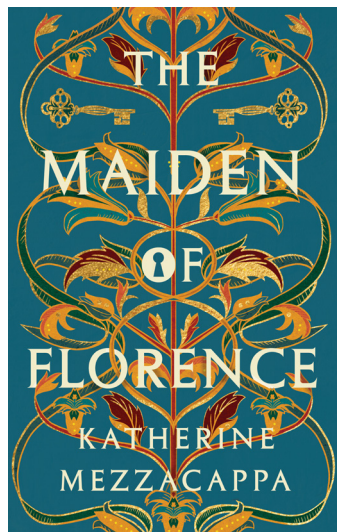


Rights List



THE MAIDEN OF FLORENCE

Katherine Mezzacappa

A powerful reimagining of a woman forgotten by history, reminiscent of *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell.

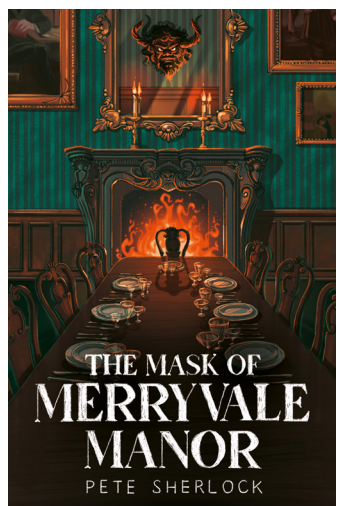
Florence, 1584. Rumours are spreading about the virility of a prince marrying into the powerful Medici family. Orphan Giulia is chosen to stop the gossip. In return she will keep her life – and start a new one with a dowry and her own husband. Cloistered since childhood and an innocent in a world ruled by men, Giulia reluctantly agrees, only to be drawn under the control of the Medicis' lecherous minister.

Years later, married and with a growing family, Giulia hopes she has finally escaped the legacy of her past. But when a threat arrives from a sinister figure from her youth, she must finally take control of events – and become the author of her own story.

'A sensuous and raw story about beauty, sex, sacrifice, and a mother's undying love' – Gina Buonaguro, author of *The Virgins of Venice*

KATHERINE MEZZACAPPA is an Irish author currently living in Carrara, northern Tuscany. Her debut novel *The Gypsy Bride* (written as Katie Hutton) made the last fifteen in the Historical Novel Society's 2018 new novel competition. Her short fiction has been short- and longlisted in numerous competitions, and she has been awarded residencies at Cill Rialaig Artists village by the Irish Writers Centre in 2019 and at Hald Hovedgaard by the Danish Centre for Writers and Translators in 2022.

UK Pub: 18 April 2024
Ext: 336pp (HB)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada
Dramatisation rights
handled by Annette
Green Authors' Agency



THE MASK OF MERRYVALE MANOR

Pete Sherlock

A literary mystery set in the 1960s, focused on a wealthy family following the discovery of a body in the grounds of their estate. For fans of Daphne Du Maurier and Donna Tartt.

On the cusp of the 1960s, when fourteen-year-old Ben moves into the ancestral home of his aunt and uncle, he is shocked by their wealth and glamour. Under the watchful eye of the Merryvale Mask, his sophisticated cousins teach him how to appreciate their languid opulence and draw him into the world of the elites. But five years later, when a woman's body is found on the estate, his new life begins to crumble.

As the family is placed at the centre of a murder investigation, Ben starts to see their manipulative power in a harsher light. Placed on a collision course with his family, Ben faces a dilemma: how far is he willing to go to fit into their world?

'A fabulously dark and atmospheric page-turner full of complex characters and deceit' – Amanda Geard, author of *The Midnight House*

PETE SHERLOCK is an investigative journalist at the BBC, based in Birmingham. He started his journalism career working for several local newspapers across London, and has won a Wincott Award for data journalism and an award for editorial innovation at the Drum Online Media Awards. *The Mask of Merryvale Manor* is Pete's debut novel.

UK Pub: 20 June 2024
Ext: 320pp (PB)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada

Rights List



PLEASE FEAR ME

Jennifer Love

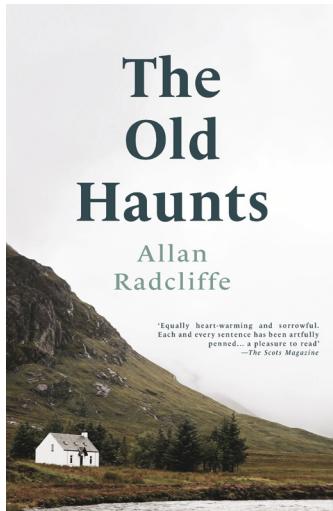
A biting contemporary novel exploring family, identity and addiction from the perspective of a teenage runaway in America, for readers of *Burnt Sugar* by Avni Doshi and *Bunny* by Mona Awad.

Sixteen-year-old Smidge is on the run, after her tumultuous upbringing culminated in a shameful secret. Together with fellow runaway Violet, Smidge devises a performance act that will allow them both to rise above the past. As they attempt to sell their new performance, they travel through the underbelly of America, eventually finding home in a travelling circus. Under the influence of the sinister ringleader, Violet is drawn deeper into their new lifestyle, while Smidge realises she can never fully break her connection to home. Forced to change her compass, Smidge must confront the shame and fear that have shaped her, and recast her relationship with her flawed mother, before it is too late.

‘A poignant and atmospheric coming-of-age story. Love has produced the literary equivalent of the best kind of road movie’ — **Ola Mustapha**, author of *Other Names, Other Places*

JENNIFER LOVE is a writer and Bay Area native who currently calls Oakland in California home. Her debut short story collection, *Punch a Hole in the Sky to Let In the Light*, was published by Sever Books in 2023, and her short fiction and poetry have appeared in *X-RAY*, *Minola Review*, *Storm Cellar*, *Autre* and elsewhere. *Please Fear Me* is Jennifer’s debut novel.

UK Pub: 5 Sept 2024
Ext: 288pp (PB with flaps)
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland



THE OLD HAUNTS

Allan Radcliffe

A wistful coming-of-age story set in Edinburgh and rural Scotland, for fans of Douglas Stuart and Ocean Vuong. Recently adapted as a BBC Radio 4 Book at Bedtime.

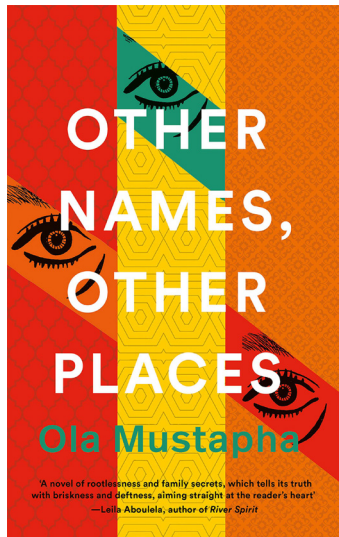
Recently bereaved Jamie is staying at a rural steading in the heart of Scotland with his actor boyfriend Alex. The sudden loss of both of Jamie’s parents hangs like a shadow over the trip. In his grief, Jamie finds himself sifting through bittersweet memories, from his working-class upbringing in Edinburgh to his bohemian twenties in London, with a growing awareness of his sexuality threaded through these formative years. In the present, when Alex is called away to an audition, Jamie can no longer avoid the pull of the past: haunted by an inescapable failure to share his full self with his parents, he must confront his unresolved feelings towards them.

‘Equally heart-warming and sorrowful. Each and every sentence has been so elegantly penned’ — *The Scots Magazine*

‘There is much to admire in this novel: the elegance and economy of the writing, the understanding of emotional difficulties, the truth to life’ — *The Scotsman*

ALLAN RADCLIFFE was born in Perth, Scotland, and now lives near Edinburgh. His writing has won the Allen Wright Award and the Scottish Book Trust New Writer’s Award. With an MA from the University of Glasgow, he works as an arts journalist and editor, and is currently a freelance theatre critic and feature writer. His short stories have been published in anthologies including *Out There*, *The Best Gay Short Stories* and *New Writing Scotland*, and broadcast on BBC Radio 4. *The Old Haunts* is his debut novel.

UK Pub: 14 Sept 2023
Ext: 160pp (PB)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada



OTHER NAMES, OTHER PLACES

Ola Mustapha

A fresh, dynamic and witty debut novel dealing with identity and culture clash, for readers of Zadie Smith, Kiley Reid and Naoise Dolan.

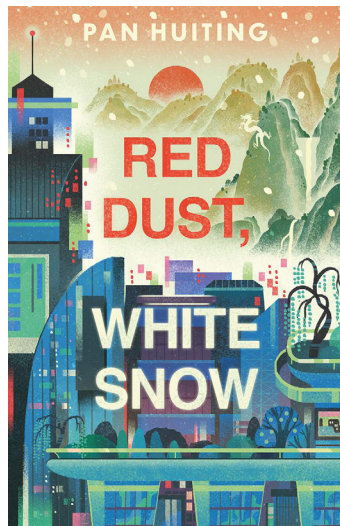
Growing up in London with Tunisian parents, wayward Nessie finds herself caught between cultures. Her parents don't want her becoming too English, while at school she doesn't feel 'white enough' or 'African enough' to fit in with any group. She even has multiple names: Nesrine officially, Susu to her family, Nessie to everyone else. And then there's Mrs Brown: a charismatic woman who befriends her parents and soon becomes the glue holding their dysfunctional family together. Yet after a catastrophic betrayal, Mrs Brown abruptly disappears from their lives. Years later, Nessie seeks independence but struggles to escape a pattern of self-sabotage. As unsolved family mysteries resurface, she begins to wonder: what really happened between her parents and Mrs Brown?

'This is a novel of rootlessness and family secrets, which tells its truth with briskness and deftness, aiming straight at the reader's heart' — **Leila Aboulela**, author of *River Spirit*

'An immersive and gorgeous read' — **Eva Verde**, author of *Lives Like Mine*

OLA MUSTAPHA was born in London and spent part of her childhood living in Egypt. In her twenties she spent several years teaching English in Japan, and she now works as an editor in London. Her short fiction has been published in literary journals including *Aesthetica*, *Storgy* and *Bandit Fiction*. *Other Names, Other Places* is her debut novel.

UK Pub: 13 July 2023
Ext: 304pp (HB)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada
Audio rights sold to
Saga Egmont



RED DUST, WHITE SNOW

Pan Huiting

Literary sci-fi about identity, technology and changing realities in an increasingly digital world, set in near-future Singapore. For fans of *Black Mirror* and readers of Sayaka Murata and William Gibson.

When an office worker receives a mysterious device promising to transport her to a parallel universe, she assumes it is just another marketing stunt. That night, she visits a fantastical place in her dreams; on waking she returns to her normal life, only to return to the same dream the following night.

At first she finds the ongoing dreams bizarre, but the more time she spends in the dream world, the less she wants to wake up. Yet as her fantasy begins to encroach on her waking life, dream and reality collide with drastic consequences.

'A dizzying, inventive, page-turning debut' — **Daryl Qilin Yam**, author of *Lovelier*, *Lonelier*, longlisted for the 2023 Dublin Literary Prize

'A wry satire of the way the virtual has bled into people's lives' — *The Straits Times*

PAN HUITING lives and works in Singapore. After studying Fine Art at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, she completed a Master of Arts in Singapore and a Master of Research in Fine Art at the Royal College of Art, London. Huiting has taught courses in global art and art criticism at Nanyang Technological University and has displayed her art in exhibitions across Singapore and London. *Red Dust, White Snow* is her debut novel.

UK Pub: 17 Aug 2023
Ext: 192pp (PB)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada

Rights List

DANCING IN THE SHALLOWS

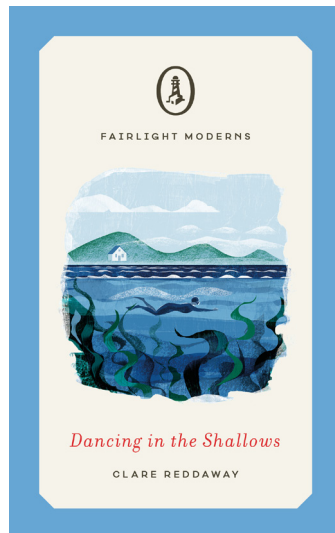
Clare Reddaway

A moving novel about the chains of inheritance and whether they should be broken or embraced, for fans of Rachel Joyce.

Isla Wintergreen has not seen her grandfather since she was seven, but when she unexpectedly inherits his cottage on the Isle of Skye, she cannot resist the opportunity to escape her purposeless life. As she slowly becomes a part of the island community, she learns more about the family she never really knew – from her estranged father, to her reclusive grandfather, and her intelligent but oppressed great-grandmother. Meanwhile, her mother Cathy reflects on her own past. Mother and daughter both hope to find new freedom – but can family patterns ever really be broken?

‘An impressive and memorable debut novella of intergenerational relationships, *Dancing in the Shallows* masterfully explores the loves, losses, and secrets of Isla Wintergreen and her family’ – Emma Timpany, author of *Travelling in the Dark*

CLARE REDDAWAY is a Bath-based writer of short stories and plays. Her short stories have been widely published online and in anthologies, and she has won and been listed for many short story competitions, including the BBC National Short Story Awards and the Bridport Prize. Clare’s plays have been performed throughout the UK, including runs at the Edinburgh Festival and in London and Bath. *Dancing in the Shallows* is her debut novel.



UK Pub: 14 Mar 2024
Ext: 256pp (PB)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada

SMALL WARS IN MADRID

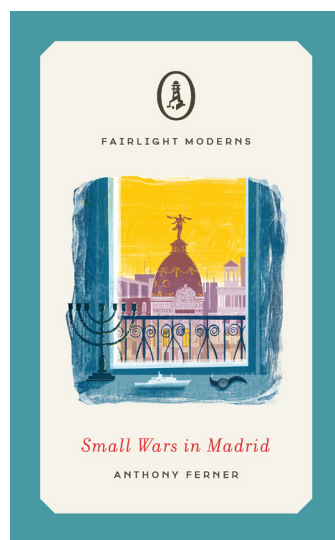
Anthony Ferner

Set in Madrid, a story about faith, identity and love in an increasingly uncertain world. Perfect for readers of Howard Jacobson.

David Aguilera’s life is collapsing around him. After the catastrophic loss of the vessel under his command and a perilous trek across the Baltics to safety, he returns home to find himself unable to reconnect with his family. Frustrated by his inability to express what he is feeling, his wife Margalit moves out to stay with friends, taking their children with her. As David anxiously awaits the official inquiry into his conduct, he turns to those who are most important to him – his closest friend and comrade Marce; his Catholic adoptive mother; his Jewish birth mother; and Margalit, herself Sephardi Jewish. Faced with the prospect of losing his family altogether, he must confront his conflicting identities and faiths and decide the man he wants to become.

‘A thoughtful novel about trauma, coming-to-self, and the sometimes inextricable links between such complex processes’ – **Ilana Masad**, author of *All My Mother’s Lovers*

ANTHONY FERNER started writing fiction back in the 1990s and has been a member of the Tindal Street Fiction Group since 2010. He has previously published three short novels: *Winegarden* (2015), *Inside the Bone Box* (2018) and *Life in Translation* (2019). With a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Oxford, and a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Sussex, Anthony had a career in academic research.



UK Pub: 14 Mar 2024
Ext: 288pp (PB)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada

Rights List



MOTHER SEA

Lorraine Wilson

Shortlisted for Scotland's National Book Awards Scottish Fiction Book of the Year 2023

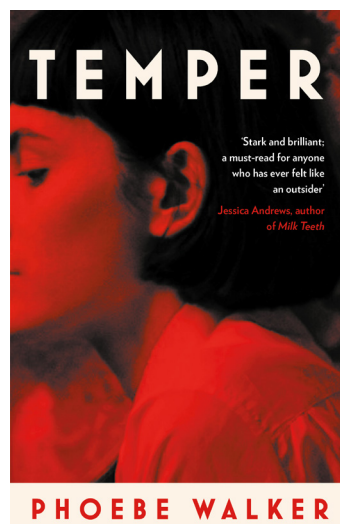
Lyrical climate fiction about a pregnant scientist living on a remote island threatened by climate change. For readers of Kiran Millwood Hargrave and Leone Ross.

Sisi de Mathilde lives on a remote island in the Indian Ocean. With the seas rising, the birth rate plummeting and her community under threat, she works as a scientist, reporting on local climate conditions to help protect her island home. But her life is thrown into turmoil when she finds herself newly widowed and unexpectedly pregnant. When a group of outsiders arrive and try to persuade her community to abandon the island, Sisi is caught between the sacred 'old ways' of her ancestors and the possibilities offered by the outside world. As tensions rise and the islanders turn on one another, Sisi must fight to save her home, her people and her unborn child.

'Lyrical, moving, and at times haunting' — **Awais Khan**, author of *No Honour*

LORRAINE WILSON is an ex-conservation scientist who writes speculative fiction influenced by folklore and the wilderness, and by her third-culture heritage. Her debut novel *This Is Our Undoing* (2021) was shortlisted for the Kavva Prize and longlisted for the British Science Fiction Association's Best Novel award, and her second novel *The Way the Light Bends* was published in 2022.

UK Pub: 18 May 2023
Ext: 352pp (HB)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada
Audio rights sold to
Saga Egmont



TEMPER

Phoebe Walker

A zeitgeisty millennial novel exploring loneliness and disconnection, for readers of Jenny Offill, Megan Nolan and Jessica Andrews.

Following a move to the Netherlands, a young woman dissects the developments of her new life: awkward exchanges with the people she meets, days spent alone freelancing in her apartment, her confrontation with boredom and unease. In her newfound isolation, she develops an unusual friendship with Colette, a woman she neither likes nor can keep away from. As her feelings of dislocation grow, larger anxieties about her purpose – or lack of it – begin to encroach. And underneath it all, a burgeoning frustration bubbles.

'*Temper* explores loneliness, alienation and transience in lucid, gorgeous prose. Walker's observations on the nature of work and the hollowness of modern life are stark and brilliant' — **Jessica Andrews**, author of *Saltwater* and *Milk Teeth*

'Written in a uniquely poetic style, littered with acerbic wit and masterfully created observations, *Temper* captures the lingering frustration that is so widely felt; the need, the inability, and the pain of finding a place to belong' — **NB Magazine**

PHOEBE WALKER is originally from Northumberland. She has lived in both London and the Netherlands and is now based in Manchester. Her debut poetry pamphlet, *Animal Noises*, received an Eric Gregory Award in 2021; she also won the Mairtín Crawford Poetry Award in 2019 and a Northern Writers' Award for poetry in 2012. Her poetry has been published in *Ambit*, *The Moth* and *Magma*. *Temper* is her debut novel.

UK Pub: 13 April 2023
Ext: 144 (PB with
french flaps)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada
Audio rights sold to
Saga Egmont

Rights List



BECOMING DELILAH

Sara Marchant

A charming and captivating drama exploring identity, new beginnings and illicit romance, set among an insular island community.

On a windswept island off Cape Cod, Delilah moves into a cottage by the shore. After growing up in precarious circumstances with her Abuela, both of them hiding a terrible secret, all Delilah wants now is a place of her own – and she's paid a high price for it.

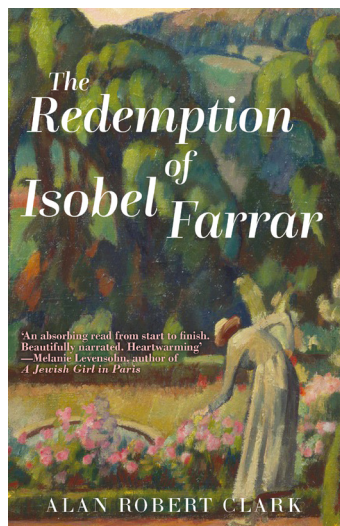
The neighbours watch the newcomer and wonder about her. They don't like it when she plants a wild and colourful garden in the front yard, and they like the visits from her married lover even less. Meanwhile, her new cottage shares a driveway with the reclusive Anton, who has a secret of his own. When the two meet, sparks fly – but will the past catch up with them?

'A serene and sensuous novel of love, trauma, and redemption. Marchant's prose is as measured and lush as a summer garden' – **Liska Jacobs**, author of *The Pink Hotel*

'A meditative novel about trauma, healing, and what comes next' – **Foreword**

SARA MARCHANT lives in Southern California. She is the author of a novella, *The Driveway Has Two Sides* (2018), and a memoir, *Proof of Loss* (2019). Her short fiction and essays have been published in numerous literary journals and anthologies. Sara is a founding editor of Writers Resist. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts from the University of California, Riverside.

UK Pub: 15 June 2023
Ext: 224pp (PB)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada
Audio rights sold to
Saga Egmont



THE REDEMPTION OF ISOBEL FARRAR

Alan Robert Clark

An atmospheric historical novel exploring family ties and LGBTQ+ relationships in the 1920s, for fans of Salley Vickers and Rose Tremain.

England, 1926. After years of living abroad, Lady Isobel Farrar has returned home to Halcyon Hill, her beloved country house, and finds herself dwelling on a long-buried secret. In the wake of a terrible tragedy in her youth, Isobel gave up a child for adoption, and now she can't help but wonder what became of him.

Life has not been kind to Frank Brodie. Cruelly mistreated by his adoptive parents, he spent his young adulthood struggling to survive on the harsh streets of London. Now he has found safety with Arthur, an older man who loves and protects him – but something is still missing from his life.

When mother and son are finally reunited, will they be able to lay the past to rest?

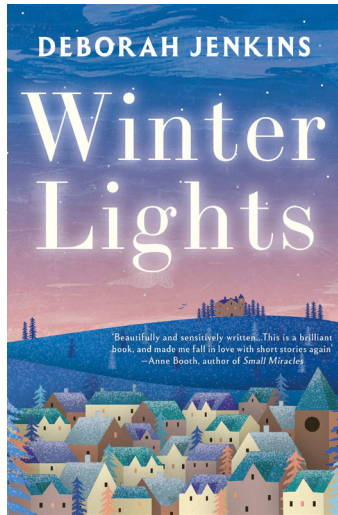
'An absorbing read from start to finish. Well plotted and beautifully narrated. Heartwarming' – **Melanie Levensohn**, author of *A Jewish Girl in Paris*

'Beautifully composed... clever and original' – **On: Yorkshire Magazine**

ALAN ROBERT CLARK was born and educated in Scotland. He has worked as a copywriter and creative director with leading advertising agencies, and has also ghost-written and co-authored a number of biographies. He is the author of three previous novels, including *The Prince of Mirrors*, which was included on the Walter Scott Prize 'Academy Recommends' list in 2019.

UK Pub: 01 June 2023
Ext: 288pp (PB)
Rights held: World
Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada
Dramatisation rights
handled by The
Ampersand Agency

Rights List



WINTER LIGHTS

Deborah Jenkins

A heartwarming short story collection for the festive season by ADCI Literary Prize-shortlisted author, for readers of Matt Haig.

Across the small town of Henford, families are preparing for the holiday season. A teacher, pulled in every direction by family and work, forms an unexpected friendship following a collision; a mother and daughter unexpectedly forced to stay with the in-laws open themselves to new family; a carer on New Year's Eve brings something more than her nursing skills when she visits the client no one wants to see. Meanwhile, in nearby Ashdown House, an elderly woman hopes to bring her family and community together as they never have been before.

Told through a series of heart-warming and uplifting stories, *Winter Lights* explores the complexities, struggles and joys of everyday life, showing that light can still bloom even in the darkest places.

'Beautifully and sensitively written... This is a brilliant book, and made me fall in love with short stories again' — **Anne Booth**, author of *Small Miracles*

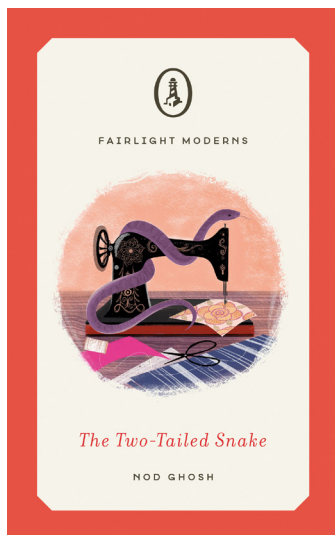
DEBORAH JENKINS is a freelance writer and primary teacher who has worked in schools in the UK and abroad. Her novel *Braver*, published with Fairlight Books in June 2022, was shortlisted for the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Best First Novel Award and the Society of Authors ADCI Literary Prize. She has written several educational textbooks, as well as articles for the *TES* online and *Guardian Weekend*, among other publications. Her short fiction has appeared in magazines and anthologies, and she has also published a novella, *The Evenness of Things*. She lives in Sussex.

UK Pub: 09 Nov 2023

Ext: 112pp (PB)

Rights held: World

Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada



THE TWO-TAILED SNAKE

Nod Ghosh

A moving coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of pre-partition India. Perfect book club fiction, for readers of Alka Joshi and Deepa Anappara.

North-east India, 1945. Tensions are rising, but fourteen-year-old Joya doesn't pay much attention to 'political business' – she is more concerned with doing well at school and having fun with her best friends. Yet when her father disappears without a trace, Joya's life falls apart. Forced to drop out of school and support her mother by working in a garment factory, she refuses to accept that her father is gone forever, spending her nights sewing him a suit from scraps of fine material. But as political unrest grows and rumours of corruption spread, Joya questions the true nature of her father's disappearance. And who is the sinister figure known only as the two-tailed snake?

'A phantasmagoric blend of the mythic and the real. The Two-Tailed Snake is our elusive and chimeric guide as one girl comes of age during the Partition of India and Pakistan' — **Shobha Rao**, author of *Girls Burn Brighter*

NOD GHOSH was born in Birmingham and currently lives in Christchurch, New Zealand. Her short stories and flash fiction have been widely published in journals and anthologies, and her work has been listed for awards including the Bath Novella-in-Flash Award and the Wallace Arts Trust Alternative Bindings Competition. She has had four previous novellas published: *The Crazy Wind* (2018), *Filthy Sucre* (2020), *Toy Train* (2021) and *Throw a Seven* (2022).

UK Pub: 14 Sept 2023

Ext: 224pp (PB)

Rights held: World

Rights available: World
excl. UK and Ireland,
US and Canada