



DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS

LITERARY AGENCY

Spring Rights Guide 2023

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CAROLINE O'DONOGHUE

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

Ondaatje Prize, as well as 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 15 languages to date. Caroline was born in Ireland and currently lives in London.

THE RACHEL INCIDENT by Caroline O'Donoghue

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), 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...



“I really loved this book. The Rachel Incident kept me guessing while feeling deeply comforted the whole way through.” - *Emer McLysaght*

“A book I took to my heart. . . Funny, poignant, heart-breaking, 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)*

“This joyful, passionate story from the author of *Promising Young Women* is at times spit-out-your-tea funny - and always a bittersweet delight.” – *Bookseller, Editor's Choice*

“I can't explain the sheer unadulterated glee of reading this. ...

O'Donoghue's observant, incredibly smart writing and character work and story are just the peak of modern fiction for me right now.” – *Lizzie Huxley-Jones*



“Big-hearted, witty and expertly crafted - I want to live inside this book.” - *Sloane Crosley*

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

“I didn't know books could be this hilarious. *The Rachel Incident* is so warm and comforting, and the characters so real - I care about them so deeply!” - *Annie Lord*

Also by Caroline O'Donoghue:



“One of the brightest stars in the current galaxy of young Irish writers.” - *Jane Casey*





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 FORGOTTEN GARDEN by Sharon Gosling

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), April 2023

Genre: Commercial Women's Fiction

Rights sold: Sweden (Modernista), Netherlands (Zomer & Keuning); Germany (Dumont), Russia (Sindbad), (Israel, Italy, Poland, and Ukraine under option)

Rights Available: US, Translation, Dramatisation

A novel of second chances and blossoming communities from the author of The Lighthouse Bookshop.

Budding landscape architect Luisa MacGregor is stuck in a rut - she hates her boss, she lives with her sister, and she is still mourning the loss of her husband many years ago. So when she is given the opportunity to take on a parcel of land in a deprived area, she sees the chance to build a garden that can make the area bloom.

Arriving in the rundown seaside town of Collaton on the north-west coast of Cumbria, she realises that her work is going to be cut out for her. But, along with Cas, a local PE teacher, and Harper, a teen whose life has taken a wrong turn, she is determined to get the garden up and running.

So when the community comes together and the garden starts to grow, she feels her luck might have changed. Can she grow good things on this rocky ground? And might love blossom along the way...?



THE HOUSE BENEATH THE CLIFFS by Sharon Gosling

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), August 2021

Genre: Commercial Women's Fiction

Rights sold: Russian (Sindbad), Swedish (Modernista), German (DuMont Verlag), Dutch (Zomer & Keuning), Italian (Garzanti), Polish (Burda Media Polska)

Rights Available: US, Translation, Dramatisation



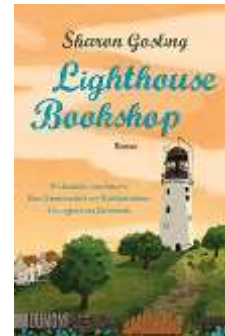
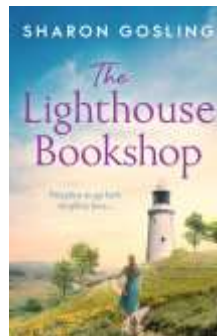
THE LIGHTHOUSE BOOKSHOP by Sharon Gosling

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), August 2022

Genre: Commercial Women's Fiction

Rights sold: Germany (Dumont), Sweden (Modernista), Netherlands (Zomer & Keuning), Israel (Tchelet), Italian (Garzanti), Polish (Burda Media Polska), Russian (Sindbad), Ukrainian (KM Media)

Rights Available: US, Translation, Dramatisation



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

- Isabelle Broom





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 by Daniel Aubrey

UK Publisher: HarperNorth (WEL), Spring 2024

Genre: Investigative Crime

Rights Available: French (JC Lattes), Swedish (Lind & Co), Ukrainian (Laboratory)

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.





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 by Nikki Marmery

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

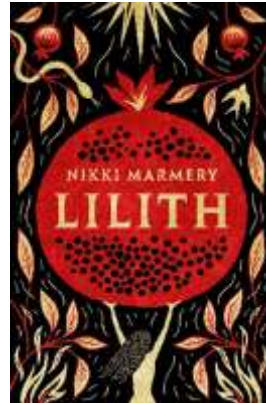
Genre: Literary Feminist Historical Fiction

Rights Sold: German (S. Fischer Verlag), Audio (WF Howes), North American (Alcove Press), Turkish (Eksik Parca)

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...**

Extract:

The tenderness drained from him like blood from a sacrificed lamb. He slammed a balled fist into the rock.

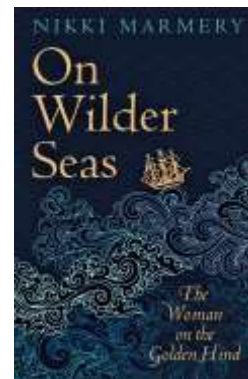
'Do not question me!' he roared. 'It is my strength, my right hand. I carry it to protect you because you are mine! I wield it to remind you of your weakness!'

I froze to hear these words. Why did he think I was his? Why did he want me to feel weak?

As it turned out, the sword he claimed was for my protection was of little defence against that which could hurt me most.

His body that I loved so much, he used against me. His oak-strong arms held me down and his tender hands crushed and bruised my wrists. He forced me beneath him and pinned me with his legs, a knee forced into the inner flesh of my thigh, his other foot pinioning my ankle. The hard rock of the boulder bit from below and he pummelled me from above and within. He smothered my mouth to stop me cursing and looked over my head as if I were not there. Where once we had pleased each other, now I was but an empty vessel for his desire. With violence he had his joy of my body and there was none in him for me.

Was it worth it, Adam? You took by force what you had always had by love. It cannot have been sweeter.



Also by Nikki Marmery:

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

- Mandy Haggith





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 by Catriona Silvey

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

Genre: Literary/Speculative Fiction

Rights Sold: US (William Morrow), Hungarian (Konyvmolykepzo), 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), 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.

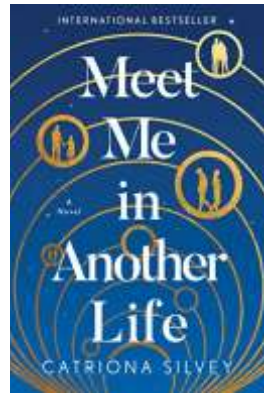
The problem, you see, is that I'm the wrong person for this to have happened to. Someone else would wake up with memories of a person they'd never met, of a hundred lives they'd never lived, and go on a mission to find that person, understand those lives. But the idea of meeting you terrifies me. What 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*





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 by Jayne Cowie **(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)
Rights Available: Translation, Dramatisation

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

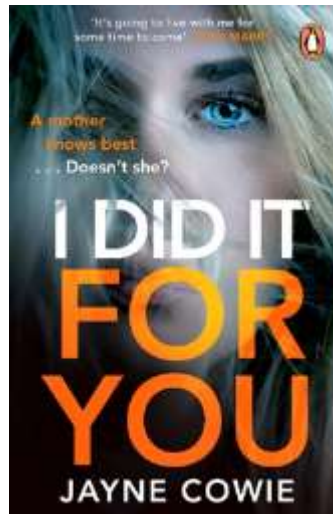
Antonia and Bea are sisters, and doting mothers to their sons. But that is where their similarities end. Antonia had her son tested to make sure he didn't possess the "violent" M gene. Bea refuses to let her son take the test. His life should not be determined by a positive or negative result.

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), 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.

ADULT VIRGINS ANONYMOUS by Amber Crewe

UK Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), August 2020

Genre: Romantic Comedy

Rights Available: US, Translation, Dramatisation

"Such a wonderful read. It's awkward. It's cute.

It's so very relatable."

-5* Review, NetGalley

Kate Mundy's life is not going to plan. Nearing thirty, she's been made redundant from her job, her oldest friends have quietly left her behind, and she can barely even admit her biggest secret: she's never even been on a date.

Freddie Weir has spent most of his twenties struggling with severe OCD and anxiety, and now his only social interactions consist of comic book signings and fending off intrusive questions from his weird flatmate Damian. There's no way Freddie could ever ask a girl out. Is there?

A self-help group for self-confessed adult virgins is the last place either expect to find love...



THAT JEWISH THING by Amber Crewe

UK Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton (World), August 2021

Genre: Romantic Comedy

Rights Available: US, Translation, Dramatisation

Tamsyn Rutman is at yet another wedding, for yet another cousin. She wouldn't mind - the food's pretty good, the location is fabulous and there's a moderately famous singer crooning away - but what is a Jewish wedding if not the perfect opportunity for the bride to do a bit of matchmaking on behalf of her single, workaholic cousin? Tamsyn's not at the table with her parents and her family, she's sitting next to Ari Marshall.

Ari is everything Tamsyn doesn't want for herself, and everything her family want for her. Stubbornly determined not to fall into the trap of someone else's happily ever after, Tamsyn decides to focus on work, and while interviewing London's hottest new chef, finds herself being swept off her feet . . . by someone her family *definitely* wouldn't approve of.

But somehow, Ari and Tamsyn keep crossing paths, and she's about to find out that in love, and in life, it's not always easy to run away from who you really are...



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

Praise for Amber Crewe:

"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)*

"A **brilliant** book with a **brilliant** concept." - 5* Review, NetGalley

"This book is a **modern Jewish masterpiece.**" - 5* Review, NetGalley

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





S E LISTER

Sophie Lister grew up in Gloucestershire, and is a graduate of the prestigious Creative Writing programme at Warwick University. She has been reading stories since she was old enough to pick up a book, and writing them almost as long. Her debut novel *Hideous Creatures* (2014) was shortlisted for the Edinburgh First Book Award, and was

followed by *The Immortals* (2015).

Alongside her creative writing, she has written for various magazines and websites about philosophy and film.

CITY OF RUINS by S E Lister

UK Publisher: Old Street Books (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), August 2021

Rights Sold: Audio (W. F. Howes), Canada (Kobo)

Rights Available: US, Translation, Dramatisation

Genre: Literary/Magic Realism

"[A] powerful third novel ... Lister excels at depicting the complexity and consequences of deadly court politics and the misuse of power."

- *Guardian*

The people of an ancient city awaken one night to find the earth beneath them trembling. But only the Augur, a fearless prophetess who was once the power behind the throne, sees the fate that awaits them.

As the skies darken and portents threaten, a handful of people are drawn to do the Augur's bidding. Fierce Saba and pale-haired Aemilia, her young acolytes, stolen from their homes long ago. Myloxenes, gentle son of the savage High Priest; and crippled Antonus, the man who should have been Emperor. In the city's last days, each will be tested.

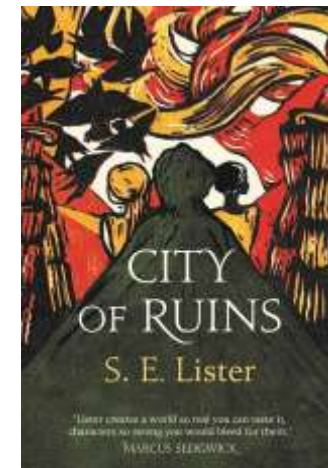
Their dearest hopes may not survive the fire that is to come.

Extract:

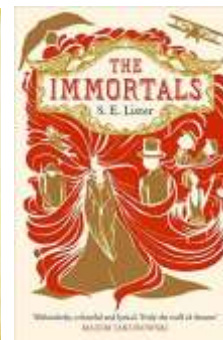
Saba wakes in darkness. She knows at once that the Augur has not yet returned from the mountain. She lies on her back, senses suddenly sharp. And then the earth begins to move.

It is over in a moment, a shift so low and deep that it might be mistaken for a noise imagined in sleep. The tremor is felt by hundreds in the city below who open their eyes in the dark and turn in their beds and forget by morning. Saba sits up, wide awake. Stones rattle into stillness in the courtyard below. The flames of the torches fixed to the temple gate waver and flare. By their light Saba spies three or four long shadows, men lurking on the steps outside the gate.

Aemilia mutters fretfully, but does not wake. Saba slips barefoot from bed, shrouds herself in her cloak, hood raised over her head. Palm of one hand against the wall to guide her, she climbs to the Augur's quarters, to be certain of her own intuition. When she pushes open the door at the top of the narrow stairwell, the moonlit chamber is empty. Loose leaves of parchment are strewn across the floor. Saba stands for a moment in the doorway, hearing her own heart beat harder. She feels a shadow pass over her, as though a flock of birds has winged overhead. Saba, who barely has it in her nature to worry or to fear.



Also by S E Lister:



"Grips and enchants and you never want it to end. A seductive new voice."

- *Lovereading.co.uk*





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 by Emma Pass

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 addictive and heart-warming.” - @haleyneal, *****

“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, *****





DANI REDD

Dani is a graduate of UEA's Creative Writing MA and PhD programmes. She's had short fiction articles and essays published in publications such as *The Island Review*, *Horizons* and *The Citron Review*. She won *Words and Women's* inaugural creative writing competition, and recently gained third place in *Hinterland's* creative nonfiction competition. An early draft of *THE ARCTIC CURRY CLUB* was longlisted for the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize.

Dani is also a travel writer, contributing regularly to *National Geographic Traveller India*, and is the editor of *Great British Food* magazine .

THE ARCTIC CURRY CLUB by Dani Redd

UK Publisher: Avon (World English), November 2021

Genre: Uplift Women's Fiction

Rights Sold: Russian (Everbook), Film/TV (to be announced)

Rights Available: Translation

'For my whole life I had been looking for home. But why would that be in a place that I'd left? Perhaps I had to keep moving forward in order to find it...'

Soon after upending her life to accompany her boyfriend Ryan to the Arctic, Maya realises it's not all Northern Lights and husky sleigh rides. Instead, she's facing sub-zero temperatures, 24-hour darkness, crippling anxiety – and a distant boyfriend as a result.

In her loneliest moment, Maya opens her late mother's recipe book and cooks Indian food for the first time. Through this, her confidence unexpectedly grows – she makes friends, secures a job as a chef, and life in the Arctic no longer freezes her with fear.

But there's a cost: the aromatic cuisine rekindles memories of her enigmatic mother and her childhood in Bangalore. Can Maya face the past and forge a future for herself in this new town? After all, there's now high demand for a Curry Club in the Arctic, and just one person with the know-how to run it...

A tender and uplifting story about family, community, and finding where you truly belong – guaranteed to warm your heart despite the icy setting!

Extract:

"We are now beginning our descent into Longyearbyen. Please return to your seats and make sure your seatbelts are securely fastened."

The strange plummeting sensation in my stomach didn't just come with the drop in altitude.

I'd laughed when Ryan told me he'd been offered a fellowship monitoring polar bears in the closest settlement to the North Pole. But he wasn't joking—he showed me the email and told me how cool it would be if I went with him. I'd visualised the two of us huddled in a smoke-filled hut, clubbing seals for breakfast, speaking to nobody but each other until we went mad and started eating our shoes. He reassured me that Longyearbyen was a proper little town, with a supermarket, hotels, pubs and restaurants. Slowly, it had stopped seeming like a crazy idea.

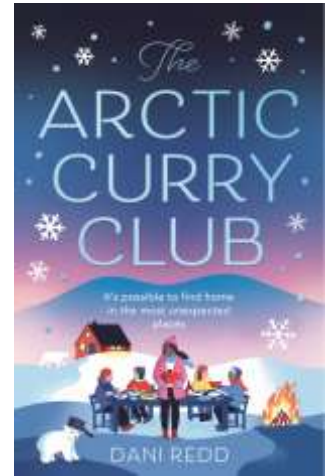
Of course, there are countless examples of the idea of a thing not matching up to the reality. Like dresses you order online, worn by much thinner models. Like attempts to make intricate novelty cakes. Like communism...

"Maya? Are you alright?"

Ryan was looking at me, eyes wide with concern.

I forced a smile.

"Yep. Fine. Completely fine."





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.

She thinks children's literature can, does and will change the world.

HOW TO BE TRUE by Daisy May Johnson

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...

Extract:

Although they all had rooms at the family château way up on the hill, Edie and her parents tended to sleep in the basement of the plant shop, the three of them wrapped up in rugs and cushions and caring for nothing other than being together. Each night, Jean-Claude would tell his small daughter bedtime stories of the brave and remarkable women in France. He spoke of people like Joan of Arc and of George Sand and Louise Michel, and even though Edie did not quite understand everything that he said, she knew that the stories made her heart sing.



"But that's what they should do," said Jean-Claude when Edie told him this. He gave her a little squeeze of pride. "Stories don't just stay inside a book. You carry everything you've read inside of you, and when you need them, it's the memory of those stories that will help you figure out what to do with your life."

And when he said that, Edie realised that she was going to change the world.

"I'm going to change the world," said Edie.

"Quite right too," said Jean-Claude. "I'd expect nothing less."

Also in the How To Be... series:



"Finishing this **stunner of a book** has left me bereft, and with a book hangover that nothing else can fix. Accomplished, clever, witty and full of fun, it is a **quirky treat from start to finish.**"

– Carmen H, Bookseller





VIRGINIA MACGREGOR

Virginia Macgregor was brought up in Germany, France and England by a mother who never stopped telling stories. From the moment she was old enough to hold a pen, Virginia set about writing her own.

Her debut novel for adults, *What Milo Saw* (Little, Brown, 2014) was published to great acclaim and has so far been translated into 12 languages. This was followed by *The Astonishing Return of Norah Wells*, *Before I Was Yours* and *You Found Me*. Her debut YA novel, *Wishbones*, was published by HQ HarperCollins in 2017. *As Far As The Stars* is her second novel for YA readers.

AS FAR AS THE STARS by Virginia Macgregor

UK Publisher: HQ (WEL), April 2019

Age Group: 13+

Rights sold: Russian (Labirint)

Rights Available: Dramatisation / Translation

How do you change what's already written in the stars?

Two teenagers wait at Dulles International Airport, Washington D.C. Air is there to meet her brother Blake who is flying in from London. Christopher is waiting for his father, who is on the same flight.

But the plane never arrives.

With their worlds crashing down around them, Christopher and Air find themselves on a faced-paced road trip to Nashville—Air trying to convince herself that her brother must miraculously still be alive. That somehow he'd got on a different plane. Her wonderful, infuriating brother can't possibly be gone.

Christopher, meanwhile, can't tell Air his biggest secret—that his father was the pilot of the missing plane. And that he knows her brother isn't coming home. Because how can you tell someone something so terrible when you're falling in love with them?

And how can he possibly be falling in love, when his world is falling apart?

Extract:

Where the hell are you, Blake?

I go up to a guy wearing what I recognise as a BA uniform:

'Excuse me –'

He spins round. His eyes are wide and kind of jumpy. BA officials have this way of looking totally calm. Like even if the airport was on fire every hair would stay in place. Mom says it's a British thing. But this guy doesn't look calm, not at all. Which is strange. Like it's strange that everyone around me is acting so stressed out. It's not like they've all got weddings to go to – or Moms like mine. Planes get delayed all the time.

'The plane – the one that's been delayed,' I say to the BA guy. 'I was meant to pick someone up.' I pause. 'Or I think I was. It's kind of complicated. Could you check the passenger list for me?'

He stares at me and blinks like I'm not speaking English.

I try again, trying to calm myself down enough to get the words out in the right order:

'I need to check whether my brother was meant to be on the plane that's been delayed.'

'I'm afraid we can't release that information.'

'I'm his sister.'

'We still can't release that information. Not at this point.'

'What point?'

He looks at me like I'm about two years old – or totally crazy – or both.

'I'm sorry I can't help,' the guy says, his eyes still darting around. 'I've got to go.'

My heart starts doing this weird arrhythmic pounding thing.

This can't be happening.



Praise for *Wishbones* by Virginia Macgregor:

"A hugely enjoyable read." - TES

"Compelling, gritty and suffused with promise, this is a true triumph of contemporary YA" - lovereading4kids.co.uk

"A heartbreaking but hugely important read"

- Laura Patricia Rose Blog

"A great book that should be read by adults and kids alike." - *A Bookworm's Guide To Life*



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 by Brenna Hassett

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.

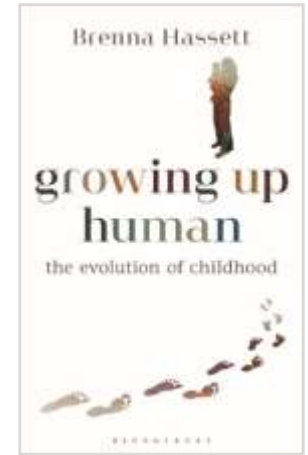
This is the first book to cover both the evolution of human children as biological phenomena and the cultural impact visible in the archaeological record for a popular readership. It explains why you should expect what you expect when you're expecting by examining every aspect of human development, from 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 by Sandra Lawrence

UK Publisher: Bonnier Books (UK/Comm excl Can), 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.

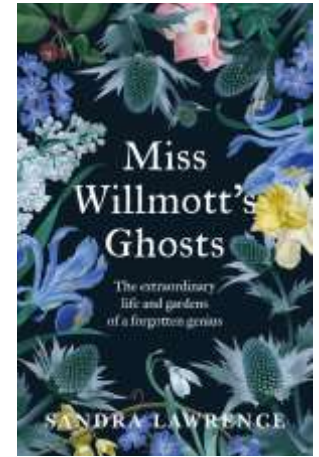
At the pinnacle of Willmott's shining career, however, a series of events cast a shadow across these accolades, propelling this horticultural wonder and her achievements into a downward spiral. Her battle to survive led to an enduring image of Miss Willmott: veritable genius, maybe, but 'formidable'; 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.



Shallow dips and half-buried boulders conjure more spectres: of Willmott's fabled three-acre 'alpine ravine' of gushing streams, dramatic valleys and sheltered pools. One poor ghost, the filmy fern cave, is buried so deep in leaf mould it's hard to see how anyone managed to get inside at all. That's probably a good thing; it's a deathtrap now.

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. Underground boiler rooms and mushroom houses play host to owls and bats and heaven knows what other spirits.

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.

