. Many of the locations featured are places that I know very well.

Malcolm Duffy

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES W. FORTUNE
The Mystery of the Colour Thief
Ewa Jozefkowicz

First the accident, then the nightmares. The shadowy thief steals all the colours from Izzy’s world leaving her feeling empty and hopeless. Will her new neighbour and a nest full of cygnets save Izzy and solve the mystery of the colour thief? A heartwarming story about families, friendships, school, nature, hope and self-confidence.

After a frightening car accident, Izzy’s mum is in a coma. Her family is in pieces. Her best friend at school has dumped her. And her nightmares are haunted by a shadowy man stealing all the colours from her world. She’s trying so hard to be brave, but Izzy thinks everything is her fault. Then she meets her new neighbour, Toby, paralyzed after a skateboarding accident, and together they find a nest of cygnets who need rescuing. Particularly the odd one out, called Spike. Will saving Spike save Izzy? Will she and Toby solve the mystery of the colour thief and bring hope and happiness back to Izzy’s life?

Written with insight, compassion and empathy – an authentic debut about real life and how to survive it.

‘I have been writing since I was at school. My father was a bookseller, and spending time in his bookshops sparked my love of reading – everything from Jacqueline Wilson to Roald Dahl and the Point Horror series. Apart from writing, I love to discover new children’s books. I love browsing the shelves looking for the next thing to read. I enjoy real-life stories, which can sometimes be very sad. My favourite ever children’s book is Roald Dahl’s Esio Trot.’

EWA JOZEFKOWICZ

Photo credit: Ruta Zukaite
Cixin Liu is China’s #1 SF writer and author of The Three-Body Problem – the first ever translated novel to win a Hugo Award. Prior to becoming a writer, Liu worked as an engineer in a power plant in Yangquan.

@liu_cixin

Remembrance of Earth’s Past
Cixin Liu

A stunning limited edition omnibus of the Three Body trilogy

By turns sombre, lyrical, and hopeful, the Remembrance of Earth’s Past omnibus comprises The Three-Body Problem, The Dark Forest and Death’s End.

Not only a remembrance of Earth’s past but a reflection on humanity’s future, the trilogy weaves a complex web of physics, philosophy and history, taking the reader from the Cultural Revolution to the heat death of the universe.

Cixin Liu’s vision has gained a cult following all around the world, not only hard-core SF fans but also tech titans and presidents. The first novel, The Three-Body Problem, was the first ever translated work to win the Hugo Award for Best Novel.

To celebrate the conclusion of the series, Head of Zeus are printing a numbered and signed one-volume edition of the books that have captured the imagination of readers all over the world.
Terra Ignota

Science fiction often has asked contemporary questions of an imagined future. In the four-volume Terra Ignota novel series, author Ada Palmer has reflected this tradition back upon itself, exploring the questions the brilliant world of 2454 might ask when faced with its own unknowable future.

After citizenship and religion, family and language, law and freedom have been utterly reformed over half a century of war and three centuries of peace, where do the denizens of a near-Utopia turn for answers when their world order faces upheaval? A notorious criminal genius is the historian of the world’s remaking; a mysterious spiritual counsellor seeks truth in a world that has atomized religion; carnality and high politics join to preserve the old order as a rumoured god, an omnipotent child, a celebrity assassin and a living myth struggle to shape the future as a rediscovered orator calls for inevitable war...

Seven Surrenders
Ada Palmer

The second episode in the ambitious Terra Ignota series from a John W. Campbell Award Winner.

It is 2454. Humanity has engineered a hard-won golden age, forged in the aftermath of a bitter conflict that wiped both religion and nation state from the planet. Now seven factions or ‘hives’ co-govern the world by technological abundance, oracular statistical analysis, censorship and just a little blood.

For centuries, the price of peace has been a few secret murders, mathematically planned. Convict Mycroft Canner knows more about this conspiracy than he can ever admit, but he also conceals a much greater threat to the seven hives – a wild card no degree of statistical analysis could have prophesied. This threat takes the unlikely form of a thirteen-year-old called Bridger. For how will a world that has banished God deal with a child who can perform miracles?

‘The kind of science fiction that makes me excited all over again about what science fiction can do.’ Jo Walton

‘Provocative, erudite, inventive, resplendent.’ Ken Liu

‘Bold, furiously inventive, and mesmerizing... The best science fiction I’ve read in a long while.’ Robert Charles Wilson

Ada Palmer is an author, historian and composer. She did her PhD at Harvard, teaches History at the University of Chicago, blogs at ExUrbe.com, composes close harmony folk music and performs with the capella group Sassafrass.

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Eighteen Below
Stefan Ahnhem

From the award-winning international bestseller Stefan Ahnhem, the latest thriller starring detective Fabian Risk.

ON A HOT SUMMER’S DAY

The police chase a speeding car through the streets of Helsingborg. When they reach the quay, the driver keeps going, straight into the cold, dark waters of the Öresund strait.

A TRAGIC ACCIDENT

The body recovered from the wreck is that of Peter Brise, a successful tech entrepreneur. Fabian Risk and his team are confident this is suicide. Young, rich, successful – Brise just didn’t know how to ask for help.

TURNS EVERYTHING A LITTLE BIT COLDER...

But then the autopsy reveals something unexpected. Brise was already dead when his car crashed. He’d been brutally murdered two months ago. His body frozen in perfect condition, at eighteen degrees below zero...
City of Endless Night
Preston & Child

#1 bestselling authors Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child return with their next blockbuster Pendergast novel.

A manhunt for the missing daughter of a wealthy tech billionaire becomes something altogether different when the young woman’s body is discovered in an abandoned warehouse in Kew Gardens, Queens... but her head is nowhere to be found. Soon it becomes clear there are at least two killers on the loose – one responsible for the young woman’s death, another responsible for the mutilation. A pair of killers requires a team of equally talented investigators. Luckily, both Vincent D’Agosta and Special Agent Pendergast are back in town.

D’Agosta hopes that this latest case will distract Pendergast from Constance Green’s decision to leave New York for Tibet – and provide Pendergast the opportunity to work a case back on his home turf for the first time in years. But neither is prepared to face a team of killers as diabolical as this. It will take all of Pendergast’s and D’Agosta’s intelligence and strength simply to match wits with their latest adversaries – let alone stay alive.

Dr. Aloysius Xingú Leng Pendergast
Curriculum Vitae

A Special Agent with the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, assigned to the New Orleans office of the FBI, but frequently travels the world investigating serial killings with a predilection for the supernatural.

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, Pendergast studied Anthropology at Harvard University and received dual doctorates in Classics and Philosophy from Balliol College, a constituent college of the University of Oxford, although he prefers the title ‘Special Agent’ to that of ‘Doctor’.

Pendergast religiously dresses in black Hardy Amies suits hand-tailored from a special blend of wool not made since the 1950s, paired with handmade Charvet or Jay Kos ties; he is consequently described by many friends as looking like a ‘fashionable undertaker’.

Well-learned in many subjects, he converses easily with doctors, scientists, intellectuals, vagrants, highly specialized masters of specific disciplines, and people of a wide variety of language and culture alike. He is a master of psychological manipulation, disguise, and improvisation, and a polyglot, demonstrating mastery of French, Italian, Latin, Greek, Portuguese and Cantonese; he is also semi-fluent in Mandarin and has some knowledge of Japanese.

His weapons of choice are several custom 1911 handguns, including Les Baer and Wilson Combat models. He is also exceptionally skilled in close quarters combat.

Never one to be caught empty-handed, Pendergast carries a variety of hidden tools, such as lock picks, flashlights of various sizes, test tubes, syringes, and forensic chemicals.

Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child are the authors of international #1 bestselling thrillers, including the Agent Pendergast adventures. Douglas lives in New Mexico, Lincoln in New Jersey.

prestonchild.com
The protagonist of the series, Aurelius Castus, is a professional soldier, devoted to the legions and to his emperor; the type of tough military man that made Rome such a great world power. But I wanted a protagonist who, while entirely inhabiting his age, also had a greater inner complexity. So, while he’s a very straightforward, unsophisticated man, and often frustrated by the complexities of power, Castus retains a strong core of ethical humanity that throws him into conflict with the twisted morals of his age.

As he rises from the relatively simple world of the legions, to the treacherous environment of the imperial court and the higher reaches of power, his beliefs about himself, his loyalty to the emperors he serves and the civilisation he loves, are tested to breaking point.

Most other stories of the Roman world are set hundreds of years earlier, in the familiar age of the Caesars; Castus’s adventures take place against a darker and often more vividly alien backdrop. One with unsettling echoes of our own times.

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.

ianjamesross.com
@IanRossAuthor

Imperial Vengeance
Ian Ross

The fifth novel in the Twilight of Empire series sees Aurelius Castus caught between loyalty to the Emperor Constantine and the plotting of his son.

Aurelius Castus is one of the leading military commanders of an empire riven by civil war. As the emperor Constantine grows ever more ruthless in his pursuit of power, Castus fears that the world he knows is slipping away.

On the eve of the war’s final campaign, Castus discovers that the emperor’s son Crispus aims to depose his father and restore the old ways of Rome.

Castus must choose between honour and survival, and face a final confrontation with the most powerful man in the Roman world, the ruler he has sworn loyally to serve: the emperor Constantine himself.
‘You never know what you’ve got till it’s gone,’ so goes the saying, but I think that sometimes you can know what you’ve got just at the point of losing it.’

‘When they were in their seventies, my parents were part of a reminiscence group called ‘Bermondsey Memories’ and one day a group of academics came to their house conducting a study about building communities in the modern world. They were looking for answers in the history of Bermondsey: the village-like, working-class, riverside area in the heart of London. But all my parents could tell them were that times were hard in those days, growing up between the wars, and people naturally helped each other.

Ironically, the very things that had potentially caused most misery in the lives of Bermondsey people: the poverty, poor housing, lack of health care, had proved to be the source of their community spirit. But when your birthplace becomes the subject of an academic study, you know it is fast fading into history and I wanted to capture that lost world in my books before it was totally forgotten.’

Mary Gibson
Shroud of Eternity
Terry Goodkind

In a spin-off from the Sword of Truth series comes the second book of The Nicci Chronicles, where new alliances are forged and old enemies return.

The formidable sorceress and one-time Sister of the Dark Nicci and her companions – the newly powerless Nathan and the youthful Bannon – set out on another quest after driving ruthless Norukai slavers out of Renda Bay. Their mission: restore Nathan’s magic and, for Nicci, save the world.

Guided by the witchwoman Red’s mysterious prophecy, the trio makes their way south of Kol Adair towards a wondrous city shrouded behind time, Ildakar. But the grotesque omens on their path to Nathan’s salvation – severed Norukai heads on pikes, a genetically modified monster, and a petrified army of half a million – are just a taste of the unimaginable horrors that await within the Shroud of Eternity.

Terry Goodkind has been a wildlife artist, a cabinetmaker, a racing driver and a violin maker. He writes thrillers as well as epic fantasy and lives in the desert in Nevada.

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FANTASY

A new series centered on one of the best-loved characters in the now-concluded SWORD OF TRUTH series

SISTER OF DARKNESS
THE NIKKI CHRONICLES

SWORD OF TRUTH

[ 91 ]
It took many iterations to arrive in the form the Shadow Campaigns finally took, but the basic idea was pretty straightforward. I have always loved George R.R. Martin’s A Song of Ice and Fire, and in particular I liked how he brought the classic knights-and-castles fantasy closer to its historical roots, grounding it in an analogue of twelfth–thirteenth century England and Scotland. I was really interested in doing something similar, not so much replicating Martin’s darker style but his approach to secondary world-building drawing on history. But, I knew I didn’t want to do a traditional fantasy, because he’d largely covered that ground.

Sometime in 2006 or 2007, I was doing a lot of reading through the libraries of some of my wargaming buddies. I read S.M. Stirling and David Drake’s The General series, which is a retelling of the campaigns of Belisarius in a fallen empire SF setting. And I read David Chandler’s The Campaigns of Napoleon, which is an enormous, engrossing history of all of Napoleon’s military adventures. The combination of these two pretty much got me started – I knew I wanted to do a General-style retelling of the Napoleonic wars, in an Ice and Fire-style world based on the appropriate historical period.

As I said, things went through a lot of changes before the final version. (For one thing, it took almost four more years until I finished a first draft.) In particular, The Shadow Campaigns ended up being much more loosely based on actual history then I had envisioned – there’s bits and pieces left, and a few interesting details, but the chronology and narrative no longer match up with the career of the historical Napoleon. But the basic idea of using a historical setting as a basis for a fantasy world is still something I’m excited about – there’s so much of history we barely draw on!

DJANGO WEXLER

Django Wexler graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh with degrees in creative writing and computer science, and worked for the university in artificial intelligence research.

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The Infernal Battalion
Django Wexler

Military might and arcane power clash in Django Wexler’s thrilling conclusion to The Shadow Campaigns.

The Beast, imprisoned beneath the fortress-city of Elysium for a thousand years, has been loosed upon the world and is spreading like a plague through the north.

Queen Raesinia Orboan and soldiers Marcus D’Ivoire and Winter Ihernglass face a betrayal they never could have foreseen: their general, Janus bet Vhalnich, has declared himself the rightful Emperor of Vordan. Chaos grips the city as officers and regiments are forced to declare for queen or emperor.

As Raesinia struggles to keep her country under control, she risks becoming everything she has fought against, while Marcus must take the field against his old commander. And Winter knows that the demon she carries inside her might be the only thing standing between the Beast and the end of the world...
Graham Masterton is a bestselling crime writer. He has published eight titles in his Katie Maguire series, which is set in Cork where he used to live.

Katie is one of seven sisters born to a police inspector in Cork, but the only sister who decided to follow her father into An Garda Síochána, the Irish police force.

With her bright green eyes and short red hair, she looks like an Irish pixie, but she is no soft touch. To the dismay of some of her male subordinates, she rose quickly through the ranks, gaining a reputation for catching Cork’s killers, often at great personal cost.

Katie spent seven years in a turbulent marriage in which she bore, and lost, a son — an event that continues to haunt her. Despite facing turmoil at home and prejudice at work she is one of the most fearless detectives in Ireland.

A garda sergeant is found beheaded with an Irish tin whistle sticking out of his neck. He was due to give evidence at a major inquiry into police corruption. His murder sends a clear message to any future whistleblowers: only silence is safe.

The inquiry hinges on the arrest of one of Cork’s most ruthless drug dealers. Though there was evidence to convict him, he walked free. DCI Katie Maguire is determined to expose the full truth.

But when another officer is murdered in the exact same way, Katie discovers that murder is the best way to stop people talking.
Nick Petrie received his MFA in fiction from the University of Washington, won a Hopwood Award for short fiction, and his story At the Laundromat won the 2006 Short Story Contest in the The Seattle Review.
nickpetrie.com
@_NickPetrie_

The Drifter
Nick Petrie

Award-winning debut thriller introducing a new compelling hero to rival Jack Reacher and Jason Bourne.

Eight years a soldier, Peter Ash came home from Iraq and Afghanistan with only one souvenir: what he calls ‘white static’, a buzzing claustrophobia due to post-traumatic stress that has driven him to spend a year roaming the Pacific coast’s mountains and forests, sleeping under the stars.

But when a friend from the Marines commits suicide, Ash returns to civilization to help the man’s widow and two young children. While repairing her dilapidated porch, he makes two unwelcome discoveries: the first is a dog, the meanest, ugliest dog he’s ever laid eyes on, guarding a samsonite suitcase; the second unwelcome surprise is the suitcase’s contents – $400,000 in cash and four slabs of plastic explosive.

Just what was his friend caught up in during his final days? Ash will find that the demons of war aren’t easy to leave behind...

‘Lots of characters get compared to my own Jack Reacher, but Petrie’s Peter Ash is the real deal.’
LEE CHILD

INTERNATIONAL THRILLER WRITERS AWARD
WINNER 2017

ANTHONY AWARDS
FINALIST 2017

EDGAR AWARD FOR BEST FIRST NOVEL
FINALIST 2017
Brian Panowich attended Georgia Southern University before taking a twenty-year detour to travel the country playing music. He started writing again in 2009. Two of his stories were nominated for a Spinetingler Award in 2013.

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@BPanowich

Like Lions
Brian Panowich

In this stunning sequel to the critically acclaimed Bull Mountain, a man can’t escape his brutal family legacy.

Clayton Burroughs is sheriff of Bull Mountain and one-time black sheep of the brutal and blood-steeped Burroughs clan. It’s been a year since a rogue government agent systematically crippled the family’s criminal empire that left two of the brothers dead, and Clayton, the youngest and only surviving member of the clan, broken and haunted by wounds that may never heal.

Now Bull Mountain is vulnerable, ripe for predators wanting to reestablish the flow of dope and money through the town. And the death of a boy belonging to a rival clan brings the wolves straight to Clayton’s door.

The only good son born of a crooked tree, Clayton wants to bury his bloody family legacy for good. But he’ll need to call on it if he wants to save his family, and his mountain, from the destruction that awaits.

‘[Panowich storms] onto the scene with an epic southern tale that establishes him as a new voice for southern writers... An unabashed literary page-turner... one of the best multi-generational family sagas in years.’ Huffington Post

‘Dazzling... reminiscent of John Steinbeck. Both write in a flowing, textured, understated style that is such a pleasure to read we don’t realize we’re being set up for a series of uppercuts. They come in revelations accompanied by gunfire. Read and recommend to anyone who follows country noir or savours delicious prose.’ Booklist

‘Panowich had me at the first word of his spectacular novel and he held me until the very last page... a sprawling, gritty, violent, tribal inter-generational crime epic with a deeply rooted sense of place and a gut-punch ending I didn’t see coming.’ C.J. Box
David Gilman enjoyed many careers – including firefighter, paratrooper and photographer – before turning to writing full time. He is an award-winning author and screenwriter.

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@davidgilmanuk

Scourge of Wolves
David Gilman

Episode five of the grittiest historical fiction series on the shelves as Thomas Blackstone fights to enforce English rule on France at the height of the Hundred Years’ War.

Winter, 1361.

After two decades of conflict, Edward III has finally agreed a treaty with the captive French king, John II. In return for his freedom, John has ceded vast tracts of territory to the English. But for five long years mercenary bands and belligerent lords have fought over the carcass of his kingdom. They will not give up their hard-won spoils to honour a defeated king’s promises.

If the English want their prize, they’ll have to fight for it.

As he battles to enforce Edward’s claim, Thomas Blackstone will see his name blackened, his men slaughtered, his family hunted. He will be betrayed and, once again, he’ll face the might of the French army on the field. But this time there will be no English army at his back. He’ll face the French alone.

‘I’m totally bedazzled. I’d never thought that another writer could rival Bernard Cornwell when it came to dramatizing battles, but David is giving him a real run for his money. The battle scenes are so realistic it is almost like time-travelling, though definitely not for the faint of heart. Thomas is an incredibly appealing and sympathetic character. And the level of suspense is ratcheted up to a truly brutal level, for it is impossible for a reader to predict what will be coming next.’

SHARON PENMAN
“No one does lavish vintage romance like Kate Kerrigan... Emotional drama, with fabulous characters.”

Daily Mail

“A wonderfully atmospheric novel from an author at the top of her game.”

Independent

“Mesmerising and moving. Just beautiful.”

Cecelia Ahern

“Ms Kerrigan owes me a night’s sleep and some eye bag cream. Could not put it down. Love, love love this book!”

Amanda Prowse

“Glamorous, gripping and moving. I just loved it.”

Marian Keyes

That Girl

Kate Kerrigan

A new lavish romance from the award-winning Irish author of It Was Only Ever You.

Three young Irish women arrive in London’s hip King’s Road; each of them is running away from something back home: abuse, heartache and cloying convention.

Plain, capable Noreen decides she doesn’t want to take over the family undertaking business, so she flees to London for fun and adventure, but soon finds herself in a whole lot of trouble.

Fashion student Lara is heartbroken after her college soul-mate leaves her to join the priesthood. Devastated, she runs to the most ‘godless’ place she can find – King’s Road – to help her forget. Beautiful Hanna moves to London to evade her wicked stepfather. She builds a new, anonymous life in London and meets a photographer who turns her into a supermodel.

But all three girls quickly learn that you can escape a place, but you cannot escape your past.
The Wives’ Revenge
Lindsey Hutchinson

A gritty tale of triumph over hardship, and justice for the downtrodden. Lindsey Hutchinson returns with another Black Country saga perfect for fans of Josephine Cox.

Violet Clancy can take no more of her violent stepfather’s attentions, so when he meets a tragic end she feels justice has been done. Looking around the bleak and pitiless Black Country town of Wednesbury, she realises that there are many other wrongs that she could help to put right.

Joining a coterie of women who call themselves The Wednesbury Wives, Violet and her friends soon set about winning justice for the abused and trying to make life a little easier for those for whom grinding poverty is every day.

But even in the hardest lives, some light must shine, and before long the wives find laughter and romance in their close-knit town. But will their friendships survive when some of their good deeds are brought into doubt, and some of their methods are called into question? And is justice always worth it, no matter what the price?

Born and raised in Wednesbury in the heart of the ‘Black Country’ in middle England, I worked most of my life as a secretary. My skills came in useful when my mother, Meg Hutchinson, retired from a life of teaching and became a very successful author. I spent many happy hours typing her manuscripts in readiness for the publisher. Without realising, I learned many lessons regarding the writing of novels.

Although I had written stories for my children as they grew, I never considered writing seriously until the passing of my mother. It was a while later when I decided I would ‘try my hand’. It’s thanks to the support of my family and friends, as well as my Agent, Judith Murdoch, and the Aria team that I am now a published author under my maiden name of Lindsey Hutchinson.

I was once given a piece of advice, ‘Write about what you know’. The ‘Black Country’ and its people are what I know and that’s why I chose to write about my home town. The women of Wednesbury and its surrounding towns are strong characters who tell it as it is regardless of hurting feelings. The poverty in the Victorian/Edwardian eras is well known, but their resolve to endure is remarkable, coming together in the face of adversity.

LINDSEY HUTCHINSON

Lindsey Hutchinson lives in Shropshire with her husband and dog. She loves to read and has recently discovered photography. Lindsey is the daughter of million copy bestselling author Meg Hutchinson.

@LHutchAuthor

Historical

Lindsey Hutchinson
The Wives’ Revenge

Driven by pain and united by guilt

Lindsey Hutchinson was once given a piece of advice, ‘Write about what you know’. The ‘Black Country’ and its people are what I know and that’s why I chose to write about my home town. The women of Wednesbury and its surrounding towns are strong characters who tell it as it is regardless of hurting feelings. The poverty in the Victorian/Edwardian eras is well known, but their resolve to endure is remarkable, coming together in the face of adversity.

LINDSEY HUTCHINSON
THE REDEMPTION OF TIME

Baoshu, or ‘divine tree’, is the pen-name of Li Jun. Baoshu studied philosophy at Peking University and KU Leuven in Belgium. His debut novel The Ruins of Time won the 2014 Chinese Nebula prize.

The Redemption of Time
Baoshu

Companion volume to the bestselling THREE-BODY PROBLEM trilogy by an award-winning Chinese author.

At the end of the fourth year of the Crisis Era, Yun Tianming, riddled with cancer, chose to end his life. His decision was the first step in a journey that would take him to the end of the universe and beyond.

His brain was extracted from his body, flash frozen, put aboard a spacecraft and launched on a trajectory that will intercept the Trisolarian First Fleet in a few centuries. It is a desperate plan, almost certain to fail. But there is an infinitesimal chance that one day Tianming may, somehow, be able to send valuable information back to Earth. And so he does. His broadcasts from the Trisolarian fleet reveal the secrets of faster than light propulsion and the ultimate defence of black domains.

This is Tianming’s story. It reveals what happened to him when he was intercepted by the Trisolarians. It reveals the true nature of the struggle that has created the universal ‘dark forest’, and the ultimate fate of the Universe…

‘Writing The Redemption of Time is one of the most remarkable events of my life. Like many others, I became a loyal fan of Cixin Liu at the beginning of the 21st century, when Liu was just starting to make his mark as a science fiction author.

In November 2010, the last volume of the trilogy, Death’s End, finally went on sale in China. At the time, I was in graduate school in Belgium and could not get my hands on the book. I seriously considered flying back to China just to buy it. In the end, my friend Gao Xiang helped me out by photographing every page of the book and emailing the pictures to me.

I was deeply touched by my friend’s gesture, but it wasn’t until much later that I understood the full significance of this novel for me.

After I finished Death’s End along with fans in China who had bought the book, we debated and explored every detail in the book over the internet. But no matter how many posts we wrote, the magnificent, grand arc of the trilogy was at an end, and we felt ourselves drifting away from the story day by day. The melancholy that seized us made me decide to write separate stories for a few of the characters in the trilogy and extend the epic tale a little longer.

This wasn’t the first time I wrote Cixin Liu fan fiction, and I certainly wasn’t the first to do so. What I wrote was exactly what tens of thousands of readers needed at that moment: more stories from the Three-Body universe. Its timely appearance — barely a week after the publication of Death’s End — allowed it to receive far more attention than could be justified by its inherent quality, and the praise encouraged me to continue writing, developing and growing the storyline I had in mind until it gradually took on a shape of its own. Three weeks later, before Christmas 2010, I completed my novel.’

Baoshu, Ken Liu
and Cixin Liu
AMANDA PROWSE
Two new books telling one love story

Anna & Theo
One Love, Two Stories

Each book tells a complete story, but the magic happens when you read them together...

Amanda Prowse is a million-copy bestselling author
Readers love her – over 5000 5 star Amazon reviews

Global, multi-format publication & marketing campaign

‘Amanda Prowse has been hailed the queen of domestic drama with good reason... brilliant, poignant and utterly heart-breaking.’ Closer

‘Deeply moving and inspiring.’ Daily Mail

‘Prepare to work your way through as many tissues as pages.’ Cosmopolitan

‘Powerful and emotional... packs a real punch.’ Heat

Anna
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Theo
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Amanda Prowse is an international bestselling author who has published sixteen novels in dozens of languages. Her chart-topping no. 1 titles What Have I Done?, Perfect Daughter and My Husband’s Wife have sold millions of copies around the world.

amandaprowse.org
@MrsAmandaProwse

Anna Cole grew up surrounded by her mother’s love. But then her mum died suddenly and everything changed. Then she got stuck in a lift with the man of her dreams. Theodore Montgomery...

Theo Montgomery grew up rich, privileged and terribly lonely. However hard he tried, he never felt good enough. Then he got stuck in a lift with the woman of his dreams. Anna Cole...

These two books tell the story of Anna and Theo from before they met to their falling in love, to... their happy ever after!
Last of the Summer Moët
Wendy Holden

Second instalment in the delicious new series from one of Britain’s funniest novelists, starring wannabe journalist, Laura Lake.

Laura Lake, deputy editor of glossy mag Society, has been promoted to the hot seat while her boss recovers from ‘exhaustion’ in rehab. Finally she’s in charge, but who can she share the free jollies with?

Not her international glamourpuss BFF Lulu, who’s left Knightsbridge for Britain’s poshest village. Lulu’s busy living the good life at her new pile Riffs, a ex-rock star’s ex-country mansion.

But not everything in her guitar-shaped garden is lovely. Lulu’s attempts to join the hunt, act in the panto and grow the biggest marrow are all blocked by the snobbish locals.

So who does she call on for help? Journo extraordinaire, Laura Lake...
WELCOME TO JOE PICKETT’S BEAT

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.

cjbox.net
@cjboxauthor

BEYOND ROADS, BEYOND STREETLIGHTS, BEYOND BACKUP

The Disappeared

C. J. Box

The latest electrifying instalment in the #1 bestselling US crime series.

The new State Governor, Colter Allen, needs a favour from Game Warden Joe Pickett. The British consulate is asking questions over in Denver: a rich English woman visiting a high-end guest ranch has gone missing. Joe has a habit of investigating outside the lines of the local law and Allen needs this done quietly. But Joe’s inquiries soon uncover not one, but three missing women.

At the same time, with his friend Nate Romanowski, he’s called to investigate a serious federal crime: the killing of several bald and golden eagles. The more questions Joe asks about each case, the clearer it becomes someone wants him to disappear.

And the answers, when they finally come, reveal a violently darker Wyoming that he ever imagined.
I have long wanted to write a novel about the Parachute Regiment in World War Two.

Clearly one book wouldn’t cover it, nor even two, so three were required. A trilogy is a truly daunting challenge, but it’s also an exciting and liberating one, and once narrative structure was decided everything soon fell into place.

What emerged is a history of Britain’s first Paras through the eyes of a founding recruit, from its formation in 1940, through unpromising beginnings, then operational successes like the Bruneval raid of 1942, continuing through bloody deployments in Tunisia and the subsequent invasions of Sicily and Italy, to climax at the Battle of Arnhem in 1944.

Narrated by his medical officer, the story is of Theo Trickey, who comes from the troubled Italian province of South Tyrol. Of mixed parentage, stateless and homeless, Theo yearns for a sense of identity, of home, belonging and purpose, finally finding these things, unexpectedly, among the war-torn ranks of his fellow Paras, as they struggle through their most gruelling ordeals.

ROBERT RADCLIFFE

‘Radcliffe movingly evokes the desperate camaraderie and the permanent threat of death… The tribute to courage and endurance remains memorable.’ SUNDAY TIMES

‘Radcliffe is not just a born storyteller, but one of those generous writers who look for the best in human nature… Will bring a glow to the most jaded cheeks.’ SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

Freefall

Robert Radcliffe is the bestselling author of seven novels, including The Lazarus Child, Under an English Heaven and Dambuster. He lives in Suffolk.

From a million-copy bestselling author comes the second instalment in the Airborne trilogy centered on the WW2 parachute regiment.

Dreadfully injured in the Arnhem landings, paratrooper Theo Trickey wasn’t expected to survive. Now he is in recovery and Medical Officer Daniel Garland is piecing together Trickey’s astonishing war record: he raided southern Italy and northern France as a commando; fought in the African desert; air-dropped into Sicily; led a partisan cell in Italy; captured and tortured by the Gestapo.

And just what was Rommel’s interest in Trickey? Germany’s greatest general is recently dead but his most loyal officers have contacted Garland. They need him to do something for them...

Freefall is the second part of an unforgettable story of how a young man and his new regiment changed the course of a war.
Lesley Thomson grew up in west London. Her first novel, A Kind of Vanishing, won the People’s Book Prize in 2010. Her second novel, The Detective’s Daughter, was a no.1 bestseller and sold over 500,000 copies.

@LesleyjmThomson

The Death Chamber
Lesley Thomson

A haunting new case for Stella Darnell, the detective’s daughter, from bestselling British crime writer, Lesley Thomson.

Queen’s Jubilee, 1977: Cassie Baker sees her boyfriend kissing another girl at the village disco. Upset, she heads home alone and is never seen again.

Millennium Eve, 1999: DCI Paul Mercer finds Cassie’s remains in a field. Now he must prove the man who led him there is guilty.

When Mercer’s daughter asks Stella Darnell for help solving the murder, Stella sees echoes of herself. Another detective’s daughter.

With her sidekick sleuth, Jack Harman, Stella moves to the quiet village of Winchcombe, where DCI Mercer has been stalking his prime suspect for the past eighteen years...
After leaving the corporate working world, Jenn J. McLeod decided to travel Australia in a fifth-wheeler caravan and fulfil her lifelong ambition to write. She has since published four novels.

jennjmcleod.com
@jennjmcleod

With this, my fifth small town story, I am very used to receiving messages from readers wanting to know how they can ‘Google Map’ the places in my books. They are so disappointed to learn settings like Calingarry Crossing and Coolabah Tree Gully are figments of my imagination. So, I’m breaking the news gently to you all now because the same can be said for Candlebark Creek in A Place to Remember.

What does exist is the amazing landscape of Barmoya with its twelve unique seventy-million-year-old volcanic plugs known collectively as the Mount Hedlow trachyte. I was privileged to work on this manuscript while camped in a paddock under the shadow of Mount Hedlow and finding my muse among the striking landscape that has been home to five generations since the Barrett family established the area in 1885.

When I arrived for a short stay with the Barretts (how we first met is a story in itself) I already had a completed draft of this manuscript set elsewhere. There was, however, no ignoring the inexplicable pull of my new surroundings, so I changed settings and something incredible happened: my story grew into something super special. That short stay with the Barretts turned into a long one and, before I knew it, A Place to Remember had taken shape.

JENN J. MCLEOD

A Place to Remember
Jenn J. McLeod

A multi-generational contemporary romantic saga set in a cattle ranch in North Queensland, Australia.

A man loses five years of his life. Two women are desperate for him to remember.

Running away for the second time in her life, twenty-seven-year-old Ava believes the cook’s job at a country B&B is perfect, until she meets the owner’s son, John Tate. Not yet twenty, the fifth generation grazier is a beguiling blend of both man, boy and a terrible flirt. With their connection immediate and intense, they begin a clandestine affair right under the noses of John’s formidable parents.

Thirty years later, Ava returns to Candlebark Creek with her daughter, Nina, who is determined to meet her mother’s lost love for herself. While struggling to find her own place in the world, Nina discovers an urban myth about a love-struck man, a forgotten engagement ring, and a dinner reservation back in the eighties. Now she must decide if revealing the truth will hurt more than it heals...
Secrets of a Small Town
Fiona Field

The start of a new village series from a doyenne of women’s fiction.

Chipping Woodford is a quintessential English market town, with charming high street shops, allotments and thriving pubs. A young widow and her children arrive from London after buying the huge, rambling Victorian mansion called the Beeches.

Bex Millar hopes to escape from their previous life, and from a past involving a tragic incident with her stepdaughter. Bex tries to integrate herself and her family in their new community. She joins a pub quiz team and gets a job in the local bookshop. But it’s hard to keep secrets in a small town and when the truth about her past finally emerges, it threatens to destroy her dream of an idyllic life in sleepy middle England.
A.J. Smith is the author of The Black Guard, The Dark Blood, The Red Prince and The World Raven, and he spent twelve years devising the series. When not writing fiction, he works in secondary education.

@Smith23AJ

The Glass Breaks
A.J. Smith

The launch of a new series from the British master of epic fantasy.

Seventeen-year-old Duncan Greenfire is alive. Three hours ago, he was chained to the rocks and submerged as the incoming tide washed over his head. Now the waters are receding and Duncan’s continued survival has completed his initiation as a Sea Wolf.

It is the 167th year of the Dark Age. The Sea Wolves, like all Eastron, can break the glass and step into the void, slipping from the real world and reappearing wherever they wish. Wielding their power, they conquered the native Pure Ones and established the Kingdom of the Four Claws.

Walking between the worlds of Form and Void, the Sea Wolves glorify in piracy and slaughter. Their rule is absolute, but young Duncan Greenfire and duellist Adeline Brand will discover a conspiracy to end their dominion, a conspiracy to shatter the glass that separates the worlds of Form and Void and unleash a primeval chaos across the world.

Then a strange, pale man arrives from the distant void...
Diney Costeloe is the bestselling author of The Throwaway Children, The Runaway Family, The Lost Soldier, The Sisters of St Croix and The Girl With No Name. She divides her time between Somerset and West Cork.

dineycosteloe.co.uk
@Dineycost

Miss Mary’s Daughter
Diney Costeloe

From internationally bestselling author Diney Costeloe comes a new drama, set in nineteenth-century Cornwall.

After her mother’s death, twenty-year-old Sophie Ross is left orphaned in London. With no money and little chance of an income, she tries to get work as a governess to avoid destitution. Now alone in the world, she only has the company of her erstwhile nursemaid and faithful friend, Hannah.

But unbeknown to Sophie, her mother instructed Hannah to post a letter to Craigmore House in Cornwall upon her death. The letter will be the catalyst that changes Sophie’s life forever as she learns of her mother’s romance, marriage and then ultimate rejection by her own father and the estranged family she left behind in Cornwall.

The Kilpatrick family welcome Sophie and Hannah into their fold, but tensions rise and family secrets are revealed as Sophie attempts to rebuild her life and find happiness.
Matthew Harffy grew up in Northumberland where the rugged terrain, ruined castles and rocky coastline had a huge impact on him. He now lives in Wiltshire, England, with his wife and their two daughters.

matthewharffy.com  
@MatthewHarffy

Blood and Blade
The Bernicia Chronicles III
Matthew Harffy


Oswald is now King of Northumbria. However, his plans for further alliances and conquests are quickly thrown into disarray when his wedding to a princess of Wessex is interrupted by news of a Pictish uprising.

Rushing north, Oswald leaves Beobrand to escort the young queen to her new home. Their path is fraught with danger and uncertainty, Beobrand must try to unravel secrets and lies if they are to survive.

Meanwhile, old enemies are closing in, seeking brutal revenge. Beobrand will give his blood and blade in service to his king, but will that be enough to avert disaster and save his kith and kin from the evil forces that surround them?

I have bookshelves full of history books about the Anglo-Saxons, their clothing, their weapons, their politics, their kings... but the two books I return to over and over are The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles and Bede’s History of the English Church and People. I read the events described within these tomes and try to find something that sparks my attention. In Blood and Blade, the story of the protagonist, Beobrand, is told around two historical events – the marriage of Oswald to the daughter of King Cynegils of Wessex and the siege of Din Eidyn (Edinburgh).

Ultimately, I cannot know whether the stories I write have any bearing on what really happened. In fact, I would be very surprised if events were anything like I portray them in the Bernicia Chronicles. But I am not trying to explain Dark Age Britain’s history, I am seeking to entertain. All I want to do is to tell a good tale against a backdrop of a credible seventh century. What I am aiming for is that when a reader finishes one of my books, they feel they have seen into a lost world. Did it happen that way? Was it like that? Almost certainly not, but I hope readers go away thinking that it might have been.

MATTHEW HARFFY
Four Dominions
Eric Van Lustbader

The latest instalment in the globe-spanning, action-packed Testament / Fallen series

The End of Days has been predicted for the last two thousand years. But now, without warning, it is upon us.

Braverman ‘Bravo’ Shaw, member of a secret Franciscan splinter sect, has been pitched into a battle as old as time itself: the battle between good and evil. Working with his blind sister, Emma, and his confessor, Fra Leoni, Bravo went to war with the Fallen, Lucifer’s advance guard and emerged with The Book of Deathly Things - Lucifer’s first and last Testament.

Now, back in New York, the book’s secrets have been deciphered by Emma. She discovers the Fallen army is waking and will stop at nothing to reclaim the stolen Testament.

‘Even though I write fiction, it’s been my goal from the beginning to introduce readers to different civilizations, different histories, especially the histories of secret societies that appear in my Testament/Fallen series. I’ve always wanted them to come away from my books learning or understanding something new – especially about themselves.’ ERIC VAN LUSTBADER
Genome
A.G. Riddle

Book two in The Extinction Files: a conspiracy beyond imagination. A race to save humanity in its darkest hour.

After surviving one of the deadliest epidemics in history, Dr. Peyton Shaw has uncovered a global conspiracy that will change humanity forever.

Thirty years ago, Dr. Paul Kraus found a code in the DNA of one of humanity’s lost tribes. To protect the secret, Kraus hid his work and disappeared. Now the technology exists to finally understand the mysterious code buried deep in the human genome.

Dr. Peyton Shaw has obtained part of Kraus’s work – and a cryptic message that could lead to the remaining pieces. She believes his work is the key to stopping a global threat. For Peyton, finding it may come at an unacceptable price: she must weigh the lives of strangers against those she loves.

AD 165, the Antonine Plague: 5 million dead…
AD 541, the Plague of Justinian: 50 million dead…
AD 1347, the Black Death: between 75 and 200 million dead…
20 to 50 per cent of the global population.
AD 1545, a mysterious viral hemorrhagic fever killed 15 million people in New Spain, present-day Mexico. That’s roughly 80 per cent of the population at the time. In today’s America, that would be over 240 million people. To this day, we still have very few clues about what caused that pandemic. Most importantly, we don’t know if or when it will return…

The product of extensive research, THE EXTINCTION FILES take readers inside the world’s response to the next deadly pathogenic outbreak. They blend extensive real-life research with the pulse-pounding, page-turning storytelling that readers have come to expect from an A.G. Riddle novel.
Mark Roberts was born and raised in Liverpool. He is the author of What She Saw, which was longlisted for a CWA Gold Dagger, as well as three thrillers starring Liverpool detective, Eve Clay.

Mark Roberts is what British crime fiction has been looking for.

‘A genuinely innovative crime writer with a taste for the macabre and unexpected.’ DAILY MAIL

‘Brilliant storytelling.’ JIMMY MCGOVERN

‘Dark, gripping and believable. Liverpool becomes a sinister character.’ GRAHAM MASTERTON

‘Mark Roberts is what British crime fiction has been looking for.’ CRIME SQUAD

Mark Roberts

Killing Time

One morning. Two crimes. Three victims and counting... A new heart-stopping case for Liverpool detective, DCI Eve Clay.

A young Czech girl, missing for eight days, is found abandoned in a deserted playground. She is so traumatised she cannot speak.

DCI Eve Clay is on her way to try and interview the victim, when another case is called in. Two Polish migrant workers have been found dead in their burnt out flat. But this is no normal house fire. The men’s bodies were set alight after the killer had clinically removed their hearts.

Then Clay and her team receive an anonymous call. Someone else will die before the day ends.
Faith Hogan lives in the west of Ireland with her husband, four children and two very fussy cats. She has an Hons Degree in English Literature and Psychology, has worked as a fashion model and in the intellectual disability and mental health sector.

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@GerHogan

Glowing Reader Reviews for Faith Hogan

‘If you haven’t come across Faith Hogan yet then boy, are you missing a treat.’ Michelle Ryles

‘This is a lovely story of regret, remorse, healing and starting over.’ Rosemary Smith

‘An absolutely fantastic read with brilliant characters.’ Sue Wallace

‘Full of secrets and intrigue.’ Tracey Ford

‘A beautiful story of where your passions can take you if you’re willing to take a chance.’ Carolyn Ensminger

‘This is a beautifully told story, compelling and full of emotion. It is a hopeful look at love, loss and second chances.’ Joanne Baird

Secrets We Keep

Faith Hogan

A bittersweet story of love, loss and life. Perfect for the fans of Patricia Scanlan and Adele Parks.

Two distant relatives are drawn together and forced to confront their pasts.

The beautiful old Bath House in Ballytokeep has lain empty and abandoned for decades. For devoted pensioners Archie and Iris, it holds too many conflicting memories of their adolescent dalliances and tragic consequences - sometimes it’s better to leave the past where it belongs.

For highflying, top London divorce lawyer Kate Hunt, it’s a fresh start - maybe even her future. On a winter visit to see her estranged Aunt Iris she falls in love with the Bath House. Inspired, she moves to Ballytokeep leaving her past heartache 600 miles away - but can you ever escape your past or your destiny?
The Blue Velvet Ribbon  
Nadine Dorries

A rags to riches story of family secrets set in rural Ireland and 1950s Liverpool from the international bestseller Nadine Dorries.

1921, Ireland. Mary Kate Malone was never going to make a good life for herself in Ballymara. As an eight-year-old girl, she was cursed by the local gypsy woman who wanted to ruin the Malone family business.

As a young woman, Mary Kate falls pregnant out of wedlock by a much older man. His domineering and vindictive nature cause Mary Kate to flee with her unborn child to Liverpool.

Met with prejudice and suspicion, Mary Kate is forced to work in a brothel to keep poverty at bay. She eventually finds love in the arms of a handsome client who shares her dream of a new, prosperous beginning. But the man and the curse she left behind in Ballymara refuse to let her go.

In a time of conflicting emotions and social divide, Mary Kate tries to live a good life – but one man threatens to undo it all.

“The characters are engaging, the streets scenes cinematic and the theme of the novel – abuse, both sexual and domestic – powerful.” The Times

“A vigorous and vibrant story... As fast-paced as it is entertaining. An addictive novel to be devoured in one sitting.” Sunday Express

“I couldn’t put it down.” Cristina Odone

“As heart-warming as it is heartbreaking, this novel is unputdownable.” Sunday Express
Born in Brisbane, Australia, Carol Jones taught English and Drama at secondary schools before working as an editor of children’s magazines. She is the author of several young adult novels as well as children’s non-fiction. The Concubine’s Child is Carol’s first adults’ novel.

The inspiration for The Concubine’s Child has crept up on me over the last twenty-five years of annual visits to Malaysia to stay with my husband’s family. Abandoned ghost houses, inquisitive monkeys, smoky temples, thick jungle, Chinese funerals, a panoply of gods and demons, have all played their part.

Concubines and polygamy were once a way of life (and still are) for many families of various faiths in Malaysia. I wondered what it would be like for a young woman forced into one of these arrangements and whether the first wife would resent her. It struck me that there was bound to be a power play that might sometimes end in tragedy, and so the idea for The Concubine’s Child was born.

CAROL JONES

An evocative, multi-generational tale of a family haunted by the death of a young concubine in 1930s Malaysia.

In 1930s Malaysia, sixteen-year-old Yu Lan is in love with her best friend, Ming, whose father owns one of the busiest kopi shops in Petaling Street. But Ming’s family don’t see the apothecary’s daughter as a suitable wife – for Yu Lan’s father, Lim, spends more time playing mahjong than selling herbal remedies. It’s not long before Lim makes a terrible decision that will change Yu Lan’s life forever, selling her as a concubine to the wealthy, ageing Towkay Chan who is desperate for a male heir.

The consequences of Lim’s betrayal resonate through four generations and into the present day, where Yu Lan’s great-grandson, Nick, is searching for his lost family history. His wife, Sarah, begins to be very afraid of what he will find as past and present meld into one.

THE CONCUBINE’S CHILD
Carol Jones

JUNE 2018
Fiction
228x145mm • 320pp
E 9781786699800
HB 9781786699817 £18.99
XTPB 9781786699824 £12.99

Rights held: World English
It was at a party in 1980 thrown by their mutual agent, Henry Morrison, that Eric Van Lustbader first encountered Robert Ludlum, who was sitting in a corner sipping a glass of whisky.

After Ludlum died in 2001, Lustbader was invited by his estate to pen a sequel to The Bourne Ultimatum, final in the trilogy. One of the things that drew Lustbader to the series — besides the endless plot possibilities of an agent with amnesia — was that Jason Bourne was the antithesis of the sophisticated spy. Bourne was an everyday man, damaged, and having to rely on his own resources rather than an array of gadgets and fast cars.

In twelve years Lustbader has since added eleven books to the canon, the latest being The Bourne Nemesis.

Robert Ludlum is one of the world’s bestselling authors with more than 300 million copies of his books in print.

Eric Van Lustbader is the author of twenty bestselling thrillers including First Daughter and The Testament.

ericvanlustbader.com
@EVanLustbader

Robert Ludlum’s™
The Bourne Nemesis
Eric Van Lustbader

Jason Bourne is back in the latest blockbuster thriller by international bestseller Eric Van Lustbader.

Jason Bourne returns. He’s fought against the NSA, black off-site cyber operations, a Somali terrorist organisation and been accused of treason against the US.

Now the Russians have planted a mole to uncover Bourne’s secrets and launch cyber-warfare against the United States.

Meanwhile, Bourne’s former colleague, Soroya Moore, needs his help. Six highly skilled field agents have disappeared, the body parts of three found in a national park in Georgia. Facing death and destruction in the shadows of civilisation, Bourne will battle his deadlest nemesis yet.
Death Notice
Zhou Haohui

Based on China’s most famous online crime serial, published in English for the first time, a killer crowd-sources his victims, playing a deadly but ingenious game of cat-and-mouse with the police.

Online, a vigilante announces their intention to mete out justice for unpunished crimes. Users are invited to submit names for judgement. Those found guilty will be sentenced. And there is just one punishment: death.

Despite publishing the name of each victim and the date of execution – their death notice – the police can’t stop the killer. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) is assembled, comprising a criminal psychologist, a SWAT captain, an Online Surveillance Officer and Detective Luo Fei.

As they pursue the killer, the SIT will be drawn ever deeper into dark and dangerous territory. What is the connection to a highly classified eighteen-year-old case that saw two similar ‘death notice’ murders? What is Detective Luo’s personal connection to that case? And finally, what crimes might the members of the SIT be guilty of? And what will they do to keep them secret?

‘Society needs a different kind of justice.
I am the one who will carry it out.
My justice knows only one kind of punishment.
The most direct of all: capital punishment.
Very soon, I will personally cleanse this world of evil.’
ON ONE SIDE, BRITANNIA
ON THE OTHER SIDE, BARBARIANS
ONE MAN MUST KEEP THE PEACE

‘An instant classic of the genre. No historian knows more about the Roman army than Adrian Goldsworthy, and no novelist better recreates the Classical World. Flavius Ferox, Briton turned Roman Centurion is a wonderful, charismatic hero. Action and authenticity combine in a thrilling and engrossing novel.’

HARRY SIDEBOTTOM

Adrian Goldsworthy

studied at Oxford and became an acclaimed historian of Ancient Rome. He is the author of several books, including Anthony and Cleopatra, Caesar, and The Fall of the West.

adriangoldsworthy.com

The Encircling Sea
Adrian Goldsworthy

From bestselling historian Adrian Goldsworthy, the second instalment in his authentic, action-packed series set in the northern frontier of the Roman Empire.

AD 100: Flavius Ferox, Briton and Roman centurion, is finding it hard to keep the peace. Based at Vindolanda – an army fort on the northern frontier of Britannia and the entire Roman world – he feels the eyes of his enemies on him at all hours.

Ambitious leaders sense a chance to carve out empires of their own. While men nearer at hand speak in whispers of war and the destruction of Rome.

And out at sea, ships of pirates and deserters restlessly wait for the time to launch their attack on the empire’s land.
Estocada
Graham Hurley

From a critically acclaimed author comes the next instalment of the Wars Within series.

1937. As the Reich’s most celebrated fighter ace, Dieter Merz’s fame brings him into contact with the top echelons of the Nazi regime. All he wants to do is fly, but for how long can he deny the toxic nature of Hitler’s rule?

Scotsman and ex-marine Tam Moncrieff is recruited by a nameless intelligence agency in London to go to Germany and sound out Hitler’s resolve. Does he really intend to invade Czechoslovakia? Do his generals support him? Can the march to war be stopped?

As duty collides with conscience, fate will bring both men together. These are desperate times calling for desperate measures. To avoid war a killing strike is needed: la estocada.

The question is, who is the matador, who is the bull?

‘Tense, absorbing and faultlessly plotted, this thoughtful thriller weaves it all together.’

Sunday Times Crime Club

‘A cracking thriller. Portisch is sympathetic without being whitewashed, and the mysteries and moral contradictions of the base are intriguing.’

The Times

‘Hurley is an accomplished author of stand-alone thrillers, and this is one of his finest...Beautifully constructed, the result is compelling and richly entertaining.’

Daily Mail

‘An excellent writer of historical thrillers...The wartime setting and the psychology of the characters are totally convincing.’

Sunday Express

FINISTERRE SHORTLISTED FOR THE WILBUR SMITH ADVENTURE WRITING PRIZE 2017
‘THE TWO STARS OF my books are Sir Robert Carey and Sergeant Henry Dodd. Sergeant Dodd is a tough dour Borderer with more brains than you’d expect and a dark past. He’s invented. Sir Robert Carey is real – a swashbuckling, chivalrous dandy. He’s cousin to Queen Elizabeth I and related to almost everybody at Court. He’s good at war and investigations, a serious fashion-victim with a quick temper and an ingenuous imagination. I have lifted him pretty much unchanged from the pages of his memoirs. As G.M. Fraser said, ‘If Sir Robert Carey hadn’t existed, it would have been necessary to invent him.’

P. F. CHISHOLM

‘Chisholm’s conscientious – and thoroughly unconscionable – handling of historical persons, such as William Shakespeare, keep the reader alternately giggling and drop-jawed, but never incredulous... She pays the debt of accuracy that any historical novelist owes to the honour of the dead – and yet where history leaves lacunae, her imagination leaps gleefully in to fill the gap.’

DIANA GABALDON

Drums on the Border
P.F. Chisholm

A new omnibus in the highly acclaimed Sir Robert Carey Mysteries, full of rogueish courtiers, rival gangs, border raiders, treason, realpolitik and unbridled ambition.

1592. Courtier Sir Robert Carey and Carey’s surly, larcenous, and loyal henchman Henry Dodd, Land Sergeant of Gilsland, are back in Carlisle and the Debateable Lands.

As Carey struggles to solve the murder of a local minister, he battles with his deep adoration for Lady Elizabeth Widdrington, while despising her elderly, abusive husband – will the man never die?

Plunging readers straight into the raucous world of late-sixteenth century border reivers and unfettered Elizabethan intrigue, Drums on the Border, the third chronicle of Sir Robert Carey’s adventures, collects the novels A Chorus of Innocents, A Clash of Spheres and a brand-new Sir Robert Carey mystery under one volume.
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Tears and tribulations, laughs and heartbreak, from an exciting new talent. Perfect for the fans of Jo Cox and Lyn Andrews.

‘One of the most original and frightening storytellers of our time.’ Peter James

‘Stabenow is blessed with a rich prose style and a fine eye for detail. An outstanding series.’ Washington Post

‘Hurley is now firmly at the top, with few rivals in this genre.’ Sunday Telegraph

‘Jane’s books have everything they hook you from the first page and sweep you along with passion, history and romance.’ Katie Florde

A brilliant new historical novel which imagines a French-occupied Britain following Napoleon’s victory at Waterloo.

‘Hurley now firmly at the top, with few rivals in this genre.’ Sunday Telegraph

‘A series that could well become a cult.’ Daily Mail

‘Jane’s books have everything they hook you from the first page and sweep you along with passion, history and romance.’ Katie Florde

‘Stabenow is blessed with a rich prose style and a fine eye for detail. An outstanding series.’ Washington Post

‘More intricate, more plausible, more significant than any debut I can recall.’ Cory Doctorow

‘Essential reading for anyone who cares about spirit, and spiritual activism. Read it, practice it, share it.’ Manda Scott

‘As a revolutionary text, Carswell’s is right up there with the Communist Manifesto.’ Sunday Times

‘Oates is simply the most consistently inventive, brilliant, curious and creative writer going, as far as I’m concerned.’ Gillian Flynn

‘Sharon is now firmly at the top, with few rivals in this genre.’ Sunday Telegraph

‘A meaty, beautifully written and original thriller.’ Irish Independent on Orsney Twilight

‘Sharon is now firmly at the top, with few rivals in this genre.’ Sunday Telegraph

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