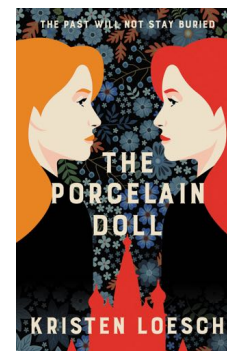
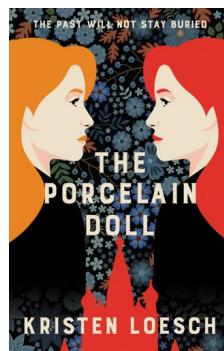
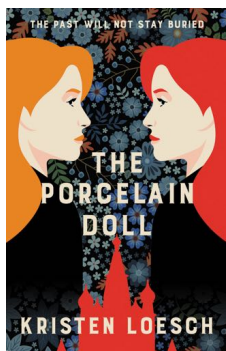
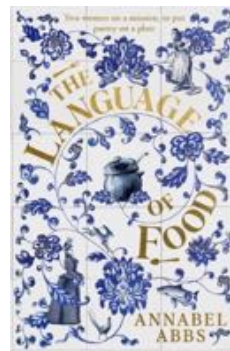
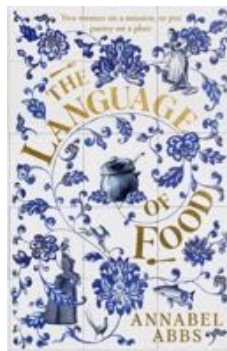
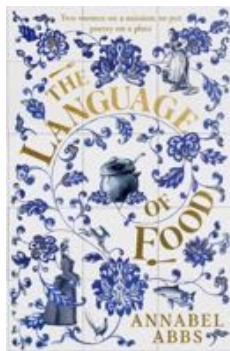
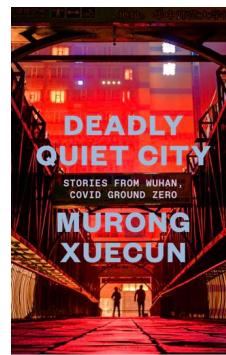
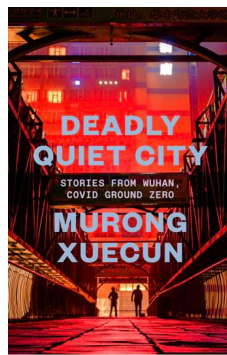


zeitgeist agency

SYDNEY | BRUSSELS

SPRING 2022 RIGHTS CATALOGUE



zeitgeist agency

SYDNEY | BRUSSELS

Zeitgeist Agency is a unique literary agency founded in 2009 with an international outlook. From our Sydney and Brussels offices, we represent writers from around the world including Australia, USA, UK, Europe, Russia, Turkey and China.

Our catalogue includes bestsellers, the finest literary fiction, crime and thrillers, inspiring memoirs and thought-provoking non-fiction. We also represent picture books, middle grade and YA/crossover titles from around the world.

We work directly with publishers in UK, Australia/NZ, France, Israel, Nordic region and the Baltic states. In other countries we rely on a network of 15 dedicated co-agents (see full list on the last page).

Our passion is to connect writers, publishers and media across the globe. We hope you enjoy what we have to offer.

Warm regards,
Benyhton, Sharon and Thomasin



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FICTION

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- pg 5 *Compulsion* by Kate Scott (new)
- pg 6 *The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding* by Holly Ringland (new)
- pg 7 *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* – affirmation cards boxset (new)
- pg 8 *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* by Holly Ringland
- pg 9 *The Porcelain Doll* by Kristen Loesch
- pg 10 *Miss Eliza's English Kitchen* by Annabel Abbs

CRIME

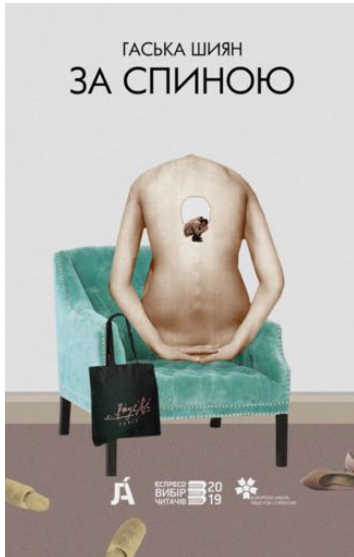
- pg 12 *The Birdcatcher* by Daria Desombre
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NON-FICTION

- pg 18 *Deadly Quiet City: Stories from Wuhan, Covid Ground Zero* by Murong Xuecun
- pg 19 *How To Fit All of Ancient Greece into an Elevator* by Dr Theodore Papakostas (new)
- pg 20 *All Mixed Up* by Jason Om (new)
- pg 21 *Hip Hop & Hymns* by Mawunyo Gbogbo (new)
- pg 22 *Goodbye To All This* by Sophie Townsend (new)
- pg 23 *The Psychic Tests: An Investigation into the Supernatural Industry* by Gary Nunn
- pg 24 *The Power of Challah: A Weekly Practice to Improve Your Well-Being* by Beth Ricanati
- pg 25 *But Look How Great You Turned Out: Growing Up Inside One of California's Largest Cults* by Rebekah Crawford

NETWORK OF CO-AGENTS

Fiction



LITERARY FICTION /
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
352 pages

Ukraine 2019 · Fabula Publishing
Bulgaria 2021 · Colibri
Croatia 2021 · Božičević
Lithuania 2021 · Aukso Zuvys
Germany 2022 · fotoТАРЕТА

* All other rights available

* English and French samples available

* International rights handled by Zeitgeist Agency on behalf of Fabula Publishing

“The novel is not just stylistically skillful and mature but also important for the present day, because it places Ukraine within the universal human context. The author converts this war from a safe space of ‘somewhere there in the wild East’ into the disturbing space of ‘here, in our shared Europe’. Because this conflict is actually here, on our continent and it concerns us all, Europeans.”

– EU Prize Jury



Haska Shyyan (UKRAINE)

Behind Their Backs ЗА СПИНОЮ (original title)

Winner European Union Prize for Literature 2019

Winner Odessa Film Festival Book Pitch 2020

When men are at war, what is expected of the women left behind.

When her boyfriend Max decides to enlist to fight in the ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine, Marta is confused and upset. She has a successful career in the booming IT industry and she and Max live a comfortable life distant from politics and war, until Max's decision.

With Max hundreds of kilometres away, Marta tries hard to fit the model of a war hero's girlfriend and to embrace the new patriotism that has become the norm. She volunteers for the Army, meeting other women whose partners are away fighting, yet she resists this social pressure and her resentment towards Max builds. At breaking point, one drunken night, Marta has a passionate liaison with a female friend. Then she jumps at an opportunity to travel to France where she meets Xavier and has a one-night stand. On the way to a party, they are separated in the chaos following a terrorist attack. Left with nothing but her purse, she has no idea what happened to Xavier nor how to find him.

Marta makes her way back to Ukraine. Once home, depression sets in and she stops returning Max's phone calls. Marta realizes that the burden to conform is impeding her from living her true spirit. The idea of leaving Ukraine takes hold of her.

A courageous novel that tackles female sexuality and social pressure in a patriarchal society, showing how patriotism and nationalism exacerbate those pressures.

HASKA SHYYAN is a writer, poet and translator. Born in Lviv where she co-owns a bookshop, she studied classical philology and is an active campaigner against corruption in textbook selling. Haska wrote her first novel *Hunt, Doctor, Hunt!* on her cell phone while bedridden. Her next novel *Behind Their Backs* was the first Ukrainian novel to receive the European Union Prize for Literature in 2019, as well as two Ukrainian prizes (LitAccent Award and Espresso TV Readers Choice). She regularly contributes short stories and poetry to literary magazines. She recently moved to Brussels with her husband and daughter.



LITERARY FICTION /
CONTEMPORARY FICTION

Australia/NZ Feb 2023 · Penguin RH

* All other rights available

* MS available April 2022

Kate Scott (AUSTRALIA) Compulsion

A smart, addictive read in the realm of *Conversations with Friends*

Lucy, early twenties, ex-music magazine editor, has burned down her life. **Robin**, her new, eternally watchful friend, has never learned to inhabit his. Both have found their way to a small seaside town - Lucy to dry out and immerse herself in obsessive research on early electronic music, Robin to stand sentinel as his grandmother dies.

Recognising in each other a fellow exile and a rich source of distraction, they fall into step on daily rambles across the cliffs. Their charged conversations about music function as both high-stakes flirtation and a stealthy way of processing the ways their lives have gone awry.

Robin, at first fascinated, quickly enamoured, is drawn into Lucy's circle with its claustrophobic entanglements, shifting sexual loyalties, the pill-blasted afternoons.

Old friends and addictions reappear from the city, including charismatic and cruel **Julian**, the radiant concentration of all Lucy's obsessions, and **Gudrun**, whose bulletproof poise makes her irresistible to all.

Across endless dinners and parties, the group attempt to out-perform each other, their devotion to pleasure frequently tipping into self-immolation. Exhausted by the mayhem, Robin and Lucy flee, but their compulsions - chemical, musical, erotic - will prove more difficult to shake.



KATE SCOTT began her career as a music journalist at age 18, before becoming the editor of the (now defunct) street press magazine *Rave* at 22. She interviewed hundreds of national and international artists, and her pieces were syndicated nationally in publications including *Rolling Stone* Australia. She lives in Thirroul, NSW Australia with her two rabbits, Iggy Pop and Lou Reed. Instagram: [@beach_witch](https://www.instagram.com/beach_witch)



LITERARY FICTION

Australia/NZ Oct 2022 · Harper
Collins/4th Estate

* All other rights available

* MS available June 2022

Holly Ringland (AUSTRALIA)

The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding

A haunting and magical novel about joy, grief, courage, and transformation.

'On the afternoon that Esther Wilding drove homeward along the coast, a year after her sister had walked into the sea and disappeared, the light was painfully golden.'

The last time Esther Wilding's older sister Aura was seen, she was walking along the shore towards the sea. In the wake of Aura's disappearance, Esther's family struggles to live with their loss. To seek the truth about her sister's death, Esther reluctantly travels from Tasmania to Copenhagen, and then to the Faroe Islands. On her journey, Esther is guided by the stories Aura left behind: seven fairy tales about selkies, swans and women, alongside cryptic verses Aura wrote and had secretly tattooed on her body.

The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding explores the far-reaches of sisterly love, the power of wearing your heart on your skin, and the ways life can transform when we find the courage to feel the fullness of both grief and joy.



HOLLY RINGLAND grew up barefoot and wild in her mother's tropical garden on the east coast of Australia. Her interest in cultures and stories was sparked by a two-year journey her family took in North America when she was nine years old, living in a camper van. In her twenties, Holly worked in a remote Indigenous community in the central Australian desert. Moving to England in 2009, Holly obtained her MA in Creative Writing from the University of Manchester. Her essays and short fiction have been published in various anthologies and literary journals. Holly's bestselling debut novel *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* sold in 30 countries and is an Amazon Prime TV mini-series (2023). She lives in Australia. Instagram: [@hollygoeslightly](https://www.instagram.com/hollygoeslightly)

Affirmation Card Box Set: Be Your Own Wildflower

30 daily affirmation cards inspired by the beloved book *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart*



With the global success of Holly Ringland's *The Lost Flowers Of Alice Hart*, Harper Collins Australia have curated a beautifully designed affirmation card boxset.

These 30 gorgeous cards continue the powerful message of Holly Ringland's debut to 'have courage, take heart' - to Be Your Own Wildflower - each and every day.

Featuring stunning full-colour artwork, these cards can be used as meditations, reflections or daily inspiration through the celebration of unique Australian flowers and the calming power of nature.

* Available March 2022





LITERARY FICTION

Australia/NZ 2018 · HC/4th Estate
UK 2018 · Pan Macmillan/Mantle
US/Canada 2019 · House of Anansi
Germany 2019 · RH/Limes
Netherlands 2018 · Luitingh-Sijthoff
Italy 2018 · Garzanti
France 2019 · Editions Fayard
Spain 2019 · Salamandra
Catalonia 2019 · Grup62/Empúries
Portugal 2018 · Porto Editora
Poland 2018 · Marginesy
Israel 2018 · Tchelet/Steimatsky
Turkey 2018 · Yabancı
Japan 2019 · Shueisha
Slovakia 2018 · Fortuna Libri
Serbia 2019 · Vulkan
Russia 2019 · AST Group
Hungary 2019 · Alexandra Könyvesház
Croatia 2019 · Znanje
Czech Republic 2019 · Jota
China 2019 · Citic Press
Lithuania May 2020 · Baltos Lankos
Romania Feb 2020 · Humanitas
Norway 2019 · Strawberry/Armada
Bulgaria 2020 · Colibri
Sweden 2020 · Sekwa/Etta
Slovenia 2020 · Učila
Korea 2021 · Editor Publishing Co
Finland 2022 · Minerva
TV rights · Made Up Stories / Amazon Prime (2023 release)



Holly Ringland (AUSTRALIA)

The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart

Winner Australian Book Industry Awards: Fiction Book of the Year 2019

Shortlisted Queensland Literary Award 2019

Longlisted Indies Award 2019

A beautiful novel about the haunting power of unspoken stories, how trauma transforms life, and the magic one woman finds by living on her own terms rather than anyone else's.

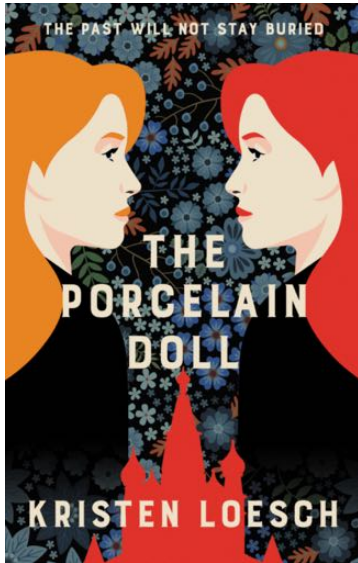
After her family suffers a violent tragedy when she is nine years old, Alice Hart must leave her seaside home. She is taken in by her grandmother, June, a flower farmer who raises Alice on a language of native Australian flowers, a way to say the things that are too hard to speak. Under the watchful eye of June and 'The Wildflowers', twelve women in recovery who run the farm, Alice becomes a teenager and begins to dream about her future.

In her early twenties, Alice's life is thrown into upheaval again when she suffers devastating betrayal and loss. Desperate to outrun grief, Alice flees to the dramatically beautiful central Australian desert. In this otherworldly landscape, Alice thinks she has found solace, until she meets Dylan, a charismatic and ultimately dangerous man.

Set between sugar cane fields by the sea, a native Australian flower farm, and a celestial crater in the central desert, *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* follows the life of Alice Hart as she discovers that the most powerful story she will ever possess is her own.



HOLLY RINGLAND grew up barefoot and wild in her mother's tropical garden on the east coast of Australia. Her interest in cultures and stories was sparked by a two-year journey her family took in North America when she was nine years old, living in a camper van and travelling from one national park to another. In her twenties, Holly worked in a remote Indigenous community in the central Australian desert. Moving to England in 2009, Holly obtained her MA in Creative Writing from the University of Manchester. Her essays and short fiction have been published in various anthologies and literary journals including *TEXT Journal*, *The Griffith Review* and UWAP's *Desert Writing* anthology. Holly lives between the UK and Australia.



HISTORICAL FICTION /
FAMILY SAGA / EPIC LOVE STORY

UK Feb 2022 · Allison & Busby
US & Canada Jan 2024 · Berkley/PRH
Italy fall 2022 · Marsilio Editori
Germany Jan 2023 · Ullstein Verlag
Hungary 2023 · Alexandra
Spain & LA 2023 · Planeta
Croatia 2023 · Znanje
Bulgaria 2023 · Benitorial
Serbia 2023 · Laguna
Romania 2023 · Litera

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Kristen Loesch (USA)

The Porcelain Doll

Shortlisted Caledonia Novel Award 2020

Longlisted Bath Novel Award 2019 (under a previous title)

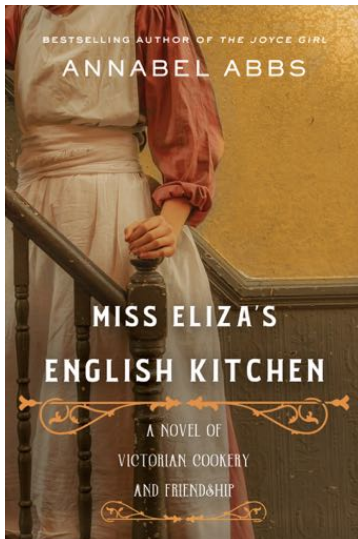
Rosie's only inheritance from her reclusive mother is a book of fairy tales. But there is another story lurking between the lines and in all the white spaces...

1991. Rosie regularly hears the voice of her older sister who was killed eleven years ago in their Moscow apartment. Now an Oxford University student, Rosie lives in exile with her reclusive, alcoholic mother who refuses to talk about the past. When she dies, Rosie sees a chance to find out what really happened in Moscow. She answers a job ad to become the assistant to charismatic and celebrated Soviet dissident Alexey Ivanov, and accompanies him to Russia to research the fate of a mysterious woman known as Kukolka who disappeared decades ago.

This research and the book of handwritten fairy tales left behind by her mother plunge Rosie into Russia on the eve of the 1917 Revolution, a world of sweeping romance, violence, and betrayal. The deeper she goes, the more everything she believed to be true about her family begins to unravel. Before she reaches the final tale, Rosie must decide how much she truly wants to know.

The Porcelain Doll is a family saga that spans three generations and the lifetime of Soviet Russia. It explores how our innate yearning for family and identity can lead to devastating truths – but also forgiveness and redemption.

KRISTEN LOESCH grew up in San Francisco and Seattle. She attended university in London and obtained a first-class degree in History, followed by a Masters in Slavonic Studies at the University of Cambridge. *The Porcelain Doll* was listed for the Caledonia Novel Award and the Bath Novel Award. Her short stories have appeared in Mslexia, SmokeLong Quarterly, Barren Magazine, Retreat West, Reflex Press and others. She was recently awarded Honorable Mention in the Anton Chekhov Prize. She lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband and three children. *The Porcelain Doll* is her first novel. Twitter: [@kristenloesch](https://twitter.com/kristenloesch)



**UPMARKET FICTION /
BIOGRAPHICAL FICTION**

USA 2021 · Harper Collins/William Morrow

UK Feb 2022 · Simon & Schuster

Germany 2022 · RH/btb Verlag

Italy 2021 · Einaudi Editore

Russia 2021 · Eksmo

Poland 2022 · Wydawnictwo WAM

Spain 2022 · Planeta

Portugal 2022 · Leya

Czech Republic 2022 · Argo

France 2022 · Hervé Chopin Editions

Hungary 2022 · Könyvmolyképző

Israel 2022 · Tchelet/Steimatsky

Greece 2022 · Pedio

Korea 2022 · Sosa

China 2022 · Chinese Translation Publishing House

TV rights · Stampede & CBS Studios
rights acquired before publication

* All other rights available



Annabel Abbs (UK)

Miss Eliza's English Kitchen The Language of Food (UK title)

A novel inspired by the life of Eliza Acton, who despite having never boiled an egg, revolutionised the course of cookery writing.

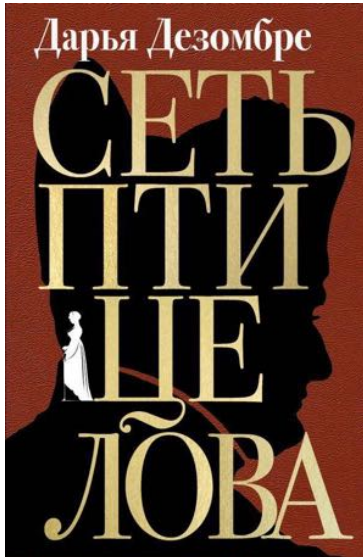
England 1837. Eliza Acton puts the finishing touches to a volume of poems and heads to the London offices of publisher John Longman. But Longman has no appetite for female poets and instead demands a cookery book. England is awash with exciting new ingredients from spices to exotic fruits, and Longman has spotted a gap in the market. Eliza, determined to be a poet and shamed by the suggestion she work in a 'common kitchen', refuses. But when her father is forced to flee the country for bankruptcy, she has no way to support herself and agrees to write a cookery book. She begins collecting recipes from around the world while teaching herself to cook.

To assist her, she hires 17-year-old Ann Kirby, the impoverished daughter of a war-crippled father and a demented mother. Under Eliza's tutelage, Ann learns about poetry, cookery and love. She also unravels the mysteries of Eliza's past which include a volume of revelatory poems and a love-child with a French soldier. Through the art of food, Eliza and Ann develop an unusual friendship and break the mould of traditional cookbooks by adding elegant descriptions and ingredient lists, still used today. Together they change the course of cookery writing forever.

Told in alternate voices, Abb's third novel explores the themes of female friendship, motherhood, the ensuring struggle for female freedom, the quiet joy of cookery and the place of food in female creativity, while bringing Eliza Acton out of the archives and back into the public eye.

ANNABEL ABBS grew up in Bristol, Sussex and Wales before studying English literature at the University of East Anglia and Marketing at the University of Kingston. Her debut novel *The Joyce Girl* (Impress Books, 2016) was published in ten countries to critical acclaim and multiple awards. Her second novel *Frieda: The Original Lady Chatterley* (Hachette UK & ANZ) was a Times Pick of the Year. She runs a successful blog about food and ageing ([The Age-Well Project](#)) adapted into a cookery book by Little, Brown. Annabel lives in London with her husband and four children. Twitter: [@annabelabbs](#)

Crime / Thriller



FICTION / CRIME / HISTORICAL

384 pages

Russia 2019 · Eksmo

* All other rights available

* English sample available

'Desombre's writes with both gripping tension and subtlety. Her latest crime novel has all the qualities of this genre - murders, false evidence, masterfully hidden clues, dynamic intrigue. It bubbles with details of life in this historical period: hounds licking fat from cart wheels on the market square, Bengal roses blooming in the Lipetsky garden, the princess dressed for tea in a chalon hood. Everything is interesting in her novel, literally everything.'
- Anna Berseneva, best-selling Russian novelist



Daria Desombre (RUSSIA)

The Birdcatcher

Сеть птицелова (original title)

A murder investigation and 'amour impossible' between enemies shake a nobleman's estate in wartime Russia

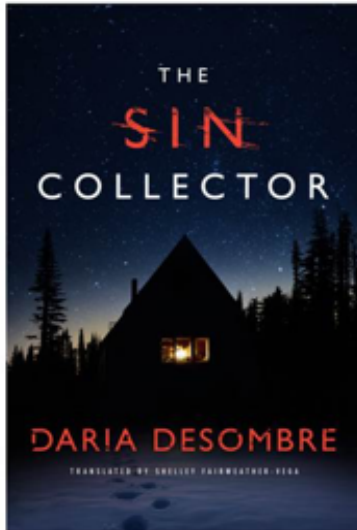
June 1812. Napoleon's invincible army crosses the Neman River into Russia, forcing Russian troops to hastily retreat. While Napoleon awaits Tsar Alexander's response before advancing his campaign, French regiments stop to rest and refuel, taking over village homes and surrounding estates. Nobleman Lipetsky, his wife and their 17-year old daughter Edoxie must share their manor house with French Major de Briac and his military surgeon, keeping a tense diplomatic ceasefire.

Soon after the soldiers' arrival, a terrible series of events unfolds: serf girls are found strangled, floating in the river. With the country at war, an official investigation is impossible. Edoxie and the French Major both feel morally compelled to find out who is killing the serf girls, and together embark on their own investigation.

As the list of suspects grows, neighboring landowners whom Edoxie has known her entire life can no longer be trusted. Horror creeps into the very walls of their home, transforming those closest to them into frightening strangers.

Set in the same period as Tolstoy's *War & Peace*, the reader is plunged into life on a vast estate where murder changes the fate of soldiers, serfs and a noble family.

DARIA DESOMBRE was born in Saint Petersburg where she studied at the Hermitage Art School and received a Masters in English and Spanish from Saint Petersburg's State University. In 2000 she moved to Paris and completed a MBA in fashion marketing and management. Daria was head of advertising for the jewellery house Mauboussin before devoting herself full-time to scriptwriting. She writes for leading film companies in Russia and Ukraine. She also adapts US and European TV programmes for the Russian market, including *Drop Dead Diva* and *The Mentalist*. Daria lives in Brussels with her husband and two children. Daria's previous detective series have sold over 1 million copies in Russia. *The Birdcatcher* is her sixth novel.



FICTION / CRIME / THRILLER

Russia 2014-2016 · Eksmo
Poland 2016 · Muza
Hungary 2016 · Nouvion
Bulgaria 2018 · Iztok-Zapad
Serbia 2018 · Vulkan
France 2019 & Sept 2020 · JC Lattes/Le Masque
Croatia 2018 · Znanje
Czech Republic 2019 & 2021 · Albatros
Portugal 2019 · LeYa/Casa das Letras
TV rights · Sony Pictures (option)
(Reverted) World English 2017 · Amazon Crossing

* All other rights available

* Final English & French pages available



Daria Desombre (RUSSIA)

The Sin Collector

Masha Karavai Detective Series

Призрак Небесного Иерусалима (original title)

'The most promising debut author of 2014' - Lev Novozhenov, star host of NTV's Nashi programme, Russia's #1 TV channel

A Russian crime thriller series blending art and history enigmas in the spirit of Arturo Perez-Reverte.

Book 1: *The Sin Collector*

Bright and stubborn 22-year-old Moscow University law school graduate Masha Karavai is obsessed with finding out who killed her father. She lands an internship at No. 38 Petrovka, the Russian Interior Ministry's Headquarters. Masha researches a series of enigmatic and gruesome murders which at first appear unrelated. But when Masha discerns a connection between the victims and the symbolic world of medieval Russian Orthodoxy, she and her boss Andrey investigate the fanatical murders. She enrolls the help of her childhood friend Innokenty, a historian and antique dealer, who reveals to her the ancient layout of Moscow, and the potential connection with the holy city in heaven called New Jerusalem. Analysing the locations of the murders and the medieval execution methods and symbols used, they come closer to linking the murders. But then the serial killer starts playing a game with Masha in which the stakes are the lives of those she is closest to.

Book 2: *The Painting* Masha and Andrey investigate the strangling of several plump and ordinary working women in Moscow. They discover a connection to Ingres' masterpiece *Turkish Baths*, and must solve a rebus puzzle to find the murderer.

Book 3: *The Delft Tiles* When an oligarch finds his precious 16th-century Delft tiles stolen, Masha's investigation to unravel the tiles' secrets leads her to Jewish jewelers in Bruges and Antwerp and to the Cheapside Hoard in London, with deadly consequences.

Book 4 & 5 conclude the series.

DARIA DESOMBRE was born in Saint Petersburg where she studied at the Hermitage Art School and received a Masters in English and Spanish from Saint Petersburg's State University. In 2000 she moved to Paris and completed a MBA in fashion marketing and management. Daria was head of advertising for the jewellery house Mauboussin before devoting herself full-time to scriptwriting. She writes for leading film companies in Russia and Ukraine. She also adapts US and European TV programmes for the Russian market, including *Drop Dead Diva* and *The Mentalist*. Daria lives in Brussels with her husband and two children.



SUSPENSE / THRILLER

Bulgaria 2022 · BARD

* All other rights available

* MS available

Alex Mitchell (UK)

The Snake of Babylon

American-Iraqi archeologist Mina Osman and US military intelligence become entangled in a dangerous conspiracy masterminded by a lone wolf in the Vatican.

US Army Sergeants Raj Vallabhi, Pete Andersen, and T.K. Flynt stationed in Iraq, are investigating the aftermath of deadly explosions in Baghdad's suburbs, Kirkuk and Mosul. Scores of children and elderly people were killed and evidence suggests they were injected with a lethal virus and medically experimented upon. It is especially troubling as no one claims their bodies.

Meanwhile, at the University of Michigan, Mina Osman, assistant curator at the Kelsey Museum, attempts to decipher a mysterious scene on an ancient gemstone hidden in the university's library. It shows the biblical prophet Daniel poisoning a snake. Mina's research takes her to Iraq where she finds similar etchings in the same locations as the murder victims.

Mina and her boyfriend, ex-Army Major Jack Hillcliff, along with sergeants Raj, Pete and Flynt are inexorably drawn into a web of violence and deception. The gemstone, it turns out, holds the secret to a vast conspiracy that could destroy the lives – and fates – of tens of thousands of people and is masterminded by a man within the highest spheres of the Vatican who will stop at nothing to fulfil what he believes is his holy mission.



ALEX MITCHELL holds a D.Phil in Classical Archaeology from Oxford University and a Masters and BA in Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology from Strasbourg University. He is a scientific collaborator at the University of Fribourg and a former Researcher at the Oxford Institute of Archeology. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge of ancient cultures with wide audiences to show how antiquity permeates contemporary society. His first book *Greek Vase Painting and the Origins of Visual Humour* (2009) was published by Cambridge University Press. His current research focuses on classical Greek and Roman political cartoons from the 18th to the 21st centuries in British and American newspapers. *The Thirteenth Tablet* (2012), his first thriller, also features the character Mina Osman. www.alexmitchell.net



FICTION / INVESTIGATIVE CRIME

* All rights available

* MS available

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK, THE BIOGRAPHY *AN ELEPHANT IN MY KITCHEN*:

'A book of great inspiration and wide appeal to nature-loving readers.'

– *Publishers Weekly*

'A moving and often amusing account of a life filled with compassion and resolve.' – *Wall Street Journal*

'The writing is full of vivid descriptions that place readers in the middle of the action, making the book difficult to put down. An engrossing eye-opener on the fragility of South Africa's fauna.'

– *Kirkus*

*'The most magical book about the African bush since *Born Free*'*

– *Daily Mail*

'A beautiful love story between humans and the majestic elephants'

– *Daily Express*



Katja Willemsen (SOUTH AFRICA)

Pantry Bones

A Manon Maury Mystery - Book 1

When the bones of a mother and child are found in a hidden room during a kitchen renovation, a French village is thrown into turmoil.

Manon Maury is a top investigative agent at the National Criminal Police HQ in Paris when she botches an undercover operation. This coincides with her husband's affair and her father's suggestion that she take over the family carpentry business. Off she goes, back to her Pyrenean village and to her first love – wood.

Manon's foreman finds the skeletons of a woman and child in a room behind the kitchen of an isolated farmhouse. Within a week, the client is dead. The police declare suicide but Manon suspects foul play.

Two skeletons and a doubtful suicide are beyond the scope of the village's only police officer and pressure mounts for Manon to put her investigative experience to good use. She capitulates, as long as she isn't paid, isn't expected to stop running her business, and no one questions her methods. Solid police work, along with considerable disregard for rules and protocol expose a tragic secret from the Spanish Civil War and the Nazi occupation in France – with traumatic consequences for one of Fontcastel's most respected families.

KATJA WILLEMSSEN grew up in South Africa and now writes full time in the hamlet of Oms, France. The *Manon Maury Mystery series* is born of her love for the Pyrenees, local food, French village life and the Catalan people – an earthy, stubborn, wise bunch whose culture embraces the sacred and mystical. Her first book, the biography *An Elephant in my Kitchen*, was published in 2019 in the UK and US (Macmillan), France (Tredaniel) and Germany (mvg Verlag). It describes how a French woman took over a South African game reserve after the death of her husband. Katja is currently working on Book 2 in the *Manon Maury series: The Black Madonna*. <http://katjawillemsen.com>



FICTION / CROSSOVER / THRILLER

* All rights available

* MS available

'Really exciting page-turner with an excellent premise and terrific pacing. Huge potential.'

– Tablo Judge and Publisher, Hardie Grant Australia

'Catherine has a great voice, and she has created an intriguing cast of characters...Mae's internal thoughts, her paranoia and awkwardness were done really well.'

– Tablo Judge and Publisher, Pantera Press Australia



Catherine E. Kovach (USA)

Jenny Was a Friend of Mine

In an attempt to uncover who killed her best friend, Mae will do anything to get a confession...even if it kills *them*.

College student Jenny is murdered at a party. Her best friend and secret lover Mae is shattered. A month goes by and the police still don't know who killed Jenny. In a desperate attempt to unveil the killer, Mae invites five friends (and in her mind the most likely suspects) to her family's cabin in the woods.

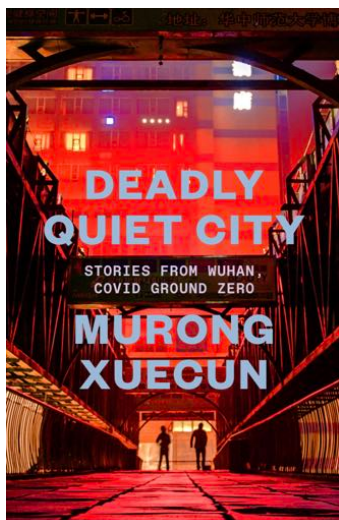
A bloody surprise in the woods mixed with revealed secrets sets the group on edge and soon they begin to unravel. Trapped in the cabin due to a snowstorm and a few slashed tires, they each recount their version of the party where Jenny ended up dead, all in an attempt to uncover the killer and save themselves. As they start to lose grip on reality, one of the five friends is murdered.

As Mae sits in a police station explaining the events herself, she not only tells the story of what happened at the cabin, but also reveals what transpired during the party. As Mae goes deeper and deeper in recounting events, it becomes clear to the reader that she might not be telling the whole story. What is Mae hiding? Who killed Jenny? What really happened at the cabin?

Told primarily from Mae's point of view, with the story shifting from events at the party to the cabin to the police station, *Jenny Was a Friend of Mine* is a new spin on the classic page-turner with an unreliable narrator.

CATHERINE E. KOVACH has written articles and stories for *Diabolique Magazine*, *Bustle.com* and *Starlog Magazine*. She was an assistant editor for Skyhorse Publishing and now works as a content producer for a marketing firm specializing in engineering and augmented reality. You can also find her in the online role-playing gaming community where she creates virtual characters. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and three beloved cats. *Jenny Was a Friend of Mine* is her first novel. Twitter: [@Catherin3Kovach](https://twitter.com/Catherin3Kovach)

Non-Fiction



**NARRATIVE NON FICTION/
MODERN HISTORY & SOCIETY /
CHINA**

Australia/NZ April 2022 · Hardie Grant

Japan 2022 · Asuka Shinsha

* All other rights available

* English final pages available

Murong Xuecun (CHINA)

Deadly Quiet City Stories from Wuhan, Covid Ground Zero

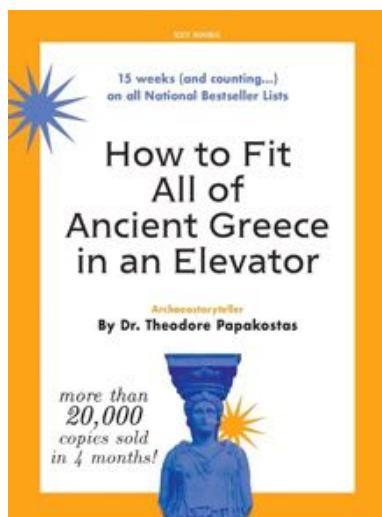
In spring 2020 Murong Xuecun, one of China's most celebrated but banned authors, courageously travels to Wuhan to covertly interview people from all walks of life on their experiences. An exhausted doctor in a small hospital, battling the virus while sick. An illegal motorcycle taxi driver, ferrying people around the empty city. A citizen journalist fighting to reveal the truth of what happened during that endless spring. Murong follows eight people as the catastrophe unfolded, sharing their lives and their grief in their own voices.

Through these poignant and beautifully written first-hand accounts, Murong shows the government failures and the human dramas it brought. He also reveals the complex relationship between the people and the regime as well as the strategies Chinese citizens use every day to police themselves and negotiate their way through a heartless system, determined above all to avoid responsibility.

Deadly Quiet City is a haunting and unforgettable literary work set to become a piece of modern history about the lives of people in China today.



MURONG XUECUN is one of China's most popular writers. His first novel *Leave Me Alone: A Novel of Chengdu* took China by storm and became a cult hit amongst the young middle-class looking for writing that pushed the boundaries of what was acceptable literature. He wrote three more novels as well as a remarkable undercover reportage on mafia-style pyramid scams (*China: In The Absence of a Remedy*) that exposed the inequities of China's breakneck development. His books are now banned in China but have been translated into English and several other languages. Murong recently fled his country to London, and now resides in Australia. Twitter: [@hawking197428](https://twitter.com/hawking197428)



POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGY

Greece 2021 · Key Books (auction)

Germany 2022: Piper (auction)

Poland 2022: Otwarta (auction)

Italy 2022: Crocetti/Fetrinelli (auction)

Netherlands 2022: Brandt Publishing

Serbia 2022: Vulkan

UK: pre-empt accepted, TBA

* All other rights available

* English sample translation available

* Greek final pages available

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Dr Theodore Papakostas (GREECE)

How to Fit All of Ancient Greece in an Elevator

One of Greece's top bestsellers with 20,000+ copies sold

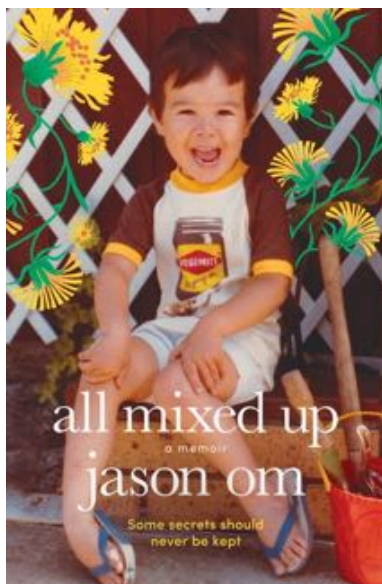
Reconnecting with antiquity is above all else reconnecting with ourselves!

How to Fit all of Ancient Greece in an Elevator is an exciting journey through space and time, from earliest prehistory to the end of classical antiquity. It all starts when two perfect strangers meet in a trapped elevator. One is an archaeologist, the other not. A simple question - "What do you do? - becomes the springboard for a dialogue that weaves a fascinating tale.

The non-archaeologist, at first ironic and indifferent, bombards the archaeologist with questions. The archaeologist - patient, erudite, charmingly irreverent and funny - provides the answers. The result is a spectacular, hilariously funny and utterly engrossing account of Ancient Greece from its very beginnings in prehistory to its end.

Dr. Papakostas answers not only the most commonly asked questions about the field of archaeology, but also stops and marvels at both the great and the small moments in Ancient Greek history.

DR. THEODORE PAPAHOSTAS was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He earned his bachelor's degree in Archaeology from the University of Reading and his MA in Prehistoric Archaeology from the University of Nottingham. He has participated in excavations in Greece and the UK and has worked at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki and the Archaeological Service of Kilis. He holds a PhD in Classical Archaeology (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki). With the sincere belief that knowledge of the past is power, and with the deep conviction that antiquity concerns us all, he created [Archaeostoryteller](#), Instagram stories about ancient times conveyed in a straightforward, immediate and entertaining way with 54k followers.



MEMOIR / LGBTQ+ / MENTAL
HEALTH

Australia/NZ March 2022 · Harper
Collins / ABC Books

* All other rights available

AUTHOR ENDORSEMENTS:

*“A heart-felt and touching memoir
about love, resilience and survival”*
– Leigh Sales

*“Spellbinding ... written with a
journalist's unflinching precision”*
– Alice Pung

“Complex, nuanced, intimate yet epic”
– Marc Fennell

*“Full of twists and turns but, in the end,
bucketloads of love”*
– Lisa Millar



Jason Om (AUSTRALIA)

All Mixed Up

My family may have been all mixed up, but I discovered a love and a resilience that ran deeper than any of us could have imagined.

When Jason Om was just twelve, he witnessed his mother die of a heart attack. No one else was home and he blamed himself for her death. So begins this unflinching memoir about coming of age in a 'mixed-up' family. There was Jason's perfectionist Buddhist Cambodian father, his Catholic Eurasian mother, who seemed stricken by an inexplicable sadness, his Muslim Malaysian half-sister, his domineering grandmother, and various cousins, aunts and uncles on both sides.

Everyone seemed to harbour secrets, including Jason, but when he came out as gay, his openness was met with reticence. It wasn't until the twentieth anniversary of his mother's death that he found the courage to uncover the truth about his family's past and the cause of his mother's sorrow, and was able at last to feel pride in his 'mixed-up' identity.

Candid and heartfelt, *All Mixed Up* is a compelling true story about trauma, identity and acceptance. It's also an uplifting celebration of authenticity, difference, resilience, hope and love by an exciting new Australian voice.

JASON OM is an award-winning reporter with Australian ABC TV. He's been a presenter on ABC's 7.30 program, the News Channel and a reporter for News Breakfast, Life, Lateline and Radio. In 2017, he won widespread praise for his personal story about his dad's 16-year struggle to accept him as gay. The article and TV piece ran Australia-wide, attracting a million views. Viewers were moved to tears, and the story earned Jason a nomination in the 2018 NSW (LGBTI) Honour Awards. *All Mixed Up* is his first book. Twitter: [@jason_om](https://twitter.com/jason_om)



MEMOIR / MUSIC / BLACK VOICES

Australia/NZ June 2022 · Penguin RH

* All other rights available

* Final pages available

Mawunyo Gbogbo (AUSTRALIA)

Hip Hop & Hymns

A memoir of loving hard, falling apart and fighting back, set to an unrivalled playlist

'Hip hop and hymns: the two would always go hand in hand for me. My life would always straddle both. The sacred and the profane, all living on the same block, all divine in the end.'

Mawunyo Gbogbo is a church-going African Australian girl growing up in the sleepy mining town of Muswellbrook. At home, her parents fight all the time, and some of her siblings keep her at arm's length. At primary school, Black Is Beautiful until a racist bully dares to tell her otherwise. But at high school, she falls in love with two things that will alter the course of her life: the seductive thrill of hip hop music and charismatic bad boy Tyce Carrington. Tyce also feels like an alien in Australia, despite his Aboriginality – or because of it.

When Mawunyo's offered a chance to further her budding media career in New York at the Bible of hip hop, *The Source* magazine, she throws herself headlong into the city's heady buzz and hustle – but even as it lures her in, it threatens to derail her dreams.

Hip Hop & Hymns is a tussle between the search for belonging and falling hard for the things that can tear us apart, and a clear-eyed, heartfelt story about daring greatly and what it means to be Black in the world.



MAWUNYO GBOGBO is a journalist and a producer for ABC Radio. Previously she worked for SBS TV where she received a UN Media Peace Award. Her writing has been published on *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *ABC Life* websites. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Journalism and a Master of Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Technology Sydney. She was born in Ghana, raised in the New South Wales Hunter Valley and now calls Sydney home. Twitter: [@MawunyoGbogbo](https://twitter.com/MawunyoGbogbo)



MEMOIR / GRIEF

Australia/NZ April 2023 · Harper
Collins / ABC Books

* All other rights available

* Detailed chapter outline plus first 11k words available

PRAISE FOR BBC PODCAST:

“It’s a beautifully crafted show, flecked with unexpected dark humour.”
– *The Times*

“...the story (Townsend) tells, about what happened when she learned that her husband, the father of her two young daughters, was dying of cancer, is the kind that could take a lifetime to cohere. Townsend, nine years removed from the events of the narrative, recounts them with a painterly attention to texture and detail.”
– *New York Times*



Sophie Townsend (AUSTRALIA)

Goodbye To All This

Based on the award-winning 12-part BBC podcast, a story about life, love and loss.

Sophie Townsend, acclaimed ABC broadcaster, and her husband Russell Stendell were living a nice, ordinary, middle class life as working parents raising daughters Poppy and Bear aged 8 and 10.

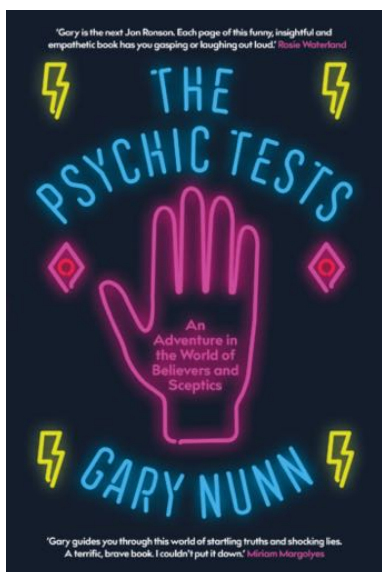
Then out of the blue, Russell’s doctor gave him the worst possible news. Their lives were suddenly consumed by treatment regimes, and hoping against hope Russell would be the one in four who survives advanced lung cancer.

Sophie remembers the final months as being hectic and stressful but punctuated by times of great tenderness. Russell was cared for her at home, until his extraordinary final night and day.

This memoir then does something many cancer narratives don’t – it moves on to life after death: raising children, working, finding your place in the world again when grief doesn’t pass neatly through stages. In the years following Russell’s death, Sophie sometimes found carrying on without him even more difficult than saying goodbye.

Not without humour and wit, *Goodbye To All This* deals with the mistakes, the triumphs, and the messiness of getting through life without the person you always thought would be by your side.

SOPHIE TOWNSEND is an audio maker and writer at ABC’s Radio National. Her podcast feature-making work is internationally recognized. In 2015 she won the HearSay International Audio competition with her piece *Mr Fix-it*. [Stories and Driving](#) and [The Updates](#) were featured at Third Coast in 2015, and she was a Australian Walkley Award nominee for her documentary [Cancer as a Battleground](#). Her latest work is [Goodbye To All This](#), a twelve-part BBC series. Sophie published a novel, [Misconceptions](#) (Random House 2008). Twitter: [@sophietown](#)



NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

Australia/NZ Aug 2021 · Pantera Press

Russia 2022 · Individuum

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Gary Nunn (AUSTRALIA / UK)

The Psychic Tests

An Investigation into the Supernatural Industry

A journey into the wild, widespread and surprisingly influential world of psychics.

Clairvoyants, mediums, palm readers, tarot card readers, astrologists and star sign readers are amongst the world's most charismatic people.

For two years, journalist Gary Nunn lived in their world becoming a psychic junkie, trying it all. In this ground-breaking book he reveals the power psychics wield and the lifelong impact they have on the lives of everyday people: from who they date (some people refuse to date someone without a compatible star sign) to what jobs they apply for.

Even more intriguing, those who we may expect to be sceptics - senior professionals, high-powered policy makers, self-defined cynics - seek psychic advice and act on it.

From Nostradamus to horoscopes, from psychic investigators hired on unsolved murder cases to medical intuitives insisting they can prevent Covid-19, these psychics are much more than entertainers. They're providing solemn guidance to even the most rational minds.



GARY NUNN is an award-winning British journalist working between Australia and the UK. He is currently the BBC's Features Editor in Sydney. He specialises in human interest stories, men's and women's health, LGBTQI issues, linguistics and more. He works with ABC, The Guardian, BBC Radio 4, the New Statesman, the Independent. He has interviewed Stephen Fry, the late Kofi Annan, Sir Ian McKlellan, the original members of the Sapphires, and has written for Vogue about meeting Beyonce. Gary is a fellow in the Walkley's Our Watch journalist scholarship, designed to broaden coverage on violence against women. Twitter: [@garynunn1](https://twitter.com/garynunn1)



HEALTH & WELLBEING
PRESCRIPTIVE NON-FICTION

* All rights available

* Full proposal and 2 sample chapters available

Dr. Beth Ricanati (USA)

The Power of Challah

A Weekly Practice to Improve Your Wellbeing

How an ancient baking ritual can improve your health and wellbeing and shape a more meaningful life.

The world needs healing. I see it in my clinic as a physician and I see it in my own life. We struggle with the stress and anxiety of being busy, a struggle accentuated by endless crises – environmental, health and political – that are bigger than ourselves.

What if I told you there is a way to restore a more stable, peaceful and present connection to yourself? A way to take care of yourself, and also of those around you? What if I told you that you could experience it repeatedly, predictably, while doing something simple and nurturing in your own space? *You can.*

I call this healing “The Power of challah” – the simple act of making an ancient Jewish bread once a week that nourishes both physically and spiritually; that allows you to be present, focused on others and to express your authentic self.

I started making challah over fifteen years ago and have made thousands of them. Yet for so long, I didn’t process what this ancient ritual was teaching me. And then Covid struck and I discovered that the most important health lessons often come from the most unexpected places. I turned my kitchen into a digital studio and led virtual baking workshops, reaching thousands of people from all walks of life. In doing so, I discovered new lessons that everyone can adopt. It is these lessons that have become the eight prescriptions presented in *The Power of Challah*.



BETH RICANATI, MD is a physician, award-winning author and speaker who has spent the last twenty years bringing wellness into women’s everyday lives. Born and raised in Ohio, she obtained her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. She has practiced medicine at NY-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, the Cleveland Clinic and currently at the Venice Family Clinic in LA. She lives in Southern California with her husband and three children. Her memoir *Braided: A Journey of a Thousand Challahs* (She Writes Press 2018) won several awards. Instagram: [@bethricanati](https://www.instagram.com/bethricanati)



MEMOIR / CULT / PARENTING

* All rights available

* Full proposal and 10 sample chapters available

Rebekah Crawford (USA)

But Look How Great You Turned Out

Growing up inside one of California's largest cults

Can one become a functional, 'normal' parent after spending their entire childhood in an experimental cult?

Rebekah grew up in Synanon, one of California's largest cults where societal norms were questioned and broken every day, in particular the family unit. One of its most radical rules was that children were separated from their parents at 6 months old and raised together in peer groups, living in dorms, attending a makeshift school and roaming a huge property. They were subjected to the same punishing methodology that kept drug addicts clean: shaved heads, public humiliation and tough love.

But Look How Great You Turned Out is a candid, humane account on what it is like to grow up in a place where there is no parental love, no privacy (Rebekah was 14 the first time she took a shower by herself), where 'Game nights' regularly stripped you of your burgeoning identity only to painstakingly rebuild it again, and where one has to learn Ralph Waldo Emerson's philosophy on independent thinking and at the same time, in direct contradiction, act in absolute conformity with the cult. It also gives an insider's view of what cults offer and why people actually *choose* to stay: an incredible tight social bond, an idyllic setting, and a sense of changing the world.

Revisiting childhood memories, comparing her experiences of growing up in a cult with her current nuclear family and drawing on accepted psychology and parenting philosophy, Rebekah attempts to answer a fundamental question: did her unconventional childhood do more harm than good?



REBEKAH CRAWFORD was born in Synanon, a large cult in California which started out as a pioneering rehab centre. She left Synanon at the age of 18 without a formal education and went on to Barnard College where she earned a degree in Art History. She spent ten years working in Hollywood, first as a script reader for Sam Raimi (*Evil Dead*, *Spiderman*) and then as a wardrobe stylist for photographers such as Annie Leibovitz and Peter Lindbergh. Rebekah has written several screenplays and contributed articles to *Forbes*, *classycareergirl.com* and *themuse.com*. When she met a Belgian, she left the sunny skies and celebrity world of LA for Brussels, where she currently lives with her husband and two children. Twitter: [@rebcrawford](https://twitter.com/rebcrawford)

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