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RACHEL MILLS LITERARY

Rachel Mills Literary is a modern London-based literary agency representing a community of prize-winning and internationally bestselling authors.

As well as translation rights for our own clients, RML also handles translation rights for several other leading London literary and talent agencies: 42MP, YMU, Bergstrom Studio, The Plot Agency, Robert Caskie Ltd and Amanda Harris.

**FICTION**

**AMERICAN DREAM**

Sara Collins



**\*From the author of THE CONFESSIONS OF FRANNIE LANGTON,  
winner of the Costa First Novel Award\***

Cassandra Johnson is a woman who lives in the shadows. Haunted by the omnipresence of the globally recognised rulers of hip-hop, shining couple, Alloy Grant and Mercedes Dawson, winners of multiple awards and even bigger album sales; she fled their toxic menage thirty years ago and has been living a quiet life, desperate to forget the memories they forged together in their youth.

Originally it was the four of them: Cassandra, Alloy, Mercy and Blaze - Alloy's musical partner - who died in a horrific murder that has never been solved.

While Blaze and Cassandra have paid with their lives for the sins of their past, Alloy and Mercy have not only survived but thrived. Until now.

Now Alloy Grant is in a correctional facility, held by the FBI; Mercy has disappeared from public view. No one has seen or heard of her since Alloy's arrest.

When a letter arrives in London to Cassandra from Alloy's lawyer asking her to return to New York to see him, she is plunged into remembering the reasons they came together and the reasons she fled all those years ago.

What does he want with her now? What can she possibly give him he does not already have?

These are questions Cassandra must face at Alloy's most desperate time. But in doing so, it will require her to acknowledge the truth behind the icon and her part in his rise in order for her to decide, whether she will bring about his downfall - or his resurrection.

Can you ever truly survive your first love?

**SARA COLLINS** studied law at the London School of Economics and worked as a lawyer for seventeen years. In 2014 she embarked upon the Creative Writing Masters at Cambridge University, where she won the 2015 Michael Holroyd Prize of Re-creative Writing and was shortlisted for the 2016 Lucy Cavendish Prize for a book inspired by her love of gothic fiction. This turned into her first novel, THE CONFESSIONS OF FRANNIE LANGTON, which won the Costa First Novel Award, was translated into 12 languages and was adapted into an acclaimed ITV series.

**DECEIT**

RL Heber

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**On submission Spring 2025**

Elizabeth Harker is the English wife of the soon-to-be President of one of the most prestigious universities in New England.

Elizabeth hears the news of her husband's promotion whilst in the bed of her lover, a man with whom she has been having a torrid, secret affair and who also works at the university but who has kept a careful distance from her shining star of a husband.

As the wife of the incoming President, all eyes will be on her, and as those around her husband are quick to remind her, her behaviour reflects not only on her marriage but the university itself.

Reluctantly she realises she must break off the affair, but then on the day of her husband's inauguration, in the midst of his maiden speech, it is revealed that her lover has been found brutally murdered on campus.

Immediately Elizabeth is plunged into despair. The consequences for both her and her husband, if anyone discovers the affair, are too jeopardising to contemplate.

But when she discovers her lover left a message on her voicemail in the moments before he is murdered, she is faced with two terrifying questions.

How can she escape this unscathed? Who murdered her lover and why?

As events unfold, Elizabeth begins to realise she is at the centre of a very dangerous web where she can trust no one and worst of all, that in death, the man she betrayed her husband with may cause the destruction of everything she so desperately wants.

**RL HEBER** is a pseudonym for a writer who has published several books in another genre and who is now moving in a new direction.

## THE LAST INNINGS OF ALBERT HODGE

Laura Foster



**On submission Spring 2025**

Pear Tree Place is the retirement village, where people come to wait for death.

That is certainly why Albert Hodge has chosen to live there. After the loss of his beloved wife, Beth and with old age now a fact rather than a prospect, all he wants is to live out the rest of his days in undisturbed peace.

Until Sylvia Carraway arrives, with an uncanny gift of disturbing everything and everyone around her.

Rich, twenty-years younger than the rest of the people there, with a penchant for smoking and drinking at 11am and playing classical music at painfully loud decibels.

Sylvia is everything Albert is not.

But when fate forces the two of them into each other's lives, Albert comes to realise that Sylvia is not at Pear Tree Place to wait out her final days.

She is here to avenge a crime that has gone unsolved for over forty years.

This is how Albert finds himself, in his 80s, having never even been in so much as a teenage brawl, with a gun in his hand.

Time is running out, but that does not mean you get to abdicate from life and so Albert will have to choose - not just how he should live, but who has to pay.

**LAURA FOSTER** studied Philosophy at Nottingham University before earning a Master's in The Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at The University of Birmingham. She spent nearly a decade working in Higher Education before embarking on her first writing course at Faber Academy where she found community of fellow writers and, finally, a good outlet for her thoughts. She is now based in Bristol with her family. This is her first novel.

**KILL BILLIONAIRE**

Anders Lustgarten



When 14-year-old Australian girl, Kayla Connelly, witnesses her farm burn down due to the effects of climate change, she decides the world's billionaires are to blame and that it is time to take justice into her own hands. With the help of her new friend, Mr Poliata, a Pacific Islander who has recently lost his home to the waves, and cheered on by Nancy, an old woman who has her own reasons for wanting to join the newly formed band of brothers, she embarks on a murderous killing spree, picking off billionaires one by one in the most ingenious of ways.

**UK Publisher:** Chatto & Windus**UK Editor:** Kaiya Shang**Publication:** May 2026**Rights sold:**

Film/TV: 42MP

**On behalf of Eugenie Furniss at  
42**

Soon tiring of Australian oil magnates, she leaves for the US in search of bigger quarry. At an astonishing pace and with breathtaking verve, Kayla achieves the impossible and the world's eyes are upon her. But pick a battle on such a grand scale and things are bound to go wrong. Kayla recounts her story from a prison cell as she awaits her trial. She may be behind bars, but something bigger has been awakened, a movement that cannot be stopped...

**PRAISE FOR ANDERS LUSTGARTEN**

'Extraordinary. . . both a madcap crime caper and a savage state-of-the-nation novel... Anders Lustgarten writes like a man possessed: bursting with energy' **The Times**

'An irreverent, tragicomic tour de force as absurd and as urgent as hope... Lustgarten's novel is comedy as weapon and deep moral inquiry' **Guardian**

**ANDERS LUSTGARTEN** is a playwright and novelist. He won the Catherine Johnson Award for *A Day at the Racists* and won the Harold Pinter Playwriting Award for *If You Don't Let Us Dream, We Won't Let You Sleep*. His play *Lampedusa* has been performed in forty countries. Prior to becoming a writer, Anders was an international 400m runner and a teacher of people on death row in California. His debut novel *THREE BURIALS* was published by Hamish Hamilton in 2024.





**THE SEA LIBRARY**

Sarah Brooks



**UK Publisher:** Weidenfeld & Nicholson

**UK Editor:** Alexa von Hirschberg

**Publication:** 2026

**Rights sold:**

France: Sonatine

Germany: C Bertelsmann/Penguin

Poland: WAG

**\*From the Sunday Times bestselling author of THE CAUTIOUS TRAVELLER'S GUIDE TO THE WASTELANDS\***

It is the end of an alternative eighteenth century. England is at war with the Dutch and unrest simmers throughout the country. Wrecking lights have begun to appear on the cliffs, whilst in the northern seas swim the devilfish, giant creatures hunted for the precious substance they contain, claimed to be the original colour of the sea itself.

In Greenwich, the Sea Library guards its knowledge jealously. William Godsolve, a Library Clerk, is sent to investigate the theft of a book written by a medieval saint, whose visions may hold the key to understanding the strange sickness that afflicts the country. It leads him to the North Yorkshire coast, where Agnes runs a secret school for seasick children, and where a drowned city lies beneath the waves.

William and Agnes must untangle the mysteries of the saint's visions and the sickness. But the Library has its own reasons for wanting the book, and is determined to protect its authority over the sea, whatever the cost.

**PRAISE FOR SARAH BROOKS**

'[An] exciting, intelligent debut novel' **The Sunday Times**

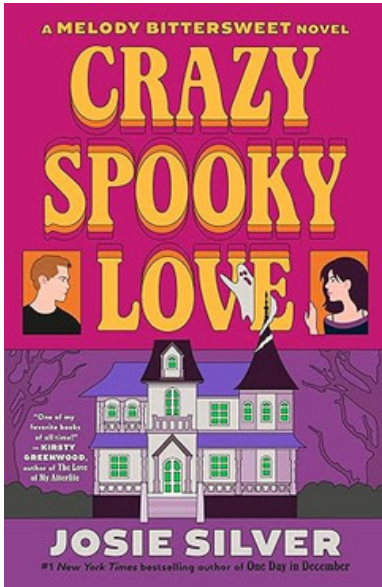
'I was completely transported by this book... I loved every second I spent with it and urge everybody to pick up a copy. It's an astonishing journey.' **STUART TURTON, bestselling author of The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle**

**SARAH BROOKS** won the Lucy Cavendish Prize in 2019. She works in East Asian Studies at the University of Leeds. She is also co-editor of *Samovar*, a bilingual online magazine for translated speculative fiction. Her debut novel *THE CAUTIOUS TRAVELLERS GUIDE TO THE WASTELANDS* was published by W&N in 2024, was a Sunday Times bestseller and has been translated into 16 languages.



## CRAZY SPOOKY LOVE: A Melody Bittersweet Novel

Josie Silver



**UK Publisher:** Evermore/  
Cornerstone

**UK Editor:** Claire Simmonds

**US Publisher:** Crown

**US Editor:** Hilary Teeman Rubin

**Publication:** September 2025

**Extent:** 288

**Rights sold:**

Germany: Rowohlt

Israel: Kinnert

Russia: Azbooka-Atticus

**A plucky medium, her fame-chasing ex, and an infuriatingly handsome skeptic reporter make for a complicated love triangle—and that's before the ghosts get involved. From the #1 New York Times and Sunday Times bestselling author of ONE DAY IN DECEMBER comes the first novel in a ghost-hunting series full of romance and humor.**

In the leafy, charming town of Chapelwick, the Bittersweet family has been a fixture on High Street for as long as anyone can remember. Their rambling black-and-white building houses all three generations of ghost-sensitive Bittersweet women and their business, Blithe Spirits.

On her twenty-seventh birthday, Melody Bittersweet converts the disused back storeroom into her office and opens her own business. Unlike the rest of her family, she's not taking down messages from ghosts—she's taking them out.

Soon, the Girls' Ghostbusting Agency takes on its first case: a grand old house that won't sell because a trio of incumbent ghost brothers raise merry hell whenever prospective owners arrive to view it.

It soon becomes clear that there's a whole heap of unfinished business between the Scarborough brothers—including murder—and Melody isn't the only one trying to unravel the mystery. Leo Dark, her rakish ex and business rival, is also on the case, along with the TV crew that trails him.

To make matters worse, the sarcastic and skeptical (and annoyingly good-looking) local reporter Fletcher Gunn has his nose in the story as well. Sniffing out a way to publicly discredit the Bittersweets is his favorite assignment—and has absolutely nothing to do with his inability to resist Melody.

With her business on the line, it's up to Melody to work out the brothers' issues, but can she protect her own very susceptible heart from Fletcher's charm? Does she even want to?

**JOSIE SILVER** is a writer of love stories. Her debut novel ONE DAY IN DECEMBER was a Sunday Times & NY Times bestseller and has been translated into more than twenty-five languages. Josie lives in the Midlands with her husband, their sons, and an ever changing cast of animals.

## OUT OF CHAOS

Sam Marsden



**On submission Spring 2025**

**On behalf of Anna Dixon at  
YMU**

**From viral Wattpad sensation Sam Marsden, comes a stunning #MeToo story set in a Greek-mythology-inspired, AI-driven theme park called Olympia World.**

Maya is convinced that this audition is her big shot - she can finally make something of herself and get out of that house, taking her sister Melodie with her. Things take an unexpected turn when she is assaulted by a 'producer' acting in the name of the entertainment juggernaut Sahara Studios, and Maya is confronted with a choice. Go to the police, or sign Sahara's NDA and gain the opportunity of a lifetime in an all expenses paid visit to their theme park, where stars are discovered and you can make money beyond your wildest imagination...that is, if you know how to play the game.

With that, Maya finds herself catapulted into Olympia World, a place that pushes guests to their psychological limits in the name of wellness and entertainment.

This could be it - all she has to do is complete her bespoke heroes journey and find her Baetylus stone to win the game and its enormous cash prize. Better yet, her filmed journey could make her a star, creating opportunities girls like her only dream of. But the park and its mercurial creator Alice are not all that they seem. Alice's quests are sold in the name of personal development, but Maya quickly finds they can take a sadistic tone as the power of AI turns the darkest parts of her inner world into reality. All the while, she finds herself in a romantic entanglement with Alice's nepo-baby son who reveals more and more of Olympia World's dark secrets.

She strives to solve the park's puzzles before her time there is over and she's yanked back to the life she can't bear to resume, working alongside the mysterious Priestess, a sentient AI who is lowering Maya's defences. Maya must ignore her growing feelings towards her to win the game, in spite of the odds.

**YMU**

**SAM MARSDEN** studied at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and has worked as a drama teacher for over a decade. She has written several books on drama and acting. She is also the author of novel UNDER GLASS, which went viral on Wattpad and has been optioned for film & TV by Stampede Ventures.

**VIPERS**

Rosie Day

**On submission Spring 2025****On behalf of Anna Dixon at  
YMU**

In a small, damp, dingy apartment, two seventeen-year-old girls sleep as they cling to each other on a fold away bed. The same way they've slept night after night, but this time, one of them has blood under her fingernails.

A bitterly cold February brought Cece to New York Fashion Week, just as a distracted alcoholic manager sent Angie to pilot season there. Sharing a run-down apartment on the Upper East Side, the girls navigate the cutthroat turmoil of the entertainment industry, always returning home to each other. Cece, a perfectly crafted human, walks through the world with ease. The biggest threat to her is the power she possesses but is unaware of. Angie is a shy, quick witted, slip of a girl, who never lost her baby teeth, which resemble little viper fangs. Her biggest threat to her wellbeing is herself.

This is female friendship at its most illuminated: obsessive love, seething jealousy, and the lengths you'll go to protect one another when you think you're a grown up, and the world agrees.

Growing up. Growing older. Growing apart, in one life changing season.

**ROSIE DAY** is an author, award-winning actress, Stem4 ambassador, and filmmaker, who has received major recognition for her brave, bold, and honest artistry. Rosie's one-woman show INSTRUCTIONS FOR A TEENAGE ARMAGEDDON gained rave reviews and nominations, inspiring her to pen her eponymous 2021 non-fiction and a soon-to-be TV adaptation. Rosie is set to star in the forthcoming film Midas Man and is currently writing a YA feature for BAFTA winning production company Salon Pictures. Her debut non-fiction book I THINK I LIKE GIRLS is publishing this spring with Piatkus. VIPERS is her debut novel.

**YMU**

## HOW DO YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT?

Charlie Brogan



**A provocative, razor-sharp novel with its foot firmly on publishing's neck, for fans of YELLOWFACE and BOY PARTS.**

Meet Ray: an insomniac who creates a midnight writers' group, only to uncover the unsettling truths about female writers, exploitation, and the cost of their stories. What's the real value of a woman's pain? Who profits from it? And does our worth - as writers, as women - increase when the price we've paid is steep? How far will Ray go to find out...

Grappling with the ethics of women's narratives in a post-MeToo era, this novel asks bold, uncomfortable questions that refuse to be ignored.

**On submission Spring 2025**

**On behalf of Abigail Bergstrom  
at Bergstrom Studio**



**CHARLIE BROGAN** is a writer, poet, and model. She has a Masters Degree in Writing Poetry and her writing has been commissioned by Lulu Guinness and featured in Stylist, Refinery 29, ASH magazine and on Spotify. Her poetry explores womanhood, sexuality, joy, and introversion, typically melding classic formal techniques with a modern female voice that is honest and sharp. *HOW DO YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT?* is her debut novel.

**THE IGNORANTS**

Fearne Cotton

**UK Publisher:** Michael Joseph**UK Editor:** Clio Cornish**Publication:** Summer 2026**On behalf of Anna Dixon at  
YMU**

**Set in our contemporary world but with an important difference: you can find out when you will die. But only if you choose to.**

Some decided to find out. They said it was the right thing to do. The sensible thing. They were soon named the Informed. Some chose not to. They said it was unnecessary. Cruel in fact. They were called the Ignorants. George is an Informed. Yetta is an Ignorant. It was the perfect love story in many ways...

Moving out of London to the idyllic Dorset countryside, Yetta wants to escape the disillusionment of her job and the city. She wants to stop existing and start living. She is not looking for love, she's looking for life. George grew up in the countryside and hasn't moved from his childhood village in Dorset. He couldn't possibly fall in love with anyone because he knows when he will die. What's the point of loving and relationships when you know they end? But then he meets Yetta. She's so different - beautiful, vibrant, opinionated and an Ignorant. They are pulled together inexplicably... and fall deeply in love.

With the knowledge of the clock ticking on George's life, the couple plan the time they have together. Like the reader, George and Yetta know how this is going to play out... but they don't. None of us do. Because it's not George who dies first.

This is a love story for our age. Surprising and thought-provoking in equal measure, it will encourage readers to love love - and life - harder than ever before.

**PRAISE FOR FEARNE COTTON**

'A great novel about taking charge of your own life' **MATT HAIG**

'Uplifting and heartfelt' **Grazia**

**FEARNE COTTON** is an English broadcaster and author. She has presented TV shows across the BBC & ITV, and is the founder of wellbeing platform Happy Place. Fearne is the author of several non-fiction books, including the Sunday Times bestseller, HAPPY (Orion, 2017) and her debut novel SCRIPTED published by Michael Joseph in 2024.

**YMU**

## THE HOUSE OF FALLEN WOMEN

Louise Hare



London, 1765.

Sukey Maynard is fleeing fate on the night that she literally stumbles across Jonathan Strong. A young slave, beaten and left for dead on a cold city street, he is barely alive when Sukey finds him and leads him to safety. Tended to by a kind doctor, Jonathan survives but his future is uncertain. In London, the laws on slavery are grey and uncertain, no one with any power willing to make a decision that may cost powerful people their fortunes.

**UK Publisher:** HQ

**UK Publisher:** Manpreet Grewal

**Publication:** February 2026

And Sukey has her own trials to deal with, for she is destined to become one of the fallen sisters, the harlots of Covent Garden. Danger is everywhere, from the very parlour where Sukey must entertain each night, to the streets outside where a mysterious figure known as the Pied Piper lurks. Girls are going missing, lured away or taken against their will, no one knows. All Sukey can hope is that she's not next.

Can Sukey help Jonathan to win his freedom and, in doing so, can she also find hers?

### **PRAISE FOR LOUISE HARE**

'Poignant and authentic . . . it's [Hare's] steady, calm prose and the animating authenticity of her material that make it so hard to resist . . .' **Observer**

'Hare's enthralling novel pulls off the rare trick of being a clever murder mystery, an evocative portrayal of Windrush London and a genuinely touching love story' **The i**

**LOUISE HARE** is the author of three novels, including THIS LOVELY CITY which was shortlisted for the RSL Ondaatje Prize, and longlisted for the HWA Debut Crown Award. In 2020, Louise was selected for the Observer Top 10 Best Debut Novelists list.



## THE PLEASURE PALACE

Emma Cowing



**UK Publisher:** Hodder & Stoughton

**UK Editor:** Jo Dickinson

**Publication:** May 2026

**On behalf of** Amanda Harris

It's 1908 and 22-year-old Emerald Vane, star showgirl at London's Gaiety Theatre, has been invited to a country house party on a remote Scottish island by enigmatic industrialist Lyndon Gunn. But when Emerald arrives at the imposing Winterswan Castle, perched on the steep cliffs of Saraig Island, she is immediately ill at ease, despite the lavish surroundings.

Why are there locks on the outside of all the bedroom doors? Why are the servants blindfolded each night?

But Emerald has secrets of her own, and when one houseguest - a mysterious older woman named Veronica - starts asking questions about her past, Emerald wonders just why she's been invited, and whether there could be any truth to the rumours that another showgirl went missing on the island three years earlier.

Set against a glittering backdrop of the famous Gaiety theatre in London, and the world of Edwardian country house parties, **THE PLEASURE PALACE** is a novel about desire, deception, and what happens when secrets are forced out into the light.

**EMMA COWING** is an award-winning journalist and writer. She has written for The Sunday Times, The Guardian, The Spectator and The Scotsman, and currently works as Associate Editor at the Scottish Daily Mail. Emma is a former Feature Writer of the Year at the Scottish Press Awards, and two-time Interviewer of the Year. Emma was shortlisted for the 2023 Cheshire Novel Prize, and longlisted for the 2023 Bath Novel Award and Blue Pencil First Novel Award. Her debut novel THE SHOW WOMAN will be published by Hodder in May 2025.

## IT ENDS HERE

Heidi Perks



**UK Publisher:** Century

**UK Editor:** Emily Griffin

**Publication:** Spring 2026

At just after seven a.m. one Monday in an otherwise quiet marina, a gunshot is heard coming from its cafe.

A witness has seen five people walking inside this morning. But for DI Field, determining who they are is a race against clock, let alone understanding the reasons why one of them has taken a gun and fired it while people were supposedly enjoying their breakfasts.

For the five relatives of the ones trapped inside, their nightmare is made worse when they realise it has to be one of their loved ones who is responsible. And each is left to question could they have done this?

In a locked room mystery, told by the people on the outside, **IT ENDS HERE** asks how well we really know the people we love the most and how deep secrets can be buried.

One of them is holding the gun. And someone needs to come forward before it's too late.

### **PRAISE FOR HEIDI PERKS**

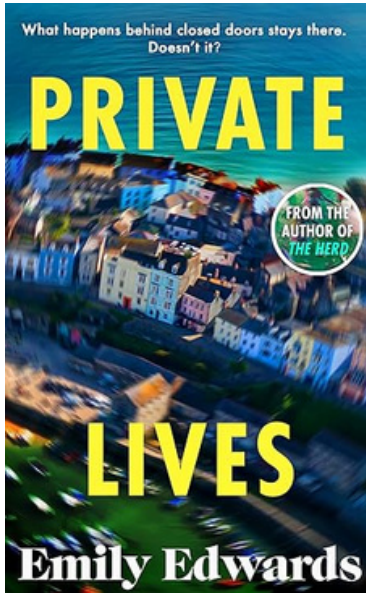
'I flew through this book in three days, with my heart in my mouth. Seriously page turning.' **LISA JEWELL**

'A fun, compelling thriller - perfect to read beside the pool, or at home, dreaming of warmer times to come' **The Observer**

**HEIDI PERKS** is the Sunday Times bestselling author of 7 previous novels, including NOW YOU SEE HER, which was translated into 7 languages. Her books have sold 800,000 copies in the English languages. She lives on the south coast of England with her family.

**PRIVATE LIVES**

Emily Edwards



**UK Publisher:** Transworld  
(World English)

**UK Editor:** Thorne Ryan

**Publication:** June 2025

**Extent:** 352

**What happens behind closed doors always stays there. Doesn't it?**

In the sleepy seaside town of Waverly, Rosie and Seb Kent are happily married. Now that Seb has achieved his dream of becoming headmaster of the local school, their lives couldn't be any better.

Then Abi arrives.

Abi, a young, single mother, has come to Waverly for a fresh start. She plans to reinvent herself and give her children a new life.

Then she sees Seb.

As their complicated hidden past threatens to destroy them both, they try their hardest to keep it contained. But in a small town, secrets don't stay hidden for long and soon, what should be their private business becomes a very public scandal. How far will everyone - them, their families and the whole community - go to protect everything they hold dearest?

**PRAISE FOR EMILY EDWARDS**

'Will have book clubs across the country in hot debate! Brilliant' **CLARE MACKINTOSH**

'It is hard to imagine a more timely novel' **JODI PICOULT**

**EMILY EDWARDS** worked for a think tank in New York before returning to London where she worked as a support worker for vulnerable women at a large charity. She now lives in Lewes, East Sussex with her endlessly patient husband and her two endlessly energetic young sons. Her last novel *THE HERD* was published by Transworld in 2022.

## THE POOL PARTY

Rebecca Bainbridge



**UK Publisher:** Quercus

**UK Editor:** Florence Hare

**Publication:** 2026

**On behalf of** Amanda Harris

**For fans of Liane Moriarty, Lucy Foley and Lisa Jewell, THE POOL PARTY is an effortlessly gripping debut suspense novel of twisted friendships with deadly consequences.**

When Kate's husband Matthew leaves his job in scandal, they are forced to leave Kate's beloved Hove behind as they move back to Matthew's home town with their daughter, Rose. Still coming to terms with several miscarriages and the mysterious death of her sister, lonely Kate finds herself connecting with seemingly perfect Melody on the school run.

As the school year passes, we learn more about mercurial Melody's fraught relationship with her controlling husband Richard, and Kate's fragile hold on her life starts fraying at the edges when new allegations about Matthew's behaviour drag their hardly buried past into their present. Kate and Melody's friendship deepens through these turbulent times, drowning their sorrows and finding comfort in each other and their shared disdain for the cliquey playground mums.

But when a child is found unconscious in the pool at Melody's annual summer party, the secrets that bind these women begin to unravel.

**REBECCA BAINBRIDGE** is a debut author whose experience as a global brand and marketing professional provides her with an insight into gaining and retaining attention, and the very best storytelling. Rebecca has led projects for organisations including Procter & Gamble, Warner Brothers, the BBC and Unilever. Having lived in Switzerland, France and Italy, she is passionate about languages, travel and culture, and is settled in the UK.

**WOKE UP LIKE THIS**

Eleanor Tucker

**UK Publisher:** Hera Books**UK Editor:** Jennie Ayres**Publication:** April 2026**On behalf of Emily MacDonald  
at 42**

Beauty journalist, and 40-something year old woman, Erica Pells, is tired of feeling invisible and disappearing behind her nematode wrinkles. She's over the 'pro-ageing' articles she is exclusively asked to write (apart from the punny headlines that no one appreciates.) Frankly, she's over most things; getting older, heavy contouring, boring old Wiltshire and her exasperating Mum (who clearly prefers her prodigal brother, Simon).

So when her former editor, Merlyn, gives her the opportunity to try a revolutionary hi-tech beauty treatment called WULT (Woke Up Like This), that promises to make you look 20 years younger, she jumps at the chance. What has she got to lose, anyway?

At first, she is hooked. Here again is her 20 something skin, her ability to stand out in the crowd, and she can finally get one over her beauty rival, influencer Cassia Carver. Crucially, it is a promise of another 'shot' at a new (Gen-Z) life. The only catch, no one recognises her. Her friends think she's not just mad, but pity her, and the handsome cheese-loving Gabe, doesn't seem quite as excited at the prospect of a nubile young girlfriend as she had thought.

When her ailing mother is taken to hospital and doesn't recognise her, she starts to realise that maybe being young wasn't everything she glamourised it to be. **WOKE UP LIKE THIS** tells the hilarious story of a middle-aged woman who goes back to find her youth, and discovers it wasn't where she left it at all.

**ELEANOR TUCKER** began writing as an advertising copywriter, working for award-winning agencies before transitioning into journalism. Over the years she has written on society, parenting, feminism, health, sustainability and tech for The Guardian, The Observer and The Independent, as well as women's magazines such as Grazia, Red, Psychologies and Marie Claire.



## DON'T LOOK FOR LIZZIE SIXPENCE

Zoe Manlow



**UK Publisher:** Bedford Square

**UK Editor:** Carolyn Mays

**Publication:** Autumn 2026

**On behalf of Emily MacDonald  
at 42**

If anyone should have been safe at Wickham Grange, it was Lizzie Sixpence. But in 1947, Lizzie runs away from the Grange, a refuge for abused women, leaving behind her newborn daughter and a terrible secret.

When Caroline Alleyn inherits the house over sixty years later, all she wants do is sell up. But her grandmother Frances' will means that it can't be sold without the consent of five elderly women, and they all refuse. None of them will tell her why she has to keep a house she doesn't want. Instead, she is given a stark warning: Don't Look for Lizzie Sixpence.

And Caroline has other worries. Someone is watching her; the house's elderly tenants are lying to her; and an old man is hoarding mementoes of her past.

Then she finds the bones.

When she finally hears Frances' story of 1947, Caroline is left with a choice: keep silent, or betray everything her grandmother stood for. Can she continue to protect the women? Will she, like so many before her, find out who she is at Wickham Grange? Because even when Lizzie Sixpence is found, there is one final secret to be revealed...

**ZOE MANLOW** has spent 25 years working in education, but her heart has always really been in writing, with a particular love of stories about people who may not be who (or what) they seem. She studied Creative Writing as part of her degree with the Open University and in 2024 she completed the Faber Academy 'Writing a Novel' course. She lives in London with her husband and their enormous dog.





**AMERICAN DETECTIVE**

Matthew Reilly

**Aus/NZ Publisher:**

PanMacmillan Australia

**Aus/NZ Editor:** Alex Lloyd**Aus/NZ Publication:** October 2025**UK Publisher:** Orion**UK Editor:** Imad Aktar**UK Publication:** Spring 2026**On behalf of Eugenie Furniss at 42**

For 150 years, women have been going missing.

And all of the investigators who went in search of them - from 1877 to the present day - have disappeared, too.

Now Sam Speedman, a most unique private detective, is on the case. Brilliant, direct and disarming, Sam is... different. He's not your average private detective, but then again, this isn't your average case. For not even he will be prepared for what he will find...

Set in the darkest corners of the American South, tapping into hot-button issues that simmer beneath the surface of modern America, this is Matthew Reilly at his paciest, bringing you a detective thriller like you've never read before.

**PRAISE FOR MATTHEW REILLY**

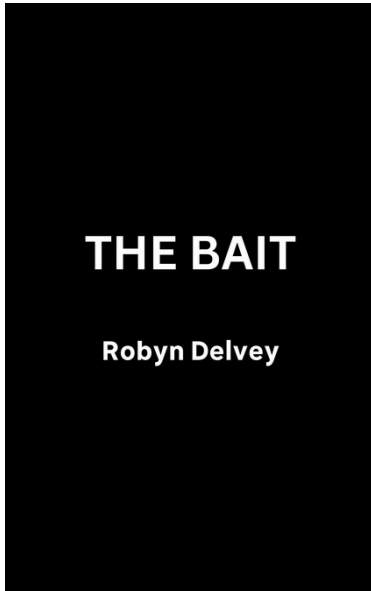
'Thrilling, action-packed adventure from cover to cover'  
**Guardian**

'Undeniably addictive' **Financial Times**

**MATTHEW REILLY** is the internationally bestselling author of the JACK WEST and SCARECROW series, as well as several standalone titles. His books have been published in over 20 languages and have sold over 7.5 million copies worldwide. His first film, INTERCEPTOR, was the no.1 streamed movie Netflix in Spring 2022, and he has several projects in development for TV.

**THE BAIT**

Robyn Delvey



**UK Publisher:** Thomas & Mercer  
(World English)

**UK Editor:** Victoria Haslam

**Publication:** August 2025

**On behalf of Marilia Savvides  
at The Plot Agency**

—THE—  
**PLOT**  
AGENCY

**He's been getting away with murder. Can one woman stop him?**

When a young woman falls to her death from a central London bridge, the police rule it suicide – until a witness comes forward with shocking footage of the moment she was pushed. The attacker is identified as Bradley Aspen, the son of an attaché to the US Embassy in London – giving him diplomatic immunity from prosecution.

CPS lawyer Eve Wren knows the victim's family and is determined to bring Aspen to justice. And when further victims come to light, she realises he's no ordinary murderer: he's a serial killer. Suddenly Eve is in a terrifying race against time to find a loophole in Aspen's immunity.

Will she have to put her own life on the line to stop him from taking another woman's? And who can she trust to protect her if she does?

Full of twists, the gripping second book in the thrilling Eve Wren series is perfect for fans of Steve Cavanagh and Jane Casey.

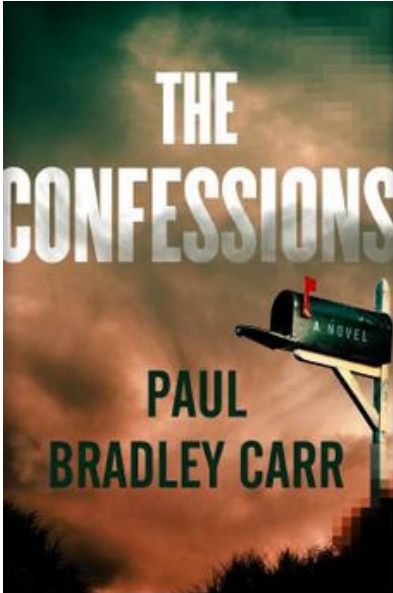
**PRAISE FOR ROBYN DELVEY**

'A pacy, page-turning legal thriller. . . I'm very much looking forward to meeting Eve again in future cases.' **HARRIET TYCE**

**ROBYN DELVEY** is a pseudonym for a critically acclaimed and award-winning writer. She is the author of several previously published novels and has worked for several UK magazines, including Grazia and Stylist. She trained in journalism and for a period was court reporter on an award-winning newspaper in Buckinghamshire. The first book in the Eve Wren series, **THE BAIT**, was published in January 2025.

**THE CONFESSIONS**

Paul Bradley Carr

**US Publisher:** Atria**US Editor:** Sean deLone**UK Publisher:** Faber**UK Editor:** Sara Helen Binney**Publication:** July 2025**Extent:** 336**On behalf of Marilia Savvides  
at The Plot Agency**

**A high-octane, high-concept thriller for fans of Blake Crouch, Harlan Coben and Gillian Flynn from former Silicon Valley journalist turned bookstore owner Paul Bradley Carr.**

**Millions of letters arrive in the mail.**

**Murders are uncovered, affairs revealed, family secrets exposed.**

**These are the first Confessions. This is our last chance.**

LLIAM is the world's most powerful supercomputer, built to make the toughest decisions for its users. Where to work, who to marry, and even who should live or die. But when LLIAM suddenly goes offline with no explanation, the world is thrust into chaos, paralyzed by indecision. Stocks plummet, stores are shuttered, planes sit grounded on runways as humanity scrambles to re-adapt to an uncertain, analog world.

Then the first letters arrive... on every continent, in every language, mysterious envelopes arrive in the mail, exposing people's darkest secrets, and most shocking crimes. All beginning with the same chilling words: "We must confess."

With millions of people suddenly made to confront their past transgressions, and society fast unraveling, CEO Kaitlan Goss must track down the only person who can help undo the resulting violent chaos: Maud Brookes, an ex-nun who taught LLIAM what it means to be human.

But when Maud receives a letter herself, revealing Kaitlan's own unforgivable sin, the two women are forced into a deadly game of deceit as the world teeters on the brink.

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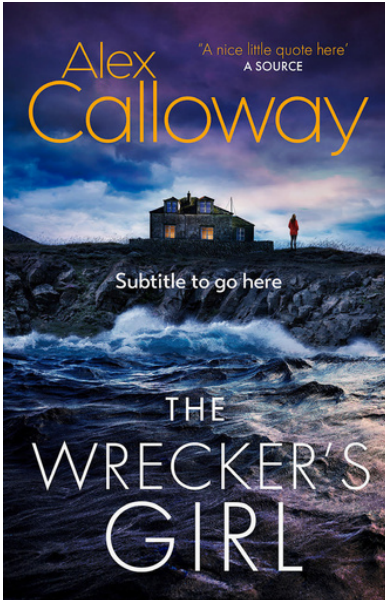
'A timely, ticking clock thriller with unforgettable characters and psychological twists and turns you won't see coming. Read it. You won't regret it!' **SARAH PINBOROUGH**

—THE—  
**PLOT**  
AGENCY

**PAUL BRADLEY CARR** is journalist and author. He has written three memoirs about his adventures in and around Silicon Valley as a journalist his writing has also appeared in The Wall Street Journal, HuffPost and National Geographic. He lives in Palm Springs with his family and is the co-owner of hugely successful new independent bookshop, The Best Bookstore in Palm Springs.

**THE WRECKER'S GIRL**

Alex Calloway

**UK Publisher:** HarperCollins**UK Editor:** Jane Johnson**Publication:** January 2026**Rights sold:**

Germany: Droemer Knaur

Finland: Otava

Poland: Czarna Owca

Russia: Vimbo

**On behalf of Eugenie Furniss at****42**

**A tragic death...** In windswept West Cornwall, a woman lies dead at the bottom of a waterfall. Natalie Tyack's unexplained death devastates the community, but it's her children who are most affected. Tormented by distressing visions, it's as if they're haunted by her loss.

**A family with a sinister past...** Forensic psychologist Karenza Bray, still reeling from her own family tragedy, is called in. In the Tyacks' isolated ancestral home, Baldhu House, she uncovers a dark legacy of inherited trauma, histories of wrecking, and an inexplicable sense of menace.

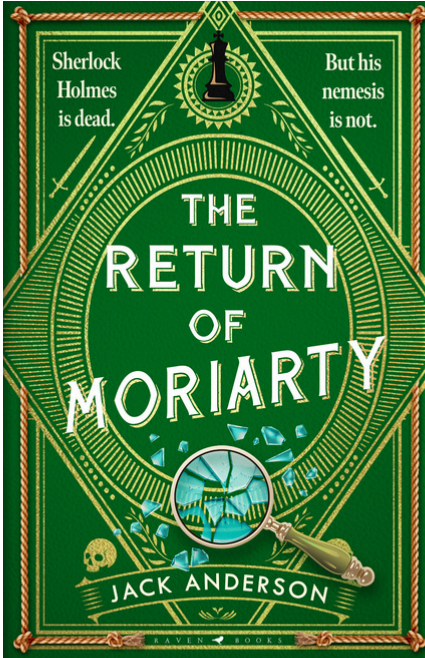
**A house full of secrets...** Someone knows the truth about what happened to Natalie. But the more Karenza tries to help, the more disturbed the atmosphere becomes. Soon she starts to question whether any of them will escape the house unscathed...



**ALEX CALLOWAY** is the pseudonym for a Sunday Times bestseller author who's books have been translated into more than 20 languages.

## THE RETURN OF MORIARTY

Jack Anderson



### Sherlock Holmes is dead. But his nemesis is not.

Upon escaping from Reichenbach Falls, his empire in ruins, criminal mastermind James Moriarty takes the identity of wealthy inventor Hugo Strahm and embarks on a dark pilgrimage to the cliffside manor of Schloss Aber in Bavaria.

When medical student Clara Mendel returns to Scholss Alber, she finds her childhood home on the verge of ruin. A deadly feud over a priceless heirloom has thrown the Aber family into chaos while its walls play host to an unusual cast of characters - the obstinate Lord Aber, his strange and beleaguered children, their cantankerous butler, and of course, their mysterious new guest 'Hugo Strahm. When one of them is poisoned at dinner, it's the first act in a spiralling criminal conspiracy, in which any and all of them are suspects.

**UK Publisher:** Raven/Bloomsbury

**UK Editor:** Alison Hennessey

**Publication:** September 2025

**Extent:** 320

**Rights sold:**

Spain: Planeta

Italy: Tre60/TEA

US & Canada: Crooked Lane Books

**On behalf of Marilia Savvides at  
The Plot Agency**

Working with the sharp and inquisitive Clara, the former crime lord attempts to solve the mystery, whilst trying to keep his true identity concealed. Yet, despite taking on the role of detective, Moriarty does not share Sherlock Holmes' methods, nor his interest in justice. Only one thing is certain, for James Moriarty, dying at the hands of Sherlock Holmes would have been an elegant end... The question of what comes next is far more complicated.

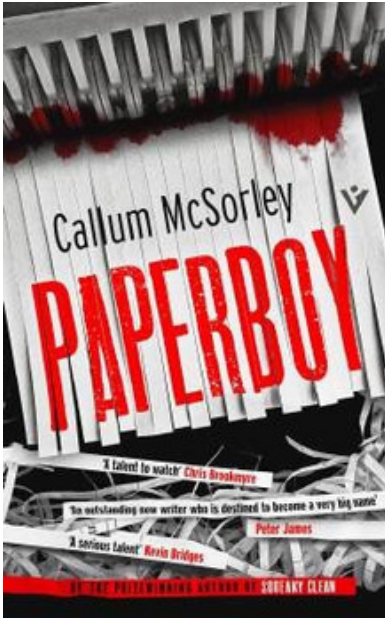
This cleverly plotted mystery is a faithful and inventive take on the Sherlock Holmes legacy, paying homage to Arthur Conan Doyle's signature style while adding its own devious tricks to the story that is destined to become a must-read classic for Sherlock Holmes fans.

**JACK ANDERSON** lives with his wife in South London, but remains a Northerner at heart. He is the author of the viral internet serial "Has Anyone Heard Of The Left/Right Game?", which has since been adapted into a hit QCode podcast starring Tessa Thompson in the leading role of Alice. He is currently developing a number of television ideas across the horror genre. His debut novel THE GRIEF DOCTOR was published by Raven in 2024.



**PAPERBOY**

Callum McSorley

**UK Publisher:** Pushkin Vertigo**UK Editor:** Daniel Seton**Publication:** March 2025**Extent:** 384**On behalf of Emily MacDonald at**  
42

**\*THE NEW NOVEL FROM WINNER OF THE MCVANNEY  
PRIZE FOR SCOTTISH CRIME NOVEL OF THE YEAR\***

DCI Alison McCoist is back: newly promoted and even less popular.

Chuck Gardner is the proud owner of both a confidential paper-shredding business and a serious betting habit.

When Chuck finds some scandalous paperwork and McCoist investigates a rat-nibbled corpse under a flyover, they are both sucked into a deadly stramash of gangland wars and police corruption.

Can Chuck solve his gambling and gangster problems before some head-banger feeds him into his own shredder? And can McCoist claw herself out of this latest shitemire without her own shady dealings coming to light? It might depend on how far she's prepared to go...

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'McSorley consolidates his status among crime fiction's rising stars. Paperboy is energetic, inventive and witty, laying on the tension as it builds to a nerve-shredding finale' **CHRIS BROOKMYRE**

'PAPERBOY is a brilliant black comedy that repeatedly makes you squirm. Fizzing with energy and full of heart, it's one of those books that you simply don't want to end.' **The Times, Best Crime Fiction of 2025**

'An outstanding new writer who is destined to become a very big name' **PETER JAMES**

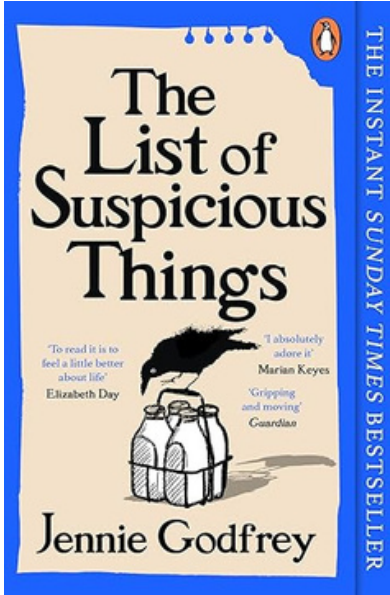


**CALLUM MCSORLEY** is a writer based in Glasgow. His debut novel SQUEAKY CLEAN won the McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Novel of the Year and was named as a Times Book of the Month in 2023.



## THE LIST OF SUSPICIOUS THINGS

Jennie Godfrey



**\*THE NO.1 SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER\***

Yorkshire, 1979

Maggie Thatcher is prime minister, drainpipe jeans are in, and Miv is convinced that her dad wants to move their family Down South.

Because of the murders.

Leaving Yorkshire and her best friend Sharon simply isn't an option, no matter the dangers lurking round their way; or the strangeness at home that started the day Miv's mum stopped talking.

Perhaps if she could solve the case of the disappearing women, they could stay after all?

So, Miv and Sharon decide to make a list: a list of all the suspicious people and things down their street. People they know. People they don't.

But their search for the truth reveals more secrets in their neighbourhood, within their families - and between each other - than they ever thought possible.

What if the real mystery Miv needs to solve is the one that lies much closer to home?

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'A touching paean to lost innocence and the comfort of friendships, its dark undertow leavened by stout Yorkshire humour' **The Times**

**JENNIE GODFREY** was raised in West Yorkshire and her debut novel is inspired by her childhood there in the 1970s. Jennie is from a mill-working family, but as the first of the generation born after the mills closed, she went to university and built a career in the corporate world. In 2020 she left and began to write. She is now a writer and part-time Waterstones bookseller and lives in the Somerset countryside.

**UK Publisher:** Hutchinson  
Heinemann

**UK Editor:** Venetia Butterfield

**Publication:** February 2024

**Extent:** 352

**Rights sold:**

Arabic: Dar Tabasheer

Brazil: Companhia das Letras

Finland: Publiva

France: Hautville/Bragelonne

Germany: dtv

Greece: under offer

Norway: Gyldendal

Poland: Luna/Marginesy

Portugal: Porto

Italy: Bollati Boringhieri

Russia: Eksmo

Spain: Suma/PRH

Ukraine: Bookchef

**THE GRAPEVINE**

Kate Kemp

**UK Publisher:** Phoenix/Orion**UK Editor:** Francesca Main**Publication:** March 2025**Extent:** 400**Rights sold:**

Germany: Lübbe

Film/TV: See Saw Films

**\*WINNER OF THE INAUGURAL STYLIST PRIZE FOR FICTION\***

It's the height of summer in Australia, 1979, and on a quiet suburban cul-de-sac a housewife is scrubbing the yellow and white checkered tiles of the bathroom floor. But all is not as it seems. For one thing, it's 3am. For another, she is trying desperately to remove all traces of blood before they stain. Her husband seems remarkably calm, considering he has just murdered their neighbour.

As the sun rises on Warrah Place, news of Antonio Marietti's death spreads like wildfire, gossip is exchanged in whispers and suspicion mounts. Twelve-year-old Tammy, an amateur observational scientist, is not alone in feeling determined to find out what happened. There are secrets behind every closed door in the neighbourhood, and the identity of the murderer is only one of them . . .

Richly atmospheric and simmering with tension, **THE GRAPEVINE** is an acutely observed debut novel about prejudice and suspicion, the hidden lives of women, and how the ties that bind a community can also threaten to break it.

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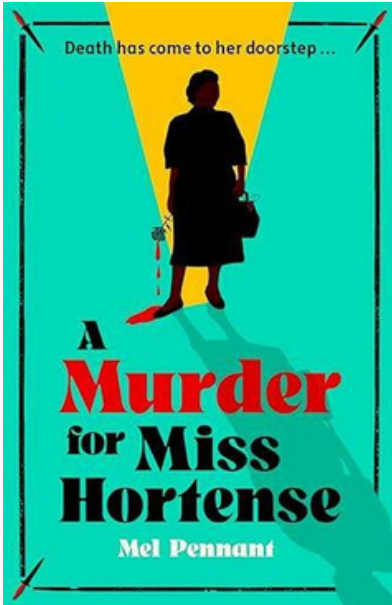
'A beautifully written, claustrophobic and compelling mystery where secrets and lies hide behind closed doors. Kate Kemp is a writer to watch.' **SARAH PINBOROUGH**

'[The Grapevine]... took me hostage, I absolutely couldn't stop reading it. Such gorgeous writing, complex, nuanced characterisation, countless crisscrossing dynamics and the atmospheric setting of Canberra in the summer heat, it's a fascinating, engaging book.' **MARIAN KEYES**

**KATE KEMP** has worked in mental health services for children to older adults, in settings ranging from the Australian outback to London's Tower Hamlets. In 2021, she won the Stylist Prize for Feminist Fiction and the Yeovil Literary Prize. **THE GRAPEVINE** is her debut novel.

## A MURDER FOR MISS HORTENSE

Mel Pennant



**UK Publisher:** Baskerville/John Murray

**UK Editor:** Jade Chandler

**Publication:** June 2025

**Extent:** 320

**Rights sold:**

US & Canada: Pantheon

Film/TV: Tiger Aspect

### Death has come to her door...

Retired nurse, avid gardener, renowned cake maker and fearless sleuth Miss Hortense has lived in Bigglesweigh, a quiet Birmingham suburb, since she emigrated from Jamaica in 1960. She takes great pride in her home, starching her lace curtains bright white, and she can tell if she's being short- changed on turmeric before she's taken her first bite of a beef patty. Thirty-five years of nursing have also left her afraid of nobody, be they a local drug dealer or a priest, and an expert in deciphering other people's secrets with just a glance.

Miss Hortense uses her skills to investigate the investments of the Pardner network - a special community of Black investors, determined to help their people succeed. But when an unidentified man is found dead in one of the Pardner's homes, a bible quote noted down beside his body, Miss Hortense's long buried past comes rushing back to greet her, bringing memories of the worst moment of her life, one which her community has never let her forget.

It is time for Miss Hortense to solve a mystery that she hopes will be her final case but will see her, and the community she loves, tested to their limits.

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'The formidable Miss Hortense will be your new favourite literary sleuth! Fresh, original and intriguing from start to finish!' **JANICE HALLETT**

**MEL PENNANT** is an award-winning playwright whose work has appeared in the National Archives, as well as on stage. Born in London, she was raised by an extraordinary village, which included her Jamaican grandparents who moved to England in the 1950s as part of the Windrush generation. Mel is drawn to stories that explore what's hidden below the surface and celebrate the richness and strength of tight-knit communities. She lives in London with her family and their dog, Bleu, and is currently writing another mystery novel starring Miss Hortense.

R M L

RACHEL MILLS LITERARY

**NON-FICTION**

## THE PROTEIN MYTH

Dr Richard Mackenzie



**On submission Spring 2025**

We know that overconsumption of fat and sugar can lead to myriad health concerns – but to date we have been told that the third macronutrient protein can do no wrong.

Protein is the least deficient and most supplemented nutrient in the western world. Since mass farming gave us cheap animal protein and since the billion dollar protein supplement industry has tried to persuade us, there is only upside from consuming it.

In **THE PROTEIN MYTH** leading scientist and expert on metabolism Dr Richard Mackenzie uncovers the truth about protein, what it is, what it does in our bodies, and what happens if we consume an excess, arguing that protein is one of the contributing factors in the obesity and diabetes pandemic. The book will cover:

- Overconsumption – the diets likely to cause it
- Underconsumption – the question of vegan diets, plant-based advocates are often adamant that we consume too much protein, are they right?
- Hormonal concerns – do women usually need more protein during perimenopause, and why?
- Ageing – the different cycles of our life change how protein works in the body
- Weight loss and protein – cutting through the noise
- Exercise and protein – how protein actually works in muscle and energy
- Illness, rest, recovery and protein – in the wake of long covid in particular, but other chronic illness affecting 30% of the population in the UK, what does the science say about protein's role in illness?

Packed full of easy to understand science backed advice, this is the first ever book to look at protein in this way.

**DR RICHARD MACKENZIE** is a researcher into insulin resistance and human metabolism at Roehampton University in London, and leads on metabolic disorders at a Harley Street clinic. He has published more than 40 journal articles and is a consultant to a company developing glucose-monitoring device. His first book, **STRESS TESTED**, written in collaboration with Peter Walker, is being published by Bluebird in April 2025.

# LITTLE ADDICTIONS: The Compulsions Diverting Us From Our Best Lives, and How To Be Free From Them

Catherine Gray



**\*From the Sunday Times bestselling author of THE UNEXPECTED JOY OF BEING SOBER\***

Overspending, sugar, doomscrolling, binge-TV, Whatsapp, people-pleasing, online ex-checking, caffeine, social media, bread, procrastinating, exercise-swerving, emotional infidelity, apologising, Youtube...

They're addictions so small, we don't need to say no.

They don't cost much, emotionally or financially, and they only have micro-consequences on our health, wealth, relationships or home... so what's the big deal?

Only, their sum total is huge. These tiny addictions, once they snowball, become massive in impact.

Enter this deeply necessary, illuminating book to dip into over a lifetime. Catherine Gray, the bestselling 'icon of quit lit', has already lit the way for tens of thousands through big addictions and behaviours (alcohol, love, negativity).

Now she turns her gaze onto gaining greater mastery over our smaller compulsions, freeing up peace of mind, disposable income, time, wellbeing and happiness.

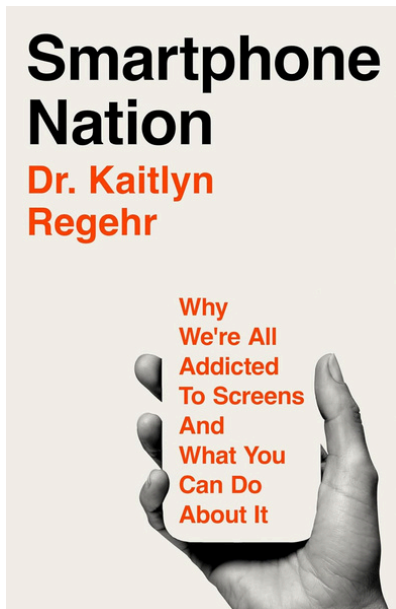
One tiny increment at a time, this catch-all book might just change your life.

**CATHERINE GRAY** is author of five books, including THE UNEXPECTED JOY OF BEING SOBER. She's sold over half a million books, which have been translated into 9 languages. Her work has been published in the likes of Stylist, Marie Claire, The Lancet Psychiatry and the Guardian. In 2018, Catherine founded charitable campaign Sober Spring, a three-month sabbatical from alcohol, and she now runs it with Alcohol Change UK. She's been sober since 2013.



# SMARTPHONE NATION: Why We Are All Addicted to Screens and What You Can Do About It

Dr Kaitlyn Regehr



**The tools and understanding you need to protect yourself, and your family.**

**SMARTPHONE NATION** will transform the way you - and your children - understand your devices and how they affect you. In this practical, agenda-setting book, Dr Kaitlyn Regehr - one of the UK's leading experts on digital literacy - sets out how you can keep the advantages of the internet whilst identifying often hidden dangers and stepping away when you're over-reliant.

This life-changing guide provides practical tips, clear takeaways and tested strategies to empower you to take back control of your digital life. Covering misogyny, pornography, body image, advertising, violence and more, Dr. Kaitlyn Regehr explains echo chambers, the attention economy, and why we are still so unprotected when it comes to digital media.

You'll learn how to game your algorithm, how to limit targeted advertising, how to catch misinformation and how to improve your digital nutrition.

Essential reading for parents and anyone who has ever worried about how compulsively they check their phone, **SMARTPHONE NATION** will equip you not only to survive in the digital space, but to thrive.

**UK Publisher:** Bluebird

**UK Editor:** Jodie Lancet-Grant

**Publication:** May 2025

**Rights sold:**

Brazil: Vestigo

Canada: Knopf

Italy: Newton Compton

Portugal: Arena/PRH

US: The Dial Press

**DR KAITLYN REGEHR** is one of the leading experts on the cultural impacts of social media on children and youth. She's an Associate Professor at University College London lecturing on digital literacy; a prominent voice in the media, a key influence in policy circles, and a mum of two.

## HER BODY, OUR CHOICE: Exposing the Roots of Violence Against Women in our Violation of the Earth

Rachel Donald



On submission Spring 2025

On behalf of Abigail Bergstrom  
at Bergstrom Studio

For readers of Caroline Criado Perez's *Invisible Women*, Naomi Klein and Laura Bates, **HER BODY, OUR CHOICE** exposes the ways in which the climate crisis is bound up with the exploitation of women around the world.

The systemic violence on which our systems of power are built is accelerating our collective destruction. Climate disaster is not an abstract threat of the future - it is here, shaping our world, our bodies, and our lives. In this unflinching examination, Rachel Donald, exposes the devastating link between violence against the earth and violence against women, bringing the planetary crisis home to our bodies.

Until recently, women have long engaged in a mass denial of the reality of male violence in order just to function in this world, but collectively we can no longer look away from the environmental challenges we face and the perpetual violence being inflicted on our natural world.

Through visceral storytelling and sharp analysis, **HER BODY, OUR CHOICE** dismantles the illusion that these violences are separate. The exploitation of female bodies mirrors the ruthless extraction from the earth, and until we confront one, we cannot hope to heal the other. This book discovers a new way to make sense of and to mobilise against these systems of power and is a call to action - urgent, necessary, and impossible to turn away from.

**RACHEL DONALD** is a climate corruption journalist and the creator of Planet: Critical, a media project investigating why the world is in crisis. Through independent research and world expert interviews, Planet: Critical connects the dots of science, politics, philosophy and power to demystify and reveal what needs to be done. Planet: Critical is one of the most popular climate Substacks with nearly 20,000 subscribers in 173 countries, and the Planet: Critical podcast is in the top 1% globally. Rachel's world exclusives into climate corruption have been published in The Guardian, Al Jazeera, Mongabay, The Intercept, Byline Times and the New Republic. She has been a speaker at major events such as the Blue Earth Summit and Ars Electronica, and has been invited to lecture at universities around the world.



# LOGGING OFF: The Human Cost of Our Digital World

Adele Zeynep Walton



**UK Publisher:** Trapeze

**UK Editor:** Katie Packer

**Publication:** June 2025

**Extent:** 288

**On behalf of Megan Staunton  
at Bergstrom Studio**



We live in a digital world. In the 30 years since we've been online, we've created connections, crossed boundaries and discovered new worlds. We have done things generations before us could never have imagined.

But at what cost?

Growing up as a Gen Z, Adele spent endless hours as a teenager on social media, shaping her view of herself and the world. As a freelance journalist, she has used her social media platforms and digital technology to develop a career in an unfamiliar and competitive industry, benefitting from the opportunities that these spaces can offer. But after losing her sister to online harms, she realised that our current digital world is failing us.

We are an anxious and discontent generation. Our lived realities and our online vulnerabilities are inextricably linked, and this means big business for social media tycoons who want us to stay scrolling at any cost. As Big Tech barons make their billions, capitalising on our emotions, instincts, insecurities and desires, everyday people are losing out.

From workers being fired by algorithms, to online forums dedicated to revenge porn and encouraging suicide, to censorship of marginalised voices and the turbulent impacts of AI, **LOGGING OFF** reveals that our digital world is currently fuelling crises that only empathy, agency and humanity can resolve. This book is a call for a radical reclamation of our digital world, for a more humane future that empowers us all.

**ADELE ZEYNEP WALTON** is a British-Turkish journalist and campaigner specialising in the human impacts of digital technology and social media. She has bylines in the *i*, *Metro*, *Big Issue*, *Dazed*, *Vice*, *The Independent*, *The New Arab*, *Tribune*, *Jacobin*, *Refinery 29*, *Open Democracy* and more. Her articles have been translated into Brazilian, Portuguese, German, Italian, Swedish, Turkish and Spanish, and she has featured on *CBC News*, *Sky News*, *BBC Radio* and *Channel 4 News*. She was the recipient of a Society of Authors Authors' Foundation grant (2023) and is a Connected By Data fellow.

# THE NEW AGE OF SEXISM: How the AI Revolution is Reinventing Misogyny

Laura Bates



**UK Publisher:** S&S

**UK Editor:** Assallah Tahir

**Publication:** April 2025

**Rights sold:**

Denmark: Rebel With A Cause

Spain: Peninsula

US & Canada: Sourcebooks

**On behalf of Abigail Bergstrom  
at Bergstrom Studio**



**An urgent and shocking new book from the Sunday Times and New York Times bestselling author and feminist activist Laura Bates**

Step into a world where:

- Little girls dressed up as women dance for an audience of adult men.
- A pornographic deepfake image or video of you exists on the internet and you just don't know it yet.
- Men create 'perfect' AI girlfriends who live in their pocket - customised to every last detail, from breast size to eye colour and personality, only lacking the ability to say no.

This isn't an image of the future. Sex robots, chatbots and the metaverse are here and spreading fast. A new wave of AI-powered technologies, with misogyny baked into their design, is putting women everywhere in danger.

In **THE NEW AGE OF SEXISM**, Sunday Times bestselling author and campaigner Laura Bates takes the reader deep into the heart of this strange new world. She travels to cyber brothels and visits schools gripped by an epidemic of online sexual abuse, showing how every aspect of our lives - from education to work, sex to entertainment - is being infiltrated by ever-evolving technologies that are changing the way we live and love forever. This rising tide, despite all its potential for good, is a wild west where women's rights and safety are being sacrificed at the altar of profitability.

Gripping and eye-opening, **THE NEW AGE OF SEXISM** exposes a phenomenon we can't afford to ignore any longer. Our future is on the line. We need to act now, before it is too late.

**LAURA BATES** is an author and freelance journalist who has written for the Guardian, the Independent, the New Statesman, Red Magazine and Grazia and is the author of several books including the New York and Sunday Times bestselling **MEN WHO HATE WOMEN** (S&S, 2022). She is also contributor at Women Under Siege, a New-York based organisation working to combat the use of sexual violence as a tool of war in conflict zones worldwide. She is the founder of the Everyday Sexism Project.

## THE MADNESS THAT WAS IN HER: Wild Women Tamed at the Asylum

Anna Wharton



**UK Publisher:** Hutchinson  
Heinemann

**UK Editor:** Vanessa Phan

**Publication:** Spring 2027

As late as 1972 an English psychiatric textbook recommended lobotomies for women suffering with depression due to a cruel husband. The thinking was, for the woman 'who may owe her illness to a psychopathic husband who cannot change', her life would be easier, with less of a brain.

Anna Wharton's Grandmother was a true gothic 'madwoman in the attic'. As a child visiting her grandparents Anna was terrified of this wild looking woman confined to a chair in one room, repeatedly muttering 'asparagus' to herself. To her grandfather, however, his wife was more of an inconvenience and a joke. As Anna grew up she learned a little of the story - her Grandmother had apparently put her head in an oven in her 40s, and as a result she was sent to an asylum. When she came back, she was a very different woman.

It takes Anna until her own middle-age to question the story of her grandmother. When she does, she is confronted by a terrifying hidden truth about how women were treated in asylums until extremely recently, still-sealed records preventing proper enquiry and recompense.

**THE MADNESS THAT WAS IN HER** is Anna's fascinating, emotional and beautifully written journey through history, culture and the media to look at how 'crazy' women are treated - often artistic, rebellious, visionary women - and to honour those whose minds were brutally taken from them.

**ANNA WHARTON** is a renowned author and journalist. She has written for the Daily Mail, The Times, Sunday Times and the Telegraph. She is also a much sought after ghostwriter, and is well known for her collaboration with Wendy Mitchell on her 3 bestselling books, including *SOMEBODY I USED TO KNOW* (Bloomsbury, 2018), which have been translated into 14 languages. She is also the author of one novel, *THE IMPOSTER*, which was published by Mantel in 2021.



**PLEASURE**

Emma Louise Boyton

**UK Publisher:** Bonnier**UK Editor:** Carole Tonkinson**Publication:** Spring 2026**On behalf of Abigail Bergstrom  
at Bergstrom Studio**

At the age of 28, Emma confessed at a dinner party that she had never really enjoyed sex. She thought she was stuck like that, feeling as though her relationship to sex was - much like her approach to finances - 'a fundamental and incorrigible flaw in my personality'. Having worked in journalism as a producer for the BBC, Sky News and then later Tina Brown's Women in the World Summit in New York, she decided to approach her relationship to intimacy, sex and love through stories. She set up the sell-out and award-winning event series: Sex Talks. She got a sex therapist and went on a journey, asking herself (and our sex culture) questions such as: Did the sexual revolution do us dirty? Who does my body belong to? What comes after the devastation of heartbreak? Would she pay for an orgasm (spoiler: she does). And, is it love or dopamine?

**PLEASURE** sits alongside Natasha Lunn's Conversations on Love and Want by Gillian Anderson, and Emma draws together all the wisdom and advice collected via Sex Talks but with witty and compulsively-readable memoir material. It is an exploration of women's sexuality through unmet needs and unspoken thoughts which radically recalibrates our relationship to sex and intimacy. It shows readers how to find great joy, confidence and creativity in their public lives though first learning to prioritise pleasure in their private lives.

**EMMA LOUISE BOYTON** runs the very successful and sell-out monthly event series Sex Talks, in which she interviews experts and celebrities about sex and intimacy. She has taken the series to Cheltenham Literary Festival, Wilderness Festival, Alma at Six Senses, the Intelligent Change Summit, Selfridges, Soho House and the WOW festival at the Southbank. **PLEASURE** is her first book.





## SEEKING SEXUAL FREEDOM

Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah



**A bold foray into African traditions around sexual pleasure and joy, with the personal goal of self-discovery and liberation by one of Africa's preeminent feminists, in the vein of books by Gillian Anderson and Tracy McMillan Cottom.**

While working on her award-winning podcast and blog Adventures from the Bedrooms of African Women and researching her first book, *THE SEX LIVES OF AFRICAN WOMEN*, acclaimed African feminist and activist Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah had access to the wildest dreams and spiciest realities of women from around the world. But so often, something was holding these women back from achieving full liberation and unfettered joy. So she set out to apply *sankofa*, which means learning from the past to inform the future, to sex and pleasure, reclaiming African traditions in a quest to achieve sexual freedom.

**UK Publisher:** Dialogue

**UK Editor:** Charmaine Lovegrove

**Publication:** Spring 2026

**Extent:** 288

**On behalf of Robert Caskie**

The book is organized in three parts. In the first, Sekyiamah takes readers across the African continent, from Senegal to Tanzania and beyond, where she meets and trains with gurus, "witches" and aunties whose job it is to guide girls through puberty rites and later through "marital training." She discusses practices like beading and pulling, while highlighting the spiritual and gender-fluid nature of African traditional religions.

In asking how we lost our way, in the second part of the book, Sekyiamah looks at the incursion of colonialism and western patriarchal norms into sexuality. This led to our warped ideals of beauty and shame, internalized racism, as well as state and interpersonal violence that stand in the way of sexual liberation. In the third and concluding part, she shows that we can overcome these hurdles by returning to a more joyful and free sexual practice, using practical advice and prompts to chart our own journey.

Part travelogue, part manifesto, **SEEKING SEXUAL FREEDOM** is the bold call to joy and sexual freedom we need today.

**ROBE  
RTCA  
SKIE**

**NANA DARKOA SEKYIAMAH** is the author of *THE SEX LIVES OF AFRICAN WOMEN*. Her writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *Open Democracy*, and *Essence*, and her short stories have been published in *It Wasn't Exactly Love* and *The Pot and Other Stories*. Nana is the co-founder of the award-winning podcast and blog *Adventures from the Bedrooms of African Women* that publishes the stories of African women's experiences around sex, sexualities, and pleasure.

# MATERNITY SERVICE: A Love Letter To Mothers From the Front Line of Maternity Leave

Emma Barnett



**The essential companion for every mother embarking on maternity leave**

'In one important sense maternity leave is poorly named, as it involves no actual leave. You are constantly on, even when your offspring is having a nap. There is nothing restful about it. In another sense maternity leave is aptly named, because it's a period of leave from all you know: taking leave of one's mind, body, job, and relationships'

When Emma Barnett began her second maternity leave, she realized that, despite having been there before, as soon as her first leave finished the rose-tinted lenses had descended and she immediately forgot what the experience was actually like when you're in it. This collective forgetting, which leads to well-meaning comments such as 'enjoy every minute' and 'treasure this special time', is doing a disservice to women, leaving them unprepared for the more complicated reality of what it means to be on maternity service.

In this warmly reassuring, refreshingly honest book, Emma sets out to capture this reality, in real time while on her latest tour of duty. She isn't offering advice on sleep-training or weaning or helping your baby reach milestones. Instead, this book is a celebration and acknowledgement of the work of being on maternity leave, with its soaring highs and challenging lows, and its impact on how women feel about our purpose and ourselves.

**EMMA BARNETT** is an award-winning broadcaster and journalist. She was named Interviewer of the Year for 2022 at the British Journalism awards and is a presenter on BBC Radio 4's flagship Today Programme. Emma has written for the i, Sunday Times and the Daily Telegraph. After the birth of her first child, she wrote *PERIOD: It's about Bloody Time* (HQ, 2019), her first book. Emma grew up in Manchester, and now lives in London with her husband and their two children.

**UK Publisher:** Fig Tree

**UK Editor:** Helen Garnons-Williams

**Publication:** March 2025

**Extent:** 144

**On behalf of Robert Caskie**

**ROBE  
RTCA  
SKIE**

**EAT BITTER**

Lydia Pang

**UK Publisher:** Chatto & Windus**UK Editor:** Kaiya Shang**Publication:** 2026**On behalf of Abigail Bergstrom  
at Bergstrom Studio**

**EAT BITTER is a memoir about food and feelings with the satire and darkness of Netflix's BEEF, the tender insight of CRYING AT H MART and the distinct magic of Ella Risbridger's MIDNIGHT CHICKEN.**

In **EAT BITTER** food is not fuel. It's a vehicle for us to digest reality. A pause for us to pick a truth from our teeth. It's a belly full of contemplation. This is an ode to food as a material for conversation, connection. Lydia Pang moves through the most challenging moments in her life, from burning out and pushing her marriage to the brink, to nursing her mum through cancer and suffering several miscarriages, all with a renewed appreciation for food as a medium to process emotions. It's heartfelt and tender, witty in all the right places, and told through the lens of HAKKA cuisine, a cuisine that's been swallowed up in the monolith of Chinese culture. HAKKA literally translates as "guest families" and HAKKA people have experienced the most forced migration in China. Meaning they have had to forage off the land, use their ingenuity and as such the process of cooking and the endurance of such things is a significant part of their food culture.

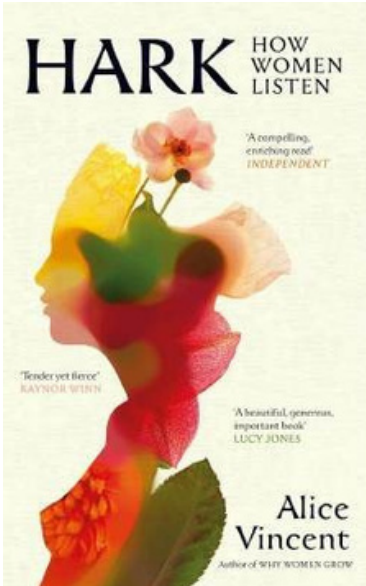
Pang applies the ethos and mindset, of 'eating bitter' and the pain endured to taste sweetness, to those modern-day issues we all face, whether it's losing a parent, or coming face to face with the fact that we're unhappy with the life we've built. She writes: 'Pain will hurt us until it's taught us enough lessons. Eating Bitter is less something to attain and more a state of undoing. I won't leave these bitter experiences here in this book, though it was cathartic to purge them. I'll host them inside me. They're food for my next self.'

**LYDIA PANG** is the Co-Founder and Creative Director of MORNING, a global digital strategy and conscious storytelling studio. She has given talks at Instagram and NYTimes and has written articles on style, feminism and food for Refinery29, Riposte, Vogue, Elle, and Dazed. She spends her free time marinating meat, and recently self published a food zine about her Hakka Chinese heritage to support Welcome To Chinatown. She lives with her husband, who she met on Myspace 16 years ago, in Wales where they're rewilding land, and themselves



## HARK: How Women Listen

Alice Vincent



**\*From the bestselling author of of WHY WOMEN GROW and an Independent Best Book to Look Out For in 2025\***

We're told women are good at listening, but we rarely examine what they're listening to, what their worlds sound like, or how it feels to be expected to listen in a world of noise made by men.

Like so many of us, Alice Vincent had become overwhelmed by the sensory overload punctuating our every moment. And then, a baby's heartbeat arrived. A rapid, pulsing whoosh of white noise. An undeniable rhythm. Once again, Alice's life became cacophonous - both with a new child, but also with the societal pressures that motherhood holds.

What followed was a personal quest to rediscover sound as something alive and vital and restorative. Beyond music, Alice's journey takes her into new corners of listening: from the phantom crying heard by mothers across the world to the nightingale's song and the crackle of the Aurora Borealis. As our attention spans shrink and our sense of disconnection grows, Alice wants to find out if sound - seeking it, trying to hold on to it, making space for it in her life - can reconnect her not only to lost parts of herself but to a life more consciously lived. Hark is a book for women who feel unheard and a means of listening more deeply in a world that has grown too loud.

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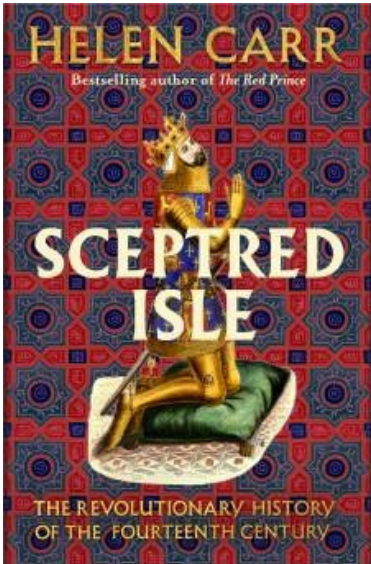
'I loved this exploration of the ways that sound lands in female bodies. Alice Vincent is on song' **KATHERINE MAY**

'Stimulating and humane, Hark is vibrating with interesting people and fresh ideas and made me hear with greater attention' **AMY LIPTROT**

**ALICE VINCENT** is the author of *ROOTBOUND* and *WHY WOMEN GROW*, both of which were longlisted for the Wainwright Prize and named as 'Books of the Year' by the FT, Independent and Stylist. Alice is a columnist for the Guardian and New Statesman and writes for titles including Vogue and the Sunday Times. She writes *savour*, a newsletter dedicated to the delicious things in life, and hosts the Why Women Grow and In Haste podcasts.

# SCEPTRED ISLE: The Revolutionary History of the Fourteenth Century

Helen Carr



**A thrilling new history of the fourteenth century - a time of catastrophe and revolution that shaped England for centuries to come - by the author of THE RED PRINCE, a Times and Sunday Times Book of the Year**

Beginning with the death of Edward I in 1307 and ending with the deposition of Richard II in 1399, *Sceptred Isle* follows the experiences of the last Plantagenets, uncovering lesser-known voices and untold stories along the way. Through the epic drama of regicide, war, the prolonged spectre of the Black Death, religious antagonism, revolt and the end of a royal dynasty, we encounter a fractured monarchy, the birth of the struggle between Europeanism and nationalism, social rebellion and a global pandemic.

**UK Publisher:** Hutchinson  
Heinemann

**UK Editor:** Helen Conford

**Publication:** May 2025

**Extent:** 464

**SCEPTRED ISLE** is a thrilling narrative account of a century of revolution and change – social, political and cultural – shedding new light on a pivotal period of English history that continues to shape our understanding of England today.

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'I didn't want to do anything but read this book for a fortnight. Helen Carr is one of the most talented and compelling historians of her generation' **SATNAM SANGHERA**

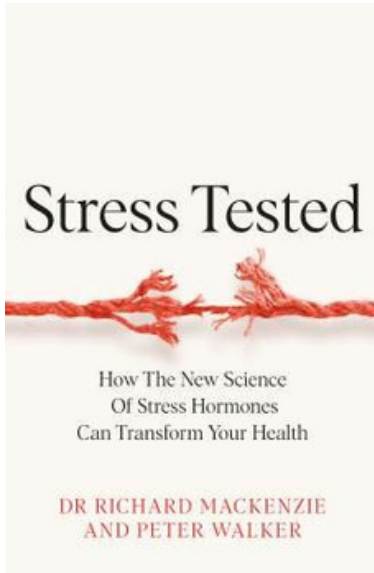
'A fast-paced tour of the reigns of three very different Plantagenet kings, full of chivalrous knights, canny queens, plotting earls and gossipy chroniclers. Conjures all the drama and intrigue of this seismic century of English political history' **SEBASTIAN FAULKS**

**HELEN CARR** is a writer and historian specialising in medieval history and public history. Her first book, *THE RED PRINCE*, was a Times and Sunday Times Book of the Year. Her second book, an edited volume of essays titled *WHAT IS HISTORY, NOW?* has become primary reading for history students and enthusiasts. Helen has a background in public history with podcasting, television and journalism and is currently a postgraduate researcher at Queen Mary University London.



# STRESS TESTED: How The New Science of Stress Hormones Can Transform Your Health

Dr Richard MacKenzie and Peter Walker



## Why do we feel stress? And how can we change things?

A pioneering collaboration between leading researcher Richard Mackenzie and journalist Peter Walker, **STRESS TESTED** covers everything you ever wanted to know about stress, from how stress works, and what we can do to mitigate its long-term health impact.

You'll learn how stress impacts and interacts with:

- Your hormones
- Weight
- Type 2 diabetes
- Your work and socio-economic status
- Fertility and pregnancy
- Early childhood and upbringing
- Plus some strategies for coping with stress

It is packed with conversation-starting science and stories. Did you know that low-carb diets can increase cortisol levels, as can HIIT exercise, causing insulin and glucose surges? The opposite of what we have been told in recent times. Or how stress hormones can affect fertility for all genders? Mackenzie and Walker dive into society and stress, considering if the higher rate of type two diabetes in disadvantaged communities is entirely due to lack of healthy food and exercise - or is the stress of poverty itself a major factor?

One thing is clear: stress is complex and personal, with many contributing factors. In **STRESS TESTED**, the authors present the view that much (if not most) stress is caused by factors outside of your control. It's not your fault if you're stressed. But having the knowledge and understanding of what is happening in your body when stress occurs is a powerful step towards minimizing it.

**DR RICHARD MACKENZIE** is a researcher into insulin resistance and human metabolism at Roehampton University in London, and leads on metabolic disorders at a Harley Street clinic. He has published more than 40 journal articles and is a consultant to a company developing glucose-monitoring device.

**PETER WALKER** is deputy political editor of the Guardian and a well-known commentator on active living and health. His last book, *THE MIRACLE PILL* (S&S, 2021) examined how routine physical activity has largely disappeared from the modern world, and the many consequences this has brought.

**UK Publisher:** Bluebird

**UK Editor:** Jodie Lancet-Grant

**Publication:** April 2025

**Extent:** 288

**Rights sold:**

China: CITIC

Poland: Agora

Portugal: Nascente/PRH

Russia: Mann, Ivanov & Ferber

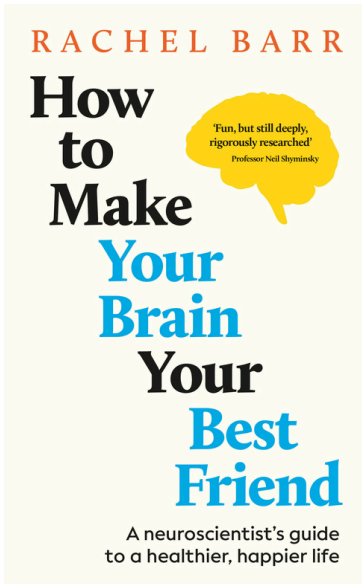
Spain: Diana/Planeta

Ukraine: Vivat



# HOW TO MAKE YOUR BRAIN YOUR BEST FRIEND: A Neuroscientist's Guide To A Healthier, Happier Life

Rachel Barr



Your brain is the most remarkable thing in the known universe.

Always trying to mend itself, and always trying to protect you, it's in a constant state of flux - adapting, reconfiguring, finding new pathways... And it has an astonishing capacity for recovery.

Only it doesn't always get it right.

Rachel Barr struggled through years of devastating loss, heartache, and uncertainty until neuroscience gave her the first spark of self-belief she had felt in her adult life - and proof that, because of the brain's near-infinite potential for neuroplastic change, it's never too late to carve out neural pathways to form new habits, new skills, and new ways of thinking.

**UK Publisher:** DK Life (World English)

**UK Editor:** Elizabeth Neep

**Publication:** August 2025

**Extent:** 288

**Rights sold:**

Arabic: Dar Madarek  
 Brazil: VR Editoras  
 Germany: Rowohlt  
 Korea: Hyeonamsa  
 Lithuania: Tyto Alba  
 Poland: Foksal  
 Spain: Urano  
 Taiwan: Business Weekly  
 Turkey: Kronik  
 Ukraine: Vivat  
 Vietnam: LP Books

**On behalf of Abigail Bergstrom at Bergstrom Studio**



Whether you want to nerd-out on Neuroscientific acronyms, finally understand what's going on in your head, or take refuge in a book that's like a warm hug for your mind, **HOW TO MAKE YOUR BRAIN YOUR BEST FRIEND** is a delight-filled, evidence-based guide to taking better care of your brain - so it, in turn, will take better care of you.

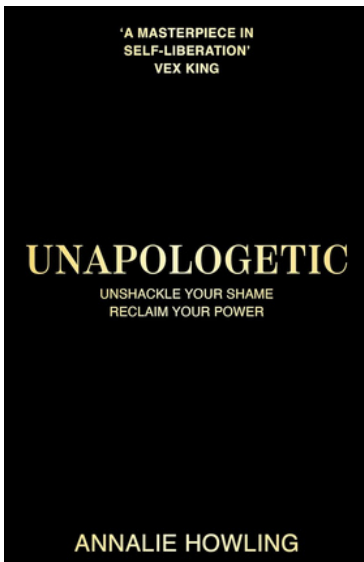
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'Insightful and relatable psychoeducation that demystifies the brain... it's a resource I'll proudly keep on my shelf as a therapist'  
**JOSHUA FLETCHER, author of And How Does That Make Your Feel?**

**RACHEL BARR** holds a master's degree in molecular neuroscience and wrote HOW TO MAKE YOUR BRAIN YOUR BEST FRIEND while completing her PhD in the electrophysiology of memory and sleep. Beyond the lab, her videos as 'Rachel the Neuroscientist' demystify the fundamental principles of brain science, empowering her million-plus followers to make informed decisions about their mental health. Born and raised in Fife, she studied in Leeds and Bristol and is now based in Quebec, where she shares her home - and her keyboard - with Gnocci the cat.

# UNAPOLOGETIC: Unshackle Your Shame, Reclaim Your Power

Annalie Howling



**UK Publisher:** Hodder (World English)

**UK Editor:** Susannah Otter

**Publication:** May 2025

**Extent:** 224

**Rights sold:**  
Germany: mvg

**On behalf of Abigail Bergstrom  
at Bergstrom Studio**



**A ground-breaking programme shifting from lack to limitless: and it all starts when we stop apologising.**

These are the rules that you didn't know that you were living by, that have become part of your everyday language, forming the foundation of your limiting beliefs. It is time to do things differently.

Drawing on over 25 years of experience, Howling argues that breaking the rules is not only good fun but essential for your success.

In this remarkable playbook not only do you get to explore the role that these rules have had on limiting your life but you get the thrill, joy & mischief in breaking them unapologetically.

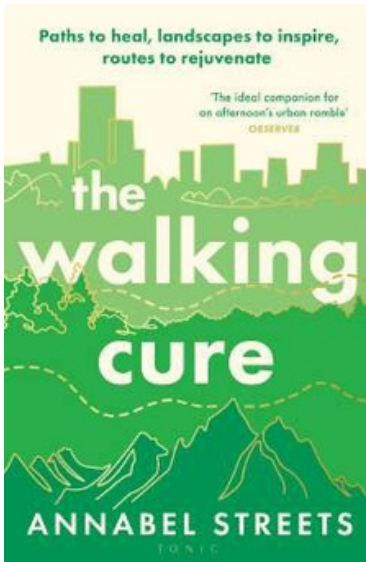
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'Annalie Howling delivers a masterpiece on the transformative power of self-acceptance. Her insights into shame and resilience will leave you empowered, enlightened, and ready to live boldly.' **VEX KING, bestselling author of Good Vibes, Good Life**

**ANNALIE HOWLING** is a highly-qualified performance coach with over 20 years' experience working with Hollywood actors, elite sportspersons, billionaires & corporate giants and members of the Armed Forces. Howling has worked with thousands of women, to help them move through internal pain, triggers and difficult life experiences and into a chapter of their lives where they are no longer bound down by the past. She is, currently the only EMDR certified global practitioner who has come from a corporate background, enabling her to apply EMDR techniques from that perspective rather than one of traditional therapy. Annalie is a sought-after speaker and experienced facilitator, online and media commentator - she has run multiple sell-out retreats and live workshops across the world.

# THE WALKING CURE: Paths to Heal, Landscapes to Inspire, Routes to Rejuvenate

## Annabel Streets



**'The right place, walked at the right time, can heal, energise, restore and inspire. Instead of ambling the same old track, find a route to match and mend your mood... and prepare to be astonished.'**

In this inspirational book Annabel Streets explains the curative and therapeutic benefits of 20 easy-to-find landscapes, both rural and urban: from mountains to meadows, disused railway lines to rivers and coastal cliffs to city parks. Streets reveals not only the huge physiological benefits of walking, but also how these are exponentially enhanced by the particular routes we choose to walk. Streets investigates how different landscapes have proven abilities to change how we see, feel and experience ourselves and the world.

**UK Publisher:** Bloomsbury  
Tonic

**UK Editor:** Rowan Yapp

**Publication:** March 2025

**Extent:** 352

**Rights sold:**

France: Flammarion

Korea: Dongyangbooks

With warmth and wisdom, and using a compelling blend of anecdotal and scientific evidence, she identifies the perfect place to walk for over two dozen common states-of-mind, whether it be a canal path to spark creativity, a bustling city to allay boredom or the the shoreline to heal grief and insomnia. **THE WALKING CURE** celebrates the joy of walking and shares the extraordinary health benefits that landscape unlocks.

### **PRAISE FOR ANNABEL STREETS**

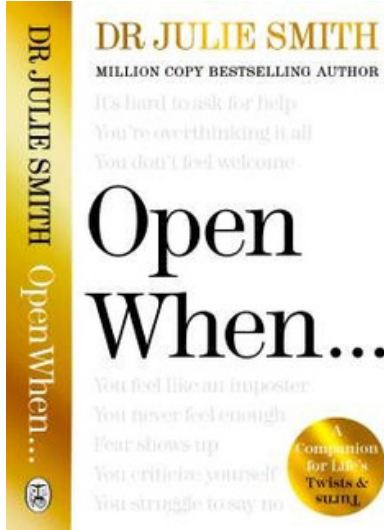
'Full of clearly presented science, nuggets of history and infectious enthusiasm for being out in the world and simply walking as a way of tackling so many of our ills' **Observer**

'Urges readers to put on walking shoes, offering a weekly, new perspective on walking, no matter where you live' **Irish Independent**

**ANNABEL STREETS** (also writing as Annabel Abbs) is the author of four works of non-fiction, including SLEEPLESS (John Murray, 2024), 52 WAYS TO WALK (Bloomsbury, 2022), and three novels. Her books have been translated into 15 languages. Annabel lives in London with her husband and 4 children.

# OPEN WHEN: A Companion for Life's Twists and Turns

Dr Julie Smith



**UK Publisher:** Michael Joseph

**UK Editor:** Lone Walder

**Publication:** January 2025

**Rights sold:**

Arabic: Dar Tashkeel  
 Bulgaria: Ciela  
 Brazil: Sextante  
 China: CITIC  
 Croatia: Koncept  
 Czech Republic: Dobrovsky  
 Denmark: Svane & Bilgrav  
 Estonia: Helios  
 Finland: WSOY  
 France: Leduc  
 Germany: Rowohlt  
 Greece: Psychogios  
 Hungary: Partvonal  
 Iceland: Benedikt  
 Indonesia: Gramedia  
 Israel: Or Am Books  
 Italy: Vallardi  
 Japan: Kawadeshobo  
 Latvia: Helios  
 Netherlands: Luitingh-Sijthoff  
 Norway: Bonnier  
 Poland: Albatros  
 Portugal: Presença  
 Romania: Litera  
 Russia: Mann, Ivanov & Ferber  
 Serbia: Laguna  
 Slovenia: Učila  
 Slovakia: Ikar  
 Spain: Diana  
 Sweden: Tukan  
 Taiwan: Linkin  
 Thailand: B2S  
 Turkey: Butik  
 Ukraine: Family Leisure Club  
 US & Canada: HarperOne  
 Vietnam: First News

On behalf of Anna Dixon at YMU

**YMU**

**\*THE SUNDAY TIMES NO.1 BESTSELLER FROM THE MILLION COPY BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF WHY HAS NOBODY TOLD ME THIS BEFORE\***

**This is the book for life's twists and turns, when being human starts to get complicated.**

A must-have companion to Dr Julie's international bestseller Why Has Nobody Told Me This Before?, which taught us the skills to strengthen our future mental health, Open When... is the book to turn to when you find yourself in the eye of the storm.

Within this book are a series of Open When style letters from Dr Julie to help navigate the moments of overwhelm, confusion or self-doubt that we all face when life gets messy. Offering calm, clarity and a laser focus on the best way forward, each personal letter is followed by real-time tools that will help you re-frame the situation and decide on your next move.

Every chapter covers a new scenario; universal problems that each of us will likely face at some point. So, whether you are experiencing stress, pressure to perform, dealing with difficult people, trying to fit in, making big decisions, arguments with your partner, or big emotions are that causing anxiety, Open When... brings the words you need to hear to get back on the front foot, feeling ready to take on everything life throws your way.

## PRAISE FOR DR JULIE SMITH

'If you want to feel like you have a therapist sitting across from you, empowering you with how to be your best self, this book is for you!' **NICOLE LEPERA**

**DR JULIE SMITH** is a clinical psychologist and the author of the publishing sensation WHY HAS NOBODY TOLD ME THIS BEFORE?, which has sold nearly 2 million copies worldwide and has been translated into 45 languages. Julie offers advice and tips through her Instagram and TikTok and has an engaged following of over 8 million.

# SEVEN MYTHS ABOUT MONEY: How To Really Find Financial Freedom

Rob Dix

## SEVEN MYTHS ABOUT MONEY

And How to Really Find Financial Freedom



**Rob Dix**

The Sunday Times Bestselling Author

**UK Publisher:** Cornerstone

**UK Editor:** Rowan Borchers

**Publication:** January 2025

**Extent:** 288

**Rights sold:**

Arabic: Aser Al-Kotob

Israel: Tchelet

Italy: Newton Compton

Korea: Influential Books

Poland: Helion

Portugal: Porto

Slovenia: Aktivni

Spain: Urano

Taiwan: Infortress

Vietnam: TimesBiz

**\*THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER\***

Have you ever been told that cutting down your spending holds the key to making money? Or that compound interest will mean that your savings only ever grow in value? Or that only a fool would try to 'beat the market' by investing in specific companies?

Most of us have heard these truisms from friends, from family, even from financial advisers. They are held up as nuggets of timeless wisdom. There's just one problem: none of them are true.

Over the course of ten years' research, financial expert Rob Dix has learnt that most of the received wisdom about making money isn't just misleading: it's flat out wrong. Here, he debunks seven of the most misleading myths we're told about earning, saving and investing - and shows that the true path to financial freedom is dramatically different to what you've been told.

**SEVEN MYTHS ABOUT MONEY** reveals that you don't need a trust fund, a side hustle, or an instinctive knack for picking the winning stock to get ahead. You just need to see through the lies you've heard about money, and get to know the truth.

**PRAISE FOR ROB DIX**

'Pithy and punchy... profoundly useful for anyone wanting to understand why the current global economy is in such a mess, and what that might mean for your own finances' **Financial Times**

**ROB DIX** started investing as a hobby using his spare cash, but soon became obsessed and he is now one of Britain's best-respected finance experts. Whether he's presenting The Property Podcast or writing his weekly property column for The Sunday Times, Rob is on a mission to teach the world about how money, the economy and investment really work. His first book, THE PRICE OF MONEY (Cornerstone, 2024) was a Sunday Times bestseller.

# LEARN LIKE A LOBSTER: Accelerate Your Growth, Achieve More at Work, and Advance Your Career

Helen Tupper and Sarah Ellis



**UK Publisher:** Penguin Life

**UK Editor:** Pippa Wright

**Publication:** February 2026

**Rights sold:**

Arabic: Arab Scientific

China: Phei

Germany: Goldman

USA & Canada: Tarcher Perigee

Vietnam: Rubik

**\*The new book from the No.1 Sunday Times bestselling authors of THE SQUIGGLY CAREER\***

For most of us our experience of learning was shaped at school. Answers were either right or wrong and learning was all about ticking a box to move onto the next step. And it's not hard to spot the parallels between learning at school and learning at work. Learning is often linked to the level you're at, and becomes something we do to add a bullet point to our CV, in the hope it increases our chances of getting a promotion.

But learning is essential for success and satisfaction at work. Learners can navigate newness, adapt in the moment and generate impactful ideas. They attract more opportunities to progress, explore more of their potential and create more value for organisations. Learners have the skills to win at work

In **LEARN LIKE A LOBSTER**, Helen Tupper and Sarah Ellis will support people to prioritise learning, by sharing 6 learning approaches, which reflect the key needs that we have in common in our careers.

**LEARN LIKE A LOBSTER** combines expert insight, with practical and useful actions that readers can put into practise straight away. By supporting people to reexamine what learning looks like, we can help everyone to succeed in their career.

**HELEN TUPPER** has held leadership roles at Microsoft, Virgin and BP and is now CEO of Amazing If. She has studied at Henley, Cranfield and Cass Business School, is a trustee for the Working Families charity, a Fellow of The RSA and lives in Buckinghamshire with her husband and two children.

**SARAH ELLIS** has led marketing and corporate responsibility teams for Barclays and Sainsbury's, before becoming Managing Director of a creative agency. She is now Chief Learning Officer at Amazing If. Sarah has studied at Warwick University, London and Harvard Business Schools and she is on the Mayor of London's workspace advisory board and lives in London with her partner and son.



## THE LEADERSHIP FORMULA

Kevin Ellis CBE and Dr Phil Hopley



On submission Spring 2025

On behalf of Elise Middleton  
at YMU

**YMU**

Want to develop your own personal ability to lead? Want to optimise your leadership skills? Learn from the amazing career experiences of Kevin Ellis, CEO of PwC, the world's leading professional services firm, and Dr Phil Hopley, his psychological coach and acclaimed performance mentor in Formula 1 Racing, other elite sports and the business world. Unlock your potential with THE LEADERSHIP FORMULA and become the truly great leader you could be.

The book distills a whole career of learned experience engagingly told as fascinating stories by Kevin Ellis CBE, with scientific insight by Dr Phil Hopley MRCPsych, who has guided him, other highly successful business leaders, and many medal-winning and champion sportspeople to success.

The principles explored, unpacked and explained aren't just for future CEOs, they're for anyone who wants to build the capability to lead effectively and successfully in business, sport, the not-for-profit sector, local community projects or in their personal life.

This book is a unique combination of decades of business experience and instinct combined with scientific rigour, academic knowledge and psychological insights. It will empower you to discover the Leadership Formula and develop the skills to be a winner at leading.

**KEVIN ELLIS CBE** is the UK Chairman of PwC, and spent two terms the elected Senior Partner of PwC's UK and Middle East alliance. Throughout his highly successful career, he has specialised in providing turnaround and crisis management support to businesses in need.

**DR PHIL HOPLEY MRCPsych** is a Medical Doctor and Consultant Psychiatrist. Phil's training in forensic, general and sport psychiatry combined with a career playing Premiership rugby enabled him to develop his passion for the mental health of elite performance in sport and business.

## WE DON'T MAKE OURSELVES SMALLER HERE: Reclaiming All That's Rightfully Ours

Megan Jayne Crabbe



**UK Publisher:** Catalyst

**UK Editor:** Nicole Thomas

**Publication:** June 2025

Sexuality. Cellulite. Heartbreak. Sense of self. How much of our identity still comes with an apology? How much is truly us, and how much is just how we've been taught to be? What's been taken from us, and how can we get it back?

For every person who claims that women have nothing to complain about anymore, there is a woman who walks with her head down, who tears her reflection apart, who believes she's worthless and who doesn't understand why she feels so far from whole. This book is a journey through all the places that we lose parts of ourselves in - relationships, on the internet, through the lens of patriarchal expectations - and a song calling us home.

Through Megan's personal narrative of reclaiming, the real reasons why we feel how we do are brought to light and the reader will see themselves, see the bigger picture, and feel empowered to embrace their wholeness again. Vulnerable, insightful, humorous and timely, **WE DON'T MAKE OURSELVES SMALLER HERE** will galvanise a generation of women, and help them take back what's always rightfully been theirs.

**MEGAN JAYNE CRABBE** is best known for changing the narrative of how women feel about their bodies. Amassing over 1.3 million followers on social media, Megan has built her platform by creating empowering content on the topics of body positivity, mental health, feminism and beyond. She has worked as a presenter for the BBC, Channel 4 and MTV and has done speaking events at events hosted by Spotify, Instagram, Stylist Magazine, The Sunday Times, The Body Shop, Boots and more. Her first book, **BODY POSITIVITY POWER** was published in 2017 by Vermillion.

## I THINK I LIKE GIRLS: Exploring Your Sexuality as a Woman

Rosie Day



**Rosie Day shares her experience of exploring her sexuality, coming out and navigating life as a queer woman.**

When Rosie Day first embarked on exploring her sexuality, she didn't know where to start and spent a long time longing for something that didn't feel possible to her. Every woman wants to be able to explore their sexuality, but it can be hard to approach dating in a way that feels authentic when the information out there is limited, and you may not have friends in the queer community already. So maybe the first step is to turn to the internet, but that can feel like falling into a black hole of information. Enter Rosie, who has been navigating this journey herself.

**UK Publisher:** Piatkus

**UK Editor:** Bernadette Marron

**Publication:** June 2025

**On behalf of Anna Dixon at  
YMU**

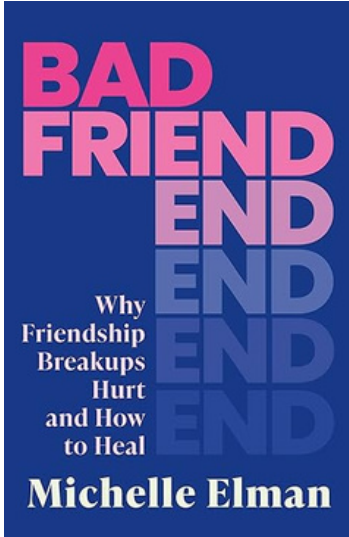
**I THINK I LIKE GIRLS** will share everything that Rosie wishes she had known when she started dating women, offering answers to the questions that cross everyone's mind. From the first moment of coming out to finding community and navigating relationships, Rosie will offer her own stories and bring in those of other women, with warmth, humour and a happy helping of chaotic dates. She will also address our relationship with our bodies, questions of representation, sexism and issues facing the community.

**YMU**

**ROSIE DAY** is an actress, short film maker, screenwriter, director, playwright, and Stem4 ambassador amongst other things. She wears many hats, but none she treasures more than 'author'. Her debut non-fiction book for young adults, *INSTRUCTIONS FOR A TEENAGE ARMAGEDDON*, was published by Wren & Rook in 2021, and she is truly passionate about books, and is currently working on a novel.

# BAD FRIEND: Why Friendship Breakups Hurt and How To Heal

Michelle Elman



**UK Publisher:** Renegade

**UK Editor:** Christina Demosthenous

**Publication:** May 2025

**Extent:** 304

**On behalf of Megan Staunton at Bergstrom Studio**

Introducing **BAD FRIEND**, a ground-breaking masterclass in friendship that makes space for every conversation you have never been allowed to have. **BAD FRIEND** will make you question everything you've been taught about friendships, and removes the stigma from friendship break-ups. This is for you if you've ever been hurt by a friend and, most importantly, reassures you that you're categorically not a bad friend.

Society's message is loud and clear: romantic relationships matter more than friendship. But when we have an average of twenty-nine platonic relationships in our lifetime, compared to just seven-to-ten romantic relationships, why is the conversation on love far greater than friendship? Life coach and broadcaster Michelle Elman is determined to fix this.

If the conversation on friendship is quiet, the one on friendship break-ups is non-existent. This is despite research showing that only six friendships stand the test of time, which means that the average person experiences the ending of twenty-three friendships. As someone who has gone through a dozen of them, Michelle began to think she was a Bad Friend.

Have one too many friendship break-ups and people start questioning what's wrong with you. But what if you aren't the problem? What if the problem is how we think about friendship break-ups?



**MICHELLE ELMAN** is a life coach, author, broadcaster and public speaker. Michelle is the author of four bestselling books, including *AM I UGLY?* (2018) and *THE JOY OF BEING SELFISH* (2021). Michelle's popularity continues to grow with her books being sold in 16 countries and amassing an online following of over 250k on Instagram and 200k on TikTok.

## GRANNY TAKES A TRIP: Glamour & Excess in London, New York and LA

Paul Gorman



### 'Like Gone With The Wind, Granny Takes A Trip invented the clichés' Salman Rushdie

Freddie Hornik was the one-time owner of mould-breaking boutique *Granny Takes A Trip*, whose international clientele included The Beatles, Elton John, Mick Jagger, Led Zeppelin, Sly Stone, Miles Davis, the Isley Brothers, Faye Dunaway, Patti Boyd, Anita Pallenberg and rafts more rock and film stars in London, New York and Los Angeles.

**UK Publisher:** White Rabbit/  
Orion

**UK Editor:** Lee Brackstone

**Publication:** Autumn 2025

But at the age of 65, without children or a partner, Freddie died alone at his modest home on a housing estate in the Croydon, the body undetected for two days, his Patterdale terrier Ruby scratching at the door.

In the absence of anyone who knew anything about Freddie's life, music journalist Paul Gorman was asked to give the eulogy at his funeral, and so started his journey into uncovering the details of Freddie's extraordinary life, how it intersected with the lives of a number of equally extraordinary personalities, and how it weaves a hitherto unexplored narrative that throws fresh light on the stories of youth culture, music, fashion, design, celebrity and addiction from the immediate post-war years to the present day.

**PAUL GORMAN** is the author of many books on music, fashion, design and pop culture, including *TOTALLY WIRED* (Thames & Hudson, 2023) and *THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MALCOLM MCLAREN* (Constable, 2021).

## THE CHEESE CURE: How Comté and Camembert Fed My Soul

Michael Finnerty



**UK Publisher:** Mudlark

**UK Editor:** Joel Simons

**Publication:** September 2025

A giant wheel of Comté - a cheese full of delight, a mosaic of flavour - can sometimes become flat. Despite all that's gone into making it and caring for it, its complexity mysteriously vanishes, its spark dies. Cheesemongers know that. That's why they regularly test the cheeses: they insert a cheese iron deep into the wheel and extract a sample from its core. Sometimes they can cure it and sometimes they can't.

A highly successful BBC and Guardian journalist, and host of NBC's morning radio show Daybreak, somehow Michael Finnerty's life had become flat. His psychological cheese iron told him he needed to make a change.

Michael becomes convinced his salvation lies in cheese. He becomes an apprentice cheesemonger at Borough Market, and is plunged into a world of intense physicality, extraordinary knowledge, and total geeky passion. From learning the cheese's personal nighttime riders - Castillon Frais needs to sit in its box underneath some waxed paper but its box needs to be kept in a plastic sheath, Comté sits unwrapped in a cool cupboard, and has a quick saline bath before bed - to learning intricate ways to wrap their different shapes; from being able to taste nuances between the cheeses, to slicing fingers, bruising toes, getting allergic reactions, and the simple dog-tiredness of being on your feet from the crack of dawn till night, Michael's new job is more demanding than he could ever have imagined - and he loves it. Then when Borough Market is subjected to a terrifying attack, Michael realises through cheese, he has found something even more powerful - community.

Michael's story is a soul-lifting tale of finding a new life in a passion, a glorious insight into the community of London's oldest food market, an exploration of the senses the modern world forgets to celebrate - taste, touch, smell... and the most enjoyable and fascinating education on all things cheese.

**MICHAEL FINNERTY** was a news journalist at the BBC and the Guardian, and the host of NBC's daybreak, before retraining as a cheesemonger in 2018. He works in Borough Market, alongside doing freelance journalism.



## NO MEAT DISCO

Sam Jones



**\*The debut cookbook from viral content creator Sam Jones aka @NoMeatDisco\***

After travelling and exploring other cultures through food, Sam Jones fell in love with plant-based cooking and experimenting with flavours. He wanted to help show people how easy and delicious it is for anyone to adopt a plant-based diet, and so in 2020 @NoMeatDisco was born, combining Sam's love of great music and irresistible food.

This is the 'meat-focussed' book plant based eaters have been waiting for, drawing from Sam's viral 7 Ingredient Vegan content series, which launched at the beginning of 2024. The series focussed on 20 simple plant based recipes with whole food ingredients, that didn't require an extensive shopping list to make. Each recipe will utilise seven core ingredients, in addition to your usual pantry staples of 'butter', oils, seasoning and stock.

Sam now has over 1 million fans of his easy to follow, moreish recipes on Instagram alone. This book will give readers more of those amazing seven ingredient recipes that they keep asking for, with 80 tasty dishes packing in heaps of flavour, with only seven items on the shopping list.

**UK Publisher:** Little, Brown

**UK Editor:** Tom Asker

**Publication:** August 2026

**Rights sold:** US & Canada:  
Countryman/ Norton

**On behalf of Anna Dixon at  
YMU**

**YMU**

**SAM JONES** is the online content creator being @NoMeatDisco, who now has over 1 million followers across his social media platforms.

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