



DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS

LITERARY AGENCY

Frankfurt Rights Guide 2023

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DANIEL AUBREY

Having worked as a journalist in Catalonia and Hong Kong, Daniel now lives in Scotland where he is studying for an MLitt from the Institute for Northern Studies in Orkney.

Before starting work on his novel, Daniel completed the Riff Raff mentorship programme and helped start the Virtual Writing Group on Twitter (@virtwriting), which aims to connect with and support other writers. When he's not writing or studying he's either reading, travelling, walking in the local hills with his two dogs, Dylan and Maggie, or learning a new foreign language - this week, it's Swedish! *Tack för att du läser!*

DARK ISLAND

UK Publisher: HarperNorth (WEL), Spring 2024

Genre: Investigative Crime

Rights Sold: French (JC Lattes), Swedish (Lind & Co), Ukrainian (Laboratory), Czech (Bourdon), Film/TV (Under Offer)

Midwinter in Orkney. Six hours of daylight. A race against time to catch a killer.

Reporter Freya Sinclair has always known she was different. While waiting on the outcome of an autism assessment, Freya uproots her life in Glasgow, quitting her job at one of Scotland's top broadsheets and taking a local beat in her childhood home of Orkney. But her plans for a quiet life are shattered when human remains are unburied by a winter storm on Orkney's wild Atlantic coast.

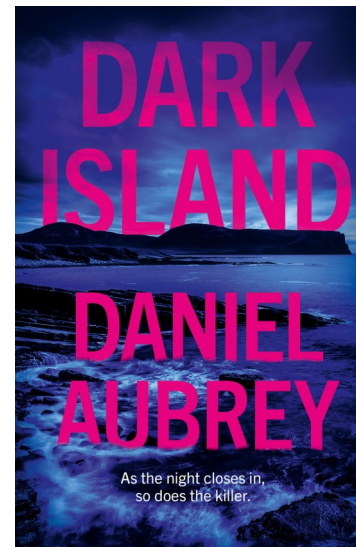
The identity of the bones opens old wounds in the islands, and sheds light on a darker truth nobody wants to accept. As the nights draw in, Freya's obsessive hunt for answers turns into a cat and mouse game, with each secret she unearths threatening her job, her family, and presenting a murderer with their next victim.

In a place where nothing stays buried forever, is uncovering the truth more important than saving lives?

Extract:

These islands are terrible at keeping their secrets. Nothing in Orkney stays buried forever.

Freya already knew that, didn't need the reminder, but she still got one this morning. She stood alone at the top of the steep bank of boulders that protected the dunes and she watched. She knew she was at a safe distance; a couple of hundred metres across the semilunar curve of the bay. Not close enough to be seen, too far to hear anything other than the rush of the wind and the roar of a bad tempered sea. Away to the southeast a reluctant dawn was leaking into the sky, turning the clouds greenish-grey at the horizon and casting barely enough light for her to see the bodies moving over the machair. People in white paper jumpsuits, appearing and disappearing between the mounds in the earth where the Neolithic village lay. Last night's storm had passed but as she watched a



pair of the white figures struggle to put up a small tent, a gust caught on the tarpaulin and threatened to carry them both away. Freya couldn't make out what it was exactly, but through her cheap binoculars she could tell they were trying to cover something. An area at the back of the beach where something had been unburied.

Another secret these islands had failed to keep.





JAYNE COWIE

Jayne Cowie is an author of feminist dystopian thrillers. An avid reader and life-long writer, Jayne also enjoys digging in her garden and makes an excellent devil's food cake. She lives near London with her family.

I DID IT FOR YOU

(US Title: ONE OF THE BOYS)

UK Publisher: Arrow, PRH (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), August 2023

Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction

Rights Sold: US (Berkley, PRH), Russia (AST), Film/ TV (Under Option)

Rights Available: Translation

If you could test your son for a gene that predicts violence, would you do it?

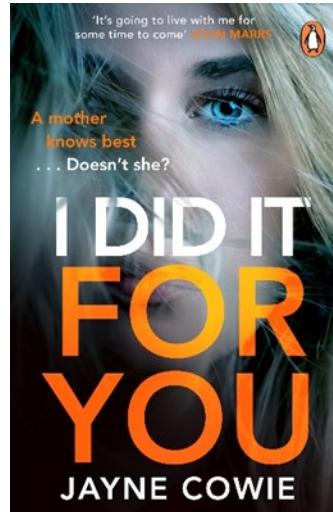
Antonia and Bea are sisters, and doting mothers to their sons. But that is where their similarities end. Antonia had her son tested to make sure he didn't possess the "violent" M gene. Bea refuses to let her son take the test. His life should not be determined by a positive or negative result.

These women will go to any length to protect their sons. But one of them is hiding a monster. And there will be fatal consequences for everybody....

PRAISE FOR JAYNE COWIE:

"So timely, so relevant and so remarkably written, it's going to live with me for some time to come" - *John Marrs, #1 bestselling author of The One*

"Original and unsettling" - *The Sun*



Extract:

All she'd ever wanted was to protect her son. That was it. To do her job as his mother and do it well. The first time she had held him in her arms, she had promised she would always take care of him. She would never let anyone hurt him. She would keep him safe from the world, a world that hated boys, that tested them at birth and punished them for crimes they might never even commit.

Failure had been inevitable, in hindsight. All the signs had been there. His birth, for example, which had been a complete disaster. The early months of exhaustion and struggle and fear that she would never be able to love him the way she wanted to. And as he'd grown older, all the poor decisions she'd made and the lies she'd told everyone, including herself.

But none of it came even close to what the woman opposite her had done.

They were separated by the breadth of the table and a sheet of Perspex, made cloudy by too much cleaning, and it felt like she was looking at her through water. In a strange way, it helped. It made her seem further away and not quite real.

'Why did you do it?' she asked.

'I didn't have a choice,' came the reply. That familiar voice, once so brash and full of life, took up hardly any room at all.



Also by Jayne Cowie:



AFTER DARK by Jayne Cowie (US Title: CURFEW)

UK Publisher: Arrow, PRH (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), May 2022

Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction

Rights Sold: US (Berkley, PRH), Turkish (25M2), German (Heyne), Italian (Fanucci), Russian (AST), Complex Chinese (Faces), Film/TV (Vertigo)

Rights Available: Translation





AMBER CREWE

Amber has worked as an Audience Researcher on the X Factor, Phone Producer at Classic FM and a Travel Broadcaster on various London radio stations. But in 2009 Amber quit her latest job in PR and went to do her MA in Creative Writing at Birkbeck College whilst also working as a children's bookseller for Waterstones. Under a different name, she has published two YA novels with Andersen Press in 2015 and 2016.

Adult Virgins Anonymous, published in 2020, was Amber's first romantic comedy for adult readers, and her second novel, *That Jewish Thing*, followed in 2021 and was shortlisted for the RNA Best Romantic Comedy 2022. *The Right Wavelength*, her third, is based on her own experiences of being diagnosed as autistic as an adult.

THE RIGHT WAVELENGTH

UK Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), March 2023

Genre: Romantic Comedy

Rights Available: US, Translation, Dramatisation

Sometimes you need to find yourself before you're ready to find The One.

From the outside, Lorna has everything sorted. A cool job in radio, a home to call her own, plenty of friends. And anyone would be happy to attend their school reunion if they'd had the kind of post-adolescent glow up she's managed to pull off. Library Lorna is no more, and this new Lorna is 100%, definitely over her teenage crush on Finn, the most popular boy in school.

But on the inside, Lorna's got to admit she is trying too hard. Everything is so much more difficult for her than it seems to be for everyone else. She's sure something is wrong with her, she just needs to figure out what that is - and fast, now that Finn is back in her life and she's finally got a chance of getting everything she's ever dreamed of.



"Funny and moving and true, and so wonderful to have an ND lead." - *Joanna Nadin*

"A beautiful novel about self discovery that will resonate with readers for decades to come." - *Lizzie Huxley-Jones*

"An incisive and beautifully-written novel about finding your true self , all wrapped up in a heartwarming love story which left me in floods of (happy!) tears. I absolutely adored it, and I hope everyone else will too." - *Emma Pass*

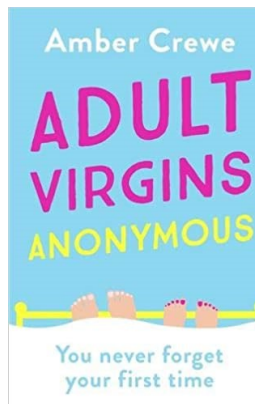
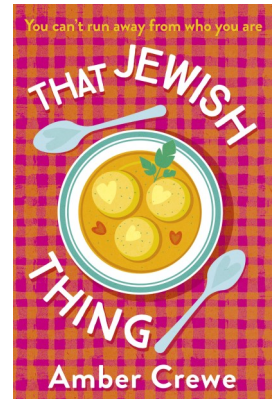
Also by Amber Crewe:

****Shortlisted for the RNA Best Romantic Comedy 2022****

"I absolutely loved this love story ... a modern Jewish masterpiece."5* *Review, Amazon*

"I loved it! Finished this book in one sitting as I was engrossed from page 1."5* *Review, Netgalley*

"A Jewish version of a Marian Keyes novel...I really loved it!"5* *Review, Amazon*



"This is quite possibly both the best book I have ever read, and THE book of 2021." - *Lost In Her Bookland*

"A heart-warming read, this uplifting book is what we could all do with in our lives right now." - *Heat*

"A gorgeous feel-good read." - *The Sun (Pick of the Week)*

"Such a wonderful read. It's awkward. It's cute. It's so very relatable." -5* *Review, NetGalley*



SHARON GOSLING

Sharon started off as an entertainment journalist, writing magazine articles and books about science fiction television shows. Since then she has written, produced and directed audio dramas, written numerous children's books for MG and YA readers, and has produced many film and TV tie-in titles.

Sharon and her husband live in a very remote village in northern Cumbria, surrounded by fells, sheep, and a host of lovely neighbours who will one day make very good characters in their own book.

THE LOST ORCHARD

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada),
September 2024

Genre: Commercial Women's Fiction

Rights sold: Netherlands (Zomer & Keuning); Germany (Dumont),

Rights Available: US, Translation, Dramatisation

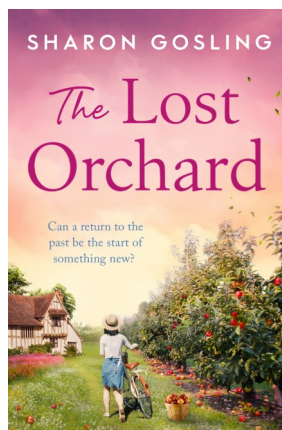
Can a return to the past be the start of something new? Warm, romantic and enchanting - the new novel from the author of *The Lighthouse Bookshop* and *The Forgotten Garden*.

Two sisters. One unexpected inheritance.

The Crowdies have worked the same landscape on the Scottish coast for generations. When Bern Crowdie passes away, everyone expects the farm to pass to his youngest daughter Nina who, with her young son Barnaby, has been living and working with her father for the past five years. Her older sister Bette left when she was eighteen, vowing never to return. Now a successful lawyer in London, it's doubtful she'll even make the funeral – or the reading of their father's will.

When Bette's life takes an unexpected turn, she finds herself back home, and both sisters are utterly shocked to discover that her father decided to split the farm between the two of them after all. With the farm sinking under the weight of hidden debt, secrets begin to emerge – some that bring the sisters closer, some that could save the farm, and some that mean the family could lose it forever.

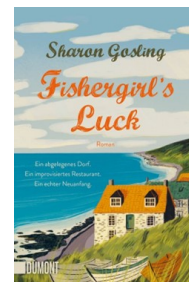
But it is the discovery of an old apple orchard that could change everything.



THE HOUSE BENEATH THE CLIFFS

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada)

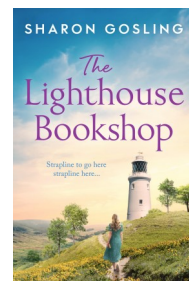
Rights sold: Russian (Sindbad), Swedish (Modernista), German (DuMont Verlag), Dutch (Zomer & Keuning), Italian (Garzanti), Norwegian (Cappelen Damm)



THE LIGHTHOUSE BOOKSHOP

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada)

Rights sold: Germany (Dumont), Sweden (Modernista), Netherlands (Zomer & Keuning), Israel (Tchelet), Italian (Garzanti), Norwegian (Cappelen Damm), Russian (Sindbad), Ukrainian (KM Media)



THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada)

Rights sold: Sweden (Modernista), Netherlands (Zomer & Keuning); Germany (Dumont), Russia (Sindbad)



"A wonderfully wise and **beautifully written** story about finding the courage to start over ... **I loved it!**"

- Isabelle Broom



NIKKI MARMERY

Nikki worked as a financial journalist for 15 years, specializing in credit derivatives and foreign exchange markets. The financial crisis, followed swiftly by the arrival of three small children, put an end to that, and she now writes historical fiction from a small village in the Chilterns.

Her first novel, *On Wilder Seas*, was published by Legend Press in 2020. Inspired by a true story, it tells the tale of Maria, the woman who sailed on the Golden Hind during Francis Drake's famous circumnavigation voyage. Earlier drafts of the novel were shortlisted for the Myriad Editions First Drafts Competition 2017 and the Historical Novel Society's New Novel Award 2018. In July 2020, it was selected for the Wilbur & Niso Smith Foundation's #AdventureSociety book club. *Lilith* is her second novel.

LILITH

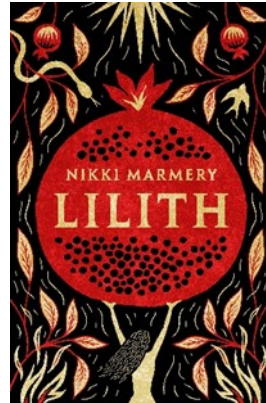
UK Publisher: Legend Press (UK/Comm ex. Canada), October 2023

Genre: Literary Feminist Historical Fiction

Rights Sold: German (S. Fischer Verlag), Audio (WF Howes), North American (Alcove Press), Turkish (Eksik Parca), Croatian (Znanje)
Rights Available: All other translation / Dramatisation

In the Garden of Eden, at the beginning of time, an outrageous lie is born: that women are inferior.

Lilith and Adam are equal and happy in the Garden of Eden. But when Adam decides Lilith should submit to his will and lie beneath him, she refuses – and is banished forever from Paradise. Demonised and sidelined, Lilith watches in fury as God creates Eve, the woman who accepts her submission. But Lilith has a secret: she has already tasted the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. Endowed with Wisdom, she knows why Asherah – God's wife and equal, the Queen of Heaven – is missing. Lilith has a plan: she will rescue Eve, find Asherah, restore balance to the world and regain her rightful place in Paradise.



**Lilith is the heroine women have waited
six thousand years for...**

"Stellar . . . This feminist reimagining of the Bible **will grip readers.**"
 - *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"**A sweeping fairy tale** . . . Quick and imaginative . . . An engaging feminist revision of the ancient world's Abrahamic religions." - *Kirkus Reviews*

"*Lilith* makes The Red Tent seem tame. It is "**speech that cannot be silenced**"—a ferocious, heterodox mythic novel that upends notions of divinity, femininity versus masculinity, and human beings' responsibility toward one another and the earth." - *Foreword Reviews*, starred review

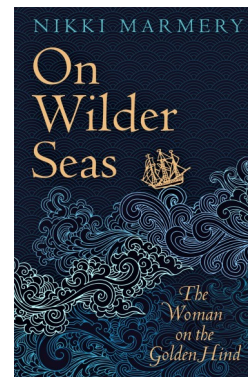
"**Illuminating, fascinating and important**—a fierce and valuable addition to feminist myth-retellings." - Jennifer Saint, *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Ariadne*

"Exquisite prose brings this **compelling, highly relevant** tale of Adam's first wife to life." - Laura Shepperson, *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Phaedra*

"Fans of Madeline Miller and Jenny Saint will love this **evocative feminist retelling.**" - Rosie Andrews, author of *The Leviathan*

"**A primal cry** echoing through the centuries." - Luna McNamara, author of *Psyche and Eros*

"**Exquisitely written** and full of wit and female rage." - Rani Selvarajah, author of *Savage Beasts*



Also by Nikki Marmery:

"A gripping adventure story of an extraordinary journey... **compelling.**"
 - *Mandy Haggith*





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 recently named one of Ireland's '30 under 30' most exciting artists by the *Sunday Times*. Her novels have received rave reviews and found fans all around the world, having been published in 17 languages to date.

THE RACHEL INCIDENT

UK Publisher: Virago (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), June 2023

Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction

Rights Sold: US/Canada (Knopf), German (KiWi), Dutch (Ambo Anthos), Russian (Eksmo), French (Mercure de France), Ukrainian (Vivat), Serbian (Vulcan), Portuguese (PRH), Spanish (Libros del Asteroide), Italian (NN Editore), Hungarian (Athenaeum), Czech (Grada), Brazil (Buzz Editora), UK Audio (W F Howes), Film/TV (Universal / Page Boy)

Rights Available: Translation

"If you've ever been young, you will love *The Rachel Incident* like I did"

- Gabrielle Zevin

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...



"Profoundly satisfying ... O'Donoghue has found a way to tell this story in scenes both heartbreaking and funny ." - Ron Charles, *Washington Post*

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

"A book I took to my heart. . . Funny, poignant, heartbreaking, beautifully plotted, with clever, pacey dialogue, vivid characters and a shocking plot twist that left me gasping in horror." - Barbara Trapido

"A sensational new entry in the burgeoning millennial-novel genre." – *Kirkus Reviews* (starred)

"Joyful, passionate ... at times spit-out-your-tea funny - and always a bittersweet delight." – *Bookseller, Editor's Choice*



"A book full of love, and it is extremely easy to love reading it ." – *Vogue*

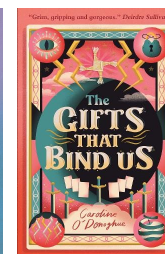
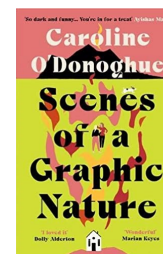
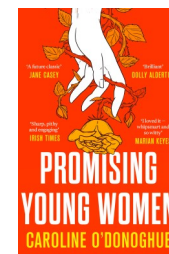
"Hilarious, wise and wonderfully written ." - Graham Norton

"Easily 13/10. Funny, LOVELY, romantic, DRENCHED in nostalgia, it made me extremely happy." – Marian Keyes

"It's funny and nostalgic and the sex scenes are actually sexy ... it's everything I want from a summer book" - Monica Heisey

"Chaos at its finest" - *Stylist*

Also by Caroline O'Donoghue:



"One of the brightest stars in the current galaxy of young Irish writers." - Jane Casey



EMMA PASS

Emma Pass is a writer and editor who published two YA novels before making the move to adult fiction. She also works as a freelance editor, ghost writer, is a reader for the Literacy Consultancy and has written for *Mslexia* magazine.

Emma has been teaching creative writing, mentoring writers and facilitating workshops in schools, libraries and community settings and online since 2011.

THE GIRL FROM NORWAY

UK Publisher: Aria/Head of Zeus (World English), August 2023

Genre: Commercial Historical Fiction

Rights Available: Translation / Dramatisation

1942. When Helda Dahlstrøm flees her abusive husband and Nazi-occupied Norway with her eight-year-old son she doesn't know if they'll make it out alive.

In her desperate journey to safety she'll find sanctuary on the rocky shores of the Shetland Islands, rescued by Canadian Flight Sergeant Bill Gauthier.

As WWII's destruction rages at their doorsteps, can love find its way through the storm?



Extract:

'Mamma!' Eirik wailed, clinging to me as we were thrown against one wall and then the other; I could hear nothing except the roar of the storm, and we were being hurled around so violently now I was certain the boat would be smashed to matchsticks. Was the engine still running? Were those men still with us? Had we been forgotten – abandoned? Soundlessly, I began to pray, tears streaming down my face as I begged God to keep us safe for just a little longer. I do not want to die. Please do not take my son from me like this. Please do not let us drown.

As the boat lurched again I put a hand out to try and steady myself, and realised that I had put my hand down in an inch or so of water. My skirts were wet too, and I realised, with fresh horror, that the sea was coming into the boat. I tried to scramble to my feet but another jolt knocked me back down. Foul-tasting water splashed into my mouth. I coughed and spluttered. 'Mamma!' Eirik cried again in a tone I had never heard him use before.

We have to get out of here, I thought, pulling him into my arms. As the seawater lapped around our feet. I turned towards the entrance to the hidden room, wondering if I had the strength to pull the heavy boards that covered it aside.

Then the lamp flickered one last time and went out, plunging us into darkness.

Also by Emma Pass:



"An absolutely stunning book... I adored everything about this." - *NetGalley Reviewer*, *****

"OH MY GODDESS this book has become **a new favourite...** Ruby and Sam's love is addicting and heart-warming." - *@haleyyneal*, *****

"What a gorgeous book!!... This book kept me up late into the night turning page by page like it was on fire to see what happened next." - *NetGalley Reviewer*, *****





CATRIONA SILVEY

Catriona Silvey grew up in rural Scotland, and went on to do a PhD in language evolution, in the hope of finding out where all these words came from in the first place.

Catriona now lives in Edinburgh. Her short stories have been performed at the Edinburgh International Book Festival and shortlisted for the Bridport Prize. *Meet Me In Another Life* is her debut novel.

MEET ME IN ANOTHER LIFE

UK Publisher: HarperCollins (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), July 2021

Genre: Literary/Speculative Fiction

Rights Sold: US (William Morrow), Hungarian (Könyvmolykepző), Polish (Poradnia K), Hebrew (Aryeh Nir), Vietnamese (Nhan Van), French (Bragelonne), Italian (Mondadori), Brazil (Buzz Editora), Russian (AST), Korean (Moonhaksoochup), Complex Chinese (Infotress), Ukrainian (Laboratory), Turkish (Eksik Parça), Film (Atlas/Pilot Wave)

Rights Available: All other translation

****No. 2 WATERSTONES BESTSELLER****

****SUNDAY TIMES TOP 20 BESTSELLER****

****INDY NEXT PICK SUMMER 2022****

Joyful, devastating, and profound, *Meet Me in Another Life* is a story of love and connection in every possible form.

Thora and Santi have met before...

Under the clocktower in central Cologne, with nothing but the stars above and their futures ahead.

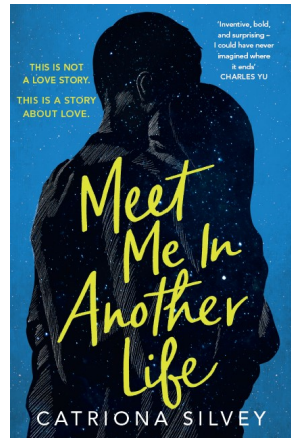
They will meet again...

They don't know it yet, but they'll meet again: in numerous lives they will become friends, colleagues, lovers, enemies – meeting over and over for the first time, every time; each coming to know every version of the other.

Only they can make sure it's not for the last time.

But as they're endlessly drawn together and the lines between their different lives begin to blur, they are faced with one question: why?

They must discover the truth of their strange attachment before this, and all their lives, are lost forever.



Extract:

Dear Santi,

I once asked my father if it was possible to remember someone you'd never met. He, of course, turned it into a philosophical treatise about the nature of memory: how remembering is an act of reconstruction, increasingly distant from the experience that formed it. But that wasn't what I meant. I meant you. You, my brother, my friend, my partner in so many ways, all your selves scattered across my memory like the fragments of light cast by a prism.

The problem, you see, is that I'm the wrong person for this to have happened to. Someone else would wake up with memories of a person they'd never met, of a hundred lives they'd never lived, and go on a mission to find that person, understand those lives. But the idea of meeting you terrifies me. What I remember can't be true, and you are the only evidence that could persuade me otherwise. That's a truth I don't want, and that I never asked for.

But part of me still imagines it. Maybe one day you'll walk up to me, with that impossibly remembered smile, and say it's all part of the plan. I can't say I'll be pleased to see you. It would mean that too much of what I've known has been a lie. But it would be a relief to stop missing someone I've never met.

Day by day this world feels more shallow to me, more full of holes. Perhaps one day, I'll fall through one of them. Perhaps I'll see you there.

Thora

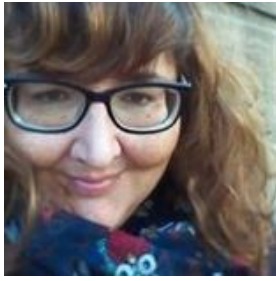


"An **incredible** debut... IT BLEW MY MIND. It is what fans of the *THE TIME-TRAVELER'S WIFE* have been craving." - *Liberty Hardy, Book Riot Senior CE*

"**Inventive, bold and surprising** – from where the novel starts I could have never imagined where it ends. Cleverly constructed and highly entertaining." - *Charles Yu*

"Brilliant, lush, and **achingly imaginative**! I love this book in every life." - *Beth Revis*

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



DAISY MAY JOHNSON

Daisy is the author of the gorgeous *How To Be...* series of boarding school adventures. In her spare time she blogs about children's literature at *Did You Ever Stop To Think And Forget To Start Again*, about her research at *Big Boots and Adventures*, and sends the occasional Tiny Letter. She is the former host of Book

Riot's *Novel Gazing* podcast.

HOW TO BE BRAVE

UK Publisher: Pushkin (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), July 2021

Age Group: 8+

Rights Sold: US (Henry Holt), Turkish (İş Kültür), Audio (W F Howes)

Rights Available: Translation, Dramatisation

Some stories are about adventure.
Some are about heroes.
Some are about ducks.

This one is about all three.



Calla North and her mum Elizabeth live a life that's far from normal. There are days when the power is cut off and Calla has to do her homework by candlelight; there are others when curious strangers want to talk to Elizabeth about her research on ducks.

When Elizabeth says yes to a once-in-a-lifetime trip to save a small brown duck, she sends Calla to the best place she knows: The School of the Good Sisters. Staffed by nuns whose preferred subjects include light aircraft maintenance, camouflage skills, and cake - lots of cake - Calla is about to discover her bravery, and to learn that when trouble comes, there's no better back-up than a Blessing of Nuns...

"Finishing this **stunner of a book** has left me bereft...Accomplished, clever, witty and full of fun, it is a **quirky treat from start to finish.**"

– Carmen H, Bookseller

HOW TO BE TRUE

UK Publisher: Pushkin (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), July 2022

Age Group: 8+

Rights Sold: US (Henry Holt), Audio (W F Howes)

Rights Available: Translation, Dramatisation



Some stories are about love.
Some are about rebellion.
Some are about macarons.

This one is about all three.

Edie Berger was born to a family of troublemakers. When her activist parents leave Paris to protest around the globe, her grandmother decides it's time Edie became a proper young lady and so sends her to the School of the Good Sisters.

But to Edie's surprise, the nuns at the school teach genuinely useful things, like how to build a perfect library, cater for midnight feasts and make poison darts, and mischievous Edie feels right at home. When a school trip to Paris is planned, she worries about returning to the strict order of her grandmother's chateau – but things are not as she left them. Soon Edie and her rebellious friends are caught up in a mystery involving a precious painting, a very persistent burglar and secrets from her grandmother's past...



Coming soon...!

HOW TO BE FREE

UK Publisher: Pushkin (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), May 2024

Age Group: 8+

Rights Sold: US (Under Option), Audio (W F Howes)

Rights Available: Translation, Dramatisation



JOSEPHINE O'REILLY

Josie has loved books and writing for as long as she can remember. As a committed daydreamer, much of her time is spent in imaginary worlds, and this has led to some of her best story writing. She has had short stories published in The London Magazine and Writers' Forum and has been longlisted for the Bath Children's Novel Award 2021 and the Exeter Novel

Award 2020, shortlisted for the Wells Festival of Literature 2021 Book for Children Competition and selected as a Readers' Favourite in the WriteMentor Novel in Development Award 2021.

Josie now lives in Surrey with her English teacher husband, two children and naughty dog.

NEVERN COVE

Status: On UK Submission, ms available

Age Group: 12+

Rights Available: All

Lily Sheehan wants nothing more than to return to Bristol and go back to before – before the divorce; before her mum got sick. She definitely doesn't want to be stuck in a tiny cottage on the edge of a remote cove in Galway, with an aunt she barely knows and only the howling wind and the Connemara ponies for company.

But Lily can't help being drawn in by the raw beauty and the unforgiving nature of the landscape. And to the boy who seems to be born from the sea each day, only to return to it at night...

For centuries, stories of Nevern Cove have crept into the mouths and hearts of the Galway people and, in their retelling, claimed a place in the forevermore of myth. Over the course of the summer, Lily uncovers more than she could ever have imagined and realises that nothing will ever be the same again.

Extract:

Far beneath the salt-glazed window, the sea was flat and the colour of steel. At the front of the house was a rock-bordered garden with a clothesline strung along the length of it and beyond that the pale swathe of Nevern Cove. Half buried in its sand lay the remnants of a shipwreck, its frame strewn with seaweed and blunted by centuries of storms. Beneath the reefs of cloud pulling in, it hulked like a ghost ship, a relic of some doomed voyage.

Lily rubbed at the small hairs rising at the back of her neck and pulled her eyes away to where the shoreline narrowed at the cliffs. At their feet, a bank of rocks yawned into a series of caves, dark as open jaws.

Squinting, she could just make out the road they had taken to the house last night. It was two lean tire tracks through the grasses and the only vehicular access to the house. There were no other houses in sight. No cars, no people, not even any animals, aside from the wheeling birds.

But just as she stood to fetch some clothes from her bag, something moved on the horizon through the window. She approached, eyebrows drawn together, and stared out.

On the clifftop above the cove, a small herd of ponies had gathered to graze, drifting with their faces low, their white tails lifting in the breeze.

Holding so still that her neck began to pinch, silently she pleaded with the ponies to stay on the cliffs where she could watch, transfixed. They were so different from the horses near home, tethered in scrappy paddocks on the fringes of the city, backbones sagging and manes tangled with briars. These animals were almost silver in the morning light and their black, hypnotic eyes, sweeping across the plains and windblown grasses, saw everything. There was a strange magic to them. A soothing timelessness. They brought with them a sense of something greater than themselves.

After some time, they started to move away. They turned in synchronicity with the ease of animals that knew their territory and could wander wherever they pleased, taking the trail down the craggy incline before disappearing out of view.

Lily exhaled as the cove emptied out. Just a lonely beach again. Just mile upon mile of endless sea and ancient heath.





E J TAYLOR

Elizabeth spent a decade as a secondary-level English teacher where she encouraged many young people to follow their literary dreams, while eagerly awaiting the summer holidays so that she could do her own writing. Following the pandemic, she decided to pursue her writing full-time. She has been shortlisted and published in Free Flash Fiction's Competition

Seventeen, and she has been longlisted in the 2023 Frome Festival Short Story Competition. Elizabeth loves many genres of fiction and has a particular affection for Shakespeare. She makes an annual pilgrimage to the Globe in London, and hopes to have one day seen every play live.

Elizabeth has a degree in English Literature from the University of Cambridge. She returned from her studies to South Yorkshire, where she lives with her partner. Their home has a custom-built 'cinebrary', a fusion of their main interests.

SPIRITBOUND

Status: On UK Submission, ms available

Age Group: YA

Rights Available: All

Sixteen-year-old Queen Clara has spent her life watching from the sidelines as her father, the Lord Protector, has sought to harness electricity in order to eradicate the practice of spiritcasting which killed her mother, all while keeping her own spiritcasting abilities a secret. But when a band of rebels attack the capital, a spirit calling itself Makaris appears, claiming to have knowledge of what really happened to her mother and promising to lead her to the proof.

Nineteen-year-old Finn has spent the last three years imprisoned in the castle. When his mother's attempt to stage a prison break results in her capture, Finn vows to go to any means necessary to get her free, even if that means joining forces with the Lord Protector to hunt down his daughter. But when he catches up to Clara and realises that she is a spiritcaster, Finn faces an impossible decision: save his mother, or help the girl he's falling in love with?

Extract:

Her father gestured above his head. 'Through this wire runs a current at 180 volts. We hope to develop this wire into a full grid by the end of the decade, providing...'

180 volts. Clara dug her nails into her palms behind her back, willing her smile to remain in place. Her body could tolerate electricity – to a point. But where that point lay varied on a range of factors. There was a reason why all Royal Guards came equipped with electrical manacles as standard.

Raucous applause punctuated the end of her father's speech, and Clara's heart pounded as he untied the ceremonial rope. It was almost time. Inside the tram, filament bulbs suddenly came alive, making the windows gleam with hazy spots of orange light.

Her father didn't hesitate. He swung his body up over the threshold with the agility of a man half his age.

Clara knew she must follow. It was too late to invent some excuse, to feign some illness. No, she must feign 'wellness' – whatever the electricity might do to her.

Please let me endure it.

She took a step past the rope barrier. Another step brought her to the tramcar.

Heat from a thousand eyes radiated onto her back as she gathered her stiff lace skirt and underskirts in one hand and reached up to the metal support with her other. She watched her gloved fingers coil around the bar. Her heeled boot rose in the air and planted itself on the raised floor of the tramcar. And her body crossed the threshold.

The pressure was instantaneous. Expecting it made no difference, and an involuntary gasp escaped her throat. No!

She struggled against a thick, squeezing band that constricted her chest and throat, aware her gasp had drawn her father's gaze. Someone behind her – one of the waiting lords – gave a soft cough of impatience. They were all watching her. They would all know. She had to move. Now.





BRENNA HASSETT

Dr Brenna Ryan Hassett is a bioarchaeologist whose career has taken her around the globe, researching the past using the clues left behind in human remains.

She is 1/4 of the team behind TrowelBlazers, a wide ranging project that does everything in its power, from designing

dolls to creating art exhibits shown in the Houses of Parliament, to bring the lost stories of women in the digging sciences back to light.

Her first book with Bloomsbury Sigma – *Built on Bones: 15,000 Years of Urban Life and Death* – was well received by critics at the LA Times, the Guardian, and the Times (UK), which named it one of the top 10 science books of 2018.

GROWING UP HUMAN

UK Publisher: Bloomsbury (WEL), June 2022

Genre: Pop Science Non-Fiction

Rights Sold: Simple Chinese (Beijing United), Russian (AST Prime), Turkish (LiberPlus)

Rights Available: Translation

In *Growing Up Human*, bioarchaeologist Brenna Hassett brings the science of physical anthropology to bear on understanding how our evolutionary history has shaped a phenomenon every reader will have experienced: childhood.

The development of a foetus is an extraordinary biological process by itself, but the story of how we grow up began long before any of us were even born. Paleoanthropological science has revealed that deep in our hominid lineage we began to diverge from other primates by giving birth to fatter, more helpless infants and developed one of humanity's most striking adaptations – the evolution of childhood; a long period of dependence and social learning that makes us the animals we are today.

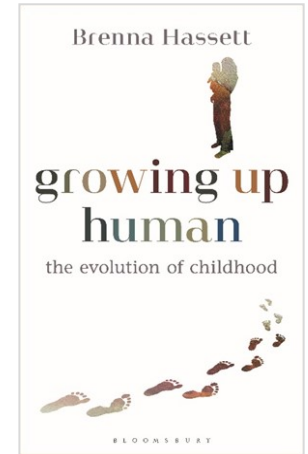
This is the first book to cover both the evolution of human children as biological phenomena and the cultural impact visible in the archaeological record for a popular readership. It explains why you should expect what you expect when you're expecting by examining every aspect of human development, from the evolution of our large-headed, helpless, high-fat babies right through to the social importance of childhood and adolescence, how this has changed over the millennia, and how we can interpret the story of childhood through the ages using teeth, skulls and bones.

Extract:

You are weird. Your baby is weird, and you were weird as a baby. And after that? You just got weirder. And that is for reasons that include planetary domination, but also a long tale of penis spikes and hidden ovulation and fertile fat and monogamy and unripe and unready babies and the evolution of dads and the secret purpose of grandmas and some very, very strange parenting practices ancient and modern that make us the miracle that we are: the ape who never grew up. We, alone among the animals, have decided that not only do we want to live forever, we want to be forever young. We take an extraordinary amount of time to grow up. Our childhood is incredibly drawn out compared to not just other animals but to other apes. We are terrible at getting pregnant, then when we do, we undercook the baby and end up with a ridiculously helpless infant. We throw that infant off the breast and into a world of toddling terror sooner than any other species, but then we just sort of ... stay kids. For a really long time. When other apes are getting down to reproducing, we are still off in Neverland, playing and learning and doing what it is kids do.

Why should this be? The answer is in our evolutionary history, way out in the badlands of speculation, fossils, and other subjects of the science of the past. The weirdness of us is the result of an uncountable number of tiny little decisions our parents' parents' parents' and so on back for millions of years made. To carry a baby or to park it? What kind of milk, and how often? Prioritise fat or free-ranging? What to teach the baby and when? Stone tools or Babylonian schools? These types of incremental decisions are still ones parents are making every day, and this matters because evolution isn't static.

It isn't an arc of progress leading to our sublime selves, perfect and unchanging. Each parenting choice we made – or was made for us – has resulted in the kind of human we are today. And the ones we make today are the ones that determine what kind of humans we are tomorrow.





SANDRA LAWRENCE

Sandra Lawrence has written for all the broadsheets and over 60 magazines and websites. Her books include *Anthology of Amazing Women*, *Atlas of Monsters* and *The Witch's Garden*. She has been fascinated with the ruined gardens at Warley Place since her very early teenage years, and with the ruins' owner,

Ellen Willmott, for not much less than that. Five years spent recovering Willmott's physical—and digital—world have taken that fascination to an obsession that will stretch long beyond the publication of *Miss Willmott's Ghosts*.

MISS WILLMOTT'S GHOSTS: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND GARDENS OF A FORGOTTEN GENIUS

UK Publisher: Bonnier Books (UK/Comm ex. Canada), May 2022

Genre: Narrative non-fiction; historical biography

Rights Available: All

Hidden in the shadows of once-spectacular gardens in Essex, France and Italy, a story lies sleeping, of a woman whose ferocious talent marked a path in Victorian horticultural discovery and cultivation. Much like her gardens, however, her reputation has been left in ruins, her achievements are all-but forgotten. Her name was Ellen Ann Willmott and these are her ghosts.

The gardens of this horticultural and social maverick became spaces of beauty and abundance, filled to bursting with unusual species and highly prized cultivars. Miss Willmott's reputation preceded her, experts of the age flocked to consult on everything from fussy exotics to previously unknown species. There was little her photographer's lens did not capture.

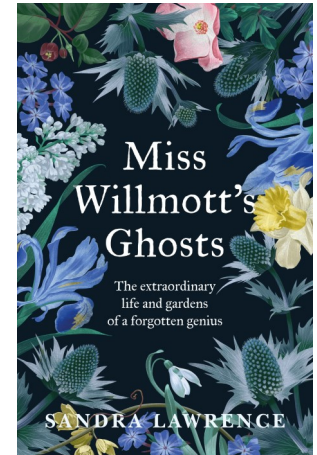
At the pinnacle of Willmott's shining career, however, a series of events cast a shadow across these accolades, propelling this horticultural wonder and her achievements into a downward spiral. Her battle to survive led to an enduring image of Miss Willmott: veritable genius, maybe, but 'formidable'; a miserly, cantankerous spinster who sprinkled sea-holly seeds in other people's gardens. The legend survives today, but there is much more to this prickly tale.

In *Miss Willmott's Ghosts*, author Sandra Lawrence lifts the creaking lid on a previously undiscovered archive and uncovers the truth behind this elusive legend.

Hidden between the virtuoso achievements, joyous creativity and celebrity rivalries lies a tangled tale of squandered inheritance, unconventional love, and, the heart of it all, a trailblazing talent.

Extract:

Brambles part, vague outlines form and strange apparitions manifest in the tangle. Moss-covered phantoms morph into broken cold frames. Heaps of brick become crumbled steps; hollows turn into underground chambers. For a brief, intoxicating moment in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Warley played host to one of the most important gardens in the country. Then it descended into darkness, taking Miss Willmott with it.



The old walled garden shelters more visions: an incongruously exotic Chusan palm, an ancient camellia, the remains of tightly clipped box hedging, now blousy shrubs rapidly succumbing to the modern horrors of box-tree caterpillar. Black and red terracotta tiles peep through fallen leaves; the crumbling remains of a fountain just about cling to existence. A raised pond in the labyrinth of ruined hothouses miraculously still holds water.

Even Miss Willmott's home is a phantasm. Jumbled foundations and mosaic floors hint at a music room, a library, a chapel. White-tiled, fern-fronded walls of a basement kitchen merge into the curved brick arches of a long-dead wine cellar. Victims of landslides, rockfalls and even a Second World War bomb, they whisper: of champagne, of cigars and dancing 'til three. It all seems a long time ago.

Also by Sandra Lawrence:

