

Autumn/Winter 2023

New

Books

Scotland



# Contents

**2**

---

List of Titles

**4**

---

Introduction

**6**

---

Fiction

**14**

---

Crime and Thriller

**24**

---

Non Fiction

**48**

---

Children and Young Adult

**56**

---

Publisher Members

**60**

---

Translation Fund

**61**

---

Fellowship Programme

# List of Titles

## Fiction

- 7 / *The Salt and the Flame* / Donald S Murray
- 7 / *An Abundance of Wild Roses* / Feryal Ali-Gauhar
- 8 / *So Many Lives and All of Them Are Yours* / Ron Butlin
- 8 / *The Family* / Serafina Crolla
- 9 / *A Woman's War against Progress* / Allan Cameron
- 9 / *Across the Silent Sea* / Gabrielle Barnby
- 12 / *The Fifth Face of Fear* / Clío Gray
- 12 / *Beelzebub's Bible* / Stephen Zoltan
- 13 / *A Truth Lover* / John Herdman
- 13 / *Top Boy* / Ronan Bennett

## Crime and Thriller

- 15 / *Gallow Falls* / Alex Nye
- 15 / *Barloch* / Diarmid MacArthur
- 16 / *Children of the Mist* / Douglas Skelton
- 16 / *Columba's Bones* / David Greig
- 17 / *What Doesn't Kill Us* / Ajay Close
- 17 / *Penitent* / Mark Leggatt
- 20 / *Every Version Ends in Death* / Aliya Chaudhry
- 20 / *The Counterfeit Detective* / Simpson Grears
- 21 / *Jump Cut* / Helen Grant
- 21 / *Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Gondola of Doom* / Olga Wojtas
- 22 / *Vlad* / Gavin Bowd

## Non Fiction

- 25 / *Gathering: Women of Colour on Nature* / Edited by Durre Shahwar and Nasia Sarwar-Skuse
- 25 / *Britain's Landmarks and Legends* / Jo Woolf and National Trust Books
- 26 / *Black Ghosts* / Noo Saro-Wiwa
- 26 / *Changing Trains in Ulaanbataar* / Barrie Condon
- 27 / *Your Wild and Precious Life* / Liz Jensen
- 27 / *Hold On, Let Go* / Malcolm Doney and Martin Wroe
- 28 / *The Last Day Before Exile: Stories of Resistance, Displacement & Finding Home* / Selin Bucak
- 28 / *All the Violet Tiaras: Queering the Greek Myths* / Jean Menzies
- 29 / *Electric Dreams: Sex Robots and Failed Promises of Capitalism* / Heather Parry
- 29 / *Machine Readable Me: The Hidden Ways Tech Shapes Our Identities* / Zara Rahman
- 30 / *Scottish Art in 100 Works* / Patricia Allerston
- 30 / *William Gillies: Modernism and Nation in British Art* / Andrew McPherson
- 31 / *Grayson Perry: Smash Hits* / Grayson Perry, Victoria Coren Mitchell, Patrick Elliott and Tor Scott
- 31 / *Mousa to Mackintosh* / Frank Arneil Walker
- 34 / *Shake It Up, Baby* / Ken McNab
- 34 / *Free Play* / Stephen Nachmanovitch
- 35 / *Destination Time Travel* / Steve Nallon and Dick Fiddy
- 35 / *Diamonds Everywhere* / Tom Kerss
- 36 / *Phenomenology of Black Spirit* / Biko Mandela Gray and Ryan J Johnson

# List of Titles

## Non Fiction

- 36** / *Understanding Islam* / Bryan S Turner  
**37** / *The Loneliest Revolution* / Ali Mirsepassi  
**37** / *An Exodus from Turkey* / Ahmed Erdi Öztürk and Bahar Baser  
**38** / *The Wisest Fool* / Steven Veerapen  
**38** / *Orwell's Island: George, Jura and 1984* / Les Wilson  
**39** / *Hebridean Voyages* / Colin Tucker  
**39** / *Women of the Hebrides* / Joni Buchanan  
**40** / *Home Game* / Mel Young and Peter Barr  
**40** / *The Times – Cricket Grounds of the World* / Richard Whitehead, edited by Times Books  
**41** / *The Times – British Royal Fashion* / Foreword by Anna Murphy, edited by Jane Eastoe and Times Books  
**41** / *Collins Route 66 Touring Map* / Collins Maps  
**42** / *Magnaccioni* / Anne Pia  
**42** / *Catalogued Ideas and Random Thoughts* / Stuart Ralston  
**43** / *Peat and Whisky* / Mike Billett  
**43** / *Scotland's Christmas* / Thomas A Christie and Murray Cook  
**46** / *Somhairle MacGill-Eain – Na Bhriathran Fhèin* / Edited by Màiri Sìne Chaimbeul, Jo NicDhòmhnaill agus Iseabail NicGill-Eain  
**46** / *Among the Layers of the Land* / Frank Rennie  
**47** / *Hostile Environment Surgery* / Pete Mathew and David Nott

## Children and Young Adult

- 49** / *The Bumblebee Garden* / Dawn Casey, illustrated by Stella Lim  
**49** / *Four Scottish Folk Tales / Vier schottische Volksmärchen* / Fiona Scott; German by Ulrike Seeberger  
**52** / *Finding Treasure Island* / Robin Scott-Elliott  
**52** / *Cloudlanders* / Christopher Mackie  
**53** / *Beano Annual 2024*  
**53** / *The Dandy Annual 2024*  
**54** / *Let's Play Pokémon – An Ultimate Guide* / 110% Gaming magazine  
**54** / *Let's Play Roblox – An Ultimate Guide* / 110% Gaming magazine  
**55** / *Let's Play Minecraft – An Ultimate Guide* / 110% Gaming magazine  
**55** / *The Hoolet Thit Couldnae Fly* / Emma Grae, illustrated by Bob Dewar

# Introduction

Hello and welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of New Books Scotland, our catalogue of the finest new books being produced by Scottish publishers and writers.

As ever, publishers in Scotland offer a diverse and captivating selection of books, with a blend of both bestselling authors and emerging voices. This catalogue showcases some of the most exciting new releases across all genres, from engrossing contemporary novels and award-winning crime writing and beautifully-produced books celebrating Scottish art, history, and culture.

Alongside novels from household names such as Ronan Bennett (*Top Boy*) and exciting new authors like Aliya Chaudhry (*Every Version Ends in Death*), you will find brilliant and eclectic writing across all genres: from historical fiction exploring the early twentieth-century emigrant experience (*The Salt and the Flame* by Donald S Murray) to a captivating contemporary novel set in the Black Mountains of Pakistan (*An Abundance of Wild Roses* by Feryal Ali-Gauhar) to unique and challenging literary fiction (*A Woman's War against Progress* by Allan Cameron). Scottish crime writing is also as strong and exciting as ever, with our catalogue showcasing a fine selection of detective fiction, suspenseful thrillers, and Gothic novels.

Scotland's non-fiction releases continue to be timely, relevant, and thought-provoking: with a collection of essays from women of colour writing about their relationships with nature (*Gathering: Women of Colour on Nature* by Durre Shahwar and Nasia Sarwar-Skuse), a powerful memoir set against the backdrop of climate and ecological catastrophe (*Your Wild and Precious Life* by Liz Jensen), or a series of interviews with Turkish citizens forced to flee their country (*An Exodus from Turkey* by Ahmed Erdi Öztürk and Bahar Baser). From inspiring travel memoirs to well-researched historical studies to beautiful art and cookery books, we have titles designed to entertain, inform, and inspire.

Our children's and young adult publishers also continue to instruct and delight, with new titles from Cranachan, DC Thomson, Floris Books, Lexus, and Luath Press – including bestselling comic book annuals, beautifully-illustrated picture books, fun computer game guides, and pageturning fantasy stories.

Within these pages, the quality of Scotland's publishing scene is as evident as ever. We hope you enjoy delving into this catalogue for another wonderful showcase of Scotland's vibrant and diverse publishing sector.

# Publishing Scotland

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**Website:** [www.publishingscotland.org](http://www.publishingscotland.org)

**Contact:** [enquiries@publishingscotland.org](mailto:enquiries@publishingscotland.org)

Publishing Scotland is the network, trade and development body for the book publishing sector in Scotland. It represents a wide range of publishers and suppliers – both print and digital. Publishing Scotland acts as the voice and network for publishing, to develop and promote the work of Scotland’s publishers both nationally and internationally, to provide support and advice, and to co-ordinate joint initiatives to develop and strengthen the publishing sector in Scotland.

# Scottish Books International

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**Website:** [www.scottishbooksinternational.org](http://www.scottishbooksinternational.org)

**Contact:** [info@scottishbooksinternational.org](mailto:info@scottishbooksinternational.org)

Scottish Books International works on behalf of the literature sector in Scotland and is dedicated to the international promotion of books, publishers, writers, festivals and organisations.

Scottish Books International aims to bring Scottish writers and writing to a global audience, taking a strategic and co-ordinated approach to showcasing and championing Scotland’s writing. The service identifies and progresses opportunities to increase the visibility of writers, publishers, festivals and organisations, and builds relationships with key partners in Scotland and overseas.

Scottish Books International is a project jointly owned and managed by Publishing Scotland and the Edinburgh International Book Festival. It is supported by a steering group from the two organisations along with Creative Scotland and Jenny Brown Associates.

# Booksfrom Scotland.com

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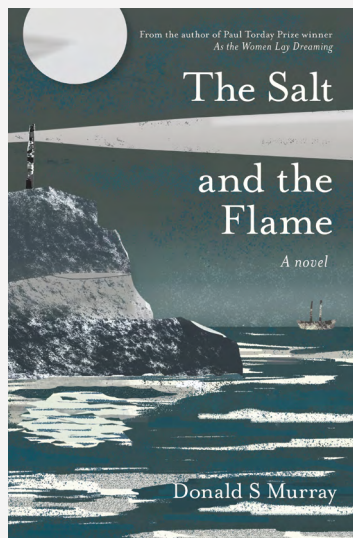
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Readers can stay updated through the monthly e-newsletter or through social media channels.

**Fiction**



Saraband / January 2024  
Historical Fiction / 288pp  
ISBN: 9781915089892

## The Salt and the Flame

Donald S Murray

April 24, 1923. The SS *Metagama* is inching out of Stornoway harbor, Scotland, bound for Canada. On board are Finlay and Mairead; they are young and hopeful, leaving behind their struggling motherland to change their lives forever...

On the other side of the Atlantic, though, they face the realities of an uncaring industrial society. The effects of the Great Depression are inescapable, prejudice and division are rife, and though they remain bound by a shared past, their own lives soon diverge.

A son of the Hebrides, Donald S Murray is a writer and poet whose work has been awarded The Society of Authors' Paul Torday Memorial Prize, and has been shortlisted for both the Saltire Literary Awards and the Callum Macdonald Memorial Award. His critically-acclaimed books bring to life the culture and nature of the Scottish islands, and he appears regularly on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Scotland.

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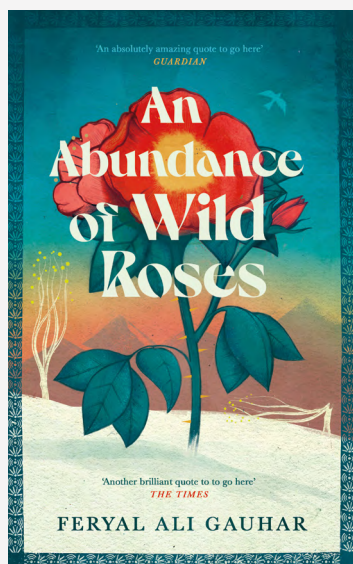


Also by Donald S Murray:

*In a Veil of Mist* 9781913393007

*As the Women Lay Dreaming* 9781913393489

*The Call of the Cormorant* 9781913393540



Canongate Books / March 2024  
Contemporary Fiction / 288pp  
ISBN: 9781838858162

## An Abundance of Wild Roses

Feryal Ali-Gauhar

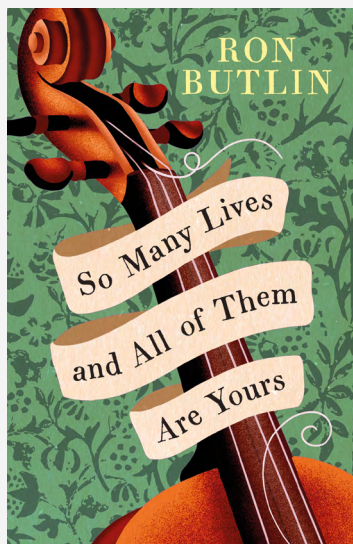
In the Black Mountains of Pakistan, the discovery of an unconscious stranger is the first stone in an avalanche of chaos. The head of the village is beset with problems and failing to find his way out. His daughter receives a love letter and incurs her father's wrath. A lame boy foretells disaster, but nobody is listening. Trapped in terrible danger, a wolf-dog is battling to save a soldier's life. Beaten by her addict husband for bearing him only daughters, a woman is pregnant again – but can this child save her? In a land woven with myth, chained with tradition and afflicted by war and the march of progress, the spirits of the mountains keep a baleful eye on the struggles of the villagers who scrape a living.

Feryal Ali-Gauhar's first novel *The Scent of Wet Earth in August* was a best-seller, and her second novel *No Space for Further Burials* won the Patras Bokhari award and was translated into several European languages. Her third novel, *An Abundance of Wild Roses*, was written with the assistance of the Roger Deakin award for environmental activism. Ms Ali-Gauhar has served as a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Population Fund. She is an actor, film-maker, columnist, novelist, animal rights activist and currently serves as Advisor to the Government of Pakistan for the management of cultural heritage in areas where hydropower projects are being constructed.

Rights Held: World

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Polygon / September 2023  
Contemporary Fiction / 192pp  
ISBN: 9781846976315

## So Many Lives and All of Them Are Yours

**Ron Butlin**

After being sacked from his high-power executive job, Morris now has nothing to lose. He is free – sort of. Determined to devote what time he has left to creating music, his lifelong dream, he returns to his childhood home, ‘to kickstart his life once more – and this time get it right!’ Very soon, however, things start going wrong. Very wrong. Not only does his past catch up with him, but the future that is rushing towards him becomes more threatening by the day. Old bad habits creep back in again. Then he meets Jess.

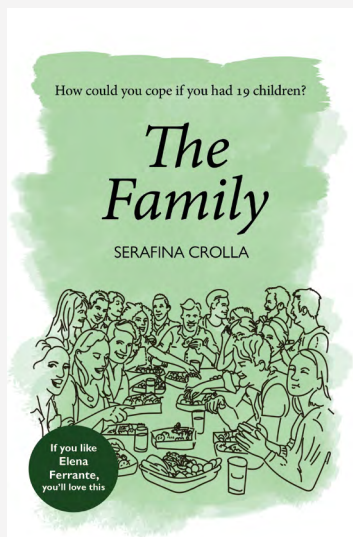
Upbeat, laugh-out-loud funny, this compelling novel, set in the Borders, swinging sixties London and present-day Edinburgh, touches on music, Scottish independence, love in later life and, most of all, how to make the most of one’s life before it is too late.

**With an international reputation as a prize-winning novelist, Ron Butlin is a former Edinburgh Poet Laureate. Before becoming a writer, he was a barnacle-scraper on Thames barges, a pop-song lyricist, a footman and a male model. He has published nearly twenty books; his work has won many prizes and been widely translated. His novel, *Ghost Moon*, was nominated for the international IMPAC Prize 2016. He lives in Edinburgh with his wife, the writer Regi Claire, and their dogs.**

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**Export Contact:** Jamie Harris [jamie@birllinn.co.uk](mailto:jamie@birllinn.co.uk)



Luath Press / November 2023  
Contemporary Fiction / 192pp  
ISBN: 9781804251089

## The Family

**Serafina Crolla**

Family always brings challenges and tribulations, but when there are 22 of you living in Picinisco, Italy in the same house, facing the repercussions of the Second World War, life spins in multiple directions.

As we are invited into Mamma Matilda’s household, conflict begins to slip through the seams. With another baby on the way, will the older siblings keep with the family responsibilities and traditions or follow their own dreams? Facing poverty, death and lack of opportunities, where will they turn to?

**Serafina Crolla is a wife, mother and grandmother who lives between Edinburgh and Valle di Comino in the province of Frosinone in Italy. Born in Picinisco in the foothills of the Abruzzi mountains, the daughter of a shepherd, she has lived an unusual life.**

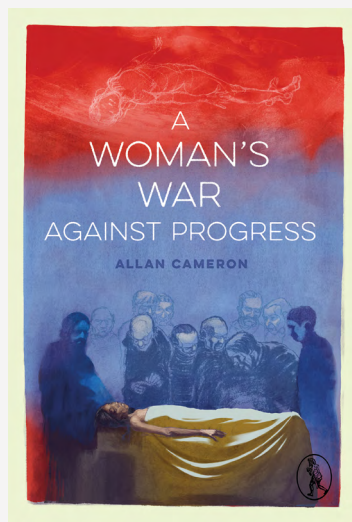
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**Export Contact:** Gavin MacDougall [gavin.macdougall@luath.co.uk](mailto:gavin.macdougall@luath.co.uk)



**Also by Serafina Crolla:**  
*The Wee Italian Girl*, 9781910022467  
*Domenica*, 9781910022443



Vagabond Voices / October 2023  
Literary Fiction / 394pp  
ISBN: 9781913212353

## A Woman's War against Progress

Allan Cameron

In 1916, a young woman, Rahvaema, leaves the forest community where she grew up, and sets off on a lifelong campaign for her Surelik language and culture. Her struggles expand her horizons but she also finds that her work comes with unforeseen personal and political costs.

'I fear the readership for *A Woman's War against Progress* may not be vast, but those who read it will find their minds stretched, challenged and enlarged by the experience. It's a remarkable achievement' – James Robertson

**Book translator since 1992, novelist since 2004 and publisher since 2008, Allan Cameron has written eleven books and translated twenty-six.**

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights and Export Contact:** Aldwyn Li [press@vagabondvoices.co.uk](mailto:press@vagabondvoices.co.uk)

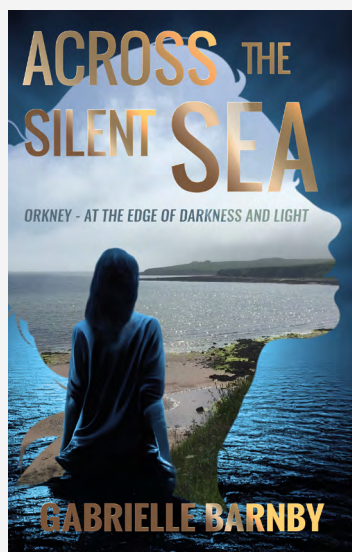


**Also by Allan Cameron:**

*In Praise of the Garrulous* 9781908251244

*On the Heroism of Mortals* 9781908251084

*Things Written Randomly in Doubt* 9781908251275



Sparsile Books / July 2023  
Contemporary Fiction / 304pp  
ISBN: 9781914399824

## Across the Silent Sea

Gabrielle Barnby

Esther's dreams of a glamorous life in London are shattered when she has a serious accident which leaves her with life-changing injuries. Living in her childhood home in Orkney, she retreats into a silent world until Marcus, a musician down on his luck, comes to stay on the island and reaches out to her through his music.

Described in rich, subtle detail – town, land and sea – in sharply observed and lyrical excitement, Esther's inner voice – tough, desperate, cutting, hilariously sarcastic, witheringly dry, suddenly tender – explores what it means to have one's dreams shattered and the impact that facial scarring has on identity.

**Gabrielle Barnby lives in Orkney where she writes novels, short stories, and poetry and facilitates creative writing groups in the community. She studied Human Sciences at Oxford University and has a PhD in the genetics of autism, yet she has always been torn between her interest in science and her passion for literature. Since arriving in Orkney, her writing has gained a wider audience, and her work has been published and included in numerous anthologies and magazines. She is proud to be twice winner of the George Mackay Brown Fellowship writing competition.**

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights and Export Contact:** Jim Campbell [jim@sparsilebooks.com](mailto:jim@sparsilebooks.com)



RON  
BUTLIN

So Many Lives

and All of Them

Are Yours

## Extract: So Many Lives and All of Them Are Yours

Because yesterday's unexpected phone call had come early in the morning, Morris missed most of it.

'Morris Magellan, the composer?'

'What? I . . .' He had been deeply asleep.

'My name is McGibbon . . . been let down . . . very last minute . . . for string quartet.'

'String quartet?'

'No *squeaky gate* stuff . . . a good tune. Stravinsky's best was neo-classical, remember . . . agreement . . . email . . .'

Call finished, Morris had drifted back to sleep.

Surfacing around midday, he remembered having had a really strange dream about a phone call where someone had actually . . . A commission to write a string quartet? If only. He forgot all about it, and not until his four o'clock jingle-break for tea and a Snowball did he get round to checking his emails.

He stared at the screen. Was he still dreaming? If so, the dream was pretty vivid and came complete with a PDF attachment – a two-page 'informal agreement' in numbered paragraphs. The bold type in paragraph five insisted there was to be no *squeaky gate* music, explaining, within square brackets, that what was needed were bums on seats and *Likes* on social media. Paragraph six was brief: length to be ten minutes max, 'max' in bold and underlined.

Clearly some kind of mistake had been made if McGibbon thought he was a real composer who composed real music for real musicians. Morris had been about to email the man back to clarify the situation when . . .

A string quartet? Well, he was a sort of composer, wasn't he?

He had glanced up from his Snowball in time to see Beethoven staring down at him from his poster above the fridge. Morris could almost hear Ludwig's thick Bonn accent: *The man wants a quartet, so give him a quartet*. This, from the composer who sometimes sold the same composition several times over to different publishers. So why not?

For starters, he might get found out. But as no fee had been mentioned there would be no fraud, no *financial* fraud, at least. And, after all, the man had come to him, sent him a contract.

He had been about to bite into his Snowball when Beethoven urged him a second time: *Don't think about it. Thinking is overrated*. Snowball in hand, Morris considered the pros and cons. Was he afraid he might not be able to deliver? He might, he might not – but behind the artistic doubts loomed the real question. Would he rather be:

A. A drunk churning out slot machine jingles?

or

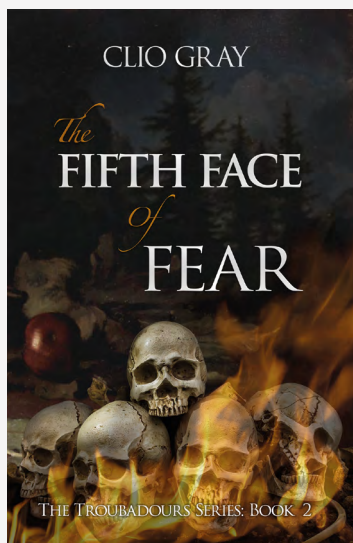
B. A real composer creating real music?

He put down his Snowball. Many musicians consider the string quartet the purest form of all. Such masterpieces as those of Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, Bartók, Shostakovich. He glanced up at Beethoven. The great composer had lived his life and now Morris had to live *his*. But a life dedicated to writing jingles for slot machines to keep himself in wine and brandy? Anyway, what did he have to lose – his reputation?

Put like that, it was a no-brainer. In his old life he'd have cracked open a new bottle of Courvoisier to celebrate, but not any more. His old life was history and his real life just beginning. From the instant he emailed McGibbon back, agreeing to everything, he felt a surge of energy he hadn't known in ages. Like he'd been locked up all his life, and was setting himself free. Being reborn, but even better.

Real music would need real inspiration. He had to get away from the city, away from the scenes of . . . *failure*. He began scouring the net. Like a sixties' rock band, he needed to find somewhere in the country where he could get it together and tune in to his true creativity. It would have to be cheap, of course, something basic, something . . .

Morris recognised the cottage straightaway. It was for sale, and quite definitely wasn't selling. After some pleading and haggling on the phone, a month's 'holiday' let was agreed. The keys were couriered over. He knocked off the jingle-in-progress in record time, ordered a chow mein special online, and then packed. His endless discussion with the Accusations over, it had been after ten when he drove off through the empty streets and out of the city. He was doing what he should have done a long time ago. And it felt great.



Sparsile Books / October 2023  
 Historical Fiction / 304pp  
 ISBN: 9781914399732

## The Fifth Face of Fear

**Clio Gray**

In the 1850s, ten years after the events detailed in *Stumblestone*, the family of travelling players is on tour of the small towns and villages of the Baltic coast. Their instinctive compassion leads them into danger as they seek to help and protect a fugitive boy. But as a result, they are remorselessly hunted by a terrible killer intent on collecting a bounty from Metternich, arch-schemer of the Hapsburg Empire. The travellers' goal may be safety and freedom, but will it come at a dreadful price.

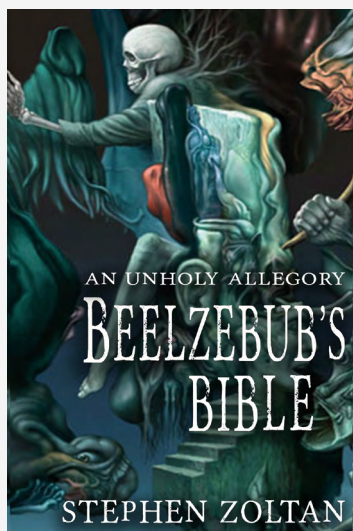
Clio Gray began as an award-winning short story writer and quickly progressed to becoming a novelist. Booker-nominated and longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, she is described as a master of atmosphere and sensuousness. She has had many books published, including the *Stroop Quartet* and the *Scottish Mystery* series. Originally from Yorkshire, Gray has been living in the Scottish Highlands for almost thirty years.

Rights Held: World

Rights and Export Contact: Jim Campbell jim@sparsilebooks.com



Also by Clio Gray:  
*Stumblestone* 9781914399916



Sparsile Books / November 2023  
 Alternative Fiction / 304pp  
 ISBN: 9781914399749

## Beelzebub's Bible

**Stephen Zoltan**

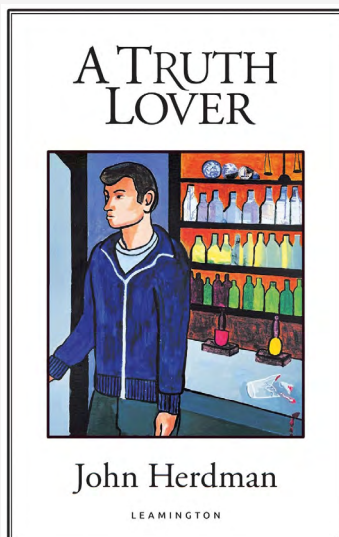
*Beelzebub's Bible* is strange. Gods and devils abound. From ancient Babylon to twenty-first century Hollywood, strange forces and mysterious powers are out to prey on mere mortals.

Stephen Zoltan's darkly delicious vision takes us all the way from Eden to Revelation via the half-forgotten Holy Lands of the imagination, while ancient storylines mingle with heathen visions and pagan revelations in an unholy canon that could have been convened by Beëlzebub himself.

Stephen Zoltan grew up in the west of Scotland and studied at the University of Glasgow. He has lived and worked in Glasgow, Edinburgh and London. His writing explores the speculative and surreal, between and beyond religion and science fiction. His short story 'The Lord of the Isles' Last Supper' was longlisted for the Hastings Book Festival short story competition 2022. *Beëlzebub's Bible* is his first full length work of fiction.

Rights Held: World

Rights and Export Contact: Jim Campbell jim@sparsilebooks.com



Leamington Books / November 2023  
Contemporary Fiction / 168pp  
ISBN: 9781914090813

## A Truth Lover

**John Herdman**

Living as if an outsider, but functionally ingratiated to normal social circles, Duncan has his morality rocked by bearing witness to a violent act. Where can one land on judgement of abject behaviour when inflicted upon a person, perhaps more abject than the act itself?

Pressure to testify pushes Duncan into various forms of escapism and a consequential number of captivating encounters, all whilst trapped in a brooding vacuum of self-reflection.

John Herdman's writerly magic is an underappreciated facet of Scotland's continually great literary output.

**John Herdman is a Scottish novelist, short story writer and literary critic. He is the author of seventeen books including five novels and various works of shorter fiction, a play, two critical studies and a memoir, and he has contributed to twenty other books. His work has been translated, broadcast and anthologized, and taught at universities in France, Australia and Russia.**

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights and Export Contact:** Peter Burnett peter@leamingtonbooks.com

*Also by John Herdman:*

*Imelda* 9780993227257

*Clapperton* 9781914090011

*Ghostwriting* 9781914090035



Canongate Books / January 2024  
Contemporary Fiction / 256pp  
ISBN: 9781805300731

## Top Boy

**Ronan Bennett**

Original novel by Ronan Bennett set in the London portrayed by Bennett within his celebrated and award-winning TV drama *Top Boy*.

*Top Boy*, the award-winning TV show, was conceived, developed and written by Ronan Bennett, who is also one of its producers. After two acclaimed seasons with Channel 4, the show was picked up by Netflix who have made it a global hit. *Top Boy*, the novel, will be published after the fifth and final season of *Top Boy* has been broadcast by Netflix in 2023.

**Ronan Bennett was born in Belfast, Ireland. His novel *The Catastrophist* (1997) won the Irish Post Literature Award and was shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel Award. *Havoc* won Irish Novel of the Year and was longlisted for the Booker Prize. His recent work includes the feature film *Public Enemies* in 2009, and the television series *Hidden* (2011), *Gunpowder* (2017) and *Top Boy* (2011-present).**

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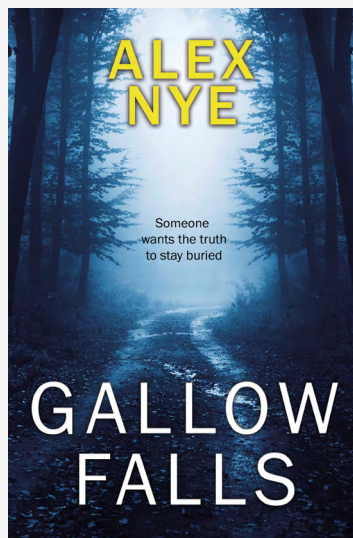
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**Rights Contact:** Jessica Neale jessica.neale@canongate.co.uk

**Export Contact:** Steph Scott Steph.Scott@canongate.co.uk

Crime

Thriller



Fledgling Press / July 2023  
 Crime Fiction / 352pp  
 ISBN: 9781912280605

## Gallow Falls

Alex Nye

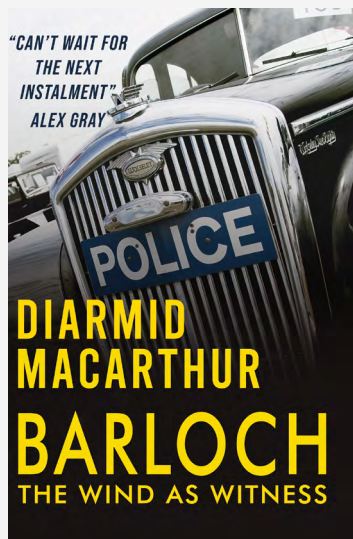
When a young archaeologist discovers bones at the site of her Bronze Age Broch on Gallows Hill, the community of Kilbroch hold their breath. A post-mortem on the remains reveals that the body is that of teenager, Robbie MacBride, missing for more than a decade. The teenager was shot at close range, and his gamekeeper father falls under suspicion. However, not everyone is convinced.

The archaeologist, Laura, ex-detective, Callum MacGarvey, and Robbie's grandmother continue to investigate, while Robbie's sister, the silent Ruthie, remains haunted by her inconclusive childhood flashbacks. Local landowner, George Strabane is arrested, Robbie's father is released, and it seems that old ghosts have been put to rest. However, the truth is darker still and the tragic reason for Ruthie's self-imposed silence is finally revealed.

Alex Nye writes books for people of all ages. She is a current RLF fellow at Glasgow University and a Creative Writing Mentor via the Scottish Book Trust, and enjoys encouraging young people to write. She graduated from King's College, London and grew up in Norfolk, by the sea, but Scotland has been her home for a long time. She is a previous winner of the W. H. Smith Young Writers' Award, run by Ted Hughes, the Royal Mail Award and Scottish Book Trust Award. *Gallow Falls* is her eighth title and her crime fiction debut.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights and Export Contact:** Clare Cain [clare@fledglingpress.co.uk](mailto:clare@fledglingpress.co.uk)



Sparsile Books / September 2023  
 Crime Fiction / 304pp  
 ISBN: 9781914399725

## Barloch

Diarmid MacArthur

Alan McInnes is a young and ambitious police constable dreaming of a career in the CID, far from the backwater village of Barloch, and nourishing wistful visions of marrying his girlfriend. One night, on patrol, he surprises a young local couple enjoying a private moment. But from this innocent encounter, there are tragic developments, with smuggled cargo, gangster intimidation, hidden family secrets, jealousy, revenge and murder.

*Barloch* is a crime novel vibrant and alive with beauty and mystery. MacArthur writes with confident familiarity and affection for the people and communities of 1960s Scotland.

Hailing originally from Campbeltown, Diarmid MacArthur is an author now based in Renfrewshire, where he has run his optician's business for over thirty years. Having always believed good communication to be one of the key factors in dealing with the public, Diarmid has turned that skill to writing. His first crime novel, *Drown for your Sins*, was published in 2019.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights and Export Contact:** Jim Campbell [jim@sparsilebooks.com](mailto:jim@sparsilebooks.com)



Polygon / July 2023  
 Crime Fiction / 320pp  
 ISBN: 9781846976254

## Children of the Mist

Douglas Skelton

A memorial service witnessed in the historic Black Wood of Rannoch sets Rebecca Connolly on the trail of a baffling story. Fergus McGregor told people he was going to Pitlochry for the day. He was never seen again. Five years later his deeply religious mother stills holds a memorial in the place Fergus loved because of its connections to the outlawed McGregor clan, the Children of the Mist.

What happened that day in this last vestige of the great Caledonian forest? Does a family feud hold the key? Does an old recluse have the answers? Or is there something malevolent hiding among the ancient trees?

Douglas Skelton was born in Glasgow. He has written several true crime and Scottish criminal history books but now concentrates on fiction. *Thunder Bay* (longlisted for the McIlvanney Prize), *The Blood Is Still*, *A Rattle of Bones* and *Where Demons Hide* are the first four novels in the bestselling Rebecca Connolly thriller series.

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**Rights Contact:** Fiona Brownlee fiona@brownleedonald.com

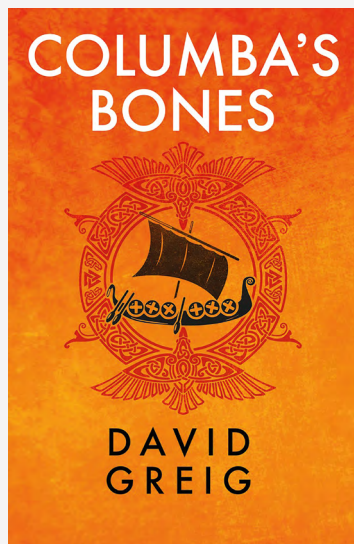
**Export Contact:** Jamie Harris jamie@birlinn.co.uk

*Also by Douglas Skelton:*

*Thunder Bay* 9781846974731

*The Blood is Still* 9781846975301

*A Rattle of Bones* 9781846975639



Polygon / October 2023  
 Thriller / 128pp  
 ISBN: 9781788855969

## Columba's Bones

David Greig

The Isle of Iona, 825. In a bloody, brutal raid, Abbot Blathmac is slain on the steps of his monastery for refusing to give away the location of the sacred relics of St Columba, the missionary who first brought Christianity to Scotland. Following a night of rampage and mayhem, one Viking wakes up the next morning to find himself alone, hungover, and abandoned by his crew mates. He can't swim, there are no boats, and the only surviving monk on the island has taken his sword. With only his wits, he must survive long enough not only to rejoin his Viking comrades, but also to find the location of the elusive relics that brought him here in the first place.

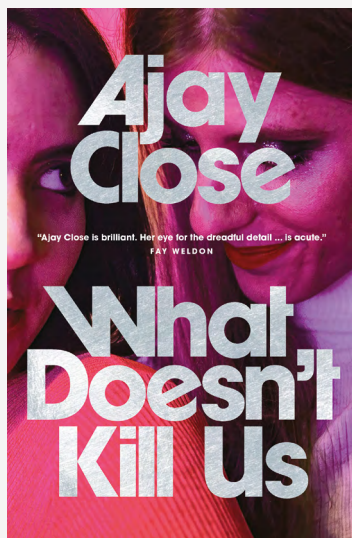
Rooted in the real history of Iona and its early monks, *Columba's Bones* is an utterly unique and thrilling read, exploring the clash of early Christianity and paganism, and expanding into a sharp, witty meditation on philosophy, redemption, shame, violence, love, transcendence and reality.

David Greig is a Scottish playwright who studied Drama and English at Bristol University. Since setting up the Suspect Culture theatre company in the 1990s, his plays have been performed widely in Scotland and around the world, including *Midsummer*, *The Events*, *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, *Local Hero*, and *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart*. He is currently the Artistic Director at Edinburgh's Lyceum Theatre. *Columba's Bones* is his first book.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Contact:** Fiona Brownlee fiona@brownleedonald.com

**Export Contact:** Jamie Harris jamie@birlinn.co.uk



Saraband / February 2024  
Crime Fiction, Thriller / 400pp  
ISBN: 9781913393960

## What Doesn't Kill Us

Ajay Close

A killer stalks the streets of Leeds. Every man is a suspect. Every woman is at risk. But in a house on Cleopatra Street, women are fighting back.

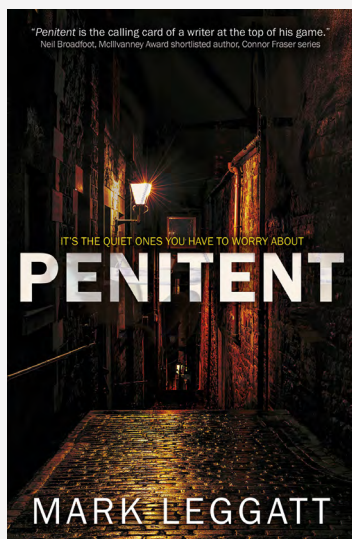
It's the eve of the 1980s. PC Liz Seeley joins the squad investigating the murders. With a violent boyfriend at home and male chauvinist pigs at work, she is drawn to a feminist collective led by the militant and uncompromising Rowena. There she meets Charmaine – young, Black, artistic, and fighting discrimination on two fronts.

As the list of victims grows and the police fail to catch the killer, women across the north are too terrified to go out after dark. To the feminists, the Butcher is a symptom of wider misogyny. Their anger finds an outlet in violence and Liz is torn between loyalty to them and her duty as a police officer. Which way will she jump?

**Ajay Close grew up in Yorkshire and, after her school years at a Sheffield comprehensive, studied at Cambridge. She worked at Granta before becoming a journalist and then a novelist. She is the author of six literary novels, of which her first, *Official and Doubtful*, was longlisted for the Orange Prize. Her novels are pacy, often political, page-turning, dealing with family and relationships under pressure, and can be read as thrillers.**

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights and Export Contact:** Sara Hunt sara@saraband.net



Fledgling Press / June 2023  
Crime Fiction, Thriller / 320pp  
ISBN: 9781912280629

## Penitent

Mark Leggatt

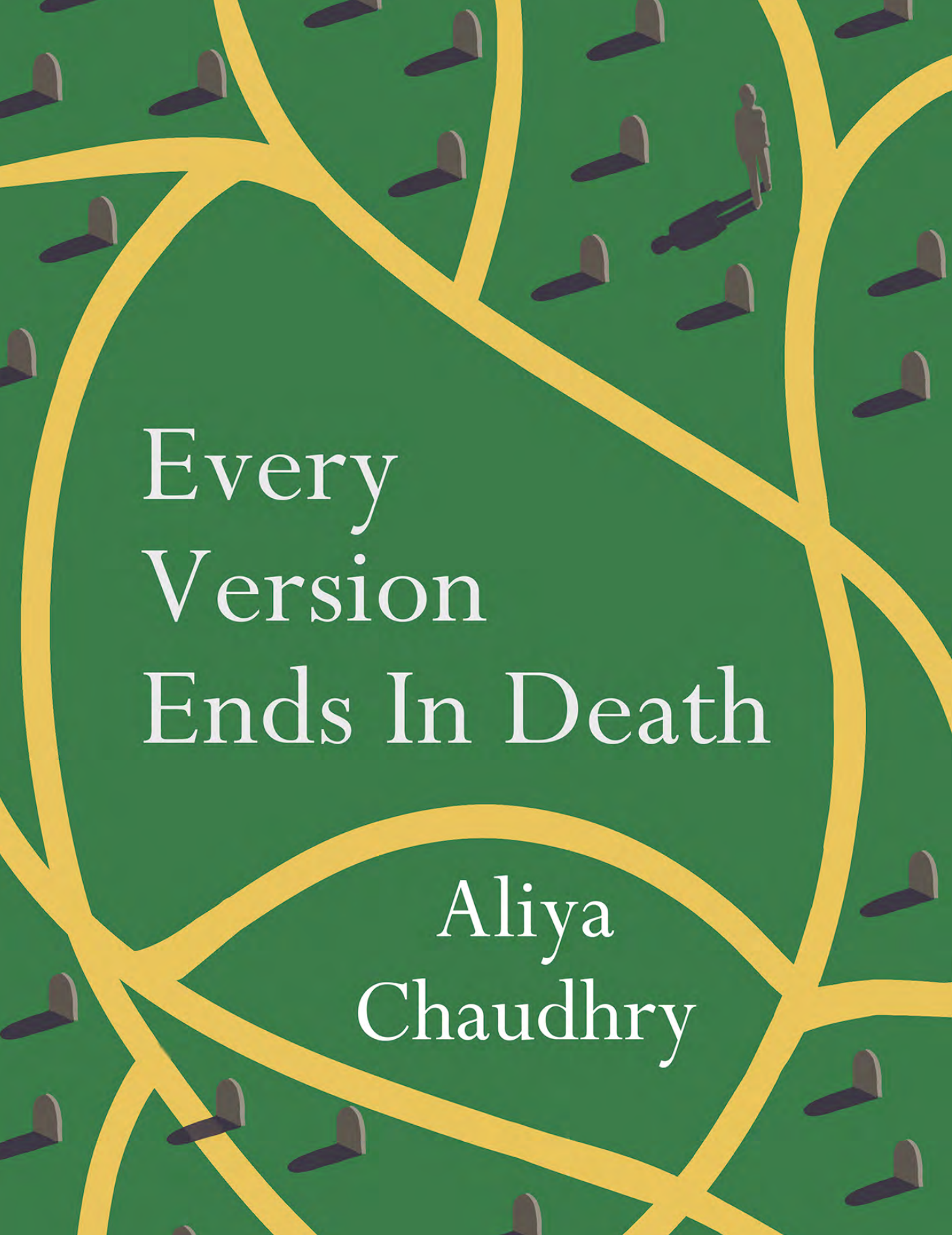
Hector Lawless is a brilliant Edinburgh lawyer with a reputation for untangling cases no other lawyer can handle. But the obsessive-compulsive behaviour that's made him a master of the law has also left Hector a pariah amongst his peers – a social outcast with crippling anxiety. The man with the perfectly ordered desk, the pristine notebooks, the strictly regimented working day and rituals that make sense only to him.

When Hector is approached by his boss, Lord Campbell, with a highly sensitive case that reaches from one of Edinburgh's most exclusive private schools to 10 Downing Street, he relishes the chance to bring true evil to justice. Hector must call on every one of the skills he has cultivated over a lifetime of being an outsider to survive. Justice will be served.

**Mark Leggatt is an author who's twice topped Blackwell's bestseller list. He's the author of five books and is represented by literary agent Jon Wood at RCW. Mark is a contributing editor at several of the UK's leading literary consultancies. He has appeared at literary festivals in the UK, US and the EU, and also performs improv as part of the author touring group Four Blokes in Search of a Plot.**

**Rights Held:** UK

**Rights and Export Contact:** Clare Cain clare@fledglingpress.co.uk

The book cover features a dark green background with a pattern of small, grey, tombstone-like shapes scattered across it. Overlaid on this background are several thick, yellow, curved lines that form a complex, interconnected web of shapes, resembling a stylized tree or a network of paths. In the upper right quadrant, a small, grey silhouette of a person is walking, casting a long shadow. The title and author's name are centered in white text within the yellow web.

Every  
Version  
Ends In Death

Aliya  
Chaudhry

## Extract: Every Version Ends in Death

It was hard to go home. It had nothing to do with the town – even though it was pretty small, far away, and thoroughly unexciting – or the people, or the fact that I hadn't been back in a while. It's just that it was my home, it was filled with my memories, and it knew everything about me. I had learned everything there. Everywhere I went, every corner I turned, I saw myself doing something there years ago – talking, running, riding a bike, falling off that bike, learning to drive.

Belonging is terrifying.

\*\*\*

"Hey, what's with the sign?" I asked as we drove by the gates that had sealed shut what we all knew to be an enormous yet fantastically creepy house. I couldn't make out what it said. I couldn't see the house either, only the gate, looking skeletal now they had cleared all the ivy.

"It's haunted," Dad said.

"People have been saying that for years," I said. "They don't need a sign for that."

"I think they're tearing it down," Mom said.

"That's what they think," Dad said. "They won't succeed – why?"

"Because it's haunted," Mom said.

"What makes it so haunted?" I said.

"Everyone says so," Dad said.

"Just saying something's haunted doesn't make it haunted," I said.

"There's a ghost," Mom said.

"Yeah, sure there's a ghost," I said. "Again, isn't it just a story?"

"People love a good story," Dad said.

"And even more than that, they love making up stories," Mom said.

\*\*\*

I'm not sure why I dreaded coming back to Clifton so much. Sairah and I always used to talk about leaving, couldn't wait to get out, but I never hated living here. I wasn't that sad to leave, either. Years later, I did, however, hate the thought of visiting. Probably because there were too many memories. Too many I-should-haves and what-ifs and oh-remember-thats. Too many reminders of who I used to be. Too many people who would look at me and see the me from

ten, fifteen, twenty years ago. Weirdly, it felt like taking a step back, even though progress isn't measured in literal distance.

\*\*\*

My mother had been the first person to tell me the story. Hayward Manor sat in between the children's hospital and the ice cream shop we would go to after all required immunisations. One day in kindergarten, when we were sitting on the side of the creek after a visit to the doctor, I asked my mother about the old house.

"The story is that there was a nurse who lived there. There weren't any hospitals back then so sometimes she used to take care of people in her house. She was really hard-working and liked helping people."

"What happened to her?" I asked, between licks of my ice-cream cone.

"Well, the problem is that when someone in the house is sick, the other people living with them might get sick too. And so, she got really sick, and because they didn't have the right medicines back then, she couldn't get better," Mom said.

"Oh, that's so sad."

"It is. She helped a lot of people, though. That's why the house is still there. To remember her."

"And now it's haunted? By her?"

"Some people think so. Some people think they've seen her."

I looked around at the landscape that gave Creek Hill its name. I couldn't see any signs of her. I hung my head. "How come I never get to see her?"

My mom laughed. "You want to see her? You're not scared?"

I shrugged. "She doesn't seem scary to me. You said she took care of people. She sounds nice."

\*\*\*

When I heard a friend tell the story at a sleepover a year later, I corrected her.

"Her house caught on fire," Rhea said.

"No, that's not true," I said.

"Yes, it is," she said.

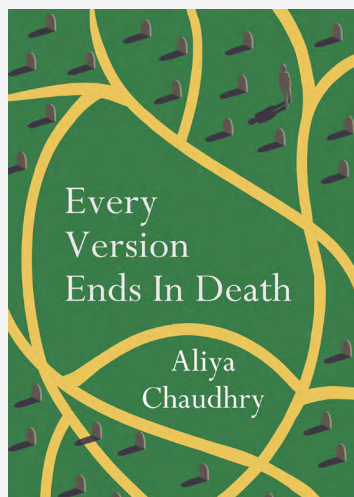
"Her house is still there," I said. "It's not burnt."

"How do you know? You can't see it."

"She was a nurse and got sick and died."

"No, I'm pretty sure there was a fire."

"Maybe she got sick and then there was a fire?"



Haunt Publishing / October 2023  
 Literary Gothic / 240pp  
 ISBN: 9781915691071

## Every Version Ends in Death

Aliya Chaudhry

Laana returns to her small hometown following the death of her grandmother and becomes obsessed with the local ghost story of Carolyn Hayward. Who was she? Why does every reference or local memory of her give conflicting information about her life, work, and the circumstances of her death?

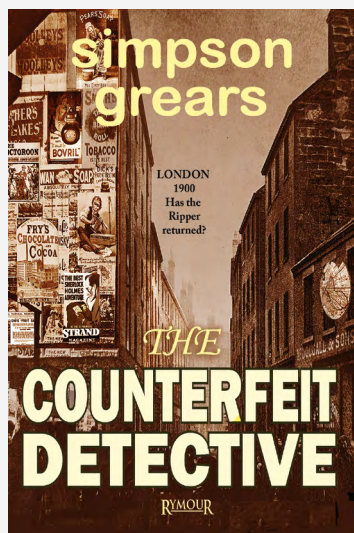
Laana's research takes her on a whirlwind journey through her hometown's history and reconnects her with old friends, prompting her to reflect on her own story and the ways she was and wasn't there for those in her life.

Deliciously Gothic and fiercely feminist, *Every Version Ends in Death* is an anti-ghost story that forces us to reflect on grief, memory, death, hauntings, and ultimately how women's stories are told.

Aliya Chaudhry is a fiction writer and journalist. As a journalist, she has covered music and internet culture for publications including *Alternative Press*, *The Daily Beast*, *Kerrang!*, *MTV*, *NME*, *Slate*, *Stereogum*, *The Verge* and *VICE*. She has lived in the United Kingdom, Pakistan, the United States and Kenya and is currently based in London. Her short story, 'The Ghost of Creek Hill,' an extract of what became *Every Version Ends in Death*, was previously published in Haunt Publishing's May 2022 anthology *When Other People Saw Us, They Saw The Dead*. This is her first novel.

**Rights Held:** World All Languages

**Rights and Export Contact:** Rebecca Wojturska boo@hauntpublishing.com



Rymour Books / October 2023  
 Gothic, Crime Fiction / 388pp  
 ISBN: 97817395960288

## The Counterfeit Detective

Simpson Grears

An American professor discovers the diaries of John Ledbury, known as the counterfeit detective, a minor poet who, in Victorian London, is employed to reply to the mail that comes addressed to Sherlock Holmes at 221b Baker Street.

Through the diaries he unearths a series of baffling unsolved murders. He travels through England and Scotland but he realizes that, in order to solve the mystery, he has to travel further, back through time itself.

*The Counterfeit Detective* is an epic Gothic literary crime thriller set mostly in Victorian London in 1900 but also in 1970s England, Scotland and the United States.

Simpson Grears is the crime-writing name of the writer Ian Spring. His collection of short stories, *The Foot of the Walk Murders*, was longlisted for a prestigious Dagger award by the Crime Writers Association in 2021.

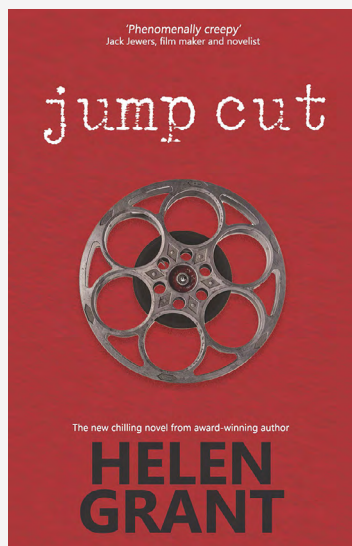
**Rights Held:** World

**Rights and Export Contact:** Ian Spring info@rymour.co.uk



Also by Simpson Grears:

*The Foot of the Walk Murders* 9781838186302



Fledgling Press / September 2023  
 Gothic Fiction / 320pp  
 ISBN: 9781912280643

## Jump Cut

Helen Grant

*The Simulacrum* is the most famous lost movie in film history – would you tell someone your darkest secrets, just to lay hands on a copy? 104-year-old Mary Arden is the last surviving cast member of a notorious lost film. Holed up in Garthside, an Art Deco mansion reputed to be haunted, she has always refused interviews.

Now Mary has agreed to talk to film enthusiast Theda Garrick. In return she demands all the salacious details of Theda's tragic past. Only the hint of a truly stupendous discovery stops Theda walking out. But Mary's prying questions are not the only thing Theda has to fear. The spirit of *The Simulacrum* walks Garthside by night, and it will turn an old tragedy into a new nightmare...

Helen Grant has a passion for the Gothic and for ghost stories. Joyce Carol Oates has described her as 'a brilliant chronicler of the uncanny as only those who dwell in places of dripping, graylit beauty can be.' A lifelong fan of the ghost story writer M. R. James, she has spoken at two M. R. James conferences and appeared at the Dublin Ghost Story Festival. She lives in Perthshire with her family, and when not writing, she likes to explore abandoned country houses and swim in freezing lochs.

**Rights Held:** UK and English Language Rights

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Saraband / January 2024  
 Crime Fiction / 288pp  
 ISBN: 9781913393878

## Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Gondola of Doom

Olga Wojtas

Fifty-something Edinburgh librarian Shona is a proud former pupil of the Marcia Blaine School for Girls. Impeccably educated and an accomplished linguist, mathematician, martial artist, and musician, Shona is selected by Marcia Blaine herself to travel back in time for a crucial mission in Venice.

Finding the city afflicted by what appears to be a new outbreak of the plague, Shona soon encounters the Cornetto family of gondoliers. Lately, a number of their passengers have met a watery fate. Coincidence? Unlikely. She dons a mask, goes undercover and seeks inspiration in the library. But the mystery only deepens...

Olga Wojtas is an unconventional – and very witty – writer of cosy crime fiction. Her debut novel, *Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Golden Samovar*, was published in the UK and US to great critical acclaim. A journalist for more than 30 years, Olga was Scottish editor of the *Times* Higher Education Supplement before she began adding creative writing to her portfolio; she won a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award in 2015. Olga's second novel, *Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Vampire Menace*, was published in 2020, and her third, *Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Weird Sisters*, in 2022.

**Rights Held:** World excl. German and North American

**Rights Sold:** German (Lübbe), North American (Felony & Mayhem)

**Rights and Export Contact:** Sara Hunt [sara@saraband.net](mailto:sara@saraband.net)



Leamington Books / April 2023  
Political Thriller / 282pp  
ISBN: 9781914090745

## Vlad

Gavin Bowd

The sewers of Bucharest, Romania, Christmas 1989. Vlad and other Securitate secret police comrades fan out across a city about to fall to counter-revolution.

The show trial and execution of Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu are broadcast on television. Vlad, raised as an assassin in a Securitate orphanage in Targoviste, home of Vlad the Impaler, vows to avenge the death of his adoptive 'parents' in that very town. Moving from safe-house to safe-house, with help from remnants of the regime, he begins to pick off those involved in the murders. Vlad wanders around the new Romania, observing the turning of coats, the miners' rampages, meeting other post-communist undead.

As European integration and a 'fully functioning market economy' beckon, he carves, quite literally, a lucrative and grisly niche. Love and fatherhood remain a possibility. But Vlad, spending his time among the stray dogs and street walkers of the city, knows that life is becoming increasingly dangerous. As one victim exclaims: 'God does not love the workers!'.

**Gavin Bowd is from the Scottish Borders. He is a poet, fiction writer, journalist and literary translator, notably of Michel Houellebecq. He has published widely on Romania.**

**Rights Held:** UK

**Rights and Export Contact:** Peter Burnett [peter@leamingtonbooks.com](mailto:peter@leamingtonbooks.com)

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**Non**

**Fiction**



404 Ink / February 2024  
Nature, Non-Fiction / 200pp  
ISBN: 9781912489749

## Gathering: Women of Colour on Nature

Edited by Durre Shahwar and Nasia Sarwar-Skuse

*Gathering* brings together essays by women of colour across the UK in writing about their relationships with nature, including neurodiversity, mental health, academia, colonialism, whiteness, music, hiking and more. Writing about nature has long been dominated by male, white, middle-class writers and *Gathering* carves a space for British women of colour writing about their relationship to nature, climate justice, their inherited histories and associations, as well as present day experiences.

Durre Shahwar is currently working on her first sole-authored book, a sample of which was shortlisted and highly commended for the Morley Lit Prize 2022. She is a Wasafiri Magazine Writer-in-Residence and Future Wales Fellowship Artist, undertaking a year of creative research around climate change with Arts Council Wales and Natural Resources Wales. Durre is also an AHRC-funded PhD candidate in Creative Writing at Cardiff University and University of Bristol.

Nasia Sarwar-Skuse is a writer and PhD candidate in Creative Writing at Swansea University. She has been working as a creative writing facilitator for three years and is passionate about the presence of authenticity in literature by ethnic voices and its intersections with diaspora, gender, and memory. Nasia was awarded the Writers' Bursary by Literature Wales in 2019. Her work has appeared in a number of publications.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights and Export Contact:** Laura Jones-Rivera, laura@404ink.com



Collins / National Trust Books /  
September 2023  
Travel, Lifestyle / 224pp  
ISBN: 9780008567644

**Related titles:**

*Britain's Birds* 9781911657149  
*Britain's Trees* 9781911358862

## Britain's Landmarks and Legends

Jo Woolf and National Trust Books

This beautifully-illustrated book reveals the secrets and stories of fifty icons of Britain's landscape. Some are natural wonders, such as Cheddar Gorge, Sherwood Forest and the white cliffs of Dover. Others were made by our distant ancestors: the standing stones of Avebury and Calanais, the Uffington White Horse, the burial mounds of Sutton Hoo.

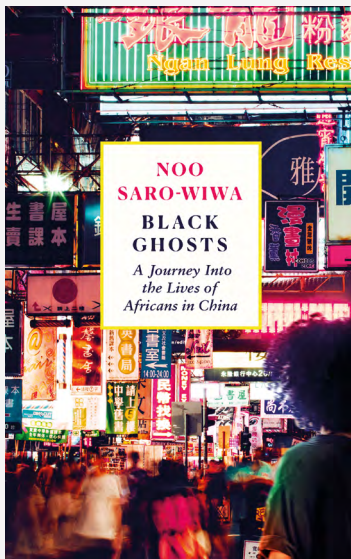
Discover how they came to be, the legends and traditions that surround them, and how they have inspired famous writers and poets. Reconnect with our ancient landscape with this fascinating and surprising guide.

Jo Woolf is a writer with a particular interest in landscape, wildlife and nature. She is also fascinated by ancient sites, and the stories and legends connected with them. In 2015, Jo was invited to become Writer in Residence at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. In this role she investigates the lives and experiences of explorers past and present; her first book about explorers, *The Great Horizon*, was published in 2017. She is an Honorary Fellow of the Society.

**Rights Held:** World

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Canongate / November 2023  
 Travel Writing / 256pp  
 ISBN: 9781838856946

## Black Ghosts

Noo Saro-Wiwa

China today is both a land of opportunity for Africans blocked from commerce with most of Europe and Northern America, and an intersection of racism and prejudice.

Noo Saro-Wiwa goes in search of China's 'Black Ghosts', African economic migrants in the People's Republic, who live in clustered communities and are involved in the small-commodity trade between the continents. Her fascinating encounters include a cardiac surgeon, a drug dealer, a visa overstayer and men married to Chinese women who speak English with Nigerian accents.

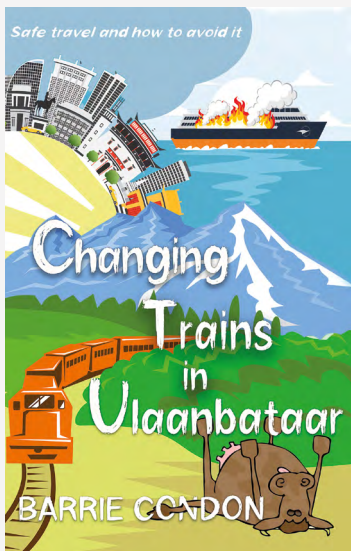
Noo Saro-Wiwa was born in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, and raised in England. She attended King's College London and Columbia University in New York. She is an author and journalist currently working for Condé Nast Traveller. Her first book, *Looking for Transwonderland: Travels in Nigeria*, was named *Sunday Times* Travel Book of the Year, nominated by the *Financial Times* as one of the best travel books and included as one of the 10 Best Contemporary Books on Africa by the *Guardian*. It was also shortlisted for the Authors' Club Dolman Travel Book of the Year Award in 2013 and won the Albatros Travel Literature Prize in 2016.

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**Rights Contact:** Jessica Neale [jessica.neale@canongate.co.uk](mailto:jessica.neale@canongate.co.uk)

**Export Contact:** Steph Scott [Steph.Scott@canongate.co.uk](mailto:Steph.Scott@canongate.co.uk)



Sparsile Books / August 2023  
 Travel Writing / 304pp  
 ISBN: 9781914399756

## Changing Trains in Ulaanbataar

Barrie Condon

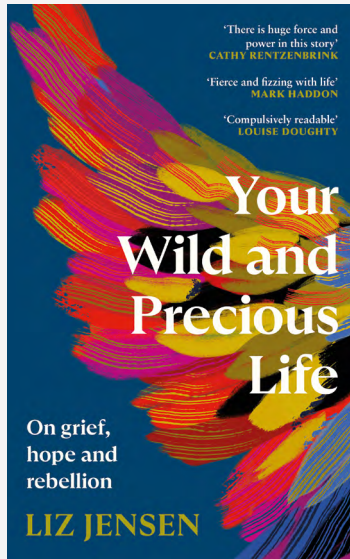
A vastly entertaining account of the weird places and situations Barrie Condon has encountered over a life of global travel, driven by insatiable curiosity and total lack of common sense.

From coitus interruptus by death squad in Pinochet's Chile, through Rio's dangerous favelas, to terrifying cock-ups that could destroy a whole port, Barrie Condon's journeys only get more incredible. With remarkable insight, he describes bizarre, baffling ways of living and the contorted existences of people who live in the only way they can, by economic or political necessity. In vivid, often hilarious, passages, he reminds us that our comfortable life is sheer luck.

Barrie Condon has degrees in Physics, Oceanography and Nuclear Medicine. Now retired, he spent over thirty years as a Medical Physicist working for the UK's National Health Service as a Consultant Scientist. He also held an Honorary Professorship with the University of Glasgow, and at the peak of his career was responsible for the work of over 300 scientists and technologists. He is an author on over 80 full research publications in peer reviewed journals such as the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* and on over 200 national and international conference presentations.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights and Export Contact:** Jim Campbell [jim@sparsilebooks.com](mailto:jim@sparsilebooks.com)



Canongate / March 2024  
 Memoir, Political Activism / 224pp  
 ISBN: 9781838859992

## Your Wild and Precious Life

Liz Jensen

'Fierce and fizzing with life. It faces the monster of parental loss absolutely head on and turns it into a joyous celebration' – Mark Haddon

Liz Jensen's son, a zoologist, conservationist and ecological activist, was twenty-five when he collapsed and died unexpectedly. She fell apart. As she grieved, forest fires raged, coral reefs deteriorated, CO2 emissions rose and fossil fuels burned.

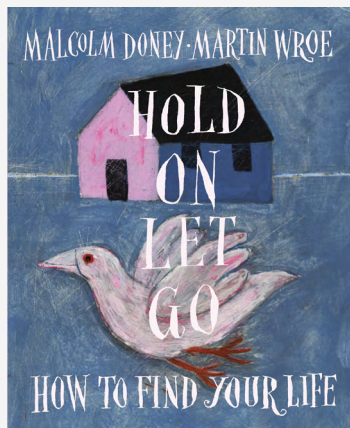
*Your Wild and Precious Life* is the story of how a mother rebuilt herself, reoriented her life and rediscovered the enchantment of the living world. Set against the backdrop of climate and ecological catastrophe, it's an argument for agency, legacy and the wild possibility of hope after devastation.

Liz Jensen is predominantly known as a novelist, most recently of the ecological thrillers *The Rapture* and *The Uninvited*. She is a founding member of Extinction Rebellion's Writers Rebel, a literary movement using words and actions to highlight the climate and ecological emergency. She lives in Denmark and teaches creative writing there and in the UK.

**Rights Held:** World excluding North America

**Rights Contact:** Jessica Neale [jessica.neale@canongate.co.uk](mailto:jessica.neale@canongate.co.uk)

**Export Contact:** Steph Scott [Steph.Scott@canongate.co.uk](mailto:Steph.Scott@canongate.co.uk)



Wild Goose Publications /  
 August 2023  
 Wellbeing, Self-help / 152pp  
 ISBN: 9781804323045

**Rights Held:** World

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## Hold On, Let Go

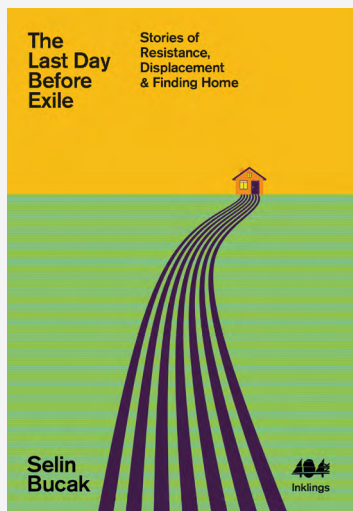
Malcolm Doney and Martin Wroe

In an age when we're shy of certainty and suspicious of authority, many of us no longer turn to the great houses of faith for inspiration. But for all we've let go, there's so much to hold on to. Drawing on wisdom from the ages and insights from the everyday, this deeply human collection of daily readings is the ideal travelling companion on the bumpy road to peace, love and understanding.

Less of a 'how to' book than a 'try this' book, *Hold On, Let Go* is about keeping your feet on this sacred earth. And taking wing. At the same time.

Malcolm Doney studied Fine Art at St Martin's School of Art before pursuing a writing career in journalism, advertising and broadcasting. He has produced words for factual TV, radio, magazines and newspapers and written ten books. He is a contributor to BBC Radio 2's *Pause for Thought*, and Radio 4's *Something Understood*. He describes himself as an 'agnostic Christian'.

Martin Wroe got into journalism while studying theology and ended up on the staff of the *Independent* and later the *Observer*. He has had longtime collaborations with the Greenbelt Arts Festival, the human rights NGO Amos Trust and the rock band U2. He contributes to BBC Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*, and a while back accidentally became an Anglican priest. He was late to understand that religions are poems and tries to write one most days. His most recent book of poems is *Julian Of Norwich's Teabag*.



404 Ink / November 2023  
 Social Issues / 112pp  
 ISBN: 9781912489800

## The Last Day Before Exile: Stories of Resistance, Displacement & Finding Home

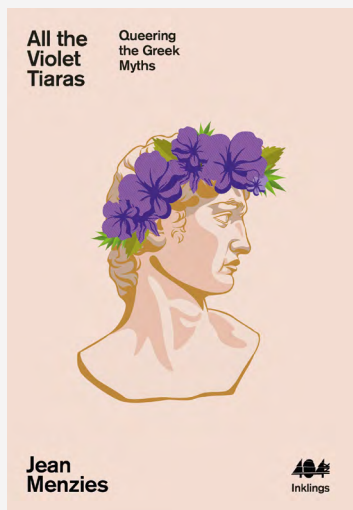
Selin Bucak

When we hear news stories about displaced people, people running away from war, living in exile, they're always accompanied by big numbers, presented as waves of immigrants. *The Last Day Before Exile* re-focuses the narrative to the human side, sharing some of the hardest moments of their lives, where they had to make the decision to stay or go. Tracing the steps of professionals who have moved from the Gaza Strip, Pakistan, Morocco, Iran, Afghanistan Turkey, and Ukraine, Selin Bucak shares stories of rebellion, fear, and, in some cases, victory. To truly understand what immigrants often have to go through at the hands of governments, legislation, and war, we need to put ourselves into the shoes of the people living in exile.

Selin Bucak is a Turkish-British freelance journalist, currently based in Paris. She was the editor of *Private Equity News* at Dow Jones, and news editor of specialist B2B publication *Citywire Wealth Manager*. She writes about a variety of topics from finance and sustainability to gender diversity and human rights issues in Turkey. She also runs a weekly newsletter for women who want to learn more about finance and economics.

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404 Ink / January 2024  
 Ancient Religion, Mythology / 112pp  
 ISBN: 9781912489848

## All the Violet Tiaras: Queering the Greek Myths

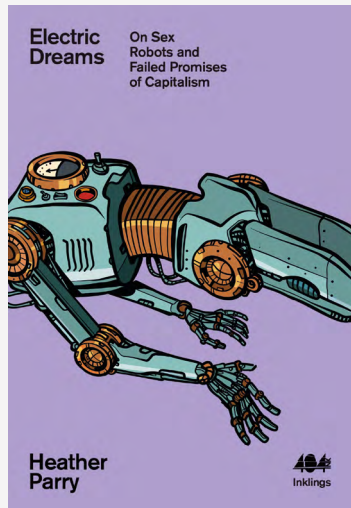
Jean Menzies

For a period that gave us Sappho, and the love affair of Achilles and Patroclus, the Ancient Greek relationship with queer folk is a lot more complicated than at first glance. Yet, as ancient historian and author Jean Menzies highlights in this book, ancient Greek myths are being told anew by LGBTQ+ writers and readers to explore modern day queer joy and queer struggles. They are queering the Greek myths. LGBTQ+ writers and readers have reclaimed an ancient and timeless form of storytelling featuring reimaginings of recognisable characters to give voice to a community that has always existed but has not always been able to speak out! All the Violet Tiaras is both an act of rebellion and an act that honours the legacy of these remarkable stories. Together our community has carved out a safe space in the transformed versions of these myths and we are here to stay.

Jean Menzies is an author and ancient historian. She has written on mythology for children and adults as well as sapphic fantasy with her first novel: *The Flames of Albion*. She also runs the accessible ancient history podcast *That's Ancient History*. Jean has recently submitted her PhD thesis on women in antiquity and previously taught classes on gender and sexuality in Greek myth at the University of Roehampton.

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404 Ink / March 2024  
 Psychology / 112pp  
 ISBN: 9781912489862

## Electric Dreams: Sex Robots and Failed Promises of Capitalism

Heather Parry

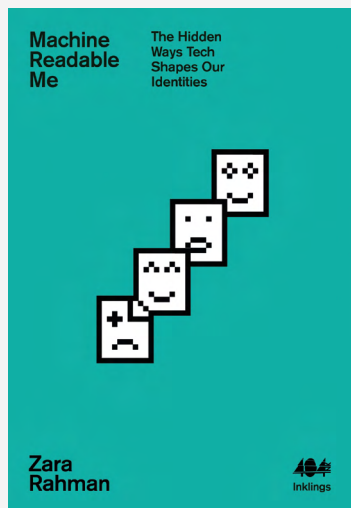
In the future, we'll all be having sex with robots... won't we? Roboticians say they're a distracting science fiction, yet endless books, films and articles are written on the subject. Campaigns are even mounted against them. So why are sex robots such a hot topic?

*Electric Dreams* picks apart the forces that posit sex robots as either the solution to our problems or a real threat to human safety, and looks at what's being pushed aside for us to obsess about something that will never happen.

Heather Parry is a fiction writer and editor originally from South Yorkshire. She is the co-founder and Editorial Director of Extra Teeth magazine, co-host of the Teenage Scream podcast and the Scottish Senior Policy & Liaison Manager for the Society of Authors. Her short stories and non-fiction have been published internationally and her debut novel, *Orpheus Builds a Girl*, was released in October 2022 by Gallic Books.

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404 Ink / October 2023  
 Social Sciences, Technology / 112pp  
 ISBN: 9781912489824

## Machine Readable Me: The Hidden Ways Tech Shapes Our Identities

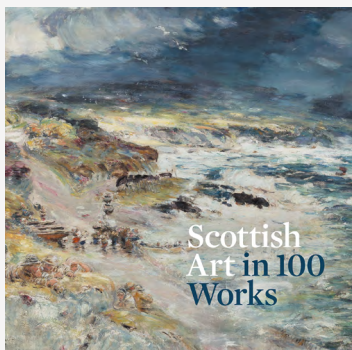
Zara Rahman

Identification tech gathers data on our behaviours, our likes and dislikes, through profiling and biometrics. Corporations use these methods to make our identities legible to machines. But self-determination to change our identity is a core part of being human. How does being forced into artificial categories affect how we understand who we are?

Zara is a Berlin-based researcher and writer whose interests lie at the intersection of power, technology and justice. Most recently she worked at The Engine Room, an international non-profit organisation strengthening the fight for social justice by supporting civil society to use technology and data in strategic, effective and responsible ways.

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National Galleries of Scotland /  
Autumn 2023  
Art and Photography / 184pp  
ISBN: 9781911054474

## Scottish Art in 100 Works

Patricia Allerston

One hundred of the finest works of art from the collection of the National Galleries of Scotland reveal Scotland's art history, from the sixteenth century to the present day.

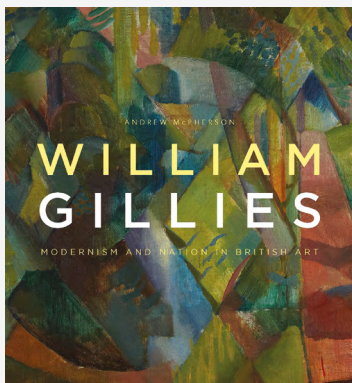
The National Galleries of Scotland is home to the most important collection of Scottish art in the world. This beautifully-illustrated book introduces the collection to readers through 100 works, specially chosen by the curatorial team who care for them.

**Patricia Allerston is Chief Curator of European & Scottish Art & Portraiture at National Galleries of Scotland. She is also Co-Director of 'Celebrating Scotland's Art: The Scottish National Gallery Project'.**

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Edinburgh University Press /  
October 2023  
Art and Photography / 280pp  
ISBN: 9781399518352

## William Gillies: Modernism and Nation in British Art

Andrew McPherson

Providing new evidence on the life and work of Scottish artist William Gillies, Andrew McPherson shows that his art originates in his personal traumas and awareness of human fragility in a century of world wars, change and uncertainty.

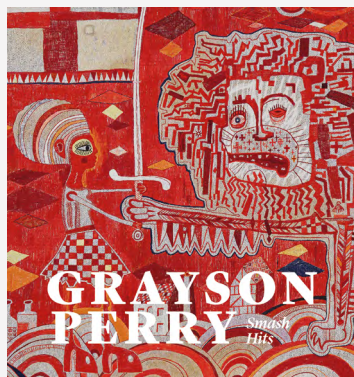
This remarkable account uncovers paintings not seen before and reveals new meanings among his portraits, still lifes and landscapes. Exploring issues of cultural politics, sex, gender, religion and mental health, Gillies is placed firmly within the modernist canon and the broader Scottish, British and European contexts.

**Andrew McPherson is Professor Emeritus in Sociology at the University of Edinburgh. He has been researching the life, times and works of William Gillies for over twenty years finding both an explanation and a corrective for the recognition Gillies lacks.**

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National Galleries of Scotland /  
July 2023  
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ISBN: 9781911054627

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## Grayson Perry: Smash Hits

Grayson Perry, Victoria Coren Mitchell,  
Patrick Elliott and Tor Scott

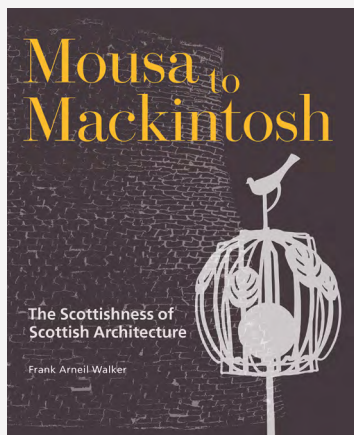
Grayson Perry is one of Britain's most celebrated contemporary artists and cultural figures. This book, published to accompany the largest-ever retrospective of Perry's work, offers a personal and vibrant insight into his life and work, from his youth in rural Essex to sell-out stage shows at the Royal Albert Hall.

Grayson Perry lives and works in London, UK. He has presented important solo exhibitions at the British Museum, London, the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, La Monnaie de Paris and The National Museum, Oslo, among others.

Victoria Coren Mitchell is a writer, broadcaster, newspaper columnist and international poker player. She has published three books, including the memoir *For Richer, For Poorer*, and is the host of *Only Connect* on BBC Two.

Patrick Elliott is Chief Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art at the National Galleries of Scotland. He is the author of *True to Life: British Realist Painting in the 1920s & 1930s*, *Joan Eardley: Land & Sea – A Life in Catterline* and *Cut and Paste: 400 Years of Collage*.

Tor Scott is a Collection & Research Assistant at the National Galleries of Scotland. She is undertaking an AHRC-funded doctorate at the University of Edinburgh, focusing on the Surrealist artist Edith Rimmington. She has published and lectured on British Surrealism.



Historic Environment Scotland /  
June 2023  
History of Architecture / 288pp  
ISBN: 9781849173285

## Mousa to Mackintosh

Frank Arneil Walker

The architecture of Scotland exists in many forms. In *Mousa to Mackintosh*, Frank Arneil Walker examines the recognisable and recurring features evident in Scotland's buildings across the centuries to build a picture of 'Scottishness' in architecture.

This chronological history presents an expansive view of architecture in Scotland, from neolithic brochs and classical country houses to baronial tower-houses and modernist New Towns, including the work of renowned architects such as Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Robert Adam, Basil Spence and Robert Lorimer. Walker considers the relationship between national characteristics and international influences in these structures to ask: what is the 'Scottishness' of Scottish architecture?

Frank Arneil Walker is an architect and architectural historian. He has been engaged in architectural practice and consultancy and has been involved in the committees and councils of many architecture-related bodies. Pursuing an academic career, he has taught at Glasgow School of Art, at the University of Strathclyde where he became Professor, and abroad. He is the author of a number of books, including volumes in the *Buildings of Scotland* and *RIAS Architectural Guides* series. For services to architectural history and conservation he was appointed OBE.

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## Extract: Scottish Art in 100 Works



61

**William McCance 1894–1970**

***Heavy Structures in a Landscape Setting, 1922***

Oil on canvas under shaped hardboard,  
71.2 × 91.7 cm (maximum visible canvas  
surface 68.8 × 83.5 cm)

Purchased 1992 (GMA 3612)

McCance was born in the Glasgow suburb  
of Cambuslang and studied at the Glasgow

School of Art. Moving to London in 1920, he  
was one of comparatively few Scottish artists  
of the period to take a keen interest in Cubism  
and its various offshoots.

The machine-age, almost abstract style  
he adopted owed something to Wyndham  
Lewis (1882–1957) and the Vorticists, a  
radical group of English artists led by  
Lewis, but the seven-sided format used

in this painting appears to be unique in  
British art. The ‘heavy structures’ in the  
foreground suggest a military gun battery,  
while the white shapes at the top of the  
picture may be coastal cliffs. McCance had  
been imprisoned as a conscientious objector  
during the First World War, and he held  
no illusions about the brutality of armed  
conflict. **PE**

62

**Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell 1883–1937*****The Blue Fan*, c.1922**

Oil on canvas, 60 × 51 cm

Bequeathed by Dr James T. Ritchie 1999 (GMA 4290)

Cadell studied in Paris and lived in Munich before settling in his native Edinburgh around 1909. While his early work was influenced by the French Impressionists and was characterised by short, feathery brushstrokes, after the First World War his paintings became brighter in colour and his compositions bolder and more geometric. *The Blue Fan* dates to about 1922, by which time his brushwork had become scarcely visible; shadows have been suppressed to such an extent that the painting reads almost as a two-dimensional pattern. It was painted in his studio in Ainslie Place, Edinburgh, where he lived from 1920. The red chair features in many of his paintings, as does the big lacquered Japanese screen in the top left. An eighteenth-century Chinese porcelain punch bowl rests on a stand. **PE**





Polygon / September 2023  
 Music / 416pp  
 ISBN: 9781846976346

## Shake It Up, Baby

Ken McNab

It's 1963. The year of the Profumo scandal, the Great Train Robbery, the rise of teenage consumerism and sexual emancipation, and Kennedy's assassination ... and the birth of Beatlemania, the pop revolution that transformed the slate-grey, post-war years of austerity into a Day-Glo landscape.

This is the unprecedented story of the Beatles' remarkable journey from Liverpool dance hall favourites to the biggest band in the world in the space of just twelve rollercoaster months. From playing to fewer than twenty people in January in the remote Scottish Highlands to being met by a tsunami of screams from 10,000 fans at London Airport in November. From being bottom-of-the-bill after-thoughts to making royalty blush at a frenzied London Palladium.

It was a year lived at breakneck pace. Two number one albums, four number one singles, almost 300 gigs, countless radio and TV sessions and the astonishing transformation of four lives into something less ordinary.

**Ken McNab is a sports journalist with the Scottish Daily Mail, a lifelong Beatles fan and the author of *The Beatles in Scotland* and *And in the End: The Last Days of The Beatles*. He lives in Glasgow.**

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Canongate / January 2024  
 Mind, Body, Spirit / 240pp  
 ISBN: 9781805301929

## Free Play

Stephen Nachmanovitch

A foundational text since 1990 and previously translated into nine languages, *Free Play* is a masterful and joyful meditation on how improvisation can be applied to not just art but the art of living – and in doing so unlock boundless creativity.

*Free Play* is directed toward people in any field who want to contact, honour and strengthen their own creative powers. It reveals how inspiration arises within us, how that inspiration may be blocked, derailed or obscured by certain unavoidable facts of life. How it can finally be liberated – how we can be liberated – to speak or sing, write or paint, dance or play, with our own authentic voice.

**Stephen Nachmanovitch performs and teaches internationally as an improvisational violinist. In the 1970s he was a pioneer in free improvisation on violin, viola and electric violin. He has presented masterclasses and workshops at many conservatories and universities, and has had numerous appearances on radio, television and festivals. He is the author of two books on the creative process: *Free Play* and *The Art of Is*. He lives with his family in Virginia.**

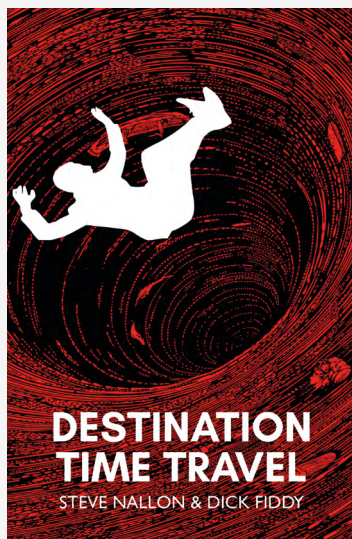
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Luath Press / October 2023  
 Film and TV / 288pp  
 ISBN: 9781804251010

**Related title:**

*The Time That Never Was* (Steve Nallon)  
 9781910022610

## Destination Time Travel

Steve Nallon and Dick Fiddy

That's right, ticket holders, *Destination Time Travel* is your journey into the many worlds of the time travel tale – exploring its tropes, its rules, its devices, its science, its values, its plots, its characters and, most importantly, its enduring – and timeless – appeal.

Join Steve Nallon and Dick Fiddy as they explore the world's obsession with time travel in film and television. From the classics of *Doctor Who* and *Back To The Future* to the Netflix hit *Dark*, Nallon and Fiddy explore just what it is about time travel that makes us tick.

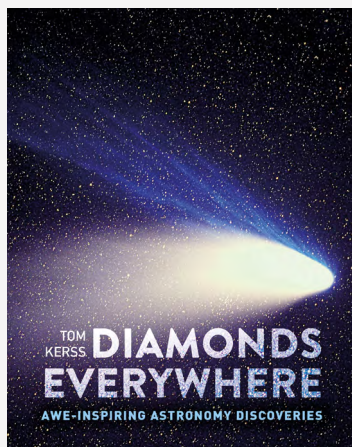
Steve Nallon is an actor, writer, voice artist and impressionist. He is known for his work as a voice artist on the show *Spitting Image* and for impersonating Margaret Thatcher on television throughout her time as Prime Minister and since. He has published work with Macmillan, Biteback, and Flametree, plus plays and comedy series broadcast by the BBC.

Dick Fiddy is a consultant with the British Film Institute. He is also a writer and a researcher who has contributed to many different publications such as Radio Times and has also been published by Bloomsbury. Fiddy has worked on *Not the Nine O'Clock News*, *The Ballad of Johnny Vanguard* and *Dad's Army & Beyond*.

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Collins (HarperCollins UK) /  
 October 2023  
 Astronomy / 240pp  
 ISBN: 9780008636968

## Diamonds Everywhere

Tom KerSS

Explore the entire cosmos in 101 fascinating topics – from mind-blowing numbers, astonishing sights, to strange-but-true discoveries and everything in between.

Feed your cosmic curiosity with this comprehensive guide to the Universe, featuring 101 out-of-this-world astronomical facts, discoveries and innovations. From gravitational curls to strange new worlds; the night sky to the end of time – you're sure to find something you never knew before in this mind-expanding book, and with stunning images from the latest and greatest observatories, every turn of the page offers a visual treat. It's the perfect gift for earthlings who love to learn.

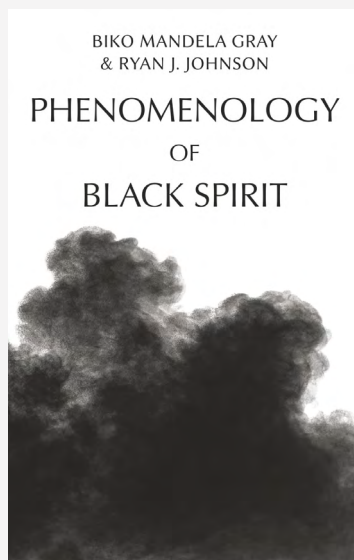
The Royal Observatory, Greenwich is the home of Greenwich Mean Time and the Prime Meridian of the World, making it the official starting point for each new day and year.

Tom KerSS F.R.A.S. is an astronomer and the author of numerous bestselling books about the night sky for both adults and children. Having worked at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich for more than six years, he now shares his passion for the stars with people all over the world, delivering courses, podcasts and media interviews.

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Edinburgh University Press /  
August 2023  
Philosophy / 304pp  
ISBN: 9781399510981

## Phenomenology of Black Spirit

**Biko Mandela Gray and Ryan J Johnson**

What if the protagonist of Hegel's *Phenomenology* were Black? In the first philosophy book written in a single voice by a Black philosopher and a white philosopher, Ryan Johnson and Biko Mandela Gray study the relationship between Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* and Black Thought from Frederick Douglass to Angela Davis. They show that Hegel's abstract dialectic is transformed and critiqued when put into conversation with the lived dialectics of Black Thought.

This book diversifies and transforms the history of philosophy by forcing canonical thinkers into direct dialogue with 19th and 20th-century African American, African, and Africana thinkers.

**Biko Mandela Gray is Assistant Professor of Religion at Syracuse University.**

**Ryan J. Johnson is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Elon University in North Carolina.**

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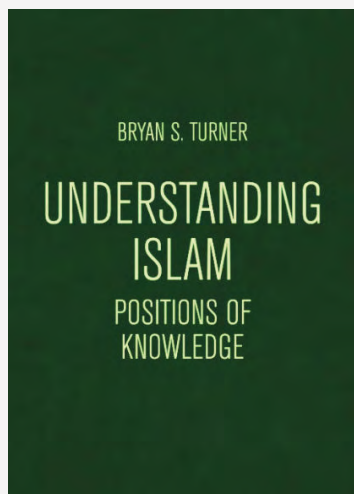
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**Related titles:**

Johnson: *Deleuze, A Stoic* 9781474462167; *The Deleuze-Lucretius Encounter* 9781474432306

Gray: *The Religion of White Rage: White Workers, Religious Fervor, and the Myth of Black Racial Progress* 9781474473712



Edinburgh University Press /  
January 2023  
Religion / 176pp  
ISBN: 9781474498746

## Understanding Islam

**Bryan S Turner**

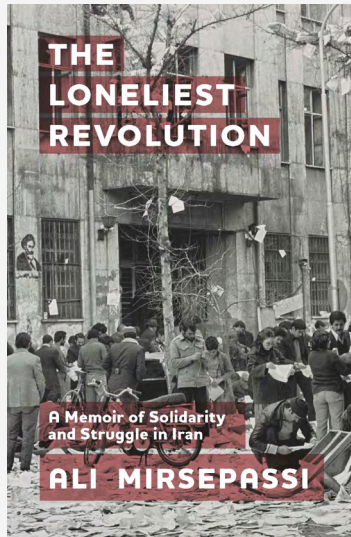
Can we understand a religion without believing and practicing it? Can we have knowledge about faith? Can people understand those different from themselves? Can outsiders ever understand the world of insiders? Examining insider and outsider positions of knowledge Bryan S. Turner explores what understanding Islam entails. He argues that understanding Islam has in recent years been dominated by political events – the Iran Hostage crisis, the fall of the Iranian Shah, 9/11, Afghanistan and the foreign policy of Donald Trump – leading to western intellectuals and public figures, many of whom know nothing about Islam, suddenly becoming experts. Turner asks how they, or how anyone, can have the authority to speak on this subject. He brilliantly elucidates the questions and problems involved in the challenge of understanding religion.

**Bryan Turner is one of the world's leading sociologists of religion and has also devoted significant attention to sociological theory, the study of human rights and the sociology of the body. Turner has written, co-authored or edited more than 70 books and is a founding editor of the journals *Body & Society*, *Citizenship Studies* and *Journal of Classical Sociology*. He is Professor of Sociology, Australian Catholic University.**

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Edinburgh University Press /  
March 2023  
Memoir / 256pp  
ISBN: 9781399511421

## The Loneliest Revolution

Ali Mirsepassi

In October 1978, a day that started like any other for Ali Mirsepassi – full of anti-Shah protests – ended in disaster. He was stabbed and left for dead in a ditch on the outskirts of Tehran for having spoken against Khomeini. In this memoir, he digs up this and other painful memories to ask: How did Iran's revolutionary movement come to this? How did a people united in solidarity and struggle end up so divided?

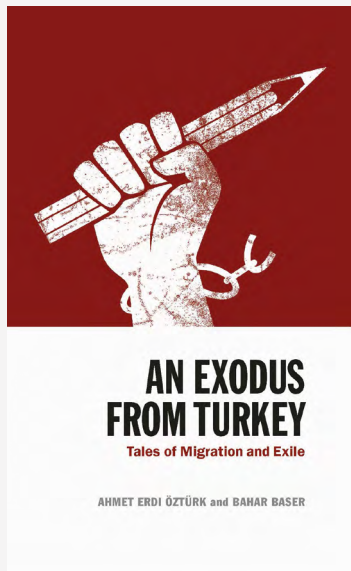
Mirsepassi deftly weaves together his insights as a sociologist of Iran with memories of provincial life and radical activism in 1960s and 1970s. *The Loneliest Revolution* revisits questions of leftist failure and Islamist victory and ultimately asks us all to probe the memories, personal and collective, that we leave unspoken.

Ali Mirsepassi is Albert Gallatin Research Excellence Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University. His recent academic books include, *The Discovery of Iran: Taghi Arani, A Radical Cosmopolitan*; and *Iran's Quiet Revolution: The Downfall of the Pahlavi State*.

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Edinburgh University Press /  
September 2023  
Politics, Middle East / 256pp  
ISBN: 9781399519663

## An Exodus from Turkey

Ahmed Erdi Öztürk and Bahar Baser

Turkey's authoritarian turn under the reign of Erdoğan, and the crackdown on freedom of speech and assembly, has caused many Turkish citizens – either voluntarily or involuntarily – to flee the country. Featuring 21 interviews with former politicians, artists, journalists, academics and activists, this book gives a voice to those in exile.

By presenting their own stories in their own words, we learn about the political reality on the ground in Turkey, how individuals cope with separation from their homeland, how they have built new lives abroad and the prospect of return. Both heartbreaking and informative, this book provides a snapshot of a new layer of intellectual diaspora in the making.

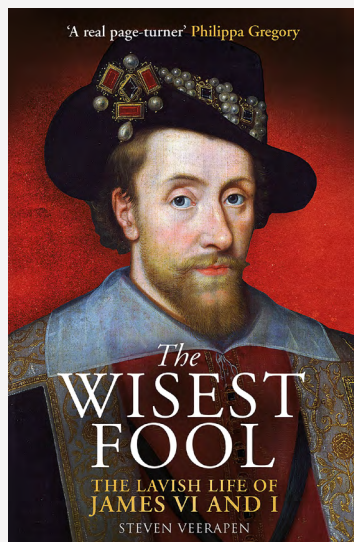
Ahmet Erdi Öztürk is Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Politics at London Metropolitan University and also an associate researcher (Chercheur Associé) at Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes and ELIAMEP.

Bahar Baser is Associate Professor in Middle Eastern Studies at Durham University. She is also a Research Associate at the Security Institute for Leadership in Africa at Stellenbosch University and Visiting Researcher at the Tampere Peace Research Institute.

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Birlinn / September 2023  
History, Biography / 336pp  
ISBN: 9781780278162

## The Wisest Fool

Steven Veerapen

James VI and I has long endured a mixed reputation. To many, he is the homosexual King, the inveterate witch-roaster, the smelly sovereign who never washed, the colourless man behind the authorised Bible bearing his name, the drooling fool whose speech could barely be understood. For too long, he has paled in comparison to his more celebrated – and analysed – Tudor and Stuart forebears. But who was he really? To what extent have myth, anecdote, and rumour obscured him?

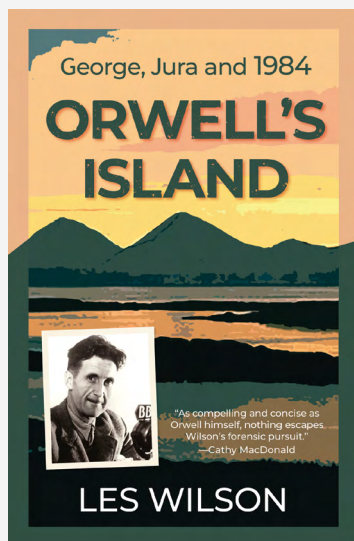
In this new biography, James's story is laid bare, and a welter of scurrilous, outrageous assumptions penned by his political opponents put to rest. What emerges is a portrait of James VI and I as his contemporaries knew him: a gregarious, idealistic man obsessed with the idea of family, whose personal and political goals could never match up to reality.

Steven Veerapen was born in Glasgow to a Scottish mother and a Mauritian father. He graduated with 1st Class Honours from the University of Strathclyde and was awarded a PhD in 2014. He is currently teaching associate in English at Strathclyde. In addition to his academic work, he has also written a number of historical novels, and his crime mysteries featuring Anthony Blanke, set in Tudor England, is published by Polygon.

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Saraband / September 2023  
Biography / 224pp  
ISBN: 9781913393779

## Orwell's Island: George, Jura and 1984

Les Wilson

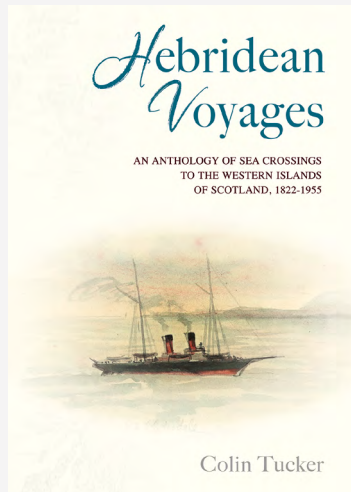
In 1946, Orwell arrived at his isolated home of Barnhill as a grieving widower living in the shadow of war and the nuclear threat. It was there he wrote his masterpiece, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Beyond the writing desk, he was transformed: his new life was one of natural beauty and tight-knit community - and he grew to love a corner of the world he had once dismissed.

*Orwell's Island* casts important new light on a great modern thinker and author. No previous biography has revealed so much about Orwell's later years or his time on Jura, despite this being where he created Big Brother, the Thought Police and Room 101—creations still in common currency today.

A former political journalist, Les Wilson is Creative Director of Caledonia TV, directing and executive producing documentaries on Scottish history, the British monarchy (*Scotland's War*, *The Enchanted Glass*), and many programmes in the Scottish Gaelic language on literature and arts. He is co-author (with Seona Robertson) of *Scotland's War* and has a novel and several history books to his name: *Islay Voices*, *The Drowned and the Saved: How War Came to the Hebrides* (winner of Scotland's National Book Awards, history) and *Putting the Tea in Britain: How Scots Invented our National Drink*.

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Acair / July 2023  
 History, Cultural Studies / 472pp  
 ISBN: 9781789070804

## Hebridean Voyages

Colin Tucker

Collected here are over 125 accounts of voyages, some penned by well-known writers while others have been written anonymously. Read about sea-crossings in fair weather and foul, about fellow travellers and how they passed the time on board. There are descriptions of the ships, their masters and crews. There are tales of sailing to St Kilda, as well as many of the other islands, where often there was no pier, and landing had to be made by small ferryboat, often along with cargo and cattle or sheep.

Many books have been written about the different aspects of the Hebrides, but this is the first time that impressions of the journeys involved in getting there have been gathered together. These accounts present an eloquent portrait of a way of life no longer with us. *Hebridean Voyages* contains detailed illustrations, all hand-drawn by the author himself.

**Colin Tucker is a native of Inverness. He has an Honours Degree in Geography and spent his professional career as a cartographer and teacher. He has a life-long interest in shipping, in particular that of the west coast of Scotland. He has written several books on Hebridean shipping: *Steamers to Stornoway*, *Mary Jane and the Marquis*, and *Hebridean Coasters*, and is the author of *Mitchells: the Story of a Stornoway Family's Garage and Bus Business*.**

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Acair / November 2023  
 History, Cultural Studies / 450pp  
 ISBN: 9781789071443

## Women of the Hebrides

Joni Buchanan

Researched through archives and from the author's own interviews, *Women of the Hebrides* chronicles the lives of a large cross section of women who contributed to their communities in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland from the turn of the 20th Century up to the middle of the century.

These were women of character whose stories were not often told. Their stories are preserved in this stunning volume, giving a voice to those hitherto overlooked. The book is in both Gaelic and English depending on which language the original interview or archive was rendered in.

**Joni Buchanan is a well-known author and journalist from Uig in the Isle of Lewis. She delivered the prestigious Angus MacLeod Memorial Lecture in October 2020 on the subject 'Hebridean Women'.**

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*Also by Joni Buchanan:*

*The Lewis Land Struggle – Na Gaisgich 9780861521661*



Luath Press / October 2023  
Sports, Football / 256pp  
ISBN: 9781804250853

## Home Game

Mel Young and Peter Barr

Mel Young and Peter Barr tell the story of the 1.2 million homeless people in 70 countries who have taken part in the Homeless World Cup since it was founded in 2003 and the positive impact it has on the players – and everyone else involved, including spectators. From refugees to drug addicts, orphans and the ‘poorest of the poor’, to homeless people from the world’s richest countries, we read about the moving human drama behind the event and find out how ‘a ball can change the world’.

*Home Game* provides an insight into the birth of the Homeless World Cup and how it has become such a global phenomenon, by looking at more than just facts. It shows how the power of sport can help excluded people transform their own lives – and how the event has transformed attitudes to homelessness.

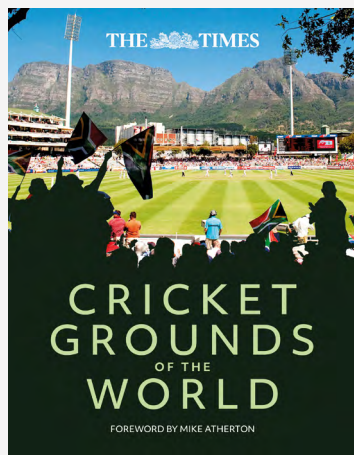
**Mel Young is President and co-founder of the Homeless World Cup and is recognised as one of the world’s leading social entrepreneurs.**

**Peter Barr is a Trustee of the Homeless World Cup Foundation. He is a journalist with 40 years’ experience working in Hong Kong, Singapore and Scotland.**

**Rights Held:** World

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Collins / September 2023  
Sports, Outdoors / 256pp  
ISBN: 9780008618193

## The Times – Cricket Grounds of the World

Richard Whitehead, Edited by Times Books

From the history-steeped ‘home of cricket’ at Lord’s, to the mecca of Indian cricket at Eden Gardens, this encompassing guide ranges across five continents to bring you the best cricket venues the world has to offer.

Accompanied by corresponding articles from *The Times* of notable matches at each venue, discover the history behind these remarkable grounds. With its beautiful, full-colour photography, scorecards, and locator map, this is an essential book for all fans of cricket.

**Richard Whitehead is a former senior sports editor and author of a number of sports books with *The Times*, including *The Times World Cup Moments*, *On the Ashes*, *England’s World Cup* and *50 Greatest Football Matches*.**

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**Related title:**

*The Times – World Cup Moments* 9780008547844



Collins / Times Books / October 2023  
Lifestyle, Fashion / 304pp  
ISBN: 9780008651084

## The Times – British Royal Fashion

Foreword by Anna Murphy

Edited by Jane Eastoe and Times Books

Long before Lady Diana's couture of revenge took the world by storm, or Princess Anne cemented herself as a Gen Z icon, there has been a well-documented fascination with members of the Royal Family and the significance behind their style.

*The Times* has been documenting this fascination for more than 200 years – from the early Regency period to modern day – and has borne witness to the evolution of the Crown's carefully curated public image.

With access to the rich history of *The Times* archive, this authoritative account peels back the layers of silk and chiffon to re-examine the royals who captured the public imagination through their inimitable style.

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## Collins Route 66 Touring Map

Collins Maps

This is a full colour, informative map of the famous US Route 66. With detailed mapping, key tourist information and a suggested itinerary, this is a perfect guide for anyone travelling along America's Route 66.

This map includes:

- Clear mapping at a scale of 47 miles to 1 inch / 30 km to 1 cm
- Tourist route, attractions and places of interest clearly marked
- Images of top sights along the route accompanied by textual descriptions
- Suggested itineraries
- Detailed index of places of interest and place names

Also available: *The Great Ocean Road Touring Map* (Australia) and *Garden Route Touring Map* (South Africa).

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Collins (HarperCollins UK) / September 2023

Travel, Lifestyle / Folded Map

ISBN: 9780008609177



Luath Press / September 2023  
 Memoir, Food and Drink / 192pp  
 ISBN: 9781804250907

Also by Anne Pia:  
*Keeping Away the Spiders* 9781913025724  
*Language of my Choosing* 9781912147397

## Magnaccioni

Anne Pia

*Magnaccioni* (Roman dialect): people who live to eat and drink well. *I know no other word that captures that rare gift, that supremely basic human quality of eating with mind, eyes and heart and radiating uncontainable pleasure in so doing.*

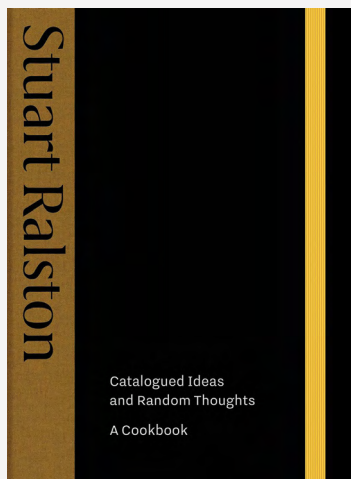
Writing as a passionate food aficionada, Anne Pia has created a convivial and open-hearted cookery book that invites you into her kitchen. In *Magnaccioni*, she shares her own family recipes and the food she has enjoyed in Italy based on la cucina povera, la cucina di terra – the use of fresh produce and simple ingredients to create sumptuous, joyful feasts. Get ready to listen to Italian music, pour a glass of wine and enjoy cooking with Anne. Join her in becoming *magnaccioni*!

Dr Anne Pia is the grandchild of Italian immigrants and was raised surrounded by the culture, traditions and dialect of southern Italy. She graduated from Edinburgh University with a joint Honours degree in French and Italian and a PhD in 2008. Anne's creative memoir *Language of My Choosing* was shortlisted for the Saltire Award for Best New Book of 2017, and was later awarded the Premio Flaiano Italianistica: La Cultura Italiana nel Mondo. Anne is listed in the Scottish Poetry Library Catalogue of Scottish Poets and is a regular contributor to poetry and literary gatherings in Edinburgh and more widely in Scotland.

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Kitchen Press / October 2023  
 Food and Drink / 240pp  
 ISBN: 9781739174019

## Catalogued Ideas and Random Thoughts

Stuart Ralston

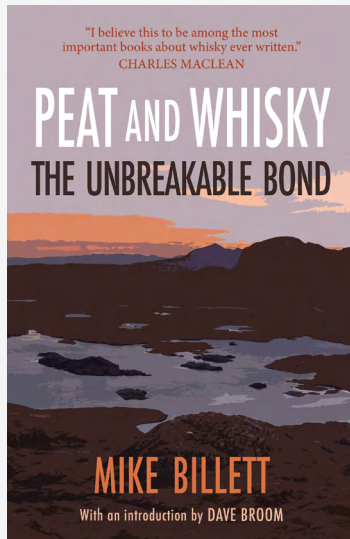
The first book from Stuart Ralston, the Edinburgh-based chef patron of Top 100 National Restaurant, Aizle; Michelin-bib awarded Noto and much anticipated newcomers Tipo and Lyrá.

*Catalogued Ideas and Random Thoughts – A Cookbook* traces his evolution as a chef, and brings together the food that inspires him, from the finely crafted dishes that he creates in his restaurants to the food he likes to cook at home. From a Buttermilk Fried Chicken, Waffles and Honey Butter to a signature Cured Trout Ponzo, Cucumber and Kohlrabi, the pages traverse Stuart's career to date. With stunning photography by Clair Irwin, these detailed but achievable recipes give a fascinating insight into the processes behind one of Scotland's most consistently interesting chefs.

Stuart Ralston grew up in Glenrothes in a family of chefs. From learning his trade in kitchens around Scotland, he moved to New York to work in Gordon Ramsay's flagship 2 Michelin Star restaurant at The London Hotel. He spent two years as the Chef de Cuisine at Sandy Lanes, Barbados cooking for the rich and famous before returning to Edinburgh to open Aizle in 2016, followed by Noto in 2019 and Tipo in 2023.

**Rights Held:** World

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Saraband / October 2023  
Food and Drink / 416pp  
ISBN: 9781913393908

## Peat and Whisky

Mike Billett

Bringing together landscapes, geology, history, people and their whisky, and addressing the key role of peatlands in mitigating climate change, *Peat and Whisky: The Unbreakable Bond* is a love letter to Scotland and the unique substance that forms part of the DNA of Scotch whisky.

Whether you're a whisky connoisseur, a lover of Scotland's environment and beautiful landscapes, an armchair traveller or a history buff, this unforgettable book will deepen your appreciation for the land itself and help you to understand the profound connection between peat and the unmistakable character of uisge beatha, the water of life.

As well as being a whisky connoisseur, Mike Billett is a leading peatland scientist with a background in geology, soil and water science. During his academic career he has researched and written extensively on the peatlands of the British Isles, Scandinavia and the Arctic, focusing on water quality, carbon, peatland management and environmental change. In recent years he has immersed himself in the landscapes, taste and qualities of Scotland's single malt whiskies and has applied his deep understanding of the science of peatlands to this passion. *Peat and Whisky* is his first non-academic book.

Rights Held: World

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Extremis Publishing /  
September 2023  
Social and Cultural History / 216pp  
ISBN: 9781739484507

**Related titles:**

*A Very Spectrum Christmas: Celebrating Seasonal Software on the Sinclair ZX Spectrum*  
9781999696290

*Secrets and Mysteries of the Heart 200 Route*  
9781739854300

*A Totally Bodacious Nineties Christmas: Festive Cinema of the 1990s* 9781739854355

## Scotland's Christmas

Thomas A Christie and Murray Cook

In this book, popular culture researcher Dr Tom Christie and archaeologist Dr Murray Cook take a look at how Christmas and other winter festivals have been celebrated, banned and reborn throughout Scotland's long history. As well as considering the cultural impact of Christmas on Scotland over the centuries, the authors also meander into yuletide myths and legends as well as the food, the literature and many little-known facts along the way.

Dr Thomas A Christie is a Scottish author with research interests in popular culture, literary analysis, interactive fiction, and modern cinema. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the Royal Society of Literature, the Society of Authors, and the Federation of Writers Scotland, as well as an Associate Lecturer at Forth Valley College in Stirling.

Dr Murray Cook is Stirling Council's Archaeologist. He has undertaken numerous excavations across the region and published over 40 books and articles. Murray is an Honorary Research Fellow at Stirling University, an Associate Lecturer at Forth Valley College, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

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# Extract: Catalogued Ideas and Random Thoughts

## Prawn Toast

Traditionally a Cantonese dim sum snack created in Hong Kong, the Noto version of this takeaway classic has a thick, distinguishable layer of moussey prawn paste, so you can really see it. I love prawn toast, and it's very simple to prepare.

### Serves 4

4 slices Pain de Mie (page 240)

10g sesame oil

1 recipe Prawn Paste

(recipe follows)

100g sesame seeds

.....

50g Bulldog tonkatsu sauce

50g Kewpie Mayo (page 233)

4 spring onions, sliced

katsuobushi flakes

.....

vegetable oil to deep fry

Brush the bread slices on one side with sesame oil, then spread a thick layer of the prawn paste on top and coat generously in sesame seeds.

Deep fry at 180°C for 4 minutes until golden brown on all sides – the internal temperature should be above 65°C. Cut each slice into four.

Top with tonkatsu sauce and pipe over some zigzags of kewpie mayo. Finish with a few sliced spring onions and a scatter of katsuobushi flakes.

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## Prawn Paste

Makes about 300g

250g raw prawns, chopped

8g ginger, chopped

1 garlic clove, chopped

2 spring onions, sliced

.....

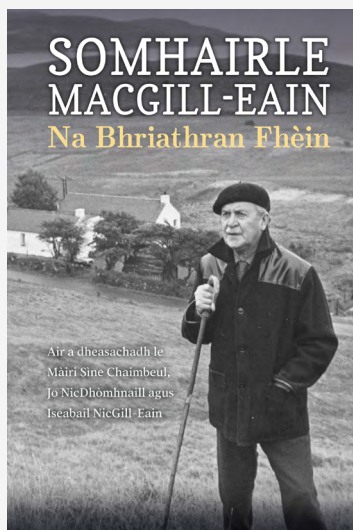
45g egg whites

.....

7g salt

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In a blender, pulse the prawns with the ginger, garlic and spring onion to form a paste. Add the egg whites and blend until combined, then lightly season with the salt. Store over ice when not in use.



Acair / September 2023  
 History, Cultural Studies / 300pp  
 ISBN: 9781789071450

**Related titles:**

*Ris a' Bhruthaich* 9780861520411  
*Dàin agus Deilbh* 9780861529001

## Somhairle MacGill-Eain – Na Bhriathran Fhèin

Edited by Màiri Sìne Chaimbeul,  
 Jo NicDhòmhnaill agus Iseabail NicGill-Eain

Although Somhairle MacGill-Eain wrote the poetry for which he is internationally renowned in Gaelic, there is no book written in Gaelic which introduces the man and his work to Gaelic readers, until now. This book, entirely in Gaelic, addresses that deficit by providing:

- An introduction to his life and work, aimed at a general reader and accessible to students in schools, universities and colleges.
- Text based on transcripts of recordings in Gaelic made by Somhairle at various stages in his life, the emphasis of the book being 'in his own words'.
- Source material is from interviews with Somhairle from the archives of the BBC, STV and the School of Scottish Studies.

Sorley MacLean is one of Scotland's poets of national and international stature, and one of the most distinguished of all Gaelic poets. His poetry is characterised by its innovation and boldness, both in its approach and subject matter. In his seminal work *Dàin do Eimhir*, his poetry speaks of love, choice, suffering and injustice.

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Acair / March 2024  
 History, Cultural Studies / 200pp  
 ISBN: 9781789071603

## Among the Layers of the Land

Frank Rennie

We all have some connection with the land, whether we simply walk on it or enjoy the view of a landscape. The personal connections with a place can go much deeper, however, such as engaging in farming or hill-walking. This book reflects on different ways of looking at the land, contrasting individual perceptions and divergent meanings that shape what we experience. Using a combination of creative writing that alternates non-fiction and short stories, our relationship with the land and the landscape is celebrated from different angles and viewpoints to uncover the layers of understanding that enrich our world.

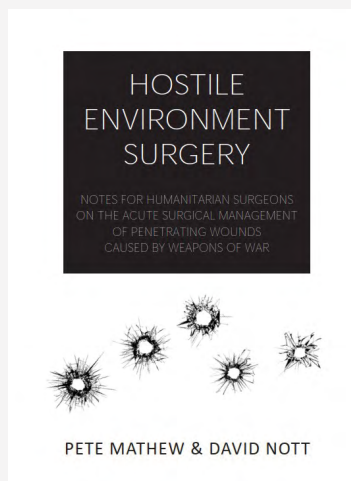
Frank Rennie lives with his family in the crofting village of South Galson in the Isle of Lewis and is Professor of Sustainable Rural Development at the University of the Highlands and Islands. A natural scientist by training and inclination, he has also been closely involved in the community and cultural development of this region for forty years. He is also the author of *The Changing Outer Hebrides* which won the Highland Book Prize 2020.

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**Also by Frank Rennie:**

*The Changing Outer Hebrides* 9781789070835  
*101 Uses for Baler Twine* 9781789071085



Swan & Horn / September 2023  
 Medical / 194pp  
 ISBN: 9781909675377

**Rights Held:** World

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Maria Carter swanandhorn@gmx.com

## Hostile Environment Surgery

**Pete Mathew and David Nott**

For humanitarian surgeons before and during missions in conflict areas/war zones who must deal with high-energy penetrating wounds caused by weapons, usually in chaotic emergency conditions and resource-poor environments.

The authors have applied their vast surgical experience spanning general, cardiothoracic, vascular, orthopaedic, maxillofacial, plastic surgery and neurosurgery to create this highly practical decision-making tool for acute situations – from gaining access to 'vital' structures and initial surgical actions, to burns management and wound closure – in order to save lives, stabilise casualties, prevent infection and enhance the chance of normal function.

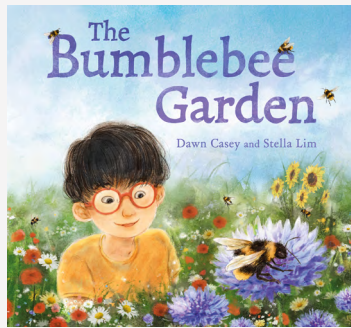
**Pete Mathew (FRCS(ENG), FRCS(SN), DTM&H(TropMed), RAAF):** Former Consultant Neurosurgeon, Adelaide, Australia/Dundee, Scotland; Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H); trained trauma surgeon; anatomy lecturer, Dundee University; military surgeon, Royal Air Force (RAF); humanitarian surgeon, Médecins Sans Frontières/International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

**David Nott, O.B.E. (FRCS, MD, DSc, DMCC, RAAF):** Consultant General and Vascular Surgeon/Professor of Humanitarian Surgery, Imperial College London; military and humanitarian surgeon, Royal Air Force/Médecins Sans Frontières/International Committee of the Red Cross; co-Founded of the David Nott Foundation; Founder of Environment Surgical Training (HEST) course; author of a bestselling memoir *War Doctor/War Surgery on the Front Line* (Picador, 2019).

**Children**

**Young**

**Adult**



Floris Books / February 2024  
Picture Books / 28pp  
ISBN: 9781782509035

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Also by Dawn Casey:  
*Spin a Scarf of Sunshine*  
9781782506584

## The Bumblebee Garden

Dawn Casey, illustrated by Stella Lim

In the chilly early spring, Ben and Grandpa are busy in the garden. Ben spots a fuzzy bumblebee in a cosy coat, just like him. As spring turns to summer, Ben learns all about the lives of the bumblebees – how they grow from eggs into hungry larvae, spin cocoons and finally emerge as bees – and notices what he has in common with his buzzy friends. When Grandpa explains that bees carry pollen that helps juicy strawberries grow in their garden, Ben asks if they can help the bees in return.

The Bumblebee Garden is a charming, lyrical story that teaches young children about the life cycle of bees, and their importance to the balance of the natural world. The luminous illustrations will inspire readers to celebrate these remarkable, vital insects and help them thrive in their own gardens and nearby green spaces.

Dawn Casey is the author of picture books and children's story collections inspired by the wonder of the natural world. Her work has won the Gold Nautilus Award for books that support conscious living and received an accolade from the American Folklore Society. Before becoming an author, Dawn worked in publishing and as a primary school teacher. Dawn lives with her husband, children and a tabby cat in Sussex, UK.

Stella Lim is an illustrator from South Korea. She studied Fine Art and graduated from Kingston University with a Master of Communication Design. She is the illustrator of *Spin a Scarf of Sunshine*, *Little Blue Bunny* and *The Bumblebee Garden*. Stella lives in Seoul with her family and tabby cat.



Lexus Books / March 2024  
Picture Book, Folk Tales / 96pp  
ISBN: 9781904737643

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## Four Scottish Folk Tales Vier schottische Volksmärchen

Fiona Scott; German by Ulrike Seeberger

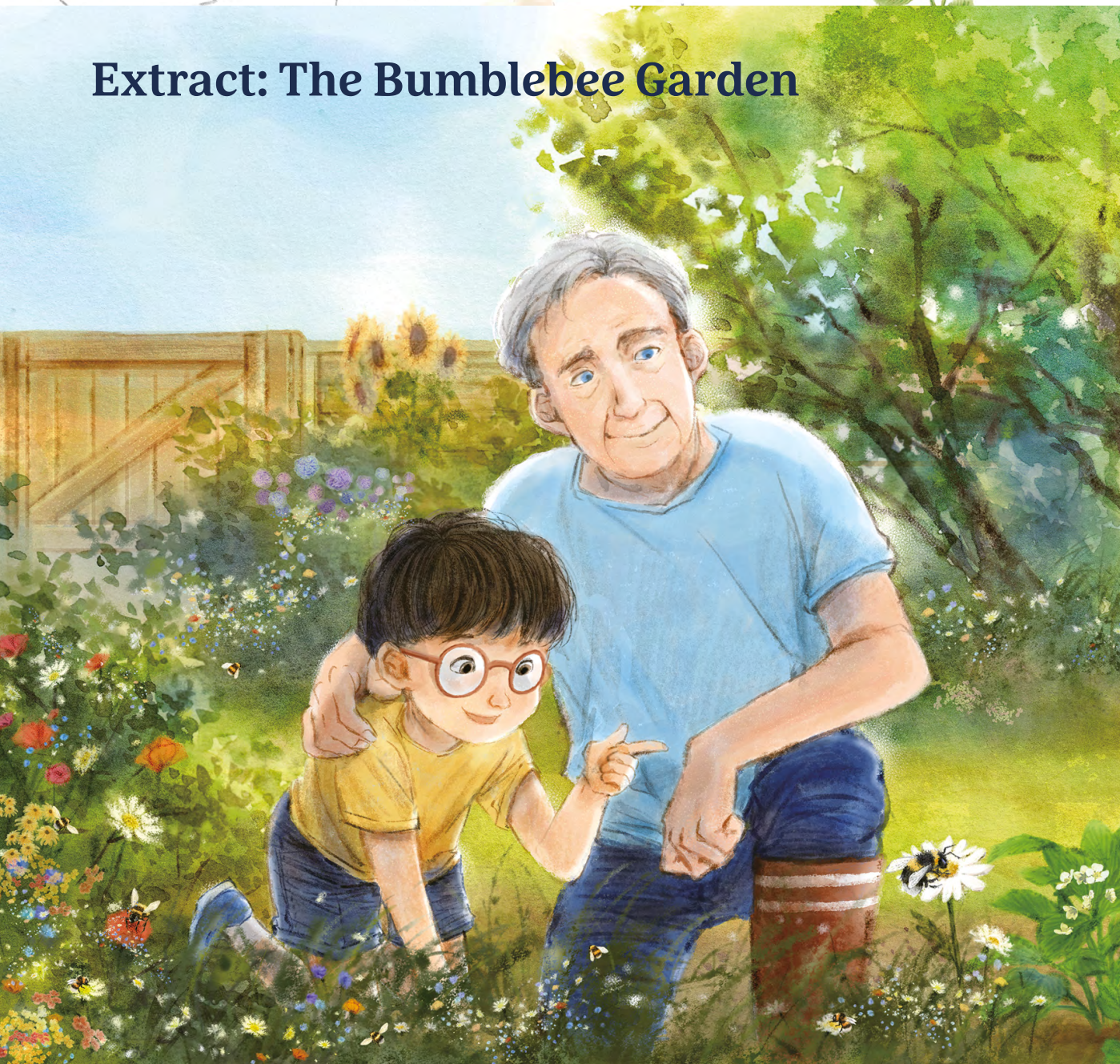
This book, fully illustrated in rich colours, tells four of the many traditional folk tales from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Each tale is told in two languages: in German and in English.

There's a story about a selkie, or seal, who wins a man's heart but longs to return to the sea. There's a beautiful princess from under the sea whose happiness brings music and dance and puts paid to the evil giant. There are fiddlers who go into a magic mountain and play at a feast only to find that, when they return to their own world the following day, hundreds of years have passed. And there's the story of a man who goes searching far and wide for a wife, only to find the love of his life living close by, at home. Tales of magic or tales of allegory?

Fiona Scott, as a child, would hear these old Scottish folk tales at her mother's knee. While studying French at Glasgow University she applied for a work placement with Lexus and because of her interest in folk tales and Celtic mythology, and her knowledge of this area, Lexus commissioned her to write down these magical tales (in her own special style). The German versions are by Ulrike Seeberger, sometime lexicographer and now a professional translator of texts both literary and legal.



**Extract: The Bumblebee Garden**







Cranachan / November 2023  
Middle Grade Fiction / 256pp  
ISBN: 9781911279563

## Finding Treasure Island

Robin Scott-Elliott

A boy seeking a father... A girl seeking treasure... A writer seeking a story...

When Robert Louis Stevenson sketches a map to amuse his stepson Sam, it sets them off on the adventure of a lifetime. While Stevenson is inspired to write his first great story, Sam has a treasure hunt of his own to pursue, guided through the hidden forests and dangerous glens of the Cairngorms by the mystical Jen Hawkins.

*Finding Treasure Island* is the missing memoir of Sam Osbourne, which reveals his part in the birth of the greatest adventure story ever written.

Robin Scott-Elliott has been a sports journalist for over 25 years with the BBC, ITV, the *Sunday Times*, the *Independent* and inews, covering every sport you can think of and a few you probably can't. The highlight was the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics; the lowlight turning up at the wrong stadium to cover Scotland's football team. *Finding Treasure Island* is Robin's fifth children's historical fiction novel after *Sweet Skies*, *The Tzar's Curious Runaways*, and *The Acrobats of Agra and Hide and Seek*. He lives in Helensburgh with his partner and two daughters, and a dog, a cat, a rabbit and a guinea pig.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights and Export Contact:** Helen Binns helen@helenbinns.com



Floris Books / August 2023  
Middle Grade Fiction / 288pp  
ISBN: 9781782508403

## Cloudlanders

Christopher Mackie

An island of magic and mayhem floating above the flooded Earth, Bastion has long been the last country left in the world. Then one day best friends Kurt (an eight-foot mushroom with a fear of heights) and Flicker (a tiny, tough-talking gemstone faerie) stand on the edge of the land and see the impossible: a plane is heading straight for them.

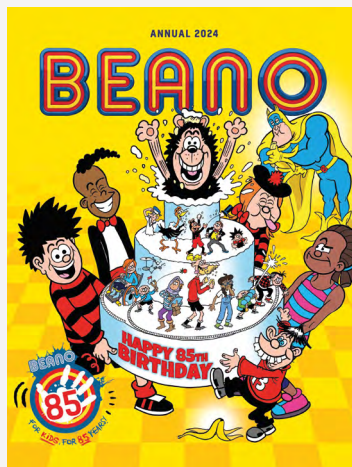
Kurt and Flicker join forces with a brave gang of misfits -- including wood-nymph twins (one bounty hunter, one bookworm) and a gruff, shapeshifting wolf -- to rescue the pilot and face a dangerous enemy. Can the Cloudlanders save their floating island from crashing into the Endless Sea and the terrifying tentacles of a massive monster?

A fast-paced, laugh-out-loud fantasy adventure with a unique cast of characters, tonnes of heart, and gasp-inducing moments. Fans of Ben Miller, Tom Fletcher and Terry Pratchett will love this quirky and sharply written novel.

Christopher Mackie grew up in a quiet village, creating imaginary worlds and telling tall tales to anyone who would listen. In 2019, he won the Kelpies Prize for Writing and wrote *Cloudlanders*, his first children's novel, during the 2020 lockdowns. Chris lives Edinburgh, Scotland.

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DC Thomson / August 2023  
Children's Annual / 112pp  
ISBN: 9781845359560

## Beano Annual 2024

Celebrate 85 years of the world's longest-running weekly comic packed with brand-new, hilarious stories in one of the UK's bestselling annuals!

Beantown legends past and present unite to celebrate Bash Street School's 85th anniversary! Dennis and Gnasher, Dangerous Dan, Minnie the Minx and the team will ensure that this is a Bash Street celebration to remember! Whatever happens, you can be sure it'll be 100% fun!

Kids young and old know the annual delivers on its promise of fun and mischief across 112 pages of excitement, danger, and the funniest and silliest comic strip stories you'll read!

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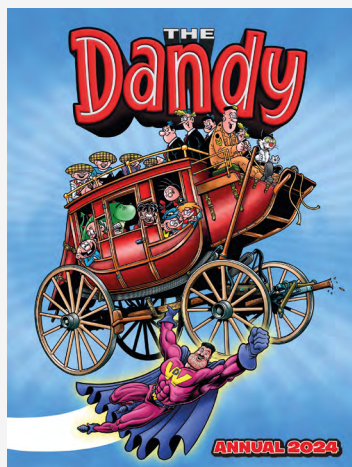
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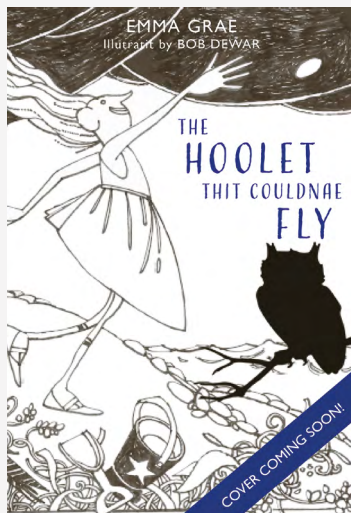
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Luath Press / November 2023  
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## The Hoolet Thit Couldnae Fly

### Emma Grae, illustrated by Bob Dewar

Brodie goes missing. Being a bird with a bad wing, Iona is sent into a worry. Her mammy is busy trying to get her ready for school and the snaw is settling in. But Brodie must be found.

Running through the garden and exploring Mad Billy's farm, Brodie couldn't have gone far. After all, she was a hoolet thit couldnae fly.

A fantastic book from award-winning Scots author Emma Grae, exploring themes of confidence and celebrates the idea that it is okay to be different. Meet all the different animals we encounter on the search for Brodie in this bonnie wee book.

Emma Grae is a Scottish author and journalist from Glasgow. She is a passionate advocate of the Scots language and breaking the stigma around mental illness. She has published fiction and poetry in the UK and Ireland since 2014 in journals including *The Honest Ulsterman*, *From Glasgow to Saturn* and *The Open Mouse*. Her debut novel, *Be Guid tae yer Mammy*, was published by Unbound in August 2021 and was awarded Scots Book of the Year at the Scots Language Awards 2022. As a journalist, she writes under her birth surname, Guinness, and has bylines in a number of publications including *Cosmopolitan*, the *Huffington Post* and the *Metro*.

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# Translation Fund

The Translation Fund serves to support international publishers who hope to translate the work of Scottish writers. Grants are awarded twice annually by a panel selected by Publishing Scotland, and comprise a contribution towards the translator's fee.

Publishers must have already acquired the rights to translate the work in question and must apply at least three months before the translation is due to be published. All translation samples are assessed by an independent expert.

In order to apply, publishers must supply the following:

- 1** / A signed copy of the valid contract with the translator(s)
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For more information on how and when to apply, please contact Lucy Feather at [lucy.feather@publishingscotland.org](mailto:lucy.feather@publishingscotland.org) or visit the Publishing Scotland website at [www.publishingscotland.org](http://www.publishingscotland.org).

The following publishers were awarded funding in the most recent round of applications:

- Bohdan Publishing House (Ukraine) for the Ukrainian edition of *Wireless* by Charles Stross (Orbit)
- Hakibbutz Hame'uchad-Sifriat Poalim Publishing House (Israel) for the Hebrew edition of *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll (Knights Of)
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# International Fellowship Programme

Publishing Scotland's International Fellowship Programme was established in 2015 to facilitate exchange between international publishers and the publishing sector in Scotland. The fellowship takes place each August, during a week of the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the world-famous Edinburgh festivals. It comprises a packed programme of publisher and agent visits, meetings, market presentations, networking, and more.

Fellows are chosen by a steering committee and emphasis is placed upon the track record of the publishing company and their previous interest in, and links to, the industry in Scotland. The committee aims for a balance

of countries and between larger and smaller publishing houses. All travel and accommodation costs are covered as part of the fellowship. The Fellowship has so far brought together 62 publishers from across the world. Eight publishers took part in the 2023 Fellowship. You can find out more about all our previous Fellows and the latest news at: [www.publishingscotland.org/what-we-do/publishing-fellowship/](http://www.publishingscotland.org/what-we-do/publishing-fellowship/)

If you have any questions about the programme please contact Marion Sinclair at [marion.sinclair@publishingscotland.org](mailto:marion.sinclair@publishingscotland.org)



Publishing Scotland's International Fellows 2023. Photo by Chris Scott.

# Creative Scotland



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Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here.

Creative Scotland distributes funds from the Scottish Government and The National Lottery, and make awards to individual writers, publishers and literary organisations based in or from Scotland through a variety of funding streams. Organisations supported by Creative Scotland include Publishing Scotland, Edinburgh International Book Festival and Glasgow Women's Library.

The Literature team at Creative Scotland are happy to discuss any potential projects, and you can contact them at [enquiries@creativescotland.com](mailto:enquiries@creativescotland.com).



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Publishing Scotland

Foilseachadh Alba

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