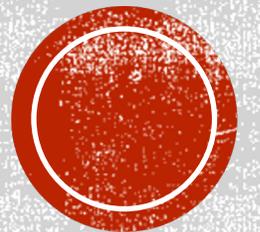


Bookouture

BOOK-TO-SCREEN CATALOGUE

Highlights for film and TV rights



WELCOME TO OUR INAUGURAL BOOK-TO-SCREEN CATALOGUE

For your consideration of the film, TV and stage rights, it is with pleasure that we present here a showcase of our current highlights from across the key genres published by our award-winning digital imprint Bookouture and our new non-fiction imprint Thread – procedural crime, thrillers, suspense, romantic comedies, historical fiction and memoir. We have so many more titles than we have showcased here, so please do let us know if there is anything in particular you are seeking out, as we may well have the book for you!

Please don't hesitate to request reading materials for anything that you would like to consider.



Film, TV and stage rights are now handled in house at Bookouture by Head of Rights, Richard King.

Please contact Richard for any more information or to arrange to a meeting.

richard@bookouture.com



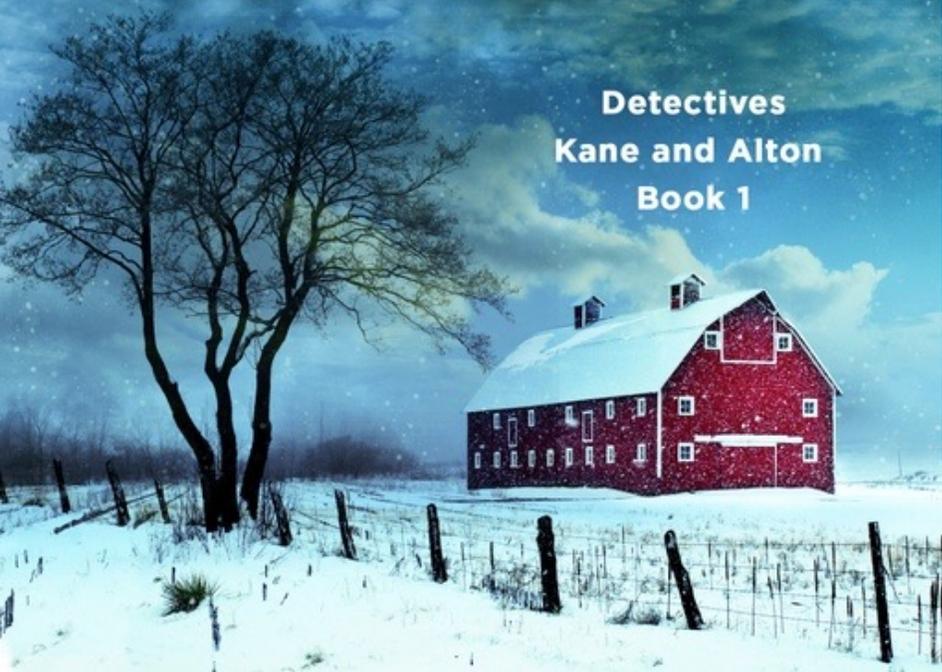
PROCEDURAL CRIME

A gripping crime thriller that will have you hooked

D.K. HOOD

DON'T TELL A SOUL

Detectives
Kane and Alton
Book 1



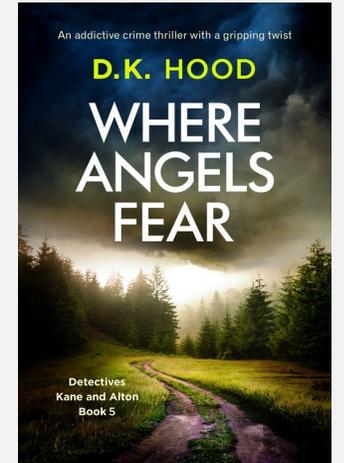
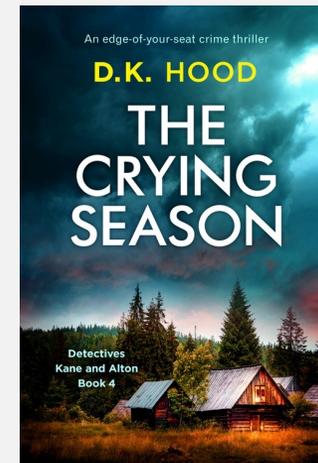
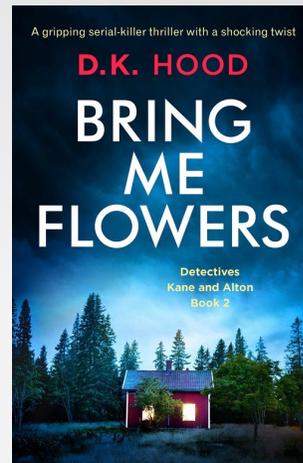
DON'T TELL A SOUL

BY D.K. HOOD (OCTOBER 2017)

This is the first book in the Kane and Alton series from USA Today- and Wall Street Journal- bestselling author. Set in the fictional town of Black Rock Falls in Montana, this series delivers twisted killers, fast-paced action, and larger-than-life characters, including the unforgettable detective duo Jenna Alton and David Kane – both FBI ex-special agents hiding in plain sight in this supposedly sleepy town, both mistrusting of the other, both trying to keep their pasts from catching up with them. Think a procedural, precinct version of Mr and Mrs Smith!

In book #1, after his death is faked by the FBI, ex-special agent David Kane is hidden away on witness protection in the supposedly quiet town of Black Rock Falls as the deputy to the town's sheriff Jenna Alton, who herself also has an FBI background as a special agent - and she has many enemies. The two detectives immediately mistrust each other, but they must work together to catch a killer on the loose in Black Rock Falls - someone who is connected to previous disappearances in the town's history. But Jenna is the one that the killer really wants...

This is compulsive and sensational commercial crime storytelling at its very best. The long-running series has now reach #14, plus 2 prequels, and has sold a staggering 905,000 copies for Bookouture alone, and has rave reader reviews every time. It has been translated into German, French, Czech and Russian.



Kathryn Casey

THE
FALLEN
GIRLS

Detective Clara Jefferies Book 1

An absolutely unputdownable and gripping crime thriller

THE FALLEN GIRLS

BY KATHRYN CASEY (JUNE 2020)

Detective Clara Jefferies has spent years running from her Fundamentalist Mormon childhood in Alber, Utah. Her family don't believe in western medicine, or education and practice polygamy.

But when she hears that her half sister Delilah has disappeared, she knows that the peaceful community will be shattered, her family vulnerable, and that that she must face up to her past and go home.

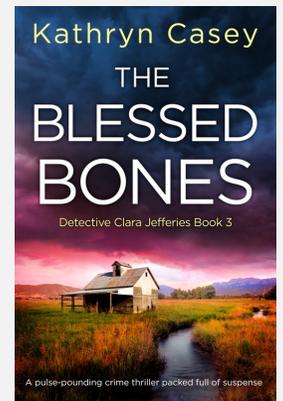
Clara returns to find that her father has died and her unforgiving mother, Ardeth, has isolated her family by moving to the edge of town, in the shadow of the mountains. Ardeth refuses to talk to the police and won't let Clara through the front door, shunning her from the community, believing she and her sister-wives can protect their own.

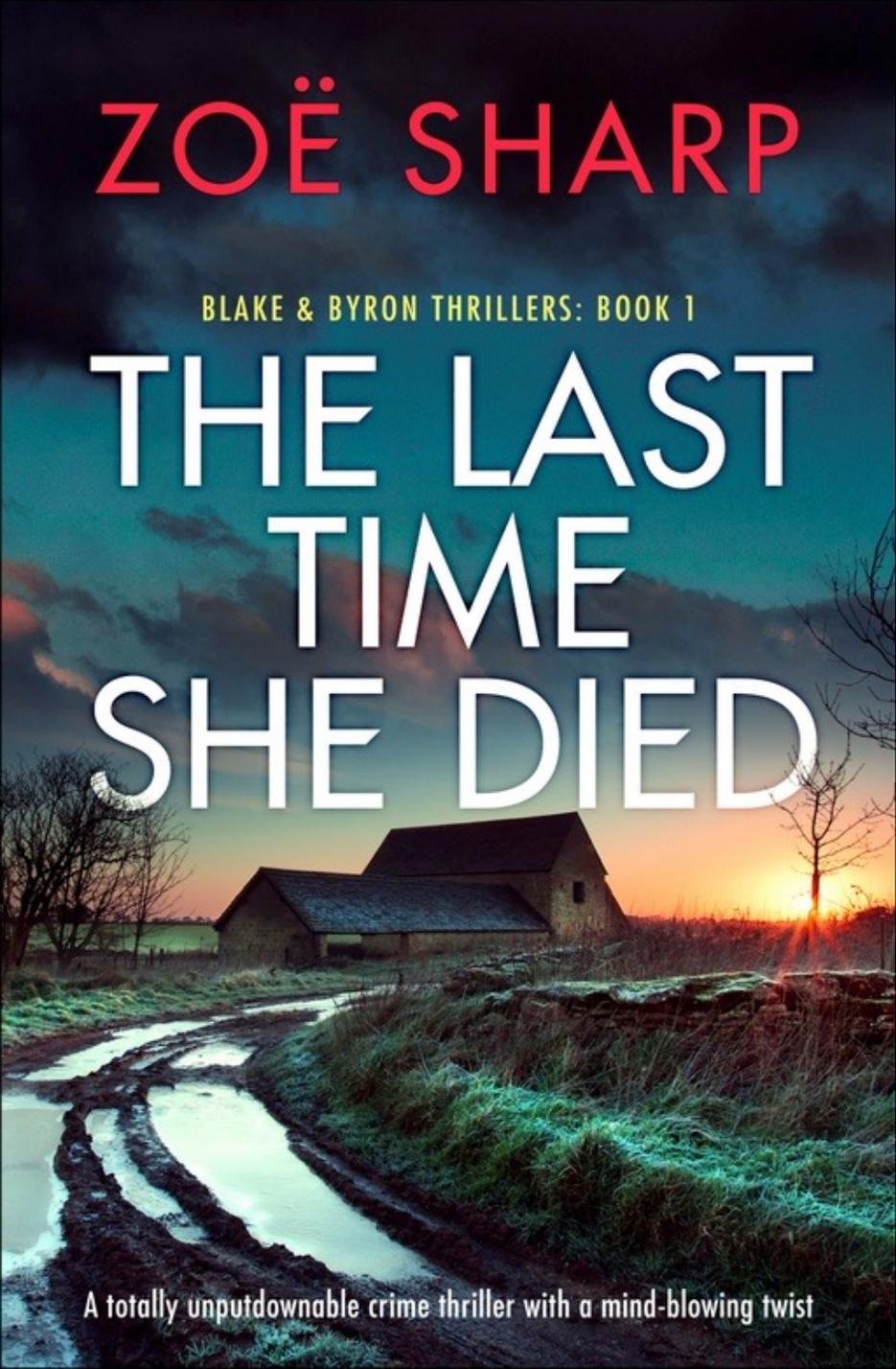
But Clara knows better than *anyone* that her mother isn't always capable of protecting her children...

When Clara finds out that two more girls have disappeared, all last seen around the cornfields near her family's home, she realizes it's not just Delilah who's in danger. And then she gets a call that a body has been found...

Clara will have to dig deep into the town's secrets if she's going to find Delilah. But that will mean confronting the reason she left. And as she gets closer to Delilah, she might be putting her more at risk...

***The Fallen Girls* is *Black Widows* meets *Sharp Objects* and is a brilliantly researched and atmospheric procedural thriller, set within a closed community. Books 2 and 3 featuring Detective Clara Jefferies are also now available.**





ZOË SHARP

BLAKE & BYRON THRILLERS: BOOK 1

THE LAST TIME SHE DIED

A totally unputdownable crime thriller with a mind-blowing twist

THE LAST TIME SHE DIED

BY ZOË SHARP (OCTOBER 2021)

She came back on the day of her father's funeral, ten years after she vanished. But she can't be who she says she is...

When Blake disappeared as a teenager, on a cold dark night, her father never reported her missing. She is presumed dead.

Now, ten years later, a young woman with white-blond hair sits comfortably in the family living room and smiles at the shocked faces around her.

"Don't you recognise me?" she says. "I'm Blake."

Detective John Byron isn't sure whether she's telling the truth. But as he investigates, he soon realises no one is happy to see her.

And the people who should be welcoming her back with open arms know she can't be Blake. Because they killed her the night she vanished...

Didn't they?

From the bestselling author of the Charlie Fox books, *The Last Time She Died* will have you gripped until the last mind-blowing page. Fans of Cara Hunter, Kendra Elliot and Rachel Abbott will love this action-packed crime thriller.

DETECTIVE KAY SHARP
BOOK 1

THE GIRL FROM SILENT LAKE

LESLIE WOLFE

A totally gripping and heart-pounding crime thriller

THE GIRL FROM SILENT LAKE BY LESLIE WOLFE (FEBRUARY 2021)

In this phenomenal first book in the series, former FBI criminal psychologist turned small-town detective, Kay Sharp, returns home to her sleepy home town in the epic mountains outside San Francisco, where not only her own deepest secrets are buried, but also where a serial killer mimicking Native American burial rituals will put her considerable profiling skills to the test.

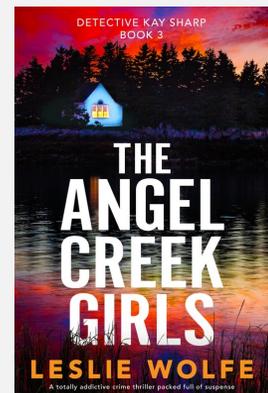
Detective Kay Sharp killed her abusive father as a child with a kitchen knife. She and her brother buried his body in the back garden underneath a willow tree. She has carried this burden for the rest of her life, pushing it deep down inside her. Perhaps this is why she became such a brilliant criminal profiler. She knows what it feels like to be a killer.

Years later her brother goes to prison on a trumped up DUI charge, and Kay is forced to return to her home town of Mount Chester to help him, living in the old family home that harbours her darkest secret. The knife she killed her father with is still missing from the knife block in the kitchen.

But this is not the only reason she has come home. Women are going missing from across the country, some with children in tow – their connection: they are all travelling to Mount Chester. The first body is found presented with all the rituals of a Native American tree burial. Her child is still missing.

Kay leads a frenzied search to find the other women and children before it's too late. But as more adult bodies are found, she realises perhaps too late that her own past is catching up with her, and in order to save those blameless children, she is going to have to face it to unlock the mind of the most twisted killer she has ever encountered.

Books 2 and 3 featuring the brilliant Detective Kay Sharp are now also available.



DETECTIVE JOSIE QUINN BOOK 1

A totally heart-stopping crime thriller

VANISHING GIRLS

LISA REGAN

VANISHING GIRLS

BY LISA REGAN (JANUARY 2018)

One girl was taken. Another girl returned.

Everyone in the small town of Denton is searching for Isabelle Coleman, a missing seventeen-year-old girl. All they've found so far is her phone, a clump of her blonde hair – and another young girl they didn't even know was missing.

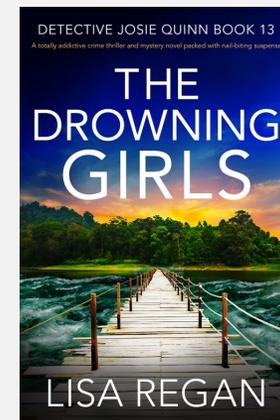
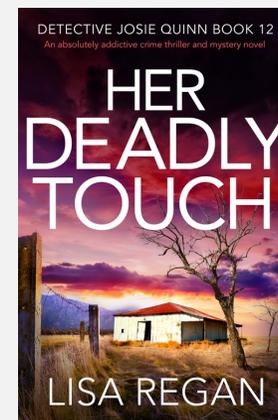
Mute and unresponsive, it's clear this mysterious girl has been damaged beyond repair. All Detective Josie Quinn can get from her is the name of a *third* girl and the flash of a neon tongue piercing that matches Isabelle's.

The race is on to find Isabelle alive, and Josie fears there may be other girls in terrible danger. When the trail leads her to a cold case labelled a hoax by authorities, Josie – suspended from the force for misconduct – discovers a trail of police corruption of the most despicable kind that goes back generations.

Someone in this close-knit town is committing unspeakable crimes. Is there anyone left she can trust? And can Josie catch the killer before another victim loses their life?

Lisa Regan is a shining star in Bookouture's crown. She is an Amazon, USA Today and Wall Street Journal bestselling author, and in 2021 reached a career landmark of 2 million copies sold across Bookouture's editions of her work alone. Detective Josie Quinn has become a standout fan favourite and she has appeared in a further 11 titles by Lisa. Book 13 in the series, *The Drowning Girls* is forthcoming this December.

Looking for the next *Mare of Easttown*? You've found it.



AN ABSOLUTELY ADDICTIVE MYSTERY THRILLER

ROGER STELLJES

SILENCED GIRLS

AGENT TORI HUNTER BOOK 1



SILENCED GIRLS

BY ROGER STELLJES (NOVEMBER 2020)

Guilt has kept FBI Agent Tori Hunter away from her home in Manchester Bay, Minnesota for twenty years, ever since her twin sister disappeared on the Fourth of July, when the girls should have been together. In the years since, living in New York, she has risen through the ranks of the FBI to become one of the bureau's brightest and best kidnap and abduction specialists.

But when she receives an anonymous newspaper clipping about another missing girl back in Manchester Bay, Tori is dragged back to the past. Just like Tori's sister, Genevieve vanished without a trace, her empty car abandoned on a lonely lakeside road as Independence Day fireworks lit up the sky overhead.

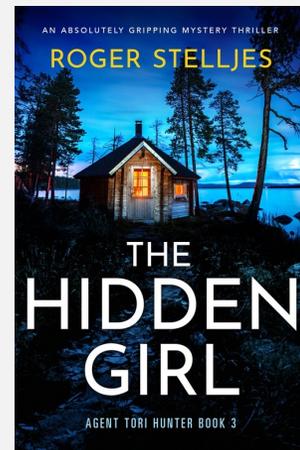
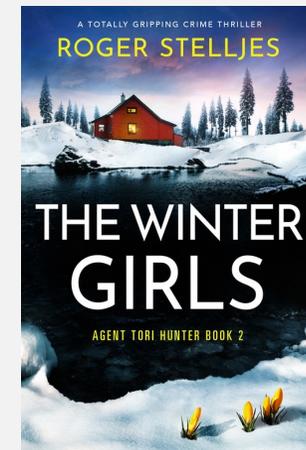
Returning to Minnesota lake country, Tori finds Genevieve's distraught yet politically influential parents desperate for answers. Under pressure to make an arrest, the police have no time for Tori's theories.

Pulled out of the state on another mission to solve a middle-class kidnapping with links to corporate corruption, Tori continues to try and steer the Manchester Bay case remotely. But on returning finds both herself – and Braddock, the local detective with his own past tragedies – in the direct sights of the killer.

When the only suspect is found dead in his isolated cabin, days later another girl's body is discovered bound and strangled in the trunk of her car. The bloodstains surrounding her body belong to Braddock, the one man Tori thought she could trust. Reeling, Tori knows the closer she gets to the truth, the more her own life is at risk. But can she catch this killer before it's too late for Genevieve?

Silenced Girls is the beginning of an eventful and action-packed trilogy featuring the Agent Tori Hunter. The plots spiral into corporate corruption, local politics, and both of our heroes' troubled pasts and distinguished careers, all against the beautiful and epic backdrop of the Minnesotan Lakes.

Books 2 and 3 are also available.





THRILLERS AND SUSPENSE

214 PALMER STREET

BY KAREN MCQUESTION (APRIL 2022)

A house with a secret. A woman with nothing to lose.

When Maggie sees the beautiful Venetian blinds moving in the Caldwell's front window, she freezes. Her favourite neighbours Cady and Josh are away, so who is in their house?

The pretty young woman who answers the door tells a convincing story. She's Sarah. The house-sitter. Just here for a month. An old friend of Cady's who needed a place to stay. She's pleasant and warm, and Maggie wanders back to her house thinking she might have made a new friend. Yet she can't help but wonder why Cady never mentioned Sarah.

What Maggie doesn't know is that on the other side of the door, Sarah is starting to panic.

No one was meant to see her at 214 Palmer Street...

An unputdownable psychological thriller from number one bestseller Karen McQuestion, which will make you question what secrets your own neighbours are hiding... For fans of *The Girl on the Train*, *The Woman in the Window* and *Gone Girl*.

#1 BESTSELLING AUTHOR

KAREN McQUESTION

No one was ever
meant to see her at...

214 PALMER STREET

A completely gripping psychological thriller packed with suspense

THE KILLER'S FAMILY

BY MIRANDA SMITH (MARCH 2022)

***The Killer's Family* is a brilliantly hooky thriller about a family who find out after their father's funeral that he was a serial killer.**

We thought he was a good man. We were wrong.

I am at home with the television on when I hear the news. A woman has been found by the docks, her wedding ring stolen. In heavy tones, the reporter says it appears the notorious local serial killer has returned...

My breath comes short in my chest and my legs tremble beneath me. I know that can't be true, because I know who the killer was.

Henry Martin. My father.

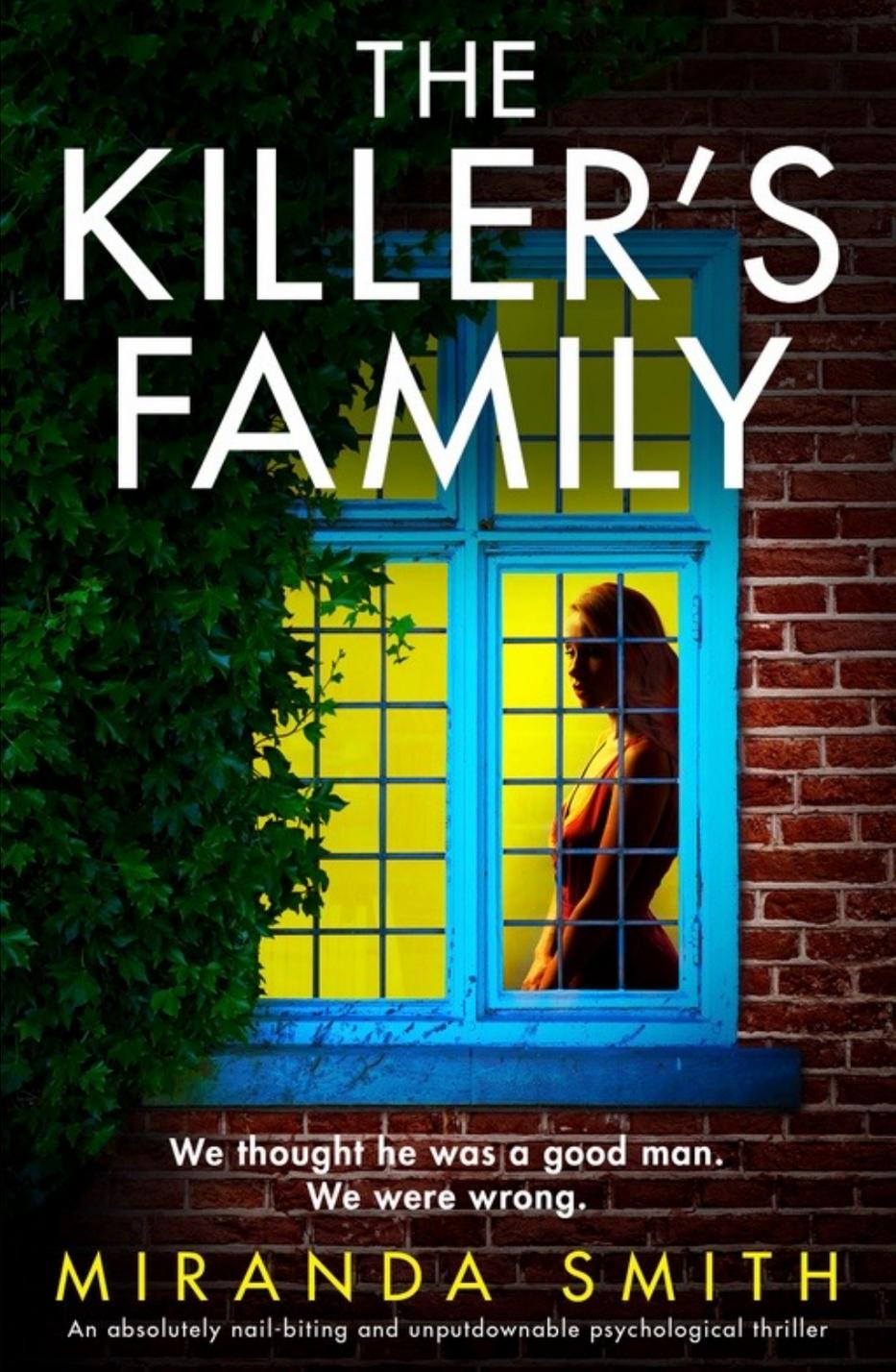
My sisters and I learned the shocking truth after his funeral. We made a pledge to say nothing: revealing the truth would only bring more pain. We set fire to his confession, turning his secrets into ash.

But now someone is sending us a message. Someone knows we lied.

But who could possibly know what we're hiding? What do they want? And if I try to protect us, will I destroy my family for ever?

A brilliantly twisty thriller combining psychological suspense with a dark story that looks at secrets, cover ups and weather evil can be inherited. Thought-provoking crime fiction at its best, for fans of Gillian Flynn and Ruth Ware.

THE KILLER'S FAMILY



We thought he was a good man.
We were wrong.

MIRANDA SMITH

An absolutely nail-biting and unputdownable psychological thriller

THE FAMILY ACROSS THE STREET

BY NICOLE TROPE (AUGUST 2021)

Everybody wants to live on Hogarth Street, the pretty, leafy avenue in the peaceful suburbs of Sydney, with its white houses and rainbow-coloured lorikeets roosting in the trees. The new family, the Wests, are a perfect fit. Katherine and John seem so in love and their gorgeous five-year-old twins race screeching around their beautiful emerald-green lawn.

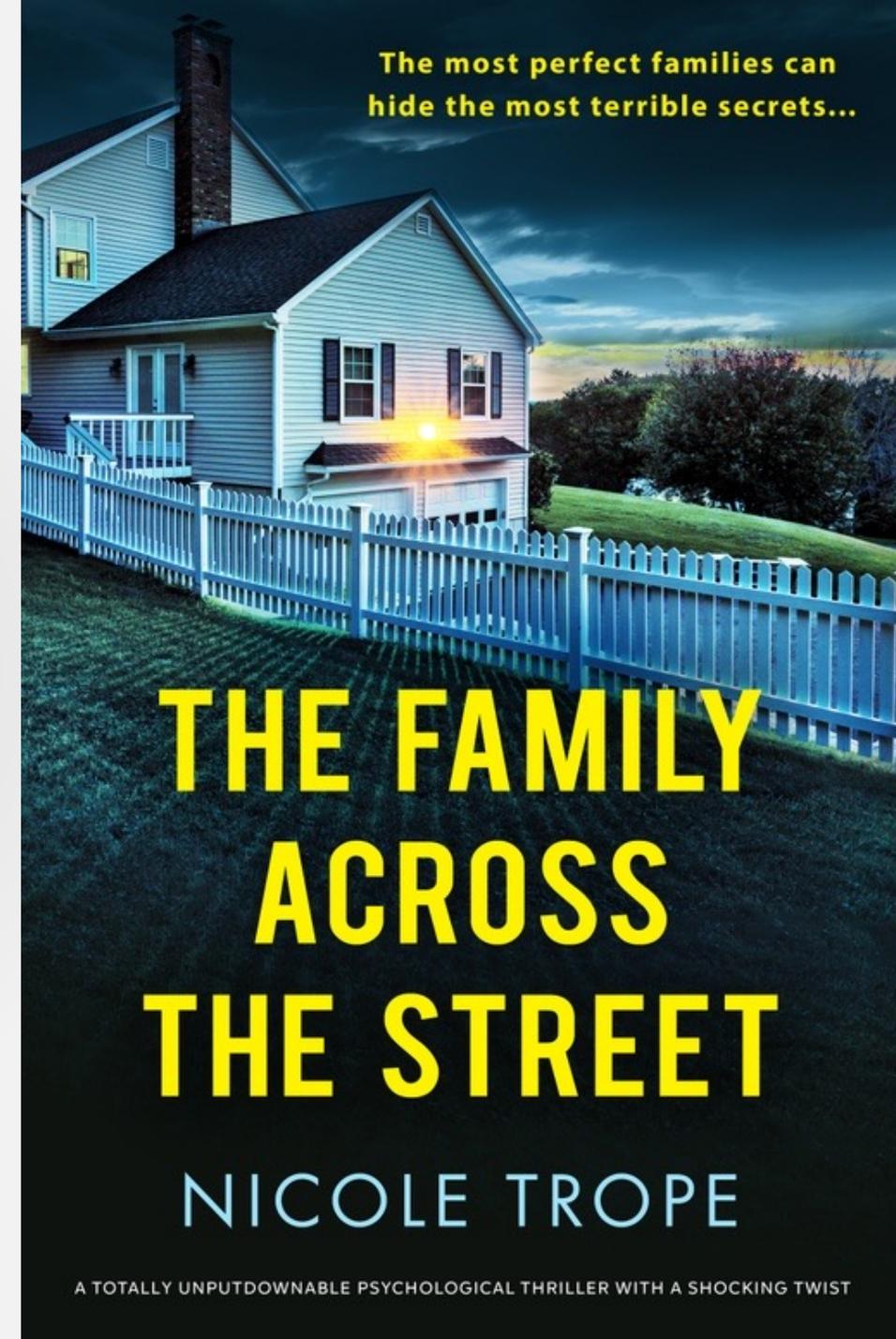
But, every family has secrets, and on the hottest day of the year, a tragedy unfolds behind their closed doors. To the oblivion of the neighbours, a lone gunman is holding the family hostage, and none of the Wests knows if they will ever get out alive.

As ex-con delivery driver, Logan, arrives that morning needing a signature for a new laptop, he is rejected by a nervy Katherine West who refuses to open the door. Covered in violent tattoos – which bely Logan's troubled past from which is desperate to escape – he initially assumes it is fear of him that caused the terse exchange. But the more he ponders it, the more he realises he can't leave it alone. Something is wrong.

And Gladys, the well-meaning but nevertheless interfering next door neighbour, who spends her days caring for her unwell husband Lou and giving him a running commentary on the neighbours' comings and goings, wonders why the West children haven't left for school yet...

The truth is about to come out, and as the dawn chorus is split by the wail of sirens, one by one the families who tried so hard to welcome the Wests realise that Hogarth Street will never be the same again.

***The Family Across the Street* stormed up the Amazon charts on publication reaching #1 in Australia, #3 in UK, and #22 in US, selling nearly 40,000 copies in the first month alone. It is an utterly gripping character-driven suspense thriller, which breathes life into it's four main characters – Katherine, Logan, Gladys, and the unknown gunman – who are all vividly realised and their pasts explored. It is also brilliantly challenges themes such as external vs internal perception, breakdown of marriage, and how much the sins of the parents may be visited on their children. Perfect for fans of Lianne Moriarty.**



The most perfect families can
hide the most terrible secrets...

THE FAMILY ACROSS THE STREET

NICOLE TROPE

A TOTALLY UNPUTDOWNABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER WITH A SHOCKING TWIST

JUST MARRIED

BY KIERSTEN MODGLIN (JULY 2021)

***Just Married* is a gripping and absolutely bone-chilling psychological thriller (with major leanings towards horror) about a honeymoon that goes horrifyingly wrong, savagely unpacking (and stabbing, and setting fire to) supposed marital bliss. Think *Gone Girl* meets *What Keeps Us Alive*.**

When Ryan takes his new wife Grace to a stunning glass and wood cabin in the remote woods for their honeymoon, they are expecting peaceful mornings waking up in the middle of the forest, ending each night in the hot tub under the stars.

But it is only too soon before events take a dark turn. First they lock themselves out on the vertiginous veranda overnight after a hot tub, with only their towels and each other for warmth - but they definitely had the key right? Next an intimidating vagrant in the woods freaks them out on a hike, before a blood-stained note on the doorstep appears: *She's dead, you're next*.

Why is Ryan down-playing everything and refusing to go the police? Grace has an idea why: unknown to Ryan, Grace was a witness to a hit and run accident before they were together, with a drunk Ryan behind the wheel. She has carried it with her their whole relationship – this, and her own even more tortuous secrets.

Now the phonelines are cut, and the car tires slashed, and they are trapped – and they are being hunted.

Grace and Ryan promised 'till death do us part' – and they are about to find out what that really means.

Told via alternating 'his and hers' chapters, you are sucked into the quietly fractious married life of Ryan and Grace, whose tangled lies will unravel them both over the course of a few days in a remote cabin. It will also make you never want to go into the woods again, day or night!



JUST MARRIED

The perfect couple. The perfect secret.

KIERSTEN MODGLIN

An unbelievably gripping psychological thriller with a jaw-dropping twist!

THE VACATION

BY M.M. CHOUINARD (MAY 2021)

Eight days. Three families. One missing child.

The Thanksgiving retreat was meant to be a time for them to get away from it all, miles from the secrets that threaten to tear their family apart. But they're each hiding something:

Rose hopes the pretty house overlooking the sea is just the break her family needs. But as she gazes at the water and remembers her own childhood, she is utterly terrified.

Brandon knows his wife Rose has barely forgiven him for his affair. He's started drinking again, a road that led him to disaster once before.

Brianna, Rose's sister-in-law, is recovering from her fifth miscarriage, and when she looks at her adorable niece, she can't help but see the daughter she deserves.

Then three-year-old Lily disappears from her bed in the villa. Isolated in what should have been paradise, it quickly becomes clear that one of them took her.

As one by one their secrets are uncovered, who will be destroyed next?

A completely addictive thriller about every parent's worst nightmare that will keep you guessing into the early hours of the morning. Perfect for fans of Lucy Foley's *The Guest List* or *One By One* by Ruth Ware.

An utterly gripping thriller packed with suspense

M.M. CHOUINARD

EIGHT DAYS. THREE FAMILIES.
ONE MISSING CHILD.

THE VACATION



THE MILLIONAIRE'S WIFE

BY SHALINI BOLAND (MAY 2018)

Twisted student Fin proposes a pact to his girlfriend Anna: to both meet rich partners and kill them off. Years later, Anna has moved on... and married a millionaire... and Fin is going to hold her to that pact, no matter what...

The opening scene: a rich woman and her husband on a beach. The woman stands at edge of sea, waves to husband and then goes for a swim. As she's swimming a speed boat drives into her and kills her.

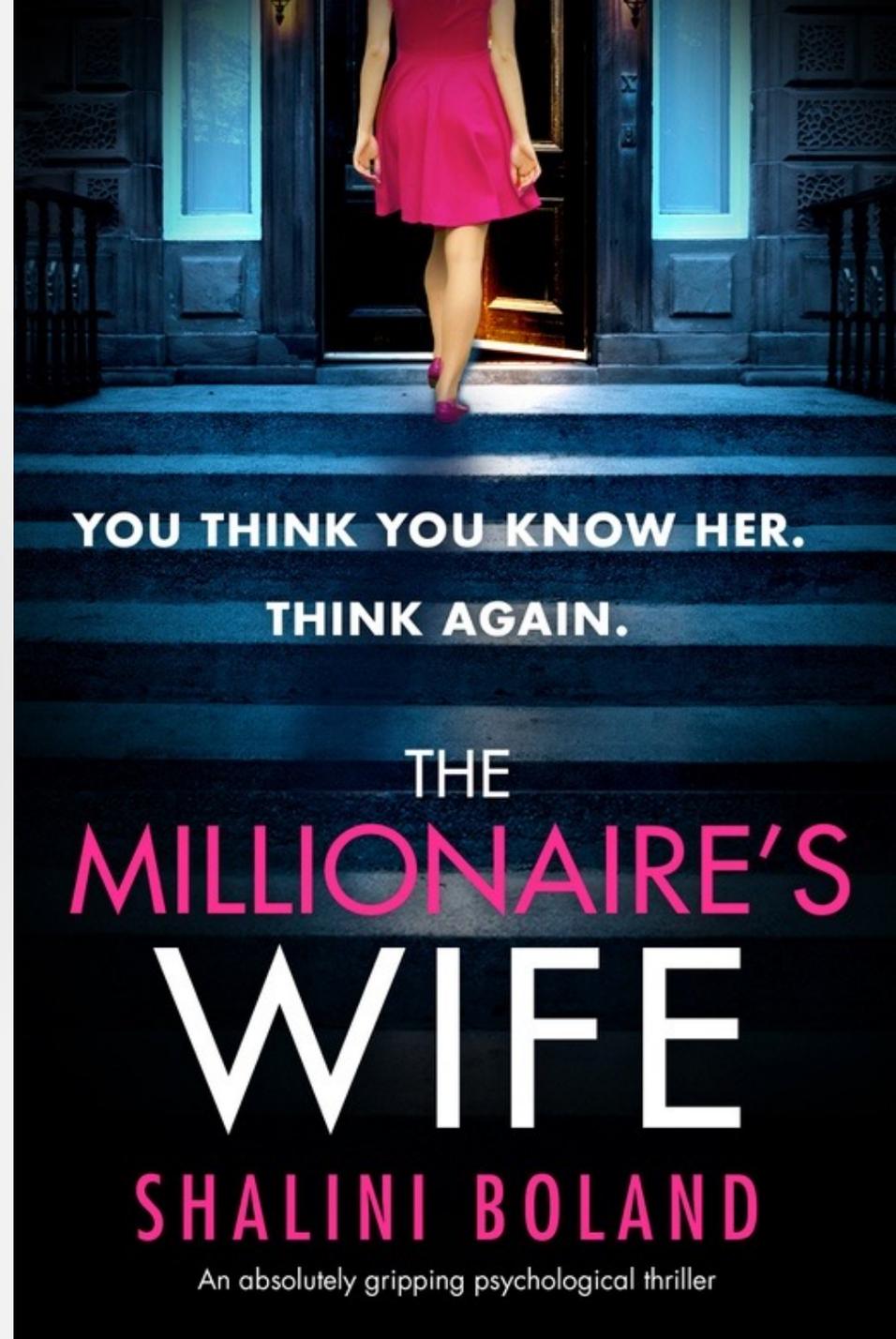
A few years before, Anna moved from Sweden to England to do her A levels and has a relationship with the most popular boy in school, Fin. But Fin's get rich quick schemes start to take darker and darker turns, and when he proposes that they make a murderous inheritance pact, Anna is horrified and moves back to Sweden, secretly pregnant with Fin's child...

Later, Anna is living in the UK again. She meets Will, who happens to be a millionaire. But it was never about the money. Anna married for love.

Meanwhile, Fin has deliberately married a rich woman and killed her in a speedboat accident. He then sends Anna an email with a picture of the dead woman with a note: *it's your turn next*.

Fin begins stalking Anna until in desperation she agrees to meet him, horrified to discover Fin wants *her* to kill her new husband, and he'll provide her with a series of accidents for Will, whether she likes it or not. She refuses, but Fin knows about their daughter back in Sweden, and he's taken her, and if Anna doesn't kill Will within one month, then he will kill their little girl....

This heart in mouth thriller takes our characters from Barbados to England and to a chilling final showdown in the epic forests of Sweden, and has left readers gasping at every twist.



YOU THINK YOU KNOW HER.

THINK AGAIN.

THE
MILLIONAIRE'S
WIFE

SHALINI BOLAND

An absolutely gripping psychological thriller

AFTER THE ACCIDENT

BY KERRY WILKINSON (MAY 2020)

"On a Friday night two years ago, British businessman Geoffrey McGinley was standing on a cliff, looking out towards the Mediterranean. He was on the island of Galanikos, a place he had visited numerous times in the past. A short while later, his unconscious body was found on the beach below.

This book attempts to unravel what happened through the eyes of the people who were there.

For reasons that will become apparent, some of the interviews for this book took place on the island close to the time of the incident. Others happened afterwards in the United Kingdom. Everything has been transcribed accurately and faithfully.

All names have been changed to protect those involved."

Told entirely in interview transcripts, this original suspense thriller takes you to a beautiful Greek island, under the Mediterranean sun, where two families are enjoying a well-deserved holiday until one balmy evening. When head of the family and wealthy businessman Geoffrey McGinley is found unconscious on the beach, everyone must recall the events surrounding the accident.

Everyone's accounts are different. Who will you believe?

***After the Accident* is a limited series waiting to happen. Think *Succession* meets *Criminal* on a sunblasted Mediterranean island.**

A compelling and addictive psychological suspense novel

KERRY WILKINSON

AFTER THE ACCIDENT

Two families. One week away.
And one killer secret...



THE PARTY AT NO.12

BY KERRY WILKINSON (MARCH 2022)

Everyone's invited. Someone will never leave.

In a grand townhouse rented specially for the evening, Hannah beams at her guests under the sparkling chandelier. Her sisters, her mother and aunt, her best friends... although she'll miss them all so much when she moves away, tonight is about celebrating the happy times and raising a toast to the future.

But the next morning, one of the guests is found cold and lifeless in their pristine white bed.

Hannah is desperate to call the police. After all, it must have been an accident. Perhaps too much wine, on a night where emotions were running high. But it soon becomes clear that every single person at the party has something to hide.

A mother who'll do anything for her daughters.
Best friends with dark secrets between them.
A sister with a jealous streak.

What if one of them is a killer?

And what if this is just the first victim?

An absolutely unputdownable thriller that won't let you sleep until you've reached the final page! Perfect for fans of Lisa Jewell, *The Hunting Party* and Shari Lapena.

Everyone's invited.

Someone will
never leave.



THE PARTY AT NO.12

KERRY WILKINSON

A totally addictive psychological thriller with a jaw-dropping twist

TEN DAYS

BY MEL SHERRATT (JUNE 2021)

From million copy-selling author Mel Sherratt comes a claustrophobic thriller about a journalist who wakes up in a locked room to realise she has become the fifth victim of the serial abductor she had been investigating.

Day one. As my eyes adjust to the darkness, I slowly start to recognise my surroundings: the small hole in the door and a narrow window allowing only a small chink of light. The jewellery given to me by my loving husband is gone and I am wearing someone else's clothes. The room is exactly as the first woman described. And the second. And the third... It's then I know, I am the fifth woman to be taken.

Just days before, I had interviewed the third victim for the local paper. Her story was the same as those before her: an ordinary woman, locked away for ten days then released with no explanation, and nothing – nothing she could think of – to link her to the others. Throughout the ordeal, her abductor stayed eerily silent.

I tell myself I'll be safe; that I can brave the loneliness and survive just like the others. But as the days pass, I can't help thinking of the fourth victim who is still missing...

And then I hear the voice coming through the door. 'You said everything would be fine. But it wasn't was it?' It is then that I realise. If I am to make it out alive, I need to revisit a dark secret of my own that I have spent a lifetime trying to forget.

Mel Sherratt has been widely praised for creating gritty, visceral crime thrillers with characters who completely get under your skin. Her characters are relatable yet darkly flawed; her domestic situations entirely authentic to the point where, as a reader, we are forced to ask consider our own moral compass and ask, what would we do in such terrifying scenarios?

A completely gripping psychological thriller with a shocking twist

You thought you'd
escaped your past.
But I won't let you forget.



TEN DAYS

MEL SHERRATT

ONE MILLION COPIES SOLD



ROMANTIC COMEDIES

Relationship: Non-existent.
Sanity: Questionable.
Life: Spiralling.

COME HERE OFTEN?



Ellie Center

A totally laugh-out-loud and heart-warming romantic comedy

COME HERE OFTEN?

BY ELLIE CENTER (MAY 2022)

Ever been in the gym, about to jump on a bike, when you get dumped and fired within minutes? Then you have a panic attack and you're physically unable to walk out of the door, so you're stuck there? Like Tom Hanks in the Terminal? Yeah, that.

Meet Kat. She's stuck in a rut (to put it mildly).

But today is officially her Day of Change. Step 1: sign up to fancy health club. For a professional procrastinator whose idea of aerobics is lifting Dunkin' Donuts, this is big.

She thought the toughest part would be getting on a treadmill. Wrong! She didn't count on being dumped over the phone and fired from my job in the space of minutes. Now, that's how you work up a sweat.

As her world unravels, Kat is paralyzed by a panic attack and can't physically walk out of the door. Out there, her life is even messier than it is in here.

Going from being stuck in a rut to stuck in the gym, Kat secretly spends night after night sleeping on massage tables, flirting with a blue-eyed personal trainer carved like a Greek god, avoiding security guards, hiding from her ex, and drinking a lot of green juices.

It's just a matter of time before she's caught red-handed... Can Kat get her act together? Will she get a second chance at love? And how personal is too personal when it comes to personal trainers?

This totally hilarious romantic comedy is 2022's rom com, female answer to *The Terminal*! It's for anyone who has ever lost their spark, been savagely dumped by a waste-of-space ex, or prefers pie and lattes to pilates!

Debut author!

KRISTEN BAILEY

Am I Allergic to Men?



A completely laugh-out-loud and addictive page-turner

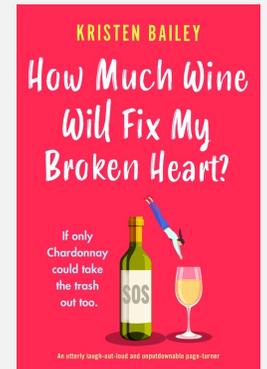
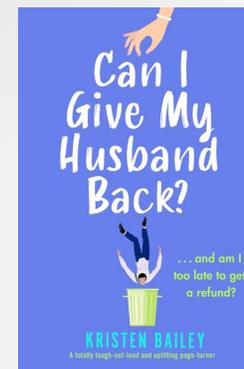
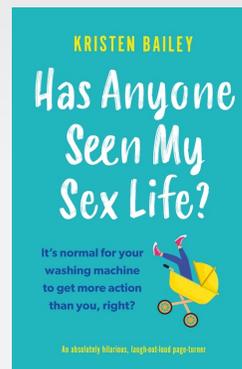
THE CALLAGHAN SISTERS SERIES BY KRISTEN BAILEY (2020-2022)

Meet the Callaghan sisters: Meg, Emma, Beth, Grace and Lucy - all completely different, all with their own challenges and joys. Each laugh-out-loud book focuses on a different sister and the things that modern life throws at them. Now the series is completed by Lucy's showstopper of a story, *Am I Allergic to Men?*, there is no better time to discover these amazing characters. Kristen's writing is both genuinely some of the funniest you will find – but also packed full of heart and warmth. This is streamer TV waiting to happen!

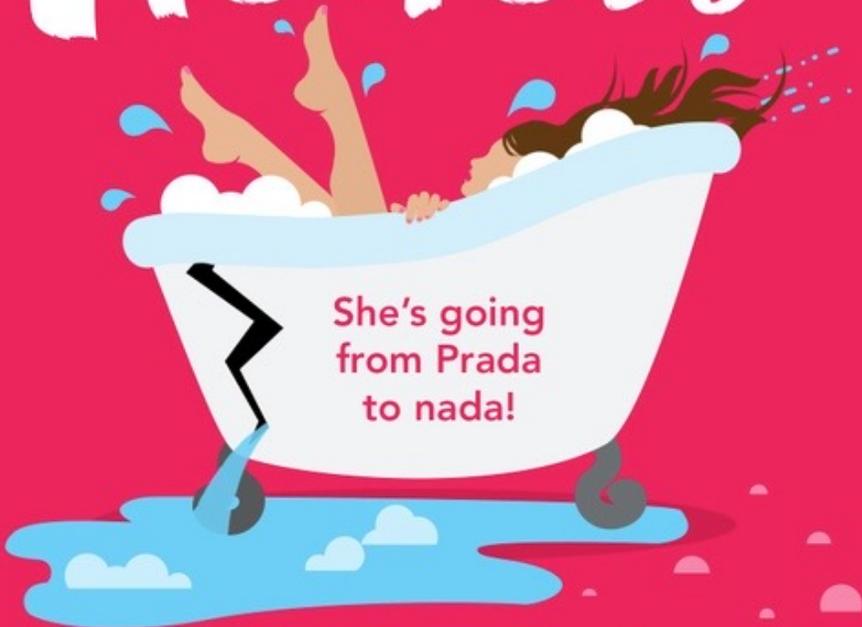
Firecracker Lucy Callaghan - nearly 30, single, and living her life to the absolute max - spends her days as an entertainer at kids' parties dressed as various Disney princesses, trying to make it as an actress, but not quite knowing why she is still doing this at 30. Whereas her 4 older sisters are by now all married with kids. One day, rushing to the next kid's party on her bike (dressed as Elsa), Lucy is hit by a London bus - and the next thing she knows she's waking up from a month-long coma, but has completely forgotten the last decade of her life. As far as she remembers, it is still 2009 and she is 17! She has forgotten all her sisters' weddings and children's births, the bad-news boyfriends and husbands that have come and gone during the missing years, and not to mention her own conquests and escapades. She doesn't remember dramatically dumping her cheating ex-boyfriend when she was 18, she can't believe her school best friend in all the world is no longer in her daily life, and how have her sisters all got so old? And what is this Netflix thing?

Helped by her four sisters, this is Lucy's journey of self-discovery to remember the last decade of her life. She visits ex-boyfriends, places she has studied and worked, and trawls through her phone contacts list and Facebook. She is both baffled and impressed by the woman she became in the missing years, but at the same time questioning why she doesn't seem to have settled into adult life like her sisters have. Is she allergic to men? To growing up?

Also discover the other Callaghan sisters' stories in these four other connected, and equally hilarious novels:



Stone Broke Heiress



She's going
from Prada
to nada!

Danielle Owen-Jones

A completely laugh-out-loud romantic comedy

STONE BROKE HEIRESS

BY DANIELLE OWEN-JONES (MARCH 2022)

Six months ago, she was the heiress to a multi-million-pound soup empire. Now, she's standing in a giant bin.

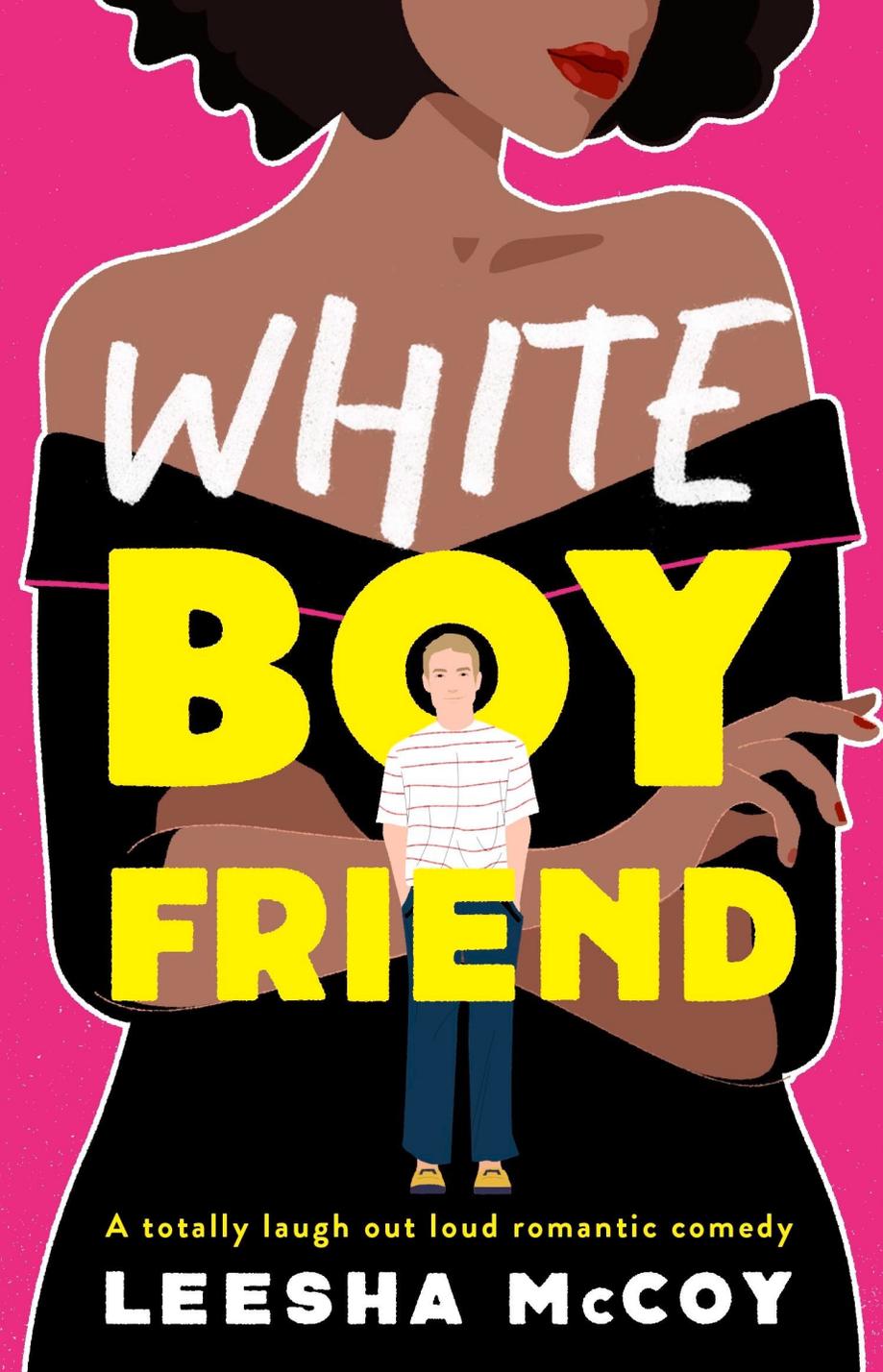
What do you do when you find your fiancé in bed with your best friend, your parents rage-quit the country after the family soup empire goes bust, and it's just you, shivering alone in a one-bed in an area most famous for 'the riots'?

After cycling through the five stages of grief following Total Life Implosion and her stint on the *Daily Mail's* sidebar of shame, Bella pulls up her Ted Baker socks, changes her surname on her CV and gets to work, landing a job at the local soup kitchen with grumpy Regé-Jean Page lookalike, Dan. She was the Whittington Soup heiress, it's probably in her blood. Or, she realises as she takes in the spatula melting merrily into a vat of boiling sludge, the surfaces liberally redecorated with vegetable peel... not.

But 500 Prada handbags won't keep a girl warm at night, so Bella will do anything to keep hold of this job, and gradually, she realises that she wants to keep it for entirely different reasons. But hiding her old identity from her new friends was always going to end as well as trying to clean a carpet with a mop, and when Bella's old life comes calling, she'll have to decide where she really belongs.

A hilarious, feel-good rom com, that will perfectly fill the *Schitt's Creek* hole in your life from debut author Danielle Owen-Jones.

Debut author!



WHITE BOYFRIEND

BY LEESHA MCCOY (MARCH 2022)

She's black, he's white. She's a workaholic, he's the definition of laidback. She knows exactly what she wants from life, he's never thought about it. Could they be any more different?

Nikki has it all – a good career, a gorgeous apartment and a boyfriend who is basically perfect. Ok, maybe they've let things grow a little too comfortable – missionary and an early night, anyone? – but Nikki is happy to put up with a little bit boring if it means keeping a guy like Bron in her life.

But when the unthinkable happens and Bron walks out, Nikki is stunned. Eager to take her mind off getting dumped, Nikki's friends Chay, Alicia and Rhian are quick to throw her back into the dating pool. But the grass is definitely not greener in the land of Singledom. Sure, a girl has needs, but even good sex isn't worth this.

But then Nikki meets Mike – sweet, laid-back and the first white guy she's ever been with. There's no doubt there's some serious chemistry between them, but is becoming part of Mike's world taking Nikki even further away from herself?

Then Bron unexpectedly comes knocking, just as things are getting serious with Mike, and the rule book goes right out the window...

This feel-good page-turner about finding yourself where you least expect is perfect for fans of *How to Be Single*, *Just the Way I Am* and *Spoiler Alert*.

Debut author!

THE FIRST TIME WE MET

BY JO LOVETT
(NOVEMBER 2020)



What if you met The One on his wedding day?

When Sam walks into the cafe where Izzy works one cold December morning, she knows without a doubt that he's The One. Too bad Sam's getting married. Today.

Nearly a year later, Izzy still can't stop thinking about Sam, the one that got away, but she knows it's time to move on: he probably wouldn't recognise her if he passed her on the street, and he's, you know, married.

But Sam has never forgotten Izzy, the funny, gorgeous woman who asked him out on his wedding day. If the timing had only been better, he knows they could have had something wonderful.

When Izzy and Sam's paths finally cross again, everything has changed. But with the Atlantic Ocean and decades of baggage between them, they are about to find out whether some obstacles are too big for even true love to overcome.

An unforgettable love story about what happens when the stars finally align. Fans of *One Day in December* and *Jojo Moyes* will love this.

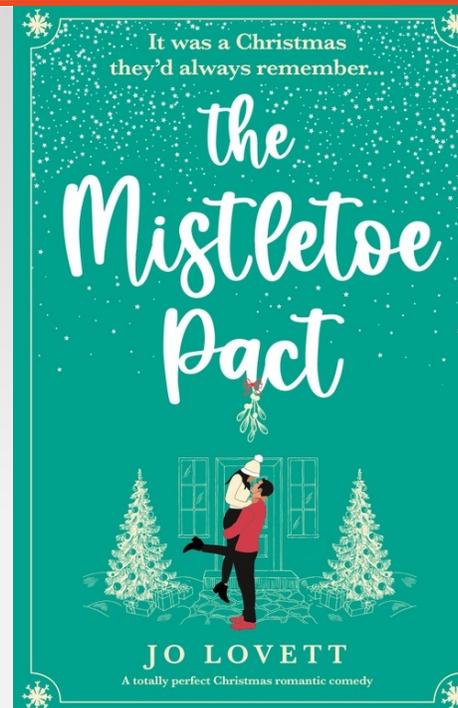
Two single thirty-year-olds. One marriage pact. And a night in Vegas that's about to change everything...

On Christmas Eve eight years ago Evie and Dan made a pact: if they weren't married by thirty, they were going to marry each other. Of course, neither of them took it seriously, even though they've both been secretly mesmerised by each other.

But then "it" happens. They wake up on Christmas Eve, the night before Evie's thirtieth birthday in Vegas... married. In a gaudy honeymoon suite, they realise too late what they've done – just like Ross and Rachel.

Surely if they just get a quickie divorce, they can go back to the way things used to be, right? They can just go back to being... friends...

Except moving on is easier said than done when you've secretly loved each other forever... but if one of them doesn't admit that, then what happens to their friendship? If they don't get together this time, what happens to the pact? Are they really ready to let that go for good?



THE MISTLETOE PACT

BY JO LOVETT (OCTOBER 2021)

An absolutely hilarious romantic comedy set in Ireland

CATHERINE WALSH

The Rebound



**There's only
one way to get
over an ex...**

THE REBOUND

BY CATHERINE WALSH (FEBRUARY 2022)

Catherine Walsh stole our hearts with Sarah and Irish heart-throb Declan in her debut novel *One Night Only*, and now she's back with a brand new romcom that will have you beaming from ear to ear. Set in New York and Ireland, expect plenty of LOLs, cracking banter, sizzling chemistry and characters you just want to go for a drink with (if you don't want to rip their clothes off first!).

A newly single girl. A tall dark handsome stranger. What could go wrong?

It's 7 a.m. on a Monday and Abby Reynolds isn't where she wants to be. She wants to be in her beautiful loft apartment in Manhattan, drinking a coffee with her fiancé.

Instead, she's heading back to the childhood home in rural Ireland she swore she'd never return to, with some big old secrets. Namely that she's suddenly found herself unemployed, homeless, and absolutely 100% single.

She's feeling all out of luck. Until the first person she meets after she touches down is an absurdly hot guy called Luke, who offers her a lift home. Gazing deep into his sparkling emerald-green eyes, Abby knows instantly that he's exactly what she needs to take her mind off everything. The perfect rebound.

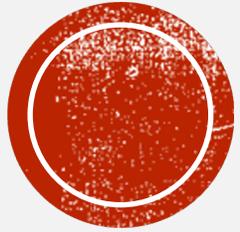
It's a flawless plan. Until the next day, when Abby realizes who he actually is. Not just a stranger. He is, in fact, Luke Bailey, aka the boy next door. Luke Bailey who—so help her God—she's pretty sure she once shared baths with, back when they were kids. Not that she can allow herself to imagine him in a bath now, not without blushing from head to foot.

And judging by the smirk on his face, the same Luke Bailey who's known exactly who she was the whole time... And who, like everyone in the village, still thinks she's a high-flying New Yorker... who's getting married next year.

Abby is certain getting under Luke will help her get over her ex. But the truth is stopping her. Can she admit to everyone back home that she's single and has lost everything? Because, if she wants the boy next door, she may just have to...

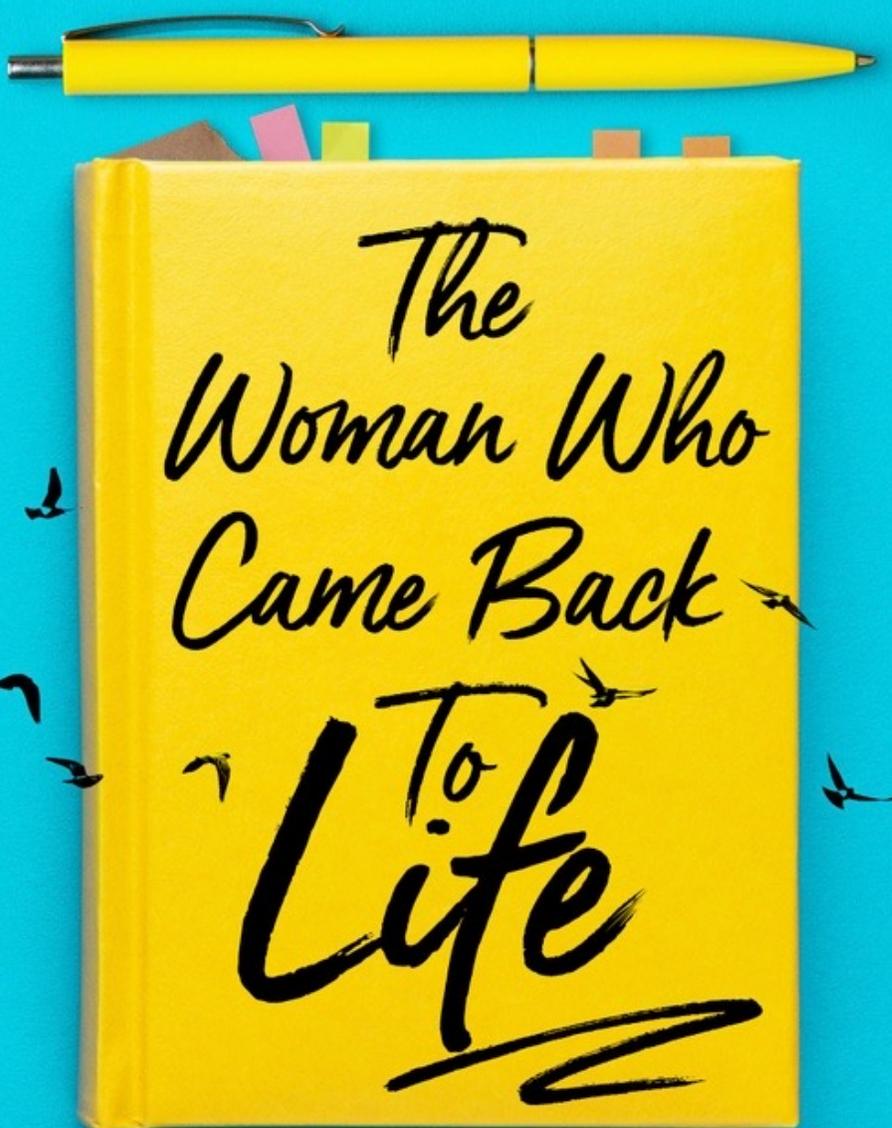
Our most Net Galley-requested title EVER, this perfect feel-good romantic comedy that will make you laugh until you cry and fall completely in love. Fans of Sophie Kinsella, Marian Keyes, and Emily Henry won't be able to put this down!

Trending on TikTok!



CONVERSATION-STARTING DRAMA

An utterly heartbreaking, feel-good novel about life,
loss and second chances



The
Woman Who
Came Back
To
Life

BETH MILLER

THE WOMAN WHO CAME BACK TO LIFE

BY BETH MILLER (JANUARY 2022)

This beautiful novel about second chances is about a woman who is reunited with the daughter she gave up for adoption when she was sixteen by way of revelations in the coded journals bequeathed to her in the will of her estranged father. Foreign publishing rights have been snapped in several territories this year including in a major German deal following an auction.

Pearl Flowers, 52, has retreated from her troubled family life in the UK by moving to a quiet woodland cottage in France with her husband Denny. She keeps herself distracted with her drawing pad and finding solace in nature - but her mind is never still.

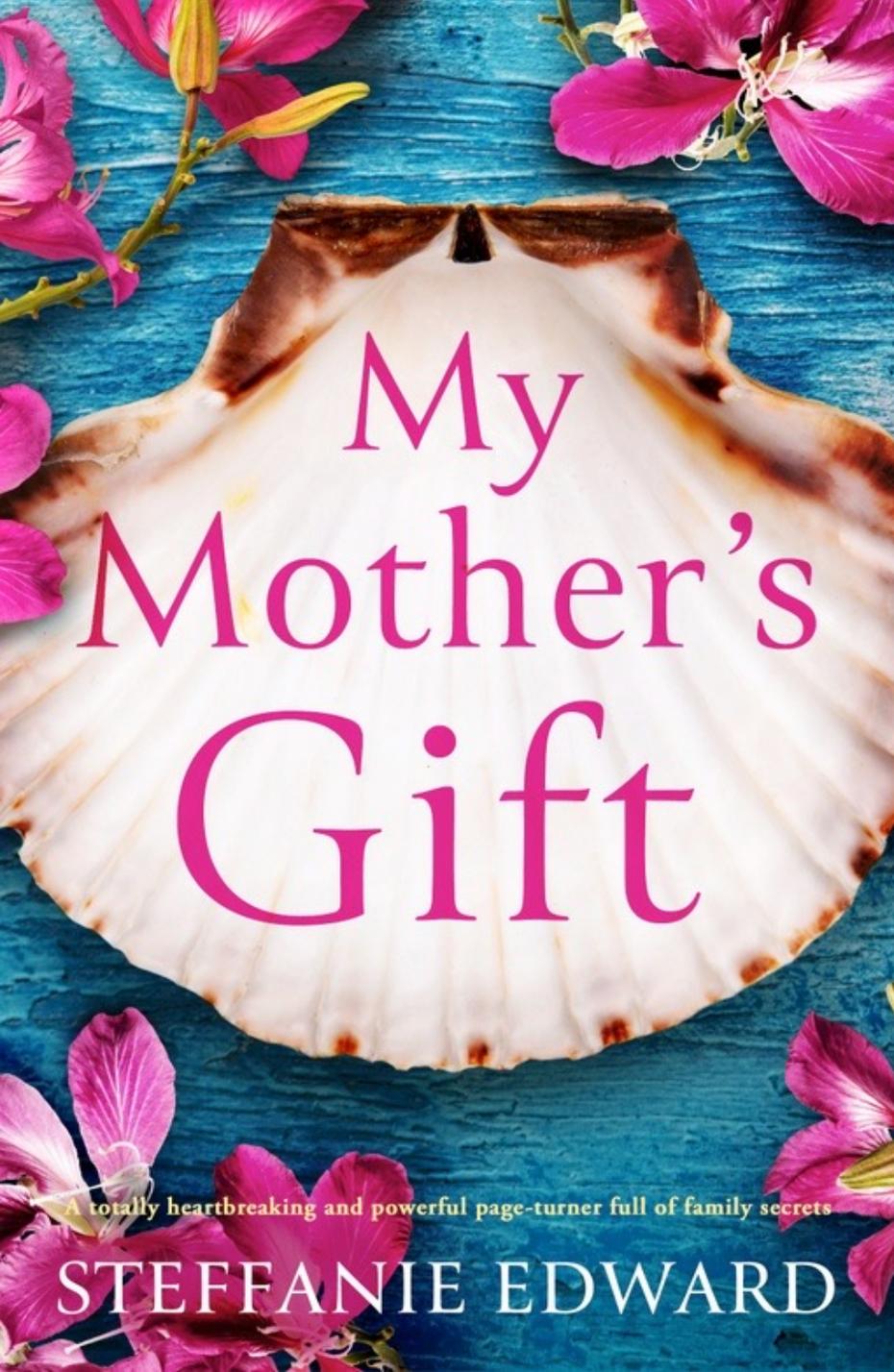
And then she receives a phone call that throws her calm world into chaos. Her father, Francis, who she has been estranged from for decades while he raised his second family, has died - and he has bequeathed something in the will specifically for Pearl: a diary written in coded shorthand that only she can understand.

As she begins to decipher her father's diary, Pearl discovers that for forty years he had been thinking of her almost every day. And as she reads on, secrets begin to emerge from the pages causing her to question everything she thought she knew - and force her to face up to her demons.

The key revelation of the diaries is that Francis has spent years secretly tracking down Pearl's daughter, who was born of her teenage pregnancy and given up for adoption when Pearl was 16. In adult life, Pearl has been unable to have any further children, suffering several miscarriages, so she has buried the memories of the daughter she once had. Francis had successfully found this little girl, Carrie, now grown up with a baby of her own, and as his redemptive last act at the end of his life managed to orchestrate a reunion between Pearl and Carrie - a reunion which challenges both women to reconcile their own grief over past losses and find new happiness and peace - to come back to life.

The novel is absolutely beautiful and has so many learnings to take from the journeys of both Pearl and Carrie, as well as from Francis' story. Every character is realised with a great deal of nuance and depth, and there is a realism to this book that is so wonderfully observed. But importantly it is also hugely entertaining. The family dynamics of Pearl and her two brothers, as well as the tension between them and Francis' second family is a blast. The reading of the will where the diaries are bequeathed to Pearl, and all the characters madly scramble over them, is a showstopper.

Perfect for a limited TV drama series or a streamer film.



MY MOTHER'S GIFT

BY STEFFANIE EDWARD (MARCH 2022)

Bringing together Steffanie Edward's lived experience as a British woman of St. Lucian origin, this is an incredible novel about homecoming, memory and complex family relationships.

What if going home was the only way to find out where you belonged?

When Erica gets a phone call to say her mother, lone, is ill in St Lucia, she knows she must go to her, even though their relationship has always been difficult. The island – the place of her mother's birth – is somewhere that Erica has never called home.

Even when the plane touches down in the tropical paradise, with its palm trees swaying in the island breeze, the sound of accents so like her mother's own calling loud in the air, Erica doesn't find herself wanting to stay a moment longer than she has to.

But stepping into her mother's house, she is shocked by what she finds. Her mother's memory is fading and she is having strange, erratic episodes. Erica knows the right thing to do is to stay with her, even if it means leaving everything in England behind.

Could you uproot your whole life for the person who raised you? Can a place you've never felt at home ever feel like where you belong? And – as you experience loss – is it ever possible to also find love and peace?

A captivating tale of grief, love, sacrifice, and what it means to find home, perfect for fans of Andrea Levy, Jojo Moyes and Amanda Prowse.

A totally heartbreaking and powerful page-turner full of family secrets

STEFFANIE EDWARD

the child I never had

Your last chance
to be a mother.
Her last chance
to be saved.



KATE HEWITT

A completely unforgettable and heartbreaking page-turner
about the power of a mother's love

THE CHILD I NEVER HAD

BY KATE HEWITT (FEBRUARY 2022)

Two mothers, one who gave up her daughter Daisy for adoption, and the other who adopted her. Each have secrets they can never tell, but Daisy also has a secret of her own.

If you had to make an impossible choice to save your long-lost daughter, you would... wouldn't you?

It's a warm early summer's evening when Mia's doorbell rings. She opens the door to see a teenage girl standing in the shadow beyond the porch light—and in an instant she knows who it is. Daisy, the daughter she gave up as a baby. Daisy steps forward, as she says tearfully "I'm sorry I didn't call first. But something happened. And I really needed... you."

Seventeen years before, knowing she couldn't possibly give her beautiful little girl Daisy the future she deserved, Mia made the hardest decision of her life—to give her up. And Suzanne seemed the perfect adoptive mother: calm, stable, and full of love for the daughter she'd always dreamed of having.

The two mothers promised to keep communication open, so Daisy could have Mia's love and support along with Suzanne's. But as the years passed, Mia moved away, and their visits happened less. Now Daisy is almost a stranger to Mia—angry, closed and broken—nothing like the tiny girl she once couldn't bear to say goodbye to.

But now Daisy has arrived on Mia's doorstep, and she says she has a terrible secret. One she can never tell Suzanne. And she believes the only person who can help her is Mia. Her birth mother.

Mia, however, has secrets of her own. Ones she is afraid to let Daisy or anyone else know. And while Suzanne desperately seeks a way to bring her child home, can Mia overcome her past to help the girl they both call their daughter in her darkest hour before it's too late?

Told in alternating chapters by Daisy and her birth and adoptive mothers, this gripping women's fiction will have readers desperate to talk to their friends about the issues spun out in the pages.



HISTORICAL FICTION

THE DOCTOR'S DAUGHTER

BY SHARI J. RYAN (APRIL 2022)

Auschwitz, 1941: It was her father's job to save the lives of the SS. But she chose to risk everything and save the lives of prisoners.

In Nazi-occupied Poland, Sofia cannot look her father in the eye. Sofia's mother, her papa's cherished wife, is Jewish—how dare he work as a doctor for the SS? She cannot forgive him, even if the bargain was made to spare their lives.

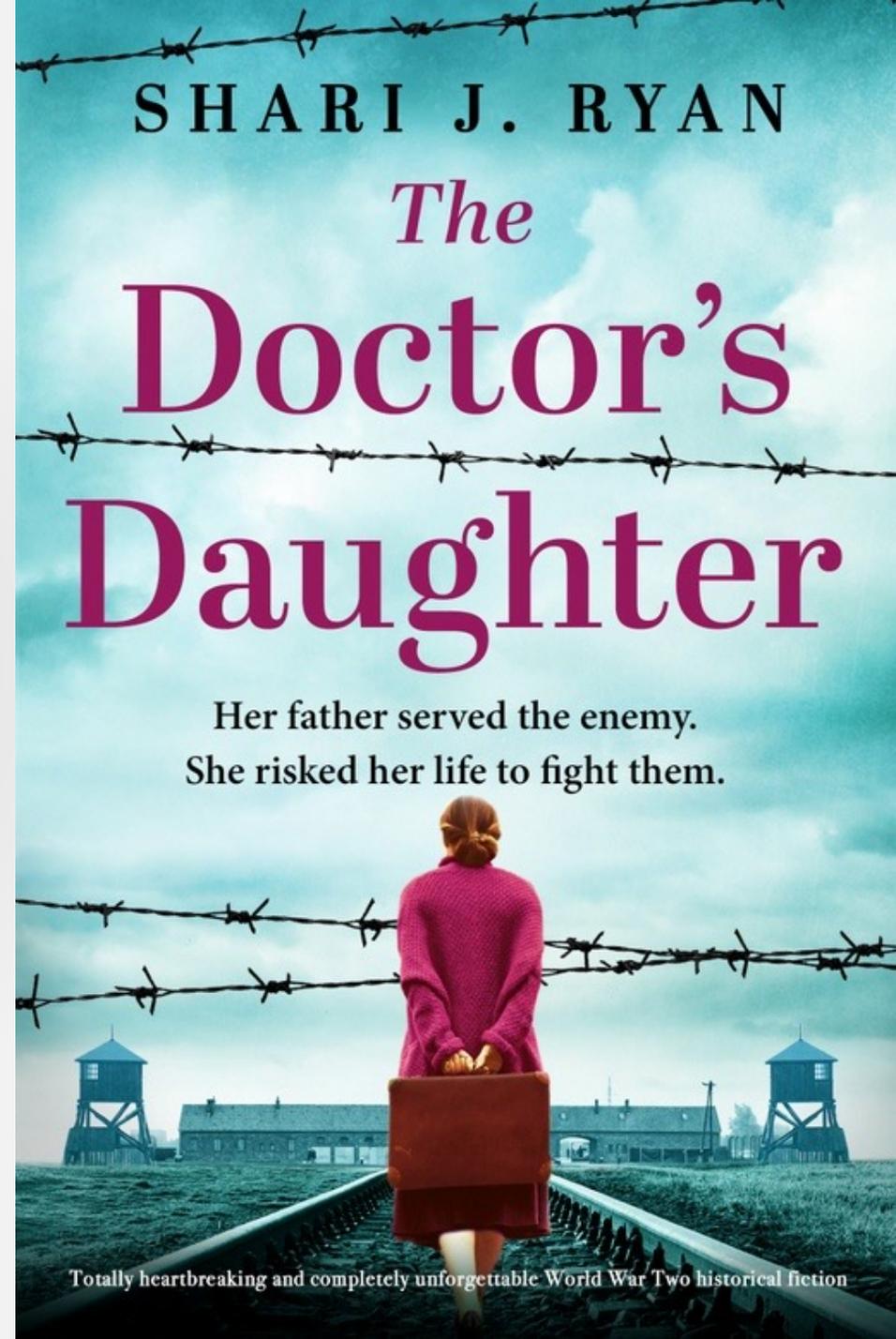
In the middle of the night, Isaac emerges from a packed train with hundreds of others. Beneath Auschwitz's barbed wire, soldiers surround them, and gunshots pierce the dark sky. The SS decide prisoners' fates on the spot—and Isaac is chosen to work, rather than to die.

Every day, Isaac and his fellow inmates are sent to a nearby farm. From sunup to sundown, they toil the land with barely a scrap to eat. Every breath feels like it could be Isaac's last, so when he sees a beautiful auburn-haired girl peering out of the farmhouse window, it feels like a dream...

Sofia refuses to accept what she is seeing. Disobeying her father and evading the guards, she risks her life to sneak a letter to the green-eyed boy outside. She explains that she has hidden them food, and that she'll do everything in her power to save them.

This secret exchange sparks an escape that should have been impossible—and a love story that is unforgettable. But is love enough in the face of evil? And when Sofia and Isaac are concealed underground, holding their breath as the Nazis hunt them, will they survive?

Fans of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, *The Choice*, and *Orphan Train* will be utterly gripped by this heartbreaking and unputdownable tale. This tear-jerking page-turner shows that even if your freedom has been robbed, and your loved ones torn from you, nobody can steal your hope...



THE WHITE ROSE NETWORK

BY ELLIE MIDWOOD (MAY 2020)

Is it possible for a few students to propel the majority from passive to active resistance? To show them that standing up to evil is not only possible, but necessary?

On a snowy February day in 1943, students of the University of Munich discover stacks of leaflets covering the floors of the University's main building – leaflets condemning the Nazi regime and calling for resistance. While they peruse them, the university maintenance man, Jakob Schmid, is calling the Gestapo to make a report on one of the University students, Sophie Scholl, whom he saw throwing the leaflets from the top floor down into the atrium.

Immediately after her arrest, the Gestapo interrogator Robert Mohr refuses to believe that a former member of the Sisterhood of the Hitler Youth, a model German girl, has anything to do with anti-government materials found in her brother Hans's apartment. But rather to his surprise, Sophie fully confesses to the crime. Still believing in the girl's innocence, Mohr wonders whether she's only trying to protect her brother or whether she's indeed one of the masterminds behind the resistance group calling itself The White Rose.

The story is written with inserts from Sophie's interrogation dotted throughout the narration, jumping between 1943 when she's in the Gestapo's custody and the 1920s and 1930s showing how exactly her views shifted and what prompted her to join the resistance, including her romance with fellow White Rose member, Fritz Hartnagel.

***The White Rose Network* has it all. Intrigue, secrecy, deception and lies. Love, revenge and loathing. Bravery and fear, darkness and light. It's a story about people coming together instead of turning against each other, the triumph of good over evil – and the sheer power each of us has to make a difference. It's based on a true story set in WW2 Munich, and is a tale that proves that even in the face of greatest evil, we all have a choice.**

Based on a true story, a totally heartbreaking, epic and gripping World War 2 page-turner

ELLIE MIDWOOD

THE WHITE ROSE NETWORK



THEY SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES.
THEY INSPIRED A REVOLUTION.

THE GIRL ON THE PLATFORM

BY ELLIE MIDWOOD (OCTOBER 2020)

“Be brave. Don’t run. Fight.”

With her eyes tightly shut, tears rolling from under her dark lashes, she felt his lips gently touch her burning cheek. The train on the platform whistled, and he disappeared into the steam.

Berlin, 1939: Libby is determined to start a new life, starting a new job at MGM Studios Berlin. But even in this cosmopolitan city, there’s no escape from Hitler’s brutal regime. And when Libby’s friend vanishes into thin air, she cannot stand back and do nothing...

And then Libby meets Harro and her world tips upside down as they fall desperately in love. But she knows there’s a story behind his cornflower-blue eyes. The whip marks on his back, scars from the SS, tell his secret: he is a resistance fighter.

Harro draws Libby into the world of the resistance, and their life grows increasingly dangerous as they do everything they can to bring about Hitler’s downfall. With each risk they take, Libby is terrified of losing Harro—how will she live without him?

Libby starts to believe that the Gestapo is stalking them—their every move watched, their phone calls recorded. And one day, Harro simply disappears. Her worst nightmare has come true, and she knows that it is just a matter of time before she’s next.

Will they live to see each other once again? Or will everything they’ve risked be in vain?

Fans of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and *The Alice Network* will be utterly gripped by this heartbreaking page-turner. Based on a true story, this beautiful novel shows that even when our freedom is stolen, we still have a choice...

Based on a true story, a totally heartbreaking, epic and gripping World War 2 page-turner

ELLIE MIDWOOD

THE GIRL ON THE PLATFORM



1939: SHE WILL FIGHT FOR
FREEDOM, EVEN IF THE
COST IS HER LIFE...

A LIGHT IN THE WINDOW

BY MARION KUMMEROW (JULY 2021)

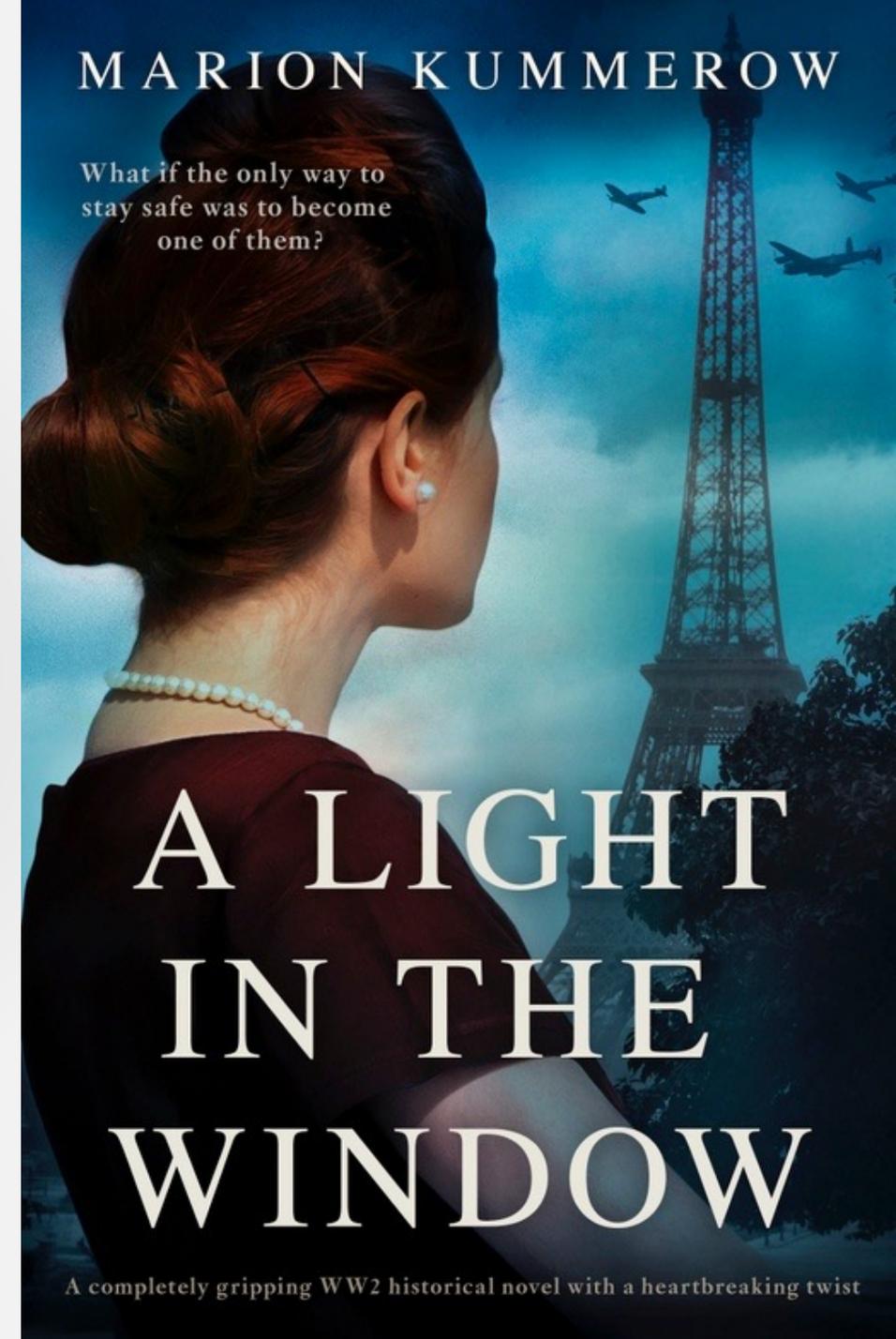
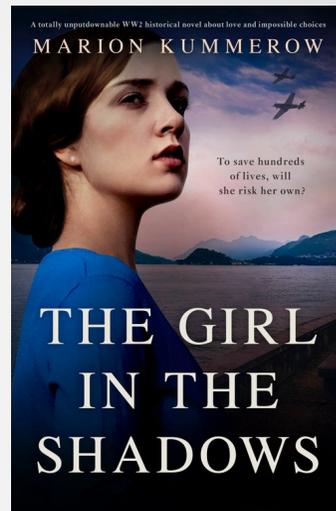
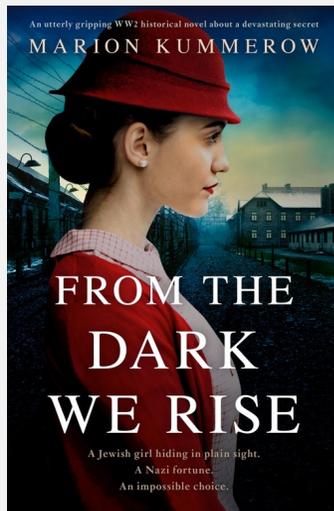
Berlin, 1941: Margarete Rosenbaum is working as a housemaid for a senior Nazi officer when his house is bombed, leaving her the only survivor. But when she's mistaken for his daughter in the aftermath of the blast, Margarete knows she can make a bid for freedom...

Issued with temporary papers—and with the freedom of not being seen as Jewish—a few hours are all she needs to escape to relative safety. That is, until her former employer's son, SS officer Wilhelm Huber, tracks her down.

But strangely he doesn't reveal her true identity right away. Instead, he insists she comes and lives with him in Paris, and seems determined to keep her hidden. His only condition: she must continue to pretend to be his sister. Because whoever would suspect a Nazi girl of secretly being a Jew?

Can Margarete trust a Nazi officer with the only things she has left though... her safety, her life, even her heart?

The beginning of a gripping historical fiction series, Margarete's story continues in two sequels, *From the Dark We Rise*, in which Margarete inherits the family's Nazi fortune, and *The Girl in the Shadows*.



THIS OTHER ISLAND

BY STEFFANIE EDWARD (MAY 2020)

St Lucia, 28 July 1961. The day my father and mother boarded a ship called the Carlotta C. The day my story began, the day my truth started to disappear...

When Yvette receives a call saying her estranged father, Joe, is fighting for his life in hospital, she rushes to his side. She's determined to have him back in her life and to forgive him for walking out on her and her mother so many years ago. But when she arrives she doesn't find the larger-than-life father she remembers. Joe seems broken; haunted by the past. So, when he begs Yvette to help him find the truth, she knows she must...

But what he tells her changes everything she has ever known.

Since stepping off the ship that brought him with Yvette's mother, Doli, from the sunny, picturesque island of St. Lucia, with its tranquil Caribbean seas and air fragrant with the scent of tropical fruits, to start new lives in a cold and unwelcoming Britain, Joe has carried a dark secret. For years, he's believed he might have killed a man on the ship. A man who had had feelings for Doli too. A man who could perhaps help Yvette answer questions she didn't even know needed answering.

When she asks her mother for help with tracking him down, Doli is uncharacteristically quiet. Yvette wonders if finding the truth might break their relationship, but she can't stop; daren't let her papa down. As she sorts through old passports and shipping records, Yvette knows she has to unravel this secret history of love and betrayal, loyalty and sacrifice.

Will uncovering the truth tear their fragile family apart or bring them back together?

A heart-stopping debut novel about family, identity, secrets, lies, and the journeys that define us. Perfect for fans of *Small Island* and *Girl, Woman, Other*.



A heartbreaking and powerful book club read
about race, identity and family

A DECEPTION MOST DEADLY

BY GENEVIEVE ESSIG (JANUARY 2022)

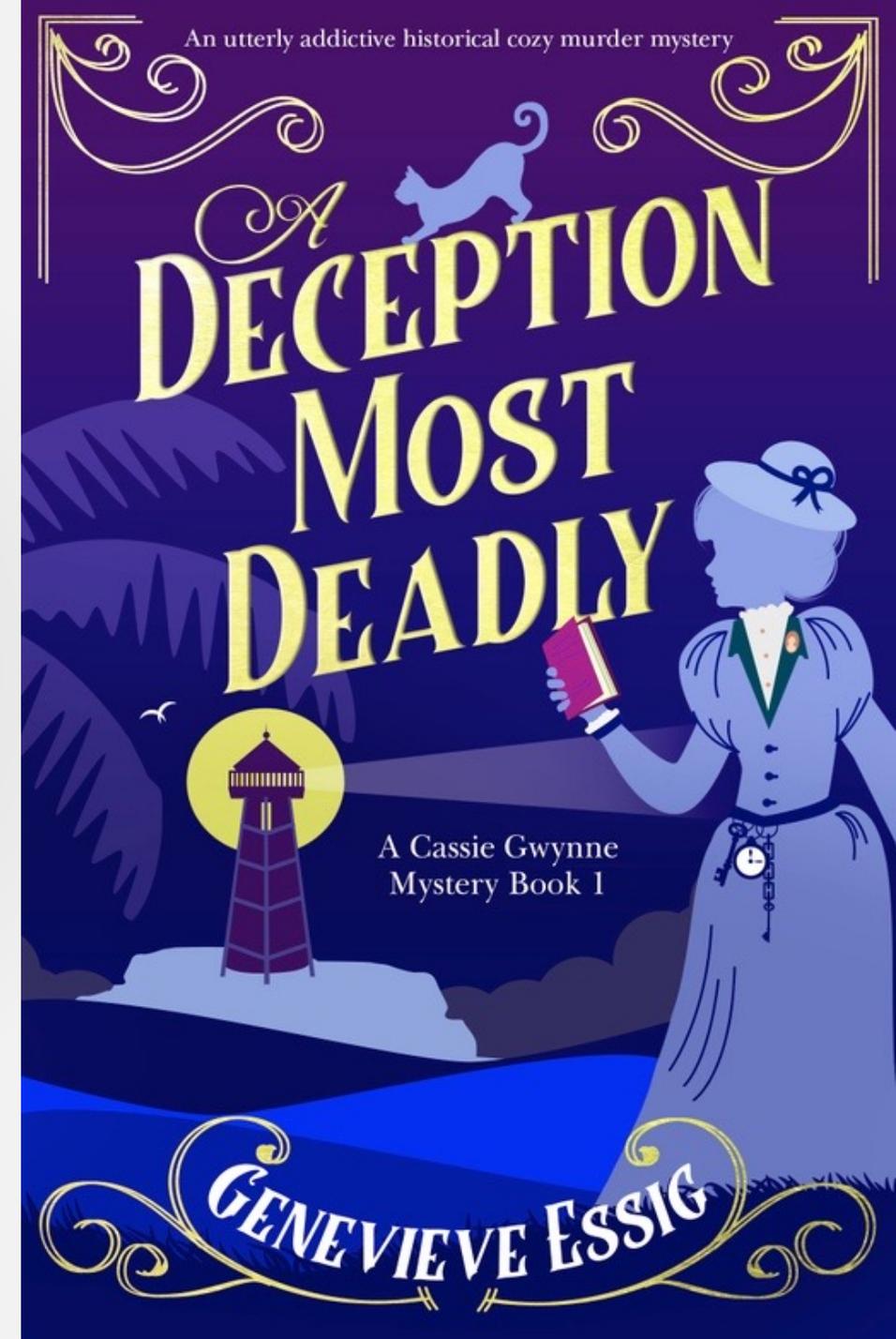
The first novel in a brand new historical cosy crime series, set in Victorian-era Florida on picturesque Amelia Island, featuring amateur sleuth Cassie Gwynne, who can't help put her smarts to use when murder washes ashore. Think a period *Death in Paradise!*

In the fall of 1883, when Cassie Gwynne, heartbroken over the sudden loss of her father, discovers a box of letters from an aunt she never knew she had, she takes a chance and returns to the Florida island town where she was born to meet her. Cassie hasn't been back to Fernandina since her family evacuated during the War when she was a baby, but from what she's heard about this palm-tree-lined paradise it's sure to impress, as is her Aunt Flora, whose reputation as a perfumer reaches beyond the island's balmy shores.

From the moment Cassie arrives, however, things don't go to plan. Particularly when, after witnessing a purse snatching, clashing with an irritating but good-looking policeman, and receiving an unwelcome surprise at the county jail, she stumbles upon Flora's least-favourite neighbour lying dead at the foot of harbour pilots' lookout tower.

The surly county coroner is quick to declare the death an accident. But Cassie, feeling the pull of instincts instilled in her by her attorney father, suspects something more sinister is involved and uncovers evidence that forces the coroner to launch a murder inquest. Unfortunately, the coroner's jury proves to be neither competent nor objective and, influenced by old grudges and other personal agendas, quickly descends on Flora as its prime suspect. So, despite the distraction of an unexpected encounter with her dashing childhood crush and the questions still swirling in her head about her family's past, Cassie must work together with Flora's quirky group of friends—including an assortment of rescue animals!—to find out what really happened to the murdered man, or else risk losing the only family she has left.

This warm and witty cosy mystery will introduce readers to a feisty heroine far ahead of her time - and have you dreaming of palm trees and golden sand.





INSPIRING MEMOIR

COCONUT

A Black girl fostered by a white family in the 1960s
and her search for belonging and identity



FLORENCE OŁÁJÍDÉ

'Extraordinarily moving' ABI DARÉ 'Remarkable' ADJOA ANDOH

COCONUT

BY FLORENCE OŁÁJÍDÉ (JULY 2021)

'Why am I not white like everybody else?' Nan came and sat on the edge of my bed. 'What do you mean?' A tender finger brushed against my cheek. 'Well, everyone in this house is white. Why am I Black?'

A generation of Nigerian children were born in Britain in the fifties and sixties, privately fostered by white families, then taken to Nigeria by their parents.

Coconut is the story of one of those children.

1963, North London. Nan fosters one-year-old Florence Olorunade and calls her 'Ann.' Florence adores her foster mother more than anything but Nan, and the children around her, all have white skin and she can't help but feel different. Then, four years later, after a weekend visit to her birth parents, Florence never returns to Nan. Two months after, sandwiched between her mother and father plus her three siblings, six-year-old Florence steps off a ship in Lagos to the fierce heat of the African sun.

Swapping the lovely, comfortable bed in her room at Nan's for a mat on the floor of the living room in her new home, Florence finds herself struggling to adjust. She wants to embrace her cultural heritage but doesn't speak Yoruba and knows nothing of the customs. Clashes with her grandmother, Mama, the matriarch of the family, result in frequent beatings. Torn between her early childhood experiences and the expectations of her African culture, she begins to question who she is. Nigerian, British, both?

Florence's story is an unputdownable tale of loss and loneliness, surviving poverty, maltreatment and fighting to get an education. Most of all, it's a moving, uplifting and inspiring account of one woman's self-determination to discover who she is and find her way to a place she can call home. Perfect for fans of Lemn Sissay's *My Name is Why* and Tara Westover's *Educated*.

MONA HAJJAR HALABY

In My Mother's Footsteps

A Palestinian Refugee Returns Home



IN MY MOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

BY MONA HAJJAR HALABY (AUGUST 2021)

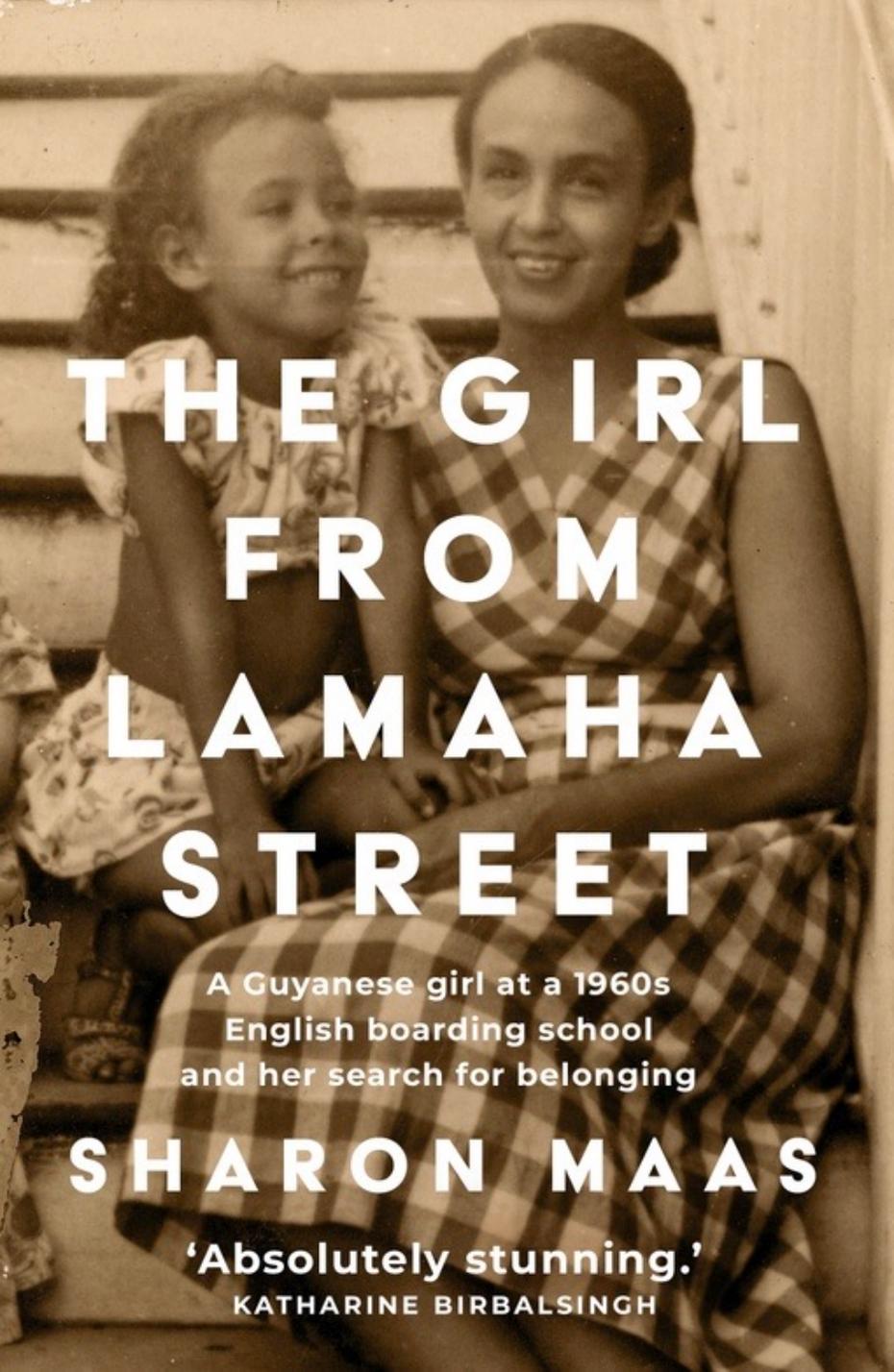
A moving and heartbreaking journey of a daughter discovering her Palestinian roots and recovering her mother's beloved past. Perfect for fans of *The Bookseller of Kabul* and *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*.

1948, Jerusalem. Zakia is forced to flee the only home she's ever known as war rips through the leafy streets and the bustling spice-filled souqs. Taking just one suitcase, Zakia thinks she'll be able to return soon. But within weeks, she realises she won't be allowed back to her beloved homeland.

2007, California. Mona grew up with her mother Zakia's memories of Palestine, imagining the muezzin's call for prayer and the medley of church bells her mother so vividly described to her. So, when Mona gets the opportunity to teach conflict resolution in Ramallah, she also embarks on a personal pilgrimage to find her mother's home in militarized and occupied Jerusalem.

With cherished letters from her mother who writes to Mona regularly, sharing her story of Jerusalem, Mona dreams of one day being guided by her through the winding cobblestone alleys of the Old City. Yet it is Mona who instead holds her mother's hand as they finally visit Jerusalem together. After fifty-nine years of exile, her mother is returning to the place she once called home – but can a lifetime of loss ever be healed?

***In My Mother's Footsteps* is both a deeply personal and tender account as well as a story with universal, and extremely timely, themes of displacement and dispossession.**



THE GIRL FROM LAMAHA STREET

A Guyanese girl at a 1960s
English boarding school
and her search for belonging

SHARON MAAS

'Absolutely stunning.'

KATHARINE BIRBALSINGH

THE GIRL FROM LAMAHA STREET

BY SHARON MAAS (APRIL 2022)

A young Guyanese girl, raised by divorced, atheist, liberal parents, flies across the Atlantic to a conservative Christian boarding school in 1960s England. What could possibly go wrong?

Growing up in British Guiana in the 1950s, Sharon Maas has everything a shy child with a vivid imagination could wish for. She spends her days studying bugs in the backyard, eating fresh mangos straight from the tree and tucked up on her granny's lap losing herself in books.

But with her father campaigning for Guiana's independence and her mother away for work, there's a void in Sharon's heart, and she craves rules and structure. The books she devours give her a glimpse of life in a faraway country: England. And although none of the characters in these books look like her, her insatiable curiosity leads Sharon to beg to be sent to boarding school.

Life at a conservative, Christian school is quite different from Sharon's liberal, atheist upbringing. Girls march silently and single file along corridors and earn badges for deportment. There are twice-daily hymns, grace before and after meals and mandatory bedside prayers. And, all the girls are posh and white, while Sharon is the only one with dark skin. Will she ever fulfil her dream of horseback riding over green hills and going on adventures like her literary heroes? And has she truly found what she was looking for in this chilly corner of the world, thousands of miles away from home?

You will be swept off your feet by the unputdownable story of Sharon Maas's extraordinary childhood in British Guiana and England, a beautiful and inspiring coming-of-age tale of self-discovery, determination and chasing your dreams.

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