

david higham

Incorporating Gregory & company

literary, film and tv agents

Focus Guide
Autumn
2022

[Highlights]

Welcome to our Frankfurt 2022 Focus Guide

For more information please go to our website to browse our shelves and find out more about what we do and who we represent.

Primary Agents

US Rights: Veronique Baxter; Maddalena Cavaciuti; Nicola Chang; Elise Dillsworth; David Evans; Jemima Forrester; Stephanie Glencross; Georgia Glover; Anthony Goff (AG); Andrew Gordon (AMG); Jane Gregory; Lizzy Kremer; Sara Langham; Christabel McKinley; Harriet Moore; Caroline Walsh; Jessica Woollard

Film & TV Rights: Clare Israel; Nicky Lund

Translation Rights

Emma Jamison: emmajamison@davidhigham.co.uk

Direct: Brazil; The Netherlands, Portugal; Spain and Latin America; Germany (for AG, VB, SL, JF, MC, ED, CW, JW)

Margaux Vialleron: margauxvialleron@davidhigham.co.uk

Direct: Denmark; Finland; France; Iceland; Italy; Norway; Sweden; Germany (for NC, HM, DE, AMG, LK, JG, SG)

Ilaria Albani: ilariaalbani@davidhigham.co.uk

Direct: Estonia, Indonesia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Vietnam

Co-agented: China; Japan; Korea; Poland; Russia; Taiwan; Thailand; Turkey

Sam Norman: samnorman@davidhigham.co.uk

Direct: Albania; Arabic; Bulgaria; Croatia; Georgia; Greece; Israel; Macedonia; Slovenia

Co-agented: Czech Republic; Hungary; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia

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THE FUTURE

Naomi Alderman



The most significant novel about our present moment – and the future it portends.

Beginning five minutes from now, *THE FUTURE* is a tour de force of intelligence and storytelling, marrying white-knuckle narrative propulsion with an intellectually dazzling critique of the world we have made and what comes next.

In Silicon Valley, the minions are plotting. Martha, executive assistant to the CEO of Fantail the world's largest social media company meets Selah, unhappily married to the founder of Anvil, the shop that sells everything. Albert, ousted founder of Medlar the computer hardware giant, meets Badger, the child of Medlar's new chief executive. Things are on the brink. Whilst Big Tech are building their bunkers to escape the coming apocalypse, the minions have a plan to pull off the most daring heist the world has seen. They're going to steal the companies and save the world from the greed and dominance of the billionaires.

There are only two problems. One is that the crises are coming fast: Miami is under water, new deadly diseases are coming faster and faster, wildfires are spreading more quickly than anyone can fight them.

And then there's the other problem. Martha has met Zhen, a journalist specialising in apocalypse survival. And fallen in love. And "in love with a journalist" is no way to run a secret heist.

UK: Fourth Estate, Autumn 2023

UK Editor: TBC

US: On Submission

Primary Agent: VB

Tv/Film Agent: Sylvie Rabineau at WME

Rights sold:

Italian - Under offer

Additional info:

Extent: 103,000 words

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Unedited manuscript

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media Agency

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

Praise for *The Power*:

"Electrifying" - Margaret Atwood

"A big, page-turning, thought-provoking thriller" - *Guardian*

"Irresistible. Holds a mirror up to the here and now" - *Mail on Sunday*

"Chilling, thrilling, a blast" - *Financial Times*

Naomi Alderman's most recent novel *The Power* was the winner of the 2017 Baileys' Women's Prize for Fiction. Her first novel, *Disobedience* was adapted into a feature-length film by Oscar-winning director Sebastián Lelio, starring Rachel Weisz and Rachel McAdams. In 2006 she won the Orange Award for New Writers. In 2007 she was named *Sunday Times*' Young Writer of the Year, and one of Waterstones' 25 Writers for the Future. Naomi has been mentored by Margaret Atwood and in April 2013 she was named one of Granta's Best British Novelists. She is Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

ORWELL'S GHOSTS

Laura Beers



What does George Orwell's life and work really tell us about our present 'Orwellian' culture wars?

In recent years, with the rise of cancel culture, 'fake news' and concerted disinformation campaigns, invocations of George Orwell and his classic dystopian novel *1984* have reached new heights. Conservatives and progressives across the Western world have embraced the rhetoric of Orwellianism to denounce their opponents. But what does it really mean to be 'Orwellian'? Is it shorthand for something sinister, in the manner of Big Brother himself, or a way of paying tribute to one of the clearest-eyed writers of the twentieth century?

In this groundbreaking and fascinating exploration, Laura Beers examines the key facets of Orwell's life and work to assess what he really thought about present concerns including capitalism, socialism and feminism, and the ways in which his name is invoked for good or ill. *Orwell's Ghosts* shows the astonishing legacy of this most prescient of writers, and will be essential reading not just for fans of his work but anyone interested in parsing the language of the culture wars.

UK: On submission

Primary Agent: AMG

TV/Film Agent: AMG

Additional info:

Extent: 60,000 words

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Proposal

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media
Agency

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

Praise for *Red Ellen*:

'Beers draws a multi-faceted portrait, capturing the woman herself as well as her remarkable political career' – *Wall Street Journal*

'A full (and) thorough life of a striking and flamboyant figure'
– *Times Literary Supplement*

Laura Beers is Professor of British History at the American University, Washington DC, and divides her time between Washington and York in the UK. She is the author of two previous books: *Your Britain: Media and the Making of the Labour Party*, and *Red Ellen: The Life of Ellen Wilkinson*, both published by Harvard University Press. This is her first book for the general reader.

PATRIARCHY INC.

Cordelia Fine



From the Royal Society Prize-winning author of *Testosterone Rex*, a devastating dissection of the most successful pillar of patriarchy: inequality in the workplace.

Cordelia Fine's newest focus is on gender equality and how far away from it we still are, exploring in particular the workplace as the principal locus through which these injustices play out. For many, ideas about equality being a good thing for its own sake have been superseded by the 'business case': the notion that gender equality in organisations and businesses must be pursued only because it is good for productivity (read: profit). And meanwhile the language has shifted too: 'equality' on its own is not enough; we must instead discuss *gender diversity* and *inclusion*. Laudable aims in themselves, for who would claim to be in favour of 'gender uniformity' and 'exclusion'?

But along the way we risk losing sight of the original goal, and the whole issue ends up as 'dead dogma' – John Stuart Mill's description of a widely held doctrine for which, once debate has subsided, 'not only the grounds of the opinion are forgotten in the absence of discussion, but too often the meaning of the opinion itself'.

Aiming to challenge the assumptions of both champions and sceptics of gender balance, *Patriarchy Inc.* will offer a much-needed guide to understanding why workplace sex equality matters – and how to get closer to achieving it.

UK: Atlantic

UK Editor: Poppy Hampson

US: W. W. Norton

US Editor: Amy Cherry

Primary Agent: AMG

TV/Film Agent: AMG

Additional info:

Extent: 80,000 words

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Proposal;

unedited manuscript due December 2022

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media

Agency

Japanese - Japan Uni

Praise for *Testosterone Rex*:

WINNER OF THE 2017 ROYAL SOCIETY INSIGHT INVESTMENT SCIENCE BOOK PRIZE

"Fine's entertaining and thoughtful book is a valuable addition to the discussion about gender" – Ian Critchley, *Sunday Times*

"In addition to being hopeful, Fine is also angry. We should all be angry. *Testosterone Rex* is a debunking rumble that ought to inspire a roar" – *Guardian*

Cordelia Fine is Professor of the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Melbourne. In 2018 she was awarded the Edinburgh Medal for her work on challenging gender perceptions in science and her contributions to society's understanding of gender stereotypes. Her previous much-acclaimed books are *A Mind of Its Own*, *Delusions of Gender* and *Testosterone Rex*.

MAAME

Jessica George



Smart, funny and heart-breaking, the story of Maddie, a young British Ghanaian woman, as she grapples with family, friendships, love, loss – and learning to navigate life one frantic Google search at a time.

Up to now, Maddie's life has revolved around being the primary carer for her father who suffers from Parkinson's. Between that and working a job she hates where she's the only black woman in every meeting, Maddie barely has time for a social life, let alone a love life.

When her mother returns from an extended stay in Ghana, Maddie takes the opportunity to move out of the family house and finally start living her life. She finds a flat share, starts saying yes to after-work drinks and dives into the murky world of internet dating.

But when tragedy strikes, Maddie is forced to face the true nature of her unconventional family situation: a mother who takes more than she gives, a father who barely managed to say he loved her, and a brother who dealt with it all by leaving.

UK: Hodder & Stoughton, Spring 2023

UK Editor: Olivia Barber

US: St Martin's Press, Spring 2023

US Editor: Sarah Cantin

Primary Agent: JF

TV/Film Agent: TBC

Rights sold:

German - btb Verlag

Additional info:

Extent: 88,000 words

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Page proofs

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media

Agency

Japanese - Japan Uni

Praise for *Maame*:

'Honest, warm, heart-breaking and heart-healing. It felt truly modern, yet somehow timeless. I adored it' - Nikki May, author of *Wahala*

'A poignant coming-of-age tale about finding strength, hope and courage . . . Maame's quiet confidence is true to life and liberating'

- Lizzie Damilola Blackburn, author of *Yinka, Where is your Husband?*

'Utterly charming and deeply moving . . . Maddie's journey will resonate with anyone who's had to grow up - or who's still trying to'

- Celeste Ng, author of *Little Fires Everywhere*

Lively, funny, poignant . . . Prepare to fall in love with Maddie. I did!' - Bonnie Garmus, author of *Lessons in Chemistry*

'Meeting Maame feels like falling in love for the first time: warm, awkward, joyous, a little bit heartbreaking and, most of all, unforgettable' - Xochitl Gonzalez, author of *Olga Dies Dreaming*

Jessica George was born and raised in London to Ghanaian parents and studied English Literature at the University of Sheffield. After working at a literary agency and a theatre, she landed a job in the editorial department of a publishing house. She now lives in south west London with an incontrovertible sweet tooth and the knowledge that she can consume half a cake by herself if left to her own devices.

ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS

Araminta Hall



"I would never, ever hurt a woman."

Cole is one of the good guys: supportive of his wife's career, keen to be a hands-on dad, a romantic, engaged by the natural world, not a big drinker. Quiet-spoken.

Recovering from the end of his marriage, Cole has started a new life by the sea, looking after the national park, sea swimming, nursing his wounds now his dreams of starting a family with his ex have foundered. When he first sees Lennie, the woman who is living in the next cottage up the cliff path, he thinks he might have finally found a soulmate. The real Lennie turns out to be quite different from the woman he'd expected — but no less intriguing to him in some ways.

As for Lennie, she's happy to get to know a good guy, even if it's not the alone time she'd planned for herself.

UK: Pan Macmillan , February 2024

UK Editor: Francesca Pathak

US: On submission

Primary Agent: LK

TV/Film Agent: NL

Two young women are walking the coastal path nearby to raise awareness of the consequences of violence against women. When they go missing, Cole and Lennie are upset — they had both met the young women in the day leading up to their disappearance.

Options:

Italian - Piemme

Norway - Cappelen Damm

Surely they'll be ok. It isn't true, what they say: that the young women always end up dead. *Is it?*'

Praise for Araminta Hall:

'A searing, chilling sliver of perfection... may well turn out to be the year's best thriller.' - *New York Times* on *Our Kind of Cruelty*

'Simply one of the most disturbing thrillers I've read in years. In short I loved it, right down to the utterly chilling final line' - Gillian Flynn on *Our Kind of Cruelty*

'Immersive, suspenseful and humane, this is a novel to savour.'
- Louise Candlish on *Hidden Depths*

'A psychological thriller in the truest sense of the word: a thoughtful examination of the psyche of three credible women with baggage and flaws... At points I was folding pages repeatedly. Deeply unsettling.'
- Sarah Vaughan, author of *Reputation*

Additional info:

Extent: 227 pages

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Unedited manuscript

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media

Agency

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

Araminta Hall has worked as a writer, journalist and teacher. Her first novel was *Richard & Judy pick Everything & Nothing* (2011). It followed by *Dot* in 2013 and *Our Kind of Cruelty* in 2018. Her fourth novel, *Perfect Strangers*, was published by Orion in the UK and FSG in the US. The television rights have been optioned by The Handmaid's Tale and Mad Men star Elisabeth Moss for her production company, Love & Squalor Pictures. Araminta's latest novel is *Hidden Depths*, published by Orion in March 2022.

PIGLET

Lottie Hazell



Her life is so full, so why is she hungry?

Patisserie is a commitment. Marriage is delicious.

Piglet is judging the contents of your shopping trolley. She is listening to what you order for lunch and is observing whether the dessert you serve is homemade or snatched from a packet. There isn't another 31-year-old that takes food more seriously. And who could blame her, with a childhood nickname like that?

In just over a fortnight, she is marrying Kit. Kit and his tasteful family present an opportunity for reinvention — when she had been growing up in Derby, this life, this man had been beyond her imagination. Together they are the picture of domestic bliss — effortless hosts in their new house and planning an immaculate, covetable wedding. Everything is coming together for Piglet — tied as tightly and perfectly as her apron strings.

UK: Under offer

Primary Agent: HM

TV/Film Agent: TBC

Additional info:

Extent: 75,000 words

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Unedited manuscript

Subagents:

Chinese - Andrew Nurnberg Associates

Japanese - Japan Uni

But if something looks too good to be true, it probably is. Two weeks before their wedding, Kit reveals an awful truth which unravels everything. There are some things you can't tell your friends — Piglet knows that truths, once spoken, have the power to strip her of the life she has so carefully built, so smugly shared. And she knows that the truth could return her to her family.

To say something, to do something, to feel something, would be to self-destruct. If they could all just leave her to get through the next fortnight, then she can get everything back under control.

Then, with her husband, she will be herself again. It would be a waste for everything to curdle now.

She must follow the recipe, follow the rules. But as the days count down to their wedding, her appetite begins to grow and grow.

At the reception Piglet eats, Piglet listens to Kit's speech. As he lifts his glass to toast his new wife, Piglet stands to speak...

Lottie Hazell is a writer, contemporary literature scholar, and board game designer living in Warwickshire. She is currently undertaking a practice-based PhD at Loughborough University where she also teaches creative writing. Her research considers subversive femininity in twenty-first century fiction with a particular interest in the domestic, food writing, and trauma narratives. She writes fiction and criticism for publications including *New Formations*, *Lecker*, and *Bath Flash Fiction*. *Piglet* is her debut novel.

MEDEA

Rosie Hewlett



A tale of love, death, magic, adventure, mistrust and murder, *Medea* is the gripping story of the most powerful and feared woman in Greek mythology.

Daughter, sister, wife, mother, witch, murderer.

Medea, daughter of King Aeetes of Colchis, longs for a different life. Since childhood, she has been separated from her sister, shunned by her mother, and beaten and tormented by her brother and father. All because Medea was born with a unique and seemingly dangerous talent: witchcraft.

But when a dashing young hero, Jason, arrives to claim the famed Golden Fleece that her father fiercely protects, Medea sees her opportunity for escape. In offering to help Jason overcome the obstacles that stand between him and his prize in return for taking her away from Colchis, she sets in motion a journey that will test every ounce of her strength, magic and loyalty; a journey that will see her battle monsters, dethrone kings and fall in love with a man who could never hope to deserve her; a journey that will inevitably end in betrayal and bloodshed.

In this powerful and unique retelling of Euripides' renowned tragedy, Medea is given centre stage and we see a woman of improbable skill and strength, held back at every turn by the selfish, self-serving men in her life, and driven to a final act of desperation so brutal it rips apart the lives of everyone involved.

UK: Transworld

UK Editor: Lara Stevenson

Primary Agent: JF

TV/Film Agent: CI

Rights sold:

Italian - Sperling

Additional info:

Extent: 120,000 words

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Unedited manuscript

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media Agency

Japanese - Japan Uni

Praise for *Medusa*:

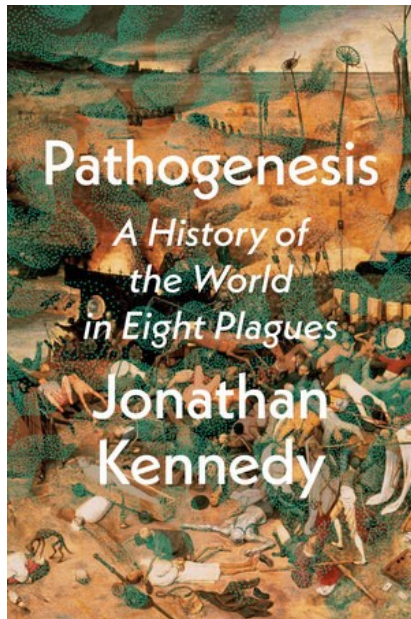
"Hewlett impressively captures the voice of a woman who has been silenced and shaped by men into something she never wanted to be. Lovers of mythology are sure to be pleased by this deeper look into Medusa's origin story." - *Publishers Weekly*

"I was so absorbed by the furious, passionate voice of Medusa interspersed with biting commentary." - Jennifer Saint, author of *Ariadne*

Having secured a first-class honours degree in Classical Literature and Civilisation at the University of Birmingham, **Rosie Hewlett** has studied Greek mythology in depth and is passionate about reclaiming the strong female voices lost within these fantastical stories. During the 2020 lockdown when our world stood still, Rosie escaped into the world of myth and wrote her debut novel, *Medusa*, which went on to win the Rubery Book of the Year Award 2021. Rosie lives in Kent with her partner and two very spoiled cats. You can find her on Instagram @rosiehewlett.author

PATHOGENESIS

Jonathan Kennedy



A sweeping look at how the major transformations in history—from the rise of *Homo sapiens* to the birth of capitalism—have been shaped not by humans but by germs.

According to the accepted narrative of progress, humans have thrived thanks to their brains and brawn, to actions undertaken individually and collectively that have changed the arc of history. In this revelatory book, sociologist and public health professor Jonathan Kennedy argues that the peddlers of the exceptionalism myth massively overestimate the role that humans play in social change. Instead, it is the humble microbe that wins wars and topples empires.

Drawing on the latest research in genetics, economics, sociology, and anthropology, *Pathogenesis* explores eight outbreaks of infectious disease that made the modern world. Bacteria and viruses were responsible for the demise of the Neanderthals, the growth of Islam, the transition from feudalism to capitalism, the devastation wrought by European colonialism, and the rise of the United States from an imperial backwater to a global superpower.

By centering disease in his wide-ranging history of humankind, Kennedy challenges our most fundamental assumptions about our collective past—and urges us to view our current moment as another disease-driven inflection point that could change the course of history. Provocative and brimming with insight, *Pathogenesis* transforms our understanding of the human story.

UK: Transworld, February 2023

UK Editor: Alex Christofi

US: Crown

US Editor: Amanda Cook

Primary Agent: JW

TV/Film Agent: DHA

Rights sold:

Chinese Simplified – Golden Rose Books

Dutch – De Bezige Bij

Norwegian – Manuskript Forlag

Additional info:

Extent: 98,500 words

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Edited manuscript

Subagents:

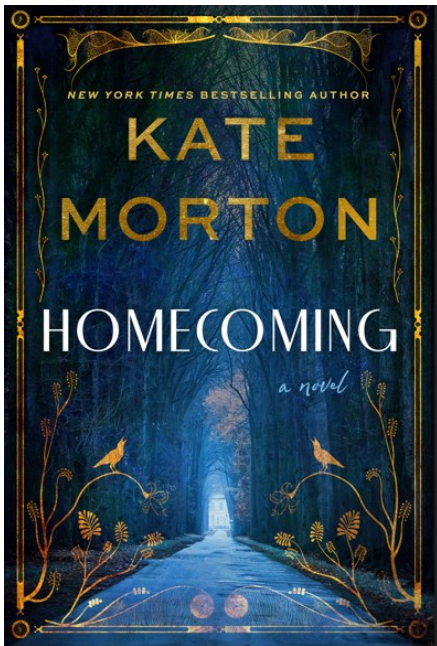
Chinese – Bardon Chinese Media Agency

Japanese – Tuttle-Mori

Jonathan Kennedy is Senior Lecturer and Director of Global Public Health programmes at Barts and the London Medical School. Kennedy has written op-eds in the *Guardian*, blogs for the *London Review of Books* and has published work in *El Pais*, the *Lancet*, *European Journal of Public Health*, *European Journal of Sociology*, and *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. He has contributed chapters for Oxford University Press's *Handbook of Global Health Politics* and Cambridge University Press's latest edition of *Global Health and Ethics*. His published research covers a broad range of countries and regions, including India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Nigeria, Myanmar, and Western Europe.

HOMECOMING

Kate Morton



UK: Macmillan, April 2023
UK Editor: Maria Rejt
US: Mariner Books, April 2023
US Editor: Kate Nintzel
Primary Agent: LK
TV/Film Agent: NL

Rights sold:

Catalan – Suma de Letras
Czech – Under offer
Danish – Cicero
Dutch – Meulenhoff Boekerij
Finnish – Otava
French – Charleston
German – Heyne
Italian – Under offer
Norwegian – Vigmostad & Bjoerke
Polish – Under offer
Romanian – Under offer
Spanish – Suma de Letras

Additional info:

Extent: 170,000 words
Illustrations: No
Material Available: Revised manuscript

Subagents:

Chinese – Bardon Chinese Media
Agency
Japanese – Japan Uni

From the *New York Times* bestselling author, a sweeping saga with a thrilling mystery at its heart tracing a shocking crime whose effects echo across continents and generations.

Adelaide Hills, Christmas Eve, 1959: At the end of a scorching hot day, beside a creek in the grounds of the grand and mysterious mansion, a local delivery man makes a terrible discovery. A police investigation is called and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most shocking and perplexing murder cases in the history of South Australia.

Sixty years later, Jess is a journalist in search of a story. Having lived and worked in London for almost twenty years, she now finds herself laid off from her full-time job and struggling to make ends meet. A phone call out of nowhere summons her back to Sydney, where her beloved grandmother, Nora, who raised Jess when her mother could not, has suffered a fall and been raced to the hospital.

An epic novel that spans generations, *Homecoming* asks what we would do for those we love, and how we protect the lies we tell. It explores the power of motherhood, the corrosive effects of tightly held secrets, and the healing nature of truth. Above all, it is a beguiling and immensely satisfying novel from one of the finest writers working today.

Praise for *The Clockmaker's Daughter*.

'An elaborate tapestry. . . Morton doesn't disappoint.' - *Washington Post*

'Classic English country-house Goth at its finest.' - *New York Post*

'*The Clockmaker's Daughter* is an ambitious, complex, compelling historical mystery with a fabulous cast of characters. This is Kate Morton at her very best.'
- Kristin Hannah, author of *The Four Winds*

Kate Morton is the award-winning, New York Times bestselling author of *The House at Riverton*, *The Forgotten Garden*, *The Distant Hours*, *The Secret Keeper*, *The Lake House*, and *The Clockmaker's Daughter*. Her books are published in 38 languages and have been #1 bestsellers worldwide. She lives with her family in Australia and London.

MOEDERLAND

Cato Pedder



A fascinating, unflinching and forensic work of non-fiction by Cato Pedder, the great-grand daughter of Jan Smuts, the South African prime minister who paved the way for apartheid.

Moederland is a courageous and modern appraisal of what it means to be descended from the people who created the ultra-racist apartheid system in South Africa. Illuminating its turbulent history through the lives of her female ancestors, it is a history of South Africa like no other, told from the perspective of women long silenced in the historical narrative. It asks, what were they doing while white supremacy was constructed?

UK: On submission

US: On submission

Primary Agent: VB

TV/Film Agent: VB

Additional info:

Extent: 118,000 words

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Unedited manuscript

Subagents:

Chinese - Andrew Nurnberg

Associates

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

Cato Pedder travels the centuries from the 1600s, when Cape Town was a remote outpost of the Dutch East India Company, to the kraal of a Zulu king in the 1800s before doubling back to Europe and then culminating with the English Quaker aunt who defies apartheid to marry across the colour line. As anti-racist campaigners call out the statue of Jan Smuts in Parliament Square, Cato Pedder painstakingly excavates the long-forgotten life stories of the women of her prehistory, unpacking the legacy of her Afrikaans heritage and bringing their collective shame into the light.

Cato Pedder was born into the Quaker Clark shoe family and is a former newspaper reporter with 15 years of experience in South Africa and the UK, including at the Johannesburg Star and The Sun. She graduated from Cambridge University in English Literature and holds further degrees in African Studies from SOAS and Creative Writing from Kingston University, where she won the academic prize. She is a published poet, was born in California and brought up in England. She has lived in South Africa and returns there regularly.

THE CENTRE

Ayesha Manazir Siddiqi



A darkly comic, boundary-pushing debut following an adrift Pakistani translator in London who attends a mysterious language school which boasts complete fluency in just ten days, but at a secret, sinister cost.

Anisa Ellahi moved to England from Pakistan when she was eighteen. Now, nearly two decades on, she is frustrated. On the one hand, she longs to be a translator of 'great works of literature' and on the other, she's fed up of her uprootedness, of always being the translator in the room. Anisa spends her days somewhat listlessly, doing subtitles for Bollywood films and discussing the underside of life with her best friend Naima, a shamanic healer and tantric practitioner, while quietly living off her parents' generous allowance.

Then, she meets Adam, who appears to have a savant-level aptitude for several languages. Through him, she learns of the Centre, an elite, invite-only language school that guarantees complete fluency in any language in ten days. Anisa decides that the Centre could be the stepping stone to the fulfillment she's dreamt of, and so she attends, only to later unravel the true cost of what she's signed up for.

The Centre is a novel that charms with its wit, delights in the darkness it explores and pushes us into uncomfortable and fascinating reckonings with our biases, our assumptions and our careless consumerism. It is a brilliant exploration of race, class, gender and spirituality that travels between London, Karachi and New Delhi, interrogating the sticky politics of language, translation and appropriation with biting specificity, ultimately asking, what is success really worth?

UK: Picador, July 2023

UK Editor: Sophie Jonathan

US: Gillian Flynn Books (Zando Projects)

US Editor: Sareena Kamath

Primary Agent: SL

TV/Film Agent: TBC

Additional info:

Extent: 78,000 words

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Edited manuscript

Subagents:

Chinese - Andrew Nurnberg Associates

Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

Ayesha Manazir Siddiqi has written plays, essays, book reviews, and short stories. Her work has appeared in anthologies by Peepal Tree Press, Oberon Books, Influx Press, EMC, and Tilted Axis Press (forthcoming), and in publications including the *Independent*, *CeaseFire Magazine*, *The Theatre Times*, *Wasafiri*, and *Media Diversified*. Her plays have been staged widely. Ayesha also works as an editor and occasional translator. She was a contributing editor for the *New York Times* podcast *The Trojan Horse Affair*. Ayesha is from Karachi and lives in London.

THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

Lisa Smith



A sweeping coming of age debut about love, life and family set in 1980s and 1990s London by an exciting new voice in British fiction.

January 1981. An arson attack in New Cross has killed thirteen black teenagers. There is fear and anger in the black community. All ten-year-old Daphne wants is to fit in at school. She tries her best to keep herself to herself and avoid playground politics, but in spite of herself, she finds herself drawn to Mark Barrett, the most popular boy in class, who despite his racist upbringing, appears to like her too. Daphne's attempts at invisibility are disrupted by the arrival of Cornelius. 'Connie' is fresh off the boat from 'yard' (Jamaica), lanky and terribly dressed. A friendship blossoms, but when Connie lets slip that he and his mother 'nuh land' – meaning that they are here illegally and could be deported at any time – the grim reality of Connie's predicament sharpens young Daphne's sense of responsibility to her new friend.

UK: Dialogue Books
UK Editor: Sharmaine Lovegrove
US: On submission
Primary Agent: NC
TV/Film Agent: TBC

Rights sold:
Italian - Under offer

Additional info:
Extent: 300 pages
Illustrations: No
Material Available: Unedited manuscript

Subagents:
Chinese - Andrew Nurnberg Associates
Japanese - Tuttle-Mori

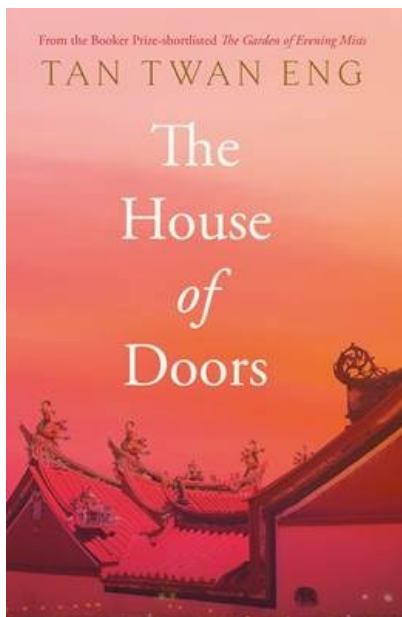
Unfolding over the course of a decade, we see these two children grow up into teenagers and then young adults, falling in and out of love and facing adversity together, alongside a rambunctious cast of characters, including Daphne's formidable Jamaican grandmother, Miss Gladys.

An eye-opening, immersive novel that is a pleasure to read, *The Land of Milk and Honey* is an extraordinary debut full of heart, hope and unforgettable characters, for fans of Zadie Smith, Monica Ali, Caleb Azumah Nelson, Andrea Levy, Brit Bennett, Douglas Stuart and Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie.

Lisa Smith is a writer from South London born to Caribbean parents. She previously worked as documentary filmmaker. She took an MA in Creative & Life Writing at Goldsmiths, graduating in 2018. Her short story Church Going appeared in Goldfish in 2016 and her short story Auld Lang Syne won the second Guardian 4th Estate BAME Short Story Prize in 2017, after Guy Gunaratne. Lisa won the Pat Kavanagh Prize in 2019 and in 2020 she was selected to join the London Library Emerging Writers Programme .

THE HOUSE OF DOORS

Tan Twan Eng



UK: Canongate, June 2023

UK Editor: Francis Bickmore

US: Bloomsbury, September 2023

US Editor: Daniel Loedel

Primary Agent: JW/JG

TV/Film Agent: CI

Rights sold:

Dutch - Under offer

Italian - Under offer

Spanish - Under offer

Additional info:

Extent: 96,000 words

Illustrations: No

Material Available: Revised manuscript

Subagents:

Chinese - Bardon Chinese Media Agency

Japanese - Japan Uni

From Man Booker Prize-shortlisted Tan Twan Eng, *The House of Doors* is a masterful novel of a life and love a hundred years ago.

Lesley and her husband Robert Hamlyn, a lawyer, live at Cassowary House in the Straits Settlement of Penang. It is 1921 and the world is slowly recovering from war. An old friend of Robert's comes to stay; Willie is travelling round Malaya with his secretary, Gerald and their extended stay at Cassowary House has a lasting effect on the lives of all concerned. This exquisitely written novel is based on real events. Tan dives deep into the complexities of love, betrayal and the tension between public morality and private truth; traces the fault lines of race, sexuality, gender and power under Empire, and the way love and friendship might live under its shadow.

'Willie' Somerset Maugham was one of the greatest writers of his day but personally he was beleaguered at this point in his career, troubled by an unhappy and expensive marriage. Maugham's health had been badly affected by extended travelling in the tropics and his business interests - which allowed him the freedom to travel - had just gone badly awry. Maugham is desperately in need of a good subject for his next book.

Lesley is in her own way enduring a marriage that was more emotionally duplicitous than it at first appeared. As her friendship with Willie grows, she makes the courageous decision to confide in him even though she knows it could ruin her. She tells him her own private tales of Straits life, including how she came to know Dr Sun Yat Sen, a charismatic revolutionary fighting to overthrow the imperial dynasty of China, and also of the scandalous case of an Englishwoman charged with murder in Kuala Lumpur - an outrage drawn from fact and worthy of fiction.

This is a brilliantly written and emotionally finely tuned novel with great emotional depth.

Praise for Tan Twan Eng:

'It is impossible to resist the opening sentence of this sumptuously produced novel . . . It showcases Tan Twan Eng as a master of cultural complexities' - *Guardian*

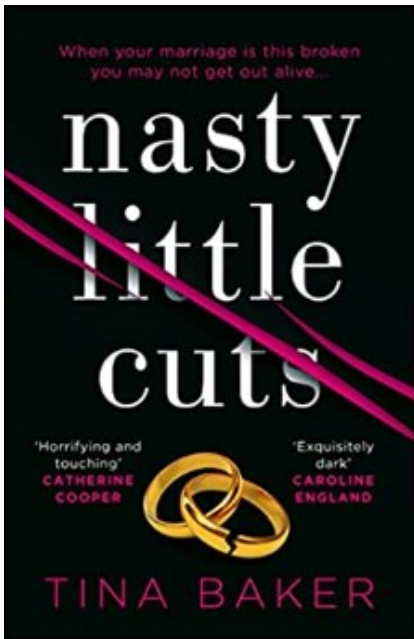
'A beautiful, dark and wistful exploration of loss and remembrance, that will stay with you long after reading' - *Daily Telegraph*

'Elegant and atmospheric' - *The Times*

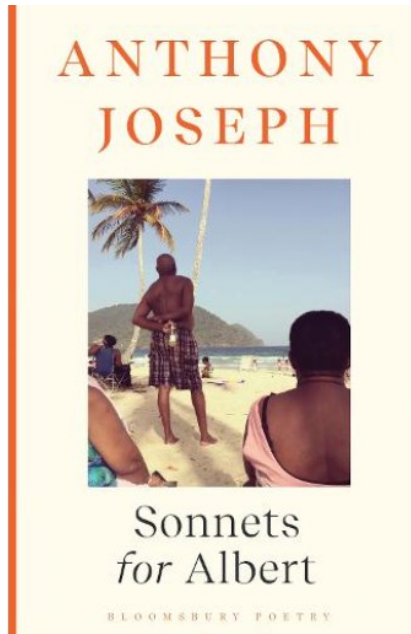
'Complex and powerful . . . sophisticated and satisfying' - *Sunday Times*

Tan Twan Eng was born in Penang, but lived in various places in Malaysia as a child. He studied law through the University of London, and later worked as an advocate and solicitor in one of Kuala Lumpur's most reputable law firms. He also has a first-dan ranking in aikido and is a strong proponent for the conservation of heritage buildings. His first novel, *The Gift of Rain*, was longlisted for the Man Booker in 2007 and *The Garden of Evening Mists* was shortlisted for the Man Booker in 2012 and is winner of the Man Asia Literary Prize 2012. Twan divides his time between Malaysia and South Africa. In 2023 he was selected as a judge for the International Man Booker Prize.

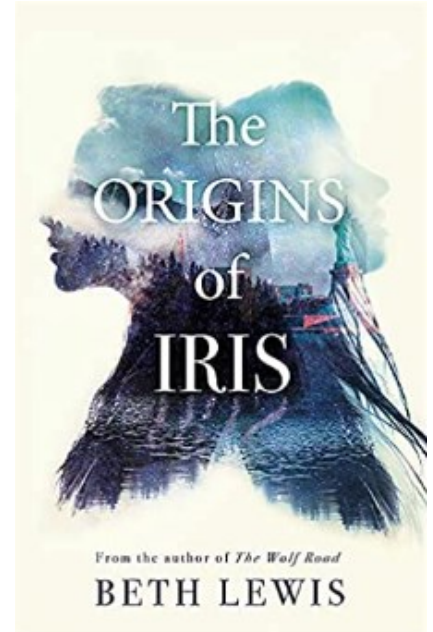
Prizes 2022



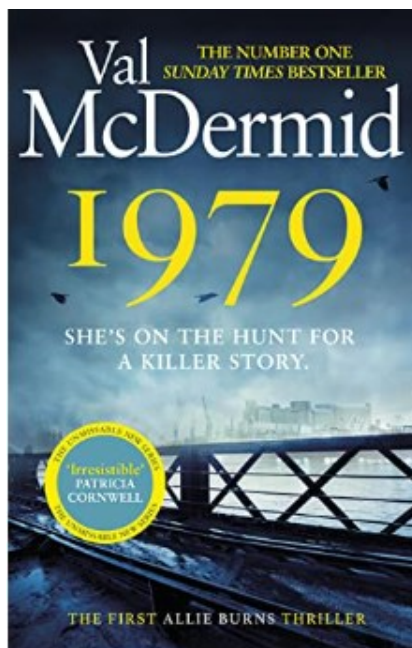
Nasty Little Cuts
by Tina Baker
Shortlisted for the Dead
Good Reader Awards



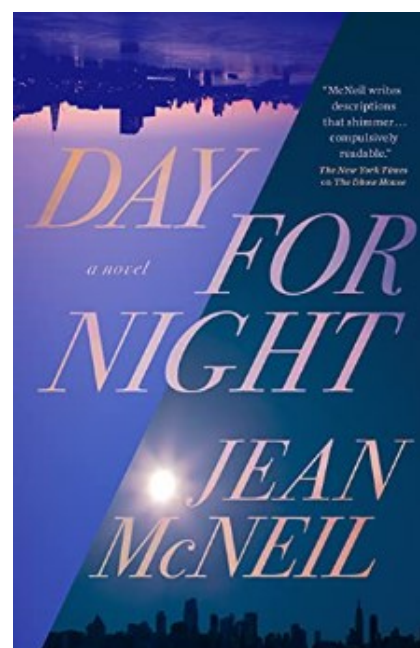
Sonnets for Albert
by Anthony Joseph
Shortlisted for the Forward Prize
for Poetry Best Collection



The Origins of Iris
by Beth Lewis
Longlisted for the Polari
Prize



Allie Burns series
by Val McDermid
Shortlisted for the Dead
Good Reader Awards

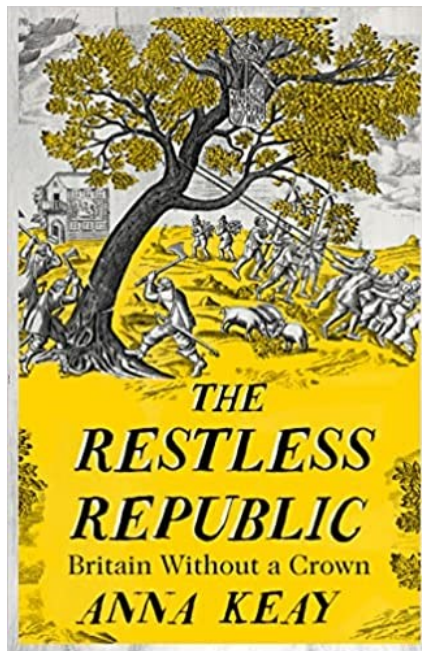


Day for Night
by Jean McNeil
Winner of the Independent
Publisher Book Awards

Prizes 2022



Things I Have Withheld
by Kei Miller
Shortlisted for the Orwell Prize
for Political Writing & for the
2021 Baillie Gifford Prize



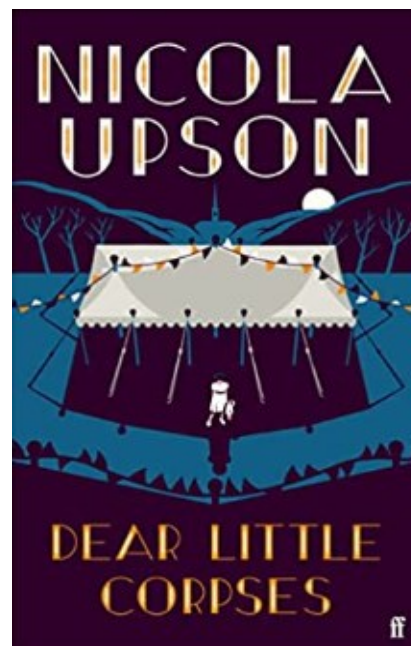
The Restless Republic
by Anna Keay
Longlisted for the 2022 Baillie
Gifford Prize



Insomnia
by Sarah Pinborough
Audible Editors' Picks of the
Month of April 2022

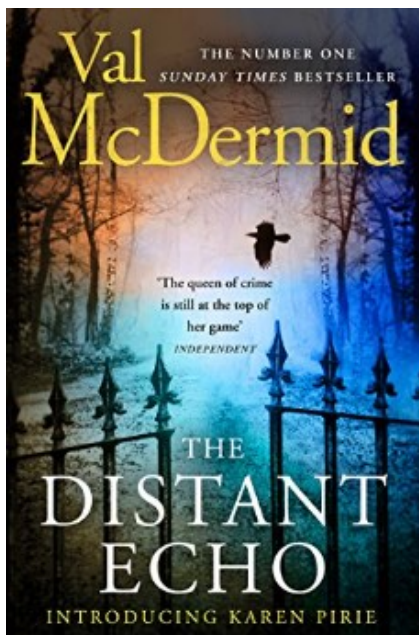


Hot Air
by Peter Stott
Shortlisted for the RSL
Christopher Bland

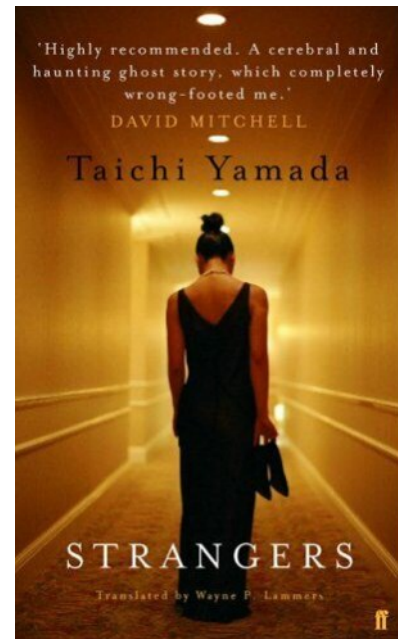


Dear Little Corpses
by Nicola Upson
The *Sunday Times* Crime Book of
the Month of May 2022

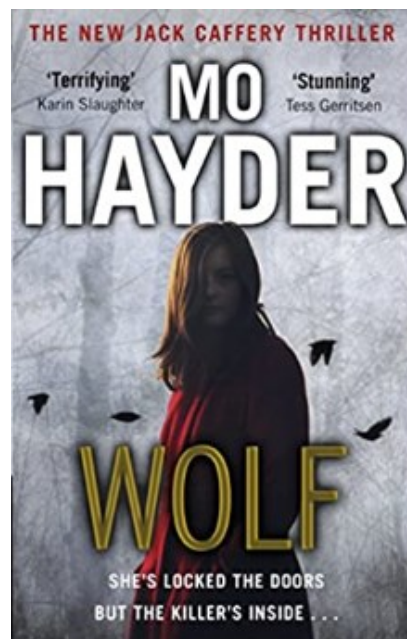
Film and TV news 2022



Karen Pirie series
by Val McDermid
Six-part series with World
Productions to launch this
September on ITV

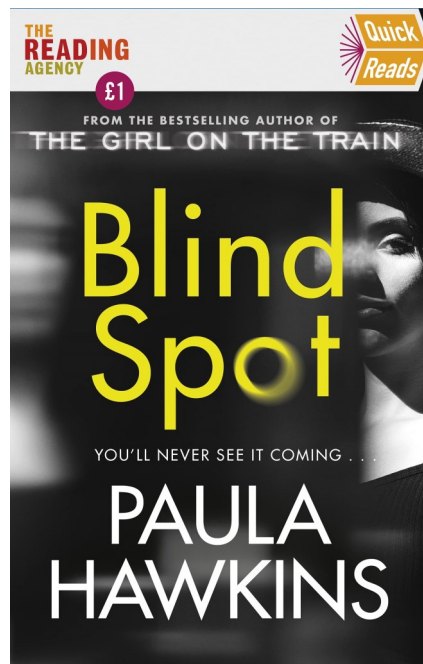


Strangers
by Taichi Yamada
Feature film adapted and
directed by Andrew Haigh to be
released in 2023

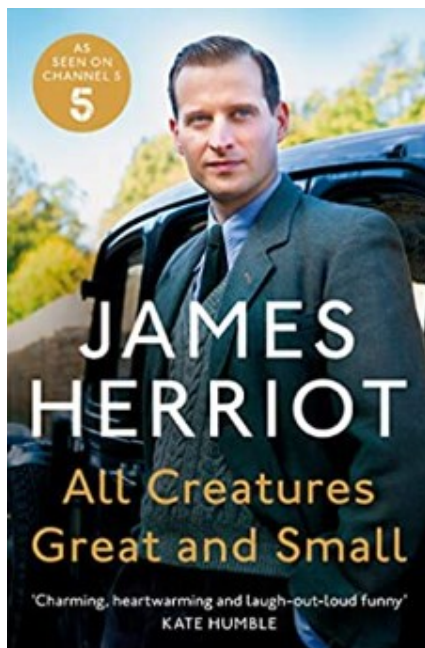


Wolf (Jack Caffrey Series)
by Mo Hayder
Six-part series with Hartwood
Films to launch in 2023 on the
BBC

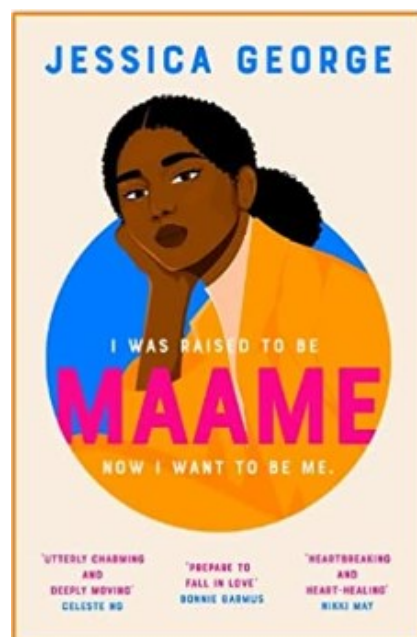
Film and TV news 2022



Blind Spot
by Paula Hawkins
Blumhouse Television and
Paper Pictures developing
screen adaptation



All Creatures Great and Small
by James Herriot
Series 3 to air this Autumn
on Channel 5



MAAME
by Jessica George
Film and TV rights under
option