



LUTYENS & RUBINSTEIN
SPRING RIGHTS GUIDE 2021

FICTION

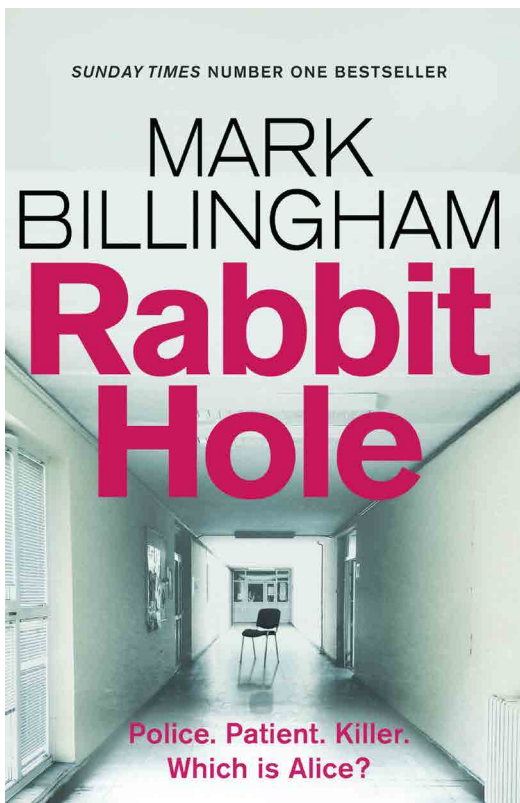


THE VENOMOUS LUMPSUCKER by Ned Beaman

UK: Sceptre – 2022. Options elsewhere. Edited MS due Summer 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 Beaman'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.



RABBIT HOLE by Mark Billingham

World excluding Germany: Little, Brown – July 2021. US: Grove Atlantic. Options elsewhere. MS available.

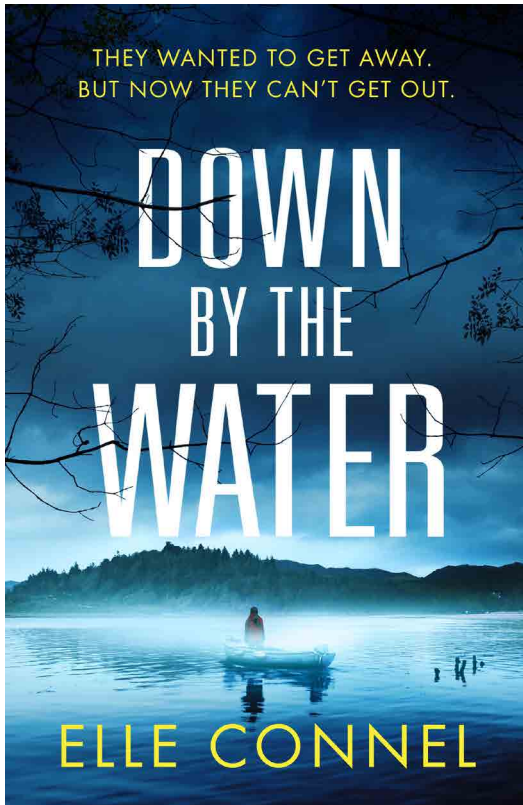
They were meant to be safe on Fleet Ward: psychiatric patients monitored, treated, cared for. But now one of their number is found murdered, and the accusations begin to fly. Was it a fellow patient? A member of staff? Or did someone come in from the outside? DC Alice Armitage is methodical, tireless, and she's quickly on the trail of the killer. The only problem is, Alice is a patient too.

Mark Billingham's most recent novel *CRY BABY* was his 20th consecutive Sunday Times Top Five Bestseller. The Thorne novels have been published in 26 languages. Mark has twice won the Theakston's Old Peculier Award for Crime Novel of the Year, and four of his novels have been adapted for television.

"One of the most consistently entertaining, insightful crime writers working today" - Gillian Flynn.

"A world-class crime writer" - Karin Slaughter.

"Mark Billingham is a master of psychology, plotting and the contemporary scene" - Ian Rankin.



DOWN BY THE WATER by Elle Connel

World: Wildfire – July 2021. MS available from the Publisher.

This heart-stopping psychological thriller follows seven friends as they gather at a remote castle in the Scottish Borders for a hen party. Situated near a beautiful sea-loch, it seems like the perfect place to get away from the outside world. But the weekend is terrifyingly derailed when the girls spot the figure of a boy in one of their group photos by the water. They thought they knew each other's darkest moments, but one of them has been hiding a devastating secret. And amid the drunken revelries of the weekend, she will find the perfect moment to wreak her revenge.

Lucy Ribchester (AKA Elle Connel) was a finalist in the 2014 Costa Short Story Award. Her novel *THE AMBER SHADOWS* was longlisted for the Guardian Not the Booker Prize.



BAD RELATIONS by Cressida Connolly

UK: Viking – Spring 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.

"Ms Connolly is a master, revealing character while sustaining an effect of lightness and ease" - The Wall Street Journal on *AFTER THE PARTY*.

"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*.



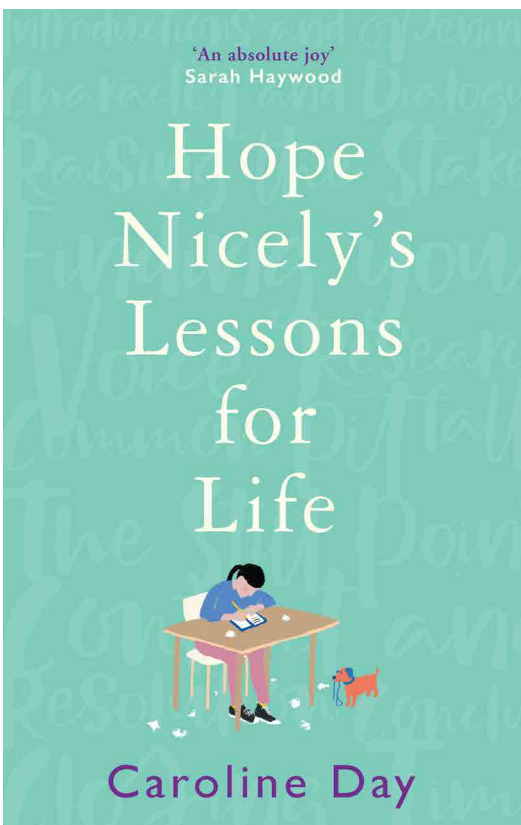
IT TAKES TWO by Natalie Cox

UK: Orion – Autumn 2021. Options elsewhere. Edited 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



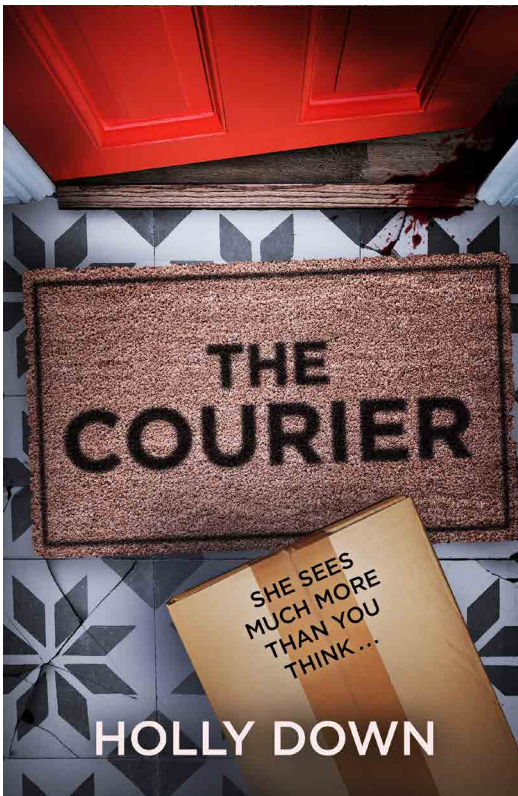
HOPE NICELY'S LESSONS FOR LIFE by Caroline Day

World: Bonnier Zaffre – July 2021. MS available from the Publisher.

Hope Nicely struggles with social situations and remembering instructions, but she's happy enough with her dog-walking job and she loves living with her adopted mum, Jenny Nicely. It's just . . . there's something she needs to know. Why did her birth mother abandon her? And did she know that drinking while pregnant could lead to Hope being born with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder? In a bid to find her birth mother and answer these questions, Hope joins an evening class to learn how to write her autobiography, discover more about the world around her, and make some friends. But when Jenny suddenly falls ill, Hope realises there are many more lessons to come...HOPE NICELY'S LESSONS FOR LIFE is an exciting debut starring a unique heroine from a fresh new voice in commercial fiction.

"A touching, tender story filled with wonderful humour. An absolute joy" - Sarah Haywood

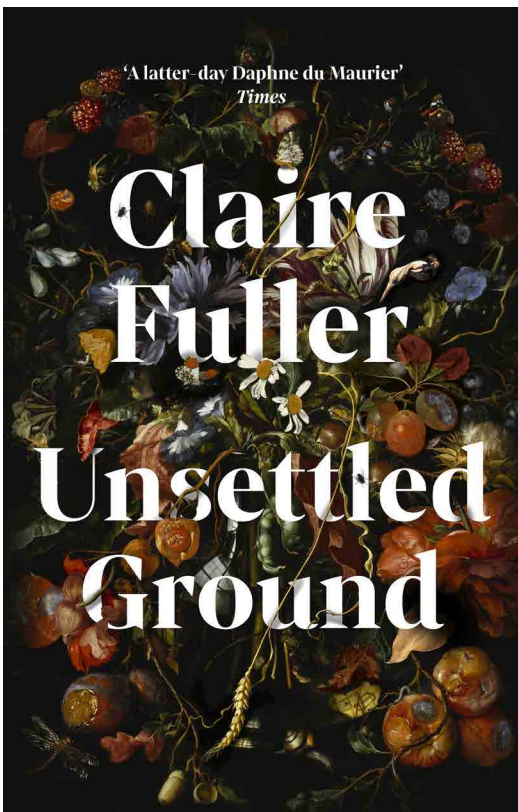
"A very special book, really enjoyable" - Katie Fforde



THE COURIER by Holly Down

World: Hodder & Stoughton – June 2021. MS available from the Publisher.

Laurel Lovejoy once had it all, but now aged 40, she is alone and working for a courier service. She has discovered that being a delivery driver makes her invisible; people accept her presence without question and they go about their lives unaware of how much she sees. Laurel is particularly fascinated by the residents of Paradise Found and sometimes finds herself there on her days off. Then one day Laurel sees something in one of the houses—something that blows her whole world apart, and will have devastating consequences for everyone.



UNSETTLED GROUND by Claire Fuller

UK: Fig Tree – March 2021. US: Tin House. Canada: House of Anansi Press. France: Editions Stock. Options elsewhere. MS available.

At 51 years old, twins Jeanie and Julius still live with their mother, Dot, in rural isolation and poverty. Inside the walls of their old cottage they make music, and in the garden they grow (and sometimes kill) everything they need for sustenance. But when Dot dies suddenly, threats to their livelihood start raining down. UNSETTLED GROUND is a portrait of life on the fringes of society that explores with dazzling emotional power how we can build our lives on broken foundations, and spin light from darkness.

Claire Fuller's first novel OUR ENDLESS NUMBERED DAYS won the 2015 Desmond Elliott Prize. Her fiction has been translated into sixteen languages.

“UNSETTLED GROUND is so sharply, so utterly brilliant that I found myself holding my breath while reading it, dazzled by Fuller's mastery and precision. Not since Flaubert's A SIMPLE HEART have I encountered a narrative that shows, with such clear and patient fury, how breath-taking vulnerability can come from poverty, pride, and helpless family love.” -Lauren Groff

“Claire Fuller knows what she is doing; her evocative writing and intelligent plotting make this a compulsive page-turner” -The Times on BITTER ORANGE



SCARY MONSTERS by Michelle de Kretser

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

Three metaphorical monsters preside over Michelle de Kretser's mesmerizing, reversible novel--racism, misogyny, and ageism. Lili's parents emigrated to Australia when she was a teenager. Teaching in Montpellier in the early 1980s, she makes friends and strives to be A Bold, Intelligent Woman, while simultaneously observing lechery and racism towards North African immigrants. Decades later, Lyle works in a sinister government department in a far right-wing future Australia, where he maintains a low profile and lives in fear of repatriation. At home, he is preoccupied by his ambitious wife, his wayward children, and his flamboyant elderly mother. Islam has been banned in the country, the air is smoke-filled due to a Permanent Fire Zone, and one pandemic has already run its course. Is there a monstrous link between their stories?

Michelle de Kretser's fiction has been translated into ten languages. She has won the Miles Franklin Award, the Commonwealth Prize, the Encore Prize and Christina Stead Prize, among others.

"I so much admire Michelle de Kretser's formidable technique"
- Hilary Mantel

A TOWN CALLED SOLACE by Mary Lawson

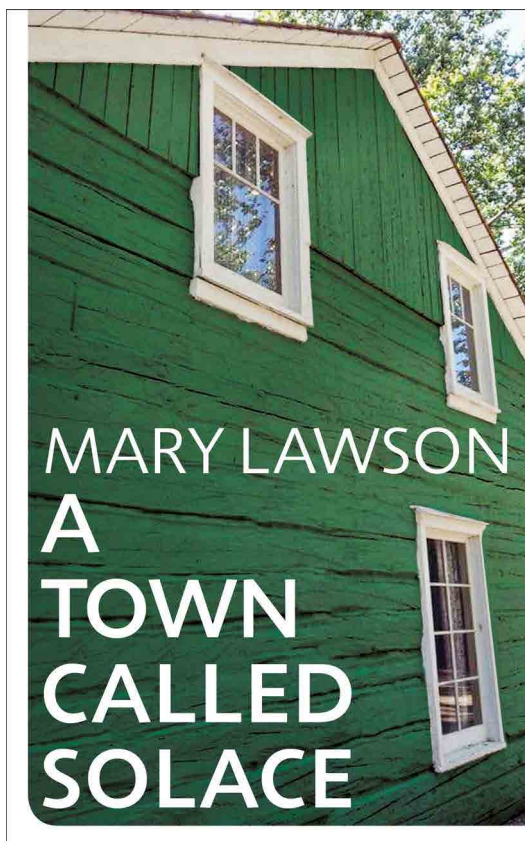
UK: Chatto & Windus – February 2021. Canada: Knopf. France: Belfond. Germany: Heyne. Options elsewhere. MS available.

Eight-year-old Clara, isolated by her distraught parents' efforts to protect her from the truth of her sister's disappearance, is grief-stricken and bewildered. Liam Kane, newly divorced, newly unemployed, moves into the house next door, a house left to him by an old woman he can barely remember. At the end of her life Elizabeth Orchard is thinking about a crime committed thirty years ago that had tragic consequences for two families and in particular for one small child. Set in Northern Ontario in 1972, Mary Lawson's bestselling new novel explores the relationships of these three people brought together by fate and the mistakes of the past.

Mary Lawson's debut CROW LAKE was a New York Times bestseller and was translated into twenty-five languages. Her second novel THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE was longlisted for the Booker Prize and selected for the Richard and Judy Book Club.

"Quietly brilliant...this is Mary Lawson's fourth novel and I'd recommend a binge immersion" -The Literary Review

"No wonder the great Anne Tyler loves Mary Lawson so much... she writes like a magician" - Craig Brown





AFTERWARDS by Charlotte Leonard

Wold English: Simon & Schuster – 2022. Edited MS due June 2021.

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, AFTERWARDS is a powerful and emotionally raw novel but one with a moving and ultimately uplifting heart.



ALL THE LITTLE BIRD HEARTS by Viktoria Lloyd-Barlow

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

Sunday Forrester lives with her beautiful, headstrong, sixteen-year-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.



LAGOMORPH AND OTHER STORIES by Alexander MacLeod

UK: Jonathan Cape – March 2022. Canada: McClelland and Stewart. US: Farrar Straus & Giroux. Germany: Luchterhand. Netherlands: De Bezige Bij. Spain: Alianza de Novelas. Taiwan: Chi Ming. Edited MS due April 2021.

The highly anticipated follow-up to MacLeod's critically acclaimed debut collection **LIGHT LIFTING**, **LAGOMORPH** cements the author as a master of compelling, strange, beautifully observed prose fiction. In the titular story, we meet David, Sarah, their failing marriage and their pet rabbit Gunther. **WHAT, EXACTLY, DO YOU THINK YOU'RE LOOKING AT** is narrated from the perspective of a kleptomaniac who "borrows" suitcases from baggage reclaim at LAX airport and combs through the contents with obsessive fascination. In **CLOSING DATE**, a couple meet a murderer in a motel and in **COUSINS**, a family torn apart by a car accident reconvene for a funeral.

LAGOMORPH AND OTHER STORIES 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**

"They contain a rare kind of truthfulness" -Colm Toibin on **LIGHT LIFTING**



A DOOR BEHIND A DOOR Yelena Moskvich

US: Two Dollar Radio Movement – May 2021. UK: Influx Press. MS available. Options elsewhere.

In Yelena Moskvich'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.

"Moskvich writes sentences that lilt and slink, her plots developing as a slow seduction and then clouding like a smoke-filled room" -The Guardian



SMALL ANGELS by Lauren Owen

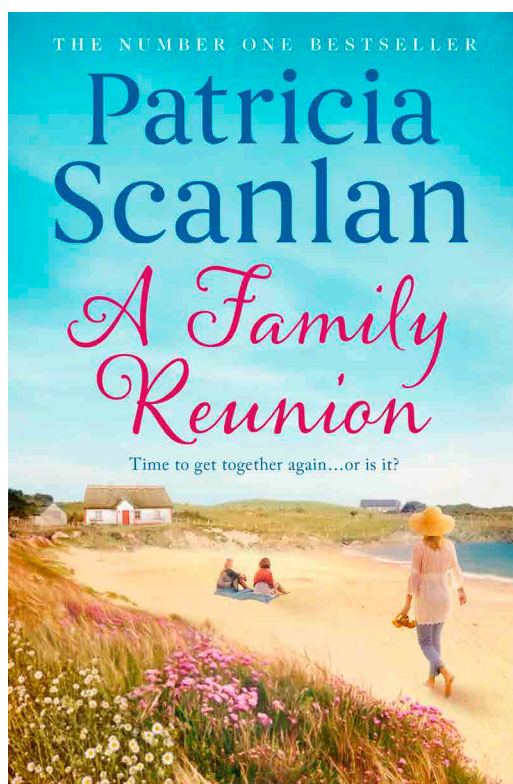
UK: Tinder Press – May 2022. US: Random House. Options elsewhere. Edited MS due April 2021.

Kate Unthank has returned home for her brother's wedding, but finds herself deeply unsettled by memories of her friendship with the Gonne sisters and the stories of their ancestor Harry Child, said to carry a centuries-old grudge. As Kate struggles to reconcile the present with the past, she finds herself in a race against time to understand the true nature of the present danger, and protect her beloved brother from disaster. **SMALL ANGELS** is a dazzling piece of storytelling, a literary page turner, a queer love story, and a meditation on all kinds of family inheritance from a writer of the most extraordinary gifts.

Tinder Press will publish **SMALL ANGELS** as their lead fiction title in May 2022.

“Sly and glittering” -Hilary Mantel on **THE QUICK**

“Impossible to resist” -Kate Atkinson on **THE QUICK**



A FAMILY REUNION by Patricia Scanlan

UK: Simon & Schuster – March 2021. Hungary: Muvelt Nep. MS available.

Heartbroken Marie-Claire travels home to Ireland, for her great-aunt Reverend Mother Brigid's eightieth birthday celebrations. It will be a long-awaited reunion for three generations of family, bringing together her mother, Keelin and grandmother, Imelda - who have never quite got along. When bitter, jealous Imelda makes a shocking revelation, these four fierce, opinionated women must confront their pasts, admit mistakes, and face the truths that have shaped their lives. Will they ever be able to forgive the past and share a future? Spanning generations and covering seismic shifts in the lives of women, **A Family Reunion** is a compelling, thought-provoking, important and highly emotional novel from a trailblazing author in women's fiction.

Patricia Scanlan's books have sold over 1.3 million copies and been translated into seventeen languages. **A FAMILY REUNION** was published in Ireland in March 2020 as **THE LIBERATION OF BRIGID DUNNE**.

“Given the historical sweep, it must be said that this is by far Scanlan's most ambitious novel. And she pulls it off. Beautifully.” *The Irish Independent*



HEAR NO EVIL by Sarah Smith

UK: Two Roads – February 2022. Edited MS due April 2021.

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.



UTOPIA by Heidi Sopinka

UK & US: Scribe – 2022. Canada: Hamish Hamilton. Edited MS due Summer 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 INNOVATIONS 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 June 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 graphic novels 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.



THE LISTENERS by Jordan Tannahill

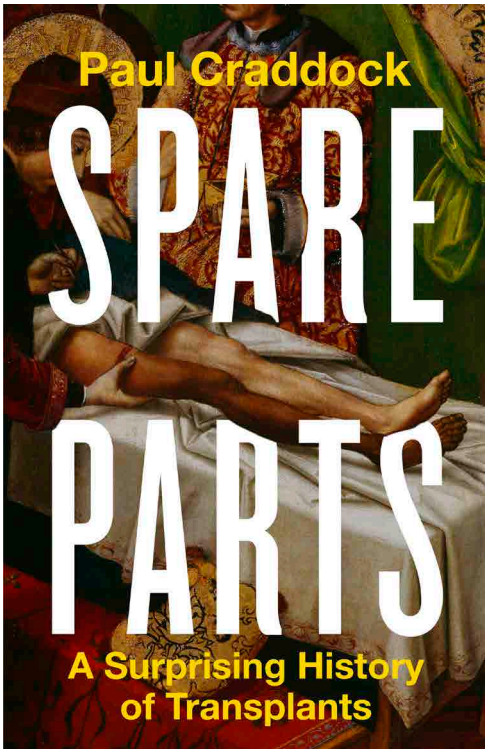
UK: Fourth Estate – August 2021. Canada: Harper Collins. MS due April 2021

While lying in bed next to her husband one night, Claire Devon hears a low hum that he cannot. And, it seems, no one else can either. This innocuous noise begins causing Claire headaches, nosebleeds, insomnia, gradually upsetting the balance of her life, though no obvious source or medical cause can be found. When she discovers that a student of hers can also hear the hum, the two strike up an unlikely and intimate friendship. Finding themselves increasingly isolated from their families and colleagues, they fall in with a disparate group of neighbours who also perceive the sound. What starts as a kind of neighbourhood self-help group gradually transforms into something far more extreme and with far-reaching, devastating consequences.

THE LISTENERS is an exhilarating and erotic novel exploring the seduction of the wild and unknowable, the human search for the transcendent, the rise of conspiracy culture in the West, and the desire for community and connection in our increasingly polarised times.

Jordan Tannahill's plays have been translated into ten languages. He has twice won a Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. His debut novel LIMINAL was named one of the best Canadian novels of 2018 by CBC Books, and longlisted for the Prix des Libraires du Québec in 2020.

NON-FICTION



SPARE PARTS: A Surprising History of Transplants by Paul Craddock

UK: Fig Tree – August 2021. Poland: Proszynski. MS available.
We think of transplant surgery as one of the medical wonders of the modern world but it's a lot older than you think. As ancient as the pyramids, its history is even more surprising. Cultural historian Paul Craddock takes us on a journey - from sixteenth-century skin grafting to contemporary stem cell transplants - uncovering stories of experiments and operations performed by unexpected people in unexpected places. Bringing together philosophy, science and cultural history, SPARE PARTS explores how transplant surgery constantly tested the boundaries between human, animal and machine.

Paul Craddock is Honorary Senior Research Associate in the Division of Surgery and Interventional Sciences at UCL Medical School in London. His PhD explored how transplants have for centuries invited reflection on human identity, a subject on which he has also lectured internationally.

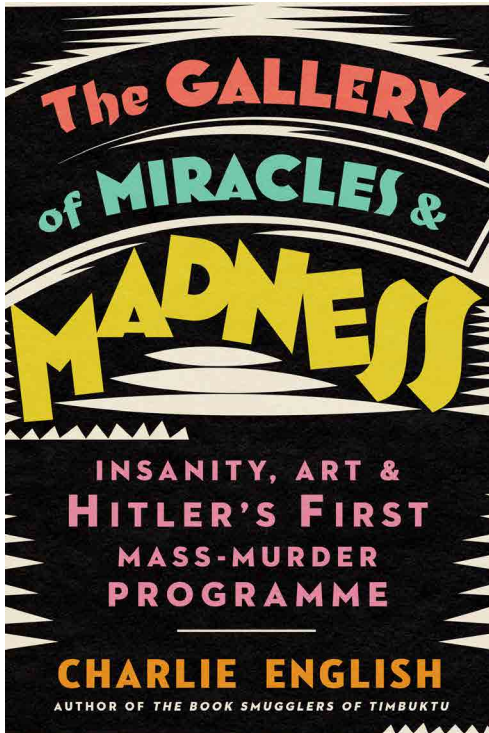


THE THINGS THAT FADE: Hollywood, Heaven's Gate and the Enigma of Michael Cimino by Charles Elton

US: Abrams - Spring 2022. Edited MS available.
Visionary director Michael Cimino's fall from grace is the stuff of Tinseltown legend. HEAVEN'S GATE, the follow-up to critically acclaimed Vietnam epic THE DEER HUNTER, was a box office flop which bankrupted a studio. By the time he died in 2016, Cimino was virtually a recluse, with many preposterous but believable rumours swirling around him.

Charles Elton will bring a novelist's eye to this story of hubris, scandal and ruin, but THE THINGS THAT FADE will also tell the story of post-1980s Hollywood, and the transition from movies driven by the creative power of a select group of writers and directors, to the age of corporate film production which HEAVEN'S GATE helped to usher in.

Charles is a film agent producer, and the author of two superb novels, MR TOPPIT (a Richard and Judy summer pick, published by Penguin in 2009) and THE SONGS (Bloomsbury 2017).



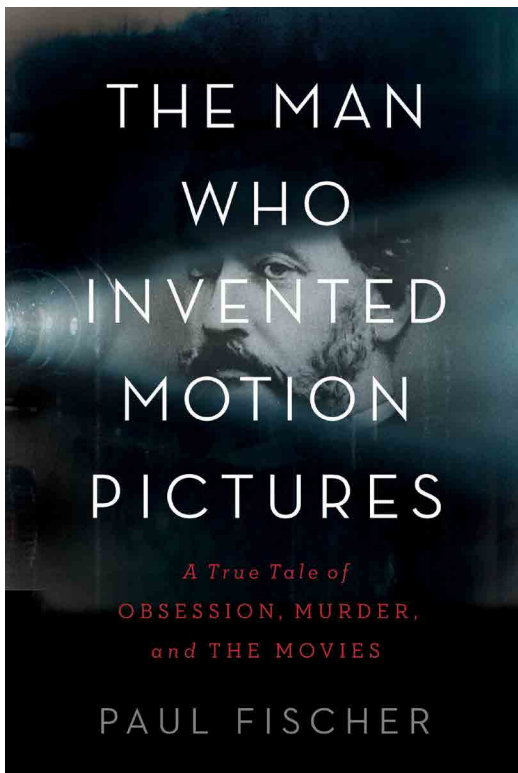
THE GALLERY OF MIRACLES AND MADNESS: Insanity, Art and Hitler's First Mass-murder Programme by Charlie English

UK: William Collins – August 2021. US: Random House. Germany: Aufbau. MS available.

Hanz Prinzhorn's collection comprising the art of his schizophrenic patients inspired some of the most celebrated artists of the modern era, including Paul Klee, Max Ernst and Salvador Dali. But soon after his rise to power, Hitler—a failed artist of the old school—declared war on modern art. The Nazis staged giant 'Degenerate Art' shows to ridicule the avant-garde. This action was mere preparation, however, for the even more sinister campaign Hitler would later wage against so-called "degenerate" people. Bringing together inspirational art history, genius and madness, and the wanton cruelty of the fanatical "artist-Führer", this astonishing story lays bare the culture war that paved the way for Hitler's first extermination programme, the psychiatric Holocaust.

Charlie English's first book *THE BOOK SMUGGLERS OF TIMBUKTU* was an Observer Book of the Year. Translation rights have sold in eight territories to date.

"Richly wrought, and deeply researched, it's also a salient reminder to beware of pseudoscience" - Susannah Cahalan

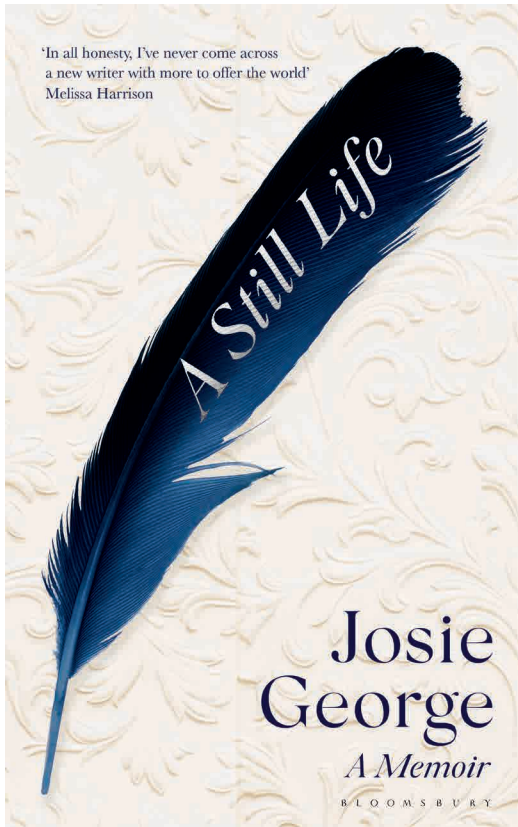


THE MAN WHO INVENTED MOTION PICTURES: A True Tale of Obsession, Murder and the Movies by Paul Fischer

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

In 1890, Le Prince was granted patents in four countries for his "taker" or "receiver" device, ahead of other inventors who were rushing to accomplish the same task. With the birth of this technology, occurrences from the other side of the world could now be viewable with only a few days delay. Just weeks before unveiling his invention to the world, he mysteriously disappeared and was never seen or heard from again. Three and a half years later, Thomas Edison, Le Prince's rival, made the device public, claiming to have invented it himself. Paul Fischer's much-anticipated new book is a ghost story, a family saga, an unsolved mystery, and a story of an invention which would immortalise human experience.

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.



A STILL LIFE: A Memoir by Josie George

UK Commonwealth: Bloomsbury – February 2021.

MS available.

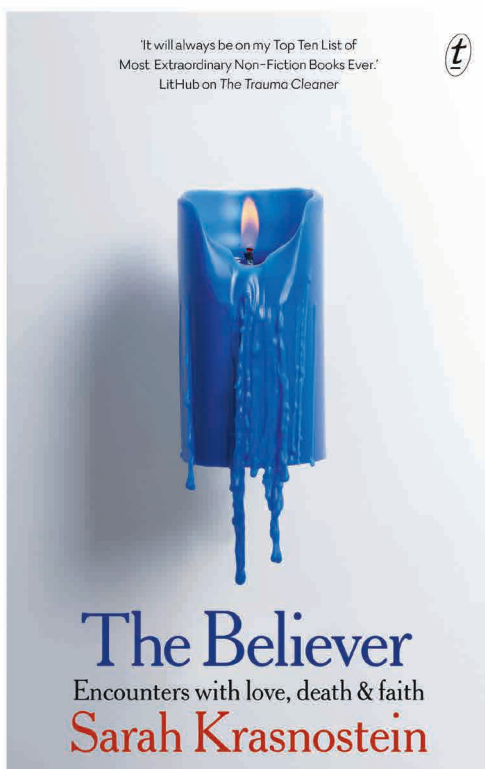
My gaze has intensified as my body has slowed.

Since her early childhood, Josie George has lived with the fluctuating and confusing challenge of disabling chronic illness. Her days are watchful and solitary, lived out in the same hundred or so metres around her tiny terraced house. But Josie has learned what to look for: the complex patterns of ice on a frozen puddle; the neighbourhood birds in flight; the slow changes in the seasons, in her growing son, in herself. And then a most unexpected thing happens in Josie's quiet present: she falls in love.

A STILL LIFE is a story of illness and pain that rarely sees the light. Against a world which values progress and productivity above all else, Josie sets out a quietly radical alternative: to value and treasure life for life itself, with all its defeats and victories, with all its great and small miracles.

"Full of kindness, A Still Life will make you a better person"
-Clare Mackintosh

"I can't think of many books where the reader feels so passionately on the side of the narrator." -The Guardian



THE BELIEVER: Encounters with Love, Death and Faith by Sarah Krasnostein

ANZ & Translation: Text Publishing – March 2021. US: Tin House - Spring 2022. Canada: House of Anansi. MS available from the publisher.

Some of the people you will meet believe in things most people don't. Ghosts. UFOs. Heaven and the Devil. The literal creation of the universe in six days. Others believe in things most people would like to. Dying with autonomy. Facing one's own transgressions with an open heart. In this intensely personal and gorgeously written new book Sarah Krasnostein talks with her characteristic compassion and empathy to these believers – and finds out what happens when their beliefs crash into her own. Weaving together the stories of six extraordinary ordinary people, THE BELIEVER looks at the stories we tell ourselves to deal with the distance between the world as it is, and the world as we'd like it to be.

Sarah's previous book THE TRAUMA CLEANER won the Victorian Prize for Non-fiction, the Dobbie Literary Award and the ABIA Non-fiction Award, and was shortlisted for the Wellcome Prize in the UK.



THE ISLAND OF EXTRAORDINARY CAPTIVES by Simon Parkin

UK - Sceptre 2022. US: Simon & Schuster. Options elsewhere. Edited MS due Summer 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 an unexpected 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**



WRITTEN IN THE SAND: The Queer Literary History of Fire Island by Jack Parlett

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

A magisterial account of queer desire in the 20th century.

Fire Island, a long and thin strip of beach off the Long Island coast of America, has long been a vital space in the history of queer life. **Written in the Sand: The Queer Literary History of Fire Island** will offer the reader a timely and engaging account of this iconic LGBTQ+ destination through a combination of memoir and vivid portraits of some of the myriad of writers, poets, artists and activists who found freedom on this infamous strip of land. With beautiful and deft prose Parlett brings these characters and this beguiling place, to dazzling, technicolour life.

Adam Phillips On Wanting to Change



ON WANTING TO CHANGE by Adam Phillips

UK: Hamish Hamilton – March 2021. US: Farrar Straus & Giroux. Turkey: Ayrinti Yayinlari. MS available.

From the UK's foremost literary psychoanalyst, a dazzling new book on the universal urge to change our lives. We live in a world in which we are invited to change - to become our best selves, through politics, or fitness, or diet, or therapy. We change all the time - growing older and older - and how we think about change changes over time too. We want to think of our lives as progress myths - as narratives of positive personal growth - at the same time as we inevitably age and suffer setbacks. So there are the stories we tell about change, and there are the changes we actually make - and they don't always go, or come, together... This sparkling book is about that fact.

Adam Phillips is a practising psychoanalyst, General Editor of the Penguin Modern Classics Freud translations, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. His books have been translated in eighteen languages.

"The finest living decipherer of affective life [and] the Bob Dylan of psychoanalysis" - Daily Telegraph

"Single-handedly continuing the tradition of the world's best essayists" - The Observer

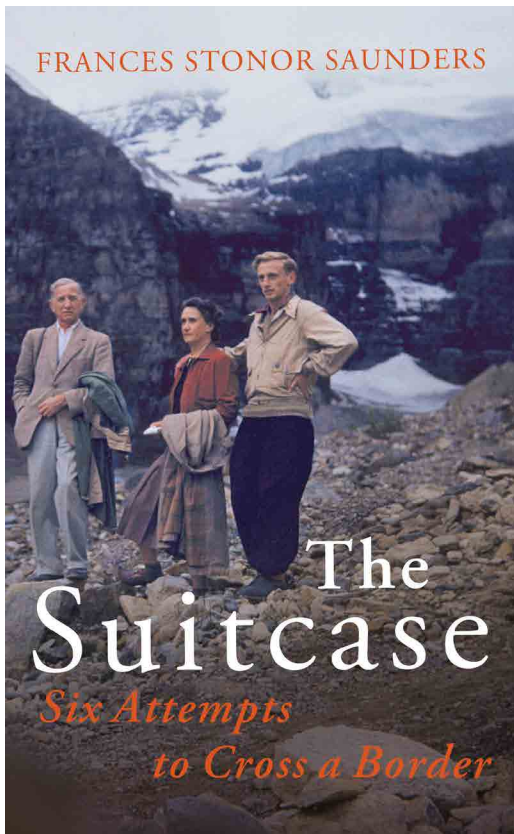


THE LAST DROP/Tim Smedley

World: Picador – 2023. MS due December 2021.

Water scarcity is the next big Climate Crisis. Fourteen of the world's 20 megacities are now experiencing water scarcity or drought conditions. It's increasingly clear that human mismanagement of water is dangerously unsustainable, for both ecological and human survival. And yet in recent years some key countries have been addressing water stress with huge success. How are Singapore and Israel, for example— both severely water-stressed countries – not in the same predicament as Chennai or California, but in fact now boast surplus water? What can we learn from them and how can we use this knowledge to turn things around for the wider global community? THE LAST DROP promises to offer a fascinating, universally relevant account of the environmental and human factors that have led us to this point, and suggest practical ways in which we might address the crisis, before it's too late.

Tim Smedley's first book CLEARING THE AIR: The Beginning and End of Air Pollution was shortlisted for the 2019 Royal Society Science Book Prize.

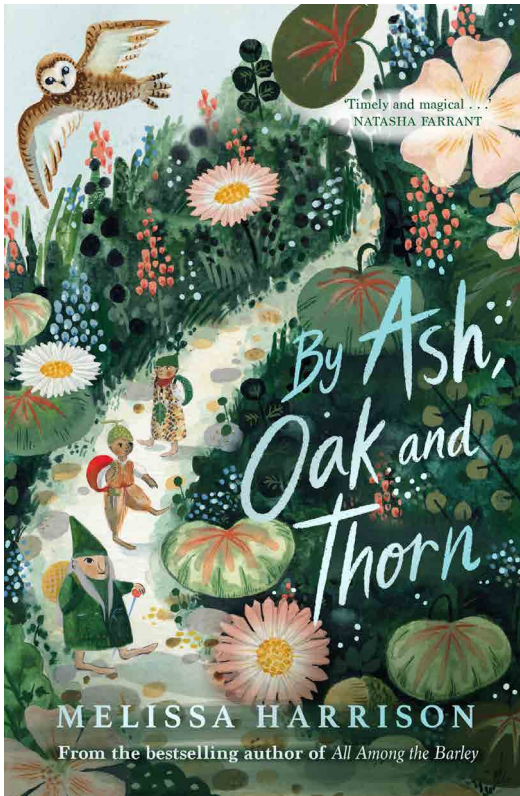


THE SUITCASE: Six Attempts to Cross a Border by Frances Stonor Saunders

UK: Jonathan Cape – June 2021. MS available.

Ten years ago, Frances Stonor Saunders was handed an old suitcase filled with her father's papers. 'If you open that suitcase you'll never close it again,' warned her mother. Her father's life had been a study in borders - exiled from Romania during the war, to Turkey then Egypt and eventually Britain, and ultimately to the borderless territory of Alzheimer's. The unopened suitcase seemed to represent everything that had made her father unknowable to her in life. Now she found herself with the dilemma of two competing urges: wanting to know what's in the suitcase, and wanting not to know. So begins this captivating exploration of history, memory and geography, as Frances Stonor Saunders unpicks her father's and his family's past. Is it possible to bring her father back, to summon once more someone who was distant and elusive when alive? The past is always the history of loss, of black holes, of things gone missing. Life is a long forgetting, even as we live it. The Suitcase is an extraordinary, heroic effort of retrieval, driven by the ache for completion. It is about the silences and stories that protect us, and the borders we construct, literally and figuratively, to fortify our sense of who we are.

THE SUITCASE was abridged and serialised in the London Review of Books. Frances' first book WHO PAID THE PIPER: The CIA and the Cultural Cold War, has been translated into twelve languages, and was awarded the Royal Historical Society's William Gladstone Memorial Prize.

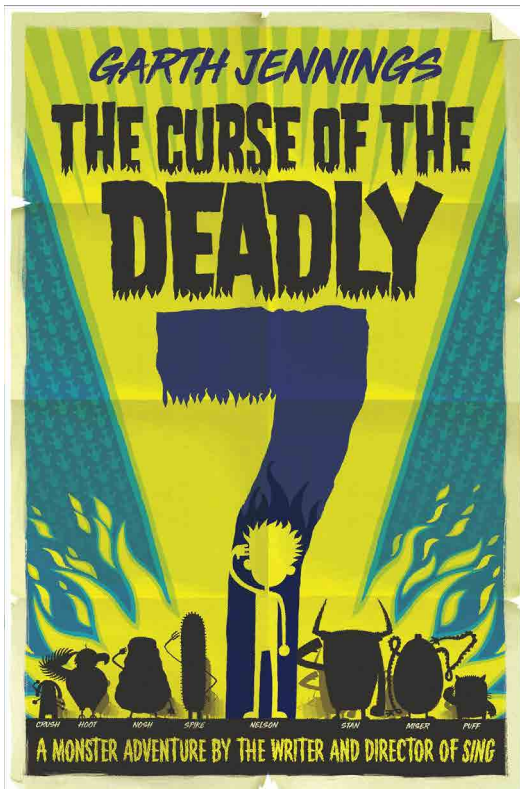


BY ASH, OAK AND THORN by Melissa Harrison

World: Chicken House – May 2021. MS available from the publisher.

Three tiny, ancient beings - Moss, Burnet and Cumulus, once revered as Guardians of the Wild World - wake from winter hibernation in their beloved ash tree home. When it is destroyed, they set off on an adventure to find more of their kind, a journey which takes them first into the deep countryside and then the heart of a city. Helped along the way by birds and animals, the trio search for a way to survive and thrive in a precious yet disappearing world...

Melissa Harrison has won the the EU Prize for Literature, and been shortlisted for the Costa Novel Award and longlisted for the Women's Prize for her adult fiction. Her nature journal THE STUBBORN LIGHT OF THINGS, based on her nature column for The Times, was published by Faber in 2020. Her podcast of the same name, recorded during the Spring 2020 lockdown, has just been shortlisted for UK Podcast of the Year at the Broadcasting Press Guild Awards.



THE CURSE OF THE DEADLY 7 by Garth Jennings

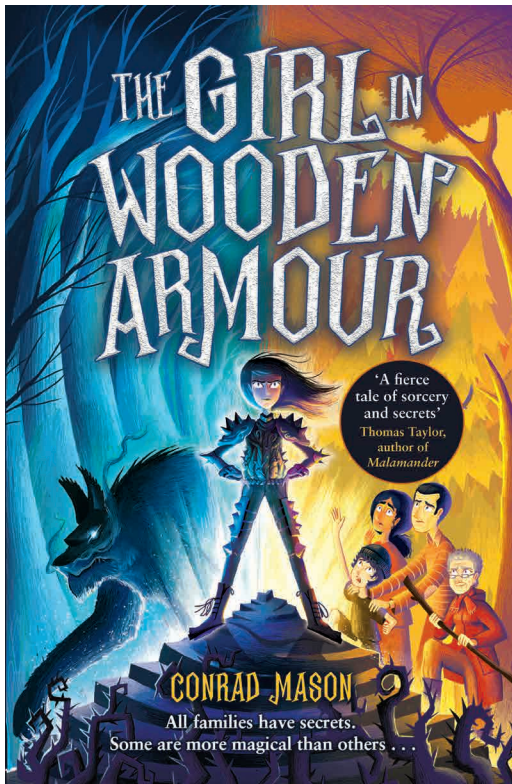
World: Macmillan – February 2021. MS available from the publisher.

The final instalment of the Deadly 7 trilogy. Nelson Green has learned to live with the seven stinky monsters that were extracted from his soul. Sure, they sometimes get up to mischief and land him in trouble, but at least he hasn't had to fight any giant angry abominations in a while. But something still isn't right. Nelson's hair hasn't grown a single millimetre since the monsters were created. He hasn't got any taller, and his chewed off fingernails aren't growing back. Something strange is happening, and the Deadly 7 know more than they're letting on...

But then someone else finds the soul extractor – someone with a grudge against Nelson. Soon Nelson has more to worry about than his fingernails: there's an army of angry monsters coming to get him, and his own monsters might not be there to help...

“A fantastic new voice in middle grade fiction...I loved it!” Rob-in Stevens, author of MURDER MOST UNLADYLIKE

Garth Jennings is a film director and producer as well as being a middle grade author. He is known for THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY, SON OF RAMBOW and SING.



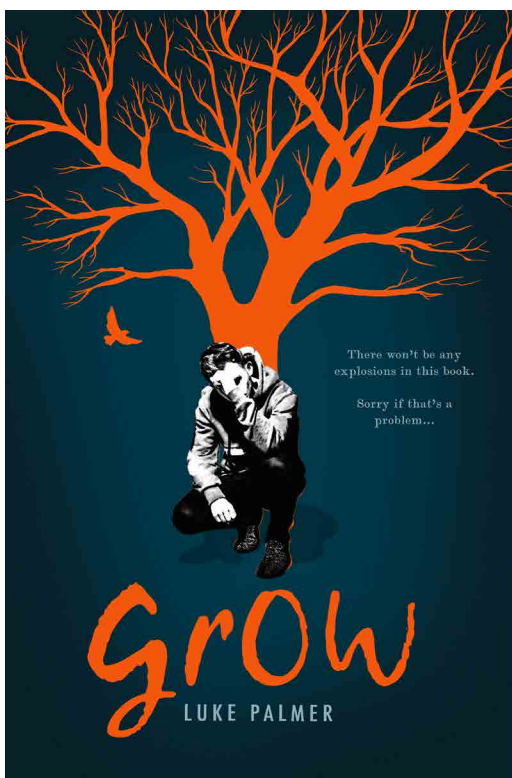
THE GIRL IN WOODEN ARMOUR by Conrad Mason.

UK: David Fickling Books – March 2021. MS available.

When Hattie visits her granny for the first time in years, she's not sure what to expect. Granny has always been unusual. Now she's gone missing without trace. Hattie is determined to find her. But in the strange little village where Granny lives, nothing is as it seems. Is magic real here? What is the shadowy place known as the Un Forest? And who is the mysterious girl in wooden armour? One thing is certain. An ancient evil is stirring in Broke-wood-on-Tandle... and only Hattie can stand against it. Gripping, scary and bursting with imagination, Conrad Mason's latest middle grade novel is at once a thrilling adventure story and a novel about a bereaved family trying to come to terms with loss and look towards a brighter future.

THE DEMON'S WATCH, the first novel in Conrad's TALES OF FAYT trilogy, was shortlisted for the 2013 Leeds Book Award and the 2013 Redbridge Children's Book Award, and longlisted for the Portsmouth Book Award, Lincolnshire Young People's Award and Waverton Good Read Children's Award.

"A fierce tale of sorcery and secrets, witchcraft and warriors, and the power of being a family" -Thomas Taylor



GROW by Luke Palmer

World: Firefly Press – July 2021. MS available from the publisher.

A white supremacist group and its violent leader targets teenage Josh, who is struggling to cope with his father's recent death. Will he find the strength to resist, or will his unlikely relationship with Dana give them both the escape that they so badly need? An unflinching and muscular exploration of grief, and what we plant in the spaces that loss leaves inside us, GROW is a tense and compelling novel of our current social landscape.

Luke Palmer's poetry has appeared in a number of journals and anthologies including Shearsman, The Interpreter's House, The Tangerine and Agenda. He was named a Next Generation poet by Agenda Magazine in 2016. GROW is his first YA novel.



THE SECRET DETECTIVES by Ella Risbridger

World: Nosy Crow – June 2021. MS available from the Publisher.

When Isobel Petty is orphaned, she finds herself being taken away from her home in India and sent to live with a distant uncle in England. On board the S.S. Mariana, she witnesses a shocking act - somebody being thrown overboard in the middle of the night. But when the ship's captain insists that nobody is missing, Isobel and her two new reluctant friends must solve two mysteries - the identities of both the murderer and the victim - before they reach England and the culprit has the chance to escape. Inspired by *THE SECRET GARDEN* and the golden age of crime writing, *The Secret Detectives* is a gripping, beautifully historical mystery, from an incredible new voice in children's fiction - perfect for fans of Robin Stevens and Katherine Rundell.

Ella Risbridger's debut cookbook *MIDNIGHT CHICKEN* won the Guild of Food Writers General Cookbook Award 2020 and was praised by Nigella Lawson, Diana Henry and Nigel Slater. The Times described Ella as "the most talented new cookbook writer of a generation". *THE SECRET DETECTIVES* is her debut novel for children.



THE SUMMER WE TURNED GREEN by William Sutcliffe

World ex Germany: Bloomsbury - July 2021. MS available.

It's the summer holidays, and thirteen-year-old Luke has just had his life turned upside down. First his older sister Rose moved 'across the road' - where a community of climate rebels are protesting the planned airport expansion - and now his dad's gone too. Dad only went to get Rose back, but he's out there building totem poles out of old furniture and wearing sandals and drinking mead (whatever that is) with the best of them.

Luke is determined to save his dad, his sister AND his summer. So how does he find himself at the top of a tree refusing to leave until the bulldozers stand down?

A fresh, funny, heartfelt look at this generation's must-win battle: one earth, one chance.

William Sutcliffe's most recent novel *THE GIFTED, THE TALENTED AND ME* was shortlisted for the 2020 YA Book Prize and the Scottish Teenage Book Prize, and was named Children's Book of the Year 2019 in The Times.

"Refreshingly hilarious, with an *Adrian Mole* flavour and a down to earth protagonist" - The Guardian on *THE GIFTED, THE TALENTED AND ME*

FOOD WRITING



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

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

****Shortlisted for the Jane Grigson Trust Award 2021****

Two years ago, at a moment of huge personal crisis, father and daughter, Alex and Kitty, baked a loaf of bread together in their family kitchen. One loaf turned into ten, which turned into hundreds and, following a very successful Kickstarter campaign, they opted out of the lives society expected of them (school for 14-year-old Kitty, a teaching career for her dad) and into the lives they wanted for themselves.

In May 2019 they opened The Orange Bakery in Watlington, Oxfordshire, which has been a huge hit, with people travelling from far and wide to sample their bread, buns and biscuits. Split into two halves, BREADSONG will offer up Kitty's ground-breaking bakes whilst also narrating the story of how the bakery came about. This promises to be the most uplifting, inspiring (and delicious) food story you've ever read.

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France: La Nouvelle Agence

Germany: Agentur Petra Eggers

Greece: JLM Literary Agency

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