

MUSWELL PRESS



2022

Welcome to the 2022 Muswell Press catalogue, celebrating our first five years. We now have 33 titles in print and a wonderful team of writers. This year will be our biggest to date with 16 books, straddling crime, contemporary fiction, memoir, travel and including new titles on the innovative Queer List and the launch of two Classic Espionage titles in what will become a regular series.

Thank you to our authors for their faith in Muswell Press, we love working with you. We'd also like to thank all the booksellers, agents and MP friends who have supported us and continue to do so.

Sarah and Kate Beal



THE WHALE TATTOO

Jon Ransom

‘The Whale Tattoo is a stunning achievement – one of the most impressive and assured debuts I’ve ever read’ – Matt Cain

‘A bold, beautiful and brilliant debut’ – Suzannah Dunn

‘Raw, uncompromising and authentic, a remarkable debut from and astonishingly gifted writer’ – Golnoosh Nour



FEBRUARY

ISBN: 9781838340117
eISBN: 9781838340124
Paperback with flaps / 198 x 129mm
£9.99 / 240pp
UK/Com Rights

When a giant sperm whale washes up on the local beach it tells Joe Gunner – a confused working-class lad - that death will follow him wherever he goes. Joe knows that the place he needs to go is back home. Having stormed out two years ago, it won't be easy, nor will returning to the river beside the house where words ripple beneath the surface washing up all sorts of memories.

Joe turns to his sister, Birdee, the only person who has ever listened. But she can't help him, she drowned two years ago. Then there's Tim Fysh, local fisherman and long-time lover. But reviving their bond is bound to cause trouble.

As the water settles and Joe learns the truth about the river, he finds that we all have the capability to hate, and that we can all make the choice not to.

JON RANSOM was a mentee on the 2019 Escalator Talent Development scheme at the National Centre for Writing. In 2021 he was awarded a grant by Arts Council England to develop his next novel. Ransom's short stories have appeared in *Foglifter Journal*, *SAND Journal* and *FIVE:2:ONE* and the anthology *Queer Life, Queer Love* (Nov 21) amongst others.



Arms Around Frank Richardson

Sylvia Colley

MAY

ISBN: 9781739966096
eISBN: 9781739966072
Paperback / 198 x 129mm
£8.99 / 340pp
World Rights

ARMS AROUND FRANK RICHARDSON

Sylvia Colley

‘Sylvia Colley writes so movingly’

– Piers Plowright

‘I was very impressed with *Ask Me to Dance*, perfectly structured and so moving’ – Anne Cater

The impact of traumatic childhood experience reverberates into the grown-up worlds of Frank, Alice and Henry – children from three families suffering the fall-out from their early life. Frank, a working-class boy abused by his stepfather, Alice, physically disabled and frustrated, Henry, the less clever son of wealthy ambitious parents.

From a rundown estate in Eastleigh, a small town in Darlington and an affluent Cotswold home, each character grapples with the life fate has handed them until by chance, they all come together in adulthood.

Spanning 30 years, the scope of this novel is ambitious and the writing beautifully honed. Character and sense of place are masterfully achieved.

A LITTLE HOPE

Ethan Joella

‘Poignant and quietly powerful ... inspiring’ – *New York Times*

‘This soft spoken debut is a surprising page turner’ – *People*

‘Full of nicely observed detail ... it has lots of heart’ – *New York Journal of Books*

In the small town of Wharton, Connecticut, lives are beginning to unravel. A husband betrays his wife. A son struggles with addiction. A widow misses her late spouse. At the heart of these interlinking stories is one couple: Freddie and Greg Tyler.

Greg has just been diagnosed with a brutal form of cancer. He intends to handle this the way he has faced everything else: through grit and determination. But can he successfully overcome his illness? How will the Freddie and their daughter cope if he doesn't? How do the other residents of Wharton learn to live with loss and find happiness again?

Celebrating the grace in everyday life, this powerful debut immerses the reader in a community of friends, family, and neighbours and identifies the ways that love and forgiveness can help us survive even the most difficult of life's challenges.



APRIL

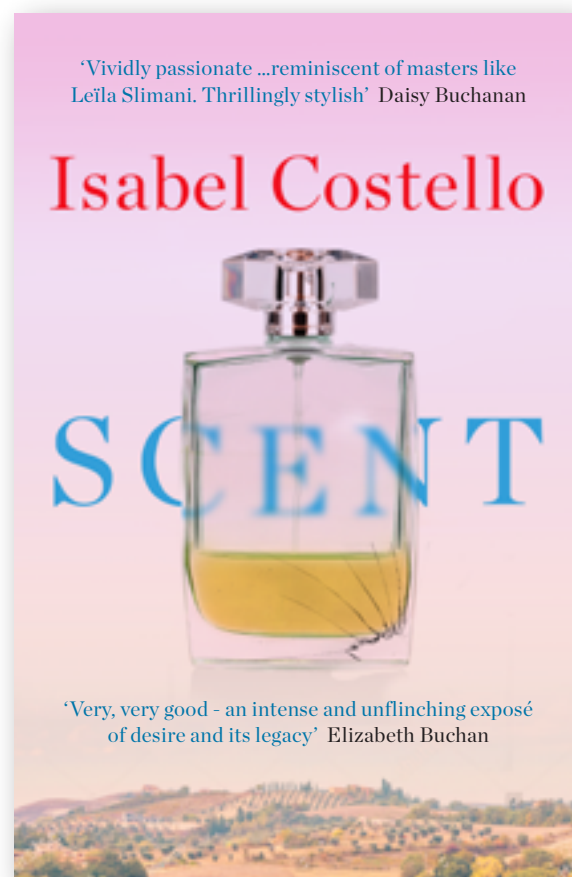
ISBN: 9781739966003
eISBN: 9781739966010
Demy hardback / 138 x 216mm
£12.99 / 288pp
UK/Com Rights



SYLVIA COLLEY lives in Pinner, North London and was Head of English at the Purcell School. She has published a book of poetry, *It's Not What I Wanted Though* and two novels, *Lights on Dark Water* and *Ask Me to Dance*. Her poetry and a documentary, *The Tale of Three Daughters*, about her life and the loss of two of her children, have been broadcast on BBC Radio 4.



ETHAN JOELLA teaches English and psychology at the University of Delaware and leads community writing workshops. His work has appeared in *River Teeth*, *The International Fiction Review*, *The MacGuffin*, *Delaware Beach Life*, and *Third Wednesday*. He lives in Delaware with his wife and two daughters.



MAY

ISBN: 9781739966027
eISBN: 9781916207776
Paperback / 198x129mm
£8.99 / 336pp
UK/Com Rights

SCENT

Isabel Costello

From the author of the bestselling *Paris Mon Amour*

‘Very, very good – an intense and unflinching expose of desire and its legacy’ – Elizabeth Buchan

‘A skilled storyteller. Inventive, vivid and distinctive’ – Mary Loudon

‘Vividly passionate ... reminiscent of masters like Leïla Slimani. Thrillingly stylish’ – Daisy Buchanan

‘Every day in Paris carries proof that love exists, in the air, on the streets and behind closed doors. Just not mine.’

The cracks in Clémentine and Édouard’s marriage are becoming impossible to ignore. Her work as a perfumer is no longer providing solace and her sense of self is withering. Then, decades after the end of a bisexual love triangle, Clémentine’s former lover resurfaces and her world tilts. What does she want, if not revenge?

Set in Paris and Provence, this is a beautifully written, intimate portrait of a woman navigating conflicting desires whilst dreaming of a fulfilling future.

THE WATER GARDEN

Louise Soraya Black

From the winner of the inaugural Virginia Prize

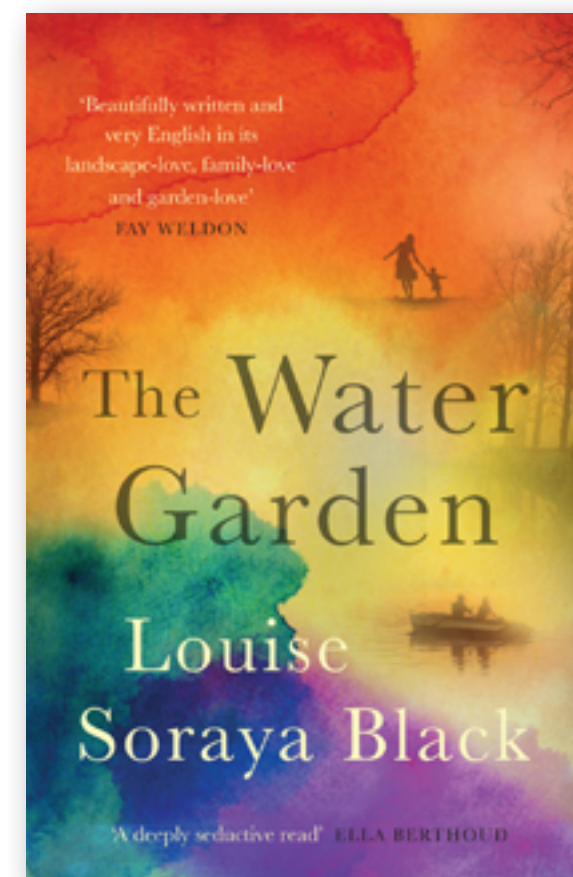
‘Beautifully written and very English in its landscape-love, family-love and garden-love’ – Fay Weldon

‘A remarkably evocative atmosphere ... makes for a deeply seductive read’ – Ella Berthoud

‘Subtle drama and menace, sensuality and enchantment’ – Patricia Wastvedt

Beside a lake near her home, mother of two Sarah comes across a bench dedicated to a boy who has died in mysterious circumstances. There too she meets Finn, a beautiful troubled teenage boy playing truant from school. As Sarah investigates the mystery of the boy’s death, an uncomfortable attraction builds between her and Finn, climaxing over one hot summer, threatening to destroy everything she holds dear.

Woven into Sarah’s story are the voices of the older generation, Maggie the RAF nurse and Flavia the Italian girl. As their stories unfold, a secret is revealed, binding Sarah and Finn in a way that they would never guess.



JUNE

ISBN: 9781739966041
eISBN: 9781916360280
Paperback / 198 x129mm
£8.99 / 232pp
World Rights



ISABEL COSTELLO’S first novel *Paris Mon Amour* was published to great acclaim in 2016 and her short fiction has appeared in many anthologies including *Queer Life*, *Queer Love*. She is a creative writing tutor and mentor and runs the popular Literary Sofa blog. Isabel lives in London and has lifelong connections with France.



LOUISE SORAYA BLACK was born to an English mother and Iranian father and has lived all over the world. She worked as a lawyer in London for 7 years before publishing her debut novel, *Pomegranate Sky* which won the inaugural Virginia Prize in 2009. She lives with her family in Surrey.

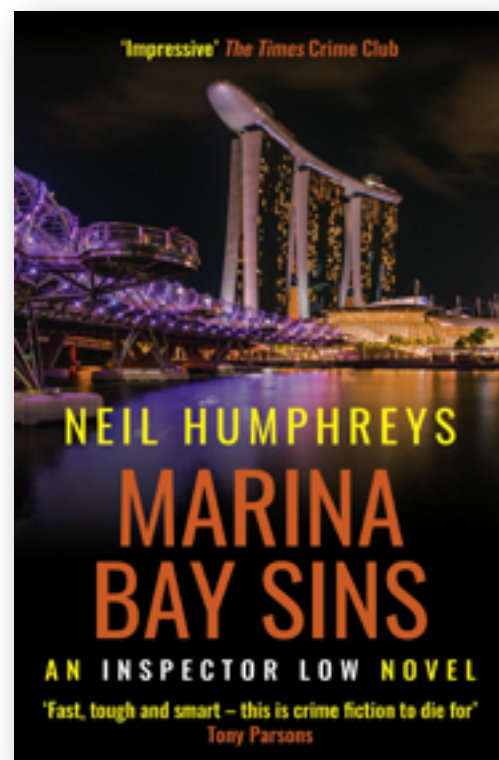
Introducing Neil Humphreys' Inspector Low trilogy

Detective Inspector Stanley Low – belligerent, bi-polar and brilliant. A Chinese-Singaporean, educated in London with a foot in both cities, his mission to eradicate violent crime wherever he finds it.

‘This impressive police procedural presents an unflattering but authentic picture of the multiracial megacity’ – *The Times Crime Club*

‘Stanley Low is a great character’ – *The Sun*

‘Fast, tough and smart – this is crime fiction to die for’ – Tony Parsons



MARCH

ISBN: 9781838340148
eISBN: 9781739879471
Paperback / 129 x 198mm
£8.99 / 264pp
World Rights

MARINA BAY SINS

Book One in the Inspector Low Trilogy

Low is having a bad day. His bipolar disorder is ruining another session with his psychiatrist, and when a murdered prostitute and a dead expatriate are discovered at Singapore's most prestigious hotel in the glamorous Marina Sins Bay, he is plunged back into the sordid underworld he was desperate to leave behind. Low goes undercover returning to a world that the city refuses to acknowledge; a world of gambling addiction, crime syndicates, international money launderers, immoral celebrities and corrupt politicians, all living in Asia's cleanest metropolis.

Marina Sins Bay may be the sparkling embodiment of the island's devotion to economic prosperity, yet a corrupt underworld lies within the 'Monaco' of Asia. As Inspector Low gets closer to the unpalatable truth, he will demand answers to questions that society has chosen to ignore for too long.



NEIL HUMPHREYS grew up in Dagenham and went to University in Manchester. He now lives in Singapore, where he writes for various publications and broadcasts on TV and radio. He has published many award-winning children's books, travelogues and several novels.

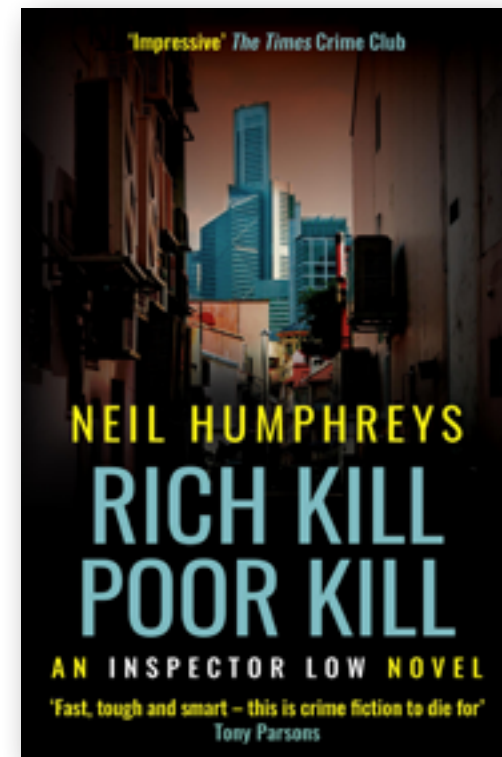
RICH KILL, POOR KILL

Book Two in the Inspector Low Trilogy

When a foreign worker is found dead in a Singapore back street, few people care. Even the police dismiss the killing as another underclass slaying. Then more victims turn up, all killed with the same weapon and Singapore must come to grips with its first serial killer in decades. The murderer must be stopped.

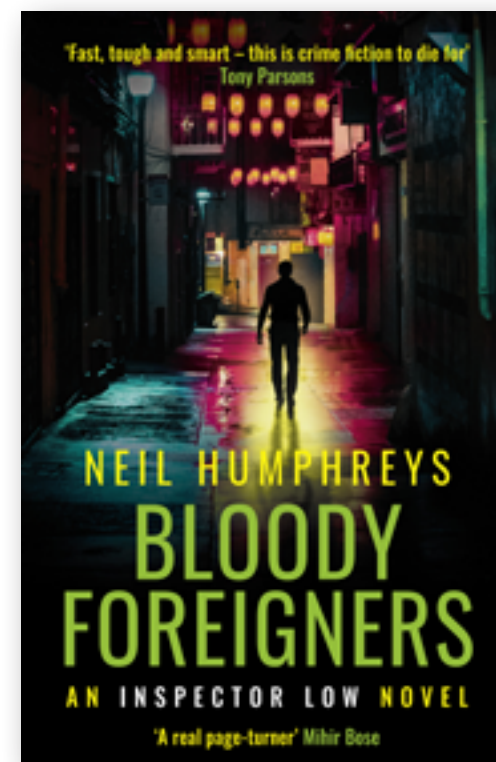
In desperation, the authorities turn to the one man they loathe almost as much as the killer himself – Detective Inspector Stanley Low. Angry, bipolar and unrepentant, his career is in tatters, but he is also the only man capable of understanding what drives the serial killer.

Low must solve the case quickly, stop a serial killer, and save his sanity. The second in the popular Inspector Low series, Rich Kill Poor Kill is a dark, disturbing examination of the income divide that exists even in death.



MARCH

ISBN: 9781838340155
eISBN: 9781739879488
Paperback / 129 x 198
£8.99 / 308pp
World Rights



MARCH

ISBN: 9781838340131
eISBN: 9781916207745
Paperback / 198 x 129mm
£8.99 / 320pp
World Rights

BLOODY FOREIGNERS

Book Three in the Inspector Low Trilogy

London is angry, divided, and obsessed with foreigners. A murdered Asian student and some racist graffiti in Chinatown threaten to trigger the race war that the white supremacists of MEGA - Make England Great Again - have been hoping for. They just need a tipping point.

He arrives in the shape of Detective Inspector Stanley Low. Brilliant and bipolar. He hates everyone almost as much as he hates himself. Low is plunged into a polarised city, where xenophobia and intolerance feed screaming echo chambers. His desperate race to find a far-right serial killer will lead him to charismatic Neo-Nazi leaders, incendiary radio hosts and Met Police officers who don't appreciate the foreigner's interference. The Chinese detective is the wrong face in the wrong place. But he's the right man for the job. London is about to meet the bloody foreigner who won't walk away.



APRIL

ISBN: 9781838340179
eISBN: 9781838110116
Paperback / 198 x 129mm
£8.99 / 340pp
UK/Com Rights

THE FINAL ROUND

Bernard O'Keeffe

Plagiarism, shoplifting, sextortion and murder ... DI Garibaldi is on the case in his first investigation

'A fine, twisting mystery, though the real pleasure lies in seeing Garibaldi dismantle the murderous self-interest of the London upper-middle classes.'
– *Mail on Sunday* Best New Fiction

'DI Garibaldi takes the biscuit – my kind of detective in my part of London. Ingenious, entertaining, surprising – everything you want in a satisfying murder mystery.' – Gyles Brandreth

On the morning after Boat Race Day, a man's body is found in a nature reserve beside the Thames. He's been viciously stabbed, his tongue cut out, and an Oxford college scarf stuffed in his mouth. The body is identified as that of Nick Bellamy, last seen at a charity quiz organised by his Oxford contemporary, the popular newsreader Melissa Matthews.

Enter DI Garibaldi, country-music loving, self-educated and the only cop in the Met who can't drive a car. His first step, to unravel the shocking allegations made against Nick's old Oxford friends in the final round at the quiz. Allegations which range from plagiarism and shoplifting to sextortion and murder.

DI Garibaldi will be back with *Private Lessons* in 2023.

THE ELEPHANT CONSPIRACY

Peter Hain

Corruption, Assassination, Extinction

'Masterful...A thrilling journey behind the frontlines of the battle to save Africa's wildlife' – Julian Rademeyer, author of *Killing for Profit*

'Gripping, tense and timely'
– Alan Johnson

'A true page-turner. A thriller that resonates with conscience, timeliness and deep knowledge of South African politics and wildlife.' – LoveReading

Having thwarted murderous poachers in *The Rhino Conspiracy*, the Veteran, Thandi and Mkhize are back in a new fight – battling to save elephant herds from being callously killed for their ivory, whilst trying to block wholesale political corruption and money laundering in contemporary South Africa.

Will dwindling elephant numbers be reversed? Will the forces of good triumph over the vicious looters? Can the annual trillion-dollar money laundering trade be brought to heel by a brave whistle blower? Peter Hain's gripping second thriller builds to a dramatic climax, the action switching from wildlife to politics, from bushveld to city, from high finance to poaching. A vivid and gripping journey into the competing worlds of activism and corruption.



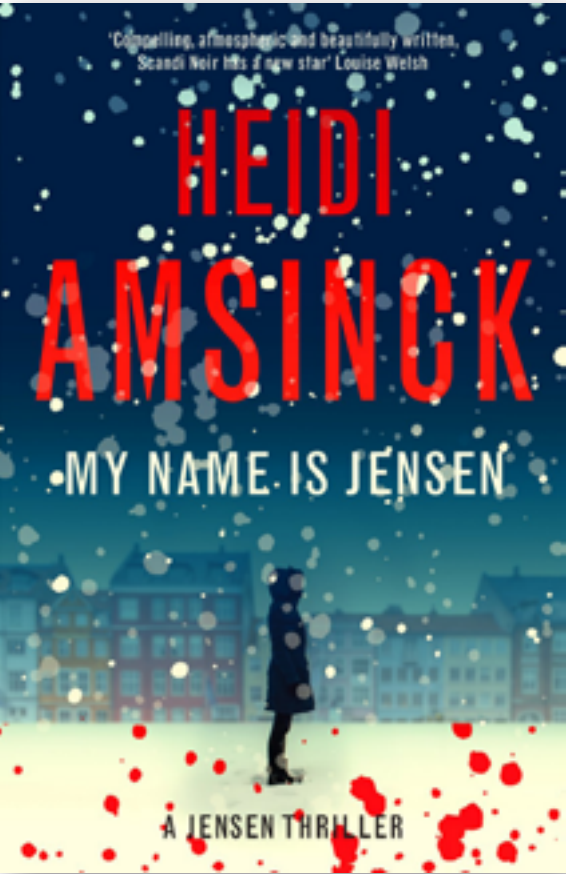
SEPTEMBER

ISBN: 9781739966058
eISBN: 9781739879464
Royal hardback / 235x 156mm
£14.99 / 382pp
World Rights



BERNARD O'KEEFFE worked in advertising before becoming an English teacher, most recently at St Paul's School in Barnes. He has previously written two Young Adult titles.

PETER HAIN was born in South Africa. His parents were forced into exile in 1966. He led the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Anti-Nazi League during the 1970s and '80s. Hain was the Labour MP for Neath 1991-2015 and a senior minister for 12 years in Tony Blair and Gordon Brown's governments. He chaired the UN Security Council, and negotiated international Treaties curbing nuclear proliferation and banning the trade in blood diamonds. Hain has written or edited twenty-one books – including *Mandela* (2010), memoirs *Outside In* (2012) and most recently *Pretoria Boy* (2021).



JULY

ISBN: 9781739966065
eISBN: 9781838110192
Paperback / 198x129mm
£8.99 / 384pp
World Rights

MY NAME IS JENSEN

Heidi Amsinck

The first Jensen thriller

‘Streamlined Scandi sleuthing ... a more than promising debut’
– Mark Sanderson, *The Times* Crime Club

‘Compelling, atmospheric and beautifully written, Scandi Noir has a new star’ – Louise Welsh

‘My name is Jensen is a brilliant debut and the author in full possession of the crime writing craft. Heidi Amsinck is hopefully here to stay’ – Yrsa Sigurdardottir

Guilty. One word on a beggar’s cardboard sign. And now he is dead, stabbed in a wintry Copenhagen street, the second homeless victim in as many weeks.

Dagbladet reporter Jensen, stumbling across the body on her way to work, calls her ex-lover DI Henrik Jungersen. As, inevitably, old passions are rekindled, so are old regrets, and that is just the start of Jensen’s troubles. The front page is an open goal, but nothing feels right ...

When a third body turns up, it seems certain that a serial killer is on the loose. But why pick on the homeless? And is the link to an old murder case just a coincidence? With her teenage apprentice Gustav, Jensen soon finds herself putting everything on the line to discover exactly who is guilty ...

THE GIRL IN THE PHOTO

Heidi Amsinck

The second Jensen thriller

‘Scandi Noir has a new star’
– Louise Welsh

Not all little old ladies are so innocent ... When ninety-year-old Irene Valborg is found brutally murdered in an affluent suburb of Copenhagen, her diamond necklace missing, it looks like a burglary gone wrong.

When two more victims are attacked, the police lament a rise in violence against the elderly, but who is the young girl in the photo found by DI Henrik Jungersen at the crime scenes?

Impatient to claim her inheritance, Irene’s daughter hires former *Dagbladet* reporter Jensen and her teenage apprentice Gustav to find the necklace.

Questioning his own sanity, while trying to fix his marriage, Henrik finds himself once more pitched in a quest for the truth against Jensen – the one woman in Copenhagen he is desperate to avoid.

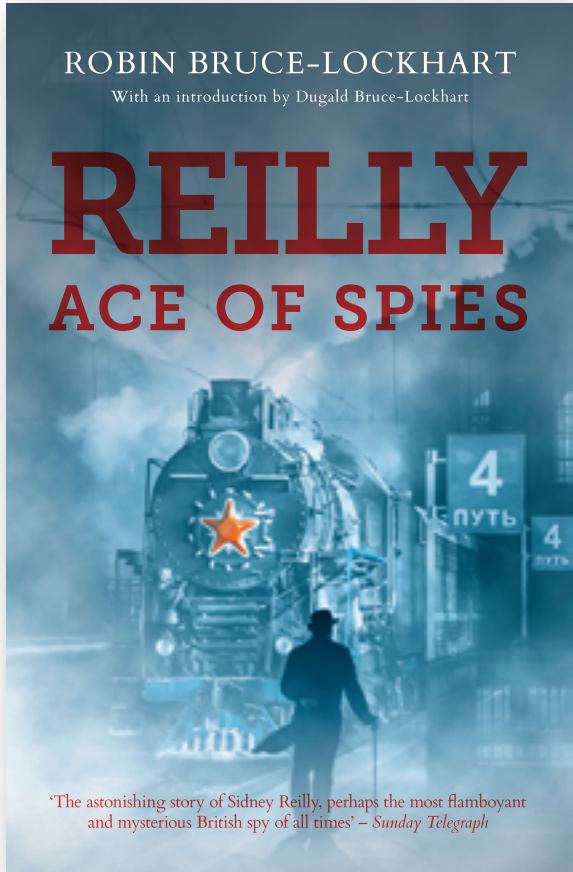


JULY

ISBN: 9781739879419
eISBN: 9781739879426
Hardback / 234 x 156 mm
£14.99 / 384pp
World Rights

HEIDI AMSINCK is a writer and journalist born in Copenhagen. She was London Correspondent for the Danish daily Jyllands-Posten. She has written many stories for BBC Radio 4, including the story sets *Danish Noir*, *Copenhagen Confidential* and *Copenhagen Curios*, all read by Tim McInerney. She was previously shortlisted for the VS Pritchett Memorial Prize. Heidi lives in London. *Last Train to Helsingør*, her first collection of stories which appeared on BBC R4, was published in 2018. *My Name is Jensen* her first thriller was published to critical acclaim in 2021.





JUNE

ISBN: 9781739966089
Paperback / 198 x 129
£9.99 / 224 pp
UK/Com Rights

Originally published in 1967, *Reilly Ace of Spies* became a BAFTA winning, and Golden Globe nominated, classic TV series in the early 80s starring Sam Neil. This, the first new edition in 30 years, has an introduction by Dugald Bruce Lockhart, great-nephew of the original author and author of *The Lizard*.

REILLY ACE OF SPIES

Robin Bruce-Lockhart

With an introduction by Dugald Bruce Lockhart

‘The astonishing story of Sidney Reilly, perhaps the most flamboyant and mysterious British spy of all times’
– *Sunday Telegraph*

‘An absorbing and suspenseful mystery story’ – *Publishers Weekly*

‘So bizarre as to seem incredible’
– *Daily Telegraph*

This is the true story of Sidney Reilly one of the most fascinating spies of the twentieth century, yet one of the most enigmatic. A master spy, a brilliant con man, a charmer, and a lovable rogue who lived on his wits and thrived on danger, killing where necessary – an unnecessary. He spoke seven languages and was rumoured to possess eleven passports and a wife to go with each.

A towering figure in the history of British espionage and one of Fleming’s models for James Bond, Sidney Reilly was born in Russia in 1873. To his employers, the British Secret Service, his background was a mystery yet his immense charisma took him into the epicentre of the British establishment. In 1917 he infiltrated the German General Staff and a year later was involved in the near overthrow of the Bolsheviks. The details of his death in the mid 1920s remain opaque, with sightings being claimed well into World War Two.



ROBIN BRUCE-LOCKHART – whose father RH Bruce-Lockhart was also a master spy and worked with Reilly during the Russian revolution – recounts Reilly’s astonishing life. Written in a vivid, engaging style, this is surely one of the most thrilling life stories in history.

THE LIFELINE

Phyllis Bottome

From the woman who taught Ian Fleming to write

‘I read Phyllis Bottome’s *The Lifeline* and saw that Mark Chalmers was Fleming, and that he had turned Chalmers into Bond’ – Nigel West

‘Good entertaining and rewarding reading’ – *Kirkus* 1946

Mark Chalmers, 36, dark haired, athletic, keen on skiing and winter sports, speaks fluent French and German and has a taste for wine, food and women. Sounds familiar?

It is 1938, before the Munich Agreement and after Anschluss. Chalmers, a master at Eton, is recruited by an old friend at the Foreign Office and introduced to his boss ‘B’. Chalmers reluctantly agrees to take on a hazardous mission for British Intelligence – to parachute into Nazi-occupied Austria and pass on information to a British agent. In case of trouble he is given a suicide pill.

Chalmers has no intention of committing himself beyond this one job but once he reaches his destination, he finds himself sucked into the anti-Nazi cause fighting fascism with the Austrian-German Underground - until there is no turning back.

Miles Jupp’s programme, *The Woman Who Invented James Bond* is available on BBC iPlayer



JUNE (TBC)

ISBN: 9781739879402
eISBN: 9781739879457
Paperback / 198 x 129
£9.99 / 224pp
UK/Com Rights

PHYLLIS BOTTOME was a highly regarded prolific author in the mid 20th century. With her husband Ernan Forbes Dennis, a former diplomat and spy, she set up a school in Kitzbühel, Austria and it was there, after he was thrown out of Eton, that she taught Ian Fleming to write. Amongst her many bestsellers was *The Mortal Storm* made into a prescient anti-fascist film which became a Hollywood blockbuster starring James Stewart. She died in London in 1963.





MAY

ISBN: 9781739966034
eISBN: 9781916360266
Paperback / 198 x 129mm
£8.99 / 234pp
World Rights

TROUBLE BREWING IN THE LOIRE

Tommy Barnes

With recipes by Tom Mathews

‘Delicious’ – *Daily Telegraph*
‘Colourful characters, disasters aplenty, the odd triumph and lots of lovely beer’ – *Daily Express*
‘A candid, brilliantly human book full of laugh out loud moments. And lots of beer’ – Rosie Birkett

Three years after establishing their British microbrewery in the heart of French wine country, Tommy and Rose Barnes are planning on modernising and diversifying with calamitous results...

Burt, the devil dog, has risen from the dead, Gadget the miniature horse has moved into the kitchen and Tommy is thinking about diversifying. What can possibly go wrong? With Brexit looming, and sales of IPA plummeting, the future looks gloomy. But just as Tommy hits rock bottom inspiration arrives.

Featuring delicious beer infused recipes from Chatsworth Bakehouse Chef Tom Mathews.



TOMMY BARNES grew up in Hertfordshire. He worked as a graphic designer in London for 15 years and performed part-time as a stand-up comedian. Happily made redundant, he set off to France with girlfriend (now wife) Rose. There they started a microbrewery, Braslou Bière.

MERMAID SINGING & PEEL ME A LOTUS

Charmian Clift

Introductions by Polly Samson

Bestselling paperbacks now in stunning hardback gift editions, illustrated and with ribbons
‘They were an inspiration’ – Leonard Cohen
‘Her bold, beautiful writing endures’ – *Daily Mail*
‘These immersive memoirs capture the magic, and the menace of Greek island life’ – *Daily Telegraph*

In 1954 the Australian writers Charmian Clift and George Johnston left grey, post-war London for Greece. Settling first on the tiny island of Kalymnos, then Hydra, their plan was to live simply and focus on their writing. The result is two of Charmian Clift’s most loved books, the memoirs *Mermaid Singing* and *Peel Me a Lotus*, reissued for the first time in 20 years.

Mermaid Singing details the culture shock and the sheer delight of their first year on the tiny sponge-fishing island of Kalymnos. Clift paints an evocative picture of the characters and sun-drenched rhythms of traditional life, long before mass tourism descended.



OCTOBER

MERMAID SINGING ISBN: 9781838340186 eISBN: 9781838110154 Hardback / 198x129 mm Illustrations and ribbon £12.99 / 212pp World ex ANZ	PEEL ME A LOTUS ISBN: 9781838340193 eISBN: 9781838110147 Hardback / 198x129 mm Illustrations and ribbon £12.99 / 212 pp World ex ANZ
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Peel Me a Lotus tells of their move to Hydra where they bought a picturesque but dilapidated house and Charmian grappled with the chaos of domestic life whilst trying to write. On Hydra they became the centre of an informal bohemian community of artists and writers.

CHARMIAN CLIFT (1923-69) was a much-loved Australian writer and essayist she wrote two novels, many essays and collaborated with her husband, George Johnston on three books.





DUPLICITY: MY MOTHERS’ SECRETS

Donna Freed

Donna’s birth parents were infamous con artists at the heart one of the US’s biggest crime investigations of the 1960s

A powerful, poignant and pacey adoption memoir which reads like a thriller

Illuminates the shocking truth about baby boomer adoption in the US

Radio Gorgeous presenter, a native New Yorker now living in London

NOVEMBER

ISBN: 9781739879433

eISBN: 9781739879440

Demy hardback / 138 x 216mm

£16.99 / 320pp

World English Rights

When her adoptive mother died in 2009 Donna Freed set out to track down her birth mother. What she discovered was truly shocking - she was the daughter of a pair of infamous con artists, at the heart of one of the biggest true crime stories to grip the USA in the 1960s.

Previously redacted records from the infamous Louise Wise Services in New York revealed that Donna’s mother (27, Jewish and single), her father (40, Catholic, married with 4 children), had hatched a plan to defraud an insurance company and run off to Spain to raise Donna. Further investigation revealed that in 1967, Donna’s mother, Mira Lindenmaier, faked her own death in a drowning accident off City Island in the Bronx for the double indemnity insurance money.

Donna loved her tricky, unconventional adoptive mother, but was now keen to meet her birth mother and find out how and why her parents abandoned her. How would she feel towards Mira, her ‘real’ Mum? How has becoming a mother herself impacted on her feelings towards her two mothers? Gripping and fast-paced, this extraordinary memoir is also incredibly moving tackling fundamental questions about motherhood and identity, nature vs nurture.

3-YEAR TERM GIVEN IN FAKED DROWNING

One of two men who pleaded guilty to trying to collect \$36,000 in life insurance benefits through the faked drowning of a robust woman accomplice was sentenced yesterday to an indefinite term up to three years. Alvin Brodie, a 35-year-old construction worker of 338 East 92d Street, was given the maximum sentence by Justice Joseph A. Brust in Bronx Supreme Court.

When the second man, Thomas Martin, 26, of 1825 First Avenue, drew a suspended sentence and was placed on probation for three years, Burton B. Roberts, chief assistant district attorney, vigorously objected.

Justice Brust postponed until June 15 the sentencing of the supposed victim, blond, Swiss-born Miriam Lindenmaier, 28, to permit a more complete psychiatric examination by the probation department. She was reported to have drowned last July 9 in a boating excursion with the two men on Long Island Sound.

The district attorney's office got court approval to tap the telephones of Brodie and Martin, and last November heard one of them talking to Miss Lindenmaier in White Plains, where she was working as a waitress.

Mr. Roberts said that Miss Lindenmaier expects a baby next month and has identified Brodie as the father. He was also the beneficiary of her two life insurance policies. He has a wife and four children.

The New York Times

Published: March 16, 1967

Copyright © The New York Times

Woman Missing in Sound water between City and Hart Avenue, were picked up by an A woman disappeared in Long Island Sound yesterday. The two thought Miss Lindenmaier was after a 14-foot outboard motor-boat overturned, throwing her men who had been with her, a good swimmer. The detective, and two male companions overboard. The police dragged the Martin, 24, both of 1825 First swimming.

The New York Times

Published: July 10, 1966

Copyright © The New York Times

Reunion Marks Start of Scene 2 of Unusual Drama



Miriam Lindenmaier, in photo at left, on the way to being arraigned on a charge that she had participated in a plot to defraud two insurance companies by pretending to have drowned in a boating mishap in July. Riding to the arraignment in another car are two others charged in the alleged plot, Alvin Brodie, at right, and Thomas Martin.



Dr. and Mrs. Werner A. Lindenmaier after being reunited with their daughter in Bronx yesterday. Until this reunion, the parents had not known that their daughter was alive.



MOURNED AS DEAD, WOMAN IS SEIZED

Reported Drowned in July, She and 2 Men Are Held as Insurance Plotters

IS BELIEVED PREGNANT

Wiretapping Called Key to Solution of Case—Her Parents Sad and Glad

By JACQUES NEVARD
Last July 9 Miriam Lindenmaier, a strong swimmer, went boating in Long Island Sound with two men companions. Late in the afternoon of that day two off-duty policemen out in a boat picked up the two men, apparently in distress. The men said that the blond research analyst had drowned when their dory capsized off Hart's Island.

The young woman's parents were told of the disaster, and divers searched the nearby waters, but no trace of Miss Lindenmaier's body was ever found.

A Brief Reunion
Yesterday Miss Lindenmaier, who is 27 years old, and reportedly six months pregnant, was reunited briefly with her parents and then whisked off with her two men companions to be arraigned on charges that the three had plotted to defraud two insurance companies of \$36,000.

Mr. Roberts gave newsman details of the case while Miss Lindenmaier's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Werner A. Lindenmaier of Upper Montclair, N. J., sat quietly by, their faces reflecting both joy and sadness.

Arraigned with Miss Lindenmaier were Alvin Brodie, 34 years old, of 340 East 92d Street, who told the police he was a construction worker, and Thomas Martin, 26 years old, of 1825 First Avenue, an elevator operator.

Mr. Roberts said that Miss Lindenmaier's pregnancy was a result of her relationship with Mr. Brodie, who was said to have a wife and four children. Neither Dr. Lindenmaier, a chemist with Hoffman-La Roche, Inc., of Nutley, N. J., nor his wife, a retired pediatrician, had known their daughter was alive until they were reunited in Mr. Roberts's office in the Bronx County Courthouse yesterday. Later, the tall, distinguished-looking father said, "We never gave up hope."

In a soft, heavily accented voice the father said, "We're glad to have Mira back." He added, "We are very thankful thanks to Mr. Edward Dermody." He was referring to John Breslin and to Detective Edward Dermody, who had led the investigation into Miss Lindenmaier's disappearance.

Mr. Roberts said that the police began to suspect that the drowning story was untrue when the waters where the boat capsized failed to yield a body as experience indicated they should have. Suspicions were further aroused when Dr. Lindenmaier told the police that his daughter was an excellent swimmer.

Mr. Roberts said a possible motive was indicated when it was learned that the beneficiary of two insurance policies on Miss Lindenmaier's life had been changed from her father to Mr. Brodie.

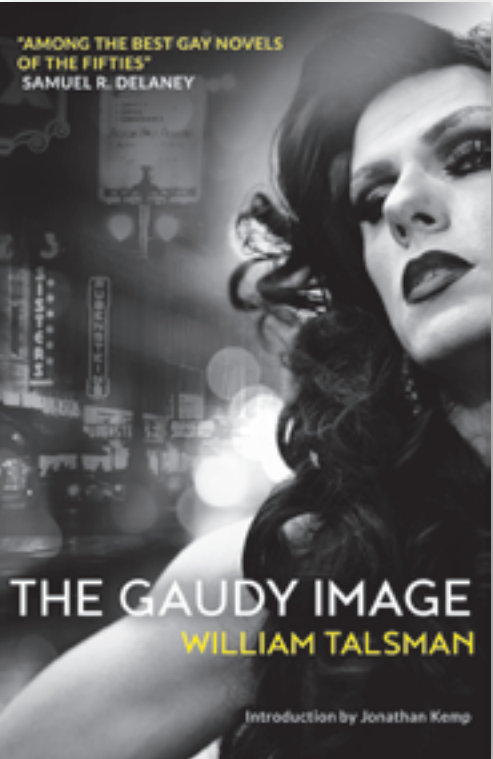
The policies—one for \$10,000 with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and the other for \$8,000 with the Equitable Life Assurance Society—provided for double indemnity, or a total of \$28,000, in case of accidental death. Neither policy was paid.

Mr. Roberts declined to answer further questions.

Continued on Page 50, Column 2

DONNA FREED, a native of New York, is a writer and translator. She has lived in London since 2005. She writes for *The Oldie* and presents the *Radio Gorgeous* podcast. She appeared on the *NBC Today Show* in January last year, prompted by an article in the *New York Post* which has revisited Mira Lindenmaier's story from time to time over the years.

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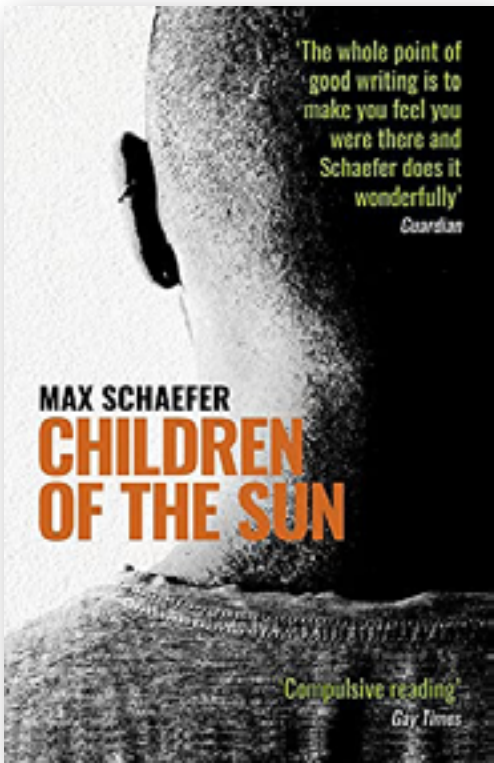
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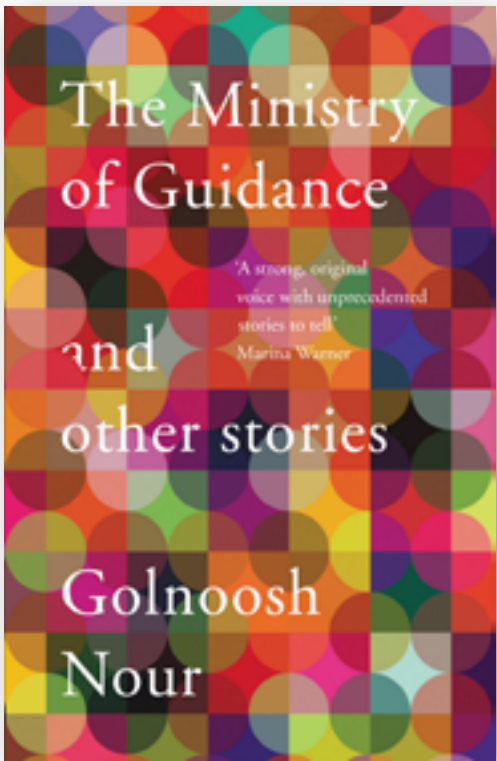
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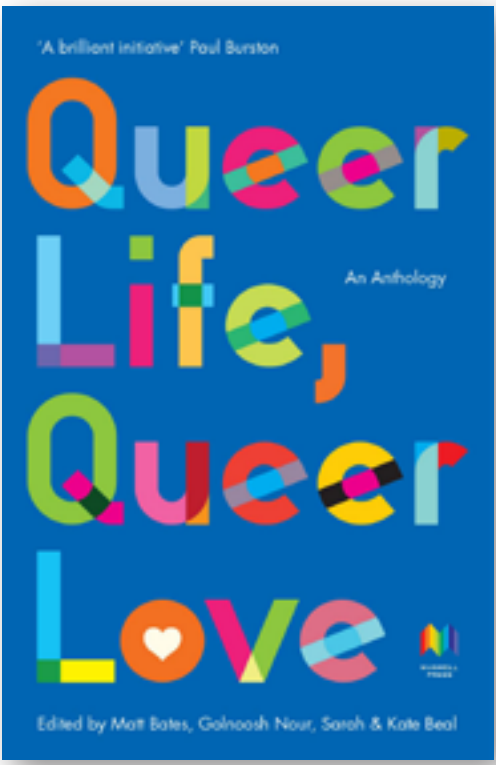
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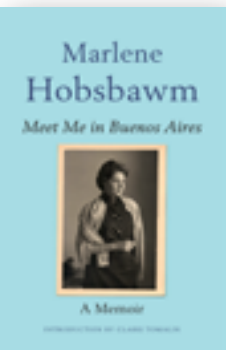
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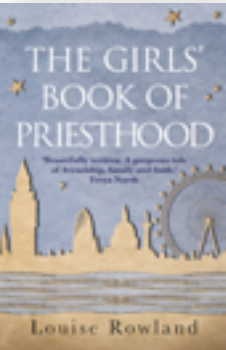
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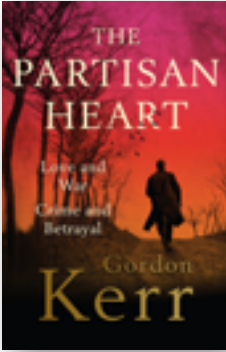
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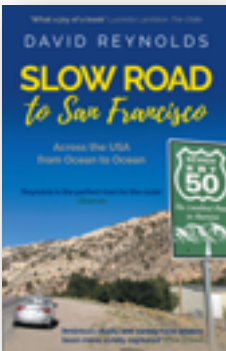
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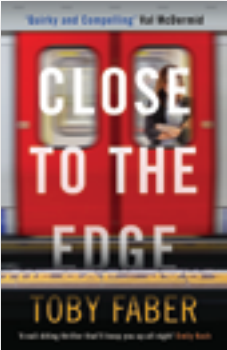
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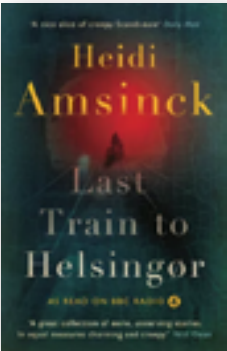
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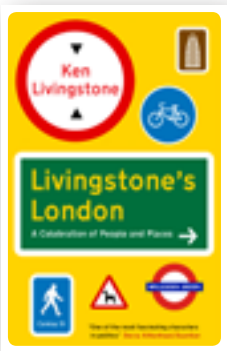
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