She murmured to her phone, and the drone's rotors began to whirr. It lifted from the deck, trailing four lengths of cable from its underside, until the cables tautened and its cargo heaved up too: a plastic tank that held ten venomous lumpsuckers swimming around in sixty gallons of seawater. The drone continued to rise until the tank was high enough to clear the railing around the deck, and Resaint felt a sacramental sprinkling on her forehead as water slopped out over the side. Then, accelerating gently, like a stork with an especially precious baby in its sling, the drone set off north over the ocean. The drone would fly about 20 kilometres to the South Kvarken reefs where venomous lumpsuckers gathered every breeding season, and then dump out the contents of the tank. In theory, after finishing her experiments, Resaint could have just lowered the fish over the side of the Varuna and let them find their own way home. They were perfectly capable navigators. But she refused to take the risk. There were so few left. Every one was so precious. Which is why it would have been a particularly shameful mishap if, say, the spindrifter had clobbered the drone so hard that all those fish broke their spines when they hit the water. So that's it?' Abdi said. 'You are finished?' He was trying to sound casual but she could hear he was sad. He was a maintenance technician who sometimes helped her out with her equipment, and they had become friends in her three months on the Varuna. He was 26, she was 32. Every few weeks he went home to Malmö. He had a girlfriend there, a nursing assistant. She sounded OK. Resaint nodded. 'I just have to finish packing up the lab tomorrow. Then I'll be gone.' At that moment the Varuna's orange floodlights all came on at once, even though the sky wasn't yet dark. On these industrial ships the lighting was always cranked so high at night that from a distance they looked Christmassy. 'Will you miss the fish? She smiled. 'Yes. But I hope I can see them again soon.' By 'them', she meant the species in general - Cyclopterus venenatus – not her experimental subjects in particular. She'd grown fond enough of those that she would be

delighted to see the 'Really?''Yes. There's She didn't reply, but s tilt of the head was a not with the client, or that client. That suite with a willing listener about, for her interest Officially she was h venomous lumpsucke that it was almos



species' breeding ground. And now, because of that tilt of the head, Abdi could guess what her report was going to say. But perhaps he had already. There had been evenings when he couldn't have failed to notice how excited she was about what had happened in her lab that day. No scientist sat down beaming to dinner because they'd found out that a fish was nothing special. 'Do you want to celebrate finishing?' Abdi said. 'Celebrate?' Abdi hesitated, searching for ideas. There weren't a lot of ways to celebrate on a mining support vessel. Resaint had a bottle of Absolut in her lab, but Abdi was forbidden from drinking by both his religion and the biosensor Brahmasamudram made him wear on his forearm. Then there was karaoke, which was popular on board. But Resaint was barred from karaoke sessions by her most deeply held beliefs, in the sense that she believed karaoke ought to be a taboo punishable by stoning. 'Cake?' he said at last. 'We could eat some cake.' The mess did indeed offer a decent kladdkaka, the Swedish sticky chocolate cake. 'I think I'm going to stay out here for a bit longer,' Resaint said. 'It's my last night at sea. I'll see you later, though.''I'll get you a PFD.' Meaning a life jacket. 'No, that's OK.''Are you sure?''I'll be fine.' Technically Resaint was supposed to strap on a hard hat just to come out on deck, even though there was no danger of anything but gull shit falling on her head, but in her case the safety manual was never enforced to the letter. After Abdi had gone back inside, Resaint stood at the railing looking out to the north, the hood of her anorak raised against the wind. The Baltic was one of the filthiest seas on the planet full of chicken-farm run-off and birth control hormones and even nerve gas

The Baltic was one of the fifthest from old munition dumps, but from the sea and sky were both darkenin, she could make out the ridged shap lights at their tops, 50 metres abov The plan, originally, had been for a but were really more like sails, in th But because they were always rota backspinning off a racket. And as the mist of droplets so tiny that a flu viru usual, more cashmere than cotton w



e sunset had died out of the mist and spindrifter was near enough now that over the ocean, and the red warning iter touch of the spindrifter's storm. spindrifter's rotors looked like masts ird by getting in the way of the wind. ightforward ways, like a tennis ball it through a silicon mesh to create a round these droplets were softer than them reflect more radiation from the

sun. So with enough of these spray vessels seeding enough of these clouds, you might be able to hold back the warming of the earth. There had been a lot of excitement about spindrifters, once. Unfortunately, after a bit of testing, they were found to have certain foibles that hadn't been anticipated by any of the computer models. They whisked up these eldritch low-altitude storms, which were of no concern to anyone but seabirds; but they also seemed to interfere with rainfall patterns, even at quite unaccountable distances away. And rainfall patterns had been brutalised enough already. It wasn't fair to put them through anything else. This time they might really lose it. After that, the excitement dissipated like a fine-gauge cloud, the optimists turned their hearts to some new prospect, and the armada was never launched. But several different outfits had built those early spindrifters – the competition to save the world being some of the bitterest competition there is – and a couple of them closed up shop without ever getting round to taking their prototypes off the water. So there were still about a dozen spindrifters roving the Baltic. Unmanned, self-navigating, powered by the wind, built from almost incorruptible polymers, these ghost ships would just carry on until a rotor cracked or a circuit shorted, which might take decades. Such were the new fauna of this poisoned sea. Noringed seals any more, no harbour porpoises, no velvet scoters, no European eels, no angel

Dear friends,

Welcome to our 2021 Rights Guide for Frankfurt Book Fair. So far, 2021 has proved to be an excellent year for our authors, and we have lots of wonderful press, prize news and sales headlines to share since we last caught up with you in March.

*Mary Lawson's comforting and profoundly human fourth novel **A TOWN CALLED SOLACE** was longlisted for the **Booker Prize** and won the critics' hearts and minds on both sides of the Atlantic. Rights have now sold in Germany, France, Russia, Slovenia and Macedonia, with auctions in Lithuania and China and offers in Italy and Korea. Mary is published by Chatto & Windus in the UK and Knopf Canada in the US and Canada.

***UNSETTLED GROUND**, Claire Fuller's powerful and tragic story of family secrets and rural poverty was shortlisted for the **Women's Prize**, with rights sold in France, Italy, the Netherlands, Hungary and Lithuania. Claire is published by Fig Tree in the UK, Tin House in the US and House of Anansi Press in Canada.

*Jordan Tannahill's extraordinary speculative conspiracy thriller **THE LISTENERS** has been longlisted for the **Giller Prize**, and translation rights have been sold in France and Korea.

*Caroline Day's debut novel **HOPE NICELY**, about a young neurodiverse woman who decides to embark on a creating writing course, reached the Sunday Times bestseller list and was also awarded the **Romantic Novelists**' **Association's Joan Hessayon Award for new writers**.

***FALASTIN**, Sami Tamimi and Tara Wigley's culinary love letter to Palestine, triumphed at the **Fortnum and Mason Food and Drink Awards, winning Best Cookbook**.

*With Yotam Ottolenghi's 9th book, **SHELF LOVE: THE OTTOLENGHI TEST KITCHEN** hitting international bestseller lists this week, this will bring total sales of Ottolenghi cookbooks to over 9 million copies worldwide.

*Mark Billingham achieved his **21st consecutive Top 5 bestseller** with **RABBIT HOLE**, described as "authentic, raucous and deeply compassionate" by **Harriet Tyce** and "fast-paced and twisting" by **Paula Hawkins.**

***THE GALLERY OF MIRACLES AND MADNESS**, Charlie English's extraordinary study of art and mental illness during the Third Reich, was published in August 2021 to rave reviews. **Philippe Sands** described it as "a riveting tale, brilliantly told." In **The Times**, Gerard DeGroot said "I was sad when I finished it, a feeling I usually only get from novels. English writes in a carefully controlled and phlegmatic fashion, allowing outrage to emerge from the events themselves, rather than from the manner of their telling".

*Conrad Mason's gripping middle grade fantasy horror **THE GIRL IN WOODEN ARMOUR** was longlisted for the **2021 North Somerset Teachers' Book Award** and the **2022 Shropshire Big Book Award**.

In other news, the Agency staff have started working from a new office in Notting Hill. It's a joy to be working together in person again, comparing notes on books, TV and films, and drinking proper coffee that we haven't made ourselves. Our colleagues in the bookshop had their energy reserves severely tested when the shop basement flooded in mid-July, but the shop has since had a full facelift with a brand new floor, external paint job and awning, and we're delighted to have a new look as we start looking ahead to Christmas trading.

Please scroll down for our forthcoming titles across fiction, non-fiction, children's and food writing. Please feel free to email me to request further details on any of these titles, or to schedule a Teams call if you would like to catch up generally.

Thank you for reading, and we very much hope to welcome you to London again in 2022.

Very best,

Fran Davies

FICTION



THE VENOMOUS LUMPSUCKER by Ned Beauman

UK: Sceptre – 2022. Options elsewhere. Edited MS due November 2021.

The bizarre landscape of the 2030s. Tens of thousands of species are going extinct every year, giving rise to the biobanks: secure archives full of DNA samples, from which extinct animals can be resurrected some time in the future... But then, an audacious cyber-attack wipes out all traces of every perished species. Despite their conflicting motives, troubled conservationist Karin Resaint and crooked extinction industry exec Mark Halyward have no choice but to team up to preserve the venomous lumpsucker. But the further they go, the deeper they're drawn into the mystery of the attack on the biobanks. Who was really behind it? And why would anyone do such a thing? This is a climate change novel on acid. Prescient, darkly funny and utterly unique.

Ned Beauman's fiction has been published in ten languages, longlisted for the Booker Prize and shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and Desmond Elliott Prize among others. His second novel THE TELEPORTATION ACCIDENT won the Encore Award and a Somerset Maugham Award. He has been chosen by the Culture Show as one of the twelve best new British novelists and by Granta as one of the twenty best British novelists under 40.



THE MURDER BOOK by Mark Billingham

World excluding US & Germany: Little, Brown - June 2022. US: Grove. Options elsewhere. Edited MS due October 2021. Tom Thorne has it all. In Nicola Tanner and Phil Hendricks, Tom has good friends by his side. He finally has a love life worth a damn and is happy in the job to which he has devoted his life. Hunting the woman responsible for a series of grisly murders, Thorne has no way of knowing that he will be plunged into a nightmare from which he may never wake. A nightmare that has a name...Finally, Thorne's past has caught up with him and a ruinous secret is about to be revealed. Tom Thorne has it all...to lose.

Mark Billingham has twice won the Theakston's Old Peculier Award for Crime Novel of the Year, and has also won a Sherlock Award for the Best Detective created by a British writer. SLEEPYHEAD and SCAREDYCAT were made in to a hit TV series on Sky 1 with David Morrisey as Thorne, and a series based on the novels TIME OF DEATH and IN THE DARK was broadcast on BBC1. His most recent standalone novel RABBIT HOLE was his 21st consecutive top 5 bestseller.

"It is a gripping, twisting murder mystery and a blackly comic indictment of the way we treat psychological illness today [...] At the very least it should reach the shortlist of this year's Booker prize" The Times on RABBIT HOLE



THE MARSHES by James Buckler

UK: Transworld - 2022. Options elsewhere. Edited MS due November 2021.

Ambitious young lawyer Lewis Miller has worked hard to rise above an impoverished childhood blighted by tragedy. Robert Carlton, CEO of energy giant Ever Sine, is his firm's biggest client. Ever Sine are spearheading an ambitious new clean energy initiative, and are finalising plans for a new hydrogen plant. But then Robert's right hand woman Maria Brennan is found dead in her car out at Coldharbour Marshes, with a threatening note on the windshield. When the lawyer appointed by Maria's family dies after being knocked off his bicycle, Lewis begins to suspect foul play, and starts to investigate Maria's death. Meanwhile, Maria's wayward brother Drew agrees to deliver some money for local mob boss Frank Egan, but the job soon spins out of control. As Lewis struggles to balance his career aspirations with his desire to know the truth, his search for Maria's killer will reveal a complex web of family secrets, corporate espionage and organised crime...

James Buckler's second novel is a twisty, timely eco-thriller full of complex, conflicted characters. It will keep you guessing to the last page.

"A fine debut, with some gut-wrenching twists" - Mick Herron on LAST STOP TOKYO

SUNSET SWING by Ray Celestin

World English: Mantle - November 2021. Sweden: Southside Stories. MS available.

Christmas 1967. Kerry Gaudet travels to Los Angeles to find her missing brother, fearing that something terrible has happened to him; a serial killer is terrorising the city. Ida Young, recently retired Private Investigator, is dragged into helping the police when her name is found at a crime scene. Her friend Louis Armstrong flies into the city just as her investigations begin to yield results. Meanwhile mob fixer Dante Sanfelippo has put his life savings into purchasing a winery in Napa Valley but first he must do one final favour for the Mob before leaving town: find a bail jumper before the bond money falls due, and time is fast running out...Completing his American crime quartet, Ray Celestin's SUNSET SWING is a stunning novel of conspiracy, murder and madness, an unforgettable portrait of a city on the edge.

THE AXEMAN'S JAZZ, book one of the City Blues quartet, was translated into 10 languages, and won the CWA Dagger for Best Debut Crime Novel of the Year.

"His portrait of an edgy, sexy, corrupt, dangerous, deeply racially prejudiced city [...] is totally absorbing" - The Guardian on DEAD MAN'S BLUES





BAD RELATIONS by Cressida Connolly

UK: Viking – May 2022. Edited MS available. On the battlefields of the Crimea, a medal is earned but the valiant soldier is changed by the war in a way that will reverberate through his family over the next two centuries. A naïve young Australian boy spends a golden summer with his distant relatives in 1970s Cornwall but it ends in a dramatic fall from grace. Half a century later, a confrontation between the surviving members of the family culminates in a reckoning between monetary and moral values, and the medal is delivered to its final home. BAD RELATIONS tells the story of a family fractured by history, geography and desire. Is blood destiny, or do we make our own choices? Just how long a shadow does the past throw?

Cressida Connolly's debut short story collection THE HAPPIEST DAYS won the PEN/MacMillan Silver Pen Award. Her most recent novel AFTER THE PARTY was shortlisted for the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction and was a Waterstones Book of the Month.

"Profound and moving and completely original... it'll be one of those novels that stays in my mind forever" - Craig Brown on AFTER THE PARTY.

"Ms Connolly is a master" - The Wall Street Journal



YOU CAN STAY by Elle Connel

World English: Wildfire - July 2022. Edited MS due October 2021.

A young soldier is exhausted and freezing on the exposed Bodmin Moor, on the run from a hunter force. He accepts an offer of shelter from a mysterious woman, but gradually starts to suspect she has sinister motives for inviting him in.

Elle Connel's second thriller is a chilling, gritty story of survival. Her previous novel DOWN BY THE WATER was a Sunday Times Crime Book of the Month.

PRAISE FOR DOWN BY THE WATER

"I loved it - a classy and clever subversion of a country house mystery" - Harriet Tyce

"Sinister and atmospheric" - Chris Brookmyre

"Tense, mesmerising and heartbreaking, I was truly gripped" - Susi Holliday

"A gripping mystery" - Nathan Ripley





IT TAKES TWO by Natalie Cox

UK: Orion – October 2021. Netherlands: Meulenhoff Boekerij. Options elsewhere. MS available.

Life is a bit of a mixed bag for Clemency. She is at war with her neighbour. Her ex won't give her any space. Her parents have fled the country, leaving her to deal with their shambolic tax affairs, and she is more involved in her sister's divorce proceedings than she would like. On the plus side, Clemency has her charming job selling artisan cheese, her enormous dog Charlie Bucket and BFF Bianca for company, and can forget about all her worries during her roller derby sessions. That is, until she finds that a mysterious woman has stolen her identity. Clemency and Bianca start tailing the fraudster, and their investigations soon lead them to an organised crime boss known as Popeye. With the help of gorgeous but (for some reason) exasperated Detective Constable Gus Meadows, can Clemency clear her own name, and save her doppelganger from harm?

Natalie Cox's first novel NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS won the 2019 "Books and The City" Romantic Comedy Novel Prize, awarded by the Romantic Novelists Association. Translation rights have sold in eight territories to date.

"Such a funny, sparky book" - Sophie Kinsella on NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

A WOMAN MADE OF SNOW by Elisabeth Gifford

World: Corvus - October 2021. MS available from the Publisher.

Scotland, 1949: Caroline Gillan and her new husband Alasdair have moved back to Kelly Castle, his dilapidated family estate in the middle of nowhere. Stuck caring for their tiny baby, and trying to find her way with an opinionated mother-in-law, Caroline feels adrift, alone and unwelcome. But when she is tasked with sorting out the family archives, Caroline discovers a century-old mystery that sparks her back to life. There is one Gillan bride who is completely unknown - no photos exist, no records have been kept - the only thing that is certain is that she had a legitimate child. Alasdair's grandmother. As Caroline uncovers a strange story that stretches as far as the Arctic circle, her desire to find the truth turns obsessive. And when a body is found in the grounds of the castle, her hunt becomes more than just a case of curiosity. What happened all those years ago? Who was the bride? And who is the body...?

Elisabeth's previous novel THE LOST LIGHTS OF ST KIL-DA was shortlisted for the Romantic Novelists' Association's Historical Romance Award 2021, and longlisted for the 2020 Highland Book Prize.

"Desperately romantic" Katie Fforde on THE LOST LIGHTS OF ST KILDA



SCARY MONSTERS by Michelle de Kretser

ANZ: Allen & Unwin – October 2021. UK: Allen & Unwin -January 2022. US – Catapult. Edited MS available.

Lyle works for a sinister government department in near-future Australia. An Asian migrant, he fears repatriation and embraces 'Australian values' He's also preoccupied by his ambitious wife, wayward children and strong-minded elderly mother. Islam has been banned in the country, the air is barely breathable, and one pandemic has already run its course. Lili's family migrated to Australia from Asia when she was a teenager. Now teaching in Montpellier in the 1980s, she's striving to be A Bold, Intelligent Woman like Simone de Beauvoir.

Three scary monsters - racism, misogyny and ageism - roam through this mesmerising novel. Its reversible format enacts the disorientation that migrants experience when changing countries changes the story of their lives.

"To read her is to be changed." - Neel Mukherjee

"A dazzling novel, by a hugely talented author." - Sarah Waters

"It's a novel of luminous intelligence and profound depth, written with verve, humour and exceptional elegance." - Monica Ali

"Bold, spare and completely original" - Preti Taneja

"It's a wildly remarkable book that unfolds like no other." - Joan Silber

AFTERWARDS by Charlotte Leonard

Wold English: Simon & Schuster – April 2022. Edited MS available.

A dazzling and important debut novel, shortlisted for the Bath 2020 novel award. When Emma's husband commits suicide, leaving no note, her happy existence is blown apart. A photographer, all Jay has left behind is his camera containing five photographs, which are unlike his other work. Emma follows the images to Cornwall, beginning a journey in which old relationships are re-written and new ones are formed. As the visual mystery of each photograph unfolds, Emma finds herself unravelling and perilously close to breaking point. But could her unlikely salvation lie in the sea, a small community of swimmers and the promise of something Emma thought she didn't want?

Brilliantly written in refreshing and sharp prose, AFTER-WARDS is a powerful and emotionally raw novel but one with a moving and ultimately uplifting heart.



This is the story of loss and what happens afterwards

Charlotte Leonard





Alexander McLeod's control of cadence and rhythm is so complete that it seems effortless' Colm Téibin

ALL THE LITTLE BIRD HEARTS by Viktoria Lloyd-Barlow

UK: Tinder Press – 2023. Italy: Garzanti. Edited MS due December 2021.

Sunday Forrester lives with her beautiful, headstrong, sixteenyear-old daughter Dolly. She does things differently from other people, but has managed to build a safe and comfortable life of careful routines. Into this predictable world step Vita and Rollo, a glamorous couple from London. Vita is everything Sunday has always admired: witty, educated, socially at ease. Sunday has never felt so loved & accepted by anyone, except perhaps her late sister Dolores. But when Rollo suggests that perhaps they had to leave London because of one of Vita's little indiscretions, a malevolent edge to Vita's charm presents itself.

Viktoria Lloyd-Barlow's elegant, finely-wrought debut was pre-empted in Italy within days of submission.

Like her protagonist Sunday in ALL THE LITTLE BIRD

HEARTS, Viktoria is autistic. She has presented her doctoral research internationally, most recently speaking at Harvard University on autism and literary narrative. Her creative writing has been published in the University of Kent Review.

ANIMAL PERSON by Alexander MacLeod

UK: Jonathan Cape – April 2022. Canada: McClelland and Stewart. US: Farrar Straus & Giroux. Germany: Luchterhand. Netherlands: De Bezige Bij. Spain: Alianza de Novelas. Taiwan: Chi Ming. Edited MS available.

A petty argument between two sisters is interrupted by an unexpected visitor. Adjoining motel rooms connect a family on the brink of a new life with a criminal whose legacy will haunt them for years to come. A connoisseur of other people's secrets is undone by what he finds in a piece of lost luggage. In the wake of a tragic accident, a young man must contend with what is owed to the living and to the dead. And in the O. Henry Award-winning story "Lagomorph," a man's relationship with his family's long-lived pet rabbit opens up to become a profound exploration of how a marriage fractures.

ANIMAL PERSON was pre-empted in the US and acquired at auction in Canada, Germany and the Netherlands. LIGHT LIFTING won the Atlantic Book Award and was shortlisted for the Giller Prize, Commonwealth Writers Prize, the Frank O'Connor award and the Thomas Head Raddall Fiction Award.

"A powerful collection and the debut of a writer clearly a master of the form" -Ali Smith on LIGHT LIFTING

YELENA MOSKOVICH

BEHIN



A DOOR BEHIND A DOOR Yelena Moskovich

US: Two Dollar Radio Movement. UK: Influx Press - February 2022. Options elsewhere. MS available.

In Yelena Moskovich's spellbinding and surreal new novel we meet Olga, who immigrates as part of the Soviet diaspora of '91 to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There she grows up and meets a girl and falls in love, beginning to believe that she can settle down. But a phone call from a bad man from her past brings to life a haunted childhood in an apartment building in the Soviet Union: an unexplained murder in her block, a supernatural stray dog, and the mystery of her beloved brother Moshe, who lost an eye and later vanished. We get pulled into Olga's past as she puzzles her way through an underground Midwestern Russian mafia, in pursuit of a string of mathematical stabbings.

Yelena's second novel VIRTUOSO was longlisted for the 2020 Dylan Thomas Prize.

"[A] sexy fever dream of a book, so visceral and poetic [...] With each page, a "feeling of anachronistic dread" builds for character and reader alike, as complex, heart-wrenching testimonies weave together" - The LA Review of Books

SMALL ANGELS by Lauren Owen

UK: Tinder Press – August 2022. US: Random House. Options elsewhere. Edited MS available.

He walks amongst the whispering trees And this will ever be so No help of ours could set him free From the Woods where the roses grow

If you loved THE LONEY or THE THIRTEENTH TALE, it's time to enter SMALL ANGELS.

When Chloe turns the key to Small Angels, the church nestled at the edge of Mockbeggar Woods where she is to be married, she is braced for cobwebs and dust. What she doesn't expect are the villagers' concerned faces, her fiancé's remoteness, or the nagging voice in her head that whispers to her of fears she didn't even know she had. Something in the woods is beginning to stir, to creep closer to the sleeping houses. Something that should have been banished long ago. Whatever it is, it's getting stronger, and pretending it's not there won't keep the wedding, or the village – or Chloe – safe.

"Sly and glittering" - Hilary Mantel on THE QUICK

"Impossible to resist" - Kate Atkinson on THE QUICK



DELPHI by Clare Pollard

UK: Fig Tree - July 2022. US: Simon & Schuster. Germany: Aufbau. Edited MS due October 2021.

An unnamed translator and academic is living in South London with her ten-year-old son and husband. When the Covid 19 pandemic strikes, she is writing a book about prophecy in the Ancient World. As the events of 2020 unfold, with the spectre of a Trump re-election and the tightening grip of lockdowns, she develops a fixation with Cassandra; a Trojan priestess of Apollo in Greek mythology cursed to utter true prophecies, but never to be believed. As domestic tensions escalate and uncertainty becomes life's defining sensation, the boundary between the narrator's professional and personal selves disappears, and she finds herself obsessed with the myriad techniques used by the ancients to predict the future. Some are well-known, such as chiromancy (prophecy by palm reading) and zoomancy (prophecy by animal behaviour). Others are more obscure, from psephomancy (prophecy by lots or ballots) to oenomancy (prophecy by wine). Increasingly surprised by her own choices and behaviour, she turns to lucid dreaming and tarot cards in an attempt to harness the fates. But while doing so, she fails to notice the future creeping into the heart of her very own home, and what that future brings will upend everything.

Clare Pollard is an award-winning poet, author, and playwright. DELPHI was pre-empted in the UK, US and Germany. DELPHI is her debut novel.

IN A GARDEN BURNING GOLD by Rory Power

US: Del Rey - April 2022. UK: Titan. Russia: Popcorn Books. Turkey: Epsilon. Options elsewhere. Edited MS available. The Argyros family have helped their father rule Thyzakos for over a century. They age slower than mere mortals, and each sibling has a gift. Rhea is charm itself, and must sacrifice a new suitor each Spring to maintain the cycle of seasons. Rhea's twin brother Lexos stiches the cosmos onto inky fabric every night. Gentle, creative Chrysanthi can manipulate stories, landscapes and light with her paints, while reclusive middle child Nitsos tinkers with mechanical birds and intricate machines alone in his workshop, to keep things running smoothly. Now, with an independence movement gaining ground and their father's rule weakening, Rhea and Lexos must take matters into their own hands. But if they're not careful, they'll end up facing each other across the battlefield.

Naomi Novik's SPINNING SILVER meets GAME OF THRONES in a mesmerising and unputdownable Balkan fantasy novel of family and survival from the instant New York Times bestselling author of WILDER GIRLS and BURN OUR BOD-IES DOWN.

"Wholly original and compelling" The Observer on WILDER GIRLS





IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN HERE by Eithne Shortall

UK: Corvus - February 2022. Edited MS available. If there's one thing Beverly Franklin knows, it's that if you don't at least try to get your kid into Glass Lake Primary, you're basically negligent. Determined to hang on to her crown as Queen Bee of the 'Lakers', Beverley will do whatever it takes to protect the school's reputation. So when a scandal involving her own 12-year-old daughter threatens to derail the annual school musical's appearance on national television, Beverley goes into overdrive. But in her efforts to protect her daughter and keep the musical on track, she misses what's really going, both in her own house and in the insular Glass Lake community, with dramatic consequences...

IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN HERE is a compelling, relatable, wonderfully witty novel about small-town politics, competitive mothering and the power of gossip, perfect for fans of Marian Keyes, Patricia Scanlan, Liane Moriarty and Adele Parks.

Eithne Shortall's debut LOVE IN ROW 27 was a major Irish bestseller, and her second novel, GRACE AFTER HENRY, was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards and won Best Page Turner at the UK's Big Book Awards. Her most recent novel THREE LITTLE TRUTHS was a BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick.

HEAR NO EVIL by Sarah Smith

UK: Two Roads – February 2022. Edited MS available. The burgeoning industrial city of Glasgow, 1817. Jean Campbell - a young, deaf woman – is witnessed throwing a child into the River Clyde from the Old Bridge. No evidence is yielded from the river. Unable to communicate with their silent prisoner, The High Court calls in Robert Kinniburgh, a talented teacher from the Deaf & Dumb Institution. As Robert gains Jean's trust and finds himself moving uneasily from interpreter to investigator, he feels he must clear her name and save her from one of two fates; incarceration in an asylum, or the hangman's noose.

Sarah Smith won a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award in 2019. She has extensive experience of working with the community, including most recently at Deaf Connections in Glasgow, where she first came across the remarkable story of Jean Campbell and Robert Kinniburgh.

"Beautifully written and a real page turner -a wonderful insight into the early quest to understand and give a voice to people who cannot hear." - Elisabeth Gifford

"A fascinating exploration of deafness and human value amid the sights, sounds of smells of 1817 urban Scotland."- Sally Magnusson

"A striking and stylish literary page-turner that breathes life into the past" - Zoë Strachan





UTOPIA by Heidi Sopinka

UK & US: Scribe – 2022. Canada: Hamish Hamilton. Edited MS due November 2021.

Set against the backdrop of performance art and radical feminism in 1970s California, UTOPIA tells the story of a haunting love triangle. Paz is a young artist struggling to find her place in the scene while, Romy, a more established artist, has become disillusioned. When Romy dies suddenly and mysteriously a scandal ensues when Paz abruptly marries Romy's widower Billy and takes on the role of mother to Romy's baby. Stepping into the shoes of someone so recently departed begins to take its toll. As Paz becomes increasingly obsessed and overwhelmed by the ghost of the woman she has replaced and the reality of the man she has married, a sinister truth at the heart of this dark love triangle begins to emerge, setting Paz on a journey to the desert to find the truth.

Heidi Sopinka's debut novel THE DICTIONARY OF ANIMAL LANGUAGES was shortlisted for the 2019 Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize and was a Tate Book of the Month.

"Such a special book, suffused with an almost painterly intelligence" - Rivka Galchen, author of AMERICAN INNOVA-TIONS and ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES on THE DICTIONARY OF ANIMAL LANGUAGES

"This is the beauty of Sopinka's clever tale; it gives the illusion of an elegant high-wire walk between fact and fiction" - The National Arts and Culture on THE DICTIONARY OF ANIMAL LANGUAGES.

ALISON by Lizzy Stewart

World: Serpent's Tail – Summer 2022. Edited MS due October 2021.

An engrossing and all-encompassing graphic novel for readers of Sally Rooney. At the age of twenty, Alison Porter finds herself stuck in a safe but stultifying marriage in Dorset, on the Southern coast of England. Desperate for a creative outlet, Alison starts attending community art classes. The instructor is Patrick Kerr, a painter and aesthete twenty-four years her senior. When Alison moves to London to live with Patrick, he introduces her to metropolitan life and to his glamorous, creative, bohemian circle, but as Alison starts making her own friends and her own art, cracks start to form in their relationship.

A beautifully written and illustrated graphic novel exploring identity, class, friendship and the difficult and often toxic dynamics between artist and muse.

ALISON was acquired at auction – none of the bidding publishers had acquired a graphic novel before. Lizzy Stewart is already an acclaimed picture book author/illustrator and her work has been translated into many languages. THERE'S A TIGER IN MY GARDEN won the 2017 Waterstones Children's Book Prize.









7 1/2 by Christos Tsiolkas

UK: Atlantic - February 2022. ANZ: Allen & Unwin. MS available. Translation rights: Curtis Brown Australia. A man arrives at a house on the coast to write a book. Separated from his lover and family and friends, he finds the solitude he craves in the pyrotechnic beauty of nature, just as the world he has shut out is experiencing a cataclysmic shift. The preoccupations that have galvanised him and his work fall away and he becomes lost in memory and beauty. He begins to tell us a story ... A retired porn star who is made an offer he can't refuse for the sake of his family and future. So he returns to the world he fled years before, all too aware of the danger of opening the door to past temptations and long-buried desires. Can he resist the oblivion and bliss they promise?

A breathtakingly audacious novel by the acclaimed author of THE SLAP and DAMASCUS about finding joy and beauty in a raging and punitive world, about the refractions of memory and time and, most subversive of all, the mystery of art and its creation.

DAMASCUS won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction.



NON-FICTION

ALL MY WILD MOTHERS by Victoria Bennett

UK: Two Roads - 2023. MS due December 2021. October 19th, 2007: Victoria is seven months pregnant. After previous pregnancy loss, this is her happy-ever-after moment. The telephone rings, and everything changes in an instant. At forty-seven, her eldest sister is dead, drowned on the River Eden. September, 2012. Victoria is a full-time carer for her medically dependent son, and facing the impact of austerity measures. She sets fire to six million words, gives away most of her belongings, and moves her family to a social housing estate, built on an old industrial stoneworks. With no money and limited resources, Victoria and her son set about transforming the rubble into a wild, apothecary garden, and discover that sometimes, life grows, not in spite of what is broken, but because of it.

ALL MY WILD MOTHERS is an extraordinary story of survival, hope, and the healing power of the earth under our feet. Acquired at auction in the UK.



CIMINO: Hollywood, Heaven's Gate and the Price of a Vision by Charles Elton

World English: Abrams - March 2022. MS available. Director Michael Cimino (1939–2016) was the biggest name in Hollywood after THE DEER HUNTER won Best Picture at the 1979 Oscars. Cimino's follow-up film HEAVEN'S GATE was the most notorious bomb of all time; it went way over-budget, put legendary studio United Artists out of business, and marked the end of Hollywood's auteur era. Or so the conventional wisdom goes. Charles Elton delves deeply into the making and aftermath of the movie and presents a surprisingly different view to that of Steven Bach, one of the executives responsible for Heaven's Gate, who wrote a scathing book about the film and solidified the widely held view that Cimino wounded the movie industry beyond repair. Elton's Cimino is a richly detailed biography that offers a revisionist history of a lightning rod filmmaker. Based on extensive interviews with Cimino's peers and collaborators and enemies and friends, most of whom have never spoken before, the first biography of Michael Cimino is a richly detailed and illuminating biography that offers a revisionist history of a mysterious, enigmatic man. This is a story of the making of art, the business of Hollywood, and the costs of ambition, both financial and personal.

"One of the strangest and most mysterious of all Hollywood lives gets the treatment it's been crying out for in this brilliantly insightful biography." - John Preston

"I inhaled this book in two sittings. In a magnificent feat of investigative reporting, Charles Elton provides a revelatory reappraisal of Michael Cimino and a tragicomic portrait of late twentieth-century Hollywood." - Zoë Heller

THE MAN WHO INVENTED MOTION PICTURES A Trae Tale of

OBSESSION, MURDER, and THE MOVIES

PAUL FISCHER

THE MAN WHO INVENTED MOTION PICTURES: A True Tale of Obsession, Murder and the Movies by Paul Fischer

UK: Faber – April 2022. US: Simon & Schuster. Options elsewhere. MS available.

In 1888 Louis Le Prince shot the world's first motion picture in Leeds, England. In 1890, weeks before the public unveiling of his camera and projector - a year before Thomas Edison announced that he had invented a motion picture camera - Le Prince stepped on a train in France - and disappeared without a trace. He was never seen or heard from again. No body was ever found. Le Prince's family were convinced Edison had stolen Louis's work, and so they sued the most famous inventor in the world. By the time the lawsuit was over, Le Prince's own son was dead under suspicious circumstances. And the man who had dedicated his life to preserving memories was himself lost to history—until now.

Paul Fischer's much anticipated new book excavates one of the Victorian age's great unsolved mysteries, and offers a radical rewriting of the birth of motion pictures.

Paul Fischer's previous book A KIM JONG-IL PRODUCTION sold in sixteen territories and was nominated for the Crime Writers' Association's Non-Fiction Book Award.



THE LAKE AND THE STARS: A Memoir of Sex and Celibacy by Emma Forrest

UK: Weidenfeld & Nicholson - August 2022. Edited MS due November 2021.

"So many of us think our life is going to go one way and it ends up going someplace completely different."

In the middle of her life, Emma Forrest finds herself on a new path. She had been one half of a Hollywood couple, living in a grand L.A. house with lake-side views that made life feel magical every day. Now she is divorced, writing and living with her daughter in an attic flat beneath the star-filled sky of deepest North London. And after a life guided by romantic obsession, she never wants to have sex again.

From the author of YOUR VOICE IN MY HEAD and ROYALS, comes a dazzling memoir about what happens when the dream life you have been working towards becomes something you must walk away from. About what happens when you choose to exclude romance, sex and men from a life that has been full of them.

"Heartfelt and touching and surprisingly funny [...] also wincingly, unflinchingly honest." Florence Welch on YOUR VOICE IN MY HEAD

"Charming, witty and touching, an Eighties BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S" David Nicholls on ROYALS



NO COMMENT: The Reality of Becoming a Detective in the Met by Jess McDonald

World: Bloomsbury - July 2022. Edited ms due October 2021. Jess McDonald was a true crime junkie. After deciding to have a career change, she graduated from the Met Police's Direct Entry scheme and went from sofa sleuth to fully qualified Detective. The scheme was a controversial new initiative designed to tackle a recruitment crisis in the Force. One hundred rookies would go through an intense twenty-week training course and introduction to borough policing, qualifying as detectives after just one year.

In Jess' incisive, original and eye-opening memoir she takes us from bizarre training rituals to harrowing encounters with the perpetrators and victims of violent crime, exploring what it really means to be responsible for "keeping London safe for everyone". We see the immense pressure she is put under as she struggles to adapt to her extraordinary new circumstances - and weighs up whether she even has a future in the force as it is.

NO COMMENT was acquired following a four-way auction.



UK - *Sceptre* 2022. *US*: *Simon* & *Schuster*. *Options elsewhere*. *Edited MS due October* 2021.

London 1940. Under pressure from the hysterical media and anxious public, Winston Churchill implemented a mass internment policy for all male Germans living in Britain, with immediate effect, without trial. As a result, the newly built Hutchinson Camp became a prison for many innocent men, but also unexpectedly a creative and intellectual hub, home to some of the most gifted thinkers, writers, musicians and artists anywhere in the world, including the pianist Marjan Rawicz, Dadaist Kurt Schwitters and sculptor Georg Ehrlich. Using first-hand accounts and source material from prisoners themselves, and focusing on government officials involved, THE ISLAND OF EXTRAORDINARY CAPTIVES will explore art as a by-product of political and bureaucratic chaos, and the power of creativity in liberating the human spirit during times of grave adversity.

"Engaging...a vivid picture" -The New Yorker on A GAME OF BIRDS AND WOLVES

"Enthralling...a pacey read with some wonderfully vivid set pieces" -The Literary Review on A GAME OF BIRDS AND WOLVES





FIRE ISLAND: Love, Loss and Liberation in an American Paradise by Jack Parlett

UK: Granta - May 2022. US: Harper Collins. Edited MS due October 2021.

A magisterial account of queer desire in the 20th century. Fire Island: a narrow, sandy strip of land along the coast from New York that, since the early twentieth century, has been a place of hedonism, reinvention, liberation. From Walt Whitman's rustic sojourns to W. H. Auden's ambivalent presence; from the 'chosen family' gatherings of the interwar avant garde to the wild parties of the post-Stonewall disco era; from Frank O'Hara and James Baldwin to Patricia Highsmith and Carson McCullers, and on to today's denizens: Parlett charts the fascinating history of this queer enclave - and his own forays into its culture - through the writers, artists and activists who have found release and revolution on its shores.

"The zingy tale of one magnetic place — as well as a sprawling rumination on the intertwined urges to get away and get together. Clued-up but insatiably thirsty, poignant, packed with literary intrigue, Fire Island is a beaming beach read." - Jeremy Atherton Lin

"A beautiful, beguiling journey to the ultimate queer utopia, a site of riotous hedonism, wild creativity and immense loss. Fire Island is a fascinating, throbbing history that asks the most urgent of contemporary questions: what does paradise look like, and who does it exclude?" - Olivia Laing

ON GETTING BETTER by Adam Phillips

UK: Hamish Hamilton - November 2021. US: Farrar Straus & Giroux. Brazil: Editora Criação Humana. Options elsewhere. Edited MS available.

To talk about getting better - about wanting to change in ways that we might choose and prefer - is to talk about pursuing the life we want; in the full knowledge that our pictures of the life we want, of our version of a good life, come from or come out of what we have already experienced. (We write the sentences we write because of the sentences we have read.) How can we talk differently about how we might want to change, knowing that all change precipitates us into an uncertain future?

In this companion book to ON WANTING TO CHANGE, Adam Phillips explores how we might get better at talking about what it is to get better.

"The ease of Phillips' prose is conditioned by his reluctance to "convince" anyone, including himself. The author treats his readers like his patients, aiming to provoke and stimulate rather than persuade." - The Guardian on ON WANTING TO CHANGE





EVERY FAMILY HAS A STORY: How we Inherit Love and Loss by Julia Samuel

World English: Viking - April 2022. Options elsewhere. MS due October 2021.

Julia Samuel shifts her counsellor's gaze from individuals to a wide variety of families. Diving deep into eight case studies, with her usual storytelling panache and the latest academic research, she analyses a range of common issues including separation, step-relationships, leaving home, trauma and loss. In doing so, she reveals insightfully how deeply we are influenced by our families - including the often under-appreciated impact of grandparents and siblings - and offers universally applicable insights into how families can face challenges together. Her 12 touchstones for family wellbeing -- from fighting productively to making time for rituals, and from setting boundaries to allowing difference -- provide us with the tools to create the families we wish for.

Julia Samuel is a bereavement counsellor with over 30 years experience. Her books GRIEF WORKS and THIS TOO SHALL PASS were both Sunday Times bestsellers, and have been translated in to 17 languages. Since publication of THIS TOO SHALL PASS in 2020, Julia has also launched a successful podcast, Instagram series and GRIEF WORKS app. Her advice for dealing with grief and anxiety during the Covid-19 pandemic has been featured in The Telegraph, Times and Financial Times, among others.

"A remarkable portrayal of how we need to understand ourselves to truly heal" - Esther Perel on THIS TOO SHALL PASS

"Examines the power that comes from dealing effectively with change" Elizabeth Day on THIS TOO SHALL PASS

CHILDREN'S & YA



BY ROWAN AND YEW by Melissa Harrison

World: Chicken House - October 2021. MS available from the Publisher.

As autumn arrives, Moss, Sorrel, Burnet and Dormer decide to return home to Ash Row to unravel a riddle that might explain why their kind are fading from the Wild World. When you're only one-hand high, it's a journey filled with both danger and delight: golden leaves, shiny conkers and the brightest of berries, but also storms and the first frost of winter. They have friendship, good sense and humour on their side, but will it be enough to secure a future for the Hidden Folk? Or will they need to go further, and find a way to work with the most unreliable of creatures ... humans?

A tale of disappearing wilderness that couldn't be more relevant in today's environmental crisis, brought to life for children by three tiny, funny, eternal beings – the hidden folk.

"Timely and magical, it will open the young reader's eyes to the wonders of the natural world." Natasha Farrant on BY ASH, OAK AND THORN

"Each page brims with the wonder of our natural world, so much to learn but all a sheer delight." Piers Torday on BY ASH, OAK AND THORN

OTTOLENGHI TEST KITCHEN

SHELF

►LOVE

Ottolenghi Test Kitchen: SHELF LOVE by Ottolenghi Test Kitchen

World excluding US: Ebury - September 2021. US: Clarkson Potter. MS available from the Publisher.

Of late, we've all been standing in front of our kitchen shelves wondering what on earth to cook. Whether they're conjuring up new recipes or cooking for themselves at home, the Ottolenghi Test Kitchen team do what we all do: they raid their kitchens. But then, they turn whatever they find into approachable creations with an 'Ottolenghi' twist. For the first time, the team welcome us into their creative space. These dishes pack all the punch and edge we expect from Ottolenghi, but offer more flexibility to make them our own, using what we've got to hand. There's the ultimate guide to creamy dreamy hummus, a one-pan route to confit tandoori chickpeas and a tomato salad that rules them all. This book is all about feeding ourselves and our families with less stress and less fuss, but with all the 'wow' of an Ottolenghi meal. It's a notebook to scribble on and add to, to take its ethos and absolutely make it your own. This is how to cook, the OTK way.

Ottolenghi's SIMPLE was a Sunday Times, New York Times and international bestseller, and winner at the National Book Awards 2018.

"Flavours are big but techniques are simple. You could cook out of this for years and never eat a dull meal." Diana Henry in The Telegraph



THE YEAR OF MIRACLES: Recipes to Save Your Life by Ella Risbridger

World: Bloomsbury - May 2022. MS available from the Publisher Ella Risbridger has learnt to focus on the little things that bring her joy, feeding as many people as she can squeeze round her tiny table and sharing recipes that are good for the soul. THE YEAR OF MIRACLES is her diary of cooking, with comfort recipes for every season, where the food is so good you want to lick the bowl, with recipes like fancy fish pie, cardamom-cinnamon chicken rice, chimichurri courgettes, triple carb soup, blackberry miso birthday cake, fried jam sandwiches and sticky toffee Guinness brownies. It's a book about what happens when you've lived through the worst thing you could have imagined, and how you can still cook, and eat, and love.

Ella Risbridger's debut cookbook MIDNIGHT CHICKEN won the Guild of Food Writers General Cookbook Award 2020.

"A manual for living and a declaration of hope" Nigella Lawson on MIDNIGHT CHICKEN

"She cooks like a dream and writes like an angel" - Sarah Phelps

FOOD WRITING



BREADSONG: How Bread Changed Our Lives by Alex & Kitty Tait

World: Bloomsbury – April 2022. MS available from the Publisher.

Shortlisted for the Jane Grigson Trust Award 2021

Teenager Kitty Tait was chatty, bouncy and full of life, until a cloud of depression and anxiety threatened to overwhelm her. One day her Dad Alex baked a loaf of bread with her in their kitchen. One loaf turned in to ten, and soon Kitty was baking bread for the whole village, and expanding her repertiore. Demand for Kitty's loaves, buns, cookies and brownies grew and, after a few whirlwind months, she and her dad opened The Orange Bakery in Watlington, where queues now regularly snake down the street.

The book is divided in to two halves: in the first half Kitty and Al's voices alternate to tell us the story of how their bakery came to be and how they have overcome many obstacles along the way to radically change their lives for the better. In the second half we have 80 recipes including Happy Bread filled with salted caramel and Comfort Bread made with Marmite, sticky buns galore with flavours such as Cardamom and Orange, and Fig and Honey, and the ultimate Tahini and Milk Chocolate Cookies. It's also a story about mental health, finding joy in unexpected places and being brave enough to change your life.

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N.B. We are the primary agent for names in black and the UK agent for names in grey.