

RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

Spring Rights Festival 2021

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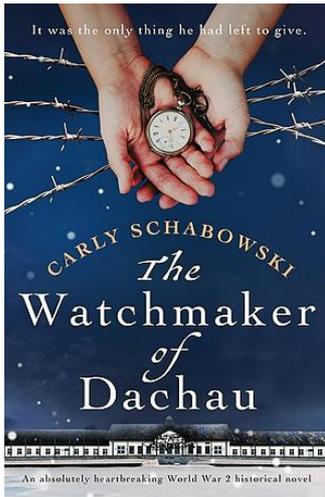
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UNITED KINGDOM



The Watchmaker of Dachau Carly Schabowski

Previous Translation Publishers
Newton Compton (Italian)

For fans of *The Nightingale* and *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*

Previous title *The Ringmaster's Daughter* has sold 7,000 copies

Editor's Note

Like Carly Schabowski's first book, *The Ringmaster's Daughter*, this novel was inspired by an incredible true story. There really was a watchmaker who was a prisoner in Dachau concentration camp, and fell in love with a woman there. Carly creates genuine, realistic characters and paints heartbreaking descriptions with her writing.

Retail Description

Snow falls and a woman prepares for a funeral she has long expected, yet hoped would never come. As she pats her hair and straightens her skirt, she tells herself this isn't the first time she's lost someone. Lifting a delicate, battered wristwatch from a little box on her dresser, she presses it to her cheek. Suddenly, she's lost in memory...

January 1945, Dachau, Germany. As the train rattles through the bright, snowy Bavarian countryside, the still beauty outside the window hides the terrible scenes inside the train, where men and women are packed together, cold and terrified. Jewish watchmaker Isaac Schüller can't understand how he came to be here, and is certain he won't be leaving alive.

When the prisoners arrive at Dachau concentration camp, Isaac is unexpectedly pulled from the crowd and installed in the nearby household of Senior Officer Becher and his young, pretty, spoiled wife. With his talent for watchmaking, Isaac can be of use to Becher, but he knows his life is only worth something here as long as Becher needs his skills.

Anna Reznick waits table and washes linens for the Bechers, who dine and socialise and carry on as if they don't constantly have death all around them. When she meets Isaac she knows she's found a true friend, and maybe more. But Dachau is a dangerous place where you can never take love for granted, and when Isaac discovers a heartbreaking secret hidden in the depths of Becher's workshop, it will put Anna and Isaac in terrible danger...

Reviews for Carly Schabowski

'The best book I have read this year, it is beautiful and atmospheric.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Beyond amazing. I enjoyed this book so very much. The characters and storyline were fantastic. Could not put it down nor did I want to. This is going to be a must read for many many readers.' NetGalley Reviewer, ★★★★★

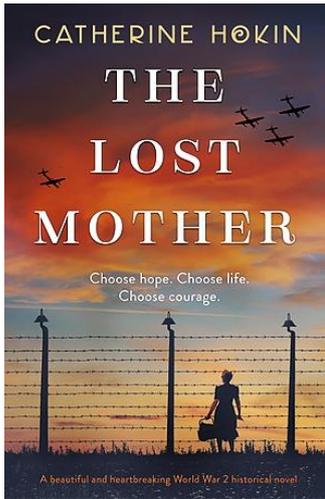
Author Biography

Carly Schabowski worked as a journalist in both North Cyprus and Australia before returning to Oxford, where she studied for an MA and then a PhD in creative writing at Oxford Brookes University. Carly now teaches at Oxford Brookes University as an associate lecturer in Creative Writing for first and second-year English literature students.



Historical

280 pages | Pub Date 20/1/2021 | 9781838886400 | Jo Bell, Bell Lomax Moreton



The Lost Mother Catherine Hokin

For fans of We Were the Lucky Ones, The Alice Network and The Tattooist of Auschwitz

Catherine's books have gone from strength to strength, her previous World War 2 set historical novels have sold over 90,000 copies

Editor's Note

Catherine Hokin could write anything and I would want to read it. But luckily for us she is capturing readers' hearts with her incredible WW2 stories. This powerful, agonising read perfectly brings to life the question of what it was to try to be a good person trapped in the terrible and dangerous Nazi regime. Have the tissues handy when you read!

Retail Description

She looked at the empty cradle where her baby had been. Her heart felt tattered and empty, like the hollow streets of Berlin after its people began to live in fear.

Berlin, 1934. The bitter winter chill settles on Anna Tiegel's heart as she stumbles from her boyfriend Eddy's now-deserted apartment. Her final hope of escape from the danger she stumbled into when she tried to rescue her best friend Marika from the attentions of the new Nazi Minister of Propaganda has vanished, and now, alone and pregnant, the future feels terrifying. Her only thought is to protect the life inside her.

Rhode Island, 1957. Peggy Bailey stares in shock at the faded photograph of two laughing women which her beloved adoptive mother struggled to pass on to her before she died, whispering 'It was inside your baby blanket when we brought you home'. As Peggy continues to stare, she realises that she has seen one of the girls before, in the most unlikely of places... Bursting at the realisation, she embarks on a mission which takes her across America to find the truth behind her heritage. Nothing, however, could prepare her for the tragic story her actions uncover...

Reviews for Catherine Hokin

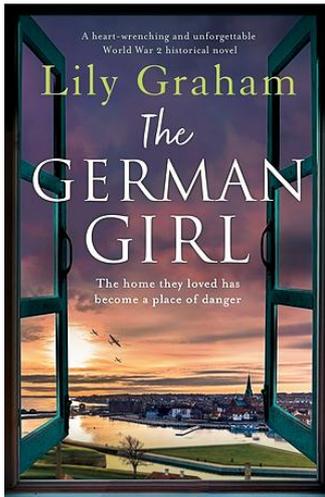
'What an amazing read, well-written emotional and very compelling... I was totally absorbed in the story and I would love to give it 10 stars. One of my best reads this year. I can't begin to say how much I loved this book, I couldn't put it down, absolutely brilliant.' Goodreads reviewer, ★★★★★

'Heartbreaking... I cried many, many times... This story showed just how important hope can be... The Fortunate Ones is a must-read.' Goodreads reviewer, ★★★★★

Author Biography

Catherine Hokin is a Glasgow-based author of World War Two inspired novels set in Berlin, her favourite city. Her short stories have been published by iScot, Writers Forum and Myslexia magazines and she was the winner of the 2019 Fiction 500 Short Story Competition. She is a lover of strong female leads, a good quest, and very loud music!





The German Girl Lily Graham

Previous Translation Publishers

Editora Autentica (Brazilian), Heyne/Diana (German), Könyvmolyképző (Hungarian), Newton Compton (Italian), 20/20 Editora (Portuguese), Foksal (Polish), Arkadya (Turkish), Minoas (Greek), City Editions (French), Dobrovsky

For fans of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, *The Nightingale* and *The Alice Network*

From the author of bestseller *The Paris Secret*, which has sold over 90,000 copies

Editor's Note

Set in Nazi-occupied Denmark, this is the hauntingly beautiful story of Jewish refugee Trine, her terrifying journey across the sea to safety in Sweden, and the man, who who risks his life for her love by helping her cross.

From bestselling author Lily Graham, this tragic tale, inspired by true events, will show that hope can be found, in the very darkest of times.

Retail Description

'Our parents were taken. And if we go home, the Nazis will take us too...'

Hamburg 1938. Fifteen-year-old Asta is hurrying home from school with her twin brother Jurgen. The mood in the city is tense – synagogues have been smashed with sledgehammers, and Asta is too frightened to laugh as she used to.

But when she and Jurgen are stopped in the street by a friend, her world implodes further. Her Jewish parents have been dragged into the streets by German soldiers and if she and Jurgen return to their house, they will be taken too.

Heartbroken at the loss of her parents, Asta knows they must flee. With her beloved brother, she must make the perilous journey across Germany and into Denmark to reach their only surviving relative, her aunt Trine, a woman they barely know.

Jammed into a truck with other refugees, Asta prays for a miracle to save herself and Jurgen. Crossing the border is a crime punishable by death, and what she and Jurgen must embark on a dangerous crossing on foot, through the snowy forest dividing Germany and Denmark. And when barking dogs and armed soldiers find Jurgen and Asta escapes, she must hold on to hope no matter what. One day she will find her twin, the other half of herself. Whatever the price she has to pay...

Reviews for Lily Graham

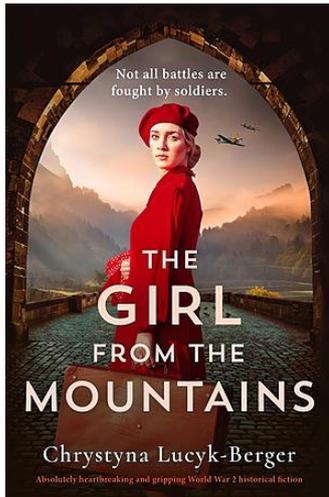
'Keep the tissues handy... By far the absolute best book I've read this year!... I devoured it in one sitting... a historical fiction masterpiece... Please keep writing, Lily Graham, the world needs more of your books!' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'Gorgeous; reminding me of a Kate Morton novel... I had a difficult time wanting to put down this book most nights; staying up into the wee hours of the morning... this stunning book was a perfect summer read, and I relished every page.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

Author Biography

Lily has been telling stories since she was a child, starting with her imaginary rabbit, Stephanus, and their adventures in the enchanted peach tree in her garden, which she envisioned as a magical portal to Enid Blyton's Faraway Tree. She's never really got out of the habit of making things up, and still thinks of Stephanus rather fondly. She lives with her husband and her English bulldog, Fudge, and brings her love for the sea and country-living to her fiction.





The Girl from the Mountains Chrystyna Lucyk-Berger

For fans of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, *The Nightingale*, *My Name is Eva*, *Kate Quinn*, *Mandy Robotham*, *Pan Jenoff*

Chrystyna has self-published three novels in *The Reschen Valley* series with two more planned to come, as well as *Souvenirs from*

Editor's Note

From the very first pages of this novel, when our heroine Magda slips through a door into the church crypt on a secret mission for the resistance, I knew I needed to publish it. Chrystyna has previously self-published the *Reschen Valley* series of novels, the award winning short story collection *Souvenirs from Kiev* and contributed to the collection *The Road to Liberation*. I am so excited to have now welcomed her to the list here at Bookouture and I know that fans of emotionally charged Second World War fiction will be totally bewitched by Magda's story of bravery in the face of the unimaginable horrors of war.

Retail Description

When the invading Nazi army evict Magda and her family from their farm in rural Czechoslovakia, she has no choice but to leave to look for work elsewhere. Magda finds a job in the beautiful, alpine house of the Taubers, a Jewish family with friends in high places. She is welcomed by the household with open arms and for a time, the dappled pine forests and tranquil lakes make her forget about the war that is raging outside her little world.

But brilliant Dr Tauber and his kind, charming wife are living on borrowed time. When the Gestapo come to take them away, Magda is charged with protecting something far more precious than the silver and jewels they leave behind.

As she remains in the house to serve the German commander's family, Magda also begins passing information to the local resistance fighters, leaving notes in the hollowed-out trees of the forest and passing leftover food from the kitchens to operatives on the run.

But her meek obedience within the four walls of the house hides the fire that burns within her heart. The time is fast approaching when Magda will discover what she is truly capable of and how much she is willing to risk in the fight for freedom.

Reviews for Chrystyna Lucyk-Berger

"A gripping read from the start... Magda is a compelling heroine living through the most devastating time in human history... The authenticity of time and place was captured so well." Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

"Action, adventures, family, war and so many different emotions... Grab a few tissues... Such a powerful story you must read." Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

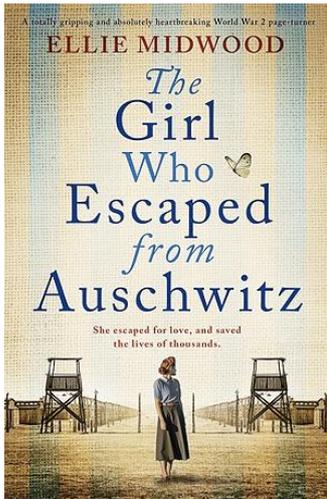
Author Biography

Chrystyna Lucyk-Berger was born in Minnesota in 1969 to Ukrainian immigrant parents. Inspired by her second-grade teacher, her writing career began with short stories, then morphed into travel narratives, and eventually novels, for which she has won several awards for. She has previously worked as a journalist and a managing editor for a magazine publisher before pursuing her dreams of writing and traveling. In 2000, she moved to western Austria and established her own communications training company.



Historical

318 pages | Pub Date 3/2/2021 | 9781800191600 | Unagented



The Girl Who Escaped from Auschwitz Ellie Midwood

Previous Translation Publishers
Newton Compton (Italian), 20/20 Editora (Portuguese), Ciranda Cultural (Brazilian), Publish and More (Hungarian)

For fans of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, *The Choice* and *The Orphan Train*

Her previously self-published titles have sold over 290,000 copies

Editor's Note

Ellie Midwood has only gone and done it again. *The Girl Who Escaped Auschwitz* is a phenomenal novel, and one that I am hugely, hugely proud to be publishing. It tells the incredible true story of Mala Zimetbaum, the only woman to have escaped from Auschwitz. This is the first time Mala's story has ever been told, so it's hugely exciting, a huge opportunity and a total honour. As always with Ellie's writing, she manages to convey such darkness, such depravity, and such desperation with sheer beauty. She brings to life the horrors of Auschwitz with the most stunning prose, and hope amongst so much hate. This makes for an incredibly powerful reading experience that I'm certain is going to steal the hearts of readers all over the world.

Retail Description

Millions of people walked through Auschwitz's gates, but she was the first woman who escaped. This powerful novel tells the inspiring true story of Mala Zimetbaum, whose heroism will never be forgotten, and whose fate altered the course of history...

Nobody leaves Auschwitz alive. Mala, inmate 19880, understood that the moment she stepped off the cattle train into the depths of hell. As an interpreter for the SS, she uses her position to save as many lives as she can, smuggling scraps of bread to those desperate with hunger.

Edward, inmate 531, is a camp veteran and a political prisoner. Though he looks like everyone else, with a shaved head and striped uniform, he's a fighter in the underground Resistance. And he has an escape plan. They are locked up for no other sin than simply existing. But when they meet, the dark shadow of Auschwitz is lit by a glimmer of hope. Edward makes Mala believe in the impossible. That despite being surrounded by electric wire, machine guns topping endless watchtowers and searchlights roaming the ground, they will leave this death camp.

A promise is made—they will escape together or they will die together. What follows is one of the greatest love stories in history...

Reviews for Ellie Midwood

'Wow! Just wow... Utterly heartbreaking... I'm speechless.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'Phenomenal! Absolutely brilliant! This book requires a standing ovation for sure!... Crushingly heart-breaking yet beautiful.' Battle of the Books, ★★★★★

Author Biography

Ellie Midwood is a USA Today bestselling and award-winning historical fiction author. Ellie is continuously enriching her library with new research material and feeds her passion for WWII and Holocaust history by collecting rare memorabilia and documents. In her free time, Ellie is a health-obsessed yoga enthusiast, neat freak, adventurer, Nazi Germany history expert, polyglot, philosopher, a proud Jew, and a doggie mama. Ellie lives in New York with her fiancé and their Chihuahua named Shark Bait.



Historical

332 pages | Pub Date 9/3/2021 | 9781800194977 | Unagented



The Girl from Berlin Kate Hewitt

Previous Translation Publishers

Ikar (Slovak), Publish & More (Hungarian), Newton Compton (Italian), Euromedia (Czech)

For fans of *The Alice Network*, *All the Light We Cannot See* and *The Nightingale*

Author has sold over 400,000 copies of her titles to date and has been in the Top 10 in UK and Top 30 US Amazon charts

Editor's Note

I am not exaggerating when I say I think this is one of the finest works of historical fiction I have ever read (and I have read a lot of them). It lays open wartime and post-war Berlin in the most powerful, personal, emotion-destroying way. Even reading it editorially, I was completely swept up in the feelings and emotions it provoked. It is, put simply, unmissable.

Retail Description

1930s Berlin: Rosa and Liesel are inseparable. From the day Rosa turns up with her long, dark hair in enviable braids, Liesel admires and adores her dearest friend.

But then Liesel's father starts working for the Nazis and everything changes. The two girls are suddenly told they cannot be friends. Because there is something wrong with Rosa. The yellow star she has to wear tells everyone that.

She's still Liesel's best friend though. And when Rosa begs Liesel to help her – pressing her grandfather's golden pocket watch into Liesel's hand to show her gratitude – Liesel recklessly agrees. She will hide Rosa and her family, even if it means risking everything...

Frankfurt, 1946: An idealistic American captain, Sam Houghton, arrives in Germany to interrogate prominent Nazis on trial and to help rebuild a battered country. He hires an enigmatic and damaged woman named Anna as his interpreter. But – as sparks fly between them – the question of what happened to Anna in the war raises its head.

Because Anna has secrets – ones that link her to the Nazi party, the darkest days in Europe's history, and the story of a golden pocket watch and two girls who promised to stay friends even when everyone told them it was impossible...

Reviews for Kate Hewitt

'THE book of the year!... I don't think I have ever cried as much' Sinfully Wicked Book Reviews, ★★★★★

'Never has any book been able to just wipe me out with such gut-wrenching sadness... BEAUTIFULLY DONE' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

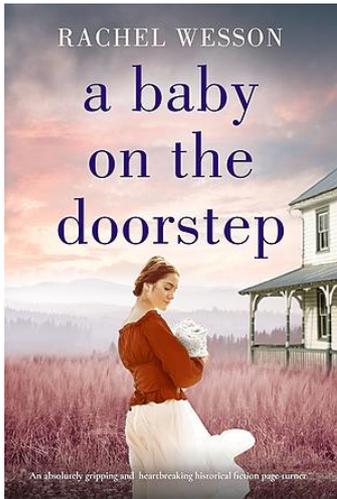
Author Biography

Kate Hewitt is the author of many romance and women's fiction novels. A former New Yorker and now an American expat, she lives in a small town on the Welsh border with her husband, five children, and their overly affectionate Golden Retriever. Whatever the genre, she enjoys telling stories that tackle real issues and touch people's lives.



Historical

410 pages | Pub Date 25/2/2021 | 9781838887995 | Unagented



A Baby on the Doorstep Rachel Wesson

For fans of *Before We Were Yours*, *The Orphan Train* and *Diney Costeloe*

Rachel's self-published titles have sold 200,000 copies

Editor's Note

Rachel Wesson is back with another searing historical tale to tear your heart in two. It's the perfect, tearjerking concoction that historical-fiction fans lap up: orphans with no one to love them, a feisty heroine who will risk all to save them, a joyous love story to defy the odds and, of course, a happy ever after, despite so much heartache, loss and tears along the way. It really is such a treat – just have a pack of tissues on hand...

Retail Description

Virginia, 1934: In the middle of the night, he crept through the bushes, thankful for the darkness, for the clouds covering the stars. Tenderly, he opened his bag, lifting the small bundle out. With tears in his eyes, he held her tight, not wanting to let her go. But he had no choice—it was the only way. "This is your new home, little one. You'll be safe here."

Distant rumblings of conflict in Europe have reached even the secluded, snow-dusted mountains of Virginia, where Lauren Greenwood faces a battle of her own. The Great Depression is crippling America, leaving millions of its victims without shoes on their feet and clothes on their backs. Hope House—the orphanage Lauren runs—is suffering more than ever.

The one thing Lauren is not short of is love. But with just a handful of dollars to her name, every day is a struggle to feed the orphans and keep a roof over their heads.

Yet she refuses to give up. When a baby is left on the porch, Lauren welcomes her with open arms. The abandoned new-born, Maisie, is left with a crumpled letter—her parents begging Lauren to look after the girl and promising to return for her one day. Lauren refuses to allow another child to fall prey to the Depression, and vows to provide little Maisie with the love and protection of a mother.

Reviews for Rachel Wesson

'Get prepared to read this book with a box of tissues at your side... A book you will never forget.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'Beautiful... Heartbreaking and heartwarming... Pulls heavy on your heartstrings. A must-read.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

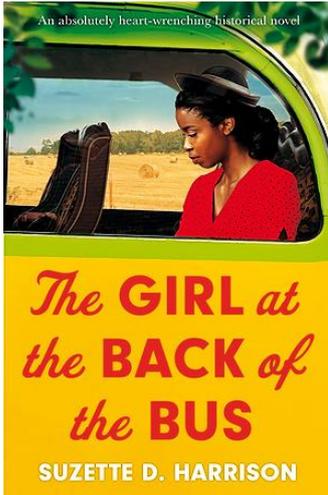
Author Biography

Rachel was born in Kilkenny, Ireland but considers herself to be from the capital, Dublin, as that's where she spent most of her life. She lives in Surrey with her husband and three children, two boys and a girl. When not reading, writing or watching films for 'research' purposes, Rachel likes to hang out with her family. She also travels regularly back home – in fact she should have shares in BA and Aerlingus.



Historical

350 pages | Pub Date 22/1/2021 | 9781838889807 | Unagented



The Girl at the Back of the Bus Suzette D. Harrison

For fans of Lisa Wingate, Christina Baker Kline and Laila Ibrahim

Suzette D. Harrison is an award-winning author.

Editor's Note

It takes a lot to wring a tear from my dry eyes but Suzette had me welling up in the first few chapters of this incredible, beautifully told story, and I spent the rest of the book swinging madly between tears and laughter. Suzette has such a gift for bringing out the humanity in history and I am in awe of how she blends historic events with the passionate, vibrant lives of her characters. I could not be more proud or excited to be publishing this book!

Retail Description

"Her courage and resilience that day changed everything for me. I went from being a frightened child on the run, to a woman who knew I could do whatever it took to turn my life around..."

Montgomery, Alabama 1955

In the early hours of a freezing cold December morning, Mattie Banks packs a suitcase and leaves her family home. Sixteen years old and pregnant, she has already made the mistake that will ruin her life and disgrace her family. Boarding the 2857, she sits with her case on her lap, hoping that this bus will drive her away from disaster, and towards a second chance... But on that bus, Mattie witnesses an act of bravery that changes the decision she'd made—and she steps off the bus into a different future.

Atlanta, Georgia, present day

Ashlee Coombes is going home. Her relationship in ruins, her career held back by prejudice, she doesn't know where to turn next except to the family who have always been her rock.

But Ashlee's home is not the safe haven she imagined. Her beloved grandmother is dying, and determined to tell her story before she goes... a story which will change everything Ashlee thought she knew about her grandmother, her family and herself.

Reviews for Suzette D. Harrison

"KUDOS Ms. Harrison I honestly can't find enough adjectives or words to convey to you how very much I enjoyed this book." Goodreads reviewer ★★★★★

"One of the most beautiful stories I've read in a very long time." Goodreads reviewer ★★★★★

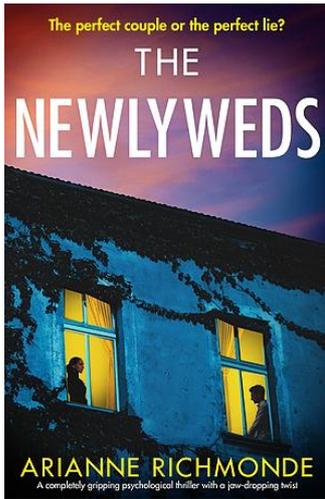
Author Biography

Suzette D. Harrison, a native Californian and the middle of three daughters, grew up in a home where reading was required, not requested. Her literary career began in junior high school with the publishing of her poetry. The award-winning author of *Taffy is a wife and mother of two teens*, and she holds a culinary degree in pastry and baking. Mrs. Harrison is currently cooking up her next novel... in between batches of cupcakes.



Historical

312 pages | Pub Date 8/2/2021 | 9781800191730 | Unagented



The Newlyweds Arianne Richmond

For fans of *The Woman in the Window*, *Gone Girl* and Netflix's *You*

Arianne's books have sold over 500,000 copies

Editor's Note

Arianne Richmond is a USA Today bestselling author with exceptional reviews, and this is her second psychological thriller with us. Arianne's books are US-set, fast-paced and thrilling. She skilfully takes the reader on a heart-pounding journey with plenty of twists. In this book, the protagonist is trapped in a marriage to a wealthy man. She is a classic unreliable narrator, telling only half of the truth and begging the reader to work out who is good and who is bad. When a stranger enters the couple's life, she is the catalyst for the undoing of their 'perfect' marriage. I have high hopes for a stand out package for this book and I think we can expect great reviews.

Retail Description

One marriage. One lie. Two sides to the story.

The moment Vivien meets Ashton, she knows she will be his wife and absolutely nothing will stop her.

Powerful, rich and from a good family, Ashton is everything Vivien is not. So, she molds herself into Ashton's perfect soulmate.

Pouring his favorite vintage wine, whispering 'I love you' over dinner in front of friends and biting her tongue when she disagrees with him are simple sacrifices for the perfect marriage she has always craved.

When people begin to notice the bruises on her cheek, she holds their stares. There is no cry for help from Vivien. She simply keeps her mouth shut and lets the gossip continue.

If you saw Vivien nursing a black eye, you might be forgiven for thinking what everyone else does – that she is the victim in her marriage, but you'd be wrong. Vivien and Ashton's life together is much more complicated than that. You will never guess the true story behind Vivien's undying devotion to her husband. Nor could you possibly predict what she does next...

Reviews for Arianne Richmond

'Wow! I read way past my bedtime simply because I didn't want to stop reading.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'It's rare that a thriller grips me from the first few pages, but this one did and it admirably didn't loosen its hold until the end... The atmospheric setting, plentiful WTF moments and numerous plot twists all made this one of my favorite recent reads.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

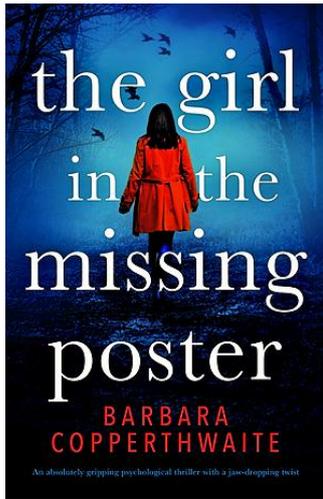
Author Biography

Arianne Richmond is a half British, half American, USA Today bestselling author, who lives in France with her husband and four-legged family. Surrounded by vineyards and sunflower fields in an old stone farmhouse they restored, she fills her days creating twisty novels full of suspense and intrigue. When she isn't writing she loves to travel, especially to warm, exotic countries, all in the name of research. She used to be an actress so likes nothing more than to immerse herself in the minds and lives of her characters.



Crime Thriller

282 pages | Pub Date 19/1/2021 | 9781838886363 | Unagented



The Girl in the Missing Poster Barbara Copperthwaite

Previous Translation Publishers
Newton Compton (Italian)

For fans of B.A. Paris, Paula Hawkins and Gillian Flynn

Previous titles have sold over 250k copies. Top 30 Amazon UK author

Editor's Note

After a year away from writing, Barbara Copperthwaite is back with a fresh and exciting take on the psychological thriller genre; a female protagonist who is not an easy target, she's been protecting herself every day since her sister went missing and won't be anyone's victim. But nothing has prepared her for what happens when a documentary team arrive at her house to tell her story. Fast-paced, unexpected, layered and absolutely terrifying, this is a thriller you absolutely won't want to miss...

Retail Description

I wrap my arms around the tree trunk, pressing my cheek against it until the bark digs in and the missing poster is finally secured. I try not to look at the photograph on it. At the features so similar to mine. Perhaps this will be the year someone comes forward.

Were crucial mistakes made by detectives from the very beginning?
Could the pressure of living two lives have led my sister to run away – or even end it?
Or did someone in her tight circle of friends and family have reason to want her gone?

Someone out there must know something.

But the last thing I ever expect is a direct response from the person who took Leila. Wracked with guilt and completely alone in the world without the other half of me, I have no choice but to agree to his strange request: private, intimate details of my life in return for answers.

As the final moments of my sister's life play out before me, I feel closer to her than I ever dreamed I'd be again. So close, it could almost be happening to me. But when I finally realise who is behind this terrifying tragedy, will I make it out alive?

Reviews for Barbara Copperthwaite

'One of the best books I have read... gripping... left me completely hooked... packed with twists and turns on nearly every page... will leave you stunned' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'WOW!! This book!!! Holy cow!!! So many lies... who can be trusted? NO ONE!!!... I had to keep reading. So many twists and turns throughout the whole book... a psychological thriller unlike any other!' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

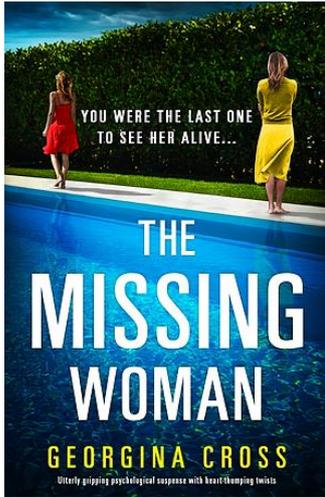
Author Biography

The people behind the crime, from the perpetrator to the victim and beyond, are what intrigue Barbara Copperthwaite. She was raised by the sea and in the countryside, where she became a lover of both nature and the written word – the latter leading to a successful career as a journalist. For over twenty years people have kindly and bravely shared with her their real experiences of being victims of crime. Now, through fiction, Barbara continues to explore the emotional repercussions.



Crime Thriller

344 pages | Pub Date 23/2/2021 | 9781786816948 | Jane Gregory, Gregory & Company



The Missing Woman Georgina Cross

Previous Translation Publishers
Euromedia (Czech), Ersen (Estonian)

For fans of *We Were Mothers*, *Kerry Fisher* and *Big Little Lies*

Top UK 20 bestselling author

Editor's Note

The Missing Woman is the outstanding follow-up to Georgina Cross's phenomenal debut, *The Stepdaughter*. Cross's first novel exploded onto the psych thriller stage, reaching #13 in the UK just six days after publication. Can she do it again? The answer is absolutely yes. The Missing Woman is super fast-paced, small-town suspense with a twist you'll never see coming. I had shivers up my spine whilst reading it and my heart was absolutely thumping when I reached the conclusion. Georgina Cross is one to watch!

Retail Description

They live in the big houses on the pretty street. Those other women, as we call them. And to think I used to want to be like them, to have their money and happiness, to live and laugh and play like them. Not anymore.

It's the fourth of July and tonight the whole town will be watching the firework display at the neighborhood pool. The single moms like me can gossip by the side and feed our kids juice boxes, chips and homemade sandwiches. Across from us are the other women, who live in the big houses with their perfect husbands. Women like Sabine Miller. We don't mix.

But tonight, when the whole town is gathered by the water, Sabine shoots me the most desperate look before picking up her bag and exiting through the back gate. When I head towards her, all I find is an old bracelet she dropped on her way out.

Hours later, I wish I'd run faster. Sabine is declared missing, her husband is desperate and the whole town goes out searching the nearby streets and woods, calling her name. I may have been the last person to see her alive, but there's something I can't tell anyone yet. Not my best friends, not the police or even my boyfriend. Something that happened a long time ago between me and Sabine.

Can you keep a secret?

Reviews for Georgina Cross

'Awesome book! I Absolutely LOVED this book!! I liked the characters and the story was so good, the ending got me. All in all, a Great read.' NetGalley Reviewer ★★★★★

'Great read!!!... Outstanding writing and it kept me hooked right until the last twist on the last page!' NetGalley Reviewer ★★★★★

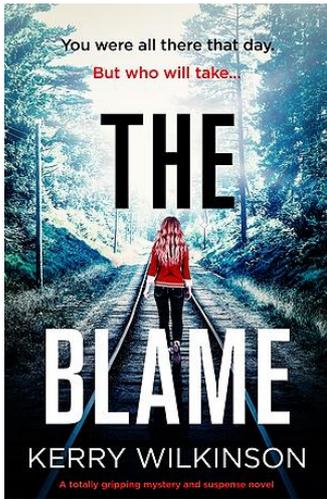
Author Biography

I've been writing since I was a kid, and I have the notebooks and floppy discs to prove it! After graduating from Louisiana State University, I founded a non-profit named Susie's Wish, which sends people with life-threatening illnesses to the beach, and I currently work in workforce development and marketing & communications. My husband David and I live with our combined family of four sons in Alabama. When everyone is sleeping, I get to write: my fingertips hit the keyboard and my imagination can run wild.



Crime Thriller

314 pages | Pub Date 6/1/2021 | 9781838889418 | Rachel Beck, Liza Dawson Associates



The Blame Kerry Wilkinson

Previous Translation Publishers
Mati (Greek), Newton Compton (Italian), Publish and More (Hungarian)

For fans of *The Girl on the Train*, *I Am Watching You* and Shari Lapena

Previous title *The Girl Who Came Back* (140,000) reached the Top 5 on the Kindle CA and UK charts, and the Top 30 on the Kindle US

Editor's Note

As a bestselling psychological thriller author, Kerry just knows what makes readers tick, and as usual I raced through this book in one sitting, my jaw hitting the floor on many occasions! Kerry's trademark wit and wry observations about human behaviour and small town life are ever-present in this story of three best friends who were inseparable as teenagers until a shocking discovery. This read explores how dark secrets from the past can come back to haunt us when we least expect it, how friendships from early life can shape us, and how people we've known for decades can surprise us with terrible deeds. A properly gripping psychological thriller with strong mystery elements, that's sure to have Kerry's fans addicted once again.

Retail Description

Paige, Richard and me. We thought we'd be friends forever. But everything changed the day we took the short cut home from school along the old railway line. I wish we'd gone the long way. I wish we hadn't seen our classmate, pale and still in the undergrowth. And I wish we hadn't promised to keep one, awful detail a secret just between us...

Twenty years later, I have a brand-new life, and try never to think about my old one. But I'm dragged back when Paige calls out of the blue. Richard has been accused of something terrible. Everyone back home is whispering about the body we found years ago, and saying Richard deserves to be locked up...

Before I know it, I've returned to the small town I thought I'd never see again. Paige is almost the same as I remember – jet-black hair, slender frame – but why does she seem so nervous?

Revealing the truth about what we saw that day twenty years ago could clear Richard's name... but will the blame fall on me? And can I really trust that Paige is on my side – or is she hiding her own dark secret?

When we find a strange note in Richard's flat, only one thing is for certain: someone else knows the truth too. All three of us are in danger...

Reviews for Kerry Wilkinson

'This was a fantastic read, as always, by a fantastic author... with enough twists and turns to keep you hooked until the very last word... I guarantee you will be hooked!!! Five stars!' Stardust Book Reviews, ★★★★★

'OMG Kerry Wilkinson is on fire! This was awesome I loved it. The story totally captivated me, I couldn't put it down. Everything about this book is fantastic. I want to give it 6 stars!' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★★

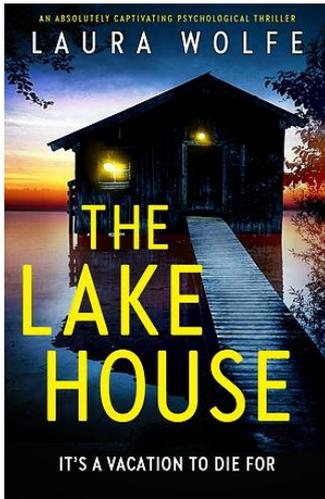
Author Biography

Kerry Wilkinson is from the English county of Somerset but has spent far too long living in the north. It's there that he's picked up possibly made-up regional words like 'barm' and 'ginnel'. He pretends to know what they mean. He's also been busy since turning thirty: his Jessica Daniel crime series has sold more than a million copies in the UK; he has written a fantasy-adventure trilogy for young adults; a second crime series featuring private investigator Andrew Hunter and the standalone thriller, *Down Among The Dead Men*.



Crime Thriller

282 pages | Pub Date 19/2/2021 | 9781800195011 | Unagented



The Lake House Laura Wolfe

For fans of Ruth Ware, Shari Lapena and The Hunting Party

Author's previous title sold over 10,000 copies within a month of being published.

Editor's Note

Laura Wolfe exploits a classic hook to great effect in *The Cabin on Crooked Lake*. An old group of friends, an isolated holiday home and plenty of buried secrets sounds like a recipe for disaster in this genre, and Laura delivers all of the tension and atmosphere we have come to expect for her standout writing, along with unexpected shocks and twists which make the trope her own. I know that readers will become invested in her nuanced characters and drawn in to her compelling plot, and that *The Cabin on Crooked Lake* is sure to be another Bookouture success.

Retail Description

The worst part was we could have avoided the whole thing. Only a minor change here or there would have done the trick—a different decision made last week or twenty years ago.

It was supposed to be the perfect vacation: five old friends together for the first time in years; a secluded cabin by a private lake; late nights, wine and laughter. No one, least of all Megan, looking forward to a break from her suburban routine, thought anything bad would happen.

But who has been keeping a secret?
Who has been hiding a lie for over twenty years?
And whose life is in danger?

Megan thought she knew everything about her friends. But things change in the woods. The truth gets twisted. Lies rise to the surface. Bonds start to break.

And someone is watching them...

Reviews for Laura Wolfe

'Oh, wow this book has kept me awake far too late at night but completely and utterly worth it... Kept me on the edge of my seat and made this a book which has been impossible to put down.' Little Miss Book Lover 87, ★★★★★

'Unputdownable. Addictive. Wow this book was something else! One of my favourite books of the year! I loved it, loved it, loved it. Just amazing. Please read this book.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

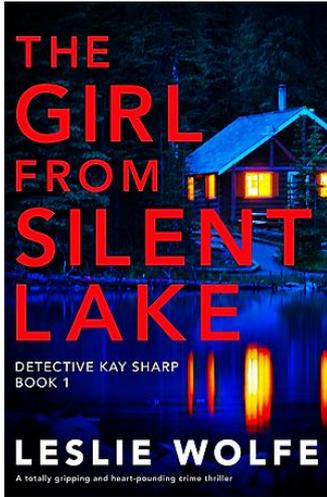
Author Biography

Laura Wolfe's fascination with things that go bump in the night probably stems from having watched too many scary movies when she was younger. She is an active member of multiple writing groups, including Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, and International Thriller Writers. Laura enjoys living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with her husband, son, and daughter. She can often be found hiking through local nature trails, eating vegetarian food, or doting on her rescue dog.



Crime Thriller

276 pages | Pub Date 17/3/2021 | 9781800190085 | Unagented



The Girl from Silent Lake Leslie Wolfe

For fans of Lisa Regan, Karin Slaughter and Tess Gerritsen

Her previously published book, *Dawn Girl* was #1 in Portugal

Editor's Note

Leslie Wolfe is one of the most accomplished, expert crime writers that I have ever come across. She is a total thrill to publish – a real gem on my list, and she is honestly ridiculously talented. Her novels are meticulously researched and flawlessly executed. They are relentlessly fast paced, bursting with shocking, mind-blowing twists that genuinely leave you with your jaw open. *The Girl from Silent Lake* introduces FBI's top criminal-psychologist-turned-small-town-detective Kay Sharp, returning to Mount Chester, where her deepest secrets are buried in her back garden. Kay is the perfect blend of fierceness, kickass-ness, sheer brilliance, and that all-important vulnerability. She is a phenomenal lead and I couldn't be more excited to launch this phenomenal series.

Retail Description

Criminal psychologist Kay Sharp returns to her hometown in rural Northern California for a fresh start, leaving behind her job for the FBI. She's back in Mount Chester despite the memories buried in this close-knit town, and the past she has spent the last ten years trying to outrun.

Settling into her childhood home, Kay discovers a series of unsolved murders in the town spanning over two decades, and she can't resist trying to unlock the mystery of the cold cases. But when a new woman goes missing, along with her six-year-old daughter, Hazel, it's clear the serial killer has struck again. The out-of-town tourists were last seen in a rental car that broke down on a steep, winding mountain road.

When the mother's body is found, but her little girl is nowhere to be seen, a frenzied search begins to find Hazel alive. After the murder weapon is discovered – a rusty knifed buried next to the body – and fingerprints detected, Kay is sure they are closing in on the killer. Except when the prints are run, they belong to her father. Kay knows he isn't the culprit. She knows because of the secret that she has kept hidden for years, a secret that will destroy her if it's found out.

Can she find the real killer, and save Kay, before he strikes again? And will the secret she has devoted a lifetime to hiding remain buried?

Reviews for Leslie Wolfe

'What a great surprise!... packs a punch!.. Author has a great talent for showing a lot w/ few words. Will def read more from her!' ★★★★★

'Wow! I am blown away by just how gripping and intense this read was. I am new to Wolfe's writing, and I can guarantee I will be reading every word written by Leslie from now on!' ★★★★★

Author Biography

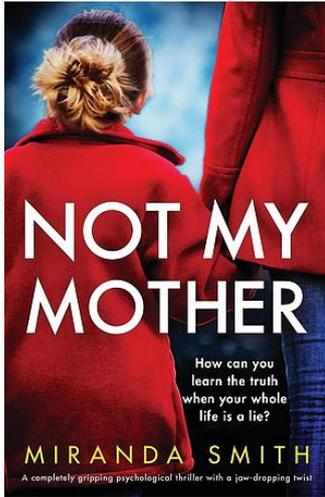
Leslie Wolfe is a bestselling author whose novels break the mold of traditional thrillers. Leslie Wolfe lives in Florida with her husband, 'the Wolfe', and their dog. She enjoys engaging with her readers every day, exchanging emails and Facebook postings.



Crime Thriller

354 pages | Pub Date 19/2/2021 | 9781838889845 | Unagented

Detective Kay Sharp 1



Not My Mother Miranda Smith

For fans of Lisa Jewell, Adele Parks and Ruth Ware

Miranda has sold over 50,000 copies in 2020

Editor's Note

What do you do when you learn that your beloved mother is suspected of having kidnapped you as a baby? That's the appalling question facing Marion in this brilliantly gripping dark domestic suspense. Miranda's novels are all about ordinary women facing extraordinary situations, and they combine compulsive and twisty plots with rich emotional depth that will hook readers. Her psych thrillers have now sold nearly fifty thousand copies and we have just signed another two-book contract: she delivers time after time while doing something a little different, and readers love the results. She was the first author I acquired and I am certain she will continue growing to be a star on the list.

Retail Description

They arrest my mother in the middle of my baby daughter's first birthday party.
They say she's not really my mother.
They say she stole me, thirty years ago...

I'd heard of the Baby Caroline case, of course. When a baby is snatched from her mother's arms, the whole country knows about it. But I never dreamed it had anything to do with me.

Today, my daughter turned one. I hosted a party for my friends and my mother, my only family. We were in the middle of unwrapping gifts and blowing out candles when the knock came at the door, and they took my mother away.

The police say she is the only suspect for the kidnapping. When I visit her, desperate for answers, she won't give them to me. She looks me in the eye, and says nothing. I don't even know her real name. The truth is, my whole life is a lie.

I have to find out happened thirty years ago, but I'm scared. What if there are other secrets, worse secrets? What if my own child is in danger? What else don't I know?

Reviews for Miranda Smith

'I devoured this book in one sitting. Got my heart racing, atmospheric, chilling and utterly gripping... Fantastic... nail-biting... one of the best books I have read this year. A MUST READ!!!!' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'Boy did I enjoy it!! My heart was racing throughout... I didn't relax until the end. And what an ending it was!!' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

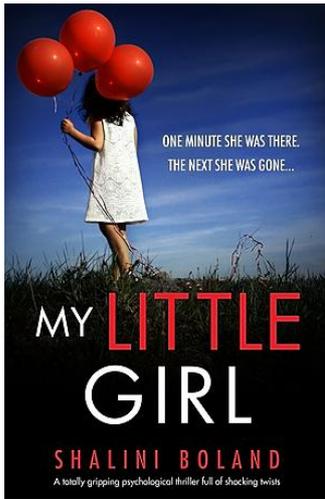
Author Biography

Miranda Smith writes psychological and domestic suspense. She is drawn to stories about ordinary people in extraordinary situations. Before completing her first novel, she worked as a newspaper staff writer and a secondary English teacher. She lives in East Tennessee with her husband and three young children.



Crime Thriller

0 pages | Pub Date 30/3/2021 | 9781800193093 | Unagented



My Little Girl Shalini Boland

Previous Translation Publishers

Muvelt Nep (Hungarian), Wydawnictwo Literackie (Polish), Eksmo (Russian), Weltbild, Hope Edizioni (Italian), Euromedia (Czech), Legendary Television (TV and Film), RAO Distributie (Romanian)

For fans of *Gone Girl*, *The Girl on the Train* and *Big Little Lies*

Over 1 million Shalini Boland thrillers sold

Editor's Note

Shalini Boland has sold over a million copies since her first publication with Bookouture in November 2017 and has generated £2 million in revenue as well as regularly topping ebook bestseller charts.

MY LITTLE GIRL is an incredibly gripping, twist-filled psychological thriller about a missing child and complex family relationships. It is one of her best books to date and we are hugely excited to be launching this title in April 2021.

Retail Description

'I'm sorry. Your daughter is missing...'

Claire Nolan receives a panicked phone call, telling her that her six-year-old daughter Beatrice has gone missing on a trip to the local fair.

It's every mother's worst nightmare. And it's happening to her.

Her mother-in-law Jill was meant to be looking after Beatrice but the little girl disappeared in the hall of mirrors and, an hour later, she still can't be found.

Frantic with worry, Claire races to the fairground. When she arrives, there are flashing blue lights and uniformed officers everywhere. In one moment, her whole world collapses.

Distraught and desperate to uncover the truth, doubts begin to creep in. Claire's husband should have been with Beatrice but he changed their plans without telling her. And she's never trusted Jill. Her mother-in-law has always preferred her son's free-spirited first wife. Something just doesn't add up and Claire starts to suspect those closest to her:

Reviews for Shalini Boland

Reviews for *The Wife*

'Totally mesmerizing! I literally had to pick my jaw up off the floor... had my heart pounding so hard I thought it would burst! Totally amazing and brilliant!' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'Oh I have adored this book! Most definitely five stars. I literally haven't been able to put this one down... kept on the edge of my seat!' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

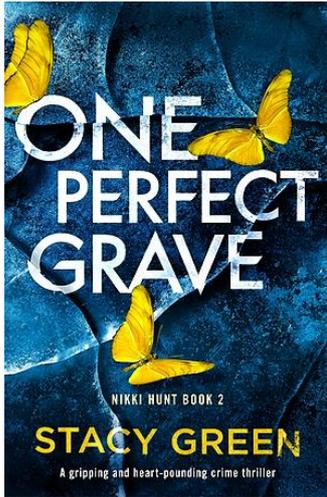
Author Biography

Shalini lives in Dorset, England with her husband, two children and Jess their cheeky terrier cross. Before kids, she was signed to Universal Music Publishing as a singer songwriter, but now she spends her days writing suspense thrillers (in between school runs and hanging out endless baskets of laundry).



Crime Thriller

0 pages | Pub Date 22/4/2021 | 9781838881474 | Unagented



One Perfect Grave Stacy Green

For fans of Karin Slaughter, Lisa Gardner and Robert Dugoni

Stacy has sold more than 250,000 of her thrillers worldwide

Editor's Note

The second book in the police procedural series from award-winning author Stacy Green. After finding out the truth about her parents' murders, Special Agent Nikki Hunt is still back home in Stillwater, investigating the disappearance of a young boy. Delving further into her past, and her relationship with a local reporter, Nikki uncovers a serial killer. Stacy's writing is incredibly fast-paced, it's the sort of thriller you read in one sitting, without taking a breath.

Retail Description

She didn't see the patch of black ice until it was too late. The car started to spin, and as it veered off into the deep ditch and the mounds of snow beside the road, she saw him. The little boy frozen in the ice.

When the remains of two bodies are found in an open grave along a desolate highway in Stillwater, Minnesota, Special Agent Nikki Hunt knows exactly who they are. The bright blue jacket lying on the frozen earth belongs to Kellan Rhodes, the missing boy she's desperately been trying to find for the last two days. The other body is his mother Dana, who had been Nikki's lead suspect.

Although the wounds on Dana's body suggest she murdered her son and took her own life, Nikki finds evidence that suggests she was a victim too. Dana was desperately trying to regain custody of Kellan, and Nikki finds boot prints at the scene that belong to someone else.

When another child is reported missing, local journalist Caitlin Newport claims the cases are linked: Zach Reeves was taken away from his own mother in a custody battle, just like Kellan was. Caitlin once helped Nikki find out the truth about her own parents' murders, but her desire for a story nearly cost Nikki her life. Now, Nikki must decide if she can trust Caitlin again, before time runs out to find the killer and bring Zach home alive...

Reviews for Stacy Green

'This is the thriller that I didn't know I was waiting for and needed in my life until I picked it up. SO GOOD. I'm still reeling and trying to catch my breath from this highly suspenseful and emotionally charged story... I need more ASAP.' Reading in Autumn, ★★★★★

'First time reading this author and I couldn't put it down. Suspense that will keep you hooked until the very last page. Even when I wasn't reading it, I couldn't stop thinking about it... I had to see what happened.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

Author Biography

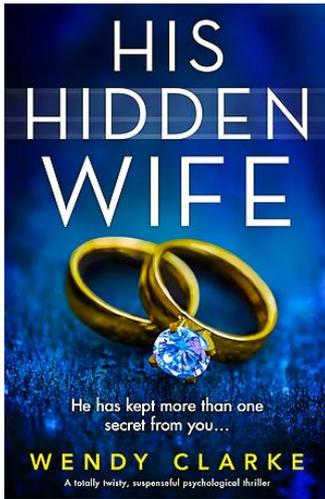
Stacy Green is the bestselling author of more than 10 award-winning novels and nonfiction short stories. The Erin Prince series has been optioned for television by a major production team. All Good Deeds (Lucy Kendall #1) won a bronze medal for mystery and thriller at the 2015 IPPY Awards. Tin God (Delta Crossroads #1) was runner-up for best mystery/thriller at the 2013 Kindle Book Awards. Stacy started her career in journalism before becoming a stay at home mother and rediscovering her love of writing.



Crime Thriller

272 pages | Pub Date 25/2/2021 | 9781800192737 | Unagented

Nikki Hunt 2



His Hidden Wife Wendy Clarke

For fans of The Girl on the Train, Behind Closed Doors and Gone Girl

Author won the Flash 500 writing competition. Previous two books have sold over 120,000 copies with Bookouture

Editor's Note

Wendy's fourth psychological thriller with us is absolutely unputdownable. It features a father battling to protect his child, a girlfriend desperate to get her stepdaughter to like her, a woman with a dark and deadly secret about her husband, and a girl who has no idea if her mother is dead... The story twists and turns at the cliffside house where a woman plunged to her death, and Wendy's trademark suspense is there in spades.

Retail Description

He has kept more than one secret from you...

When six-year-old Maya witnessed her mother plunge to her death on Beach Head Cliff, people said it was a mercy she was so young. That she remembered little. But there's something Maya has never forgotten: that her mother was beautiful and kind and she loved Maya very much. It's what her father, Stephen, tells her about his perfect wife.

Years later, Maya is the only person in her father's life. They live together in Cliff Cottage, sharing their days and eating dinner together, supporting one another when times get tough. But then her father introduces Maya to his new girlfriend Amy, and she starts to feel uneasy.

Amy's soft curly hair and dimpled cheeks are so similar to the image Maya remembers of her mother. And she hums a tune whilst cleaning dishes that's so similar to the lullaby Maya heard as a little girl...

Reviews for Wendy Clarke

'Wow, wow, wow! What an amazing novel!... Secrets, lies and terrible events galore, this is a real rollercoaster of a ride throughout. Twists and turns keep you on your toes right through to the end. Raced through this one on a lazy Saturday.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'I cannot praise this book enough! I finished it in a matter of days... My heart was racing as I was reading. It kept hitting me with twist after twist... I have to say it's the best thriller I've read this year.' Ramblings of the Book Addict, ★★★★★

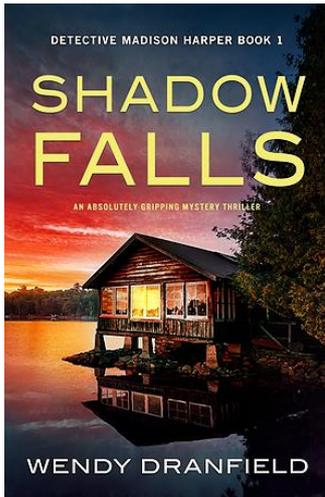
Author Biography

Wendy Clarke was a teacher until the small primary school where she worked closed down. Now she is a writer of psychological suspense but is also well known for her short stories and serials which regularly appear in national women's magazines. Wendy has two children and three step-children and lives with her husband, cat and step-dog in Sussex. When not writing, she is usually indulging in her passion for dancing, singing or watching any programme that involves food!



Crime Thriller

300 pages | Pub Date 4/2/2021 | 9781800192669 | Unagented



Shadow Falls Wendy Dranfield

For fans of Robert Galbraith and Angela Marsons

Previous title, *Who Cares If They Die*, sold 5,000 copies

Editor's Note

I knew I wanted to be Wendy's publisher the moment I read her cover letter. In just a few short paragraphs there was no doubt in my mind that she was smart, creative, commercially-savvy, brimming with ideas, digitally-focused and not afraid of hard work. It almost didn't matter to me what the book was like, I just knew she was right for Bookouture, through and through. Luckily for me, the manuscript attached left no doubt in my mind. Maddison and Nate are absolutely unforgettable, and it's the perfect first in series because there is SO MUCH mystery and heartbreak to unpack in their backstories. And don't even get me started on their complicated and addictive chemistry...

Retail Description

When disgraced former Detective Madison Harper arrives at a remote small-town summer camp in Shadow Falls, northern California, her heart breaks for Jenny, the innocent little girl last seen splashing in the lake with her friends before she vanished. Driving past a silent line of wood cabins covered in bunting, Maddison knows this idyllic place is hiding a terrible secret.

The girl's parents are distraught, and the local police have no leads – they desperately need Maddison's help. But Maddison needs them too; she's agreed to help Private Investigator Nate Monroe find Jenny in return for his help clearing her name after she was framed for a crime she didn't commit and kicked out of the police force. Cracking this case is the only way back to the son she lost to the care system as a result.

But with the camp staff keeping tight-lipped and her new partner on the edge of a breakdown, Maddison keeps hitting dead ends – until she discovers a disturbing family portrait Jenny did at the local library. Was this sweet child more troubled than anybody knew? Was she in danger from those she trusted most?

When the trail leads her to a waterfall high up in the mountains, and into a deadly trap, will she realise her fatal mistake in time? And will she find this innocent little girl alive?

Reviews for Wendy Dranfield

'OMG... This book took a bite out of me... thrilled me completely... My goosebumps had goosebumps... my breath hitched after every few pages. There were moments when I had to force myself to relax... had me gasping... Wendy Dranfield's writing had one deadly intent, to make my pulse race. And she did that brilliantly.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'Excellent... the author really kept me on my toes – and I loved the book so much for that!... No hesitation in giving the book five stars... Very highly recommended.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

Author Biography

Wendy is a former coroner's assistant turned crime writer who lives in the UK with her husband. She is the author of several crime novels and has numerous short stories published in various UK and US anthologies. She has also been shortlisted and longlisted for various competitions, including the Mslexia Novel Competition.



Crime Thriller

362 pages | Pub Date 25/1/2021 | 9781800191310 | Unagented

Detective Madison Harper 1



Just Married Kiersten Modglin

For fans of *Gone Girl*, *The Girl on the Train* and *Behind Closed Doors*

Editor's Note

After I finished reading Modglin's *Just Married*, about a honeymoon that goes disastrously wrong, at two in the morning, I was so freaked out that I had to poke a torch into the dark corners of my house. Kiersten has an extraordinary gift for writing unbelievably twisty domestic suspense that really gets inside your head. And her twists, oh my goodness!! Every time I think I've figured out where she's going, she pulls the carpet out from under me with a breathtaking bang. Already an self-published titan in the US, labelled 'The Queen of Suspense' by her readers, her partnership with Bookouture is a huge opportunity for us to break her out on the global stage.

Retail Description

'Please, come quickly, he's got my husband and—' Before I can say any more, the phone goes dead...

When Ryan found this perfect little cabin in the woods for our honeymoon, I couldn't wait get away. Just us in the middle of the forest, waking up every day in the trees, ending each night in the hot tub under the stars. But now I'm more scared than I've ever been in my life.

I just wish we'd gone to the police when someone left a note on the mat saying: She's dead, you're next. Ryan said I was overreacting but I don't understand why he won't go to the cops. Is the man I married hiding something?

Ryan left to try and get help and now I'm here alone. My heart is racing and there's no one I can call. Someone smashed our windscreen last night and scratched RUN across it.

My husband promised till death do us part. Am I about to find out what that means?

Reviews for Kiersten Modglin

😱... Whoa I did not see that coming... When you think you have it all figured out – SURPRISE!' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'I couldn't put this book down until I finished reading the very last page! Oh well, who needs sleep!!!' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

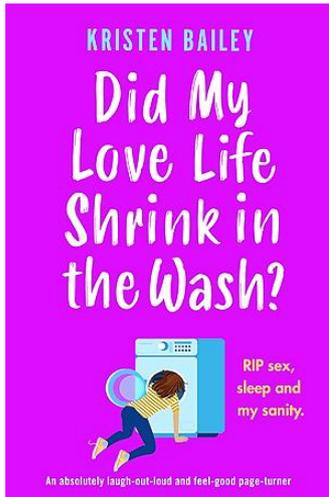
Author Biography

Kiersten Modglin is an Amazon top-30 bestselling author of award-winning psychological thrillers and a member of International Thriller Writers. Kiersten lives in Nashville, Tennessee with her husband, daughter, and their two Boston Terriers: Cedric and Georgie. She is best known for her unpredictable suspense and her readers have dubbed her 'The Queen of Twists.' A Netflix addict, Shonda Rhimes super-fan, psychology fanatic, and indoor enthusiast, Kiersten enjoys rainy days spent with her nose in a book.



Crime Thriller

0 pages | Pub Date 5/7/2021 | 9781800196360 | Unaged



Did My Love Life Shrink in the Wash? Kristen Bailey

Previous Translation Publishers

Potink Kitap (Turkish), Eksmo (Russian), Bastei Luebbe (German), Dobrovsky (Czech)

**For fans of Why Mummy Drinks, The Unmumsy Mum and romcoms
by Sophie Randal and Sophie Kinsella**

**From the author of top 10 Amazon bestseller, Has Anyone Seen My
Sex Life? Over 90,000 copies sold**

Editor's Note

I am not exaggerating when I say that Kristen Bailey is THE funniest writer I have ever had the pleasure of publishing. She makes me ugly laugh every time I edit one of her books, and I have learnt not to drink tea while I do so because I always end up spitting it out. *Did My Love Life Shrink in the Wash?* is no exception. Kristen gets straight to the heart of domestic set-ups – everyday scenarios of love, life and family – delivering them with a genius comic twist. Her writing is a powerful, winning combination of total relatability and that all-important laugh-out-loud factor. I have no doubt that this is going to be a big bestseller, just like all her previous books with us.

Retail Description

It's normal to wish that your baby came with a snooze button, right?

When I got pregnant, Will and I didn't have a clue what we were signing up for. It turns out that there's loads we weren't warned about:

- 1) In the middle of the night you'll be begging Siri for advice on getting your baby to sleep. (Whale music won't work.)
- 2) If you make the mistake of going to a nightclub you'll nod off, drool, and be woken up by an angry bouncer.
- 3) You'll spend more time spooning your child's cuddly donkey than your own boyfriend.
- 4) Communication with your other half will be through the medium of post-it notes on the fridge, mainly telling him to buy more milk.
- 5) Sex is something that happened in another dimension (even with the lights on and the covers on).

But even if I feel like I'm waiting for my motherhood powers to come in the post, at least I've got Will. Our old life (festivals, sambuca shots, an actual sex life – oh, how I miss you) might be a distant memory, but we can get through anything together, can't we? At least that's what I thought until, one day, Will walked out on us...

Reviews for Kristen Bailey

'Utterly utterly brilliant! Without a doubt THE funniest novel I have read in a long time.' For The Love of Books, ★★★★★

'Oh how I loved this book! the author and writing style kept me entertained throughout, with also a great story!' Goodreads reviewer, ★★★★★

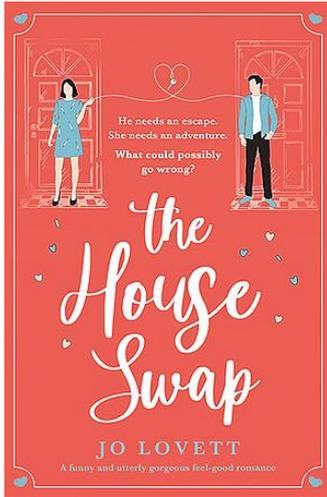
Author Biography

Mother-of-four, gin-drinker, binge-watcher, receipt hoarder, enthusiastic but terrible cook. Kristen also writes. She has had short fiction published in several publications including *Msexia & Riptide*. Her first two novels, *Souper Mum* and *Second Helpings* were published in 2016. In 2019, she was long listed in the Comedy Women in Print Prize and has since joined the Bookouture family. She writes women's fiction and she hopes her novels have fresh and funny things to say about modern life, love and family.



Chick Lit

384 pages | Pub Date 11/1/2021 | 9781838889722 | Unagented



The House Swap Jo Lovett

For fans of *One Day in December*, *The Hating Game* and *Beth O'Leary*

Previous title *The First Time We Met* has sold over 6,000 copies

Editor's Note

He needs an escape... She needs an adventure. What could possibly go wrong? So begins Jo Lovett's utterly charming new rom-com, *The House Swap*. City boy James and island dweller Cassie couldn't be more different, but sparks begin to fly in more ways than one when they decide to swap homes. Jo writes with so much heart and wit, it's impossible not to completely fall for her characters. As well as being a gorgeous love story, this is also the story of two people finally facing their demons, which finally brings them together. It'll make you laugh, it'll make you cry, and I will can guarantee it leave you with a smile on your face long after reading. I am so excited to publish this - I just know readers everywhere are going to absolutely love it.

Retail Description

Cassie needs an escape. James needs an adventure.
So why not swap lives?

When Cassie and James find each other on a home swap website, it feels meant to be. City hotshot James needs a bolthole after a relationship goes sour and Cassie needs to leave the comfort of her little island to research her new book.

Soon, James is living in Cassie's cute but ramshackle house off the coast of Maine, and Cassie's living in James's super smart London penthouse. It's the perfect solution.

Except it turns out it's difficult to switch homes without getting involved in each other's lives. Cassie's unimpressed when James's ex turn up, and James is incandescent when he discovers that he's going to have to help organise Cassie's next-door neighbour's ninetieth.

Cassie and James can't wait to be done with each other and get back to their own lives. But sometimes it takes losing something – or someone – to make you realise it's what you always wanted.

Reviews for Jo Lovett

WHAT. A. STORY... Ever had to take a book chapter by chapter because you couldn't see through your tears? Funny, light-hearted, but absolutely gut-wrenching at times. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll be completely engulfed in Sam and Izzy's story! A perfect cozy up in a blanket and read on your front porch story.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'Oh this book!! I've laughed and cried! This really has given me all the feels. I loved this book... I devoured this gorgeous read in just one sitting. A love story which will completely stay with you.' Little Miss Book Lover 87, ★★★★★

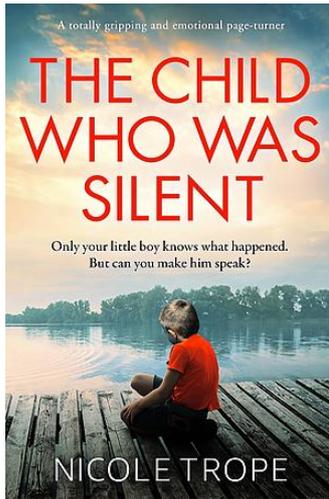
Author Biography

Jo Lovett lives in London with her family. She worked in Corporate Tax before taking a longer-than-expected career break to have more-than-expected children (five). She started writing romantic comedy when she realised that she was regularly begging her oldest son to let her do his English homework but she wasn't actually that interested in haunted houses or Macbeth. Jo was runner-up in the Good Housekeeping/ Orion First Novel Competition 2018 and shortlisted for the Comedy Women in Print Award 2019.



Women's Fiction

0 pages | Pub Date 19/4/2021 | 9781800195073 | Unaged



The Child Who Was Silent Nicole Trope

Previous Translation Publishers
Newton Compton (Italian)

For fans of Jodi Picoult, Liane Moriarty and Linda Green

From the author of US bestseller *The Boy in the Photo* (over 200,000 copies sold!)

Editor's Note

How can you solve a crime if the only witness to the shocking truth is unable to speak? This is the brilliant, totally distinctive hook of Nicole's latest novel, sure to be another hit. Just like *The Boy in the Photo* captured the attention of the world, *The Boy Who Was Silent* is sure to do the same. Nicole writes with breathtaking beauty, bringing to life the horror and heartbreak of a family in turmoil. Her writing is bursting with so much emotion – we feel exactly what the character feels, and we reach for the tissues every. single. time. Without fail! Again and again, reviewers compare Nicole to Jodi Picoult, and I couldn't agree more.

Retail Description

There are several things I'm certain of. I know I love my family fiercely. I love the mountain cabin we rent every autumn, surrounded by fiery red maple trees. I love making pancakes every morning for my son, blue-eyed, blond-haired Theo.

Above everything, I know I'm not capable of what the police are accusing me of. Am? They say that a lost tourist stumbled into our cabin and found me covered in my husband's blood, clutching the knife that stabbed him. They tell me my husband is fighting for his life, and that my precious child is missing.

As I lie here in this hospital bed, I want to scream 'no', that I'm not capable of harming my family. But the problem is, I can't remember. It's blank in my memory, as if it's simply too terrible to recall.

The one person who knows what happened is Theo. He's out there somewhere, barefoot and shivering, as the sky darkens. But even if my lost little boy can be found in the miles upon miles of sprawling forest, there's one problem. Theo is autistic and unable to speak. How can you get the truth from a child who has been silent for over a decade?

Reviews for Nicole Trope

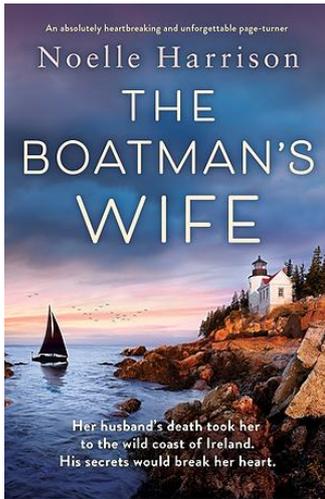
'Loved, loved, loved this book!... What an incredible story... Will have you holding your breath until the shocking ending. I was glued to this book and couldn't go to sleep until I had finished it. And the next day I read it again!' NetGalley Reviewer, ★★★★★

'Incredible... It's going on my list of favourite reads of the year. I had tears streaming down my cheeks... I was blown away... I really can't say enough great things about this book. It is a must-read.' Jaynie's Book Reviews, ★★★★★

Author Biography

Nicole Trope went to university to study Law but realised the error of her ways when she did very badly on her first law essay because, as her professor pointed out, 'It's not meant to be a story.' She studied teaching instead and used her holidays to work on her writing career and complete a Masters' degree. In between raising three children, working for her husband and renovating houses, she has published six novels. She lives in Sydney, Australia.





The Boatman's Wife Noelle Harrison

For fans of *The Light Between Oceans*, *Lisa Wingate* and *Anita Shreve*

The *Island Girls* sold over 9,000 copies

Editor's Note

A completely heartbreaking story about the lies we tell to protect the ones we love. Set in Maine and Ireland, this is the story of Lily, a lobster fisher, who blames her father for the death of her husband. But after her husband dies, she realises he was keeping a terrible secret from her.

Retail Description

Lily Smith is no stranger to the dangers of lobster fishing. Growing up in Casco bay, on Maine's wild coast line she has loaded traps all her life and is more than aware of the dangers of the treacherous Atlantic ocean. But when her husband Connor is drowned, while working on her father's boat, she can no longer bear to remain in Casco Bay, her watery home no longer the sanctuary it once was. Desperate to keep a link to the man she loved, Lily decides to travel to Ireland, where Connor was born and meet the family he has always kept hidden from her.

But on arrival in Kinsale, the village where Connor grew up Lily doesn't receive the warm welcome she is hoping for. Doors are slammed in her face and when she receives a mysterious letter telling her that Connor wasn't what he seemed, she is forced to dig deeper into the past life of the man she loved. When a terrible secret about Connor emerges Lily is devastated to realise that her husband has wrecked many lives. Did she ever really know the man she married?

Reviews for Noelle Harrison

'This book was so good. I didn't want to put it down... the storyline sucked you into it and made you feel like you were really there.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★

'So much love for this book!! I adored the story of Emer and the prickly Susannah, as they both face up to extremely difficult pasts and find ways of moving forward.' Books and Me, ★★★★★

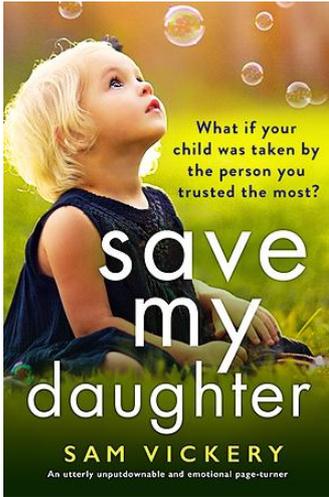
Author Biography

Noelle Harrison is the Irish author of nine novels and five plays and has been translated into over 13 different languages. Her short stories have been published in *Lines of Vision*, *Irish Writing on Irish Art*, & *Gutter Magazine* of *New Scottish Writing*. In 2016, Noelle co-founded *Aurora Writers' Retreats* building on 20 years' experience of teaching creative writing in Ireland, Scotland, Norway and England.



Women's Fiction

292 pages | Pub Date 14/1/2021 | 9781800191976 | Marianne Gunn O'Connor, Marianne Gunn O'Connor



Save My Daughter Sam Vickery

For fans of Jodi Picoult, Kate Hewitt and Diane Chamberlain

Editor's Note

Kindle bestselling author Sam Vickery is back with another moving, heartwrenching novel. When Lily's newborn baby Ella is taken from the theme park one summer's day, she is distraught. Things worsen when she realises who has taken Ella. The woman she trusted most in the world - her best friend Hannah. This not just a compelling race to find a child, but an emotional story that explores what it means to be a friend, a wife and a mother.

Retail Description

As soon as we sat on the ride I knew something was wrong. I couldn't relax. I couldn't hear the theme park music, the giggles of my two other children. I'd left my baby in someone else's care. And I knew I'd made a mistake...

With her two beautiful children and newborn baby Ella, Lily's life is full of love and laughter. She gave up her job to be a stay-at-home mother, and though she sometimes envies the freedom of best friend Hannah, Lily wouldn't trade it for anything.

But Lily's world implodes when Hannah disappears with Ella one day, and Lily fears from the text message she receives that Hannah doesn't intend to come back:

You don't deserve her.

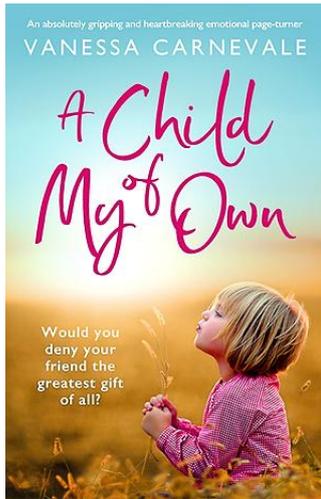
It's true that Lily has been keeping secrets about her marriage from Hannah, ones she thought only she and her husband knew. Suddenly Lily realises that there are things she doesn't know about Hannah too – and that by keeping her husband's secrets, she might pay the ultimate sacrifice.

Reviews for Sam Vickery

Author Biography

Sam Vickery is an English author who loves gritty, emotional stories that can make you sob. As a child, she was forever getting in trouble for being caught with her nose in a book, and these days are no different. She lives on the south coast of England with her husband, two children and a cat that thinks it's a dog.





A Child of My Own Vanessa Carnevale

Previous Translation Publishers
Ersen (Estonian)

For fans of Jodi Picoult, Kelly Rimmer and Kate Hewitt

Previous title My Life For Yours has sold over 12,000 copies since August, and reached the Top 10 on the Kindle AU chart and the Top 100 on the Kindle UK chart

Editor's Note

Vanessa's first book with us, *My Life For Yours*, received rave reviews and soared into the UK top 100, and it's easy to see why: her writing is powerful, authentic and heartbreaking, placing ordinary, relatable characters in extraordinary situations. With *A Child of My Own*, Vanessa once again makes us confront an impossible dilemma, leaving us reaching for the tissues and asking 'what would we do?' No matter how many times I read it, I come away with tears in my eyes. Vanessa has the potential to be up there with authors like Jodi Picoult and I know readers will love this incredible story.

Retail Description

As I watch her walk away, an arm raised to her face as she wipes tears from her eyes, I wonder if I really can go through losing her again. Because if I do this, I might gain a child, but I'll lose her in the process.

Isla and Ben are devoted parents to their beloved daughter, Reese. She is their little miracle, the child they thought they'd never have until donors made her existence possible. But Isla has never told Reese about her biological parents. She wants to be honest with her daughter, but can she bear to open up old wounds?

Then Isla receives a call from Lucy, once her closest friend, and it seems she may need to make a decision sooner than she thought. They haven't spoken in almost ten years, but Lucy has devastating news: she has lost her beloved husband Nate, just after they decided they wanted to become parents after all.

Heartbroken for her friend, Isla welcomes Lucy back into her life. But then Lucy comes to Isla with a request that changes everything. If Lucy gets what she wants, Isla's perfect family could be destroyed. But would she deny the woman who helped her become a mother the chance for her own happiness?

A Child of My Own is a heartbreaking, gripping and emotional story about motherhood, loss and friendship.

Reviews for Vanessa Carnevale

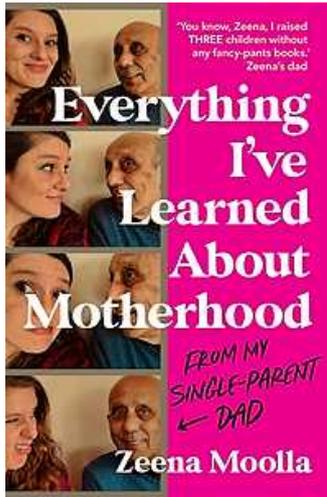
'I devoured this novel whole in one sitting. My God what a ride... it broke my heart... I cried and it takes a lot for a book to make me cry. A definite must read novel for 2021.' NetGalley reviewer, ★★★★★

'Wow keep the tissues handy... This book will make you laugh and cry but also just fill your heart with love and friendship.' NetGalley reviewer ★★★★★

Author Biography

Vanessa Carnevale is a women's fiction author, whose previous novels include *The Memories of Us* and *The Florentine Bridge*. She is also the host of *Your Beautiful Writing Life* retreats, held in Tuscany and Australia. Vanessa loves to travel, and spent several years living in Florence, Italy, a place she considers her second home. She lives in Australia with her husband and two children.





Everything I've Learned about Motherhood (From My Single-Parent Dad)

Zeena Moolla

Editor's Note

I read the proposal on my phone in bed at 1am after I'd finished uploading stacks of overdue schoolwork to three separate Google Classrooms and Zeena's writing had me crying with laughter. Her honesty, humour and warmth immediately struck a chord with me. Zeena's relationship with her dad and how he's shaped her parenting is a big part of this book and it shines an incredibly important light into the kinds of parenting experiences that we simply don't get to read enough about.

Retail Description

'You know, Zeena, I raised THREE children without any fancy-pants books.' Zeena's Dad

Everything I've Learned About Motherhood is part memoir and part parenting book, for the new mother not cherishing every moment. On hand throughout the first year of motherhood, it's a book offering hilarity and comfort, when the eye of the shitstorm is robbing a new mum of her sanity and sense of humour. Zeena covers everything from sleep-deprivation and breast-feeding to mum-shaming, finding your tribe and back-to-work guilt. It's a book that offers the parenting tales of both its author, Zeena, and her amazing, Indian-Muslim, single-parent dad.

The early days of parenting were a complete shitstorm for Zeena. But a sense of humour, the first and biggest top tip she can offer any new parent, buffered so much of that stress. And she has her dad to thank...

For Zeena, being brought up alongside her two siblings solely by a single dad, specifically one of a foreign, Muslim background, exemplified beautifully that parenting and families come in all different shapes and sizes. Her dad not only defied 'cultural norms' and preconceived ideas by being an amazing single parent, he did it with honesty and an inimitable sense of humour.

His massive-hearted parenting shaped who she is and – undoubtedly – the kind of mother she is. Her 83-year-old father is the biggest piss-taker she knows. He can turn any situation around with humour, and if that's not a vital skill in parenting, then what is?

Reviews for Zeena Moolla

Author Biography

Zeena Moolla is a journalist, editor, and blogger. As a journalist, Zeena has written for many publications including Marie Claire, The Telegraph, The Mirror, Good Housekeeping and OK! magazine. Her blog wordtothemothers.com was also turned into a TV series for Made Television, in which Zeena hosted a parent-specific chat show. Word is, Claudia Winkleman and Anita Rani were *actually* bricking it, so to spare their careers, Zeena stopped being on telly.



Inspirational Memoir

0 pages | Pub Date 24/2/2021 | 9781800194229 | Abi Fellows, The Good Literary Agency



Coconut Florence Ọlájídé

Lemn Sissay, Tara Westover,

Editor's Note

As soon as I started reading Florence's memoir I was immediately swept up in her writing. Her story is deeply personal and shines a light on a piece of British history that need to be told and we know very little about. In the fifties and sixties, a generation of Nigerian children were fostered to white families and then taken to Nigeria by their families. Florence was one of those children.

Florence's story is heartbreaking, one of loss and loneliness, surviving poverty, maltreatment and fighting to get an education but most of all, it's an incredibly uplifting and inspiring account of one woman's self-determination to discover who she is and

Retail Description

By the time I was six years old, I knew my life was marked by difference. I was either too Black, too White, too young, or too feisty for those around me.

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.

Florence Olajide's early childhood began in 1950's London. Raised primarily by her white foster family, Florence always felt loved but different to the other children around her. At the age of six, she found herself in Nigeria with her parents struggling to adjust to a new way of life and a culture that she knew little about.

Florence's story is one of loss and loneliness, surviving poverty, maltreatment and fighting to get an education but 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.

Reviews for Florence Ọlájídé

Author Biography



Inspirational Memoir

0 pages | Pub Date 28/5/2021 | 9781800194656 | Unagented

