New Books Scotland

AUTUMN/WINTER 2017
You can still view our Spring/Summer 2017 Edition of New Books Scotland, featuring quality titles across fiction, non-fiction, and children and young people. Visit publishingscotland.org
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Welcome to the latest showcase of Scottish writing and publishing for Autumn/Winter 2017. Here we feature new talent from small presses, established writers creating powerful new works, fantastic children’s books and young adult imprints. The selection of new and upcoming books offered in this edition of New Books Scotland reflects the energy and talent bursting forth from Scotland’s publishing scene.

Our publishers continue to delight and inspire young readers, with art-driven children’s titles from Serafina Press, Moonlight Publishing’s stunning illustrated information books, imaginative cross-over titles from dynamic Glasgow-based Strident Publishing, and Floris Books – Scottish Publisher of the Year (2016) and the largest children’s book publisher in Scotland.

Floris Books also specialise in non-fiction for adults, with unusual titles bringing new perspectives on the world. This fresh outlook and passion for alternative voices is also evident in titles from Black and White Publishing which has grown into one of Scotland’s leading independent publishers with over 300 books in print across a variety of genres. In addition, creative independent publisher Saraband strive to offer readers an offbeat, original selection while ThunderPoint Publishing brings you radical ideas and challenging messages from established and first-time authors.

Elsewhere, Scotland’s publishers continue to forge partnerships internationally. Sandstone Press demonstrate a strong commitment to publishing titles from all over the world while Vagabond Voices is an independent publisher that is both Scottish and fervently European in its aims, introducing new titles from Scottish authors and translating fiction from other languages. Meanwhile, Scotland’s own languages are celebrated and promoted by the Association for Scottish Literary Studies (ASLS), a charity promoting the study, teaching and writing of Scottish literature.

Our capital city remains home to publishers large and small. The superb output by Edinburgh University Press reflects their place in one of Britain’s oldest and most distinguished centres of learning, while the wonderfully illustrated and immaculately researched titles from Historic Environment Scotland are a must for anyone with an interest in Scotland’s history and heritage. Such readers would also cherish publications from the Society of Antiquaries, an establishment which has actively supported the study and enjoyment of Scotland’s past for over 200 years. Relative newcomers Scotland Street Press have consistently produced quality fiction and non-fiction since their founding in Edinburgh in 2014, while Muddy Pearl, an independent publisher of Christian books, continue to provide a range of thought-provoking titles.

The breadth of output and diverse approaches from our member publishers continues to impress those at home and abroad. Whittles Publishing have forged an international reputation for their academic and professional titles, as well as their wide range of non-fiction books, while BHP Comics handle books from established creators alongside cutting-edge talent. Readers should also seek out William Collins, part of HarperCollins, for a roster of prize-winning and agenda-setting books spanning science, history, art, politics and current affairs, biography, religion and natural history. And finally, National Galleries of Scotland, with their influential books on the visual arts, continue to provide readers with engaging, accessible and affordable books, offering an insight into the nation’s collection and exhibitions.

The high quality, diverse and inspiring selection of titles in this edition of New Books Scotland showcases the talent, creativity and dynamism of our member publishers, providing you with an insight into the exciting Scottish publishing scene.
INTRODUCTION

Books from Scotland welcomes you to the wonderful world of Scottish books. Championing the very best of Scottish books from classics through to the latest publications and from print books to e-books, we help you discover exciting new reads. We carefully curate a dynamic selection for you in exclusive monthly magazine-style issues and you can browse a wide range of books across fiction and non-fiction on the site. When you find a book that you like the sound of and you want to read more, we provide links so you can easily buy the book from your retailer of choice.

You can sign up online to our fortnightly e-newsletter via the homepage and get in touch with us on Twitter and Facebook. We’d love to hear from you.

Promoting and supporting Scottish publishers and authors since launching in 2005, Books from Scotland is owned by Publishing Scotland.

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Our Aims

— To develop and promote the work of companies in the publishing sector to an international audience
— To foster public understanding of the unique value of books and other published materials in the cultural and political life of the nation
— To promote the status of publishing in Scotland
— To run a first-class skills and training programme for the sector
— To develop a comprehensive network of publishers, content creators and service providers to allow access to key markets, information and opportunities
— To provide members with useful current information on trade conditions, government activities and policies, and other matters of concern
— To stand as a framework within which publishers from all sectors can work together to advance their particular and common interests; to serve as an authoritative voice for Scottish-based publishing, at home and overseas

Publishing Scotland is the network, trade and development body for the book publishing sector in Scotland. We represent a wide range of publishers and suppliers – both print and digital. The 100+ membership includes major publishers such as HarperCollins, Canongate, Edinburgh University Press and Witherby as well as the publishing divisions of the National Galleries of Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland and the National Museums of Scotland. Other members are part of the network category and include companies and organisations affiliated to the publishing sector such as the Society of Authors in Scotland, the Booksellers Association, Nielsen Book, agents, designers and freelance editors.

We act as the voice and network for publishing, to develop and promote the work of companies, organisations and individuals in the industry, and to co-ordinate joint initiatives and partnership.
New titles

Fiction
**Tomorrow**  
Jack Lothian (author) Garry Mac (artist)

When an old lady wakes up one morning to find the rest of the world has disappeared, she struggles to cope with the loneliness and isolation. But then she finds out she might not be quite as alone as she thought...

‘Beautifully written and poignant... 9/10’ – Comics Anonymous  
‘Unnerving, uplifting and utterly moving’ – Big Comic Page

*Tomorrow* is a haunting sci-fi story, in a prestige format one-shot graphic novel from screenwriter Jack Lothian (*Strike Back, Doc Martin, Shameless, Skins*) and artist Garry Mac (*Gonzo Comic, Freak Out Squares*).
**Dr Jekyll and Mr Seek**

**Anthony O'Neill**

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde continues. Seven years after the death of Edward Hyde, a stylish gentleman shows up in a foggy London claiming to be Dr Henry Jekyll. Only Mr Utterson, Jekyll's faithful lawyer and confidant, knows that he must be an impostor – because Jekyll was Hyde. But as the man goes about charming Jekyll's friends and reclaiming the estate, and as the bodies of potential challengers start piling up, Utterson is left fearing for his life and questioning his own sanity.

This brilliantly imagined and beautifully written sequel to one of literature's greatest masterpieces perfectly complements the original work. Where the original was concerned with the duality of man, this sequel deals with the possibility of identity theft of the most audacious kind. Can it really be that this man who looks and acts so precisely like Dr Henry Jekyll is an impostor?

Anthony O'Neill was born in Melbourne and lives in Edinburgh. He is the author of Scheherazade ('A brilliant debut' – The Independent on Sunday), The Lamplighter ('Altogether brilliant' – Philadelphia Inquirer), The Empire of Eternity ('A gripping novel' – Sydney Morning Herald), The Unscratchables ('A tour de force' – Kirkus Reviews) and The Dark Side ('Satisfying on every level' – Wall Street Journal). Film rights to The Dark Side have recently been purchased by 20th Century Fox.

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**Cause of Death**

**Book 1 in the Grace Macallan detective series**

**Peter Ritchie**

After a spectacular rise through the ranks of Special Branch, Grace Macallan’s career has hit a serious roadblock. She’s ended up at Lothian and Borders Police HQ, still wondering if one big decision has ruined her career and her reputation forever.

Reassigned to the recently formed Major Crime Team, her new team soon has plenty to deal with when a notorious gang raises the stakes and brutally murders the homeowners during the robbers' latest job in Glasgow. At the same time, violent attacks on street prostitutes escalate into a series of murders and one of the main suspects is a high-profile Edinburgh lawyer. As the revelations and subsequent chaos threaten to tear the Major Crime Team apart, Grace must find a way to deal with a whole new set of issues and a new life she never really wanted.

Peter Ritchie is a retired senior police officer. His books draw on his vast experience in CID, Murder Squads, Serious and Regional Crime Squads, NCIS London and Europol. Ritchie is an entertaining and experienced speaker who enjoys discussing his work at events and book festivals.
The Ludlow Ladies’ Society
Ann O’Loughlin

American Connie Carter has lost everybody and everything dear to her. She moves to Co. Wicklow, Ireland, to nurse her grieving heart and find answers. There, she meets Eve and Hetty and is introduced to The Ludlow Ladies’ Society. Can her hurt be healed? Can she ever understand or forgive? As the women stitch patchwork memory quilts to remember those they have lost, the secrets of the past emerge.

With The Ludlow Ladies’ Society behind her, Connie has to face those secrets and the memories sweet and sour, but can she let go of the past? A story of friendship, resilience and compassion, and of how women hold each other up through the most difficult times, this tale will have you crying one minute and laughing the next.

A leading journalist in Ireland, Ann O’Loughlin has covered all major news events of the last three decades. She spent most of her career with independent newspapers where she was Security Correspondent at the height of The Troubles, and was a senior journalist on the Irish Independent and Evening Herald. She is currently a senior journalist with the Irish Examiner. O’Loughlin has also lived and worked in India. She now lives in Co. Wicklow with her husband and two children. Her debut novel The Ballroom Café was a bestseller, with over 250,000 copies sold in e-book. Her second novel The Judge’s Wife was an Irish bestseller for five weeks and shortlisted for a Romantic Novel Award 2017.

A Message from the Other Side
Moira Forsyth

When Catherine moves several hundred miles away from her sister, Helen says, ‘Phone calls aren't enough’, but they make it easier to edit the truth. Helen can dismiss Gilbert and his enchanted factory as ‘weird’ when she’s never met him, and Catherine can think Helen foolish for loving the unreliable and dangerous Joe. Neither sees the perils concealed in what they have not told each other, or guesses at the sinister connection between their separate lives.

Moira Forsyth grew up in Aberdeen, lived in England for nearly 20 years, and is now in the Highlands. She is the author of four previous novels and many short stories and poems published in anthologies and magazines. Waiting for Lindsay and David’s Sisters, originally published by Sceptre, are now available as e-books from Sandstone Press, which also published Tell Me Where You Are in 2010 and The Treacle Well in 2015.
Acts of Allegiance
Peter Cunningham

Senior Irish diplomat, Marty Ransom, is torn between duty to his country and loyalty to the Anglo-Irish tradition in which he was raised. In a land divided into north and south, Planter and Gael, Catholic and Protestant, Marty’s life has been spent walking a tightrope. When he meets Alison, a Home Office employee now transferred to the British embassy in Dublin, Marty’s fidelities are once again split. Lured ever deeper into the lethal world of counter-espionage, he finds himself in fatal conflict with his cousin and childhood friend. As this deadly endgame unfolds, Marty must choose between all which he loves and holds dear, and his allegiance to a past that remains just beyond his reach.

Peter Cunningham is from Waterford in the south-east of Ireland. He is the author of the widely-acclaimed Monument series of novels set in a fictional version of his home town. His novel The Taoiseach was a controversial bestseller; The Sea and the Silence won the prestigious Prix de l’Europe. He is a member of Aosdána, the Irish academy of arts and letters, and lives with his wife near Dublin.

The Cost of Living
Rachel Ward

When a young woman is attacked walking home from her local supermarket, Bea Jordan, a smart but unfulfilled checkout girl, is determined to investigate. Colleagues and customers become suspects, secrets are uncovered. While fear stalks the town, Bea finds an unlikely ally in Ant, the seemingly gormless new trainee, but risks losing the people she loves most as death comes close to home. The Cost of Living is a warm, contemporary story with likeable leads, an engaging cast of supporting characters and a dark thread running throughout.

Rachel Ward is a bestselling writer for young adults. Her first book, Numbers, was published in 2009 and shortlisted for the Waterstones Children’s Book Prize. The Cost of Living is her first book for adults.
The Accident on the A35
Graeme Macrae Burnet

From the author of His Bloody Project, shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2016.

There does not appear to be anything remarkable about the fatal car crash on the A35. But one question dogs Inspector Georges Gorski: where has the victim, an outwardly austere lawyer, been on the night of his death? The troubled Gorski finds himself drawn into a mystery that takes him behind the respectable veneer of the sleepy French backwater of Saint-Louis.

Graeme Macrae Burnet returns with a literary mystery that will beguile fans of His Bloody Project and The Disappearance of Adèle Bedeau. Darkly humorous, subtle and sophisticated, The Accident on the A35 burrows deep into the psyches of its characters and explores the forgotten corners of small-town life.

Graeme Macrae Burnet is one of Scotland’s brightest literary talents. His second novel, His Bloody Project, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2016, won the Saltire Society Fiction Book of the Year Award 2016, and was a finalist for the LA Times Book Awards 2016. It has been published around the world. Burnet’s first novel, The Disappearance of Adèle Bedeau (Contraband, 2014), was longlisted for the Waverton Good Read Award and was a cult hit.
The Posy Ring
Catherine Czerkawska

When Rosie Graham inherits rundown Flowerfield House on the Hebridean island of Garve, she meets Cal Galbraith, an attractive but not entirely trustworthy antiques dealer. Together they discover a beautiful posy ring – a love token dating back to the Elizabethan era. Interwoven with their developing relationship is the story of Matea, a 16th-century Spanish nobleman who is shipwrecked on Garve and held hostage by the laird. Matea falls in love with the laird’s daughter and gives her the posy ring. The two couples are separated by hundreds of years, but linked by the posy ring and the timeless Hebridean setting. A beautiful literary historical romance from one of Scotland’s leading novelists and playwrights.

Catherine Czerkawska is a multi-award-winning novelist and playwright based in Scotland. She has written plays for the stage, ITV and BBC Radio 4, and has published numerous short stories. Her eight novels include The Jewel, based on the life of Robert Burns’ wife, Jean Armour, and The Curiosity Cabinet, shortlisted for the Dundee International Book Prize and serialised on BBC Radio 4.

MacSonnetries
Petra Reid

In this collection of 154 sonnets reflecting on love, death and marriage, each poem takes inspiration from Shakespeare’s 154. Written by a middle-aged Glaswegian woman living in the 21st-century, these poems have wit and a kick.

Brought up in Glasgow, Petra Reid read Law at Edinburgh University and worked as a solicitor in general practice. She studied Fine Art while raising a family and developed her interest in poetry through Dada. She specialises in site-specific performances at one-off events.
A Rainbow in the Basement
Ian Donaldson

‘Magic is more than a word – something I discovered when I was 12. It was the year I crossed an ocean. My mother told me it was for the best. I saw it as an escape from hurt. I had a bone to pick with God. True friendship is true love. I know that now. Though at first I didn’t believe it.’

Matthew Ellis flies in to Scotland to visit the neighbourhood of his childhood. He’ll fly back to America before the day is done. So much happened during Matthew’s 12 years in Glasgow. Seeing Calvary. Torching a ship. And those lights... were they harbingers? He has been carrying his glorious, unbelievable secrets ever since. Now he’s brought them home, uncertain of the welcome they will receive.

Ian Donaldson has always loved stories, whether hearing them in songs or finding them in books. David Bowie and Ray Bradbury became his two biggest influences.

Donaldson had a successful career in music with Scottish band H20. Songs such as I Dream to Sleep and Just Outside of Heaven were hits around the world and the band appeared on Top Of The Pops. He has also performed in Four Good Men with members of Simple Minds and Big Country, touring North America and Europe. Ray Bradbury’s friend Donn Albright has written an afterword for Ian’s novel – H20’s Leonard was inspired by Bradbury’s The Pedestrian.

Furthest Reaches
(Book 2 in the McIntyre road-trip thriller series)
Gordon Brown

Craig McIntyre’s mere presence can transform people’s darkest thoughts into action. The US Strategic Petroleum Reserve has been destroyed by a white supremacist group. The attack has been hushed-up and time is of the essence if national and global economic meltdown is to be avoided. Having fled across America to evade capture by his nemesis, Senator Tampoline, McIntyre is now being ‘persuaded’ to work alongside him in the national interest. As he is forced to apply his unique ability to salvage the situation, McIntyre struggles to determine who is working harder to thwart him: his allies or his enemies. It might be safer to stay ahead of both. But that would entail delving into the furthest reaches of his mind. It might also mean kidnapping the most powerful leader on the planet.

Gordon Brown splits his time between Scotland, the USA and Spain. He appears at many book festivals and helped found Bloody Scotland, Scotland’s International Crime Writing Festival. He also regularly chairs events.
**Dark Times**

Ethyl Smith

The summer of 1679 is a dark one for the Covenanters. Routed by government troops at the Battle of Bothwell Brig, John Steel is on the run, hunted for his part in the battle by the vindictive Earl of Airlie. And life is no easier for the hapless Sandy Gillon, curate of Lesmahagow Kirk, in the Earl’s sights for aiding John Steel’s escape.

Outlawed and hounded, the surviving rebels have no choice but to take to the hills and moors to evade capture and deportation. And as a hard winter approaches, Marion Steel discovers she’s pregnant with her third child.

*Dark Times* is the second part of Ethyl Smith’s sweeping *Times* series that follows the lives of ordinary people in extraordinary eras.

Ethyl Smith is a graduate of the University of Strathclyde Novel Writing course and the Stirling University MLitt Creative Writing course. Smith has had numerous short stories published in a range of publications, including *Scottish Field, Spilling Ink, Stirling Collective Anthology, Mistaken Identities Anthology* (edited by James Robertson) and *Gutter Magazine*. She was also a finalist in the Dragon’s Pen competition (her story was recorded for BBC Radio Scotland), and a finalist in the Wigtown Book Festival Short Story Competition. Her first novel *Changed Times* was longlisted for *The Guardian’s* Not the Booker prize in 2016.

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**The False Men**

Mhairead MacLeod

North Uist, Outer Hebrides, 1848. Jess MacKay has led a privileged life as the daughter of a local landowner, sheltered from the harsher aspects of life. Courted by the eligible Patrick Cooper, the Laird’s new commissioner, Jess’s future is mapped out – until Lachlan Macdonald arrives on the island amid rumours of forced evictions on islands just to the south.

As the uncompromising brutality of the Clearances reaches the Uists, and Jess sees her friends ripped from their homes, she must decide where her heart – and her loyalties – truly lie.

Set against the evocative backdrop of the Hebrides and inspired by a true story, *The False Men* is a compelling tale of love in a turbulent past that resonates with the upheavals of the modern world.

Mhairead MacLeod was born and brought up in Inverness. She currently lives in Australia, where she works as an ethics lawyer. *The False Men* was selected for the 2013 Hachette Manuscript Development Award and shortlisted for the 2012 HarperCollins Manuscript Development Award.
Doubting Thomas
Heather Richardson

This is a story of sex, drugs and blasphemy in late 17th-century Edinburgh. After participating in the gruesome autopsy of a pregnant prisoner, Dr Robert Carruth is unable to consummate his marriage and instead buries himself in work. His overzealousness contributes to the demise of a down-at-heel apothecary. And, after 15 years, the apothecary’s son, Thomas Aikenhead, appears at the Carruths’ door seeking recompense. At Aikenhead’s side is Mungo Craig, a cunning poet with dubious loyalties. The two insinuate their way into the Carruths’ life, freshly exposing old fault lines in the doctor’s marriage.

‘With an exquisite and faultless play of historical language, we witness the most visceral portrayals of early medical practices and a delicately drawn marriage, in which the fear of being different is wonderfully distilled. The childhood of Thomas Aikenhead, the last executed blasphemer in Britain, is also brilliantly created, along with the crucial betrayals that caused his downfall. This novel speaks loudly to our present condition.’ – Derek Neale

In addition to the varied jobs held outside of academia (including a bus driver and a medical representative), Heather Richardson has an English literature degree from Leicester, a Creative Writing MA from Lancaster and a PhD from the Open University. Langan Press published her first novel, Magdeburg, in 2010, and her short stories and poetry have appeared in a number of magazines and anthologies. Richardson is a former winner of the Brian Moore Short Story Award, and has been longlisted for both the Bridport Prize and the Fish Short Story Prize.

Cinico
Allan Cameron

Guided by a Scottish professor of politics, a London-based Italian journalist traverses Scotland seeking a ‘big story’ on the independence referendum. Instead he gets small stories from myriad points of view: a Ukrainian nationalist, a Russian religious guru, an eccentric Estonian, an Algerian, and a dying man, amongst others.

After a chaotic romance with a Scottish campaigner, the journalist, aptly named Cinico de Oblivii, leaves London and moves to Greece where, reflecting on his time in Scotland, he writes a memoir (this book). Through his anecdotes we encounter the full spectrum of ideas on Scottish independence, including the ones Cinico’s editor didn’t want to publish.

Like Voltaire’s Candide, Cinico starts with the dominant mindset of his era, which is incapable of bringing him either understanding or contentment, but ends up with an awareness that, though insufficient for the elusive happiness we all seek, is sufficient for a perfectly acceptable existence.

Allan Cameron was born in 1952, grew up in Nigeria and Bangladesh, and lived as a young adult in Italy. Cameron’s first novel, The Golden Menagerie (2004), is partly based on Apuleius’s The Golden Ass but also a polemic against it. His second novel, The Berlusconi Bonus (2005), is a political satire principally directed at Western consumerism, the policies of Bush and Blair, and Fukuyama’s now disowned victory song of American capitalism. Cameron’s non-fiction work, In Praise of the Garrulous (2008), examines the essentiality of language to human nature. Cameron has also translated 24 books.
I Loved a German
AH Tammsaare

The newly independent Estonia may be moving forward from its dark past, but not quickly enough for young lovers Oskar, an Estonian university student, and Erika, a Baltic German descended from a now defunct nobility. The old prejudices remain strong between the Baltic Germans and the Estonians who once worked on their estates.

After meeting Erika’s grandfather to request her hand in marriage, Oskar questions the source of his love: is he merely a slave pining after his master? Does he really love Erika as a person, or is he subconsciously drawn to her ancestry and the dynamics of the old order?

First published in 1935, I Loved a German is one of the final and best-known works of celebrated Estonian author AH Tammsaare. It has been praised for its psychological realism, its diary format and its rare Baltic German perspective, and has been adapted for both stage and screen.

AH Tammsaare was born in 1878 into a poor farming family in a small Estonian village. Due in part perhaps to his family’s unusual intellectual curiosity, Tammsaare raised money for an education and studied law at the University of Tartu until he was hospitalised with tuberculosis in 1911. After a year in hospital he spent six years recovering on his brother’s farm. When Estonia became independent, he moved to Tallinn. His greatest influences were Russian realists such as Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy and Gogol, but his work also shows the influence of Oscar Wilde, Knut Hamsun and André Gide.

Memoirs of a Life Cut Short
Ričardas Gavelis

Memoirs of a Life Cut Short inveighs against the falseness of a system that slowly crushes everyone in its wake. It is a Bildungsroman for the Homo Sovieticus: the reader sees the development of a regular, ordinary person in Soviet conditions, who, in one way or another, becomes part of a system that is almost impossible to escape from or change.

In 14 letters from beyond the grave to his friend and teacher Tomas Kelertas, protagonist Leonas Ciparis delineates his life from his earliest days up until his last; his rise from lowly beginnings to the upper echelons of the Communist Party, illustrating the nature of the new Soviet person.

The novel brilliantly reveals aspects of Lithuanian society that are understood to have existed, but are rarely openly discussed, helping the reader to understand the effects of Soviet rule on the human psyche as perceived by Lithuanians living under it.

Ričardas Gavelis (1950–2002) was an internationally acclaimed Lithuanian author, playwright and journalist. He studied and worked in physics for several years before discovering his talent for writing whilst on assignment at a popular science magazine. He was a successful writer for some time before publishing his seminal work, Vilnius Poker (1989), which has since been translated into English (2009) as well as several other languages.
The White Shroud
Antanas Škėma

*The White Shroud (Balta drobulė, 1958)* is considered by many as Lithuania’s most important work of modernist fiction. Drawing heavily on the author’s own refugee and immigrant experience, this psychological, stream-of-consciousness work tells the story of an émigré poet working as an elevator operator in a large New York hotel during the mid-1950s. Via multiple narrative voices and streams, the novel moves through sharply contrasting settings and stages in the narrator’s life in Lithuania before and during the First World War, returning always to New York and the recent immigrant’s struggle to adapt to a completely different, and indifferent, modern world.

Škėma uses language and allusion to destabilise, drawing the reader into an intimate, culturally and historically specific world to explore universal human themes of selfhood, alienation, creativity and cultural difference. Written from the perspective of a newcomer to an Anglophone country, the novel encourages an understanding of the complexities of immigrant life.

Antanas Škėma was born in Poland in 1910 to Lithuanian parents. He and his family lived in Russia during the First World War, and in 1921 returned to Lithuania. He studied law and medicine at university before switching to theatre in 1935. In 1944 he worked with Lithuanian troupes in Germany and, in 1949, he moved to the US and joined a group of Lithuanian exile artists. He was a prolific stage actor and director, and was heavily involved in the arts until his fatal car accident in 1961. *The White Shroud*, famous for its unconventional style, is Škėma’s only novel.
Illustrating Scotland

Showcasing International Illustration in the UK

By Leah McDowell

Illustration has a language of its own. No matter your cultural background or native tongue, human emotions are the same the world over. An illustrator’s job is to evoke that common emotion. Significantly for my job, Design Manager of award-winning children’s publisher Floris Books, an illustrator’s work isn’t limited by geographical borders.

I spend a lot of time searching out new illustration talent. The UK has a wealth of emerging illustrators, many of whom can be found at art college degree shows and through conferences and exhibitions run by organisations like Picture Hooks. We also discover new talent through our own Kelpies Design and Illustration Prize, established in 2014 as a creative platform for emerging and established artists in Scotland to have their work recognised and celebrated.

Although Floris Books is Scotland’s largest children’s publisher, we are location-agnostic when commissioning illustrators. This is, of course, much easier in the digital age where the internet enables artwork to be easily showcased and has dramatically increased the discoverability of illustrators around the world.
Around half of Floris Books’ children’s books are in translation, and it’s particularly rewarding to be able to work with talented and often well-established illustrators from non-English language countries – such as Eva Eriksson, Daniela Drescher, Maja Dusikova, Pirkko-Lisa Surojegin and Sanne Dufft – bringing their work to the English-speaking world, sometimes for the first time. Additionally, people are often surprised by how many non-UK-based illustrators we work with for our Scottish children’s books, the Kelpies.

Ruchi Mhasane, who lives and works in Mumbai, has illustrated two quintessentially Scottish books: folklore tale *The Selkie Girl* and *My Luve’s Like a Red, Red Rose*, a re-imagining of Robert Burns’ famous poem. Ruchi’s artwork is both lyrical and emotive, and her unfamiliarity with Burns’ poetry actually worked to our advantage as she was able to beautifully reframe the romantic poem as an expression of love between a mother and daughter.

It’s true that there’s often more that unites than divides us and our international illustrators have commented how they often see their own culture reflected back at them in our Scottish books. Vanya Nastanlieva’s soft but arresting portrayal of a bear in *The Island and the Bear* captures the muted, heathery tones of the Scottish Hebrides whilst also evoking her native Bulgaria. Likewise, Italian illustrator Alfredo Belli connected with the themes of war, courage and rebellion when he worked on the Bonnie Prince Charlie story, *Speed Bonnie Boat*.

That said, some of our international illustrators occasionally need a bit of guidance on the more obscure cultural references in our illustration briefs! I’ve had to send reference photos of clootie dumplings [a traditional fruit pudding], Lewis chessmen and a tartan cat, as well as explain Scots words like stooshie, numpty and bahookie – often to the illustrator’s great amusement.

At a time when print sales are buoyant and we’re arguably experiencing a golden age of illustration, more than ever people desire beautiful books to discover, love and treasure – no matter where in the world the illustrations come from. It’s a privilege to be part of that discovery.

Leah McDowell is Design & Production Manager at Floris Books and recipient of the inaugural Saltire Society Emerging Publisher Award. She is passionate about bold typography, good kerning, and championing the work of illustrators.

Floris Books, Saltire Society Scottish Publisher of the Year (2016), is an independent Edinburgh publisher best known for its Scottish and international children’s books.
The Accident on the A35

An extract from the latest novel by Graeme Macrae Burnet

There did not appear to be anything remarkable about the accident on the A35. It occurred on a perfectly ordinary stretch of the trunk road that runs between Strasbourg and Saint-Louis. A dark green Mercedes saloon left the southbound carriageway, careered down a slope and collided with a tree on the edge of a copse. The vehicle was not immediately visible from the road, so although it was spotted by a passer-by at around 10.45pm it was not possible to say with any certainty when the crash had occurred. In any case, when the car was discovered, the sole occupant was dead.
Georges Gorski of the Saint-Louis police was standing on the grass verge of the road. It was November. Drizzle glazed the road surface. There were no tyre marks. The most likely explanation was that the driver had simply fallen asleep at the wheel. Even in cases of cardiac arrest, drivers usually managed to apply the brakes or make some attempt to bring the vehicle under control. Nevertheless, Gorski resolved to keep an open mind. His predecessor, Jules Ribéry, had always urged him to follow his instincts. You solve cases with this, not this, he would say, pointing first to his considerable gut and then to his forehead. Gorski was sceptical about such an approach. It encouraged an investigator to disregard evidence that did not support the initial hypothesis. Instead, Gorski believed, each potential piece of evidence should be given due and equal consideration. Ribéry’s methodology had more to do with ensuring that he was comfortably ensconced in one of Saint-Louis’ bars by mid-afternoon. Still, Gorski’s initial impression of the scene before him suggested that, in this case, there would not be much call for alternative theories.

The area had been cordoned off by the time he arrived. A photographer was taking pictures of the crumpled vehicle. The flash intermittently illuminated the copse of trees. An ambulance and a number of police vehicles with flashing lights occupied the southbound lane of the carriageway. A pair of bored gendarmes directed the sparse traffic.

Gorski ground out his cigarette on the shingle at the side of the road and made his way down the embankment. If he did so, it was less because he thought that his inspection of the scene would offer up any insights into the cause of the accident, than because it was expected of him. Those gathered around the vehicle awaited his verdict. The body could not be removed from the car until the investigating officer was satisfied. If the accident had occurred just a few kilometres north, it would have fallen under the jurisdiction of the Mulhouse station, but it had not. Gorski was conscious of the eyes of those gathered on the edge of the copse upon him as he scrambled down the slope. The grass was greasy from the evening’s rain and his leather-soled slip-ons were ill-suited to such conditions. He had to break into a run to prevent himself losing his balance and collided with a young gendarme holding a flashlight. There were suppressed titters.

Gorski took a slow turn around the vehicle. The photographer ceased his activity and stood back to allow him an unencumbered view. The victim had been propelled, head and shoulders, through the windscreen. His arms remained by his sides, suggesting he had made no attempt to shield himself from the impact. His head slumped on the concertinaed bonnet of the car. The man had a full greying beard, but Gorski could ascertain little more about his appearance as his face, or at least the part that was visible, was entirely smashed in. The drizzle had plastered his hair to what was left of his forehead. Gorski continued his tour around the Mercedes. The paintwork on the offside of the vehicle was deeply scratched, indicating that the car might have travelled down the slope on its side before righting itself. Gorski paused and ran his fingers over the crumpled bodywork, as if expecting it to communicate something to him. It did not. Nonetheless, he took his notebook from the inside pocket of his jacket and, purely for the benefit of those observing him, scribbled a few perfunctory notes. The Road Accident Investigation Unit would determine the cause of the accident in due course. No flashes of intuition were required from Gorski or anyone else.

The driver’s door had been forced ajar by the impact. Gorski wrenched it further open and reached inside the overcoat of the victim. He indicated to the sergeant in charge of the scene that he had concluded his inspection and made his way up the slope to his car. Once inside he lit a cigarette and opened the wallet he had retrieved. The dead man’s name was Bertrand Barthelme of 14, Rue de la Camargue, Saint-Louis.

The Accident on the A35 by Graeme Macrae Burnet is published by Contraband/Saraband on 26 October 2017. Burnet’s previous novel, His Bloody Project, was shortlisted for the 2016 Man Booker Prize.
In the middle of August, at the Edinburgh International Book Festival, Scotland’s greatest living nature writer will launch his memoir. Although I have already read John Lister-Kaye’s *The Dun Cow Rib: A Very Natural Childhood* (Canongate Books, 2017), it’s too early to review it, so I shall use it instead as a marker for how the way in which we write about nature is changing.

Even in 1969, ten years after he wrote *Ring of Bright Water* (Longmans, 1960), Lister-Kaye’s mentor Gavin Maxwell would never have dreamed of writing about how the psychodramas of his own repressed homosexuality found expression in a deep love of otters. Back then, nature writing was a fusion of enchanted lyricism and descriptive accuracy, nothing at all to do with the writer’s psyche. Even the little Maxwell did reveal about himself in print was something he always regretted.

**Mapping Scotland’s New Nature Writing**

**By David Robinson**

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Lister-Kaye was in his early twenties in 1969 when he moved to Scotland to work with Maxwell, who died of lung cancer within months. ‘After the funeral,’ he told me, ‘I remember sitting with [Maxwell’s agent] Peter Janson-Smith, and he told me that the one line in Ring that Gavin always wished he hadn’t written was when he admitted that he cared more about Mijbil [his otter] than any human being.’

Why? ‘Because, in a sense, he was exposing himself as a recluse. And yet that’s just what he was. In both his next books Maxwell would complain bitterly about people who just turned up at Sandaig without prior notification.’ It’s a small point, but a telling one. Whatever other qualities British nature writing used to have four decades ago, openness and self-disclosure were not among them.

Now look at how much has changed. On its cover Lister-Kaye’s book is garlanded with praise. ‘No-one writes more movingly, or with such transporting skill,’ says Helen MacDonald, whose H is for Hawk (Vintage, 2014) is as much about overcoming grief as it is about training goshawks. ‘A great naturalist,’ adds Chris Packham, who, in his own childhood memoir Fingers in the Sparkle Jar, revealed last year that he loved his dogs more than any humans, and that he was suicidal when any of them died. This is a man who keeps his dog’s body in his fridge, who dedicates his book to them: while Maxwell regretted his limited emotional honesty about his love for his pet otters, Packham feels no such compunctions. That invisible barrier between writing about the inner and the outer world has vanished.

The book that made the biggest difference in breaking down that barrier, says Lister-Kaye, was The Nature Cure (Chatto & Windus, 2005) in which Richard Mabey, the doyen of British nature writing, revealed the full extent of the depression that had plagued him for two years. ‘Ever since then,’ says Lister-Kaye, ‘there has been an interest in nature writing that exposes people’s inner feelings.’

The latest expressions of that new emotional openness are many and various. Among writers based in Scotland, Sara Maitland, Kathleen Jamie, Linda Cracknell and Esther Woolfson certainly have a place on any such list. Special mention on it must go to the Orkney Polar Bears, a group of wild swimmers who meet weekly to take the plunge in the cold seas off the archipelago. These aren’t just wild swimmers; they are wildly literate ones too.

For proof, read – if you still haven’t – the 2016 Wainwright Prize-winning The Outrun (Canongate, 2016) by Amy Liptrot, which charts how getting closer to the natural world on Orkney helped her recover from a spiral of addiction into which she had fallen while in London. On Papa Westray, she began writing a column for the Caught by the River website, which since 2007 has been one of the leading forums for new British nature writing, and she then reworked some of those early columns – on wild swimming, listening for corncrakes, watching meteor showers – into her brilliantly written book about finding her own nature cure.

A quote from Liptrot – ‘Attentive, astute and beautiful. It expanded my mind and heart’ – adorns the cover of her fellow Orkney Polar Bear Victoria Whitworth’s Swimming with Seals (Head of Zeus, 2017). For Whitworth, wild swimming was what brought joy (through the release of what she calls ‘endolphins’) and a sense of being without boundaries to a life that had seemed to be narrowing into an unhappy marriage to a former monk. The new, emotionally open – and largely female – school of nature writing is spreading fast. Almost, I’m tempted to say, like a ring of bright water.

For more writing by David Robinson visit BooksfromScotland.com.
New titles

Non Fiction
A Kist o Skinklan Things
J Derrick McClure (editor)

The 20th-century Scottish Renaissance saw a sudden and dramatic change in Scotland's literary landscape. Beginning in the 1920s, Scottish writers increasingly engaged with contemporary social and political issues, and with questions of national identity. An integral part of this development was the radically new literary status accorded to the Scots language. Hugh MacDiarmid's immediate predecessors had introduced modern themes and linguistic experimentation to Scots poetry; and though MacDiarmid is the unquestioned central figure in the great poetic revival, he rode a rising tide. He and the poets who paved the way for him represent the first wave of the Scottish Renaissance. The second wave contains the extraordinary company of poets who wrote under his direct inspiration. On any showing, the scale and quality of this movement is a phenomenon rarely paralleled in literary history. A Kist o Skinklan Things contains a selection of the best work from this great period.

J Derrick McClure recently retired after 40 years of teaching in the English department of Aberdeen University. He has written four books and over 100 articles and conference papers on Scottish literary and linguistic topics, including many on Scots as a language of translation.

Frank Quitely Drawings and Sketches
Frank Quitely

Lifted from the pages of Frank Quitely’s plethora of moleskin sketchbooks, this is a rare view behind the looking glass of one of the UK’s most prolific and established comic artists. Featuring concept sketches, inner works, thought process and planning of comic projects from All-Star Superman to Jupiter’s Legacy.

Vincent Deighan, more familiar to readers as the pen name Frank Quitely, is a Scottish comic book artist, best known for his frequent collaborations with Grant Morrison on titles such as New X-Men, We3, All-Star Superman, and Batman and Robin, as well as his work with Mark Millar on The Authority and Jupiter’s Legacy.
A History of Britain in Maps
Philip Parker

From Mappa Mundi to modern election maps, the United Kingdom has evolved rapidly, along with the ways in which it has been mapped. In this time, cartography has not only kept pace with these changes, but has often driven them. In this beautiful book, 100 maps give a visual representation of the history of Britain.


Amazing Places: The World’s Ultimate Travel Destinations
The Sunday Times Travel Magazine

Love the photo – now want to put yourself in the picture? Full of sumptuous photography, exclusive content and inside-track information, this book showcases the 125 greatest destinations on the planet (from private islands to mountain peaks) then tells you how to get there.

*Amazing Places: The World’s Ultimate Travel Destinations* is by Britain’s bestselling holiday magazine, renowned for featuring accessible but always authoritative travel information, features, competitions, offers and photography. *The Sunday Times Travel Magazine* was winner of Travel Magazine of the Year in 2012 and 2013 at the Travel Press Awards.
Radio 4 Brain of Britain Quiz Book
Russell Davies

Think you’ve got what it takes to pit your wits against some of the brightest brains in Britain? Now you can take on the challenge with this ultimate quiz containing 2,000 questions from the Brain of Britain archives. Russell Davies includes a fascinating history of the programme as well as the characters and stories that have made it so successful.

Russell Davies was born in Barmouth, North Wales, and educated at Manchester Grammar School. He was a Major Scholar at St John’s College Cambridge, where he took a First degree in Modern Languages. Having been Secretary of the Footlights Club, he became an actor for a while before turning to journalism. His posts ranged from caricaturist of the Times Literary Supplement to film critic of The Observer, where he also served three years in the press box as a football correspondent. He later became TV critic of both The Observer and the Sunday Times. Since 1979 he has been a regular broadcaster on both radio and TV. Davies still supplies music documentaries to Radio 2, where his Song Show ran for 15 years. He first chaired Brain of Britain in 2004.

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**Concise Scots Dictionary: Second Edition**  
**Scottish Language Dictionaries**

First published in 1999, the *Concise Scots Dictionary* offers a comprehensive single-volume reference. This new edition is the result of 20 years’ research and has been substantially revised and updated to reflect modern Scots usage, alongside coverage of older Scots. Combining accessible style, clear layout and durable hardback format, this is a user-friendly and robust dictionary that you can turn to again and again. The dictionary contains over 40,000 headwords; over 1,100 words and usages new for this edition; additional coverage of Orkney, Shetland and Ulster Scots; comprehensive coverage of variant spellings and regional forms; extensive cross-referencing; updated and extended pronunciation information; information on grammar and register; thousands of idioms, phrases, and proverbs; and improved and extended information on etymologies.

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**Times Great Scottish Lives**  
**Magnus Linklater**

Discover the fascinating lives of the figures that have shaped Scotland from the early 19th century to the present day. Explore the rich history of Scotland’s cultural, social and political landscape, with more than 100 obituaries carefully curated from *The Times* archive.

Magnus Linklater is a commentator, columnist and former Scotland editor of *The Times*. He was editor of the *Scotsman* from January 1988 until July 1994. Born in Orkney, he is the son of the Scottish author, Eric Linklater, and was educated at Belhaven Hill School, Dunbar, and Eton College. He went to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, before taking up a career in journalism. He worked on the *Daily Express*, the *Evening Standard* and the *Sunday Times*, where he was magazine editor, news editor and executive editor (features). He then became managing editor (news) of *The Observer*. Linklater was appointed editor of the *London Daily News* in 1986, then moved to the *Scotsman*, which he edited for six years, before joining *The Times*.

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**Edinburgh University Press**  
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Human Trafficking: The Complexities of Exploitation
Edited by Margaret Malloch and Paul Rigby

‘Human trafficking’ is a term that does little to convey the myriad acts that underpin the exploitation of men, women and children across the world. Despite legislative developments and the introduction of national and international interventions, firm definitions, estimates of its extent, and responses to victims and perpetrators have been limited. On top of this, aspirations to prioritise the human rights of vulnerable people on the move are frequently overruled by law enforcement and border control policies.

This book goes beyond the political and media discourse to examine the competing dialogues surrounding human trafficking and explore its impact in the UK and internationally. Presenting findings from original, ground-breaking research in the field of human trafficking alongside insights from professionals working in the field, *Human Trafficking* highlights the challenges of research and evaluation in this contentious and hidden economy, and the implications of this for developments in survivor care and recovery.

Margaret Malloch is Reader in Criminology with the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research at the University of Stirling. Paul Rigby is Lecturer in Social Work at the University of Stirling.

London Writing of the 1930s
Anna Cottrell

*London Writing of the 1930s* offers a new perspective on the decade that has long been associated with the Auden generation and the rise of documentary. Tracing representations of London by a wide range of 1930s writers and photographers, including Patrick Hamilton, Jean Rhys, George Orwell, and Bill Brandt, the book’s chapters are organised around London’s spaces of leisure. The teashops, cinemas and nightclubs of Soho were central to 1930s negotiations of the interrelation between urban life, gender, and class; these settings provide this book both with cultural-historical context and with the basis for its argument about the decade’s aesthetic orientations.

Dr Anna Cottrell writes about mid-20th-century and contemporary British literature and urban culture. Her work has appeared in *Textual Practice, Literature and History*, and *Critical Quarterly*. 
Speculative Art Histories: Analysis at the Limits
Edited by Sjoerd van Tuinen

Situated at the interface of philosophy, aesthetics and art history, this collection brings together a series of creative responses to the recent speculative turn in Continental philosophy. It gives both a genealogy of speculative art history and a provocatively experimental counter-discourse of new speculative art histories.

The contributors include philosophers, art historians, architects and art practitioners who go beyond the mere complementarity of philosophy and art history. They are generous with the types of art they examine, including architecture, cinema, dance and new media, and the philosophical trajectories they engage with.

Sjoerd van Tuinen is Assistant Professor in Philosophy at Erasmus University Rotterdam and Coordinator of the Centre for Art and Philosophy. He is the editor of numerous books, including Deleuze and the Passions (Punctum Books, 2016), Deleuze and The Fold: A Critical Reader (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), Deleuze Compendium (Boom, 2009) and De Nieuwe Franse Filosofie (Boom, 2011). He is the author of Sloterdijk: Binnenstebuiten Denken (Klement, 2004).

The Celts: A History From Earliest Times to the Present
Bernhard Maier

Now in its second edition, this comprehensive history of the Celts draws on archaeological, historical, literary and linguistic evidence to provide a comprehensive and colourful overview from origins to the present. Divided into three parts, the first covers the continental Celts in prehistory and antiquity, complete with accounts of the Celts in Germany, France, Italy, Iberia and Asia Minor. Part Two follows the Celts from the departure of the Romans to the late Middle Ages, including the migrations to, and settlements in, Ireland, Wales, Scotland and Brittany. This section also includes discussions of the Celtic kingdoms and the significance of Christianisation. Part Three brings the history of the Celts up to the present, covering the assimilation of the Celts within the national cultures of Great Britain, France and Ireland.

Bernhard Maier was Professor in Celtic at the University of Aberdeen and is currently Professor of Religious Studies and the European History of Religions at the University of Tübingen.
A practical and insightful handbook allowing readers to tailor treatment for the symptoms of anxiety and depression using flower essences to their own requirements. Readily found in pharmacies, health-food shops and online, flower essences are used by millions of people on a daily basis. First pioneered by Dr Edward Bach, creator of the popular Rescue Remedy, flower remedies can help to restore balance between mind, body and spirit, when they are used as part of a considered treatment programme. Chris Phillips, a highly experienced flower essence therapist, incorporates Bach’s and other flower essence systems in this useful book packed with inspiration and real-life case studies.

Chris Phillips is an experienced flower essence therapist who has worked both personally and professionally in this field for over 30 years. He is an advanced practitioner of the British Flower and Vibrational Essence Association (BFVEA), and specialises in providing tailored therapy to each person’s unique needs.

A History of Scotland’s Landscapes
Fiona Watson

It is easy to overlook how much of our history is preserved all around us – the narrative of our changing nation inscribed in fields, forests, mountains, roads, buildings, villages, towns and cities. The footprints of the past can be found across our modern landscape. The very shapes of our fields tell us of the passing of the Romans and the labours of medieval peasants; while centuries later, great heaps of spoil mark the rapid decline of heavy industry.

In this landmark book you can learn how to read the landscapes around you, identify and appreciate the incredible layers of the past to be found beneath your feet. A History of Scotland’s Landscapes explores the ways we have used and changed our environment over thousands of years. It offers a remarkable new perspective on Scotland – a unique guide to tracing memories, events and meanings in the forms and patterns of our surroundings.

Fiona Watson is a medieval historian and writer, and the former Director for the Centre for Environmental History at the Universities of Stirling and St Andrews. She is the author of the history books Scotland from Prehistory to the Present, Macbeth: A True Story and Robert the Bruce, and was the presenter of In Search of Scotland, a BBC TV series on Scottish history.
**Bloody Scotland**  
Lin Anderson, Chris Brookmyre, Gordon Brown, Ann Cleeves, Doug Johnstone, Stuart MacBride, Val McDermid, Denise Mina, Craig Robertson, Sara Sheridan, ES Thomson, Louise Welsh

In *Bloody Scotland* 12 of Scotland’s best crime writers use the sinister side of the country’s built heritage in stories that are by turns gripping, chilling and redemptive.

Stellar contributors Val McDermid, Chris Brookmyre, Denise Mina, Ann Cleeves, Louise Welsh, Lin Anderson, Gordon Brown, Doug Johnstone, Craig Robertson, ES Thomson, Sara Sheridan and Stuart MacBride explore the thrilling potential of Scotland’s iconic sites and structures. From murder in an Iron Age broch and a macabre tale of revenge among the furious clamour of an 18th-century mill, to a dark psychological thriller set within the tourist throng of Edinburgh Castle and a rivalry turning fatal in the concrete galleries of an abandoned modernist ruin, this collection uncovers the intimate – and deadly – connections between people and places.

Prepare for a dangerous journey into the dark shadows of our nation’s buildings – where passion, fury, desire and death collide.

**Who Built Scotland: A History of the Nation in Twenty-Five Buildings**  
Alexander McCall Smith, Alistair Moffat, James Crawford, James Robertson, Kathleen Jamie

Experience a new history of Scotland told through its places. Writers Kathleen Jamie, Alexander McCall Smith, Alistair Moffat, James Robertson and James Crawford pick 25 buildings to tell the story of the nation. Travelling across the country, from abandoned islands and lonely glens to the heart of our modern cities, these five authors seek out the diverse narrative of the Scottish people.

*Who Built Scotland* is a landmark exploration of Scotland’s social, political and cultural histories. Moving from Neolithic families, exiled hermits and ambitious royal dynasties to Highland shieling girls, peasant poets, Enlightenment philosophers and iconoclastic artists, it places our people, our ideas and our passions at the heart of our architecture and archaeology. This is the remarkable story of how we have shaped our buildings and how our buildings, in turn, have shaped us.
**Left To Their Own Devices? Confident Parenting in a World of Screens**  
Katharine Hill  

Communications technology, heralding a world of choice and opportunity, is advancing at such speed that we sometimes struggle to navigate each new turn. And yet we need to equip our children to make good choices and to deal with the hidden dangers, as well as take hold of the positive opportunities.

This clear, informative book explores the impact of the digital world on teenagers and younger children, giving practical advice on screen time, social media and consumer culture as well as how to tackle some of the more serious issues, such as online bullying, grooming and pornography. In an age of digital confusion, Katharine Hill’s calm wisdom and practical guidance brings help to any parent.

Whether a new parent or living with teenagers, a stranger to Snapchat or have 500 followers on Twitter, this book is for mums and dads who want to confidently parent in a world of screens.

Katharine Hill LLB JP is UK Director at Care for the Family. She speaks and writes on family matters, is a regular contributor to *The Huffington Post* and the author of several books. Hill also leads on Care for the Family’s policy agenda, representing the organisation at government level, and is a board member of the International Commission on Couple and Family Relations. Prior to joining Care for the Family in 2004, Hill practised as a family lawyer. She is married to Richard and they have four grown-up children.

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**A New Era: Scottish Modern Art 1900-1950**  
Alice Strang  

*A New Era* tells an alternative story of the history of modern Scottish art by examining the most advanced work made by leading and less high-profile Scottish artists during the first half of the 20th-century. It challenges the accepted view of the dominance of the Scottish Colourists and reveals a hitherto little-known progressive Scottish art world.

Alice Strang is a Senior Curator at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.
The Great Horizon: 50 Tales of Exploration
Jo Woolf

50 stories of adventure and exploration over more than 200 years of human history. The Great Horizon features those who set out to conquer new territories and claim world records alongside those who contributed to our understanding of the world all but accidentally. Published in association with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS), and with full access to their extensive records, the book includes unique images and insights from the RSGS archives, along with never-before-seen material.

Jo Woolf was born in Shropshire, and now lives with her husband in West Lothian. She has always had a passion for writing, along with a lively fascination for history and the natural world. In 2014 she began digging into the archives of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, in a mission to bring to light some half-forgotten figures in the field of exploration. The book’s foreword is by Iain Stewart, Geologist and Professor of Geoscience Communication at the University of Plymouth, who presented the BBC Two shows Volcano Live and How Earth Made Us.

China in Drag: Travels with a Cross-dresser
Michael Bristow

Approaching the end of his nine-year stint as a BBC journalist in Beijing, Michael Bristow decided he wanted to write about the country’s modern history. To assist him he asked for the help of his language teacher, who was born just two years after the communist party came to power in 1949. The changing fortunes of his life have mirrored the ups and downs of his country, which has moved from communist poverty to capitalist wealth in just a single generation. It came as a surprise, though, to learn that the teacher was also a cross-dresser. Michael gradually realised that the teacher’s story is the story of modern China.

Michael Bristow is Asia/Pacific editor for the BBC World Service in London. He appears on radio and TV, commenting on developments in the world’s fastest-changing region. For five years he was a BBC correspondent in Beijing, covering everything from earthquakes to the Olympics. Apart from his family, China is his great passion, an interest that began while at university in Newcastle. He has spent much of his adult life trying to learn Mandarin, a task he imagines might take many more years. He lives in Yorkshire with his wife and their two children.
The Nature of Winter
Jim Crumley

During winter, dark days of wild storms can give way to the perfect, glistening stillness of frost-encrusted winter landscapes – it is the stuff of wonder and beauty, of nature at its utmost. In The Nature of Winter, Jim Crumley ventures into our countryside to experience first-hand the chaos and the quiet solitude of nature's rest period. He bears witness to the lives of golden eagles, red deer, whales and other creatures as they battle intemperate weather and the turbulence of climate change. In the snow Jim discovers ancient footsteps that lead him to reflect on the journey of his personal nature-writing life – a journey that takes in mountain legends, dear departed friends and an enduring fascination and deep love for nature. Simply, he evokes winter in all its drama, in all its pathos, in all its glory.

Jim Crumley is a passionate advocate for Britain’s landscape and animals, as well as the reintroduction of species such as sea eagles, beavers and wolves. He is a nature writer, journalist and poet with some 30 books to his name. Last year's The Nature of Autumn has been longlisted for the Wainwright Prize and shortlisted for the Richard Jefferies Society and White Horse Bookshop Literary Prize. Crumley’s 2014 book, The Eagle’s Way, was shortlisted for a prestigious Saltire Society Literary Award, and his Encounters in the Wild series has found him many new readers.

The Island in Imagination and Experience
Barry Smith

From Treasure Island to Robben Island, from the paradise of Thomas More’s ‘Utopia’ to Napoleon’s purgatory on Elba, islands have proved irresistible to mankind’s imagination since time immemorial. Self-confessed islomaniac Barry Smith explores how islands bewitch us so, and examines the kind of human experiences that islands inspire. Journeying all around the globe to take in the most fascinating stories of Earth’s half a million islands, this book considers the unique geography, politics and economics of islands and their cultures. It traces their singular place in literature, religion and philosophy, and disentangles the myths and the facts to reveal just why islands exert such an insistent grip on the human psyche.

Barry Smith has spent much of his 60-plus years at work, rest and play on islands all around the world – from Scotland’s Western Isles to Sicily, from Alaska to Cape Horn. To cap it all, he has completed a doctoral dissertation about islands. Smith lives in northern Scotland and France.
**It Takes a Lifetime to Become Yourself**  
**Kay Carmichael edited by David Donnison**

‘In order to die well, we have first to discover how to live.’

Social reformer, peace activist and policy advisor, Kay Carmichael was an influential figure in Scottish politics. This book is a collection of her autobiographical writings, poems, speeches and articles – some from her column in *New Society* magazine in the 1980s. They reflect a courageous and unique view on a life that keenly observed the downtrodden and effected much of the social reform we now take for granted. Her dying was as controversial as her life and her reflections on death are things we need to say and need to hear for ourselves and for our young: ‘We can only honour life through an awareness of death’.

Kay Carmichael was born in 1925 and died in 2009. After an impoverished upbringing in Glasgow’s East End, she became a social worker, university teacher, wife of an MP, a member of the Scottish Office Advisory Committee for setting up Children’s Panels, a peace activist (for which she was imprisoned), and an advisor for Harold Wilson’s Policy Unit at No 10 Downing Street. The collection is edited by her husband David Donnison.

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**A Land Girl’s Tale**  
**Mona McLeod**

‘I can see the disgust on the face of one neighbour when Jack, the farmer, asked to lend a man, produced a land girl.’

Mona McLeod worked in Kirkcudbrightshire during the Second World War, providing the skilled labour needed on farms before mechanisation. The girls were given heavy agricultural work in fields, and with animals, carrying hundredweight sacks, sawing wood, felling trees and filling up rat holes. It was a tough way to grow up, but this illustrated memoir provides a valuable record of a time when women faced the rigorous physical challenges involved in winning the war at home.

Born in England in 1922, McLeod never went back after her five years in the Land Army in Scotland. A history graduate, she taught in Edinburgh schools before becoming a freelance lecturer on aspects of Scottish culture. Her publications include *Agents of Change: Scots in Poland: 1800-1918*, a book based on family papers, which has been translated into Polish and published in Warsaw.
**Life and Death on Little Ross**
David R Collin

Little Ross is an attractive and unspoiled island and its lighthouse, beautifully designed by the famous Stevenson family, is at its summit. After 117 years of devotion to duty, peacefulness and calm, life on Little Ross was disrupted forever by a day of inexplicable violence when a murder in the lighthouse buildings brought widespread notoriety. The author was a witness in the High Court trial that followed and here he tells the story of the island, its lighthouse, and its people who lived and worked there. It also features extracts from a detailed lighthouse keeper's diary that survived from the First World War.

Collin is a retired architect, a founder member of Kirkcudbright Sailing Club, and the founding Chairman of Kirkcudbright History Society. He is the author of the acclaimed *Kirkcudbright’s Prince of Denmark and her Voyages in the South Seas*.

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**From Goblets to Gaslights: The Scottish Glass Industry 1750-2006**
Jill Turnbull

*From Goblets to Gaslights: The Scottish Glass Industry 1750-2006* explores the histories of individual flint glassworks in Scotland from the 18th to the 21st centuries, when Scottish glass production was flourishing. Major works in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Leith are looked at in detail, while other smaller, virtually unknown, producers, like the Clyde Flint Glass Company in Greenock, are also covered. Individual chapters discuss the production of cut, engraved, pressed, and coloured glass while also presenting the many practical, less collectable goods created throughout the period.

This volume is an invaluable study for all those interested in Scottish industrial history, in particular the history of glass production. It is accompanied by a free DVD with a reproduction of a Holyrood Pattern Book, allowing readers the unique opportunity to closely examine the designs used to create Scottish glass.

Jill Turnbull obtained her PhD from the University of Edinburgh in 1999. Her previous monograph, *The Scottish Glass Industry 1610-1750*, was published in 2001 by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.
Running South America
Katharine Lowrie

*Running South America* is the story of two everyday runners, Katharine and David, who decided to take on a continent and learn how to run again, barefoot. In a bid to become the first in the world to run the length of South America and to give a voice to the wildlife and wildernesses they adore, Katherine and David pushed their bodies and minds to levels they had never considered possible.

Amazing animals accompanied their journey: gigantic vaulting stick insects, cackling macaws and an anteater that they stalked through a snake-infested swamp. Running through freezing and desert conditions and into the biggest rainforest on earth, Katherine and David survived hurricane-force winds, near 100% humidity, swarms of biting insects and some of the most crime-ridden places on the planet. The expedition nearly cost them their marriage, health, sanity and lives but they made it, 6,504 miles and 15 months later.

Following her childhood interests, Katharine Lowrie gained an MSc in Ecology from Bristol University. She then managed a remote bush camp in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia, followed by wildflower surveying in the Drakensberg Mountains in South Africa. She lives in Devon and is an ecologist for the RSPB.
Shorebirds in Action
Richard Chandler

Shorebirds, or waders, are a large group of small to medium-sized birds that occur worldwide. Found in a wide range of predominantly coastal or wetland habitats, some species are largely sedentary whilst others are amongst the world’s most migratory bird species, travelling thousands of kilometres in a few days. This book is split into chapters that provide basic behavioural information and can be read as a general text. It can also be read by reference to the extended photograph captions which explain in detail the particular behaviour depicted. The book also contains excellent photographs of about 180 shorebird species – over three-quarters of the world’s total – and therefore provides a general reference for identifying shorebird species and recognising their various plumages. It is relevant to readers worldwide.

Richard Chandler is the author of the Macmillan Field Guide to North Atlantic Shorebirds and Shorebirds of the Northern Hemisphere; he has had numerous articles published in ornithological journals. For many years he has been associated with the long-established journal British Birds, as Photographic Consultant, as a member of its Editorial Board and as Chairman of its Board of Directors. He is currently President Elect of the Nature Photographers’ Portfolio.

Understanding Animal Behaviour
Rory Putman

This accessible introduction to animal behaviour provides an authoritative yet reader-friendly guide for the interested naturalist. It presents current knowledge about the way animals behave and enables the reader to derive more pleasure from their observations of animals by gaining a deeper understanding of their behaviour. The first part of the book explores how animals behave by considering the physical processes involved in the way animals perceive their environment and what determines how they respond to it.

The author then examines many topics relating to animal’s expressions of behaviour, and explores the evolutionary forces that have shaped – and continue to shape – more complex behaviours. The book showcases exquisite illustrations by wildlife artist Catherine Putman and is copiously illustrated throughout to support interpretation of the text and to enhance understanding.

Professor Rory Putman is Environmental and Wildlife Consultant, Emeritus Professor at Manchester Metropolitan University, and Visiting Professor at the Universities of Utrecht and Glasgow. He has had numerous books published on ecology and behaviour.
Back then you see, when I returned to work, I was still one of the only women in the faculty. Down in the basement, where the physics labs were housed, I was studying early-stage cell development with microfluidic delivery. But King’s was an old university, theology its biggest department, and upstairs the seminary dominated.

I felt like I was being followed by those men in their cassocks and collars who paced silently across the stone courtyard. And watched. Haunted by the sound of the hymns that resonated through the labs below. When you feel you’re being judged, you imagine that same judgement is coming from everywhere. Though there was another type of haunting there, too – Rosalind died the same week my daughter was born. I was grieving for my friend, while my colleagues were still taking credit for her work. To remember how they used to make fun of her behind her back! It made me more angry than ever. I knew that if I gave them the slightest cause, they would push me out. They didn’t want me there. They were waiting for me to get something wrong, and so I couldn’t.

My work had to be perfect.

Still, in some ways King’s was progressive, for its time – in Princeton women weren’t even allowed to step foot in the physics department. Being patronised was...
the price we paid for walking through the door. Not that we were allowed in the staff common room. That was the backdrop, you see. That was the world I’d worked so hard to gain access too. It made me different, I think. Different from whom I would otherwise have been. All the time I had to feign a sort of steely confidence, of arrogance, if I were to get any of them to listen to me. And I had to make them listen. I felt like I was on a mission, I was so certain that I knew what had to be done.

Unusually for King’s at that point I was more interested in whole cells than in DNA – living cell research was how I wanted to study human reproduction, and I needed the engineering capability as well as the biology to sustain them. I worked with microscopes rather than X-rays, manufactured carefully designed substrates to keep my cells alive rather than wire hooks to hang and stretch molecules from. It wasn’t until after I’d built my first living cell chamber that I heard Haldane speak at the Royal Society.

He sounded smooth and assured as he talked about genetics and biostatistics, wearing a deep navy blazer with distinctive white stripes and that full moustache – it was almost a surprise he wasn’t holding a pipe. He was something of a celebrity already, being such close friends with Aldous Huxley, but it took me a moment to realise what he meant when he started going on about ectogenesis. I hadn’t read *Brave New World* at the time – for the best, I’d say. So as he talked about external wombs and selective breeding and child production rates I thought to myself, no, no, no, that’s all wrong – that’s such a man’s way of seeing a woman’s world. It’s never going to be about mass production in all the symmetrical sterility of a laboratory. Human beings, if nothing else, need to feel like individuals. Don’t you see? Any change must allow for individuals to remain an intrinsic part of their own reproduction, or it will fail. I wanted to create a liberating new form of pregnancy. A genuine equality. A more reliable bond between parent and child. In that moment, I realised that my work was intensely personal. That was why I was the one who would succeed.

*The Growing Season* by Helen Sedgwick is published by *Harvill Secker* on 7 September 2017.
An interview with one of Scotland’s rising stars

Estelle Maskame
You started writing when you were only 13 years old and landed a three-book deal with Black and White Publishing by the time you turned 17. How did this come about?

I’d been posting my work online on several different writing communities, hoping to gain some helpful feedback from anyone who would take the time to read my work, when it blew up into something much bigger than I expected it to. Through promoting my work across social media and being consistent with my writing, I gained 4 million hits online and built up my own fanbase within less than four years. I was interviewed for my local newspaper, and then STV came along and wrote a few pieces about me, and then I was on their TV news. Word was spreading and that’s when Black and White Publishing came into the picture, and, a month later, I signed my book deal and left school.

What’s it like writing full time at such a young age?

I absolutely love it! Most days, I just get to enjoy my hobby, so there really is nothing more I could wish for. However, it can get quite stressful and isolating sometimes too.

Your online following has played a big role in your publishing story and how you connect with readers across the world. You have a huge number of followers including almost 170K Twitter followers, some of whom are very devoted fans. What’s that like?

It’s amazing! Without a doubt, I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for the support of my readers across social media. I like to think of them all as my friends more than anything else, because I really do share everything with them and it’s such an incredible feeling knowing that there are so many people out there who believe in me and are rooting for me. I always want to do them proud, and I hope that I can inspire them to work hard to achieve their own goals and dreams too.

The Did I Mention I Love You? (DIMILY) trilogy has been a huge success internationally and is currently licensed to an impressive 16 countries. Do you have any international highlights?

Definitely the time I visited Paris. DIMILY has done really well in France, and I can remember doing my first French book signing last year in Paris and glancing up at the three hour long queue and having it hit me all at once that I was living my dream – ever since I was young, all I had dreamed of was being an author who could do book signings in other countries where there would be a line of people holding my book in their hands, so that was a cool moment for me.

Tell us about your new adventure – Dare to Fall

Dare to Fall is my new Young Adult romance, in the same contemporary style as DIMILY, which is a standalone novel. It focuses on MacKenzie, a girl who is terrified of grief, and Jaden, a boy who is grieving. It’s been super fun to work on something new but also challenging, and I can’t want for people to read it!

Lastly, what’s next?

I’m taking a break at the moment now that I’ve finished Dare to Fall, but soon I’ll be diving straight into my new project – it’s an idea I’ve been toying with since 2012, so I’m very, very excited to finally give it a go. Again, it’s still Young Adult contemporary romance, and I’m confident that my readers will love it, but it’s all still a secret for now!

Dare to Fall by Estelle Maskame is out now published by Black and White priced £7.99.
New titles

Children and Young Adults
**The Mighty Women of Science**
Clare Forrest (artist) Fiona Gordon and Kate Livingston (authors)

*The Mighty Women of Science* is a playful and enlightening look at some well-known – and some not so well-known – women who have changed, and continue to change, the world of science. From A for Astronaut (Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in space) to Z for Zoologist (the award-winning Biruté Gladikas), *The Mighty Women of Science* is a book for all ages in full colour.

*The Mighty Women of Science* began as a self-published zine by creator Clare Forrest. When working to communicate science, Forrest began to see that women were largely written out of the history of science. She began collating the life stories and work of some of the most influential and underrated female scientists. With help from friends Fiona Gordon and Kate Livingston, the zine she created became *The Mighty Women of Science*.

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**Plagued: The Miranda Chronicles**
Gary Chudleigh (author) Tanya Roberts (artist)

Thomas Mackie, alongside his dog Dex, hunts down witches in order to save enough money and buy his way to a better life. But things take an unexpected turn when Mackie’s latest target – a witch called Miranda Lee – blackmauls him into helping her act out a dangerous plot to cure the plague, once and for all.

‘Humour, wit and an endearing charm’ – Geekverse.com
‘A fine book, knowingly lightweight, playing with the ideas of a comedy drama with a sci-fi theme and doing it all so very well’ – Forbidden Planet

Written by Gary Chudleigh (*Invisible, Future Quake*) with art from Tanya Roberts (*Star Wars: The Clone Wars, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*).
**Dare To Fall**  
*Estelle Maskame*

MacKenzie Rivers seems like she has it all figured out. She has great friends, she’s doing well in school and her handsome ex-boyfriend is desperate to win her back. But something is missing from her life in Windsor, Colorado. And as much as she hates to admit it, that something might be Jaden Hunter. Tall, blond and athletic, a year ago Kenzie was falling fast for him and his crooked smile.

12 months later, everything has changed. A tragic accident has destroyed Jaden’s family and Kenzie has no idea how to talk to him anymore. She is all too familiar with the impact family tragedy can have on the people she loves, and she can’t bear to go through it again with Jaden. She does the only thing she knows how to do: walk away.

When the pair meet again by chance one night, Kenzie realises that she can’t ignore her feelings for him any longer.

Will Kenzie dare to fall for the one person she’s so afraid of growing close to?

Now an international bestselling author, Estelle Maskame started writing at the age of 13 and completed her *Did I Mention I Love You? (DIMILY)* trilogy when she was 16. With over 165K followers on Twitter, she has already built an extensive and loyal fanbase for her writing around the world, and rights for the *DIMILY* trilogy have been sold in 15 territories so far. Maskame won the Young Scot Arts Award in 2016, and was shortlisted for the Young Adult award at the Romantic Novel of the Year Awards. She is 19 years old and lives in the northeast of Scotland.

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**T is for Tree**  
*Greg Fowler*

Eddy is no ordinary boy. Some, including his grandmother, would say that he is ‘stupid’. Yet Eddy and Mr Tree, the tree growing through his bedroom window, have a lot to teach anyone who befriends them.

Abandoned by his mother and kept locked away by his grandmother, Eddy must spend his life watching the world go by from his bedroom window. Until Reagan Crowe moves in next door and everything starts to change. She’s kind, funny, beautiful and, most importantly, she’s Eddy’s first friend. Except for Mr Tree, of course. Over time, Reagan introduces Eddy to the strange and wonderful world outside his bedroom: maths, jam, love.

But growing up isn’t that simple for either of them. And Eddy has a secret: the tree that’s slowly creeping in through his window from the garden is no ordinary tree. Set over the course of five years, *T is for Tree* is moving, life-affirming, and shows that we can all find greatness in the small things. It will delight readers who enjoyed the likes of *Wonder* by RJ Palacio and *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yon.

Greg Fowler lives in Wellington, New Zealand with his wife and three children. Outside of his love for writing, Fowler is a professional risk consultant who worked in Washington DC with the likes of military contractors to the Pentagon during the Iraqi Conflict. Fowler’s passion for storytelling started when he was about 10 years old and never faded. It was only thanks to a gentle nudge from his wife Fiona that his work moved from a pile of pages gathering dust in a spare room to appearing in a bookstore next to his inspirations. As for the future, Fowler intends to make time for the rest of those stories to fall out of his head and on to the page.
Artie Conan Doyle and the Gravediggers’ Club
Robert J Harris

This ingenious new Middle Grade series of children’s detective mysteries re-imagines the youthful adventures of Sherlock Holmes creator, Arthur Conan Doyle, speculating on the daring adventures that inspired him to create the greatest literary detective of all time. The first instalment sees 12-year-old Artie Conan Doyle and sidekick Ham encounter graveyards, ghosts and gigantic hounds in the foggy streets of 19th-century Edinburgh. Amateur sleuths will be gripped from start to finish. Harris brings the young Conan Doyle to life in this new series of detective stories full of twists, turns and clever reveals.

Robert J Harris was born in Dundee and now lives in St Andrews with his wife, sons and his dog. He is the author of many children’s books, including Will Shakespeare and the Pirate’s Fire, Leonardo and the Death Machine and popular Norse-god trilogy The World’s Gone Loki!

Ferryman
Trespassers
Claire McFall

2017 sees the reissue of Young Adult author Claire McFall’s stunning, award-winning debut novel, Ferryman, alongside the hotly anticipated sequel, Trespassers. This truly original series charts the unbreakable bonds of love between train crash victim, Dylan, and her Ferryman, Tristan, an immortal guide who must lead her soul safely through the purgatorial wasteland to the afterlife. When the star-crossed lovers decide to escape death’s clutches and return to the mortal world, they discover their souls are bound together by something stronger than love. Having defied death and disrupted the unwritten laws of the supernatural world, they must now face the consequences.

With nearly one million copies sold in Asia and a movie deal in the offing, Claire McFall’s series is all set to kick up an international YA storm.

Claire McFall is a writer and a teacher, living and working in the Scottish Borders. Her first book, Ferryman, won a Scottish Children’s Book Award, was long-listed for the Branford Boase Award and nominated for the Carnegie Medal. She is also the author of dystopian thriller Bombmaker and her paranormal thriller Black Cairn Point won the Scottish Teenage Book Prize 2017.
**Peg & Uan**
Sandra Klaassen

An adorable board book for toddlers, **Peg & Uan** teaches young readers how they can forge friendships. Peg, the timid sheepdog who is afraid of sheep, lives on a remote Hebridean island. When her family rescue Uan the lamb and bring him home, Peg must face up to her fears. Will Peg and Uan ever become friends? The book combines beautiful illustrations from Sandra Klaassen’s much-loved picture books, *Uan the Little Lamb* and *Peg the Little Sheepdog*.

Sandra Klaassen was born in the Netherlands and currently lives in Schijndel. Her time spent in the Outer Hebrides provided inspiration for her Scottish picture books. She has illustrated over 30 children’s books, including *My Cat Mac, Mac’s Christmas Star* and *The Cat Who Decided*.

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**Museum Mystery Squad and the Case of the Hidden Hieroglyphics**
Mike Nicholson

Illustrated with comical line drawings and striking typography, the Museum Mystery Squad series is perfect for six to eight year olds and reluctant readers. The second instalment sees the museum’s resident junior detectives encounter the world of Ancient Egypt. When a strange message is found hidden on the casket of Pharaoh Raneb, the squad must crack a code nobody’s seen since ancient times. Can they reveal the mummy’s secret before it unravels? Packed with riddles, red herrings and big reveals, the page-turning series features enjoyable extras including wacky facts and activities that will keep young detectives entertained for hours.

Mike Nicholson won the Kelpies Prize for new Scottish children’s fiction in 2005. He lives in Edinburgh and is the author of many humorous children’s books including the Museum Mystery Squad series (for young readers) and the Thistle Street picture books.

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**Prehistoric People**  
Donald Grant

Who were our earliest human ancestors? Where did they come from? What tools did they invent? How did they evolve over time? What traces did they leave behind? The reader will learn answers to these and many more questions by stepping inside the cave of a prehistoric family and turning the pages to learn about hunting mammoth and reindeer, making clothes and tools, and how prehistoric people painted on cave walls with their hands.

Donald Grant was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1954. After studying Fine Arts at the Pratt Institute, he then worked as a barman and musician. Learning from his travels after spending six years travelling the globe, he chose drawing as his medium for expression. His passion for travel led him to France, where he has now lived for the last 20 years. Grant has illustrated numerous children’s books in genres ranging from non-fiction to detective stories, and other types of fiction. He is also a children’s story writer.

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**The Moon**  
Philippe Biard

In a series of beautifully illustrated diagrams, the reader can observe the craters on the moon, discover how the moon orbits around the Earth, and understand its relative size compared to the Earth and the sun. Find out about the different phases of the moon, observe both lunar and solar eclipses, and follow the first landing on the moon and see what the astronauts took back with them. The book also looks at the satellites of other planets and the plans to build a space station on the moon.

This titles forms part of the *My First Discoveries* series, a unique collection of highly illustrated information books for children aged four to seven that aims to awaken children’s interest in the wonders of the natural, physical and human world around them.

Philippe Biard is a children’s book illustrator. After completing his studies in Fine Arts and Applied Arts in Paris, Biard worked in advertising, for architects and interior designers, before becoming an illustrator in 1986. Since 1989, he has produced illustrations for the media and children’s publishers.
**What Animals Eat**  
Sylvaine Peyrols

All living things depend on each other for their food and habitat. In this book, children can observe and learn about all the food chains that link living things in an ecosystem. Each double spread explores a different ecosystem: the kitchen garden, woodland, seashore, savannah, jungle, polar and marine systems.

On the left-hand page, colour-coded diagrams and arrows show the reader the different food chains that exist within each ecosystem. On the right-hand page, captivating full-page life-like illustrations show the ecosystems in all their detail. Readers use a ‘magic flashlight’ to ‘light up’ and explore these darkened transparent pages, enabling them to focus on one detail at a time.

Sylvaine Peyrols is a non-fiction children’s author. He has written many titles in the *My First Discoveries* series, including *The Body, Earth and Sky, Farm Animals, and How the Body Works.*

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**Paxton, The Sheepdog Who Couldn’t...**  
JK Fox

In the rolling Borders countryside near Melrose, young Farmer Katie brings home a new sheepdog. Paxton is a lovely dog, but there’s a problem – he’s terrified of sheep. Then Foxy Brown threatens the chicken shed. Can Paxton find a new meaning in life?

*Paxton, The Sheepdog Who Couldn’t...* is the first Serafina Press book from JK Fox, in collaboration with experienced illustrator, Alexa Rutherford. Together, they create a beautiful pastoral tale that comes to an inspiring close.

JK Fox grew up in the Scottish Borders, near Selkirk, and now lives in the Pacific Northwest. She is a travel writer and a storyteller. This is her first book for Serafina Press.
The Sea Unicorn of Mull
Jennifer T Doherty

After a great storm, the sea unicorn has lost his heart. Will he find it, as he hunts around the beautiful Isle of Mull, off the Scottish West Coast? A small girl on a boat might hold the secret. This stunning book features illustrated images of Oban, Mull and Iona.

Jennifer T Doherty studied English at Glasgow University and, after many years in London, now lives in the Scottish Borders. Her books are inspired by specific locations in Scotland, and the imaginary situations they conjure for her. Her earlier books include The Eyemouth Mermaid, The Treasure of North Berwick and The Sailing Bear of the East Neuk.
As an international business HarperCollins publishers spans the globe. Our beginnings too are international, with J & J Harper beginning their business in New York in 1817. They were successful in making English and American future classics available in America as well as creating the *Harper Weekly* and *Monthly* magazines which gave a snapshot of the cultural movements of the time. Two years later in September 1819, William Collins began his business in the city centre of Glasgow on Wilson Street. Each of these parts has its own singular history. As we have reflected on these histories and brought them together as one coherent history for our global bicentenary, it became apparent that due to our founders’ passion, innovation and care for their staff, our archive reflects the stories of our books but equally the stories of our people.
Our founder William Collins I began his career in a mill before becoming a teacher. He set up Sunday schools around Glasgow helping people learn the basics of English and Arithmetic. His interest in the temperance movement, as well as his involvement with the Church, led him to securing his first author, Reverend Thomas Chalmers. Our first book, *The Christian and Civic Economy of Large Towns*, was published 24 September 1819 and was the first of many books by Chalmers published by Collins.

Collins quickly grew and expanded the business with religious texts, fiction and education books. In 1839 the company gained the licence to print the *Bible*. By 1842 Collins had published the New Testament in three different typefaces, and the following year the first complete *Holy Bible* with 4,631,056 letters was set by hand. The first family Bible was then published in 1845 with some editions costing less than £1.

By 1862, Collins became the publisher for the Scottish School Book Association and for the Irish National Education Board. Books for Canadian and Indian schools were also created in Glasgow and exported across the world. The Collins business had a strong presence in Glasgow and the publishing movement within Scotland in the 1800s. Along with Blackie and Sons in Glasgow, and Bartholomew and Chambers in Edinburgh, Scotland was a hub of activity.

Our archive also holds a vast number of photographs, pamphlets and records which show the commitment the Collins family gave to the welfare of their employees and authors. From the earliest days, Collins had pensions for staff, employed hundreds of women and gave many other benefits to the workers. For example, in 1887, William Collins II founded the Collins Institute for his workers. It contained a library, dance hall, dining rooms and games hall for workers to enjoy their recreation time but also for them to gain other knowledge in English and Maths.

Into the 1900s, welfare was just as important and the company began a Comfort fund for employees who were at the Front. Each person would receive a package of ‘home comforts’ which was paid by the company and staff fundraising. In 1948, the family bought a house in Largs which was a place for employees who were ill to get out of the city, rest, and enjoy the clean air. Holmwood House was open to employees from all levels and ran for nearly 20 years. William Collins I’s strong morals and beliefs continued through the generations of the family members who ran the company, each who appreciated their workers and wanted to provide for them and the local community.

Our authors are obviously very much part of our history and are present in our archive. From our correspondence collections with famous authors to photographs and ephemera, the archive documents the work of some of the greatest writers.

In 1926, we published *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie and this set us on a long path with Christie which continues to today. Her correspondence with William (Billy) Collins V shows not only a publisher and author relationship but a friendship which grew through time. Alistair MacLean, a Glasgow-born author, also holds an important place in our archive. Having discovered Alistair through a writing competition in a local paper, we first published *HMS Ulysses* in 1955. He went on to write about 30 books for Collins, some of which were made into very successful films.

This is a snapshot of our archive and the wonderful stories it holds. It shows our place in the history of publishing but also within the history of the communities we worked in, the relationships we had with authors and the care the company had for its employees. Having the chance to celebrate 200 years of heritage has been an excellent opportunity to showcase our history and tell the stories which ours holds. To learn more, visit 200.hc.com

Dawn Sinclair is archivist at the HarperCollins archive in Bishopbriggs, Glasgow.
Father Christmas and Me

An interview with Matt Haig
Father Christmas and Me is your third book in your festive series published by Canongate Books. What initially inspired you to write a children’s book about Christmas?

I had just written Reasons to Stay Alive and wanted to write about the opposite of depression. So when my son Lucas asked me what Father Christmas was like as a child, I thought a Santa origin story would be just that.

The books in the series all feature compelling young characters who are simultaneously very ordinary – Nikolas lives in poverty in rural Finland while Amelia is a chimney sweep in London – and extraordinary. How did these characters come to you?

I thought it would be a good idea to give Father Christmas – Nikolas – a tragic childhood, to give him a reason WHY he wants to do what he later does. And Amelia also. I wanted to make the happiness that comes to them later to feel earned, for them to have found the light in the darkness.

In Father Christmas and Me we meet Amelia, the heroine from the second book The Girl Who Saved Christmas, again. Can you tell us a little about her new adventures?

Most of this book is set in Elfhelm, not Victorian London. So it is about her being a fish-out-of-water among the elves, about how hard it is to fit in at her new school, and what series of events occurs after she crashes a sleigh.

Did you look to any particular stories or folklore while writing the books?

Not specifically. I drew a little bit from Scandinavian folklore. I have some Norwegian family so that helps.

All three books are accompanied by enchanting illustrations by Chris Mould. How did this collaboration come about and can you give us some insight into how the process worked?

Canongate gave me a list of potential illustrators and Chris’s work stood out as the most fitting – fairytale classic but with a dose of humour – so we went with him. And it was an amazing choice.

What is your favourite thing about Christmas?

The collective sense of anticipation on Christmas Eve.

After publication of Father Christmas and Me what is next for you?

More writing for boring old grown ups.

Father Christmas and Me, the third book in Haig’s bestselling Christmas series, will be published by Canongate Books on 12 October 2017.
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