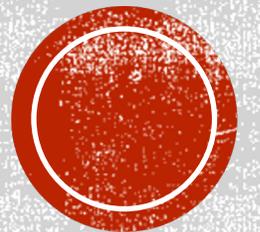


Bookouture

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

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.

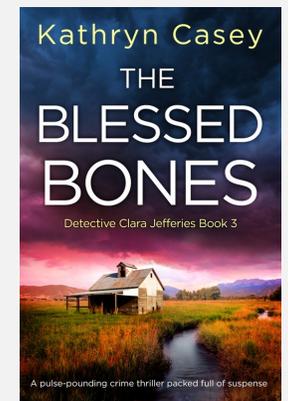
Clara returns to find that her father has died and her unforgiving mother, Ardeth, has isolated her family by moving to the edge of town, in the shadow of the mountains. Ardeth refuses to talk to the police and won't let Clara through the front door, shunning her from the community, believing she and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



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.

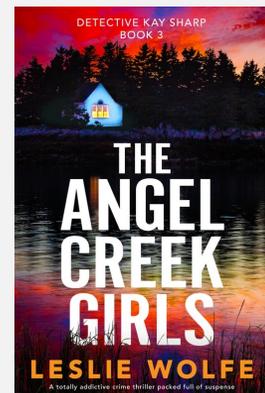
Detective Kay Sharp killed her abusive father as a child with a kitchen knife. She and her brother buried his body in the back garden underneath a willow tree. She has carried this burden for the rest of her life, pushing it deep down inside her. Perhaps this is why she became such a brilliant criminal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

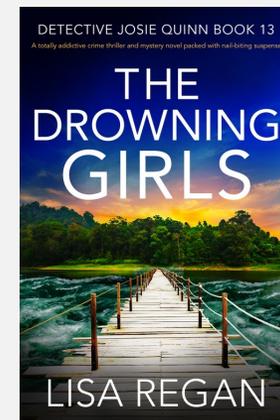
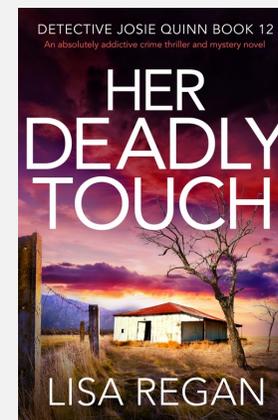
Mute and unresponsive, it's clear this mysterious girl has been damaged beyond repair. All Detective Josie Quinn can get from her is the name of a *third* girl and the flash of a neon tongue piercing that matches Isabelle's.

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.

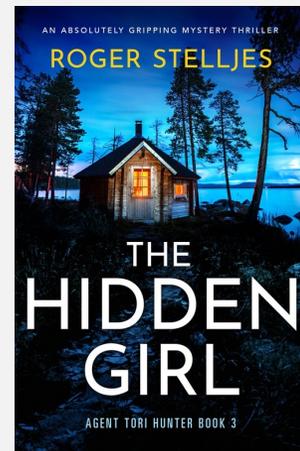
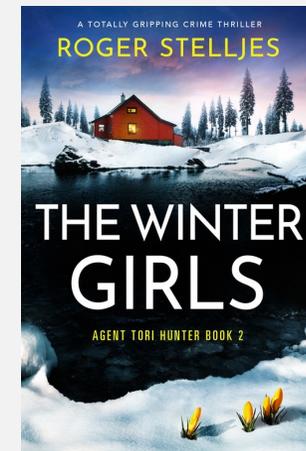
Returning to Minnesota lake country, Tori finds Genevieve's distraught yet politically influential parents desperate for answers. Under pressure to make an arrest, the police have no time for Tori's theories.

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

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.

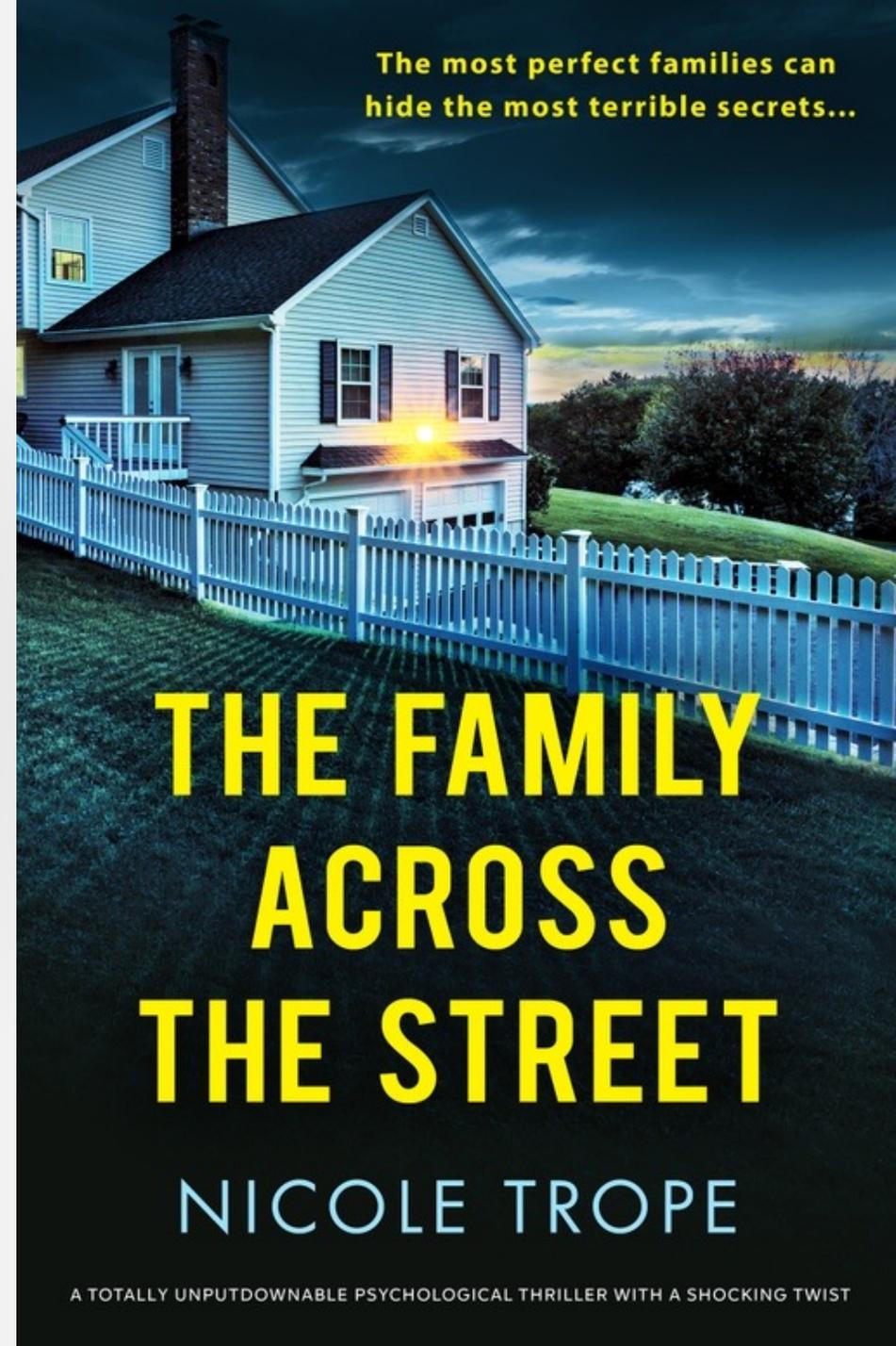
But, every family has secrets, and on the hottest day of the year, a tragedy unfolds behind their closed doors. To the oblivion of the neighbours, a lone gunman is holding the family hostage, and none of the Wests knows if they will ever get out alive.

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 phonedines 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.

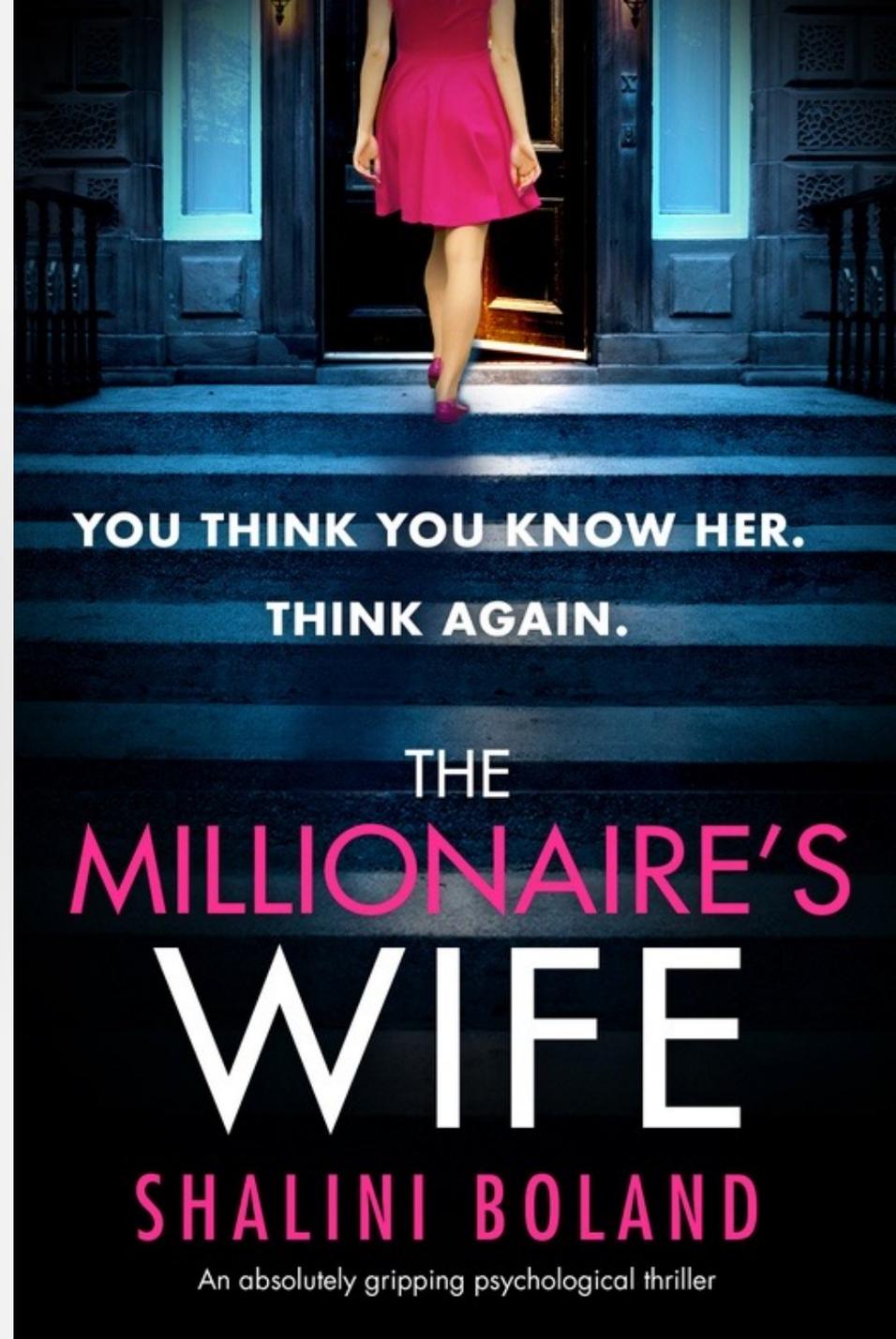
A few years before, Anna moved from Sweden to England to do her A levels and has a relationship with the most popular boy in school, Fin. But Fin's get rich quick schemes start to take darker and darker turns, and when he proposes that they make a murderous inheritance pact, Anna is horrified and moves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





ROMANTIC COMEDIES



CHAMPAGNE PROBLEMS

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 John – with whom she really, really doesn't have anything in common. Not only is he the only white guy she's ever been on a date with, he's kind of a dork... and a terrible dancer... and he smiles all the time (maybe they're all like this?). That doesn't stop him from being kind of sexy though, in a strictly no-strings-attached, this-is-definitely-not-serious way. Because two people as different as Nikki and John could never actually make a relationship work, and even if they could, they wouldn't want to anyway... right?

This funny, sexy, feel-good page-turner is perfect for fans of romantic comedies by Talia Hibbert, The Friend Zone and The Hating Game.

A totally laugh out loud romantic comedy

LEESHA MCCOY

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.

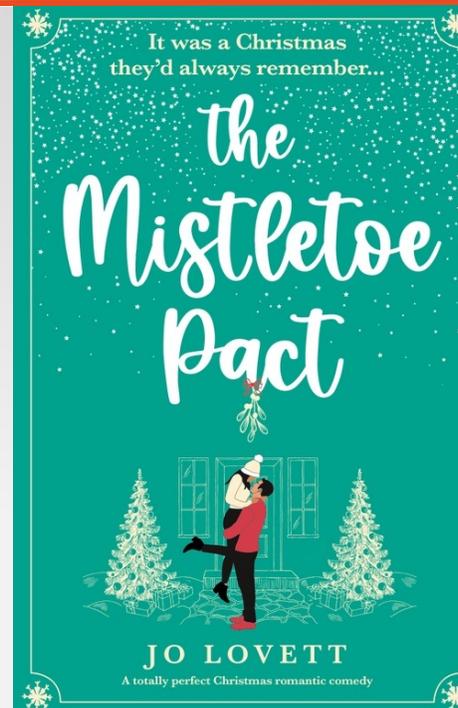
Two single thirty-year-olds. One marriage pact. And a night in Vegas that's about to change everything...

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.

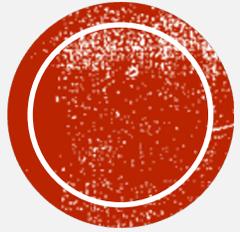
Surely if they just get a quickie divorce, they can go back to the way things used to be, right? They can just go back to being... friends...

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)



HISTORICAL FICTION

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.

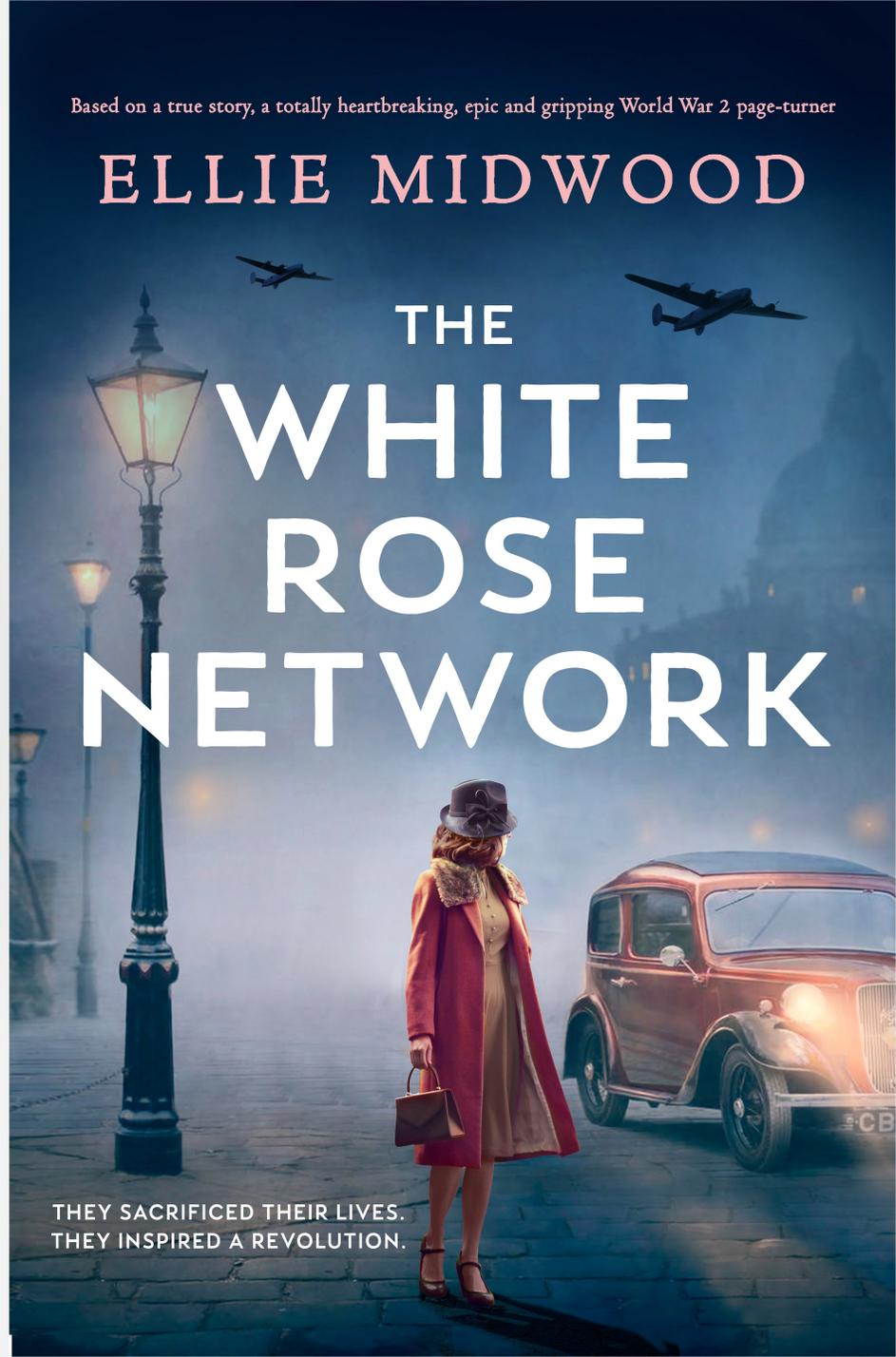
The story is written with inserts from Sophie's interrogation dotted throughout the narration, jumping between 1943 when she's in the Gestapo's custody and the 1920s and 1930s showing how exactly her views shifted and what prompted her to join the resistance, including her romance with fellow White Rose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

BY KATE HEWITT (JUNE 2020)

Set in wartime Salzburg, in the shadow of the events made famous in *The Sound of Music*, *The Edelweiss Sisters* tells the story of three sisters who were involved in the Austrian resistance, helping Jews and dissidents escape over those famous mountains. It's historical fiction at its best, set in one of WW2's most recognisable locations.

Johanna Eder and her sisters Birgit and Lotte have always lived quiet lives, working in their father's clockmaking shop and helping their mother in the house. But they find it impossible to ignore the changes in the world around them.

At first Johanna finds it hard to believe the Nazis pose a real threat. But then her father hires Franz. He's soulful, with dark eyes that twinkle with intelligence and humour. But he's Jewish, and as Johanna falls for him, she realizes that loving him puts them all in danger.

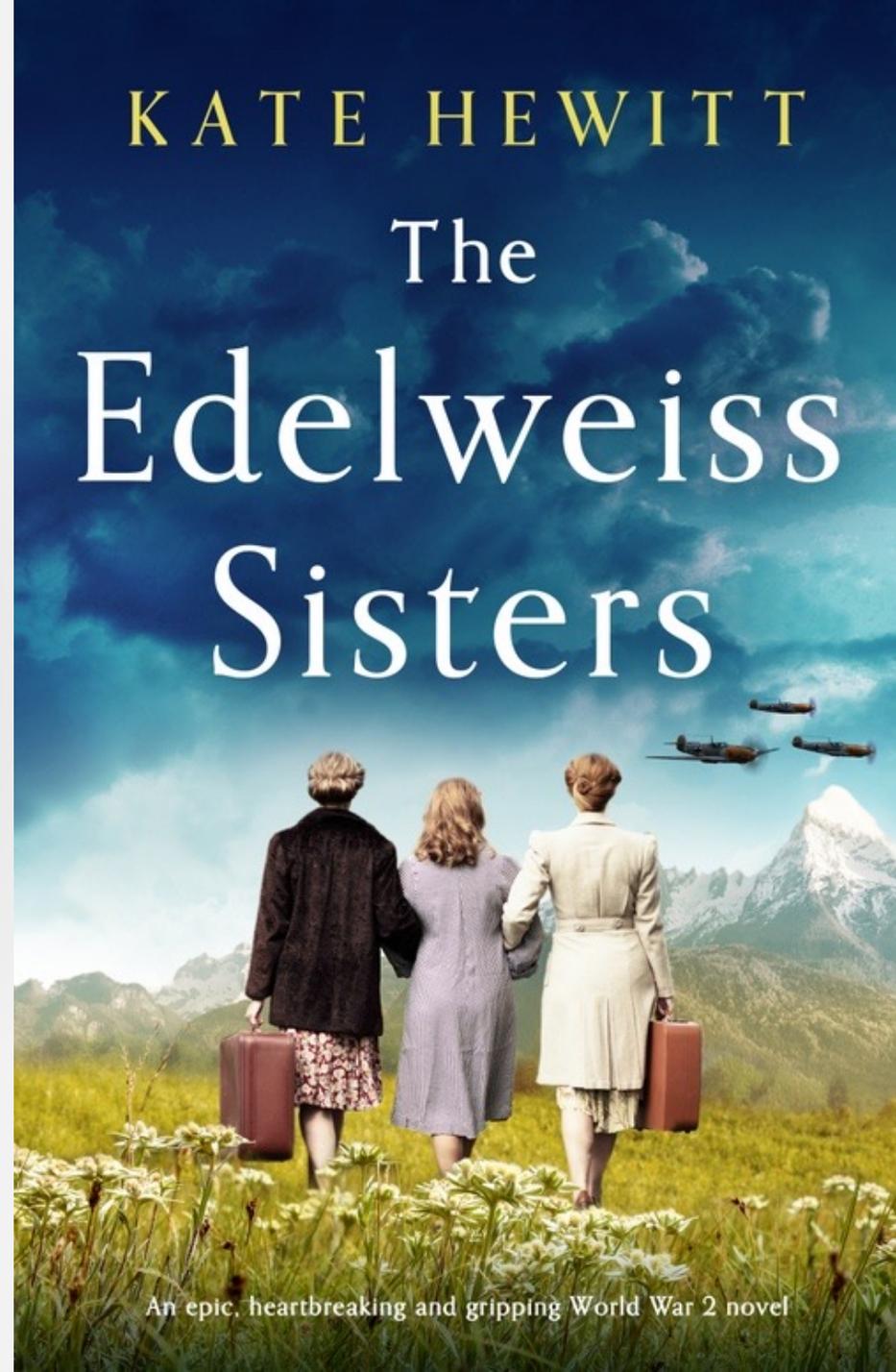
The only way to save Franz is to get him to the safety of Switzerland. For this, she needs her sisters' help, and they join the resistance. As the world turns dark around them, they must slip unnoticed right under the noses of the Nazi soldiers filling their cobbled streets.

Johanna knew she and her sisters would die for each other, but as their hearts are broken afresh each day and the lives of beloved friends and family are threatened, she discovers they would also die for the man she loves, and for what is right.

Johanna could never have foreseen how falling for a dark-eyed man would take her from an innocent girl to a fearless woman; from her quiet clock shop into the very depths of hell.

In the concentration camps of Ravensbruck and Mauthausen, Johanna and her sisters must show the strength of human spirit like never before. If they are to survive, they must prove that even in the darkness, the tiniest seeds of hope can bloom...

***The Edelweiss Sisters* is a joy of a historical novel, bringing to life three very different sisters who each have their own response to the incoming storm of Nazism. Featuring cameos from Maria von Trapp herself, it also playfully continues the story made famous in *The Sound of Music*, against the epic and beautiful backdrop of Salzburg and the Swiss Alps.**



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



NON FICTION

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.**

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*.

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