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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 Maven Literary.

**FICTION**

## THE LAST ACT OF ALBERT HODGE

Laura Foster



**For readers of Jennie Godfrey and Emma Healey, *THE LAST ACT OF ALBERT HODGE* is a tender story of unlikely friendships, late-in-life healing and the struggle between vengeance and justice.**

Albert Hodge is ready for his life to end.

Since losing his beloved Beth, and his son now living in Australia, he has retreated to the quiet routine of Pear Tree Place retirement village—enduring the meddlesome kindness of his assigned “buddy,” Judith Merriweather, and the long days of committee meetings and waiting out the clock of life.

Until Sylvia Carraway arrives.

MUCH younger than the average resident, Sylvia smokes, drinks, and plays Rachmaninoff at window-rattling volume. She’s disruptive, magnetic—and everything Albert has been trying to avoid. But when he’s reluctantly appointed as Sylvia’s “buddy,” he becomes entangled in a decades-old mystery: an unsolved murder that has brought her to this sleepy village.

Sylvia believes a killer lives among them and she will stop at nothing to deliver the justice she has waited for, for decades.

But is Sylvia telling the truth or is she just as culpable of terrible acts as the person she is seeking to find?

As dark pasts surface and alliances shift, Albert finds himself—in his winter years—an unlikely detective with a gun in his hand, and a very serious decision to make...

**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.

**UK Publisher:** HQ

**UK Editor:** Manpreet Grewal

**Publication:** Summer 2027

**Rights sold:**

Germany: dtv

Italy: Newton Compton

Spain: Newton Compton

US & Canada: Pegasus

**THE LIBRARY OF STARS**

Jordan Rose



**An enchanting and deeply romantic fantasy that masterfully explores the pull between legacy, duty and destiny and the enduring magic of stories, for readers of THE NIGHT CIRCUS and THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY**

Archimedes is no ordinary library – its ceilings shimmer with stars, its books heal hearts and it travels the world at will, appearing where it’s needed most before vanishing without a trace. For centuries, the Finch family have been its custodians, remembered by no one once the library moves on.

**UK Publisher:** Del Rey

**UK Editor:** Claire Simmonds

**Publication:** Summer 2027

**Rights sold:**

Brazil: Bertrand/Record

France: Olympe/Gallimard

Germany: dtv

Greece: Psychogios

Hungary: General Press/Lira

Italy: Newton Compton

Portugal: Porto

Spain: Urano

Ukraine: Vivat

USA & Canada: Del Rey US

In 1959, the latest guardians, Maria and Edmund Finch, die under mysterious circumstances. Three days later, Archimedes relocates from France to London, taking their daughter Seraphine with it. Alone and grieving, Serrie must prove herself worthy of the library’s power by completing three magical trials.

Convinced her parents’ deaths weren’t an accident – and with the arrival of the charming Sebastian Ellerbrook – Serrie begins to unravel a web of secrets that could destroy both her and the library she was born to protect.

**JORDAN ROSE** is a British content creator with over 500,000 followers across her platforms (@hellomissjordan) where she shares vintage-inspired fashion and enchanting travel destinations to an international audience. She holds a degree in English Literature and Language from the University of Sussex, and the novel was deeply shaped by her own journey with mental health and therapy.

**MASTER OF RUINS**

Emma Mallory

**MASTER OF RUINS**

Emma Mallory

**On submission Spring 2026****Rights sold:**

Germany: auction ongoing

**On behalf of Eugenie Furniss  
at 42**

42

**A gloriously spicy, highly atmospheric and intensely romantic adult dark romance with the atmospheric setting of a remote Scottish island.**

Struggling to meet the costs of her mother's cancer treatment, 25-year-old archivist, Rachel Wilson, leaps at the chance of a job cataloguing the collection of Duncan, Laird of Dorca, one of the Hebrides' most isolated islands.

While Rachel is reluctant to leave her boyfriend, Simon, the job is only for 3 months and she is excited by the prospect of exploring the vaults of Castle Morven, containing items that haven't been seen since the Crimean War. On arrival, however, Rachel starts to feel a creeping sense of unease. Passionate about birdlife, hostile to developers and obsessive about his privacy, the Laird has resisted attempts to bring Wi-Fi to Dorca; Rachel's sole source of communication with the outside world becomes a landline in his study.

More troubling still is the level of authority that the 30-something Duncan, possesses. At 6 foot 3, he is a commanding presence, and clearly a man who is accustomed to being obeyed. The Laird is also a man with a mission; his family's turbulent history means that many of the pieces that lay at the heart of the Estate have been sold off, and he is determined to restore it to its former glory. Until now, nothing has distracted him from that single goal, but with Rachel's arrival everything has changed. Rachel has stirred something in Duncan that he has never felt before, and Rachel, by turns willingly and reluctantly, will embark on a voyage of discovery, in which she will ultimately accept her true nature.

A life lived in pastels is suddenly about to explode into fierce colour...

**EMMA MALLORY** is pseudonym for an acclaimed screenwriter. This is her first novel.

**AMERICAN DREAM**

Sara Collins



**\*The long-awaited second novel from the Costa First Novel Award winning Sara Collins\***

Cassandra Johnson is a woman who lives in the shadows. She is haunted by the omnipresence of her first love, Alloy Grant, and her former best friend, Mercy Dawson, who are now the most successful, globally recognised rulers of the music business.

But years before, Cassandra fled their toxic menage and has been living a quiet life, desperate to forget the memories they forged together in their youth.

**UK Publisher:** Fourth Estate

**UK Editor:** Kishani Widyaratna

**Publication:** 2027

**Rights sold:**

US & Canada: Harper

Germany: Penguin

In the beginning it was the four of them: Cassandra, Alloy, Mercy and Alloy's musical partner Blaze, who was brutally murdered; the culprit never caught. While Blaze and Cassandra have paid heavily for the sins of their past, Alloy and Mercy have not only survived but thrived.

Until now.

Now Alloy is in a correctional facility, accused of Blaze's murder; Mercy has disappeared from public view.

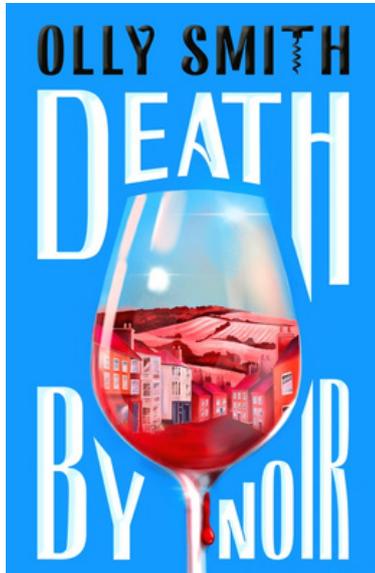
When a letter arrives in London to Cassandra from Alloy's lawyer asking her to return to New York to see him, she is plunged into remembering the reasons they came together and the reasons she fled all those years ago. What does he want with her now? What can she possibly give him he does not already 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.

**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, for which she won the Costa First Novel Award, and which was adapted into a hit TV series and translated into 13 languages.

# DEATH BY NOIR: Book 1 in the Bottle Bank Mysteries

Olly Smith



**The first of THE BOTTLE BANK MYSTERIES, a series of charming and warm-hearted crime novels by beloved wine expert, Olly Smith.**

In an idyllic Sussex town, murder is fermenting...

Barclay Flint is the charmingly eccentric proprietor of The Bottle Bank wine shop, nestled in a picturesque Sussex town renowned for its gloriously anarchic Bonfire Night celebration.

Barclay can taste a kaleidoscopic universe in a single glass of wine and delights in matching customers to the grapes of their dreams. But when his close friend, struggling regenerative vineyard owner Victor Crawshaw, is found dead, Barclay finds himself a prime suspect.

**UK Publisher:** Baskerville/John Murray

**UK Editor:** Jade Chandler

**Publication:** June 2026

**Extent:** 320 pages

**Rights sold:**

Film/TV: auction ongoing

To crack the case and clear his name, Barclay must deploy his wine detection skills and follow his nose through the rolling Sussex hills where a tangle of old resentments and rivalries awaits to ensnare him.

With a killer on the loose and Bonfire Night fast approaching, the town crackles with anticipation. This year the fireworks might not be the only things to explode...

Join Barclay and his friends from The Bottle Bank in this sparkling debut novel by wine expert Olly Smith. It's time to uncork the most exuberant and irresistible mystery of the year!

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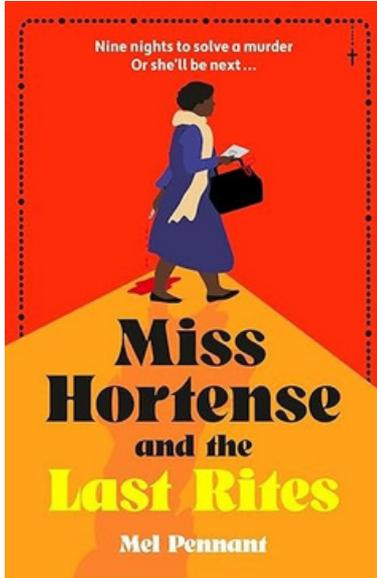
'Olly Smith brings his legendary nose to detecting dark and troubling notes in the vinous twittens of Lewes. I loved his crime debut so much I bought a case of Sussex Seyval Blanc to celebrate it.' **RICHARD COLES, author of Murder Before Evensong**

**OLLY SMITH** is the UK's best-loved wine expert, with 18 years' presenting wine on BBC1's Saturday Kitchen. He has written about wine for the Mail on Sunday and the Daily Mail for 17 years and has six award-winning Glass House wine bars across P&O Cruises fleet. He is the author of several books on wine and cocktails, including WINE (Quadrille, 2025). DEATH BY NOIR is his debut novel and is the first in the cosy crime Bottle Bank Mystery series.

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## MISS HORTENSE AND THE LAST RITES

Mel Pennant



**UK Publisher:** Baskerville/John Murray

**UK Editor:** Jade Chandler

**Publication:** July 2026

**Extent:** 320

**Rights:**  
USA & Canada: Pantheon

### **Nine nights to solve a murder... or she'll be next.**

When Bigglesweigh's notorious gangster, Cuttah, uses up the last of his nine lives, and is found dead at his flat, there is only one person who can solve the mystery of who killed him: indomitable retired nurse Miss Hortense.

Cuttah left a letter with a list of suspects. There's just one problem: Miss Hortense's name is on the list and she only has nine days before his cronies seek retribution...

### **PRAISE FOR MEL PENNANT**

'Fresh, original and intriguing from start to finish!' **JANICE HALLET, bestselling author of The Examiner**

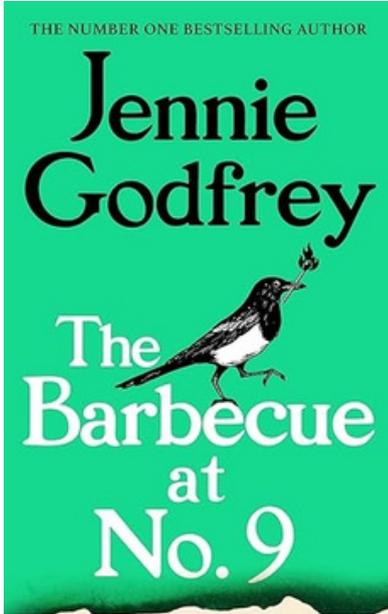
'What a joy - a brilliant new amateur sleuth to rival Miss Marple!' **Good Housekeeping**

'More than a cosy crime mystery . . . it's the story of a community' **JENNIE GODFREY, bestselling author of The List of Suspicious Things**

**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. Her debut novel, A MURDER FOR MISS HORTENSE was published by Baskerville in 2025.

## THE BARBECUE AT NUMBER 9

Jennie Godfrey



**UK Publisher:** Hutchinson  
Heinemann

**UK Editor:** Venetia Butterfield

**Publication:** February 2026

**Extent:** 464 pages

**Rights sold:**

Germany: dtv

Italy: Bollati Boringhieri

Norway: Gyldendal

USA & Canada: Sourcebooks

**\*A SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER\***

It's the summer of 1985 and the residents of Delmont Close are preparing a neighbourhood barbecue to watch the biggest music event in history: Live Aid. A day like no other that will end having reached millions and changed the lives of all who attend.

House-proud Lydia Gordon, whose idols are Princess Di and Delia Smith, is determined to put on a show that will impress everyone - with her posh garden and state-of-the-art television and her sweet husband and two children, Hanna and David.

But as the guests flood into number nine, so do all of the secrets that have been kept in the close.

Rita, a new neighbour from Australia, is hoping for a fresh start but harbours a shocking event in her past; Steve, a young Falklands veteran, battles his own demons; and Mr Wilson is surely too good-looking to ever be trusted.

But as the hours count down to the last performance of the night, it's Lydia who faces the heart-breaking truth that her immaculate home and flawless family might not be so perfect after all.

And if each of their neighbours is guilty of hiding something, so are the Gordons at number nine ...

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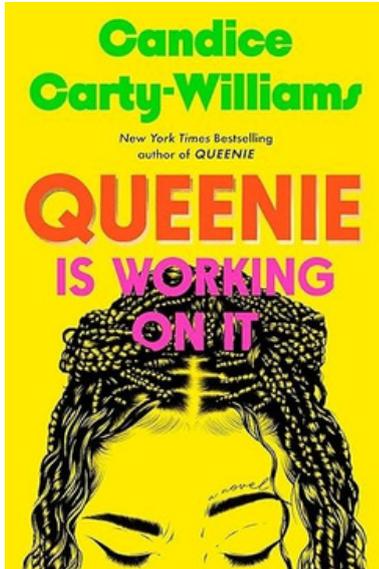
'A gorgeous novel, I adored it, Jennie Godfrey's writing is pure joy, she is such a gifted storyteller.' **CLAIRE LESLIE HALL**

Warmly engaging prose... Godfrey's gentle, wryly humorous take makes for a breezily entertaining read.' **The Times**

**JENNIE GODFREY** was raised in West Yorkshire and her debut novel is inspired by her childhood there in the 1970s. Following the success of her debut *THE LIST OF SUSPICIOUS THINGS*, which has been translated into 20 languages and was shortlisted for Debut of the Year at the British Book Awards, she is now a full-time writer and part-time Waterstones bookseller and lives in the Somerset countryside.

## QUEENIE IS WORKING ON IT

Candice Carty-Williams



**UK Publisher:** Trapeze

**UK Editor:** Katie Espiner

**Publication:** July 2026

**Extent:** 416 pages

**Rights sold:**

Germany: Blumenbar/Aufbau

USA & Canada: Gallery

**\*QUEENIE returns in the highly anticipated new novel from critically adored, multi-prize shortlisted, smash-hit bestselling author Candice Carty-Williams\***

How is it possible for one woman to hold it together when she's:

Confronted with a racing biological clock when she doesn't even know if she wants kids.

Trying to act normal when her heart is smashed into a million pieces.

Ten times smarter than the people she's working for.

Priced out of the housing market in the place she grew up.

Stuck in a situationship when all she wants is the love of her life back...

Bigger. Not better. Older. Not wiser. Queenie Jenkins is working on it. And failing.

Award-winning author Candice Carty-Williams returns with a scalpel-sharp, poignant and hilarious new book that shines a dazzling light on the realities of modern womanhood.

### **PRAISE FOR CANDICE CARTY-WILLIAMS**

'Brilliant, timely, funny, heartbreaking.' **JOJO MOYES**

'[A] brazenly hilarious, tell-it-like-it-is first novel.' **O, The Oprah Magazine**

**CANDICE CARTY-WILLIAMS** is a journalist, screenwriter, and author of the Sunday Times bestselling *QUEENIE*, which was translated into 14 languages and was adapted into a hit TV series, and her second novel *PEOPLE PERSON*. Candice created and launched the Guardian and 4th Estate BAME Short Story Prize, the first inclusive initiative of its kind in book publishing.

**UNSEEN**

Sam Baker



**'A wave of wet heat burst from my hair to my crotch, a convulsion swept through my body and I lurched forward as the room seemed to ebb and flow around me. My heart fluttered an arhythmic beat in my chest. The lights flickered, darker, then brighter. Was I having a stroke? A seizure?**

**When the room stilled I looked back up at the mirror. And saw... nothing.'**

Jess has done everything right. So why, age 53, is she crying in the office loos because a young male colleague, once again, took the credit for her work?

She loves her husband Vince – the man she met on a Dalston dancefloor in her twenties, when their lives overlapped in a perfect Venn diagram of hope and ambition. But somewhere along the way, the circles shifted - now hers is a crescent moon at the edge of his. Vince is universally admired as magnetic while Jess – at home, at work, in the world – is becoming... invisible.

Then the unthinkable happens: first, Jess is made redundant on grounds that reek of ageism. Then, she discovers Vince is having an affair with his assistant. Decades of quiet compromise erupt into a rage she has never felt before. She feels distinctly strange all over, her blood pumping, bright lights in her vision. And when she looks in the mirror... she's not there.

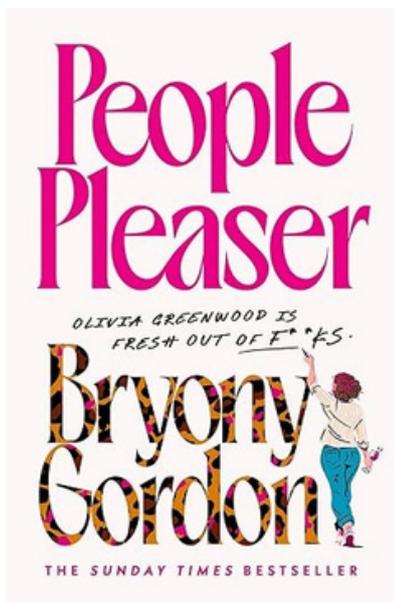
In this bold, feminist retelling of HG Wells' *The Invisible Man*, Sam Baker imagines what happens when midlife invisibility turns literal. Is it a curse – or a gift?

After all, if they can't see you, they can't stop you.

**SAM BAKER** is a journalist, broadcaster and podcaster. She was the award-winning Editor-in-Chief of *Cosmopolitan*, *Red*, *Just 17* and *Company*, and co-founder of the women's mobile platform *The Pool*, which won both a Webby and a Lovie, as well as a Drum Online Media Award, in 2017. Sam is the author of *THE SHIFT* (Coronet, 2020) a memoir/manifesto credited with helping start the menopause movement.

**PEOPLE PLEASER**

Bryony Gordon

**UK Publisher:** Viking**UK Editor:** Harriet Bourton**Publication:** April 2026**Extent:** 368 pages**Rights sold:**

Lithuania: Lithuania Writers

Union

Ukraine: Vivat

Film/TV: Imaginarium

**\*From the Sunday Times bestselling author comes a fiercely funny, relatable, escapist read about finding the courage to please ourselves\***

"You're so desperate to make everybody else happy that you've forgotten what makes you happy. You've not just forgotten it, you've abandoned it, on a bonfire full of all your other hopes and dreams. A bonfire you're too scared to light in case the neighbours report you to the council."

Olivia Greenwood has been trying very hard to please people for a very long time.

But today is going to change her in a big way. A soul-crushing career disappointment, a fiery young woman with a chip on her shoulder and a cigarette in her hand, and one single blue hallucinogenic gummy all lead to a raucous night out and one hell of a hangover. And when Olivia wakes up the next morning, it seems she's unable to please anyone but HERSELF.

So who actually is Olivia Greenwood, when she's not trying to be what everyone else wants her to be?

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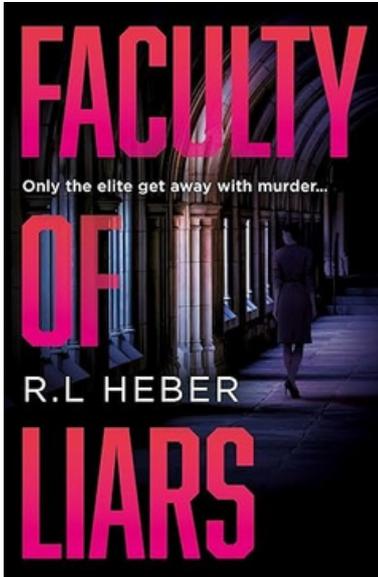
'I ADORED this novel... Riotously funny, and sharply observed'  
**JENNIE GODFREY**

'Insightful, inspirational and SO much fun' **MARIAN KEYES**

**BRYONY GORDON** is the no.1 Sunday Times bestselling author of 6 works of non-fiction, MAD GIRL and YOU GOT THIS. She was a columnist at the Telegraph for 2 decades, where she became one of the paper's best-loved writers, and is now a columnist at the Daily Mail. She is the presenter of the Mad World podcast and in 2016 she founded Mental Health Mates, now a global peer support network which encourages people with mental health issues to connect. In 2023 she was awarded the President's Medal by the Royal College of Psychiatry for her mental health campaigning. She lives in South London with her husband and daughter, and their two guinea pigs.

## FACULTY OF LIARS

RL Heber



**UK Publisher:** Magpie/  
Oneworld (World English)

**UK Editor:** Wayne Brooks

**Publication:** August 2026

**Extent:** 240

**Rights sold:**  
WEL audio: Audible

### Only the elite get away with murder...

Elizabeth Harker has a secret.

On the day she hears the news that her husband is to be the President of one of the most prestigious universities in New England, she is in the arms of another man.

Now the news is out, the whole university hierarchy will be watching. Her life will never be the same again and there can be no room for a lover anymore.

Then on the day of her husband's inauguration, whilst on camera, she discovers her lover has been murdered. Thrown into despair whilst trying desperately to keep her secret, Elizabeth soon realizes that everything she believed was true is now a lie and that everyone she knows is hiding just a big secret as she was.

Who killed her lover, and why? And what dangerous web of deceit and corruption has she unwillingly become part of?

**RL HEBER** is the author of three previous novels and has been selected as a WHSmith Fresh Talent. She is a comms strategist, and runs her own business, Words With Bex. She lives in London.

## THESE MONSTRUOUS PARTS WE PLAY

Phoebe Avison



On submission Spring 2026

On behalf of Amanda Harris  
at Maven Literary

**A genre-blending horror-romance debut combining dystopian fantasy, gothic darkness and a spicy enemies-to-allies romance, for fans of *The Hunger Games*, *Caraval* and *House of Salt and Sorrows*.**

In the smog-choked city-state of Steelcaster, twenty-something Margeaux Clement is running out of time. Her parents are dead, killed in a suspicious accident linked to the powerful Mech Labs corporation, and her beloved grandmother is dying of an incurable disease. Rejected from medical school, broke and alone, Margeaux receives an invitation to a mysterious tournament with a life-changing prize: one hundred million zul.

The catch? The Tournament Macabre is no reality show. Held inside a lavishly restored opera house before a masked, gambling elite, it pits human contestants in lethal games, each paired with a monstrous partner, the product of horrific human experimentation. If your partner dies, you're out. If you break the rules, you're dead.

Margeaux's partner is Killian, a darkly beautiful Blood-Wielder with a crown of horns and a dangerous smile. He was human once. Now he's something else entirely - powerful, volatile, and hungry... for flesh. As the rounds grow more brutal and alliances shatter, Margeaux and Killian are drawn into a bond that neither of them expect. But behind the spectacle, a darker conspiracy is unfolding, one that connects the tournament's enigmatic host to Margeaux's own family, to the corporation that destroyed her parents, and to secrets that could upend everything she believes about her past.

Book one of a duology, **THESE MONSTRUOUS PARTS WE PLAY** ends on a devastating cliff-hanger that will leave readers clamouring for more.

**PHOEBE AVISON** worked as a freelance journalist while honing her fiction-writing craft after graduating with a degree in Fashion Journalism. Her career took a back seat for a few years when she became a carer for her autistic son. Phoebe too was diagnosed with autism and ADHD in her mid-thirties. Phoebe aims to write stories that feature autistic and ADHD characters, while also leaving her signature magic and macabre mark.

## DAUGHTERS OF SILK AND STEEL

Cecile Llewlyn-Bowen



On submission Spring 2026

On behalf of Amanda Harris  
at Maven Literary

**A swashbuckling, queer, feminist fantasy epic in a world where an immortal queen clings to power by consuming a magical substance harvested from titanic sea creatures. Three seafarers' fates collide on their course with destiny - and with each other.**

Cass is a pirate captain, hardened by loss since she watched her father devoured by a sea monster when she was nine. Now forty-two and commanding her own ship and fiercely loyal crew, she is chasing her father's obsession: the legendary Key to the Sea, a source of magic powerful enough to grant dominion over every ocean.

Kit is a gentle, well-bred young naval officer and an 'invert' in a world that barely tolerates his desires. Captured by Cass's crew after an audacious heist, he is dragged into a pirate underworld far removed from everything he knows.

Perce is a foul-mouthed, brilliant witch, once the Queen's own weapon, now a fugitive with a bounty on her head. Her magic is unnervingly powerful, and Queen Gloriana will stop at nothing to drag her back to court, because without Perce, the ageless monarch's grip on immortality, youth and beauty is slipping.

Set in a world inspired by Elizabethan seafaring - complete with mermaid folk, warring nations, angel-descended bloodlines and a magic system rooted in the natural world - **DAUGHTERS OF SILK AND STEEL** is a propulsive, filthy, and funny fantasy adventure. It combines the high-seas spectacle and found-family warmth of the best pirate fiction with sharp commentary on empire, power, queerness, and who gets to write history.

**CECILE LLEWLYN-BOWEN** is a filmmaker and writer. Her short story, *The Bell* - a dark, femme-centric retelling of the Welsh myth *Cantre'r Gwaelod* - was published in the *BFS Horizon's* magazine. Cecile's heritage boasts of both Captain Morgan (of the rum) and buccaneer John Bowen, and her love of sea-borne adventure began as a child in the smugglers' coves of Port Isaac, sculpting busty mermaids out of sand and hunting for long-lost treasure.

# THE THOUSAND DEATHS OF ROMEO & JULIET

Caroline Finch



**UK Publisher:** Harper  
Voyager/Magpie

**UK Editor:** Elizabeth Vaziri

**Publication:** Spring 2027

**Rights sold:**

Brazil: HarperCollins Brazil  
Italy: Newton Compton  
Spain: Newton Compton  
USA & Canada: Hanover  
Square/HarperCollins

**A sweeping, epic love story with a speculative edge for readers of THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LA RUE and LIFE AFTER LIFE.**

Juliet has loved and lost Romeo a thousand times. Across universes and centuries, through war and ruin, their souls find each other—only to be torn apart again. Their love is inescapable, burning bright no matter the era, but so is the shadow that haunts them.

Mercutio, doomed to die because of their love has created a curse that has bound their fate, returning in every lifetime with Tybalt, another sacrifice fated to die, carrying the weight of old wounds, unfinished vengeance and the promise that the past they have inherited cannot be escaped.

With every life and death, Juliet slowly begins to unravel the truth behind their endless cycle, and in doing so must face an impossible question: is love strong enough to break the patterns of this curse, or are they all doomed to repeat this brutal history forever?

A sweeping, time-bending reimagining of Shakespeare's greatest lovers, **THE THOUSAND DEATHS OF ROMEO & JULIET** is an epic love story of passion, destiny, and the ghosts that refuse to let us go.

**CAROLINE FINCH** is a pseudonym for for an established British historical fiction writer.

**THE TWILIGHT WITCH**

Megan Scott



**The first in a new spicy, contemporary fantasy trilogy, a modern-day retelling of the Irish myth, 'Deirdre of Sorrows', perfect for fans of PRACTICAL MAGIC and OUTLANDER.**

When Ríona is summoned home to her matriarchal coven in Ireland, she immediately dreads the return. Not because she doesn't love her family, but because of the rite they have to perform. Every year Irish Twilight Witches use their liminal magic to restrain an ancient and terrible mist that would otherwise lure in innocents with their deepest desires, never to be seen again.

**UK Publisher:** HQ

**UK Editor:** Kate Byrne

**Publication:** 2027

**On behalf of Amanda Harris at  
Maven Literary**

Ríona has always strived to be as powerful and confident as her grandmother. Yet every year on this night, she falters. Because the mist tries to lure her with the image of a man, and every year, the temptation gets worse.

When Ríona's plan to counteract the mist's allure fails during the ceremony, the unthinkable happens. The warrior she's seen every year come out of the mist and with him released, her entire coven of witches takes their place.

But the infamous Irish warrior Naoise has no intention of being returned to the mist, nor his original time, thanks to a tragic prophecy that he would fall in love, ruin his family and doom his people. And what better way to spend his freedom and earn his name in history, than seducing Ríona, and destroying the mist for good?

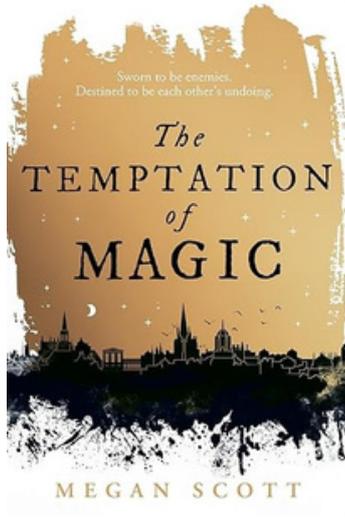


**MEGAN SCOTT** is the Sunday Times bestselling author of the YA crossover romantasy novel *THE TEMPTATION OF MAGIC* (Magpie, 2024), the first in the Empyrean series. Book 2 in the series, *A MASTERPIECE IN BLOOD* is published in 2026. *THE TWILIGHT WITCH* is her first romantasy novel for adults.

## THE EMPYREAL SERIES

Megan Scott

**Enter a world of immortal hunters and forbidden romance in this lush, darkly magical romantasy trilogy**



**UK Publisher:** Magpie  
**UK Editor:** Calah Singleton  
**Publication:** May 2024  
**Rights sold:** Spain: Hidra, France: Hugo, Czechia: Albatros, Portugal: LeYa, USA & Canada: Inkyard

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

As an Empyrean, Nicole has the ability to kill any deadly supernatural. But if her power ever awakened, the Wake—the organisation that governs supernaturals – would force her to be their loyal huntress. Or kill her, like they did her mother.

To stay safe, Nicole hides in a small university town, convinced the mythological art collection at a local manor contains a final message from her mother. But before she can study it, Kyan McCarter, the Wake's most skilled Empyrean, arrives on his own hunt. When they discover his prey has stolen a painting for leverage, they're forced to work together.

As the creature threatens to expose Nicole's powers, her tenuous alliance with Kyan threatens her heart. If her true identity is revealed, Kyan will hunt her next. No one disobeys The Wake and survives. Especially when the art they're seeking unveils a conspiracy that would change the lives of creatures and humans forever. . .

But Nicole may only be able to resist one: her wicked impulses, or a love that could repaint their world. And after a life of hiding her true nature, who could resist the temptation of magic...

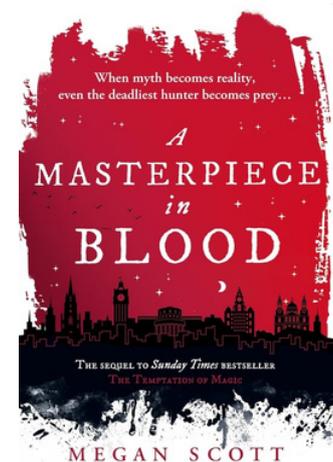
### **Nicole and Kyan are playing a dangerous game.**

Nicole is on the run, hiding from The Wake as she attempts to track down her mother's last clue and the truth of her death.

Kyan is pretending to still be The Wake's loyal Empyrean assassin, even though his feelings for Nicole – and the mate bond that ties them together – have changed everything.

Separated, yet determined to be together, Nicole and Kyan must embark on a quest where they will encounter the most powerful vampire in England, ancient Celtic treasures, and lost Druid sites.

Meanwhile, the Wake sees all, and the Wild Hunt is stirring. As Nicole and Kyan get close to the dark secrets at the root of the organization, they court complete destruction – of themselves and all they hold dear.



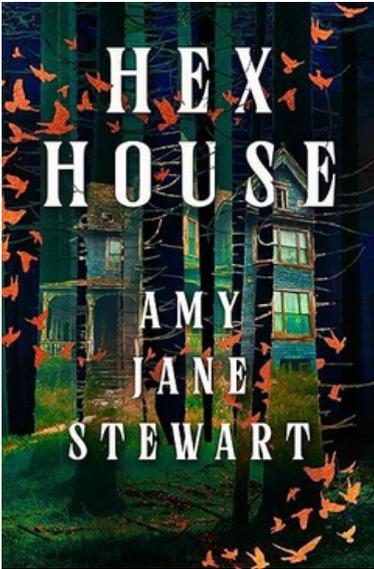
**Publication:** June 2026  
**Rights sold:** Spain: Hidra, France: Hugo, USA & Canada: Inkyard



**MEGAN SCOTT** is a romance and fantasy writer from the North West of England. She studied Art History and Classical Civilisation and earned a distinction on her Masters of Research expanding on depictions of myth in nineteenth century art.

**HEX HOUSE**

Amy Jane Stewart

**UK Publisher:** Titan Books**UK Editor:** Daniel Carpenter**Publication:** April 2026**Extent:** 368 pages**Rights sold:**

France: Éditions Du Seuil

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

**A beautifully told, dark and unsettling fairy-tale about a safe haven for women which transforms them into vessels of revenge, perfect for fans of T. Kingfisher, A. G Slatter and Julia Armfield**

A woman in the woods alone is never the beginning of the story. It's usually the end.

ELLY

Elly is running. Pregnant and still in her wedding dress, she flees the cottage that her new husband, Ethan, has rented for their wedding night. He's not what people think he is, and she knows that one day he'll hurt her in a way she can't fix. Freezing and alone in the woods in the dead of night, she accepts that she's going to die. Just as she has given up all hope, a house appears out of nowhere, and a woman beckons her in. Welcome to Hex House. A place that can only be found by those who need it. A place that teaches broken women how to access a power more beautiful and more horrifying than anything they could have imagined.

SIOBHAN

Edinburgh, present day: Siobhan's life is in ruins. Once a promising documentary filmmaker, she has given up on her dream, and kept all the terrifying footage she has of Hex House hidden away. She tries to erase all the horrors she witnessed with drugs and alcohol, and spends her time toying with a man in increasingly feral and dangerous ways. Her brother won't speak to her, and she ignores the scar on her stomach that never fully heals

But despite everything, always, she feels the presence of that place. And she knows, deep down, that she has to return.

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'There's a house in the woods where the lost girls go, more Suspiria than cosy fairytale... a gloriously violent, candid, propulsive take on female anger and revenge.' **ALLY WILKES, Bram Stoker award-nominated author of All the White Spaces and Man Eater**

**AMY JANE STEWART** lives in the Scottish Borders. She was the winner of the New Writing North & Word Factory Northern Apprentice Award in 2021 and the Mairtín Crawford Prize for Short Story in 2022. She has been Highly Commended in the 2019 Bridport Prize and shortlisted for the 2023 Bristol Short Story Prize. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from York St John University and is studying for a Creative Writing PhD at the University of Sheffield.

## MERRY SPOOKY LOVE: A Melody Bittersweet Novel

Josie Silver



### The festive third and final instalment in the Melody Bittersweet series.

Melody Bittersweet's Christmases are always more haunted than holly jolly, and this year is shaping up to be her most complicated yet.

When the town's beloved department store faces closure following the death of its owner, Melody — inconveniently able to see ghosts — is the obvious person to call to try and save it. Teaming up with Fleur, the heir determined to protect her family's legacy, and one very determined ghost, Melody throws herself into the case.

Unfortunately, the job also reunites her with Fletcher Gunn: her sceptical, infuriating, still-very-tempting on-off boyfriend. Fletcher doesn't believe in ghosts — and as their undeniable chemistry starts to simmer, sparks fly and working together proves harder than either of them expected.

With Christmas fast approaching and the store's future hanging in the balance, Melody must race to save the store, confront the ghosts of her past, and decide whether love is worth fighting for.

**UK Publisher:** Evermore/  
Cornerstone

**UK Editor:** Claire Simmonds

**Publication:** October 2026

**Extent:** 336

**Rights sold:**

Germany: Rowohlt

Israel: Kinneret

Russia: Azbooka



**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 UK with her husband, their sons.

**CHILDISH THINGS****Airy Something**

**On submission Spring 2026**

**On behalf of Amanda Harris  
at Maven Literary**

**A queer coming-of-age novel spanning 25 years, from the suffocating grip of a fundamentalist Christian cult in 1990s Derbyshire, to the fashion world and queer nightlife of 2000s London.**

Gideon Wesley is eleven years old, ginger-haired and soft in all the ways his world won't allow. Raised in The Ministry, a strict, prophet-led religious community in rural Derbyshire, he spends his childhood drawing buxom women in secret, flinching at his own desires, and clinging to Bina, the girl next door who is both his soulmate and fellow survivor.

As adolescence tightens the Ministry's grip, enforcing gender roles, punishing curiosity, and cloaking abuse in scripture, Gideon and Bina are shaped by a shared understanding that the lives mapped out for them are not their own. When Gideon finally escapes to London and art school, he plunges into a world of club nights, casual sex, drugs and fashion, reinventing himself while never quite outrunning the shame in his bones. Bina follows him south, but freedom proves harder for her. Where Gideon masks his damage with charm and hedonism, Bina's wounds deepen - alcohol, recklessness, and a pain she can neither name nor contain. It needs to end.

Written with wit, tenderness, and an unflinching eye for the textures of working-class British life, **CHILDISH THINGS** is a devastating and darkly funny journey from repression through grief and self-destruction to an extraordinary final act of becoming.

**AIRY SOMETHING** is a fashion stylist, drag queen, DJ and host who began their career in fashion writing for i-D. They became the fashion director of Notion Magazine in 2013 before going freelance as a stylist. Their 2022 LGBT+-centred Soho Radio music and chat show 'Them(ish)', with Baby Sol, is being developed into a podcast. Airy was in the 2023/24 cohort for the London Libraries Emerging Writers Programme and **CHILDISH THINGS** is their debut novel.

## WICKED PURSUIT

Gemma Brazil



**UK Publisher:** Pan Macmillan  
(World English)

**UK Editor:** Maddie Thornam

**Publication:** Autumn 2027

**A sweeping historical, queer love story set against a backdrop of bloodshed, betrayal, and unlikely redemption in the brutal terrain of the American Wild West.**

Madigan Connors has been running for two years—from her violent outlaw husband Dallas Lancaster, the leader of the infamous Casual Rascals, and from the wreckage of the life he stole from her. When she's finally recaptured, Madigan expects death. Instead, Dallas offers her a deal: assassinate a persistent widow stirring up trouble in a nearby town, in order to draw attention away from an impending raid, and he'll give her freedom.

The target is Josie Prynne, a woman who has spent the last year demanding justice for her son—murdered in cold blood by Dallas himself. Horrified but cornered, Madigan agrees. Dallas knows exactly how to hurt her if she doesn't.

But when Madigan meets Josie, the mission begins to unravel. She sees in Josie not just a target, but a woman full of fire, grief, and quiet strength. And in her presence, Madigan begins to reclaim parts of herself long buried—her courage, her tenderness, her capacity to love. As the two women shift from hunted to hunters, they must face not only the men pursuing them, but the brutal, unforgiving landscape of the West itself.

**WICKED PURSUIT** explores what it means to be a woman in a world shaped by violence and lawlessness, where survival often comes at the cost of your soul. It examines forbidden love, revenge, and resilience, while also reaching for something more ambitious: a sweeping, character-driven story of women on the run—not just from the law, but from the lives they've been forced to live and the ghosts that haunt them. It expands both on the tropes of enemies to lovers, anti-heroines and a morally grey world which forces good people to make harsh choices in the name of survival.

**GEMMA BRAZIL** is a writer and recent graduate from Royal Holloway University. Although she was raised in North Yorkshire she has a penchant for the wide-open spaces of the American West. **WICKED PURSUIT** is her debut novel.

## THE SEA LIBRARY

Sarah Brooks



**UK Publisher:** Weidenfeld & Nicholson

**UK Editor:** Alexa von Hirschberg

**Publication:** 2027

**Rights sold:**

France: Sonatine

Germany: C Bertelsmann/Penguin

Poland: MAG

**\*From the Sunday Times and Der Spiegel 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**

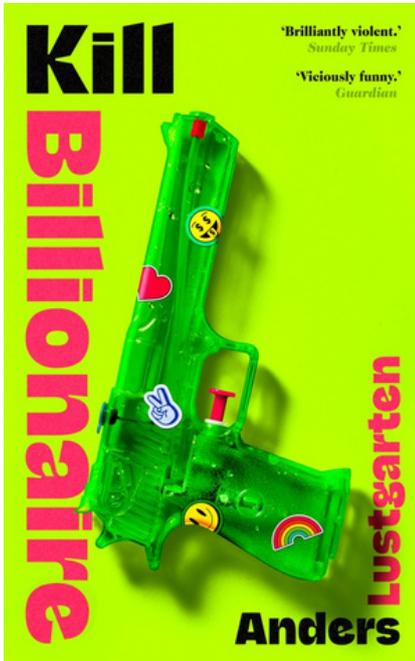
'[An] exciting, intelligent debut novel' **The Sunday Times**

'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.

**KILL BILLIONAIRE**

Anders Lustgarten

**UK Publisher:** Chatto & Windus**UK Editor:** Kaiya Shang**Publication:** April 2026**Extent:** 336 pages**Rights sold:**

Film/TV: 42MP

France: Actes Sud

Spain: Malpaso

**On behalf of Eugenie Furniss at  
42****\*A Times Best Books to Look Forward to in 2026 pick\*****An electrifying, ultra-contemporary heist, a wild and hilarious story that is also dangerously prescient.****Perhaps one reason not enough people kill billionaires is it's actually quite tricky...**

When her home is destroyed in wildfires, fourteen-year-old Australian outback genius Kayla Connolly decides to hunt down the culprits of climate change: billionaires.

She teams up with Mr P, a giant ex-soldier from Tuvalu whose home is being flooded by rising sea levels. Together, they find ingenious ways to kill a property developer building on protected wetlands and a mining company CEO poisoning the earth with toxic chemicals. They also find an unexpected ally in Nancy, a wealthy elderly woman with a shocking past.

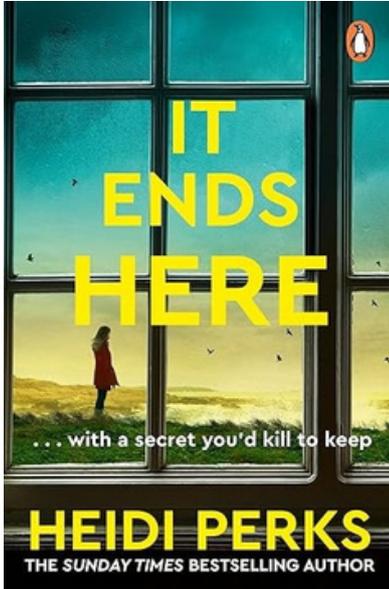
The trio's mission soon develops a life of its own, taking them first to California to crack billionaire tech bros and then to London for superrich oil executives, spawning a global movement along the way. In pursuit are the FBI and Detective Sergeant Kate Anderson of Scotland Yard, but Kate is having doubts about whether Kayla is even in the wrong. Will Kayla be able to stay ahead of the game and pull off one final, remarkable hit?

**PRAISE FOR ANDERS LUSTGARTEN**'Bursting with energy... extraordinary' **The Times**'A fierce writer whose activism blends intellectual curiosity and idealism' **Evening Standard**

**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.

**IT ENDS HERE**

Heidi Perks

**UK Publisher:** Century**UK Editor:** Emily Griffin**Publication:** March 2026**Extent:** 400 pages**Rights sold:**

USA &amp; Canada: Sourcebooks

You are one of five strangers whose day will start with the worst phone call imaginable.

Your loved one is in danger.

They are part of a group trapped in a café in a sleepy marina town.

The young barista on the early shift

The bestselling novelist looking for a writing spot

The husband on his way back from a work trip

The influencer mum whose picture-perfect life isn't the whole truth

The woman starting her birthday with a quiet coffee

As the hours tick by it will soon become clear that one of them has a secret they would kill to keep.

How well do you know the person closest to you?

**Praise for IT ENDS HERE:**

'A multi-layered, hugely intriguing story with jump off the page characters - I couldn't stop turning the pages to find out what was going on, loved it!' **ANDREA MARA**

'Such a refreshing take on the 'whodunnit'. Emotional, tense and twisty, as we've come to expect from the brilliant Heidi Perks. This is definitely her best yet. An absolute must-read!'

**CAZ FREAR**

**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 language. She lives on the south coast of England with her family.

## THE WIDOW'S MIRROR

S.K. Tremayne



**UK Publisher:** HarperCollins

**UK Editor:** Jane Johnson

**Publication:** January 2026

**Rights sold:**

Germany: Droemer Knaur

Finland: Otava

Poland: Czarna Owca

**On behalf of Eugenie Furniss at  
42**

**\*The second novel in the gripping new Cornish crime series from the No.1 Sunday Times bestselling author of THE ICE TWINS\***

When renowned therapist Karenza Bray is hired to treat a famous artist's disturbed daughter, in a remote Cornish clifftop house, she expects dark psychology - not something darker still.

Haunted by the drowning of her own child, Karenza is drawn into a world of cursed paintings, ancient murders, and a beautiful young woman who may be sick, possessed, or both...

### **PRAISE FOR S.K. TREMAYNE**

'Terrifyingly believable and utterly gripping' **LISA JEWELL**

'Unbearably gripping and suspenseful' **SOPHIE HANNAH**



**S.K. TREMAYNE** is a bestselling novelist and award-winning travel writer, and a regular contributor to newspapers and magazines around the world. The author's previous novel THE ICE TWINS was a Sunday Times No.1 bestseller. Born in Devon, S. K. Tremayne now lives in London and has two daughters.

**THE MARK OF MORIARTY**

Jack Anderson

**UK Publisher:** Raven/Bloomsbury**UK Editor:** Alison Hennessey**Publication:** November 2026**Extent:** 320 pages**Rights sold:**US & Canada: Crooked Lane  
Books

Russia: Azbooka

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

**The second novel in the fiendishly inventive and enjoyable MORIARTY MYSTERY series, which sees Sherlock Holmes' iconic villain re-invented for a whole new generation of readers.**

'The Arcane Society of New York holds close the fortune you seek'

A disgraced socialite who had fled to California is found barefoot in a snowy New York alleyway. There is no sign of how she got there, and she is too traumatised to speak. The only clue is a note found scribbled in the Bible she is clutching. The Arcane Society appears to be responsible - but no one knows anything about them.

Newly qualified doctor Clara Mendel joins the city's Sabel Club, a once thriving social society now devoted to solving the riddle of Viola Blackman. Clara is determined to help Viola speak again, but she also has an ulterior motive: if she can solve the mysterious case, it may tempt out of the shadows her old sparring partner James Moriarty: nemesis of the legendary Sherlock Holmes.

But as the Sabel Club comes under violent attack, Clara is forced to ask herself to what lengths will the Arcane Society go in order to preserve their anonymity.

And how much trust can she truly place in a master criminal?

**PRAISE FOR JACK ANDERSON**

'Come for the title, stay for the domestic hijinks that'll give the archcriminal a run for his money' **Kirkus Reviews**

'Ingenious' **Sunday Times**

—THE—  
**PLOT**  
AGENCY

**JACK ANDERSON** lives with his wife in South London, but remains a Northerner at heart. His debut novel THE GRIEF DOCTOR was published by Raven in 2024 and the first in the Moriarty Mystery series, THE RETURN OF MORIARTY, was published in 2025, also by Raven. He is currently developing a number of television ideas across the horror genre.

R M L

RACHELMILLSLITERARY

**NON-FICTION**

# THE BRAIN GAME: A Neurosurgeon's Guide to Protecting Your Brain from Top to Toe

Dr Soumya Mukherjee



**UK Publisher:** Cornerstone

**UK Editor:** Kate Craigie

**Publication:** February 2027

**Rights sold:**

Brazil: Sextante  
 Germany: Fischer  
 Hungary: Agave  
 Italy: Vallardi  
 Netherlands: Spectrum Life  
 Poland: Galaktyka  
 Romania: Bookzone  
 Russia: Eksmo  
 Spain: Destino/Planeta  
 Turkey: Domingo  
 US & Canada: Union Square  
 Square/Hachette

**A mainstream, science-forward guide to upgrading brain health and performance, blending cutting-edge neuroscience from the operating room to the newest research straight from the laboratory, by one of the world's most renowned neurosurgeons and leading neuroscience researchers.**

In a world where dementia, stroke, mental health struggles, and cognitive burnout are at record highs, **THE BRAIN GAME** is part playbook, part survival guide, part backstage pass into the universe's most complex organ - showing readers how to upgrade their brains and thrive. Like Atomic Habits for your brain, this book provides science you can use, stories you won't forget, and strategies that stick.

Unlike books that isolate a single factor - sleep, diet, memory or habits - **THE BRAIN GAME** brings together the full ecosystem of brain health, decoding the hidden forces that shape our mind as a game that we can win, and offering groundbreaking new frameworks to take our brain to the next level. From how we walk, breathe, chew and hear, to the deeper roles of genes, lifestyle, and even our beauty regimes, **THE BRAIN GAME** takes readers from the operating theatre to the everyday choices that quietly rewire their brains. Each chapter distils cutting-edge neuroscience into vivid metaphors and practical takeaways, while weaving in moving patient stories and exclusive interviews with high-profile figures - from the first patient to receive Elon Musk's Neuralink implant, to the ex-CEO of Ferrari on brain-driven road safety, to tech pioneers blending human creativity with AI.

**DR SOUMYA MUKHERJEE** is a leading Consultant Neurosurgeon, with 20 years' experience operating on the brain and researching neuroscience at Oxford, Harvard, Cambridge, Imperial, Emory. He also coaches on brain health and performance and has appeared in award-winning BBC and Channel 5 documentaries, including An Hour To Save Your Life, Surgeons: At The Edge Of Life and A&E: Crash Scene Emergency translating complex brain science for mass audiences. He is based in Cambridge but works in London twice a week, and regularly travels to the US and internationally.

## FEEL HUMAN: One System, Three Streams - The Groundbreaking New Method to Feel Healthy Every Day

Dr Ayan Panja



On submission Spring 2026

**From a GP with 25 years experience, comes an accessible, actionable guide for the millions of normal, busy people who have no medical diagnosis but are sick of feeling 'not quite right' all the time. Dr Ayan Panja introduces his groundbreaking 'three streams' approach to banish common symptoms to feel fully human every day.**

We have more health information, technology, and medical treatments than ever before – yet more people feel tired, tense, in pain or unwell.

Rates of noncommunicable disease continue to rise globally. At the same time, millions of people who are technically “well” live with chronic symptoms: gut problems, fatigue, pain, anxiety, low mood, poor sleep. Tests are often normal. Reassurance is given. Medication is offered. And still, many people don’t feel any better.

This book starts from a simple but uncomfortable truth: Medicine is excellent at treating disease. It is far less good at helping us feel human.

Rather than adding to the endless lists of things you should do – diets to follow, endless apps to check, supplements to buy, routines to optimise – **FEEL HUMAN** strips health back to its foundations.

Over almost three decades of clinical practice Dr Ayan Panja has come to see that most modern health problems sit at the intersection of three ‘streams’:

1. Awareness – how we experience ourselves, process emotion and interpret the world
2. Posture – how we inhabit and move our bodies moment to moment
3. Metabolic Energy – how effectively we create, store, and use energy

When these things are in balance, health feels natural. When they are disrupted, symptoms can appear, often slow, subtle or confusing in how they manifest.

**FEEL HUMAN** offers a practical, humane way back into balance. It shows how many symptoms are modifiable by learning to tune in, restore flow, and work with your body rather than against it.

**DR AYAN PANJA** has been a practising GP for 25 years, with a medical degree from Imperial College London. He is a renowned health commentator across TV, radio, his podcast Saving Lives in Slow Motion and social media. In his academic work, he lectures on public health for the University of Hertfordshire, and he is the creator of the UK's first Prescribing Lifestyle Medicine certification for doctors at Imperial College London.

# THE APPETITE RESET: How to Eat, Drink and Thrive in the Age of GLP-1s

Dr Federica Amati, with a foreword by Professor Tim Spector



**THE APPETITE RESET** is the first comprehensive guide on how to live well in the Post-Peptide Era, a science-based, compassionate guide for people rebuilding their metabolism, appetite, eating patterns and identity after GLP-1 or 'peptide' therapy. It offers a clear three-phase nutritional framework, a practical appetite-rebuild method based on four physiological satiety systems, and the psychological support people desperately need during this transition. For the millions who used, tried, stopped or are considering GLP-1s - and for the clinicians and families supporting them - **THE APPETITE RESET** is an essential guide to building a healthy and sustainable lifestyle on these drugs and beyond.

**UK Publisher:** Michael Joseph

**UK Editor:** Corinna Bolino

**Publication:** June 2026

**Extent:** 304

**On behalf of Amanda Harris at  
Maven Literary**

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'Cuts through the hype to explain what GLP-1 appetite drugs really mean for your long-term health' **PROFESSOR TIM SPECTOR**

'We've spent decades blaming people for their appetite instead of understanding it. THE APPETITE RESET shifts the focus back to biology - gut, metabolism, hormones - and makes modern appetite science practical!' **DR KARAN RANJAN**

**DR FEDERICA AMATI PhD MPH RNutr** is a medical scientist, researcher, Sunday Times bestselling author and Head Nutritionist at ZOE where she works alongside Professor Tim Spector. Dr Amati has over a decade of experience working in public health and with individuals to better understand how to harness the power of nutrition for better health. Her first book, EVERYBODY SHOULD KNOW THIS was published by Michael Joseph in 2024.

## DEMENTIA: Your Most Urgent Questions Answered When Words Fail

Emily Carver



**An award-winning dementia carer answers the questions families are too afraid, exhausted or heartbroken to ask... and shows them how to find joy again. The essential guide for loving someone through dementia.**

When a loved one is diagnosed with dementia, families are plunged into a world they don't understand. The medical professionals move on. The leaflets run out. And the questions that matter most - the raw, frightening, sometimes shameful ones - go unasked.

Emily Carver has spent her career on the frontline of dementia care and has heard every one of those questions. Why is my mother saying such cruel things? How do I cope when she refuses to eat, wash or sleep? Am I a bad person for feeling angry? For wanting this to be over? For hiding in my car outside the care home?

In this short yet powerful guide, Carver meets families where they are - in crisis, in grief, in guilt - and extends an expert hand. Drawing on years of practice, she answers the most difficult-to-ask questions with clarity, compassion and honesty. Practical, warm and humane, this is an essential book for any carer. With dementia now the UK's leading cause of death and cases rising globally, its audience is vast and underserved.

**DEMENTIA** is not simply a book about managing decline. At its heart is a radical, hopeful proposition: that with the right understanding and advice, families can move beyond fear and loss to rediscover a joyful relationship with the person they love.

**EMILY CARVER** is a dementia expert and winner of two National Awards for her work in dementia care. Emily has a passion for changing how we treat and interact with people with dementia. Learning from experience and expertise, and from working in both larger care settings and private homes, Emily understood the need to share her vital plan which has mended fractious relationships and helped families out of crisis.

## 1912: Reinvention, Rebellion and Revolt - The Year That Changed Women's Lives Forever and its Bittersweet Legacy

Annabel Abbs



**From bestselling author Annabel Abbs, comes a revisionist history of a pivotal year and to see 1912 for what it was: an epiphanic year that hastened powerful and profound change for women everywhere.**

1912 was - for women - a 'tipping point' year. A year when women, collectively, rethought their identities, their past, present and future. A year when many of the innovations we take for granted today were seeded, explored, executed. Often by women. And yet many of these innovations and ideas were later appropriated by men, or subsumed in the more amplified noise created by male contemporaries.

**On submisison Spring 2026**

For women 1912 was a year rife with creativity, complexity, confusion and, above all, change. When a woman wears clothes that enable her to move her body more freely, her mind follows suit. When a woman reads about other women doing things differently, she becomes emboldened. When a new generation of women becomes accustomed to seeing female doctors, artists, university students, and entrepreneurs, their imaginations unfold. And so 1912 was also a year in which a contagion of ideas, courage and restlessness combined with new possibilities for thinking and being.

**1912** is an examination of the many women who changed their lives (and our current world) in a single year. Above all, this book examines the forces that came together to create a powerfully upbeat, optimistic and creative year in which - for the first time - thousands of women followed their hearts, minds and bodies. Call it a 'tipping point,' a zeitgeist extraordinaire, a year of paradigm shift, a threshold moment or simply a point of no return, for women 1912 was it.

**ANNABEL ABBS** is the award-winning author of three meticulously researched historical novels, five non-fiction books (sometimes writing as Annabel Streets), which have been translated into 17 languages. Her journalism has appeared in The Guardian, The Telegraph, Tatler, Sydney Morning Herald, Psychologies and Elle Magazine. She lives in London and East Sussex.

## THE SEA REMEMBERS: Shipwrecks and the Making of the Modern World

Dr Lisa Briggs and Dr Peter Campbell



On submission Spring 2026

**The world's greatest museum is not the Louvre, the Metropolitan or the British Museum, but the seafloor of the Mediterranean.**

Shipwrecks are a 'time-capsule' on the seafloor. Unique aspects of the marine environment preserve artefacts; underwater archaeologists often discover wood, rope, fabric, and food items that would otherwise decay almost instantly on land. The archaeology of shipwrecks enables us to explore the intimate details of the lives of the ancient mariners who sailed the seas, right up until the fateful moment when their ship slipped beneath the waves - giving us unprecedented insight into the past.

But this is also a true crime story. Shipwrecks are disappearing rapidly due to illegal treasure hunting. There is currently an urgent race to identify wrecks before the looters find them and sell their treasures on the international art market. Investigators are working to recover stolen art from collectors in London, Paris, and New York, as well as the world's most famous museums.

**THE SEA REMEMBERS** draws on the authors' experiences conducting underwater archaeological excavations and a lifetime of research that led to the creation of the feature-length documentary film, *The Sea Remembers* produced by Martin Scorsese which will hit our screens in 2027. At once a powerful story of sunken history and a first-person account of underwater discovery, the book is filled with behind-the-scenes descriptions of their adventures - **THE SEA REMEMBERS** is for the history lover, the armchair deep-sea diver, and the gripping art heist fan alike.

Marine Archeologists **DR LISA BRIGGS and DR PETER CAMPBELL** are the Indiana Joneses of the oceans, discovering and saving the world's greatest and most illuminating historical treasures, in the most high stakes form of archaeology. Between them, they have worked on many of the world's most famous underwater discoveries and they regular write for outlets such as *The New York Times*, *Guardian* and *Discovery* and have undertaken lecture tours and TED events that drawn tens of thousand of viewers.

## HOW NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN

Farrah Storr



UK rights at auction.

On behalf of Abigail Bergstrom  
at Bergstrom Studio

**"I am the 'childless cat lady' of American nightmares.  
I am the tired millennial 'girl boss' fantasy.  
I am pitied by my grandparents' generation; misunderstood by  
my mother's; and I am a constant source of intrigue—and  
occasional envy—for my own.  
I am a childless woman; one of culture's most misunderstood  
figures.  
A woman destined for a life of loneliness, sadness and above all  
regret.  
Or at least that is the story we have been sold. But what if the  
world's stories about childless women like me were wrong?  
What would happen if we wrote a new story; one that came with  
an ending that presented childless women not with fear and  
regret but with hope and joy?**

**This is that story."**

Once upon a time childfree women were outliers - hard to fathom and impossible to categorise. Today one in every three women under 35 in the western world are childless. Some by choice, others as a consequence; whilst many are simply childless as they grapple with the very idea of motherhood. So what happened? Why did an entire generation turn its back on a woman's most sacred act? Who are these women, and more importantly what sort of a life can they possibly end up leading?

Farrah Storr's memoir answers these questions, covering wanting children, deciding not to have them and building a new and unexpected life on the other side when children are no longer an option.

**FARRAH STORR** has spent twenty years as editor-in-chief of some of the biggest women's magazines in the world, including Cosmopolitan, Elle and Women Health, and won Editor of the Year three times at the PPA Awards. She is now Head of Substack International, and her own Substack 'Things Worth Knowing' has over 60,000 subscribers. In 2024 she was awarded an MBE for 'Services to Media and Diversity'.



## WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?

Florence Given



**Publisher:** Hay House (World English)

**Editor:** Allison Adler

**Publication:** Spring 2027

**Rights sold:**  
Germany: KiWi

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



**\*From the internationally bestselling author of WOMEN DON'T OWE YOU PRETTY and GIRL CRUSH\***

This next offering from internationally bestselling author Florence Given isn't just a book - it's a spell. A jolt to the nervous system that snaps you out of polite, humble smallness enforced by other women, and into unapologetic expansion.

**WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?** names the unspoken pact women live by: Don't be too much. Don't be too loud or ambitious. Don't take up too much space. In these pages, that insult becomes a green light, flipped into fuel: What would you do if you actually wanted people to say "who does she think she is?"

Florence has already watched this framework ignite women around the world. Her viral videos on the subject have drawn nearly half a million new followers as she encourages women to embrace their audacity.

Unlike another 'reach your potential' pep talk, **WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?** doesn't hand out to-do lists, it hands back self-authority. It confronts the shadow side of feminism and the covert rivalries between women, offering a new code for solidarity and self-expression.

This isn't self-help. It's self-permission. Step over the line, shed your old limits, and discover how audacity - practiced in small daily moves - can change everything and free you from the cage of obedience and small living.

**FLORENCE GIVEN** is a record-breaking and Sunday Times bestselling author. Her first book, *WOMEN DON'T OWE YOU PRETTY* (Octopus, 2020) was an international bestseller and has been translated into 16 languages. She's won Cosmopolitan's 'Influencer of the Year' award and Pink News's 'Influencer of the Year' award. A social activist, her writing and art confront the oppressive attitudes towards women and their bodies. Her debut novel *GIRL CRUSH* was a No. 1 Sunday Times bestseller (Brazen, 2022) and her second work of non-fiction *WOMEN LIVING DELICIOUSLY* followed suit and hit the Sunday Times bestseller list (Brazen, 2024).

## HOW TO SPEND A LIFE

Natalia Domagala



**A timely, thought-provoking book for anyone questioning whether there might be a better way to live, for readers of Rutger Bregman and Jennie Odell.**

In an era of technological acceleration, mass automation and social change, the question of how we spend our lives - and who we are beyond our jobs - has never been more urgent. For most of human history, meaning was found across many domains: relationships, creativity, care, community. Yet modern life has elevated work into the primary measure of value, success and identity. Quietly reshaping not just how we spend our time but what we believe a life is for.

**UK Publisher:** DK RED

**UK Editor:** Fritha Saunders

**Publication:** Spring 2027

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

This book offers a necessary intervention into this growing crisis of meaning as work begins to lose its role as the central organising force of human life. Blending anthropology, philosophy and economic critique - and drawing on thinkers from Karl Marx to Hannah Arendt - the book challenges the assumption that life must revolve around labour, explores how capitalism has reshaped our sense of purpose and asks what might become possible if work no longer defined us, or we no longer had to work at all.

**HOW TO SPEND A LIFE** asks what kind of life are you working towards - and is it costing you the only life you have?

Formerly Head of Data and AI Ethics Policy at the UK Cabinet Office, **NATALIA DOMAGALA** led the development of one of the world's first national standards for algorithmic transparency. She has been named by Mozilla as one of the world's 25 visionaries shaping a better Internet. She received the Excellence in AI Award and has been named one of the Top 10 most prominent female AI experts by the Perspektywy Foundation. Natalia was also a Policy Fellow at Cambridge University, where she continues to guest lecture.



## GOOD COMPANY: From Group Chat to Dream Team

Bruce Daisley



**\*From the internationally bestselling author of  
THE JOY OF WORK\***

**GOOD COMPANY** is an urgent reimagining of teamwork and workplace culture. While most business books obsess about productivity, this one is all about chemistry. What makes teams click, connect and compete.

We've witnessed the 'enshittification' of work, engineering a working world that's busy, urgent, and unhappy. Now AI is poised to flatten it even further, with the same lifeless emails, endless clones of bland reports, the drain of never-ending meetings that no one dares cancel.

We've lost sight of the fact that work can be enjoyable, that we can have some fun in our forty hour week.

**GOOD COMPANY** has the answer: a strong culture is collective in mindset, consequential in experience and codified in implementation.

The book answers:

- Do we need to worry about when the 'Anxious Generation' gets to work?
- Did we lose something when after-work drinks were lost?
- Can you build a culture with your cameras off?

**GOOD COMPANY** is a timely field guide for team members, team leaders, and a call to arms to care about finding connection at work again.

**BRUCE DAISLEY** is a writer, consultant and one of the UK's most influential voices on the intersection of life and work. His research into better working practices has featured in publications including the Guardian, the Telegraph, Wired UK, Washington Post, Harvard Business Review and the Wall Street Journal. His podcast Eat Sleep Work Repeat has been an Apple number one business podcast and has featured psychologists, neuroscientists and workplace experts including Daniel Pink, Scott Galloway, Noreena Hertz and Rutger Bregman. He was previously the European Vice-President for Twitter. His first book, THE JOY OF WORK, was a Sunday Times bestseller and has been translated into sixteen languages.

# YOUR SOCIAL SUPERPOWER: How to Make Anyone Interesting, and Everyone Interested in You

Decca Aitkenhead



**Multi-award-winning journalist and Sunday Times bestselling author Decca Aitkenhead, provides a step-by-step guide on how to become the most interesting and interested person in any room.**

In **YOUR SOCIAL SUPERPOWER**, Aitkenhead draws upon decades of interviewing global icons, politicians and stars, such as Oprah Winfrey, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Hugh Grant, Billie Eilish and Robin Williams, to show how anyone can learn social confidence – whether it’s finding yourself in the lift with the CEO, a business lunch with strangers, the school gate, or entering a party where you know absolutely no one. In an age of deep loneliness and disconnection, this book will empower the reader to feel confident in striking up a conversation, and forming a new friendship, whenever they wish.

**UK Publisher:** Bluebird

**UK Editor:** Lizzy Gray

**Publication:** Spring 2027

**Rights sold:**

Spanish language: Planeta Mexico

**On behalf of Amanda Harris at Maven Literary**

In this ground-breaking guide, Aitkenhead leverages her unique professional expertise to deliver her simple yet powerful promise: by learning to ask good questions, anyone can shed social dread, overcome awkward silences, and become the most interesting and interested person in any room. This highly practical book interweaves actionable advice including Aitkenhead’s three golden rules of asking questions, real-life examples that work for anyone, and specific question prompts with engaging anecdotes and examples from her decades mastering successful conversations around the world.

**DECCA AITKENHEAD** is the Chief Interviewer of the Sunday Times, where she interviews leading names in global public life. Her journalism has won multiple awards, including five British Press Awards for Broadsheet Interviewer of the Year. Her 2016 memoir, ALL AT SEA (Fourth Estate), was about her life with her late husband, and was a Sunday Times bestseller.



## THE SPIKE: Respond, Don't React

Alexander Dragonetti



On submission Spring 2026

On behalf of Amanda Harris at  
Maven Literary

**A former British diplomat reveals the emotional intelligence secret that shapes world events and can transform your life.**

What do a car crash in the Jordanian desert and a shouting match between a British minister and the North Korean ambassador have in common? They are all driven by what former diplomat Alexander Dragonetti, calls spikes, buried emotional wounds that hijack our behaviour without our knowledge or consent.

Drawing on a decade at the sharp end of British foreign policy - from coordinating counter- terrorism in Africa and deploying to Gaza, to negotiating Brexit and managing fallout from North Korean missile tests - Dragonetti offers a revelatory new framework for understanding why we react instead of respond, and how that distinction shapes everything from geopolitical crises to our most intimate relationships.

**THE SPIKE** argues that when we experience pain too overwhelming to process, our minds contain it - creating an emotional tripwire that organises our lives around avoidance. We mistake this protection for freedom. But our world narrows, our reactions become automatic, and we lose the ability to choose. This dynamic scales into our politics, our public discourse, and a culture that increasingly rewards outrage over reason.

With gripping storytelling and hard-won personal honesty about the loss of his brother, the author shows readers how to locate their own spikes, confront them, and reclaim genuine agency.

Part memoir, part manifesto, part practical guide, **THE SPIKE** is for anyone who senses that something unseen is steering their life - and is ready to take the wheel back.

**ALEXANDER DRAGONETTI** is a former British diplomat, whose career has spanned education, diplomacy and healthcare. During his time in the Foreign Office, Alexander was stationed in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Ireland. He led crisis deployment teams to Nepal after earthquakes, met tribes in Pakistani Hindu Kush, and spent time in Gaza to trauma assess staff, receiving awards and commendations from the Civil Service.



# LITTLE ADDICTIONS: Freedom From Our Tiny But Mighty Compulsions

## Catherine Gray



**UK Publisher:** Aster/Octopus  
(World English)

**UK Editor:** Jo Morrell

**Publication:** February 2026

**Extent:** 352 pages

**Rights sold:**

Brazil: Globo

Germany: Heyne

Italy: De Agostini

Netherlands: Luitingh-Sijthoiff

Poland: Galaktyka

Portugal: Nascente/PRH

Taiwan: Apocalypse Press

**\*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 helped 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.

## THE PROTEIN MYTH

### Dr Richard Mackenzie



**UK Publisher:** Penguin Life

**UK Editor:** Amy McWalters

**Publication:** Spring 2027

**Rights sold:**

Brazil: Ediouro  
 Germany: Heyne  
 Italy: De Agostini  
 Netherlands: Fontaine  
 Spain: Diana/Planeta  
 Sweden: Bonnier Fakta

**We're currently living in a protein-obsessed world.**

In our perennial quest for better health, protein is now the macronutrient hailed as the answer for everything from weight loss to building muscle to achieving optimal wellbeing. We're deluged with protein-focused meals, snacks and supplements in every supermarket and gym, and are constantly encouraged to boost our dietary intake. There is now a strongly-held belief that more protein can only be a good thing - especially in comparison to 'bad' carbohydrates. Right?

Wrong. More protein is not the magic health fix we've been told. In fact, so much of the narrative around protein's apparently limitless health benefits is a lie sold to us by the \$27 billion dollar protein supplement industry, with one priority in mind: profit. The truth is:

- Overconsuming protein is linked to a variety of serious health problems, including insulin resistance, diabetes and weight gain
- Restricting protein intake can actually help reduce cancerous tumour growth, and increase longevity
- Protein deficiency is virtually unheard of in the developed world

Written by the UK's leading metabolic health doctor, this book will flip the current received health wisdom on its head with the truth about protein. THE PROTEIN MYTH will once and for all explain what protein is, how it functions in our bodies and how we should use it, depending on our individual health and lifestyle factors.

The book will provide actionable, science-backed advice to help achieve health goals, including practical steps to:

- Lose weight
- Get stronger
- Age well
- Prevent diabetes
- Balance your hormones during peri/menopause
- Recover from illness or injury
- Thrive on a vegetarian or vegan diet

**THE PROTEIN MYTH** will free you from protein anxiety, and give you other easier, cheaper and more effective solutions to feeling your best and achieving life-long health.

**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, was published by Bluebird in April 2025.

## SAME TIME NEXT WEEK?: Living with anxiety in the modern world

Joshua Fletcher



**UK Publisher:** Orion Spring

**UK Editor:** Jessica Duffy

**Publication:** May 2026

**Extent:** 416

**SAME TIME NEXT WEEK? is an unflinchingly honest, and often funny, guide to living with anxiety in an age of constant optimisation, digital overload and curated calm.**

Millions now turn to AI for therapy before they turn to a human, often leaving them with more questions than answers. In this refreshingly human book, therapist Joshua Fletcher shares the stories of four brave clients who choose to bring their whole selves to his therapy room and learn to make space for the messy feelings that won't quite fit into an AI prompt box.

Alongside the stories of Miriam, Ruben, Liya Su and Magnus, Josh shares his experience of returning to practice after wrestling with his own mental health challenges. Through these hopeful stories, Josh offers invaluable insights on how to manage anxiety in our modern world and resist the overwhelming pressure to be perfect.

This is not a book about fixing yourself because you are not a problem to be solved. In this book you'll learn how to better understand your anxiety and, by slowing down and building the right support, find a way to live a fulfilling life alongside it.

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"Wise, irreverent and hilariously astute, an essential read for our modern age." **CATHERINE GRAY, bestselling author of The Unexpected Joy of Being Sober**

"I loved this book so much. It is like a giant exhale in the face of our 'quick fix' culture, and one that reminded me deeply of the importance of human connection and the joy of imperfection. Oh, and it's funny, like really funny." **JENNIE GODFREY, bestselling author of The List of Suspicious Things**

**JOSHUA FLETCHER MSc MBACP** is an author, therapist and media personality specialising in anxiety. Having been diagnosed with several anxiety conditions, Joshua combines his professional knowledge with lived experience to educate and help others. Josh uses his personable, empathetic and witty approach to convey his knowledge through his social media pages (@anxietyjosh), bestselling self-help books, The Panic Pod podcast and working with popular media.

# THE AGATHA CHRISTIE CURE: How Her Lost Year Helped Me To Live Again

Cathy Rentzinbrink



**A moving memoir and thrilling journey about the mystery at the heart of the Queen of Crime's life, from bestselling author Cathy Rentzenbrink.**

One winter, Cathy Rentzenbrink – one of the UK's most beloved writers and bookworms – finds herself too exhausted to open another novel. Drained by the upheavals of her life, and in need of comfort and escape, she turns to the books of her first literary love: Agatha Christie. She soon becomes obsessed by the central mystery of Agatha's life – how she disappeared following the death of her mother and the breakdown of her marriage.

The more Cathy delves into Agatha's struggles, the more she realises how much the two have in common and how much her heroine has to tell her about surviving the hard times and starting life on her own terms. Compelling, compassionate and insightful, **THE AGATHA CHRISTIE CURE** is the perfect read for lovers of Christie's books and any reader in search of life-affirming resilience.

**UK Publisher:** Canongate

**UK Editor:** Helena Gonda

**Publication:** September 2026

**Extent:** 256

**Rights sold:**

Japan: Hayakawa

US & Canada: Viking

## **PRAISE FOR CATHY RENTINBRINK**

'A warm, unpretentious manifesto for why books matter'  
**Sunday Express**

**CATHY RENTZENBRINK** grew up in Yorkshire, spent many years in London, and now lives in Cornwall. She is the Sunday Times bestselling author of *THE LAST ACT OF LOVE* (Picador, 2016), which was shortlisted for the Wellcome Prize, the acclaimed memoirs *A MANUAL FOR HEARTACHE* (Picador, 2017) and *DEAR READER* (September, 2020). She is also the author of two novels, and her debut novel *EVERYONE IS STILL ALIVE* (Phonenix, 2021) and *ORDINARY TIME* (Phoenix, 2024).

## HER BODY, OUR CHOICE

Rachel Donald



**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 36,000 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.

**UK Publisher:** Virago

**UK Editor:** Anna Kelly

**Publication:** April 2027

**Rights sold:**

Spain: Urano

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



## 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.

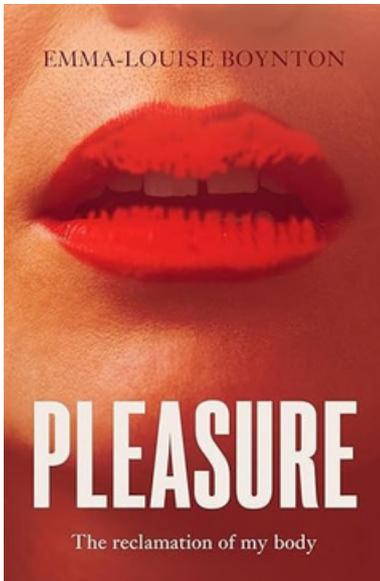
It takes Anna until her own middle-age to question the story of her grandmother. When she does, she is confronted by a terrifying hidden truth about how women were treated in asylums until extremely recently, still-sealed records preventing proper enquiry and recompense.

**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: The Reclamation of My Body

Emma-Louise Boynton



**Part memoir, part cultural critique, PLEASURE explores Emma-Louise Boynton's experience of becoming disconnected from her body - unable to orgasm or even enjoy sexual pleasure - and what it took to reconnect through pleasure.**

The book starts in the sex therapy room, where Boynton first discovered that her years-long battle with an eating disorder might be affecting her connection to sex, then takes the reader through the layers of research and the innumerable discussions that brought Boynton back to her body. Ending her bulimia, bringing back her orgasm and sparking a new-found interest in the topic of pleasure and intimacy.

Drawing on personal experience, interviews with experts, and immersive research, Boynton reveals how this rupture between self and body is not an individual failure but a systemic one - one shaped by history, beauty culture, sexual mythology, and the modern dating economy.

From narrow ideals around desirability and sexist narratives about aging, to the policing of women's pleasure and the emotional alienation of app-based intimacy, Pleasure interrogates the forces that teach women to mistrust their bodies, disconnect from their desires, and prioritise performance over pleasure for the sake of other people's sexual enjoyment.

Bold, intimate and timely, **PLEASURE** ultimately offers a hopeful and practical reimagining of what it means for women to reconnect to themselves in an increasingly disconnected world. To reclaim their bodies and their pleasure.

**UK Publisher:** Leap/Bonnier

**UK Editor:** Carole Tonkinson

**Publication:** May 2026

**Extent:** 304 pages

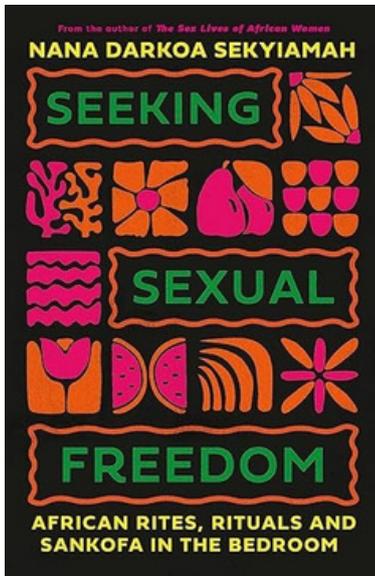
**On behalf of Abigail Bergstrom  
at Bergstrom Studio**



**EMMA LOUISE BOYNTON** 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: African Rites, Rituals and Sankofa in the Bedroom

Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah



**A bold foray into self-discovery, sexual pleasure and African traditions from the acclaimed author of THE SEX LIVES OF AFRICAN WOMEN.**

On her quest for sexual liberation, preeminent feminist Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah has heard the wildest dreams and spiciest realities of women around the world. But so often, something holds these women back from achieving full, unfettered freedom. Through sankofa, learning from the past to inform the future, Sekyiamah seeks to reclaim a more joyful and free sexual practice.

Travelling from Senegal to Tanzania and beyond, Sekyiamah trains with gurus, witches and aunties-guides through puberty rites and marital training-and explores the spiritual, fluid nature of traditional African religions. Embracing these age-old practices and questioning how we've come to lose them, Sekyiamah challenges our warped ideals of beauty, shame, internalised racism and violence to lead us on our own personal journeys to rediscover sexual freedom through practical advice and prompts.

Part-manifesto, part-travelogue, part-workbook, Seeking Sexual Freedom is the powerful and bold call to joy and liberation that women of all backgrounds need today.

**UK Publisher:** Dialogue

**UK Editor:** Sharmaine Lovegrove

**Publication:** March 2026

**Extent:** 288 pages

**On behalf of Robert Caskie**

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'Adventurous, curious, honest and at times totally mind-blowing. A book for anyone who cares about female pleasure. Which is to say, a book for everyone!' **AFUA HIRSCH, bestselling author or Brit(ish)**

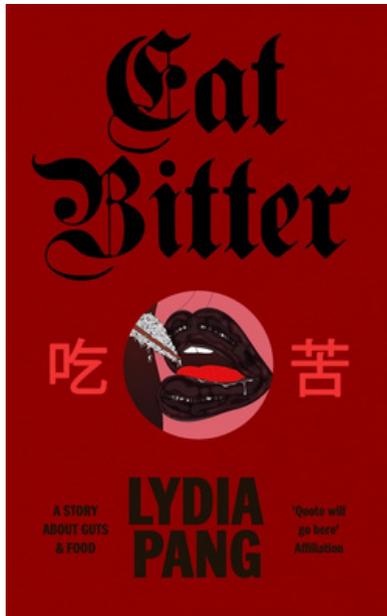
**NANA DARKOA SEKYIAMAH** is the author of THE SEX LIVES OF AFRICAN WOMEN. Her writing has appeared in The Guardian, open Democracy, and Essence, and her short stories have been published in It Wasn't Exactly Love and The Pot and Other Stories. Nana is the co-founder of the award-winning podcast and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

**ROBE  
RTCA  
SKIE**

## EAT BITTER: A Story About Guts, and Food

Lydia Pang

**\*A Service95 Must-Read of 2026\***



**A beautiful, fearless, dynamic exploration of food and feelings - with bite - for fans of *Crying in H Mart*, *Butter* and *Midnight Chicken*.**

Eat bitter is a Chinese proverb meaning 'endure hardship to taste sweetness'. For Lydia Pang, it embodies the struggles of her Hakka ancestors - a Chinese ethnic group subjected to forced migrations whose ingenuity produced a distinct food culture based around fermenting and foraging.

Pang develops the philosophy of eating bitter as a tool to reframe the most challenging moments of her life, from burning out and pushing her marriage to the brink to struggles with fertility and caring for a parent. As she plates up eight favourite recipes for us, we taste the char siu pork her Gunggung cooked on Sundays, the silly eggy noodles her father made when her sister was ill, the bone broth she boiled in New York while desperately homesick, and the courgettes grown in her new home in rural Wales as a means of marital reconnection.

**UK Publisher:** Chatto & Windus

**UK Editor:** Kaiya Shang

**Publication:** May 2026

**Extent:** 304 pages

**Rights sold:**

US & Canada: HarperOne

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

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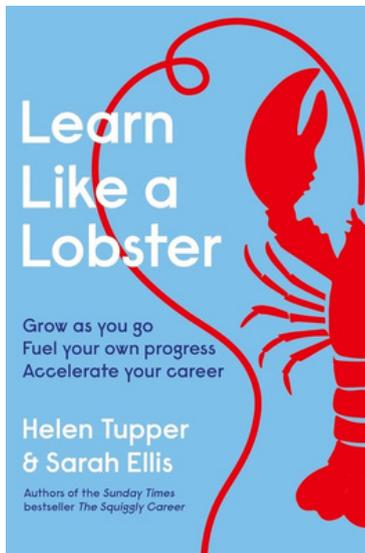
'Touching, absorbing, unflinching... This book shows you how to stomach life's shit, celebrate the ugly, and keep going'  
**ANGELA HIU, author of *Takeway***

**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



# LEARN LIKE A LOBSTER: Grow as you go, Fuel your own progress, Accelerate your career

Helen Tupper and Sarah Ellis



**\*The instant no.1 Sunday Times bestseller\***

We used to go to work to learn to do the job. Now learning IS the job.

Whatever your career, staying relevant and adaptable is a modern workplace essential. And your unexpected role model for lifelong learning? A clawed crustacean.

In **LEARN LIKE A LOBSTER**, Sunday Times bestselling authors Helen Tupper and Sarah Ellis share the essential career lessons we can learn from the growth and resilience of the limitless lobster.

- Lobsters never stop growing (and neither should you)
- Lobsters grow through hard moments (use challenges to turbo-charge your career)
- Lobsters fuel their own learning (don't ask for permission to learn, lead your own way)

**UK Publisher:** Penguin Life

**UK Editor:** Pippa Wright

**Publication:** February 2026

**Extent:** 320 pages

**Rights sold:**

Arabic: Arab Scientific

China: Phei

France: Hachette Pratique

Germany: Goldman

Italy: ON/AlphaTest

Poland: under offer

Taiwan: Ping Publications

Thailand: Satapornbooks

USA & Canada: Tarcher Perigee

Vietnam: Rubik

**LEARN LIKE A LOBSTER** shows how to make learning a playful and energising part of every working day, instead of something we have to find time for in an already packed schedule. It's a must-read for everyone who wants to progress in their career in a way that feels meaningful and motivating.

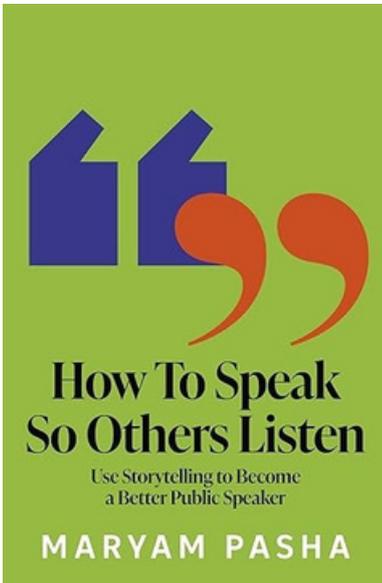
Whether you're someone who already wants to invest in themselves and their development, or whether you feel stuck and unsure of your direction, **LEARN LIKE A LOBSTER** offers the skills, tools and motivation you need for career progression and fulfilment.

**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.

# HOW TO SPEAK SO OTHERS LISTEN: Use Storytelling to Become a Better Public Speaker

Maryam Pasha



**UK Publisher:** Headline Home

**UK Editor:** Anna Steadman

**Publication:** March 2026

**Extent:** 256 pages

**Rights sold:**

Spain: Conecta/PRH

Taiwan: Marco Polo Press

Vietnam: Ymate

When most people think about public speaking a few narrow images come to mind - a guy in a suit giving a presentation to a boardroom or a video of someone giving a TED talk. But public speaking is more than that: it's going into a meeting with your boss to ask for a promotion, it's an author doing school or library visits, it's pitching to new clients, it's the speech at your best friend's wedding, it's describing a project to your colleagues, it's talking about issues you care about. Public speaking is any time you need to communicate to another person with purpose, to share your ideas, to influence and persuade.

Human connection starts with stories and being able to tell them. Being compelling, clear and impactful when you speak is a skill everyone needs to develop, to be relevant and effective in the workplace and beyond. It's something that many activists and people engaged in social change already know well: that you can have all the data and facts in the world, but it's stories that move the needle. Stories have the power to build empathy, help to shift mindsets and open up new possibilities.

**HOW TO SPEAK SO OTHERS LISTEN** provides a toolkit for storytelling and getting your message across. This book will teach you to believe that what you have to say is worth saying, and how your unique voice can be powerful, so you can make positive change in your own life and the world around you.

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'I've been a public speaker for 16 years and even I learned a lot. This book will help you find your voice and then teach you how to use it. I highly recommend it to anyone' **Sofie Hagen**

**MARYAM PASHA** is the Director and Curator for TEDxLondon and TEDxLondonWomen, and a curator for TED's Climate Countdown. She is the founder of X Equals - an impact storytelling coaching business, where clients include billionaire philanthropists, Nobel prize-winning academics, business leaders and students. She hosts Climate Curious podcast, which has recently passed 1.75 million downloads in just over 3 years, and the new Speechless podcast with Simon Bucknall, on all things communication.

## NEXT GEN CEO: 60 Lessons for Leaders in an Uncertain World

Mike Soutar



**UK Publisher:** Pan Macmillan

**UK Editor:** Mike Harpley & Kate Walsh

**Publication:** June 2026

**Extent:** 436 pages

**On behalf of Anna Dixon at YMU**

**YMU**

**Everything you know about leadership is about to expire.**

The old rulebook is dead. Leadership is no longer just about managing people - it's about managing chaos.

In sixty razor-sharp, micro-learning lessons, veteran CEO and interviewer Mike Soutar gives you the strategic courage to lead through disruption and a rapidly evolving business world. This book strips away outdated and abstract theories, and replaces them with essential mental models for unprecedented times.

Learn from Soutar's hard-won workplace experience, and be the person who turns internal conflict into a competitive superpower, transforms failure into their most valuable investment, and find out why being completely reasonable is sometimes an indulgence no leader can afford.

Featuring exclusive, candid wisdom from interviews, case studies, anecdotes and personal experience, Next Gen CEO has arrived just in time for us to change our approach to business before it's too late.

Time's up on outdated business models. Don't just survive the rapidly changing business landscape. Design it.

**MIKE SOUTAR** is an entrepreneur, advisor and non-executive director, known for his ability to build and transform businesses. He co-founded and served as CEO of Shortlist Media, growing it into a major multi-million-pound multi-platform publisher. Previously, he held leadership roles at iconic media brands like FHM, Smash Hits and Kiss FM. For thirteen years, he was a meticulous interrogator on BBC One's The Apprentice. Mike currently serves on the government's Board of Trade, and is a non-executive director at Scottish Rugby and a trustee of the V&A Dundee. He writes and speaks on entrepreneurship, resilience and leadership.

# MICRO-HABITS: Tiny Changes That Supercharge High Performance

Jake Humphreys & Damian Hughes



**\*Sunday Times #1 Bestselling authors of High Performance \***

What if you could change your life in less than five minutes?

We assume that the highest-performing people are wired differently; that their success is down to nothing more than raw talent.

But in the course of 400 conversations with the world's most remarkable individuals, Jake Humphrey and Damian Hughes have found the opposite: real success comes from small, often imperceptible changes in behaviour. They call them micro-habits.

Drawing on exclusive interviews with leading high performers - from Olympic-medallists to billionaire entrepreneurs - MICRO-HABITS introduces the forty-eight simple tools that anyone can use to achieve excellence.

The best thing? They work right away.

'Greatness isn't about talent alone. In part it's about the small, repeatable actions that most people miss. MICRO-HABITS is accessible, effective and packed with wisdom from the world's highest achievers.' **SIR GARETH SOUTHGATE**

'Full of tough love and practical wisdom, MICRO-HABITS offers simple, transformative tips that you can stick with in the hard times as well as the easy ones.' **BEAR GRYLLES**

**JAKE HUMPHREY** is one of Britain's best-respected sports presenters. Formerly lead Premier League presenter at BT Sport, Jake has covered events ranging from Formula 1 to the London Olympics and was the youngest-ever presenter of the BBC's Match of the Day.

**DAMIAN HUGHES** is an expert on high-performing cultures. A trusted advisor to businesses and sportspeople around the world, he has been praised by the likes of Richard Branson, Muhammad Ali, Roger Bannister and Alex Ferguson.

**UK Publisher:** Cornerstone Press

**Publication:** January 2026

**Extent:** 320 pages

**Rights sold:**

Brazil: Ciranda Cultural

Indonesia: Salve

Italy: Newton Compton

Serbia: Laguna

Slovenia: Aktivni

Taiwan: Babel

Thailand: NanmeeBooks

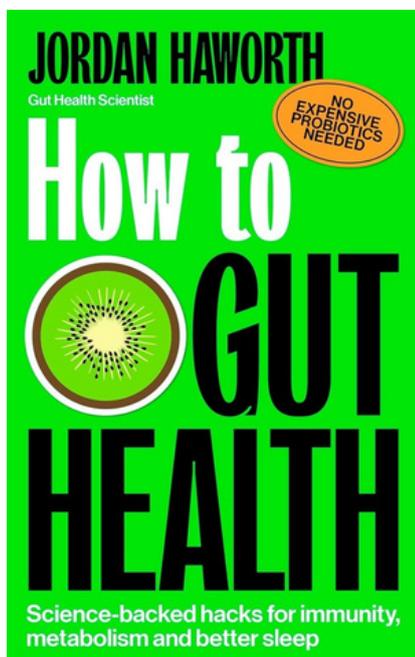
Ukraine: Vivat

**On behalf of Briony Gowlett  
at YMU**

**YMU**

# HOW TO GUT HEALTH: Science-backed hacks for immunity, metabolism and better sleep

Jordan Haworth



## Protect your gut, and your bank balance, by following these easy steps

With kefir and kombucha lining the supermarket shelves and an onslaught of ads for probiotics, it's impossible to avoid the new science of gut health. But what is it and why should you care? And do you really need all those supplements?

In **HOW TO GUT HEALTH**, leading gut physiologist Jordan Haworth answers these fundamental questions and more, and what he has to say may surprise you. For example, did you know that the number one cause of bloating is not dairy or gluten, but not breathing properly? Ultimately, we can all benefit from looking after our gut health and it needn't be complicated or expensive.

**UK Publisher:** Vermillion

**UK Editor:** Sam Jackson

**Publication:** June 2026

**Extent:** 256 pages

**On behalf of Briony Gowlett  
at YMU**

Walking you through the best diet for your gut - the Mediterranean diet - as well showing you easy ways to boost your gut microbiome (without expensive pills or drinks!), **HOW TO GUT HEALTH** is the myth-busting, evidence-based guide that finally makes gut health simple.

**YMU**

**JORDAN HAWORTH** is a gastrointestinal physiologist based in Manchester who specialises in uncovering the root causes of digestive issues. Following his own struggles with an autoimmune disease and orthorexia, Jordan is passionate about educating others with science-backed, practical advice.

# EAT FOR LIFE: The New Science of Supportive Eating

GQ Jordan



**UK Publisher:** Orion

**UK Editor:** Jessica Duffy

**Publication:** April 2027

**Extent:** 304

**On behalf of Briony Gowlett  
at YMU**

**Forget fasting windows and one-nutrient fixations - the future of eating isn't restrictive, it's supportive.**

Supportive Eating is more than a philosophy - it's the future of how we'll eat, live, and view food, and Eat for Life is the book that starts the movement.

In **EAT FOR LIFE**, nutritionist and creator GQ Jordan (@gqjordannutrition) introduces her four-phase system that helps readers cut through the food noise and build a way of eating that will adapt with them, not work against them.

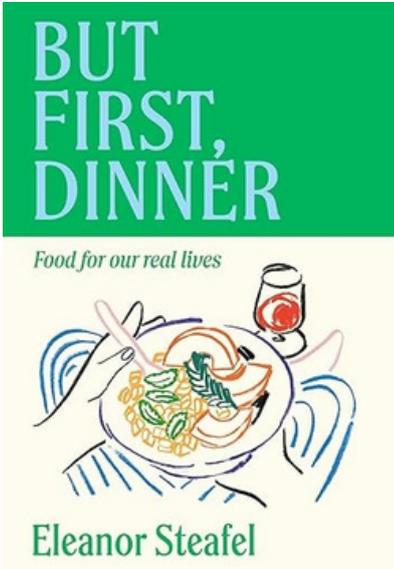
From strengthening foundations to meeting goals and sustaining long-term health, GQ's approach empowers readers to fuel for energy and balance and navigate life's shifts with confidence and personalisation. Backed by qualified advice, clinical hours and experience of pharmaceutical communications - and amplified by an online community of over 1.7 million - GQ bridges the gap between medicine and wellness culture with clarity, compassion, and science that sticks.

**YMU**

**GQ JORDAN** is a registered nutritional therapist with an evidence-based, sustainable approach to lifestyle and diet designed for real people, in real life. She runs an online clinic, GQ Jordan Nutrition, and her content reaches over 1.7 million followers across social media platforms..

## BUT FIRST, DINNER: Food For Our Real Lives

Eleanor Steafel



**UK Publisher:** W&N

**UK Editor:** Juliet Annan

**Publication:** May 2026

**Extent:** 256

**A hilarious and heartfelt narrative food book blending memoir with over 50 mouth-watering recipes**

This is a book for people who spend most of their time thinking about what to have for dinner.

For people who communicate big feelings through food.

And for people who know that a bowl of pasta is never really just a bowl of pasta.

From crispy gnocchi with hot and sour tomatoes and grated halloumi to chubby ricotta basil dumplings, from spatchcocked chicken with pepper sauce to salty coconut granola, this is a book bursting with over fifty mouthwatering recipes for every occasion. Because in our real lives, we need all kinds of dinners. Food to keep our hands (and brain) busy, lap dinners for tired souls, batch cooks for busy days ahead and emergency treats, because sometimes we just need emergency treats.

Weaving together recipes, memories, essays and Strong Feelings about supermarket cheddar, female friendship and food we eat when we're alone, *But First, Dinner* is Eleanor Steafel's hilarious and heartfelt manifesto on how to answer the dinner question - no matter what sort of day we are having.

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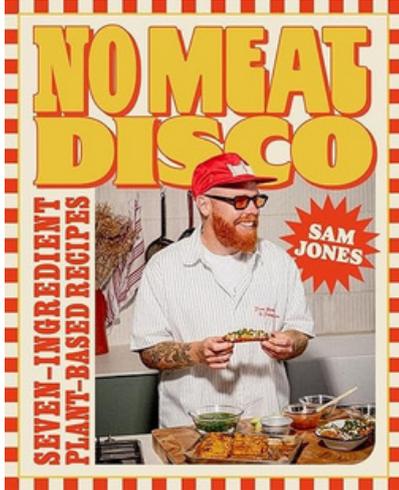
'Brilliant. Once-in-a-generation warm, accessible food writing of the sort that makes you want to lick the page. You'll want a copy for the kitchen and another one to keep by your bed.' **INDIA KNIGHT**

'Ellie Steafel has a Laurie Colwin like ability to put into words the endless internal dialogue so many of us have about what we do ( and don't) want to eat, with recipe suggestions so perfect I felt she was reading my mind: simply wonderful.' **RACHEL RODDY**

**ELEANOR STEAFEL** is a food writer and journalist. She was a feature writer at the Daily Telegraph for over a decade and is now Lifestyle Director for House & Garden. Her first book, *THE ART OF FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER*, was shortlisted for the Fortnum and Mason Award for debut cookbook.

## NO MEAT DISCO: Seven-Ingredient Plant-Based Recipes

Sam Jones



**\*The debut cookbook from viral content creator Sam Jones aka @NoMeatDisco, with plant-forward soul food that hits hard on flavour, colour and texture, without overcomplicating it\***

Sam Jones is a chef, creator and storyteller who turns everyday ingredients into playful, flavour-packed food. Inspired by his Welsh grandmother, Nini - who gave him the freedom to experiment and push boundaries in the kitchen - Sam has spent years exploring the connection between food, music and creativity.

**UK Publisher:** Robinson/  
Little, Brown

**UK Editor:** Tom Asker

**Publication:** September 2026

**Extent:** 272

**Rights sold:**

US & Canada: Countryman/  
Norton

**On behalf of Anna Dixon at  
YMU**

Through NoMeatDisco, he's built a community of over a million people by sharing plant-led recipes that are bold, accessible and full of personality. His viral Seven Ingredient series proved that incredible food doesn't need a long shopping list - just great ingredients and a bit of rhythm.

In his debut cookbook, Sam brings together over 90 brand-new recipes, from Peanut Miso Sweet Potato Soup and Kimchi Hash Browns to BBQ Corn Ribs with Smoky Paprika Butter, all built around his signature seven-ingredient approach. Each dish is designed to be flavour-first, unfussy and satisfying - real food made with intention, not perfection. Every recipe is paired with a curated playlist because, for Sam, cooking has always been about feel as much as flavour.

Whether you're fully plant-based or simply looking to cook more veg-forward meals, this is a book for anyone who loves good food, good music and getting stuck in.

**SAM JONES** is a photographer, videographer, and food stylist turned self-taught chef and content creator. Since launching @NoMeatDisco, he has partnered with restaurants to create plant-based menus, spoken on BBC Radio about music and food, and launched his own Lions Mane Mushroom grow-kit called "Disco Shroomz." He lives in Bournemouth.

**YMU**

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