



BRYONY WOODS

LITERARY AGENCY

Frankfurt Rights Guide 2026

Tel: +44 (0)203 514 6544
bryony@bryonywoods.co.uk
rights@bryonywoods.co.uk



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Andrew Mills, Revolution Talent
andrew@revolutiontalent.co.uk



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BRYONY WOODS

LITERARY AGENCY

◆ ADULT FICTION ◆





JEN COWNIE

Jen Cownie is an author, podcaster, brand strategist, and one half of the tarot reading duo Litwitchure.

She's the co-author of *Wild Card: Let the Tarot Tell Your Story* (Bluebird, Pan Macmillan, 2022). Jen appears as a regular guest (and resident Taylor Swift expert) on *Sentimental Garbage* with Caroline O'Donoghue, and co-hosts the popular spin-off *Continental Garbage*, with approximately 1.5 million downloads to date. She is based in London. *Old Tricks* is her debut novel.

OLD TRICKS

UK Publisher: Abacus (Spring 2028)

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

Rights Available: US, Translation, Film/TV

Deep in the forest, there is a house. The woman who lives there is a half remembered dream, haunting only the faintest corner of their minds. There is something about her, though – something they urgently need to remember...

Em, Rose, Charlie, Sora, Adam and Nick. They have a lot of catching up to do. The past decade has seen them drifting apart, while the tensions and secrets they've all been harbouring have been left to sink deep into the past.

Perhaps a weekend away is what they need, to reconnect and heal old wounds. But things go wrong almost straight away, and they find themselves in search of a new place to stay. That's when Em receives a message. None of them have spoken to Wyn in over a decade, but now she is offering them a place in her home, a place not found on any map.

Wyn isn't what she seems, and neither is the forest. Em knows she should be cautious. But as her friends are learning to fear the trees, Em is beginning to realise that the real danger has been closer to home all along.

Compelling and tenderly written, with a rich twist of dark magic at its heart, this is a powerful story of platonic love, toxic romance and the courage it takes to see the people around us for who and what they truly are. Perfect for fans of Caroline O'Donoghue and Emilia Hart.

Extract:

Wyn looked at Em again, expression unreadable. "Do you know how people really drown?"

"No," she answered.

"They do it silently. If you're drowning, you shut down. Your mind knows what's happening, it knows that you're in mortal danger, but your body freezes up. It can't move at all: certainly not to splash or to call for aid, or to wave a hand." Wyn's large eyes fixed on Em, unblinking, green and depthless, no light reflecting in them. "People who are drowning are motionless, just bobbing there, mouth and nose dipping in and out of the water. They stare, though, if there's anyone close enough by to see them. Often enough, people end up looking on the ones they love drown right in front of them, sometimes making eye contact the whole way."

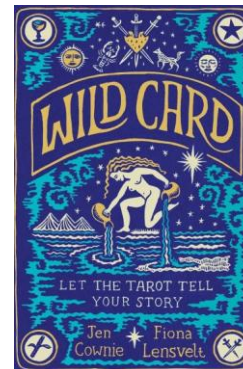
Em swallowed. Her breath was shallow in her chest. She didn't know if she could speak, but she found her voice: dry and quiet as a whisper.

"So how do you know? What do you do?"

"You've got to watch carefully," Wyn replied. "If you notice someone going still and quiet, you ask if they're alright. And if they don't answer you, it's not because they're fine - it's because they can't answer. That's when you have to help them. Otherwise, they just can just go under, silent as anything."

Wyn's eyes stayed locked on Em's, huge and serious. It felt like a searchlight on a dark night, almost blinding in its intensity. She couldn't look away, couldn't say anything, could only shiver as the words lodged somewhere in her chest, somewhere near her bruised, secretive heart.

Also by Jen Cownie:



"A beautiful, playful, intriguing book."

- Nina Stibbe.

"A tarot reading guide for people who aren't wholly sure that they are witchy enough to be into tarot. It's just the right balance of cosmic mystery and straight talking sense."

- Caroline O'Donoghue



SARAH MARIA GRIFFIN

Shortlisted for Author of the Year at the Irish Book Awards 2025 and recent Writer Fellow at Trinity College Dublin, Sarah Maria Griffin is the author of the bestselling lyrical horror novel *Eat The Ones You Love* (Tor US/Titan UK 2025), the horror novel *Strange Is The Light* (Tor/Titan 2026) and the Irish Book Award winning YA novel *Other Words For Smoke*.

Sarah writes about videogames for *The Guardian*, and her nonfiction has appeared in *The Irish Times*, *The Winter Papers*, and *The Stinging Fly*, amongst other places.

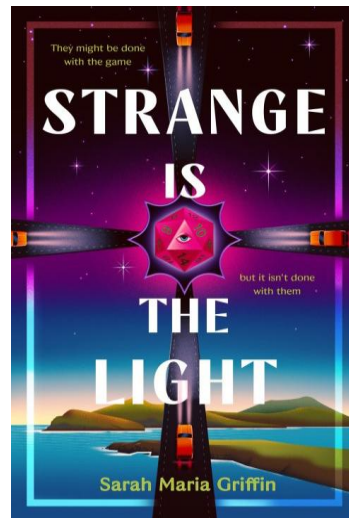
STRANGE IS THE LIGHT

US Publisher: Tor (US), September 2026

Genre: Horror

Rights Sold: UK/Ireland (Titan)

A childhood game of wild imagination takes a frightening turn in this dark, strange, moving tale of intense friendship, tangled secrets and betrayal from the acclaimed author of *Eat the Ones You Love*, one of the Sunday Times's Top Ten Irish Books of 2025.



For Daphne McSharry, Valentia Island was a place of joyful childhood holidays: independence, adventure and playing with her beloved friends, Ronan, Leonie and Finn. They returned to one game of their own making year after year, and let their imaginations roam free. But when the game is stolen from them by an outsider, it becomes something dark and strange, forcing Daphne to make a choice with a terrible cost. When tragedy brings her back to the island years later, she and her friends finally have to face the consequences of what she did.

Daphne never took her final turn... And there is a debt that must be paid.

Extract:

Ronan Quaid was almost forty and running out of skin.

He lay on his back on a long, black table, arm outstretched onto a metal and leather support designed very specifically for holding up any appendage that might want tattooing. There was cling film everywhere, and the chemical reek of disinfectant was distinctly reassuring to Ronan's best friend, Daphne McSharry, who sat waiting in a state of forced calm, staring into her phone.

They had to get on the road in the next hour if they wanted to hit the island before nightfall.

It was a hard day, and was going to be a worse day tomorrow, which was why Daphne hadn't protested Ronan's choice of moment to acquire a new tattoo, something small in one of the rare remaining archipelagos of unillustrated skin he had left. Once he was done, they were going to get into her car and drive for four hours, through the Ring of Kerry and eventually over the long wooden bridge, back to the island of their youth.

They'd get up first thing for the funeral, and go hand in hand through the whole day, staring down the barrel of the past.

Daphne thought about what waited at the end—two eyes, vast in a dark sky, winking like opals.

Praise for Sarah Maria Griffin:

"This poignant and original examination of desire and decay is a stunner."
- *Publisher's Weekly*, starred review

"The ultimate complex relationship story, this horrific tale is infused with humor and wit via Griffin's prose." - *Library Journal* (starred review)

"Eat the Ones You Love is a must-read. Both literary and accessible, dark and darkly humorous, **Griffin has struck gold here.**" - *The Michigan Daily*

"Deliciously strange, delightfully wicked." - V. E. Schwab

"I devoured it." - Olivie Blake, NYT bestselling author of *The Atlas Six*

"A masterpiece. Griffin's voice is absolutely singular; scalpel-sharp and deeply lyrical, **every word unexpected and yet precise.**"

- Laura Steven



EVERYTHING NOT SAVED

UK Publisher: W&N, Spring 2028

Genre: Literary Fiction

**Rights Available: US, Film/TV,
(Translation via Publisher)**



Orla Birch is devastated to hear of the death of her favourite game designer, Sly Reed. Still reeling from the recent loss of her job and facing financial ruin, she attends a memorial exhibition for Sly, where she receives an intriguing offer. Among Sly's body of work is a lost game: one he designed but mysteriously destroyed before it could be released. Only one copy is known to still exist, but it was lost years ago.

If Orla can track it down, all of her financial problems might be solved. And her former flame Georgie, whose fame as a popular YouTuber has skyrocketed in the years since they last met, is willing to help her find it.

But finding this game means more to Orla than just the financial security it promises. There are many layers to the mystery of why the game was written, and why it was never released. And it soon becomes obvious that Orla and Georgie aren't the only ones looking for it.

From the acclaimed author of *Eat The Ones You Love* and *Other Words for Smoke*, *Everything Not Saved* is a beautiful contemporary novel about grief, desire, fandom and the way that stories in all forms can connect us to the things we love, and those we've lost.

"Everything Not Saved is a wildly original and beautifully-written novel...This is a book for gamers and non-gamers, for anyone who has feared life is passing them by, and for anyone afraid of what they truly desire."

- Alexa von Hirschberg, Publishing Director

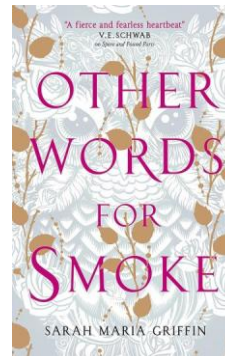
Extract:

She migrated towards an empty glass case, lit by a single fallen spotlight, with a set of pictures on the wall and a short abstract hanging beside it. She walked to it, drawn, knowing that what she really wanted wasn't there, but curious to see what they'd meant by including the empty space where it belonged.

Project Murmur. Well. The lack thereof. Sly Reed's missing masterpiece.

Orla had watched every video available on Murmur, lurked the forums dedicated to – unsuccessfully – tracking down any copies that existed. It didn't really exist, she knew that. Not in the way she wanted it to. It had been the project that Sly had worked on between Might Ridge and Legend Eater – he'd abandoned it for Legend Eater, technically. It had been announced, though no release date was ever published, let alone met. It was even shown at E3 – that's where the photographs on the wall were from. Images on a screen, beyond a crowd. Black and white lettering bold and blocky, the word Murmur. It would have been one of the last Nintendo 64 games, so any copies of it that had existed lived on fickle, now ancient cartridges. It was testament to the mystery behind the game that even MODAM couldn't source a copy. The original surviving founders of Red Blue were in the museum themselves, and there was no Murmur. There might have been ten copies, once. Now there were none, and Orla stood in front of the none as though it were a weeping Virgin Mary, a piece of the moon.

Also by Sarah Maria Griffin:



**"Fierce
and fearless."
-
V.E. Schwab**





CATRIONA SILVEY

Catriona Silvey grew up in Scotland and now lives in Edinburgh. Her short stories have been performed at the Edinburgh International Book Festival and shortlisted for the Bridport Prize.

Her debut novel, *Meet Me In Another Life*, was published to rave reviews in 2021. Her second novel, *Love and Other Paradoxes*, followed in 2025.

Vervain Hollow, her third novel, marks an exciting

new direction, and will be followed by a fourth, *To The End of the World*, in 2027.

TO THE END OF THE WORLD

US Publisher: Union Square, Hachette (North America)

Genre: Science Fiction

Status: UK submission due November 2026

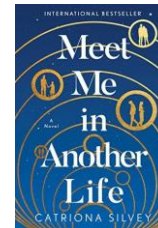
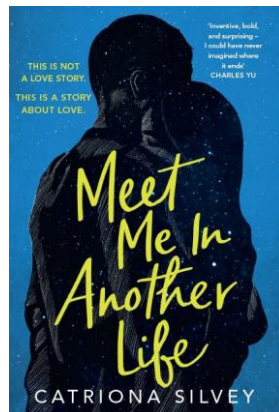
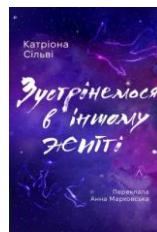
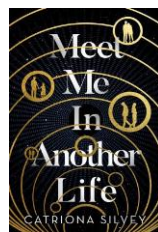
A man and a woman drive west across America, running from something they can't outrun. She calls him Chung; he calls her Palmer. They stop only at anonymous motels, flee at the first news bulletin, and swing between tenderness and a brittle, unbearable silence. Behind them, an industrial accident at the secretive company where they once worked is turning the land into a deadly, spreading exclusion zone.

As their journey unspools, so does the truth. Chung and Palmer weren't bystanders. In a startup built on draconian rules, ferocious ambition, and a force closer to magic than technology, their forbidden attraction curdled into a game of one-upmanship that escalated, step by step, toward catastrophe. With the rage of the world turning on them and the end drawing near, they must decide whether to face justice or seize what fragile happiness remains.

And in a half-ruined world, the most terrifying possibility of all might be survival.

To the End of the World is a science fiction novel about ambition, complicity, and love as an act of mutual destruction.

MEET ME IN ANOTHER LIFE



****No. 2 WATERSTONES BESTSELLER****
****SUNDAY TIMES TOP 20 BESTSELLER****
****INDY NEXT PICK SUMMER 2022****

"A remarkable debut, haunting, genre-transcending." - Stephen Baxter

LOVE AND OTHER PARADOXES

"This fresh, fascinating take on love in the time of time travel would be a hit in any timeline."

— Kirkus (starred review)



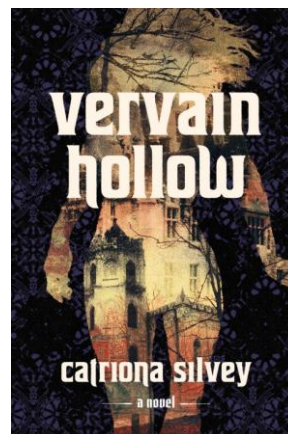
VERVAIN HOLLOW

"A dark and mind-bending tale ... a brilliantly-paced gothic cult horror."

— Marianne Gordon

"Profoundly unsettling."

— Sunyi Dean





CAROLINE O'DONOGHUE

Caroline O'Donoghue is a *New York Times* bestselling author, screenwriter and host of the hugely popular and award-winning podcast *Sentimental Garbage*. She has written three novels for adults: *Promising Young Women*, which was shortlisted for the AN Post Irish Book Awards, *Scenes of a Graphic Nature*, which was longlisted for the Ondaatje Prize, and the international bestseller

The Rachel Incident. She is also the author of the *New York Times* bestselling YA series, *All Our Hidden Gifts*. She was named one of Ireland's '30 under 30' most exciting artists by the *Sunday Times*. Her novels have received rave reviews and have been published in 26 languages to date.

THE RACHEL INCIDENT

UK Publisher: Virago (UK & Comm, ex. Canada),
June 2023. TV Adaptation airing Spring 2027

Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction

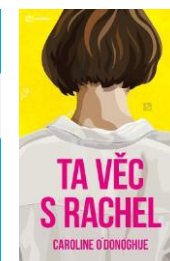
Rights Sold: US/Canada (Knopf), Brazil (Buzz Editora), Catalan (Ara Llibres), Croatia (Fokus), Czech (Grada), Dutch (Ambo Anthos), French (Mercure de France), German (KiWi), Hungarian (Athenaeum), Italian (NN Editore), Lithuanian (Alma Littera), Polish (Poznańskie), Portuguese (PRH), Romanian (Librex Media), Russian (Eksmo), Serbian (Vulkan), Spanish (Libros del Asteroide), Swedish (Historiska Media), Taiwan (Delight Press), Ukrainian (Vivat), UK Audio (W F Howes), Film/TV (Universal / Page Boy / Element / Channel 4)



****Soon to be a major TV series****

The Rachel Incident is an all-consuming love story. But it's not the one you're expecting. It's unconventional and messy. It's young and foolish. It's about losing and finding yourself. But it is always about love.

When Rachel falls in love with her married professor, Dr Byrne, her best friend James helps her devise a plan to seduce him. But what begins as a harmless crush soon pushes their friendship to its limits. Over the course of a year they will find their lives ever more entwined with the Byrnes' and be faced with impossible choices and a lie that can't be taken back...



**"Astute and funny as hell...
A gratifying, accomplished novel."**
- *New York Times*

Also by Caroline O'Donoghue:

