Welcome to the Head of Zeus catalogue for July to December 2021.

In July 2021 we shall celebrate our 10th anniversary as an independent British publishing company. I hope that the books described in the following pages will justify the claim that this catalogue is – by some margin – our best yet.

Among the highlights are:

- The growth of Apollo Non-Fiction as a leader in ancient, medieval and modern history.
- The re-founding of Apollo Fiction as a showcase for international literary fiction.
- The credentials of our Ad Astra imprint as the front runner in high-concept science fiction and fantasy.
- The launch of the Aries imprint as the home of historical fiction and contemporary adventure.

Our values remain unchanged:

Unique Content • Creative Commissioning • Beautiful Books

We dedicate our catalogue to the authors who have made this possible.

Anthony Cheetham
Chairman
“A touch of genuine gravity was always the traditional barrier which separated royalty from the common herd,” wrote a diplomat’s wife in 1949. Throughout her reign, the Queen has maintained careful barriers to preserve her personal mystique. Why, how and to what effect are questions I have repeatedly asked myself.’

MATTHEW DENNISON

The Queen

Matthew Dennison

A magisterial new biography of Her Majesty The Queen, tracing the events of a reign that now spans seven decades.

For millions of people, Elizabeth II is the embodiment of monarchy. Her life spans nearly a century of national and global history, from a time before the Great Depression to the era of Covid-19: the vast majority of Britons cannot remember a world without Elizabeth II as head of state and the Commonwealth. She has been served by fifteen UK prime ministers from Churchill to Johnson, and witnessed the administrations of fourteen US presidents from Truman to Biden.

In this brand-new biography of Queen Elizabeth II, Matthew Dennison traces her life and reign across an era of seismic change. Stylish in its writing and nuanced in its judgements, The Queen charts the joys and triumphs as well as the disappointments and vicissitudes of Britain’s longest-reigning sovereign, whilst also assessing the achievements of a woman regarded as the champion of a handful of ‘British’ values endorsed – if no longer practised – by the bulk of the nation: service, duty, steadfastness, charity and stoicism.

MATTHEW DENNISON is the author of seven critically acclaimed works of non-fiction, including Behind the Mask: The Life of Vita Sackville-West, a Book of the Year in The Times, Spectator, Independent and Observer. His most recent book is the much-praised Eternal Boy, a life of Kenneth Grahame.

‘Fascinating.’
Times Literary Supplement

‘A haunting biography.’
‘For 2,000 years the story of Granada has been the story of its peoples – the Romans, Jews, Muslims, Christians and gypsies who bequeathed the city its multicultural heritage. That unique heritage, forged by momentous racial, religious and political conflicts, holds the key to Spain’s vexed quest for its own identity.’

ELIZABETH DRAYSON

Lost Paradise
The Story of Granada
Elizabeth Drayson

A beautifully illustrated account of the many faces of the Andalusian city of Granada.

In Lost Paradise, the first narrative history of Granada for English-speaking readers, Elizabeth Drayson celebrates and explores the distinctive, evolving identity of a remarkable place. Her account brings to the fore the image of the city as a lost paradise, reveals it as a place of perpetual contradiction, of beauty and violence, and links it to the great dilemma over Spain’s true identity as a nation.

Romantic and exotic, tragic and nostalgic, the city is a place that lives as potently in the mind as in reality. It is the stuff of story and legend, with an unforgettable history to match.

More than any other Spanish city, Grenada encapsulates the way in which Spain has been formed and reshaped time and time again, as Romans, Visigoths, Moors, Jews and gypsies, musicians and writers have come and gone. And all the while the mirage of the Alhambra hovers over it all, a supreme expression of civilization.

ELIZABETH DRAYSON is Lorna Close Fellow in Spanish at Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge; she is a specialist in medieval and early modern Spanish literature and cultural history. The author of The Moor’s Last Stand, The Lead Books of Granada and The King and the Whore, Drayson has also produced the first translation and edition of Juan Ruiz’s Libro de buen amor to appear in England. She lives in Cambridge.
‘Lugubrious, complex and always funny.’
Scotsman

‘Industriously thorough, entertaining.’
Spectator

‘Being a child star is invariably the basis for a messy, even tragic, adulthood. Eric and Ernie were rare exceptions: making headlines in the West End at 13, and topping the TV ratings on Christmas Day 40 years later. In Sunshine and Laughter, I set out to explore what made them so different.’

LOUIS BARFE

Sunshine and Laughter
The Story of Morecambe & Wise
Louis Barfe

The story of Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise – British television’s most iconic double act.

British television has hosted some celebrated double acts over the years – from the Two Ronnies to Reeves and Mortimer, from French and Saunders to Fry and Laurie and from Mitchell and Webb to Matt Lucas and David Williams. But none of these acclaimed duos came close to challenging the cherished place in television’s golden age occupied by Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise, whose partnership lasted from 1941 to Morecambe’s death in 1984. Perennial mainstays of British television in the 1970s, Eric and Ernie were, in the words of one commentator ‘the most illustrious, and the best-loved, double-act that Britain has ever produced.’

Louis Barfe has a gift for narrating celebrity lives in a manner that is authoritative, informative and affectionate but never hagiographic. Funny, human and incisive, Sunshine and Laughter gets to the heart of what made TV’s most enduringly popular double act tick.

LOUIS BARFE is a journalist and expert on all aspects of the entertainment industry. He is the author of Where Have All The Good Times Gone?: The Rise and Fall of the Record Industry, Turned Out Nice Again: The Story of British Light Entertainment, The Trials and Triumphs of Les Dawson and Happiness and Tears: The Ken Dodd Story.
The Story of Life in 10½ Chapters
Marianne Taylor

An exploration of the key aspects of life on Earth—now and in the future—through the study of ten and a half species.

If an alien visitor were to collect ten souvenir life forms to represent life on earth, which would they be? This is the thought-provoking premise of Marianne Taylor’s book. Each life form explains a key aspect about life on Earth. From the sponge that seems to be a plant but is really an animal, to the almost extinct soft-shelled turtle deemed extremely unique and therefore extremely precious.

Taylor considers the chemistry of a green plant and ponders the possibility of life beyond our world. She investigates the virus to try to determine what a life form is; and tells us that the giraffe was one species, but is now four; that the seaside sparrow may be revived through ‘re-evolution’, or cloning. The ‘half’ species is artificial intelligence. AI is central to our future—although from the alien visitor’s standpoint, unlikely to inherit the earth in the long run.

MARIANNE TAYLOR has authored over twenty-five books on natural history including The Way of the Hare and Dragonflight. Her interest in taxonomy and classification goes back to her childhood, when she made a point of learning scientific as well as English names for the wildlife she saw and aspired to see. She has since become fascinated by the science that is changing the way we understand the family ties of all life on Earth.
Romania has witnessed some of the strangest and bloodiest events in history. From Vlad Dracula and his heroic battles against the Ottoman Empire, to the mystical fascist cult that gripped the country between the wars. Romania was then plunged into half a century of Stalinism, until the revolution of 1989. Shortly after, I travelled there, and fell in love.

PAUL KENYON

A vivid, witty and horrifying history of some of the strangest dictators that the modern world has ever produced.

The only country in Eastern Europe to speak a Latin language and home of the semi-mythic Vlad Dracula, Romania has always felt itself to be different, and its fate has been to suffer from some of the most disastrous leaders of the last century. Romania’s interwar rulers form a gallery of bizarre characters and movements: the spectacularly corrupt King Carol; the antisemitic Iron Guard led by the messianic Corneliu Codreanu, a home-grown fascist leader who was worshipped by his followers and murdered by Carol; the vain general Ion Antonescu who seized power in 1940 and led the country into a disastrous alliance with Nazi Germany. The dreadful Holocaust in Romania was the work largely of Romanians, not Germans. In 1945 Stalin handed over power to Romania’s tiny communist party, under which the country experienced severe repression, purges and collectivization.

Then in 1964, Nicolae Ceauşescu came to power. And thus began the weirdest dictatorship in recent European history.

PAUL KENYON is the author of the bestselling Dictatorland, a book about African kleptocratic despots. For many years he was an Africa correspondent for the BBC. He lives in London, and is married to a Romanian who grew up under the Ceauşescu regime.
Though unequivocally a work of non-fiction, Walther’s account of the febrile last years of the Weimar Republic – culminating in the trauma of Hitler’s accession to power – has all the narrative drive of a novel.

**RICHARD MILBANK, PUBLISHER**

*Darkness Falling*

The Strange Death of the Weimar Republic, 1930–33

Peter Walther

An enthralling account of Germany’s slide from democracy to dictatorship, narrated via the interconnected stories of nine individuals who lived through the turbulent years that led up to the Nazis’ seizure of power.

Combining meticulous historical research with gripping storytelling, *Darkness Falling* examines the mounting crisis during the dying years of the Weimar Republic through the prism of nine principal protagonists, whose lives are profiled in fascinating detail, including leading Weimar politicians of all leanings, and prominent émigrés residing in Berlin. The febrile nightlife of early 1930s Berlin – ‘a playground for charlatans and prophets, madmen and crooks’ – is memorably and atmospherically evoked.

Peter Walther pulls together the threads of these nine lives to chart the demise of German parliamentary democracy and the rise of National Socialist tyranny, ending with Hitler’s seizure of power in January 1933. Along the way, we gain remarkable insights into the efforts made to keep the ‘Bohemian corporal’ from the chancellorship, the venality of the Nazi elite, and the demi-monde of early 1930s Berlin.

**PETER WALTHER** is the author of a bestselling biography of Hans Fallada. He studied German and art history and gained his doctorate in 1995. He has worked as a curator for numerous literary exhibitions and co-founded the Literaturportal website with Ulrich Janetzki. He heads the Brandenburg Literary Office in Potsdam with Hendrik Röder.
Scenes from Prehistoric Life
From the Ice Age to the coming of the Romans
Francis Pryor

A journey through the evolution of Britain’s prehistoric landscape, and the lives of its inhabitants, from the Old Stone Age to the arrival of the Romans in AD 43.

In Scenes from Prehistoric Life, the distinguished archaeologist Francis Pryor paints a vivid picture of Britain’s prehistory. Whether writing about the early human family who trod the estuarine muds of Happisburgh in Norfolk circa 900,000 BC or the Iron Age denizens of Britain’s first towns, Pryor brings the ancient past to life: revealing the daily routines of our ancient ancestors, and how they coped with both simple practical problems and more existential challenges. We travel from a Britain dominated by forests, moors, heaths and open floodplains to a landscape recognizable to many people living today: one demarcated by roads, fields, farms and villages.

At a time when the relationship between lifestyle and landscape is more fraught than ever before, it is crucial to look to the past to inform our present, and to help us to cope with the challenges of the future.

FRANCIS PRYOR is one of Britain’s most distinguished living archaeologists, the excavator of Flag Fen and a sheep farmer. He is the author of seventeen books including The Fens (a Radio 4 Book of the Week), Stonehenge, Flag Fen, Britain BC, Britain AD, and The Making of the British Landscape.
‘If humanity continues to burn fossil fuels, the world may warm beyond the point of no return. Within a geological instant, humans would have transformed Earth into a world of fires, storms and floods.’

JAMES DYKE

Fire, Storm & Flood
The Violence of Climate Change
James Dyke

An unflinching photographic record of the epic effects of a violent climate, from the earliest extinction events to the present.

Violent geological events have ravaged the Earth since time began, spanning the vast eras of our planet’s existence. These seismic phenomena have scored their marks in rock strata and been reflected in fossil records for future humanity to excavate and ponder. For most of the preceding 78,000 years, Homo sapiens simply observed natural climate upheaval. One hundred years ago, however, industrialization stunningly changed the rules, so that now most climate change is driven by us.

Fire, Storm and Flood is an unflinching photographic record of the epic effects of a violent climate, from the earliest extinction events to the present, in which we witness climate chaos forced by unnatural global warming. It uses often emotional and moving imagery to drive home the enormity of climatic events, offering a sweeping acknowledgement of our crowded planet’s heartbreaking vulnerability and show-stopping beauty.

JAMES DYKE is Assistant Director of the Global Systems Institute and Programme Director of MSc Global Sustainability Solutions at the University of Exeter. He is Visiting Fellow in the School of Geography & Environmental Science at the University of Southampton. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a member of the European Geophysical Union, and serves on the editorial board of the journal Earth System Dynamics. He regularly writes for The Ecologist, the Guardian, and the Independent newspapers, and the science-based news website The Conversation.com.
‘Blessed by nature, Athens is among the world’s oldest cities. Bruce Clark traces its many vicissitudes, familiar and unfamiliar: a beacon of freedom, a playground for Roman emperors, a shrine for medieval knights, a history lesson for sultans, a cold-war battleground, a magnet for edgy tourism...’

BRUCE CLARK

A sweeping history of Athens, telling the three-thousand-year story of the birthplace of Western civilization.

Athens presents one of the most recognizable panoramas of any of the world’s cities: for many, it is a city synonymous with civilization itself. The birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy and drama, Athens’ significance cannot be understated. Few cities have enjoyed a history so rich in artistic creativity and the making of ideas; or one so curiously patterned by alternating cycles of turbulence and quietness.

Bruce Clark’s new narrative history tells the story of Athens in 20 chapters, each of which focuses on a critical ‘moment’ in the city’s history. From the golden age of Classical Athens, through the years of Byzantine and Ottoman twilight, to the city’s 19th-century rebirth as national capital, and the travails of early 21st-century Athens as it struggles with the legacy of the economic crises of the 2000s, Clark brings the city to life, evoking its cultural richness and political resonance in an epic, kaleidoscopic history.

BRUCE CLARK writes on European Affairs and Religion for The Economist. He has been diplomatic correspondent of The Financial Times, Moscow correspondent for The Times, and Athens correspondent for Reuters. He is the author of Empire’s New Clothes, an exploration of the rise of nationalism in post-Soviet Russia in the 1990s, and Twice a Stranger: How Mass Expulsion Forged Modern Greece and Turkey, a history of the population exchange between Greece and Turkey which took place in the early 1920s. Twice a Stranger won the Runciman Award in 2007.

@bruceclark7  bruceclark.info
As we farm more animals, push more species towards extinction and destroy more habitats, the ever-increasing risk posed by wildlife disease is a ticking time bomb for humanity.

Ben Garrod

Death by Nature?
Understanding Wildlife Diseases

An engaging and accessible exploration of the major threat to public health increasingly posed by zoonotic diseases, from professor of evolutionary biology and broadcaster Ben Garrod.

We think of dangerous wildlife as the fin of the shark cutting through the shallows or the tiger hunting its prey, but the greater threat comes from the microscopic killers passed from animals to humans.

Taking this major human health issue and exploring it from the perspective of a biologist, Ben Garrod combs the natural world for causes, clues and cures to some of the greatest threats we face.

Each chapter includes interviews with leading professionals: scientists, conservationists and virus-hunters all on the front line of discovering and combating these diseases. Now may be our last chance to reset economies, restore degraded land, make our cities cleaner and conserve biodiversity.

Ben Garrod is Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Science Engagement at the University of East Anglia. He broadcasts regularly on TV and radio and is trustee and ambassador of a number of key conservation organisations. His previous books include the six book series So You Think You Know About... Dinosaurs?, The Chimpanzee and Me, and the eight-book series Extinct, published by Zephyr.

‘Garrod writes flawlessly with his own unique blend of well-honed skill as a scientist (and) contagious curiosity.’

BBC World Wildlife

‘This is a celebration of everything that science is really about.’

NatSCA

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‘Renaissance conclaves were naked bids for power, the cardinals plotting and scheming to outwit each other in conditions of extreme discomfort. Living in tiny cells with the stench of tallow, rubbish and disease growing daily, the mounting tension was evident in heated rows, even fistfights. Their one indulgence was banqueting on a superbly grand scale.’

MARY HOLLINGSWORTH

Conclave 1559
The Story of a Papal Election
Mary Hollingsworth

Intrigue, double-dealing and conspiracy in the Vatican: a meticulously crafted reconstruction of the papal election of 1559, as the future of Europe hangs in the balance.

Tasked with choosing a pontiff to replace a previous incumbent (Paul IV) whose reign was marked by repression, and faced with the growing challenge of the Protestant Reformation, the papal conclave of 1559 was held at a crucial moment in the history of the Catholic Church, and was faction-ridden even by the standards of such polarized gatherings. France and Spain, both looking to extend their power in Italy and beyond, had very different ideas of who the new pope should be, as did the Italian cardinals.

Making extensive use of the detailed accounts left by Ippolito d’Este, one of the participating cardinals, Mary Hollingsworth tells the story of the longest and most taxing of 16th-century papal elections. Conclave 1559 provides an astonishing insight into the daily lives of the 47 cardinals locked up for four months in the Vatican, and also illuminates the high politics of the era to provide a memorable snapshot of Christian Europe at a crucial crossroads in its history.

MARY HOLLINGSWORTH is a scholar of the Italian Renaissance and the author of The Medici, which was widely praised on its publication by Head of Zeus in 2017, and Princes of the Renaissance, published in 2021. Her other books include The Cardinal’s Hat, The Borgias: History’s Most Notorious Dynasty and Patronage in Renaissance Italy: From 1400 to the Early Sixteenth Century.

mary-hollingsworth.com
‘I was born in the year Ireland abandoned the attempt to build a protected Gaelic Catholic republic and began its dramatic transformation into one of the most globalized economies and societies on the planet. It has been a dramatic time. I want to tell this story, not in retrospect, but as a lived experience of change and contradiction, of violence and liberation.’

FINTAN O’TOOLE

We Don't Know Ourselves
A Personal History of Ireland Since 1958
Fintan O’Toole

Bestselling author of Heroic Failure, Fintan O’Toole – Ireland’s most celebrated writer on politics and culture – reflects on the history of Ireland in his own time.

O’Toole was born in 1958 into a working class North Dublin family, and his life covers Ireland’s journey out of underdevelopment and domination by the Church and into the relatively tolerant – though highly unequal – society that it is today. But he also witnessed a civil war in the north of the country, which cast a dark shadow over the whole island, and bitter struggles for intellectual, civil and sexual freedoms.

A participant in the most controversial arguments of the past forty years, Fintan O’Toole describes how the Church fought to defend its entrenched positions, and how apologists for sectarian violence abused critics as traitors. The truth about child abuse emerged only slowly, and women still had to die to enable the liberalization of laws, contraception, divorce and abortion.

This is a personal history of Ireland by a writer who is as confident and graceful writing about Beckett and Heaney as he is about Brexit and the authoritarianism of Donald Trump.

FINTAN O’TOOLE is a historian, biographer, literary critic and political commentator. His acclaimed columns on Brexit for The Irish Times, the Guardian and the New York Review of Books have been awarded both the Orwell Prize and the European Press Prize. His books include A Traitor’s Kiss, his life of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Judging Shaw and White Savage. His investigative, polemical books have all been bestsellers. Head of Zeus publishes Heroic Failure and Three Years in Hell.

@fotoole
The Middle Ages are the rock on which the western world is built. Whether we like it or not, we are the heirs to medieval ideas about law, religion, government, education, philosophy, art and culture. I want to tell you the greatest stories from that astonishing time – and show how we are still living with them today.

Dan Jones

Powers and Thrones
A New History Of The Middle Ages
Dan Jones

From the bestselling author of The Templars, Dan Jones’s epic new history tells nothing less than the story of how the world we know today came to be built.

Powers and Thrones is a thousand-year adventure that moves from the ruins of the once-mighty city of Rome, sacked by barbarians in AD 410, to the first contacts between the Old and New Worlds in the sixteenth century. Blending his trademark gripping narrative style with authoritative analysis, Dan Jones shows how, at each stage in this story, successive western powers thrived by attracting – or stealing – the most valuable resources, ideas and people from the rest of the world. It casts new light on iconic locations – Rome, Paris, Venice, Constantinople – and it features some of history’s most famous and notorious men and women.

This is a book written about – and for – an age of profound change, and it asks the biggest questions about the West both then and now. Where did we come from? What made us? Where do we go from here?

Dan Jones is a historian, broadcaster and award-winning journalist. His writing has appeared in newspapers and magazines, and his books, including The Plantagenets, Magna Carta, The Templars, Crusaders and The Colour of Time (with Marina Amaral), have sold more than one million copies worldwide. He has written and hosted dozens of TV shows including the acclaimed Netflix/Channel 5 series, Secrets of Great British Castles.

@dgjones
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Heiresses
The Lives of the Million Dollar Babies
Laura Thompson

A razor-sharp, beautifully written survey of the world of the wealthy heiress from the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries.

Laura Thompson explores the historical phenomenon of the heiress in four categories. First, the Estate Builders, women like Elizabeth Sloan, whose father Sir Hans owned the land that is now Chelsea. Second, the Patrons, like Winnaretta Singer, inheritor of the sewing-machine fortune, whose Parisian salon showcased work by Debussy and Fauré. The Party Girls enjoy their money without shame or conscience. After the death of hostess Ronnie Greville, high-living illegitimate daughter of a Scottish brewer, 286 bottles of Bollinger 1928 were discovered in her Mayfair home. Lastly, there are the Rebels, including Alice Silverthorne, who walked her black panther along the Promenade des Anglais and shot her lover in the stomach at the Gare du Nord.

A famous heiress once said: ‘Life is less sad with money’. It should be true. But is it? Laura Thompson’s Heiresses takes the reader on a sparklingly enlightening search for the answer.

LAURA THOMPSON is the author of several critically acclaimed works of non-fiction. Her first book The Dogs: A Personal History of Greyhound Racing won the Somerset Maugham Award. Rex V Edith Thompson: A Tale of Two Murders was shortlisted for a CWA Dagger Award. She has written biographies of Nancy Mitford and Agatha Christie, A Different Class of Murder about the Lord Lucan scandal and the New York Times bestselling Take Six Girls: The Lives of the Mitford Sisters.

www.laurathompson.co.uk
The Last Irish Question
Will Six Into Twenty-Six Ever Go?
Glenn Patterson

A witty, sceptical and humane view of the south of Ireland through the eyes of a liberal northern Protestant who is being asked to join that alien country.

The reunification of Ireland was the goal of nationalists after the country was divided into two states in 1922. In 1998, the Good Friday Agreement made the border irrelevant, and promised that Irish people could choose their identity freely. No one would be forced to be British or Irish; Irish unity would only come about if a majority of Northern Irish people agreed to it – which was unlikely to happen soon.

But that was before Brexit called into question the British commitment to Northern Ireland and threatened its economy, and before the remarkable rise of Sinn Féin. Now the border question has returned with a vengeance.

There have been countless books describing Northern Ireland and its tragic conflicts, but never a book like this that turns its gaze the other way: a journey of discovery through the south by a sharp-eyed northerner.

GLENN PATTERSON was born and lives in Belfast. He is a graduate of the University of East Anglia’s creative writing course. He has written many acclaimed novels and co-wrote the screenplay of the film Good Vibrations, based on the Belfast music scene of the 1970s. His book about the impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland, Backstop Land, was published by Head of Zeus in 2019.

@heresmehere

‘Witty and wise.’
Spectator

‘Amusing and thoughtful.’
Sunday Times

‘I grew up with dates painted on walls: Remember this year... Never forget that... Somewhere in the distant future – half the people around me hoped, the other half feared – there would be another year painted up there, the year that Northern Ireland and the Republic were reunited. On 1 February 2020 – Brexit + 1 – I woke and thought, maybe, just maybe, this was the year. I thought I better go and see for myself the lie of the land.’

GLENN PATTERSON
‘Stourhead ranks among the greatest landscape gardens which survive from Georgian times. Fifty years have passed since the first monograph on the subject and since then we know much more and can reproduce archival plans and illustrations in colour. Marianne Majerus’s photographs provide an up-to-date record of this enduring Elysium.’

DUDLEY DODD

A history of the world famous landscape garden at Stourhead, beautifully illustrated with photography by Marianne Majerus and contemporary watercolours and drawings.

Cross the south lawn at Stourhead and descend through the ancient and rare trees. Soon you will see a great lake appear, decorated with classical temples whilst an arched bridge lunges to the other side of the water. Continue on and you will find a mystical, jagged grotto; a gothic hideaway; gods, muses and saints.

This is how Henry Hoare – known as Henry the Magnificent – would have approached the garden he designed with Henry Flitcroft. Did he imagine himself as a journeying Aeneas, or was he recreating a Claud Lorrain landscape?

This is the first history – in colour – of a unique landscape created by generations of the Hoare banking family. It follows its evolution, describing how flights of folly, individual flair and tastes, combined with careful stewardship, have formed a national treasure and one of the finest example of the English landscape garden.

DUDLEY DODD had a long career with the National Trust, where he was Secretary of the Arts Panel, and has published widely on Stourhead, whose first modern guidebook he wrote in 1981. He is co-author of Roman Splendour, English Arcadia: The Pope’s Cabinet at Stourhead.
This is a story of battles and murders, adultery and bastards, fabulous wealth and devastating plague: a real-life Game of Thrones. Amid all the bloodshed and treachery, artists of the calibre of Jan van Eyck and Rogier van der Weyden somehow arose. The Burgundians is a history full of luxury and madness, of beauty and violence. Everything, in short, that a writer could dream of.

BART VAN LOO

The Burgundians
A Vanished Empire
Bart Van Loo,
translated by Nancy Forest-Flier

A publishing phenomenon in Europe, where it has sold 230,000 copies in hardback, Bart van Loo’s epic history of the dukedom of Burgundy has the grip of a great historical novel and the fascination of a wonderful factual narrative.

In 1525, Burgundy was extinguished as an independent state. It had been a fabulously wealthy, turbulent region situated between France and Germany, with close links to the English kingdom. Torn apart by the dynastic struggles of early modern Europe, this extraordinary realm vanished from the map. But it became the cradle of what we now know as the Low Countries, modern Belgium and the Netherlands.

This is the story of a thousand years, a compulsively readable narrative history of ambitious aristocrats, family dysfunction, treachery, savage battles, luxury and madness. It is about the decline of knightly ideals and the awakening of individualism and of cities, the struggle for dominance in the heart of northern Europe, bloody military campaigns and fatally bad marriages.

It is also a remarkable cultural history, of great art and architecture and music emerging despite the violence and chaos of the tension between rival dynasties.

BART VAN LOO has developed a rare twin talent over the years. While drawing big crowds in the theatre, he is also the author of the universally praised France: a Trilogy and the bestseller Chanson. The Burgundians, his most recent book, takes the reader on a fascinating journey through a thousand years of European history.

NANCY FOREST-FLIER is an American-born translator, editor, and writer living and working in the Netherlands.
‘We know less about Federico da Montefeltro than we think we do, since he was a highly sophisticated manipulator of his own image. This book reveals a more complex, more human and less virtuous man than his portraits suggest.’

JANE STEVENSON

The Light of Italy
The Life and Times of Federico da Montefeltro, Duke of Urbino
Jane Stevenson


Between 1444 and 1482 the dukedom of Urbino was ruled by a remarkable man. He was Federico da Montefeltro, mercenary captain, humanist, book-collector, patron of such artists as Piero della Francesca and creator of one of the most renowned libraries in Italy outside of the Vatican.

The court Federico assembled is regarded by many as representing a high point of Renaissance courtly culture. As well as casting revelatory light on patronage, politics and humanism in fifteenth-century Italy, *The Light of Italy* is rich in extraordinary details of the demanding lifestyle of Italy’s mercenary captains, and the often prominent political and cultural roles played by their wives during their protracted absences on campaign. Jane Stevenson tells the colourful story of the city that Kenneth Clark saw as the ultimate expression of Renaissance humanist ideals – and its most celebrated duke – in well-wrought words and glorious images.

JANE STEVENSON has taught at the universities of Cambridge, Sheffield, Warwick and Aberdeen, and is now a Senior Research Fellow at Campion Hall, Oxford. She is the author of *Baroque Between the Wars*, a study of alternative currents in the interwar arts, and *Edward Burra: Twentieth Century Eye*.
‘To understand our world, we have to understand Islam. In this book I take readers into the minds of Muslim scholars and theologians, philosophers and mystics, exploring how thinkers from medieval Medina to contemporary Cairo have interpreted their faith and answered the big questions about God, man and the world.’

FITZROY MORRISSEY

A Short History of Islamic Thought
Fitzroy Morrissey

A scholarly but accessible and elegantly written history of Islamic thought by a brilliant young scholar.

In what for many is a post-religious world, learning about the ideas of Islamic theologians from the seventh century to our own day may not seem a high priority. That view is misguided.

The characters that appear in this book – prophets and saints, scholars and Sufis, philosophers and theologians – devoted their lives to the deep investigation of life’s big questions. They are the questions that have defined not just Islamic but human, religious and philosophical thought.

And religion remains the key fact of life for countless people everywhere, especially for those whose religion is Islam. Islamic beliefs bear directly on how nearly two billion people order their lives, and think about themselves and the world.

To understand our world we have to understand Islam, and the history of the ideas that have defined the faith. And understanding the fraught politics of our world requires an appreciation of those ideas, and the long history that stands behind them.

FITZROY MORRISSEY is a historian of the Islamic world and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. He speaks Arabic and Persian and has a DPhil in Oriental Studies from Oxford, where he currently teaches on the Islamic Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and Theology courses. He works mainly on the intellectual history of the Muslim world, focusing on Sufism, Islamic philosophy, Muslim views of other religions, and modern Islamic thought.

@fitzmorrissey
‘Spain has been shaped by its geographical position and, in turn, has played a crucial role in shaping other places. This fringe position, however, means it is treated as a marginal player in Europe’s history when, in fact, from the age of exploration to the great clash of 20th-century ideologies it has sometimes been at the forefront of our continent’s story, if not a forerunner.’

GILES TREMLETT

España: A Brief History of Spain
Giles Tremlett

Bestselling author of Ghosts of Spain, Giles Tremlett traverses the rich and varied history of Spain, from prehistoric times to today.

Spain’s position on Europe’s south-western corner has exposed it to cultural, political and actual winds blowing from all quadrants. Africa lies a mere nine miles to the south. The Mediterranean connects it to the civilizational currents of Phoenicians, Romans, Carthaginians, Byzantines, and to the Arabic lands of the near east. Hordes from the Russian steppes were amongst the first to arrive. They would be followed by Visigoths, Arabs’ and English and Napoleonic armies. Circular winds and currents linked it to the American continent, allowing Spain to conquer and colonize much of it.

As a result, Spain has developed a sort of hybrid vigour. Whenever it has tried to deny this inevitable heterogeneity, it has required superhuman effort to fashion a ‘pure’ national identity – and proved impossible to maintain.

In A Brief History of Spain, Giles Tremlett argues that, in fact, the lack of a homogenous identity is Spain’s defining trait.

GILES TREMLETT is a British author, journalist and broadcaster based in Madrid, Spain. He has written extensively about Spain since graduating from Oxford University twenty-five years ago. His books include the bestselling Ghosts of Spain and The International Brigades: Fascism, Freedom and the Spanish Civil War.

@gilestremlett
A Spectre Haunting Europe
China Miéville

The great writer of ‘weird fiction’ gives us his brilliant reading of the modern world’s most controversial and enduring political document.

In 1848 a strange political tract was published by two émigrés from Germany. Marx and Engels’ apocalyptic vision of an insatiable system that penetrates every corner of the world, reduces every relationship to that of profit, and bursts asunder the old forms of production and of politics, is still a picture of a recognizable world, our world, and the vampiric energy of the system is once again highly contentious.

The Manifesto is a text that shows no sign of fading into antiquarian obscurity. Its ideas animate in different ways the work of writers like Yanis Varoufakis, Adam Tooze, Naomi Klein and the journalist Owen Jones.

China Miéville is not a writer who has been hemmed in by conventional notions of expertise or genre, and this is a strikingly imaginative take on Marx and what his most haunting book has to say to us today.

CHINA MIÉVILLE is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Arthur C. Clarke Award (three times), the British Fantasy Award (twice), and the Locus Award for Best Fantasy Novel (four times). His novels include Perdido Street Station, King Rat, Un Lun Dun, The City & The City, Railsea and The Last Days of New Paris. He has also written a narrative history of the Bolshevik Revolution, October.
‘With this book, I hope to help readers understand the way an early Medieval gospel book worked as a reading experience, and how it was used in performance and as a relic. I want readers to engage closely with the script, text and layout of the Book of Kells, not merely admiring the ornament but understanding how it relates to the text.’

VICTORIA WHITWORTH

The Book of Kells
Victoria Whitworth

A marvellous account of one of the most famous manuscripts in the world.

The Book of Kells is a mystery. It is distinct from all copies of the gospels from the early Middle Ages, not only in the quality and amount of its decoration but also in the peculiarities of the ordering of its contents, the oddness of its apparatus, the appearance of the script, the interplay of text and ornament, and the erratic forms of its Latin. Scholars cannot agree on the number of scribes and artists involved; establish the purpose of the book; or decide whether its oddities are the result of incompetence or carelessness, and how those oddities relate to the minutely careful and deeply meaningful art.

The Book of Kells is probably the most famous manuscript in the world — and Victoria Whitworth’s masterly treatment offers something new.

VICTORIA WHITWORTH is a historian and the bestselling author of Daughter of the Wolf and Swimming With Seals. She lives near Inverness, where she writes full-time.
Flights of Fancy
The Biology and Technology of Flight
Richard Dawkins

The world-renowned scientist, Richard Dawkins, explores the miracle of flight in this book for enquiring minds aged eight to eighty.

Do you sometimes dream you can fly like a bird? Gliding effortlessly above the treetops, soaring and swooping through the third dimension. Computer games, virtual reality headsets, and some drugs can lift our imagination and fly us through fabled, magical spaces. But it’s not the real thing. No wonder some of the past’s greatest minds, including Leonardo da Vinci’s, have yearned for flying machines and struggled to design them.

Flights of Fancy explores all the different ways of defying gravity, from the mythical Icarus to the sadly extinct bird Argentavis magnificens to the British Airways pilot. But it also means flights of digression into more general ideas and principles that take off from a discussion about flying. Lucidly and elegantly written, and embracing forms of flight as diverse as Leonardo’s helicopter, the Wright Flyer, gannets, boobies, Stukas and the 747, Flights of Fancy will enlighten and delight readers of all ages.

RICHARD DAWKINS is one of the world’s most eminent writers and thinkers and a major contributor to the public understanding of the science of evolution. The award-winning author of The Selfish Gene, The Blind Watchmaker, The God Delusion and a string of other bestselling science books, he is a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Royal Society of Literature.

JANA LENZOVA, born and raised in Bratislava, Slovakia, is an illustrator, translator and interpreter. Her two great passions are languages and drawing. After Jana was commissioned to translate Richard Dawkins’ The God Delusion into Slovak, she began contributing to his books as an illustrator.

© Jana Lenzová
richarddawkins.net
‘The Barn tells the remarkable history of farming and settlement in a hidden corner of Yorkshire countryside. From superstitions and rural labour to ancient celebrations to animal husbandry, the story of one humble building reveals the forgotten world of our not-too-distant ancestors.’

SALLY COULTHARD

The Barn
The Extraordinary Life of an Unremarkable Building
Sally Coulthard

Inspired by the old stone barn next to her farmhouse in rural North Yorkshire, best-selling nature writer Sally Coulthard uncovers the vanished agricultural way of life of a long-lost England.

When Sally discovered a set of ancient ‘witch-marks’ scratched into the wall of the old stone barn that dominates the farmyard of her house in the Hambledon Hills, she became intrigued by the sturdy old building and the stories behind it.

The barn is a relic of a life long gone, but it tells us a great deal: about how the land was settled; about how our ancestors rose to the challenge of growing food for an expanding population; about local crafts, skills and building styles. Its extensions and alterations are evidence of cycles of change in agricultural life, reflecting the broader socioeconomic character of English rural life. Using the various ‘rooms’ of the barn as her starting-point, Sally investigates the lives of the inhabitants of her corner of North Yorkshire between 1750 and the mid-twentieth century and, in so doing, reveals a forgotten agricultural world.

SALLY COULTHARD is a best-selling author of design and outdoor living books, including The Bee Bible, The Hedgehog Handbook, The Little Book of Building Fires, A Short History of the World According to Sheep and The Book of the Earthworm. She lives on a Yorkshire farm where she keeps sheep, chickens and the occasional hedgehog.

‘Rich and fascinating... Such a splendid book.’
Waterstones

‘A detailed story full of fascinating social history.’
Independent
‘My year on the Heath. Sounds easy, sounds fun. Who would have guessed that during this year I would want to buy a love nest to share with my girlfriend? And who would have dreamt a pandemic would strike – and all of us would be affected, including Hampstead Heath, on the eve of its 150th birthday.’

HUNTER DAVIES

The Heath
A Year in the Life of Hampstead Heath
Hunter Davies

An engaging and supremely well-observed portrait of Hampstead Heath – a place rich not just in natural wonders but in history and monuments, emotions and memories, people and places.

The eight hundred acres of Hampstead Heath lie just four miles from central London. And yet unlike the manicured inner-city parks, it feels like the countryside: it has hills and lakes, wild spots and tame spots. You can spend three hours walking round it – and only ever cross one road.

Hunter Davies has lived within a stone’s throw of Hampstead Heath for nearly sixty years and has walked on it nearly every day of his London life. In The Heath, he records his walks over one year, season by season. Visiting all parts of the Heath, from Kenwood House to its four public swimming places, Davies talks to the diverse array of individuals who frequent it: regulars, visitors, dog walkers; top athletes on the racetrack; famous faces having their morning stroll. This is an affectionate portrait of one of London’s – and the world’s – iconic, urban green spaces.

HUNTER DAVIES is a prolific author, journalist and broadcaster. The author of Lakeland, he spent every summer in the Lake District for nearly half a century and is the author of numerous guides to the Lakes. He has written about everything from the Beatles to football, as well as biographies of Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter and Alfred Wainwright. He divides his time between North London and the Isle of Wight.
‘The population surge in Africa since the 1950s is as fascinating as it is jaw-dropping. My aim in *Youthquake* is to shed some light on the detail. In demographic terms, this will certainly be Africa’s century. The consequences may defy prediction with any degree of certainty, but there can be no doubt that they will be momentous.’

EDWARD PAICE

*Youthquake*

*The Population Explosion in Africa*

Edward Paice

A study of Africa’s demographics – its youth and growth – and what they mean for the continent, today and into the future, from the Director of the Africa Research Institute.

Africa’s population growth in the last fifty years has been unprecedented. By mid-century, the continent will make up a quarter of the global population, compared to one-tenth in 1980. By the end of the century, the proportion could be as much as 40 per cent. This is a mega-trend that should not be ignored.

Africa’s youth is the most striking aspect of its demography. As the rest of the world ages, and the population of many countries starts to shrink, almost 60 per cent of Africa’s population is younger than twenty-five-years-old. This ‘youthquake’ will have immense consequences for the social, economic and political reality in Africa.

Edward Paice presents a detailed, nuanced analysis of the varied demography of Africa. He rejects the fanciful over-optimism of some commentators and doom-laden prophecies of others, while scrutinising received wisdom and carefully considering the ramifications of the youthquake for Africa and the world.

EDWARD PAICE was a History Scholar at Cambridge University and winner of the Leman Prize. After working for several years as an investment analyst in the City, he moved to Africa to write travel and natural history guides in Kenya and newly-independent Eritrea. His acclaimed biography *Lost Lion of Empire: The Life of Cape-to-Cairo Grogan* was published in 2001 and nominated by *The Week* as ‘Best Newcomer’. In 2003-04 Paice was awarded a Visiting Fellowship at Magdalene College, Cambridge. Since 2010 he has been Director of Africa Research Institute.
‘I wanted to explore the therapist/client relationship in the extreme, creating a claustrophobic and complex thriller set in the Norwegian wilderness.’

ALEX DAHL

A successful therapist starts reading her missing client’s latest novel and finds the heroine uncomfortably familiar in the latest dark, twisty thriller from CWA-shortlisted author, Alex Dahl.

You are her therapist.

Kristina is a successful therapist in central Oslo. She spends her days helping clients navigate their lives with a cool professionalism that has got her to the top.

She is your client.

But when her client Leah, a successful novelist, arrives at her office clearly distressed, begging Kristina to come to her remote cabin in the woods, she feels the balance begin to slip.

But out here in the woods.

When Leah fails to turn up to her next two sessions, Kristina reluctantly heads out into the wilderness to find her.

Nothing is as it seems.

Alone and isolated, Kristina finds Leah’s unfinished manuscript, and as she reads she realises the main character is terrifyingly familiar…”

ALEX DAHL

is a half-American, half-Norwegian author. Born in Oslo, she studied Russian and German linguistics with international studies, then went on to complete an MA in creative writing at Bath Spa University. A committed Francophile, Alex loves to travel, and has so far lived in Moscow, Paris, Stuttgart, Sandefjord, Switzerland, Bath and London. She is the author of three other thrillers: Playdate, The Heart Keeper, and The Boy at the Door, which was shortlisted for the CWA Debut Dagger.

© Nina Rangoy

‘Layered, bold, unpredictable, dark. Excellent.’
Will Dean

‘Fast-paced and unsettling.’
Guardian

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@authoralex
The Shattered Skies
John Birmingham

Space opera on an epic scale – as it should be. Part two of a violently energetic and energetically entertaining three-part military SF extravaganza.

Centuries after they were defeated and exiled to Dark Space, the Sturm have returned. Disgusted by the new technologies humankind have come to depend on, they intend to liberate us, by force if necessary.

With their advanced tech rendered null by the Sturm’s attack, humanity face certain annihilation. Their only hope lies with a few brave souls who survived the initial onslaught: the Commander of the Royal Armadalen Navy’s only surviving warship; a soldier sentenced to die; a young royal, forced to flee when her home planet is overrun and her entire family executed; the leader of an outlaw band; and the infamous hero of the first war with the Sturm hundreds of years ago.

If they are to stand any chance of survival, these five heroes must shed their modern technology and become the enemy. Their resistance might be humanity’s only hope.

JOHN BIRMINGHAM

As much as fun as it was to tear down an interstellar civilisation, it’s been even better bringing my five favourite heroes together to punch space Nazis in the ruins and work through their many, many personal issues.’

JOHN BIRMINGHAM was born in Liverpool, United Kingdom, but grew up in Ipswich, Queensland, Australia. Between writing books he contributes to a wide range of newspapers and magazines on topics as diverse as biotechnology and national security. He lives on top of a hill with his wife, daughter, son, two cats, and two dogs.
‘Kyiv fell to the Nazis in September 1941. Days later, it began to self-destruct. Total war obeys no rules, and the German response was savage. Kyiv. The week a city blew itself up.’

GRAHAM HURLEY

A blockbuster thriller set against one of the most horrific scenes in the Second World War.

On Sunday 22nd June, 1941, at 03.05, 3.5 million Axis troops burst into the Soviet Union along a 1,800-mile front. The southern thrust of the attack, codenamed Operation Barbarossa, was aimed at the Caucasus and the oil fields beyond. Kyiv was the biggest city to stand in their way.

Within six weeks, the city was under siege. Surrounded by Panzers, shelled day and night, Soviet Commissar Nikita Kruschev was amongst the senior officials coordinating the defence. And in his cadre of trusted personnel is British defector Bella Menzies, once with MI5, now with the NKVD.

With the fall of the city inevitable, the Soviets plan a bloody war of terror that will extort a higher toll on the city’s inhabitants than the invaders. As the noose tightens, Bella finds herself trapped, hunted by both the Russians and the Germans.

As the local saying has it: life is dangerous – no one survives it.

GRAHAM HURLEY is the author of the acclaimed Faraday and Winter crime novels and an award-winning TV documentary maker. Two of the critically lauded series have been shortlisted for the Theakston’s Old Peculier Award for Best Crime Novel. His thriller Finisterre, set in 1944, was shortlisted for the Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize.
Robert Ludlum’s™
The Bourne Treachery
Brian Freeman

‘I’ve been a Robert Ludlum fan since I was a teenager, so having the opportunity to continue his legacy is one of the most amazing things to happen to me in my publishing career.’

BRIAN FREEMAN

Jason Bourne has carved a bloody swath through countless opponents but now he’s facing the one force he can’t defeat – his own past.

Three years ago, Jason Bourne embarked on a mission in Estonia with his partner and lover, a fiery Treadstone agent codenamed Nova. Their job was to rescue a Russian scientist and activist, the leader of an anti-Putin protest movement, who’d recently been smuggled out of St. Petersburg in the midst of an FSB manhunt. They failed.

Now, three years later, everything has changed. Nova is gone, killed in a mass shooting in Las Vegas, and Bourne is a lone operative working in the shadows for Treadstone. He’s ready for a new mission when his handler brings him shocking news.

The Estonian mission was a set-up. Their target had not been killed. She is still in hiding in Russia and the Russian State Intelligence Agency is desperately seeking her. Bourne must find her first, but his race to correct the errors of the past will lead him to one inevitable conclusion: some secrets should stay buried.

BRIAN FREEMAN writes psychological thrillers that have been sold in forty-six countries and twenty-two languages. His novel Spilled Blood won the award for Best Hardcover Novel in the annual Thriller Awards, and his novel The Burying Place was a finalist for the same award. Other winners of this award have included authors Lisa Gardner, John Sandford, and Stephen King.

@bfreemanbooks
bfreemanbooks.com
@bfreemanbooks
‘I have always been fascinated by the lost history of Doggerland, and the men and women whose lives were erased by the rising sea. How did they understand and respond to climate change as it destroyed their world?’

JOHN THEOBALD

The first novel in an epic trilogy set 8,000 years ago during the last days of Doggerland, the North Sea’s Stone-Age Atlantis.

The seasons falter, the sea rises, and tide-by-tide the world shrinks. As the land is poisoned, so too are the minds of men. The young are pitted against the old. Tribe is pitted against tribe. Starvation and pestilence stalk the land. The old ways are abandoned, society collapses and chaos rules. But worse is yet to come.

The Drowned Land tells the story of a refugee who cannot deny her destiny, no matter how hard she tries; of a crippled young man searching for strength, courage and redemption; and of a warrior’s desperate will to survive... whatever the cost.

It conjures the dying days of a land, the dying days of an ancient way of life. For this is a historical turning point – even as the sea consumes Doggerland, the Stone Age is waning and hunter-gatherers are giving way to farmers and metal workers, kings and empires. The only way to survive is to unite.

JOHN THEOBALD was born and raised in Eastern Canada, and moved to the UK to study the poetry of Keats, and in 2009 received a PhD from the University of St Andrews. He lives in London, England.
Evan Ryder returns to Washington to find her department shut down and her sister’s children missing in the second blockbusting instalment in New York Times bestseller Eric van Lustbader’s new series.

Evan Ryder has finally thwarted the violent international fascist syndicate known as Nemesis. Now the target of a cabal of American billionaires who were among Nemesis’s supporters, she’s returned to Washington, D.C., to find her secret division of the Department of Defence shut down and her dead sister’s children missing. Evan and her former boss, Ben Butler, must learn to work together as partners – and navigate their intricate past – as they hunt down her family’s kidnappers.

Their search will take them from the souks of Istanbul, to an ancient church deep within the Carpathian Mountains of Romania. But what Evan cannot know is that an old enemy stalks them in the shadows: an adversary whose secret past will upend Evan’s entire world, and might just annihilate her.

ERIC VAN LUSTBADER is the author of twenty-five international bestsellers, as well as twelve Jason Bourne novels, including The Bourne Enigma and The Bourne Initiative. His books have been translated into over twenty languages. He lives with his wife in New York City and Long Island.

ericvanlustbader.com  @evanlustbader
‘If 13 million women in Britain are going through menopause at any one time, why aren’t we in any novels? Where are the menopausal heroines? I want to share the funny side as well as its tough days. That’s why I invented Eliza.’

**GEORGIE HALL**

A smart and funny novel about love, life and a second shot at freedom for rebellious women of a certain age.

Eliza is angry. Very angry, and very, very hot.

Late for work and dodging traffic, she’s still reeling from the latest row with her husband Paddy. Twenty-odd years ago their eyes met across the class divide in oh-so-cool Britpop London, but now the only time their eyes meet is to bicker across their crumb-strewn sofa.

Paddy seems content to fill his downtime with canal boats and cricket, but Eliza craves the freedom and excitement of her youth. Being fifty feels far too close to pensionable, their three teenage children are growing up fast, and even the dog has upped and died. Something is going to have to change – menopause be damned!

Eliza is a heroine that many women will recognise: a rebellious woman of a certain age, who won’t be told it’s too late to shake things up.

**GEORGIE HALL** is the pseudonym of a hot, fierce and funny middle-aged mother and bestselling author, ready to cast off, type fast and float the boats of millions of women just like her.

@GeorgieHallUK
georgie-hall.com
‘How far would you go to fit in? We all want to feel we belong in our group of friends, at work, in our community. We present the best version of ourselves, but what if people discover the real you?’

ALIYA ALI-AFZAL

Would I Lie to You?
Aliya Ali-Afzal

A page-turning, warm-hearted and funny debut novel about a woman who must hide the fact she’s spent the family’s savings when her husband loses his job.

Faiza has always wanted to fit in. With her banker husband, three beautiful children and gorgeous house in a sought-after corner of London, she’s done pretty well at transforming herself into the kind of woman who mixes with the Yummy Mummies of Wimbledon.

But behind the carefully chosen designer clothes and sleek, expensive blow-dry lies a big secret. Faiza has been dipping into the family savings account in her attempt to belong, promising herself that one day she’ll put the money back. Then, in the middle of her first Botox appointment, she gets a call from her husband saying he’s lost his job. Now Faiza has six weeks to put all the money back before her husband or her friends notice she is penniless.

As the clock ticks down, a different Faiza emerges: one who will learn things about her family, her identity, her hopes and desires that she never knew before.

ALIYA ALI-AFZAL lives in London and is studying for an MA in Creative Writing. She is an Alum of the Curtis Brown novel writing course, and her writing has been longlisted for the Bath Novel Award, the Mslexia Novel Competition, the Mo Siewcharran Prize Hachette UK, and the Primadonna Prize. She moved to London from Pakistan as a young child, and has lived there ever since, working as a City head-hunter and an Executive MBA career coach before becoming a writer.

@AAAiswriting
‘I like chaos. The chaos of change. In 1938 Japan invaded China and China fell apart. Within months it had to heroically re-create itself – socially, educationally, economically, militarily and personally. It succeeded. So – not like 2021 in any way!’

JOHN FLETCHER

Wuhan

John Fletcher

A multi-stranded historical epic set in China in 1937, when Wuhan stood alone against a whirlwind of war and violence.

1937. China is at war. Japanese soldiers sweep through the country, killing and displacing the millions who stand in their way. Nanjing has fallen, and Wuhan been promoted in its place. While the rest of the world looks the other way, Wuhan stands alone against a whirlwind of violence which forced unprecedented cultural and political change. This will be a moment that shapes China’s future.

Weaving together a multitude of narratives, Wuhan is a historical epic that pulls no punches: the heart-in-mouth story of a peasant family forced onto a thousand-mile refugee death-march; the story of Lao She – the influential Chinese novelist – who leaves his family in a war-zone to assist with the propaganda effort in Wuhan; the hellish battlefields of the Sino-Japanese war; the incipient global conflict seen through a host of colourful characters – from Chiang Kai-Shek, China’s nationalist leader, to Peter Fleming, a British journalist based in Wuhan and a prototype for his younger brother Ian Fleming’s James Bond.

JOHN FLETCHER is a Neoplatonist and an anarcho-syndicalist. Over the course of his life he has been many things, including a construction worker, a shepherd, a white van driver, a gravedigger, a steelworker, a cleaner, a teacher, a broadcast journalist, and a writer. Wuhan is his first novel.
‘In *For Lord and Land*, I have a split narrative. Alongside Beobrand’s usual escapades, fighting for the kingdom and becoming embroiled in the intrigues of kings and queens, his trusted warrior, Cynan, has his own adventure that sees him facing new enemies and old friends. One thing you can be sure of is that both heroes will be tested to the limit before the final page.’

**MATTHEW HARFFY**

WAR RAGES BETWEEN THE TWO KINGDOMS OF NORTHUMBRIA IN THE NEWEST ACTION-PACKED INSTALMENT OF THE BERNICIA CHRONICLES, SET IN AD 647 ANGLO-SAXON BRITAIN.

Greed and ambition threaten to tear the north apart. When Beobrand travels south into East Angeln to rescue a friend, he unwittingly tilts the balance of power in the north, setting in motion events that will lead to a climactic confrontation between Oswiu of Bernicia and Oswine of Deira.

While the lord of Ubbanford is entangled in the clash of kings, his most trusted warrior, Cynan, finds himself on his own quest, called to the aid of someone he thought never to see again. Riding into the mountainous region of Rheged, Cynan faces implacable enemies who would do anything to further their own ends.

Forced to confront their pasts, and with death and betrayal at every turn, both Beobrand and Cynan have their loyalties tested to breaking point. Who will survive the battle for a united Northumbria, and who will pay the ultimate price for lord and land?

**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.
'This is the tale of the first Italian Queen of France, Catherine de’ Medici. Stranger and daughter of merchants, she must earn her crown in a time of blood and war when men killed each other in the name of God.'

**MATTEO STRUKUL**

The third instalment in a prize-winning series charting the rise of the House of Medici as they become Masters of Florence and progenitors of the Renaissance.

Fontainebleau, 1536. Francis II, dauphin of France, is dead. Poisoned. And the royal court believe the murderer was Catherine de’ Medici. With the heir apparent dead, her husband will be the next King of France, and Catherine’s family is notorious for doing whatever it takes to consolidate their power.

But Catherine is not yet queen, and without an heir of her own, she cannot be sure of securing her family’s legacy. To ensure the conception of an heir, she will need to seek help from an unexpected ally: Nostradamus, the reclusive astronomer and purported seer. He is dismissed by most as a charlatan and a heretic – but to Catherine, he is her only hope.

In a court rife with intrigue and betrayal, Catherine must now wait – for the death of the king, and the birth of a son to carry her name. Once she is queen, Catherine de’ Medici’s power will grow. But being patient can be dangerous, and her enemies are everywhere...

**MATTEO STRUKUL** was born in Padua in 1973 and has a PhD in European law. His novels are published in twenty countries. He writes for the cultural section of *Venerdì di Repubblica* and lives with his wife in Padua, Berlin and Transylvania.

**RICHARD MCKENNA** is a British translator. Originally from Yorkshire, he now lives in Rome.
‘I’ve long wondered how gene therapy’s promised miracles impact disabled people and their families. Amongst a maelstrom of secrets, silence and unconditional love, Patience asks: What if it works? And what if it doesn’t?’

VICTORIA SCOTT

Patience
Victoria Scott

If you were offered the chance to be ‘normal’ would you take it? Do we even know what ‘normal’ is?

The Willow family have been through a lot together. Louise has devoted her life to her family and raising her disabled daughter, Patience. Pete now works abroad, determined to provide more, even if it means seeing less of those he loves. And Eliza, in the shadow of her sister, has a ‘perfect’ life in London, striving to live up to her mother’s high standards.

Meanwhile, Patience lives her life quietly, watching and judging the world while she’s trapped in her own body. She laughs, she cries, she knows what she wants, but she can’t ever communicate this to those who make the decisions for her. Patience only wants a voice, but this is impossible.

When the opportunity to put Patience into a new gene therapy trial to cure her Rett syndrome becomes available, opinions are divided, and the family is torn.

VICTORIA SCOTT has been a journalist for almost two decades, working for a wide variety of outlets including the BBC, Al Jazeera, Time Out, Doha News and the Telegraph. When she’s not writing, Victoria enjoys running incredibly slowly, singing loudly, baking badly and travelling the world extensively. Victoria is a Faber Academy graduate.
The Wedding Dress
Dani Atkins

Three women. Three love stories. One wedding dress. The new heart-warming and uplifting romance from award-winning romance writer Dani Atkins.

Suzanne is engaged to be married to the man of her dreams – except the lead up to her wedding is beginning to feel more like a nightmare. Can she uncover the truth about her fiancé ahead of her big day?

Bella’s life was on track until the day of the hen party when everything changed. Now she must find the strength to rebuild her future – and decide who she wants to spend it with.

Mandy’s grandmother has fallen in love but her family don’t approve. For her grandmother’s dreams to come true, Mandy has a secret wedding to plan, and a very special dress to find...

These are the three strangers whose stories are about to be woven together by one perfect dress.

Dani Atkins is an award-winning novelist. Her 2013 debut Fractured has been translated into sixteen languages and has sold more than half a million copies since first publication in the UK. Dani is the author of five other bestselling novels, one of which, This Love, won the Romantic Novel of the Year Award in 2018. Dani lives in a small village in Hertfordshire with her husband, one Siamese cat and a very soppy Border Collie.

‘I’m shamelessly addicted to TV wedding shows – especially those about choosing the dress. More than the gown, it’s the backstories that fascinate me: family feuds, rivalry and intrigue, combined with a heart-warming love story. How could I not have written this book?’

DANI ATKINS

‘Beautifully written.’ Heat

‘A stunning, heartfelt story.’ Alice Peterson
The Soul Breaker
Sebastian Fitzek, translated by John Brownjohn

International number one bestseller Sebastian Fitzek plunges readers into the depths of their own souls in his new high-concept thriller.

The Soul Breaker destroys women. He doesn’t kill or mutilate them. But he leaves them dead inside, paralysed and catatonic. His only trace is a note left in their hands.

Berlin’s exclusive Teufelsberg Clinic had never heard of the Soul Breaker. They are more concerned about their rich and famous patients, and the man they have just discovered outside their door. Drenched in snow and soaking wet, he has no recollection of who he is, or why he is there. When the weather worsens, the clinic becomes completely cut off from the world outside. Along with the staff, the man with no memory is unable to leave.

And then the head psychiatrist is found mute and trembling, with a slip of paper clasped in her hands. Is the Soul Breaker in their midst? And if he is, can he be stopped?

SEBASTIAN FITZEK is one of Europe’s most successful authors of psychological thrillers. His books have sold 12 million copies, been translated into more than thirty-six languages and are the basis for international cinema and theatre adaptations. Sebastian Fitzek was the first German author to be awarded the European Prize for Criminal Literature. He lives with his family in Berlin.

JOHN BROWNJOHN was a British literary translator. He translated more than 160 books, and won the Schlegel-Tieck Prize for German translation three times.

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‘One of the crime world’s most evocative storytellers.’
Karin Slaughter

‘Simply amazing... Fitzek is a true master of his craft.’
Chris Carter

‘Fitzek is the master manipulator. Page-by-page, he confounds expectations, ups the ante and pushes the boundaries. Expect to be blind-sided, terrified and, yes, horrified.’
NIC CHEETHAM, PUBLISHER

‘Fitzek is a true master of his craft.’
Chris Carter

‘Simply amazing... Fitzek is a true master of his craft.’
Chris Carter
‘For me, this is a book about courage, survival, and the bonds we make with one another in desperate times. A fire made in darkness, the promise of spring in winter.’

TIM LEACH

A Winter War
Tim Leach

A disgraced warrior must navigate a course between honour and shame, his people and the Roman Empire, in the first book in a new trilogy set in the second century AD.

AD 173. The Danube lies frozen. On its banks gather the clans of Samartia, their riders winter-starved by sickly herds and blighted crops. Petty feuds have been cast aside, their numbers united as they prepare to cross into the rich lands of the Roman Empire. The only thing that stands in their way is a single, solitary legion.

The Romans may be powerful, but the Samartians are proud — and some say they were cast from the ice itself. They were trained from young to ride and fight and kill on its slippery surface. They cannot lose. They charge...

The next day, alone on a bloodied battlefield awakens Kai, a young warrior. Surrounded by the bodies of his people, fallen to the Legion, to have survived is a disgrace. In the aftermath of such defeat, he must navigate a course between honour and shame, his people and the Empire. It is a journey that will take him far to the west, beyond everything he has ever known.

TIM LEACH is a graduate of the Warwick Writing Programme, where he now teaches as an Assistant Professor. His first novel, The Last King of Lydia, was shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize.
There was a moment while writing this novel when all my characters began speaking to me at once, competing to tell their story. It was then I became sure that I was meant to bring the voices of the lost people of Smyrna back into existence. When I finished writing the book, I felt complete.

DEFNE SUMAN

The Silence of Scheherazade

Set in the ancient city of Smyrna during the early twentieth century, this dazzling novel marks the English language debut of Turkish novelist, Defne Suman.

On an orange-tinted evening in 1905, Scheherazade is born to an opium-dazed mother in the ancient city of Smyrna. At the same moment, a dashing Indian spy arrives in the city’s harbour with a secret mission from the British Empire. He sails in to golden-hued spires and minarets and the scents of fig and sycamore. When he leaves, seventeen years later, it will be to the heavy smell of kerosene and smoke as the city is engulfed in flames.

But let us not rush, for much will happen in between. Birth, death, romance and grief are all to come as these peaceful, cosmopolitan streets are used as bargaining chips in the wake of the First World War.

Told through the intertwining fates of a Levantine, a Greek, a Turk and an Armenian family, this unforgettable novel reveals a city, and a culture, now lost to time.

DEFNE SUMAN was born in Istanbul and grew up on Prinkipo Island. She studied sociology at the Bosphorus University and later continued her studies in Oregon, USA, and now lives in Athens with her husband. *The Silence of Scheherazade* was first published in Turkey and Greece in 2015 and is her English language debut.

BETSY GÖKSEL is an American teacher and translator who has lived in Turkey since the 1960's.
‘I’ve always loved magic, monsters, sword fights, and strange new worlds. With *The Gauntlet and the Fist Beneath*, I wanted to create a world inspired by the momentous landscapes and crumbling ruins of Scotland, to tell a story where peril is never far and hard choices must be made.’

**IAN GREEN**

An action-packed and unique fantasy adventure set in a world of brutal juntas and ancient animism, where gruesome medieval warfare and strange magic are the tactics used in the name of freedom.

*Protect your people. Fight for your family. Destroy your enemies.*

The endless rotstorm rages over the ruins of the Ferron Empire. Floré would never let the slavers of the Empire rise again. As a warrior of the Stormguard Commandos, she wrought horrors in the rotstorm to protect her people. She did her duty and left the bloodshed behind.

Floré’s peace is shattered when blazing orbs of light cut through the night sky and descend on her village. Her daughter is abducted and Floré is forced into a chase across a land of twisted monsters and ancient gods. She must pursue the mysterious orbs, whose presence could herald the return of the Empire she spent her entire life fighting.

Now, Floré must take up a role she had sworn to put aside and become the weapon the Stormguard trained her to be, saving not only her daughter, but her people...

**IAN GREEN** is a writer from northern Scotland with a PhD in epigenetics. His fiction has been widely broadcast and performed, including winning the BBC Radio 4 Opening Lines competition and winning the Futurebook Future Fiction prize. His short fiction has been published by London, Almond Press, OpenPen, Meanjin, Transportation Press, *The Pigeonhole*, No Alibi Press, Minor Lits, and more.

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ianthegreen.com
@ianiangreen
‘Cora Gorderheim has faced some tough choices in this trilogy, many close to home, but have they prepared her for what needs to be done in the final days of this dangerous election?’

D.K. FIELDS

The final instalment of The Tales of Fenest, an upmarket fantasy crime trilogy from two rising stars in the genre.

There’s power in stories. But power can be deadly...

Detective Cora Gorderheim is a detective no longer. Stripped of her badge by the corrupt chief inspector, Cora’s job now is to protect her sister, Ruth, the new Wayward storyteller.

Ruth must tell her tale of the Tear widening if people are to know the truth of what’s happening in the Union of Realms. But Lowlander Chambers Morton wants the Wayward to change their election story, and will stop at nothing to achieve this – including murder.

Keeping Ruth alive in Fenest is hard enough, but when the sisters set sail for West Perlanse the dangers come thick and fast. And slowly Cora realises she must make a terrible choice: her sister’s life, or the future of the Union.

D.K. FIELDS is the pseudonym for the writing partnership of novelists David Towsey and Katherine Stansfield. The couple are originally from the south west of England, and now live in Cardiff. The first two books in the Tales of Fenest trilogy, Widow’s Welcome and The Stitcher and the Mute, are also available from Head of Zeus.

dkfields.blogspot.com  @dkfields1
I live in Wiltshire, a beautiful county full of dark secrets, and it was only a matter of time before I turned my attention to nearby Porton Down. But I also wanted to push unreliable narration to the very limit, so nothing is as it seems…'

J.S. MONROE

An intelligent and twisty thriller set in rural Wiltshire. A dead body in a crop circle sends a coded message. Can Bella and Jim uncover the truth before it’s too late?

It’s not unusual for crop circles to appear overnight on Hackpen Hill. In this part of Wiltshire, where golden wheat fields stretch for miles, the locals are used to discovering strange mathematical patterns stamped into the earth.

But this time, it’s different. Not only because this particular design of dramatic spiralling hexagons has never been seen before, but because of the dead body positioned precisely in the centre of the circle. DI Silas Hart, of Swindon Police, is at a loss.

Only Jim, a scientist at a secretive government laboratory, knows the chilling truth about the man on Hackpen Hill. And he wants Bella, a trainee journalist on her first ever story, to tell the world. But Silas has other ideas – and a boss intent on a cover up…

As Bella and Jim race against time, dark forces conspire against them, leading them to a world in which nothing is as it seems.

J.S. MONROE read English at Cambridge, worked as a foreign correspondent in Delhi, and was Weekend editor of the Daily Telegraph in London before becoming a full-time writer. His psychological thriller Find Me became a bestseller in 2017, and, under the name Jon Stock, he is also the author of five spy thrillers. He lives in Wiltshire, with his wife and children.
‘When the air raid sirens sounded one night in Plymouth, a baby was left in his cot as his family fled to the shelter. He was immediately missed and rescued before the bombers arrived – true story. But what if he hadn’t been?’

DINEY COSTELOE

The gritty and heartrending tale of a child stolen from his home in the aftermath of a terrible air raid – based on a true story.

Plymouth, 1941. As sirens blare all around, the Shawbrook family take refuge in a packed shelter. Bombs have already begun to fall through the night sky when they realise their infant son, Freddie, has been forgotten in the rush, left to sleep in his crib. Terrified, Vera, his young mother races to find him and bring him to safety.

The next morning, air raid warden David Shawbrook returns from his watch to find the shelter pulverised, and his family seemingly all dead. Dirty footprints inside their home betray the looters who have rifled through the house.

Meanwhile, Maggie waits alone for her husband. Since the death of her infant son, she passes her days at home with neither joy nor purpose. But not this morning. For this morning her husband has brought home a child, found abandoned in the aftermath of the terrible raid – a child she is sure is the one she held in her arms so many months before.

DINEY COSTELOE is the author of twenty-three novels, several short stories, and many articles and poems. She has three children and seven grandchildren, so when she isn’t writing, she’s busy with family. She and her husband divide their time between Somerset and West Cork.

dineycosteloe.co.uk

© Helen Faubel

Diney Costeloe

The Stolen Baby
The Hidden Child
Louise Fein

‘The Hidden Child began when my daughter’s epilepsy was at its worst. A hundred years earlier, she would have been incarcerated for life. This story is inspired by what could have happened back then.’

LOUISE FEIN

From the outside, Eleanor and Edward Hamilton are the epitome of a perfect marriage but they’re harbouring a shameful secret that threatens to fracture their entire world.

London, 1929. Eleanor Hamilton is a dutiful mother, a caring sister and an adoring wife to a celebrated war hero. Her husband, Edward, is a leading light in the eugenics movement. The Hamiltons are on the social rise, and it looks as though their future is bright.

When Mabel, their young daughter, begins to develop debilitating seizures, they will have to face the uncomfortable truth – Mabel is epileptic.

Forced to hide the truth so as not to jeopardise Edward’s life’s work, the couple must confront their past – and the secrets that have been buried.

Will Eleanor and Edward be able to fight for their family? Or will the truth destroy them?

LOUISE FEIN

holds an MA in Creative Writing from St Mary’s University. Prior to studying for her master’s, she ran a commodity consultancy business following a career in banking and law. She lives in Surrey with her family.

Her debut novel, People Like Us, was inspired by her family history, and by the alarming parallels she sees between the early 30s and today. A theme that is present throughout her books.

louisefein.com
louisefeinauthor
@FeinLouise

‘A compelling tale of forbidden love set in 1930s Leipzig.’
Independent

‘Terrifying, yet tender.
I loved it.’
Irish Examiner
Non-stop action, space battles and intrigue abound in the second in a galactic-scale, gender-swapped space opera trilogy inspired by the life of Alexander the Great.

Princess Sun and her formidable mother, Queen-Marshal Eirene, have defeated and driven out an invading fleet of the Phene Empire. Their joint command has proven effective and their enemy appears cowed, though success is not without its price.

Their once-mighty fleets depleted, Sun and Eirene must work together to rebuild and consolidate their victory. But on the eve of a bold attack, unexpected tragedy strikes. Princess Sun will have to step out of her mother’s shadow and take charge, or lose the throne for good. But, will she be content with the pragmatic path laid out by her mother? Or will she forge her own legend despite all the forces arrayed against her?

All the while, the Empire remains strong and undeterred. Their rulers are determined to squash the upstart republic once and for all – by any means necessary.

Kate Elliott has been writing stories since she was nine years old, which has led her to believe that writing, like breathing, keeps her alive. Writing science fiction and fantasy, her particular focus is immersive world building and centering women in epic stories of adventure, amid transformative cultural change. Kate was born in Iowa, raised in Oregon and now lives in Hawaii, where she paddles outrigger canoes and spoils her schnauzer.

kateelliott.com  @KateElliottSFF
Every Leaf a Hallelujah
Ben Okri & Diana Ejaita

An environmental fairytale made for our times, written to be read by adults and children, from the Booker Prize-winning author of The Famished Road.

Mangoshi lives with her mum and dad in a village near the forest. When her mum becomes ill, Mangoshi knows only one thing can help her – a special flower that grows deep in the forest.

The little girl needs all her courage when she sets out alone to find and bring back the flower, and all her kindness to overpower the dangers she encounters on the quest.

Ben Okri brings the power of his mystic vision to a timely story that weaves together wonder, adventure and environmentalism.

‘There’s so much joy and hope and wisdom in this story. And only Ben could have brought the trees to life like this. We really need his particular brand of magic right now.’

MAGGIE MCKERNAN, EDITOR-AT-LARGE

Fiction/Children’s

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OCTOBER 2021 • APOLLO/CHILDREN’S • 222x174mm • 96pp • Rights: WORLD ALL LANGUAGES

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Ben Okri was born in Minna, Nigeria. His childhood was divided between Nigeria, where he saw first hand the consequences of war, and London. He has won many prizes over the years for his fiction, and is also an acclaimed essayist, playwright, and poet.

Diana Ejaita works as an illustrator and textile designer in Berlin. Born in Cremona, Italy, and of Nigerian origins, her aesthetic pays homage to her lineage.

BEN OKRI

DIANA EJATA

© Matt Bray
‘I became fascinated by the Special Boat Squadron when researching a book on Crete in 1941. They were a motley lot: adventurers, sailors and rogues, christened ‘pirates’ by the Nazis. But to me they were nothing less than heroes, whose breathtaking, daring wartime exploits, too long brushed-over by the establishment, deserved to be properly immortalised.’

IAIN GALE

First novel in a series chronicling the exploits of the Special Boat Squadron, who executed World War Two’s most daring covert operations.

From this moment on, you and your men, you don’t exist.

Formed in the darkest hours of the Second World War, as nation after nation fell before the unstoppable Axis advance, their task was to strike back at an enemy no army could meet in the field. Trained in sabotage and surveillance, they raided deep behind enemy lines, sewing chaos and capturing much-needed Intelligence: codes, documents, equipment — even personnel. Their methods were unorthodox, their success rate unprecedented. Soldiers, adventurers and rogues, they were the seaborne raiders who, by strength and guile, carried out the war’s most dangerous covert operations.

Operation Anglo, 31 August 1942.

Beneath the waves, HMS Traveller closes in on the coast of Rhodes in the Eastern Mediterranean. Aboard, eight SBS commandos check their weapons as they prepare to sabotage two Axis bomber fields. They will succeed, but only two of the eight commandos will make it back to the submarine...

IAIN GALE, art critic, journalist and author, comes from a military family and has always been fascinated by military history. He is an active member of the Scottish Committee of the Society of Authors and the Friends of Waterloo Committee. He is the Editor of Scotland in Trust, the magazine for the National Trust of Scotland, and founded the Caledonian magazine. He lives in Edinburgh.

@Quatrebras1815
‘In The Watchers I wanted to reimagine one of Ireland’s most sinister legends, instilling in it a modern sense of mystery and a fear of the unknown. The horror is sourced not from what the characters see or understand, but rather from all that they do not.’

A.M. SHINE

A unique and claustrophobic horror adventure set in the remote, unknown forests of Galway, where mysterious creatures keep humans as pets for observation, from debut Irish author A. M. Shine.

The letters were sharp and tortured, and reiterated so many times that they scored deep into the plaster: Stay in the light. This forest isn’t charted on any map. Every car breaks down at its treeline. Mina’s is no different. Left stranded, she is forced into the dark woodland only to find a woman shouting, urging Mina to run to a concrete bunker. As the door slams behind her, the building is besieged by their screams.

Mina finds herself in a room with a wall of glass, and an electric light that activates at nightfall, when the watchers come above ground. Mina joins three survivors who gather at the mirrored pane when darkness falls, so that all of those unseen eyes can watch them. They say there’s no way out, but Mina is determined to escape, despite all their warnings...

The Watchers
A.M. Shine

A.M. SHINE is a writer and advocate of the Gothic horror tradition. Born in Galway in the west of Ireland, there he received his Master Degree in History before sharpening his quill and pursuing all things literary and macabre. His stories have won the Word Hut and Bookers Corner prize. He has published two collections, Coldwood: the haunted man and other stories and 13 and is a member of the Irish Writers Centre. The Watchers is his first full-length novel.

A.M. SHINE

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OCTOBER 2021 • ARIES/HORROR • 228x145mm • 240pp • Rights: WORLD ALL LANGUAGES
HB 9781801102124 £18.99 • XTPB 9781801102131 £14.99 • E 9781801102155
‘This story was originally recorded in the early fifteenth century by an unknown monk at Byland Abbey, in Yorkshire. I have rewritten and expanded it somewhat, but not deviated from the substance of the original tale. So far as we know, it was based on real events...’

DAN JONES

A chilling medieval ghost story, first written by a 15th century monk and now retold by bestselling historian Dan Jones. Published in a beautiful small-format hardback, perfect as a Halloween read or a Christmas gift.

One winter, in the dark days of King Richard II, a tailor was riding home on the road from Gilling to Ampleforth. It was dank, wet and gloomy; he couldn’t wait to get home and sit in front of a blazing fire.

Then, out of nowhere, the tailor is knocked off his horse by a raven, who then transforms into a hideous dog, its mouth writhing with its own innards. The dog issues the tailor with a warning: he must go to a priest and ask for absolution and return to the road, or else there will be consequences...

First recorded in the early fifteenth century by an unknown monk, The Tale of the Tailor and the Three Dead Kings was transcribed from the Latin by the great medievalist M.R. James in 1922. Building on that tradition, now bestselling historian Dan Jones retells this medieval ghost story in crisp and creepy prose.

DAN JONES

is a historian, broadcaster and award-winning journalist. His writing has appeared in newspapers and magazines, and his books, including The Plantagenets, Magna Carta, The Templars, Crusaders and The Colour of Time (with Marina Amaral), have sold more than one million copies worldwide. He has written and hosted dozens of TV shows including the acclaimed Netflix/Channel 5 series, Secrets of Great British Castles.
‘This isn’t a world where the remnants of the ancients are confined to buried temples and forgotten woods. They’re everywhere: vast ruined cities, crashed skyships, and smoking craters still littering the landscape, with the people of the present day living and scavenging amid the wreckage – less Lord of the Rings and more a fantasy Mad Max.’

DJANGO WEXLER

Blood of the Chosen
Django Wexler

Standing on opposite sides of a looming civil war, two siblings discover that not even ties of blood will keep them from splitting the world in two in the second instalment in Django Wexler’s epic new fantasy series.

Four hundred years ago, a cataclysmic war cracked the world open and exterminated the Elder races. Amid the ashes, their human inheritor, the Dawn Republic, stands guard over lands littered with eldritch relics and cursed by plaguespawn outbreaks. But a new conflict is looming and brother and sister Maya and Gyre have found themselves on opposite sides.

At the age of five, Maya was taken by the Twilight Order and trained to be a centarch, wielding forbidden arcana to enforce the Dawn Republic’s rule. On that day, her brother, Gyre, swore to destroy the Order that stole his sister... whatever the cost.

Twelve years later, brother and sister are two very different people: she is Burningblade, the Twilight Order’s brightest prodigy; he is Silveryze, thief, bandit, revolutionary.

DJANGO WEXLER is the author of the Shadow Campaigns novels. He graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh with degrees in creative writing and computer science, and worked for the university in artificial intelligence research. He is also the author of middle-grade fantasy novels, The Forbidden Library, The Mad Apprentice, and The Palace of Glass.

# Book Review

The prose and pacing are strong, bolstered by impressively vivid action scenes.’

SFX

‘Characters and a storyline to die for... A fast-paced beautifully diverse read.’

LoveReading

@DjangoWexler
@djangowexler

djangowexler.com
Focusing on the unsolved murder of a teenage girl, this literary crime novel offers insights into gender, class and privilege in Seoul, and marks the English language debut for award-winning Korean author, Kwon Yeo-sun.

The Sister
In the summer of 2002, my big sister Hae-on was murdered. She was beautiful, intelligent, and only nineteen years old. Two boys were questioned, but the case was never solved. Her killer still walks free.

The Classmate
In the summer of 2002, my classmate Hae-on was murdered. She was haughty, spoilt, a typical rich kid. But she didn’t deserve to die. Even now, years later, I can’t stop thinking about her. Who would do such a thing?

The Friend
In the summer of 2002, my friend Hae-on was murdered. The culprit was never found, but I think I know who did it...

KWON YEO-SUN is an award-winning Korean writer. She has won the Sangsang Literary Award, Oh Yeongou Literature Award, Yi Sang Literary Prize, Hankook Ilbo Literary Award, Tong-ni Literature Prize and Lee Hyo-seok Literary Award. Lemon is her first novel to be published in English.

JANET HONG is a Canadian writer and translator. She received the TA First Translation Prize and the LTI Korea Translation Award for her translation of Han Yujoo’s The Impossible Fairy Tale, which was also a finalist for the 2018 PEN Translation Prize.
A sister searches for her missing brother as a new power rises amid the splendour and the squalor of a once great city in this steampunk fantasy epic.

In a once fashionable quarter of a once great city, in the once grand ancestral home of a family once wealthy and well-known, live the last descendants of the city’s most distinguished engineer, siblings Samuel and Briony Locke.

Having abandoned his programme in hydraulic engineering, Samuel Locke tends to his vast lock collection, while his sister Briony distracts herself from the prospect of marriage to a rich old man with her alchemical experiments. One night Sam leaves the house carrying five of his most precious locks and doesn’t come back...

As she searches for her brother, Bryony will be drawn into a web of ancestral secrets and imperial intrigues as a ruthless new power arises. If brother and sister are to be reunited, they will need the help of a tight-lipped house spirit, a convict gang, a club of antiques enthusiasts, a tribe of troglodytes, the Ladies Whist Club, the deep state, a traveling theatrical troupe and a lovesick mouse.

J.S. Emery is a brother-sister writing team, born in North Idaho into a homeschooling family of seven children, each of whom received an air rifle and a copy of The Odyssey by way of a fifth birthday present. This prepared them wonderfully for writing fantasy novels but very poorly for formal education. After dropping out of secondary school, they worked jobs including ballet dancer, emergency room janitor, and map librarian. They now live in the United States, where they are godparents (and, increasingly, dungeon masters) to one another’s children.
The Hood
Lavie Tidhar

The second in the Anti-Matter of Britain sequence from one of fantasy’s most original and iconoclastic voices.

Goddess bless you, England, in this glorious Year of Our Lord, 1145.

Don’t cross the Templars. Everybody knows that. But Will Scarlet, back from the crusades, hopped up on khat and cider, did. Stabbed thrice in the belly but somehow still alive, he’s heading home to Nottingham.

And things are not right in Nottingham.

It’s the wood, you see. Sherwood. Ice age ancient, impenetrable, hiding a dark and secret heart. As the ancient sages say, if you go into the woods today, you may not come out tomorrow, and the person who comes out may not be you...

The Hood is Lavie Tidhar’s narcotic remix of an ancient English myth, a tale knotted from legends lost to time, shredded and restitched for each passing century. A tale for today.

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LAVIE TIDHAR is the World Fantasy Award-winning author of Osama, The Violent Century, the Jerwood Fiction Uncovered Prize-winning A Man Lies Dreaming, and the Campbell Award-winning Central Station, in addition to many other works and several other awards. He works across genres, combining detective and thriller modes with poetry, science fiction and historical and autobiographical material. His work has been compared to that of Philip K. Dick by the Guardian and the Financial Times, and to Kurt Vonnegut’s by Locus. His By Force Alone was published by Head of Zeus in 2020.

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‘The most important research I do writing my books is speaking to people who have experienced the kind of violence I write about. I want to tell their stories well: I’m much more interested in how a normal person reacts to violence than in glamourizing the inner thoughts of a serial killer.’

SEBASTIAN FITZEK

A psychopath takes over the airwaves with a twisted game and an impossible demand in the new thriller from Sebastian Fitzek.

‘Good morning, Berlin. It’s 7.35 AM. And you’re listening to your biggest nightmare.’

Today, renowned criminal psychologist Ira Samin has decided to die. The grief from her daughter’s death has been overwhelming, and she just can’t go on any longer. She’s going to go out on her own terms, with a drink in her hand to toast oblivion.

But fate has other plans for her. A psychopath has just walked in to the city’s leading radio station, and imprisoned everyone inside. For each captive, he calls a number from the phonebook. If they answer with a specific slogan, the hostage goes free. If they don’t, the hostage dies.

The police insist that Ira handles the negotiation. The man has only one demand: he will stop his twisted game once his fiancée is brought to him. The trouble is, his fiancée has been dead for months...

SEBASTIAN FITZEK is one of Europe’s most successful authors of psychological thrillers. His books have sold 12 million copies, been translated into more than thirty-six languages and are the basis for international cinema and theatre adaptations. Sebastian Fitzek was the first German author to be awarded the European Prize for Criminal Literature. He lives with his family in Berlin.

JAMIE LEE SEARLE is a translator from German, and one of the co-founders of the Emerging Translators Network.

‘One of the crime world’s most evocative storytellers.’
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‘The perfect cure for anyone with *The Handmaid’s Tale* withdrawl, *The Key to Fury* is another darkly compelling story packed full of action and sizzling characters. The parallels of this dystopian world and 2020 are enough to take your breath away.’

**HANNAH SMITH, PUBLISHER**

For fans of *Vox, The Handmaid’s Tale* and *The Power* comes the second book in Kristin Cast’s dystopian series.

Safety comes with a price. Change comes with a cost. The Key Corporation has kept Westfall safe from pandemics for the last fifty years. But that’s not all they’ve done...

After discovering the shocking truth behind the Key Corporation, Elodie and Aiden have managed to escape in search of New Dawn - the stronghold for the Eos resistance movement. There, they can fight for a better world, one where everyone can decide their own futures.

But things aren’t always as they seem, and as they navigate the tricky paths between perception and reality, freedom and fighting for survival, the two young rebels must discover who they can trust, even as they learn more about who they really are...

**KRISTIN CAST** attends college in Oklahoma and has won awards for her poetry and journalism as well as co-writing the *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestselling House of Night series.

[Website](http://kcastauthor.com)  
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‘Easy to read and hard to put down... powerful and satisfying...’

*Grimdark Magazine*

‘In this propulsive series starter, human touch is highly regulated...’

*Publisher’s Weekly*
The Marsh House
Zoë Somerville

‘I wanted to write a dark tale with hints of the supernatural; a cross-genre novel set in a liminal place, about two female characters in two different eras whose lives are connected by a mysterious house.’
ZOE SOMERVILLE

Two women, separated by decades, are drawn together by one, mysterious house in this haunting historical thriller set on the North Norfolk coast.

December, 1962. Desperate to salvage something from a disastrous year, Malorie rents a remote house on the Norfolk coast for Christmas. But once there, the strained silence between her and her daughter feels louder than ever. Digging for decorations in the attic, she comes across the notebooks of the teenaged Marianne, who lived in the house years before. Though she knows she needs to focus on the present, Malorie finds herself inexorably drawn into the past...

July, 1930. Marianne lives in the Marsh House with her austere father, surrounded by unspoken truths and rumours. So when the glamorous Lafferty family move to the village, she succumbs easily to their charm. Dazzled by the beautiful Hilda and her dashing brother, Franklin, Marianne fails to see the danger that lurks beneath their bright façades...

As Malorie reads on, the boundaries between past and present begin to dissolve in this haunting novel about family, obligation and deeply buried secrets.

ZOË SOMERVILLE is a writer and English teacher. Born and raised in Norfolk, she has lived all over the world – Japan, France, Washington – and now lives in Bath with her family. Her debut novel, The Night of the Flood, was inspired by the devasting North Sea flood of the 1950s and is also published by Head of Zeus.

‘A gem for lovers of historical fiction.’
Evening Standard

‘An excellent debut thriller.’
Independent

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Fiction/Historical

Gods of Rome
Simon Turney & Gordon Doherty

The final instalment of the Rise of Emperors trilogy, set in the 3rd century AD.

312 AD is a year of horrific and brutal warfare. Constantine’s northern army is a small force, plagued by religious rivalries, but seemingly unstoppable as they invade Maxentius’ Italian heartlands. These relentless clashes, incidents of treachery and twists of fortune see Maxentius’ armies driven back to Rome.

Constantine has his prize in sight, yet his army is diminished and on the verge of revolt. Maxentius meanwhile works to calm a restive and dissenting Roman populace. When the two forces clash in the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, there are factors at work beyond their control and soon they are left with carnage.

There is only one way Constantine and Maxentius’ rivalry will end. With one on a bloodied sword and the other the sole ruler of Rome . . .

SIMON TURNEY

SIMON TURNEY is from Yorkshire and, having spent much of his childhood visiting historic sites, he fell in love with the Roman heritage of the region. His fascination with the ancient world snowballed from there with great interest in Rome, Egypt, Greece and Byzantium.

GORDON DOHERTY

GORDON DOHERTY is a Scottish author, addicted to reading and writing historical fiction. Inspired by visits to the misty Roman ruins of Britain and the sun-baked antiquities of Turkey and Greece, Gordon has written tales of the later Roman Empire, Byzantium, Classical Greece and the Bronze Age.

'A page turner from beginning to end... a damn fine read.'
Ben Kane

'A nuanced portrait of an intriguing emperor.'
The Times

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‘Automata to serve our every need, monorail trains flashing between glistening mega-cities, medicine that is nothing short of magical. The world of Absynthe seems perfect, a utopia. But we all know there’s always something lurking beneath the pristine surface…’

CLARE GORDON, EDITOR

Inception meets Metropolis, by way of The Great Gatsby, in a deco-punk tale of unchecked technology, and the unforeseen costs of utopia.

The Great War has been over for years, and a brave new world forged. Technology has delivered the future promised at the turn of the century: automata provide, monorail trains flash between mega-cities, medicine is nothing short of magical.

Liam grew up poor, but now working for one of the richest families in Chicago, he reaps the benefits of his friendship with the family’s son and heir. That’s why he’s at Club Artemis. It’s a palace of art-deco delights and debauchery, filled to bursting with the rich and beautiful – and tonight they’re all drinking one thing, Absynthe. The green liquor rumoured to cause hallucinations, madness, even death.

While the gilded youth sip the viridescent liquid, their brave new world is crumbling beneath its perfect surface. Their absynthe is no mere folly. Some it kills, others it transforms. But in Liam something different has taken place. A veil has lifted and he can see the world without its illusion – and it isn’t the perfect world the government want the people to believe.

BRADLEY BEAULIEU began writing his first fantasy novel in college, but in the way of these things, it was set aside as life intervened. As time went on, though, Brad realized that his love of writing and telling tales wasn’t going to just slink quietly into the night. He has written nine novels, two collections and countless short stories since then. He also runs the highly successful science fiction and fantasy podcast, Speculate.

facebook.com/bradley.p.beaulieu twitter.com/@bbeaulieu quillings.com
Ken Liu returns to his monumental fantasy series, drawing on a tradition of great epics from the _Aeneid_ to the _Romance of the Three Kingdoms_.

Princess Théra entrusted the throne to her younger brother in order to journey to Ukyu-Gondé to war with the Lyucu. She has crossed the fabled Wall of Storms with a fleet of advanced warships and ten thousand people. Beset by adversity, Théra and her most trusted companions attempt to overcome every challenge by doing the most interesting thing. But is not letting the past dictate the present always possible or even desirable?

In Dara, the Lyucu leadership as well as the surviving Dandelion Court bristle with rivalries as currents of power surge and ebb and perspectives spin and shift. Here, parents and children, teachers and students, Empress and Pékyu, all nurture the seeds of plans that will take years to bloom. Will tradition yield to new justifications for power?

Everywhere, the spirit of innovation dances like dandelion seeds on the wind, and the commoners, the forgotten, the ignored begin to engineer new solutions for a new age.

KEN LIU

Ken Liu is the winner of the Nebula, Hugo, Locus, World Fantasy, Sidewise, and Science Fiction & Fantasy Translation Awards. He is the author of _The Grace of Kings_ and _The Wall of Storms_ in his epic series The Dandelion Dynasty. He is also the translator of Cixin Liu’s Hugo-winning and Nebula-nominated _The Three-Body Problem._
‘I lived in Budapest for twenty-five years, working as a foreign correspondent. The city’s sense of history is almost palpable and, with imagination, you can travel back in time — which makes fertile ground for fiction.’

ADAM LEBOR

Dohany Street

Adam LeBor

Budapest’s dark history finally catches up with Detective Balthazar Kovacs in the final instalment in Adam LeBor’s Hungarian crime trilogy.

Budapest, January 2016. The Danube is grey and half-frozen, covered with ice, and the city seems to have gone into hibernation. But not for Detective Balthazar Kovacs. He has been called out to investigate the disappearance of a young Israeli historian, Elad Harari.

Harari was working in the archives of the city’s Jewish museum, researching what happened to the assets of the Hungarian Jews murdered in the Holocaust. His work could bring justice to the families of those who died, but it seems not everyone welcomed his probing into the country’s darkest period.

Balthazar soon finds that there are powerful forces out to sabotage his investigation as bizarre warnings escalate to violent attacks. When they finally make their demand, Balthazar will be forced to make an impossible decision: give up real evidence of horrific wrongdoing in Hungary’s past, or see the young historian die.

ADAM LEBOR writes for The Economist, Newsweek, New York Times, The Times and other publications. He is the author of a number of non-fiction books, including the Orwell Prize shortlisted Hitler’s Secret Bankers.

adamlebor.com

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‘All the twists and turns of a high-concept Hollywood thriller.’

Financial Times

‘Superb... LeBor lives in Budapest and it shows in the vivid detail.’

The Times
Burned bodies are discovered in an abandoned factory occupied by squatters. Are they being cremated, or cooked? London’s homeless are infected by a nightmarish plague that dates all the way back the Blitz, but the cure is even more horrifying."

Jerry Pardoe and Jamila Patel hunt down a ritualistic cult inspired by Neolithic cannibals in the new chilling horror from Graham Masterton. Detective Sergeant Jamila Patel and Detective Constable Jerry Pardoe have reluctantly acquired a reputation in the Metropolitan Police for their ability to tackle bizarre and apparently supernatural crimes. Now they have been called back together after three bodies are found in a London basement... Bodies which have been taken apart, roasted and eaten.

The markings on the wall suggest this might have been done by some kind of religious cult - and as more people are kidnapped and cannibalised, Patel and Pardoe realise they are dealing with a group of devil-worshippers invoking an ancient god who has not been worshipped since the Neolithic age...

Graham Masterton is best known as a writer of horror and thrillers, but his career as an author spans many genres, including historical epics and sex advice books. His bestselling horror novel, The Manitou, was made into a film starring Tony Curtis. In 2019, Graham was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Horror Writers Association. He is also the author of the Katie Maguire series of crime thrillers, which have sold more than 1.5 million copies worldwide.
To celebrate Head of Zeus’s 10th anniversary we are reissuing special editions of our best anthologies. Wide in scope, beautiful and vast, these comprehensive collections are essential reading for any fiction lover.

**That Glimpse of Truth: The 100 Finest Short Stories Ever Written**
Edited by David Miller
“It might be the most comprehensive collection of short stories ever.” *Observer*

**The Story: 100 Great Short Stories Written by Women**
Edited by Victoria Hislop
“This huge, beautiful book is a treasure chest... A collection so good, it’s essential.” *The Times*

**Desire: 100 of Literature’s Sexiest Stories**
Edited by Mariella Frostrup and the Erotic Review
“Frostrup has always managed to combine cleverness with sexiness.” *The Tatler*

**We, Robots: Artificial Intelligence in 100 Stories**
Edited by Simon Ings
“A glorious delve into the many guises of robots and artificial intelligences. This book is a joy and a triumph.” *SFF World*

**Deadlier: 100 of the Best Crime Stories Written by Women**
Edited by Sophie Hannah
“What a terrific line-up... Sophie Hannah has dug deep and spotted a host of lesser-known but high-quality stories.” *The Times*

**Ghost: 100 Stories to Read with the Lights On**
Edited by Louise Welsh
“A superb thousand-page collection of spooky stories.” *Daily Telegraph*

**The Art of the Glimpse: 100 Irish Short Stories**
Edited by Sinéad Gleeson
“This is just a beautiful piece of publishing, it’s a monster, beautifully printed and bound and incredibly well put together.” *RTÉ Radio*

**The Time Traveller’s Almanac: 100 Stories Brought to You from the Future**
Edited by Ann and Jeff Vandermeer
“A roll call of the great and good... It will go down in posterity as comprehensive and indispensable.” *Guardian*

**Funny, Ha Ha: 80 of the Funniest Stories Ever Written**
Edited by Paul Merton
“Comprehensively joyful... [An] eclectic, wide-ranging anthology.” *Sunday Times*

**The Big Book of Christmas Mysteries: 100 of the Very Best Yuletide Whodunnits**
Edited by Otto Penzler
“What better Christmas gift for crime fiction addicts than this mighty tome... Fugely enjoyable seasonal stories.” *Irish Independent*
EXPLORE NEW WORLDS WITH CIXIN LIU’S GRAPHIC NOVELS

An international collaboration involving 26 writers and illustrators from 14 different countries have transformed 15 of Cixin Liu’s—‘China’s answer to Arthur C. Clarke’ (New Yorker)—award-winning stories into graphic novels.
Ruthless Women
Melanie Blake

Ambition can be deadly... A sizzling thriller set behind the scenes of a glamorous TV soap.

Falcon Bay is the nation’s favourite TV soap. But ratings are falling, and the show’s new owner will do whatever it takes to get the show back to number 1.

Writer Farrah, lead actor Catherine and producer Amanda are the driven, ambitious women who keep the show on the road. Can these women team up to bring down their rivals? Only if they are prepared for a battle of the sexes – where only the most ruthless women will survive.

The Fragrance of Tears
Victoria Schofield

A moving memoir of the author’s thirty-year friendship with politician Benazir Bhutto.

Born to an influential Pakistani family that has dominated the Pakistan Peoples Party since 1967, Benazir Bhutto twice served as prime minister of her country; she was assassinated in December 2007.

Schofield’s memoir provides insights into Bhutto’s transformation from Oxford undergraduate to activist, prisoner and politician. Drawing on diaries and letters, Schofield describes her enduring bond with one of the most charismatic and controversial figures in South Asian politics – and a woman whose life and career were defined by tragedy.
Jet Man  
Duncan Campbell-Smith

The biography of Frank Whittle – pilot, mathematician, inventor of the jet engine and British hero.

In 1929, a twenty-two-year-old engineer presented a blueprint for a revolutionary, jet-powered aircraft engine to the Air Ministry. His idea had the potential to change the course of history, but it was rejected.

Duncan Campbell-Smith charts Whittle's stoic efforts to build his jet engine in the interwar years. Eventual recognition of the importance of his work came too late for Whittle's invention to play a major part in the Second World War, but his dream of civilian jet aircraft would eventually transform the world of air travel.

APOLLO • NON-FICTION • BIOGRAPHY
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Seat 7A  
Sebastian Fitzek, translated by Steve Anderson

A terrified plane passenger is given an impossible choice: persuade the pilot to crash the plane, killing everybody on board, or your daughter dies.

Psychiatrist Mats Krüger knows that his irrational fear of flying is just that – irrational. He knows that flying is nineteen times safer than driving. He also knows that if something does happen on a plane, the worst place to be is seat 7A. That's why on his first plane journey in 20 years – to be with his only daughter as she gives birth – he's booked seat 7A, so no one else can sit there.

If no one is sat there, surely nothing will go wrong.

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A Village Vacancy
Julie Houston

In the Yorkshire village of Westenbury the women can’t help but contemplate who will fill the vacancy in one handsome widower’s life...

Grace Stevens has decided it’s time to move on – without her husband. He’s off in search of a new life, and good riddance. It’s time to go back to teaching, so Grace returns to Little Acorns and takes on an unruly class of pre-teens. As she deals with disasters in- and out of the classroom, Grace begins to wonder about the sparkle in David’s eyes. Could Grace be the one to fill this village vacancy?

Untraceable
Sergei Lebedev

A novel about poisons of all kinds – physical, moral, political – from one of Russia’s finest young writers.

Professor Kalitin is a ruthless, narcissistic chemist who has developed an untraceable, lethal poison while working in a secret city in the Russian far east. When the Soviet Union collapses, he defects and is given a new identity in Germany.

After an unrelated Russian is murdered with Kalitin’s poison, his cover is blown and he’s drawn into the German investigation of the death. Two special forces killers with a lot of Chechen blood on their hands are sent to silence him – using his own undetectable poison...
The Wolf Den
Elodie Harper

First book in a clever, insightful, female-focused trilogy set in ancient Pompeii.

Amara was once a beloved daughter, until her father’s death plunged her family into penury. Now she is a slave in the Wolf Den, Pompeii’s infamous brothel, owned by a man she despises. But her spirit is far from broken.

Amara has learnt that everything in this city has its price. But how much is her freedom going to cost her?

The World Aflame
Dan Jones & Marina Amaral


The epic, harrowing and world-changing story – in words and colourized images – of global conflict from the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand to the obliteration of Hiroshima by the dropping of the first atom bomb. The World Aflame embraces not only the total conflagrations of 1914–18 and 1939–45, and the civil wars and imperial travails in between, but also the international tensions, conflicting ideologies and malign economic forces that set them in train.
**Coming Home to the Four Streets**

**Nadine Dorries**

*Sunday Times* bestselling author Nadine Dorries returns to Liverpool’s Four Streets.

Summer is coming to the four streets – but so is trouble, especially for its redoubtable women, who’ve struggled through a bitter winter to put food on the table.

Peggy Nolan, with seven boys and a husband too lazy to work, has hit rock bottom and is hiding a terrible secret. With Maura and Tommy Doherty – the Nolans’ usually watchful neighbours – away, and corrupt copper Frank the Skank moving into their old house on the four streets, it’s down to mischievous little Paddy to protect the mother he loves. Can he save her from selling herself on the streets – or worse?

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**How Britain Ends**

**Gavin Esler**

A thoughtful, articulate and important book about the rise of English nationalism and the impending breakup of the United Kingdom.

_How Britain Ends_ is a book about history, but also about the strange, complicated identity of Britlishness. In the past, it was possible to live with delightful confusion: one could be English, or British, Scottish or Irish and a citizen/subject of the United Kingdom (or Great Britain).

But now the archaic state, which doesn’t have a written constitution, is coming under terrible strain. Will the United Kingdom find a way to contend with its new place in the world?

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The Fort
Adrian Goldsworthy

A profoundly authentic, action-packed adventure set on Rome’s Danubian frontier. First in a new trilogy from historian Adrian Goldsworthy.

The Dacian kingdom and Rome are at peace, but no one thinks that it will last. Sent to command an isolated fort beyond the Danube, centurion Flavius Ferox can sense that war is coming, but also knows that enemies may be closer to home. Many of the Brigantes under his command are former rebels and convicts, as likely to kill him as obey an order. And then there is Hadrian, the emperor’s cousin, and a man with plans of his own....

The Ravine
Wendy Lower

A strikingly original book about a terrible photograph – an exceptionally rare image documenting the horrific final moment of the murder of a family in Ukraine.

Photographic images of the Holocaust are very rare. The perpetrators were careful to avoid leaving visual evidence of what they did during and after the summer of 1941. But Wendy Lower discovered an old print that captured the moment a woman and child were killed by two riflemen, while another uniformed figure looks complacently on.

By concentrating carefully on a single image the larger horror of the genocide is brought into sharp focus.
‘Spanning half a billion years and following the dying days of a different animal in each, this series is the definitive guide to the most destructive yet most creative force in nature.’

**BEN GARROD**

The story of life on Earth told through a unique exploration of the major mass extinctions and their affect on the iconic animals that once populated our planet. A collectable, eight book full colour series delivering top level science and new discoveries from the ultimate author/artist team.

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**BEN GARROD** is Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Science Engagement at the University of East Anglia. He broadcasts regularly on TV and radio and is a trustee and ambassador of a number of key conservation organisations.

**GABRIEL UGUETO** is a scientific illustrator, palaeoartist and herpetologist based in Miami, Florida. His work has appeared in books, journals, magazines, TV documentaries and museums.
**EXTINCT: Tyrannosaurus rex**

The worst day in Earth’s history: roughly 66 million years ago the End Cretaceous mass extinction began when a whopping asteroid 6km across crashed into Earth. With a shock wave that shook the whole planet and devastating acid rain, 75% of life was destroyed. Like all life forms larger than a fox, the *Tyrannosaurus rex* was made extinct. Among the largest land predators ever, *Tyrannosaurus rex* weighed as much as three elephants, was as long as a bus and had the most powerful bite of all the dinosaurs.

**EXTINCT: Megalodon**

The End Pliocene event is still a newly-recognised and often debated mass extinction, occurring around 2.5 million years ago. It changed the whole marine ecosystem for predators and prey, big and small alike. At the larger end was the Megalodon. Dwarfing all other sharks, it reached a length of 18m. With the most powerful bite force ever measured, this giant marine predator specialised in killing whales.
In Lionheart Girl I explore the tension in a family of witches. What if, like my heroine Sheba, your mother’s a murderer who can turn into a crow? How do you learn to protect yourself, your family and community without losing a part of yourself?

YABA BADOE

African myth and magic beat in the dark heart of this fable about witchcraft, superstition, the bonds we choose and those we cannot.

Born into a family of West African witches, Sheba is terrified of her mother who can shape-shift. But like mother, like daughter - magic runs through her blood and Sheba discovers powers of her own.

Her touch can unravel people’s innermost thoughts; their hopes, their fears - their secrets. Through the communion of ancient magic, blood and friendship, she slowly uncovers the murderous truth about her stolen childhood and steels herself for the future. She must protect the hunted from the hunter - her mother.

YABA BADOE is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and writer, who has been nominated for the Distinguished Woman of African Cinema award. She was born in Ghana but now lives in England with her husband. Her debut children’s novel A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars and Wolf Light are both published by Zephyr.
The Girl Who Talked to Trees
Natasha Farrant, illustrated by Lydia Corry

‘A love letter to trees, a celebration of the richness they bring to our lives and a reminder of our responsibility to take care of what is precious.’

NATASHA FARRANT

A companion volume to Eight Princesses and a Magic Mirror. Seven intertwined stories about the power of nature and the magic of trees in a sumptuous gift book.

Trees are storykeepers, witnesses to magic and history. From far away, a girl tumbles like a leaf into our world. She makes a promise, discovers the secrets of an ancient oak, and rescues a boy from a medieval hunt. She learns how wild apple blossom is linked to three runaway brides, and hears about the revenge of an overclipped box tree. From the underground roots to the uppermost branches, from planes in Persia, to tulip trees in North America and underwater kelp forests, she listens to the trees telling stories for all time. And she keeps her promise.

With a conservation message and facts about tree science alongside seven beautifully imagined original stories, this full colour gift book enchants and reminds us of the importance of trees in our lives.

NATASHA FARRANT is a writer and literary scout. She is the author of the widely praised Voyage of the Sparrowhawk, (Faber, 2020) and other novels. She lives in London with her family.

LYDIA CORRY graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2009. Her publishing debut was Eight Princesses and a Magic Mirror (Zephyr). She lives with her family in Hastings.

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REVIEW: ‘Slightly older fairytale fans will relish.’
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‘This book of exceptionally excellent princesses is completely gorgeous.’
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‘My deep love for the cycles of the seasons inspires all my paintings and I wanted to create a joyful calendar celebrating the profound importance of the bee as a pollinator in our world.’

CATHERINE HYDE

The Bee and the Sun
A Calendar of Paintings
Catherine Hyde

A year in the life of the bee and the sun in a calendar of jewel-like, full colour paintings that celebrate the sensory delights of herbs, seasoned with a pinch of plant lore.

From the rising and setting of the Pleiades, from sunrise to sunset, the bee and the sun work in harmony, a miracle of nature, growth and new life. Beneath the shifting constellations, equinoxes and solstice markers, as the bee progresses from plant to flower, acclaimed artist Catherine Hyde pays tribute to the magic and mystery of nature.

Snippets of ancient bee beliefs and plant folklore are complimented by paintings of wild garlic, thyme, saffron, comfrey, fennel, lavender and many more delights. Like her successful The Hare and the Moon, this is a book to treasure, and an ode to the wonder of nature.

CATHERINE HYDE is a Cornish artist and award-winning illustrator. She trained in Fine Art Painting at Central School of Art in London and is represented in Cornwall by The Lighthouse Gallery, Penzance and in London by Foss Fine Art, Battersea. Catherine has been nominated for the Kate Greenaway Award four times and is recipient of the English Association Best Illustrated Book Award (Key Stage 2). Her book The Hare and the Moon is also published by Zephyr.
The Time Traveller and the Tiger
Tania Unsworth

‘Spine-tinglingly good, best time-travel novel since Tom’s Midnight Garden’ Amanda Craig

Face to face with the most majestic predator in the jungle, Elsie is in awe of the tiger’s beauty. She’s on a mission to have the adventure of a lifetime, save the tiger and change the future.

When the unimaginable happens, Time unravels as Elsie tumbles back to India to meet a young Uncle John on a tiger hunt. Can she stop him from doing what he’s already told her is a wrong he can never right?

Tania Unsworth writes about transcendent friendships and conservation in the animal kingdom.

Circus Maximus: Race to the Death
Annelise Gray

New series, book one: ultimate 9-12 adventure in Ancient Rome.

Twelve-year-old Dido dreams of becoming the first female charioteer at the great Circus Maximus. She has lost her heart to Porcellus, a wild, tempestuous horse she longs to train and race. But such ambitions are forbidden to girls. When her father is murdered, she is forced to seek refuge with an unlikely ally. But what of her dream of Circus triumphs and being reunited with the beloved horse she left behind in Rome? And the threat to her life isn’t over as she faces a powerful and terrifying new enemy ... the emperor Caligula.

Witch
Finbar Hawkins

‘Hawkins is a master of raising and re-raising the stakes’ Cory Doctorow

A breathtaking debut about the power of women, witchcraft, fury, revenge and the ties that bind us. In 17th-century England, civil war rages. Red-haired Evey does not want to be a witch. After witnessing the murder of her mother by witch-hunters, Evey vows to avenge her and track down the killers. Fury burns in her bright and strong. But, she has promised her mother that she will keep Dill, her little sister, safe.

As the lust for blood and retribution rises to fever pitch, will Evey keep true to the bonds of sisterhood and to the magic that is her destiny?

Skin Taker
Michelle Paver

Non-stop adventure: Run Wild with Wolf Brother.

In the Dark Time of midwinter, disaster strikes the Forest. Chaos rules. Bears woken from their dens prowl the shadowy valleys. Desperate clans battle for survival. Only demons thrive.

With their world in turmoil, Torak, Renn and Wolf are tested as never before. And, as a new evil haunts the devastated land, Torak must risk his sanity, his life and even his souls to save everything he loves...

Following Viper’s Daughter, now Skin Taker draws you deeper into the astonishing adventure which began with Wolf Brother and has captivated millions of readers.
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