NEW BOOKS SCOTLAND

AUTUMN/WINTER 2026

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Introduction

Hello and welcome to the Autumn 2026 edition of New Books Scotland, our latest showcase of Scottish writing and publishing. What you will find within these pages is confirmation that Scotland's publishing sector is rich, diverse and outward-looking, catering to every kind of reader from the specialist to the mainstream. We have prize-winning and bestselling authors, brilliant new work from rising talent as well as cultural gems worth rediscovering. Our publishers present books that confront important issues throughout Scotland and the world, while also giving attention to our culture and history, the great outdoors and Scotland's fantastic larder. These are books for readers with open hearts and enquiring minds, with stories that will excite, resonate and entertain.

In fiction, we highlight novellas published by Polygon from the bestselling Val McDermid and her partner Jo Sharp (*This Door of the Seas*), as well as the critically acclaimed Jenni Fagan (*The Fall of Frankenstein*), both of which look at iconic moments and characters. We also have a superb graphic novel edition of Matt Haig's international hit *The Midnight Library*, and the latest novel from Jenni Daiches, *They Know Where They Are Going*. We're thrilled to have *Crossing the Sound*, debut fiction from Peter Irvine, better known for his travel writing. We're also excited to include new writers who are already making a splash such as Rozie Kelly, whose *Kingfisher* was shortlisted for the 2026 Women's Prize for Fiction, and Luke Kennard, whose *Black Bag* is longlisted for the 2026 Booker prize.

Scotland's crime writing talent continues to thrive, with continuing series going from strength to strength. Allan Gaw returns with more Dr Jack Cuthbert Mysteries while David O' Donnell provides another enthralling case that takes us into the dark heart of Nazi Germany. We also have an epic historical fantasy in *Antara* by the Arthur C. Clarke winning Tade Thompson that tells the tale of the African warrior-poet and his quest for love and acceptance.

In non-fiction, there's a focus on good food with books from Kitchen Press (*Café Cùil*) and Octopus (*Scran*) that celebrate Scottish ingredients and classic dishes. There are also books that invite us to consider the natural world (*The Tangles* and *Among Willows*) or to participate in its beauty (*The Zen of Climbing* and *Swimming the Seasons*). We also have books that celebrate our art and built environment from our innovative institutional publishers, Historic Environment Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland and Glasgow Museums, as well as books that offer new insights on history from a variety of our publishers including Lexus, McNidder & Grace, and Ringwood Publishing. Current social and political investigations on healthcare, global democracy and female friendships are also provided by Saraband, Edinburgh University Press and Rayany Publishing.

Our children's publishers continue to delight younger readers. We have beautiful picture flats from Floris Books (*Mondays Are Apple Green*) and Scotland Street Press (*My Dad Brought Beavers Back*); for middle grade readers we have *My Name is Zayn*, the powerful and moving follow-up to *My Name is Samim*, while DC Thomson's iconic brand Beano is represented as Dennis the Menace celebrates his 75th birthday.

This fantastic range of titles shows our publishers always serve readers with imagination, commitment and care, and that their books are always worth reading.

Publishing Scotland

Website: www.publishingscotland.org
Contact: 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.

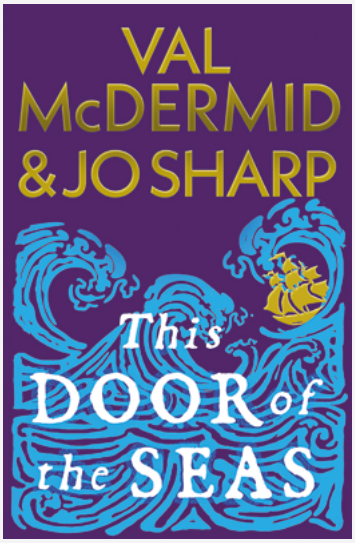
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FICTION & POETRY



Polygon | August 2026
Historical Fiction
ISBN: 9781846977466

Also by Val McDermid:
Queen Macbeth 9781846977077

This Door of the Seas

Val McDermid & Jo Sharp

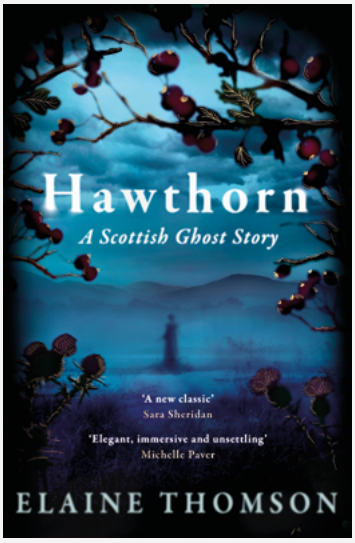
The Darien Venture was the singular event at the end of the seventeenth century that fundamentally altered Scotland's future. And many of us know next to nothing about it.

Award-winning novelist Val McDermid and Geographer Royal for Scotland Jo Sharp unite in this revelatory novella to trace the story of Scotland's only trading colony, which turned from a dream of prosperity to a nightmare that bankrupted an already impoverished nation and propelled it towards political union with England.

Written as a series of letters home from expedition scientist Dr James Wallace to his wife Eliza and Sir Robert Sibbald, the first Geographer Royal, this epistolary tale offers a devastating account of the forces that doomed the endeavour and completely changed the history of the British Isles in the process.

Val McDermid is a novelist whose work has been translated into more than forty languages and sold over nineteen million copies. She has won many awards, including the CWA Gold Dagger, the LA Times Book of the Year Award and the Cartier Diamond Dagger Award for outstanding achievement.

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Little, Brown Book Group
September 2026
Historical Thriller
ISBN: 9781408724705

Also by Elaine Thomson:
Saltwater 9781408724729

Hawthorn: A Scottish Ghost Story

Elaine Thomson

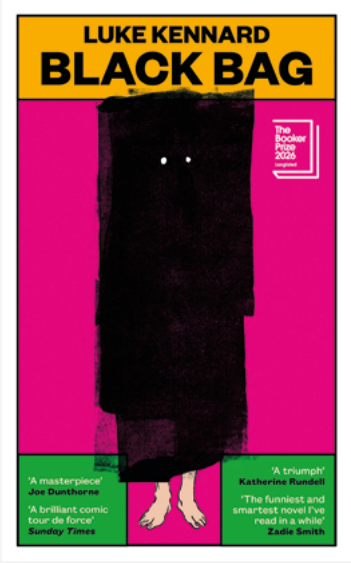
Caithness, October 1871. The Ordnance Survey are charting Scotland's most remote north-easterly county, a bleak landscape of endless moorland and lonely crofts. When a strange vision leads cartographer Robert Sutherland out onto the moor one night, an accident leaves him inches from death. He is taken to Leask House, to recuperate under the care of Mrs Sinclair and her beautiful daughter Isabel.

At first, Robert thinks the dreadful visions that plague him at Leask House are the result of the laudanum he has been prescribed. But as events take ever stranger and more terrifying turns, Robert begins to wonder whether his presence at Leask House is really a coincidence at all. Someone – or something – has summoned him here.

For fans of Michelle Paver and Sarah Waters, this is the first in a haunting quartet of ghost stories set in the wilds of Scotland.

Elaine Thomson is a Scottish author, who has written several historical novels under the name E.S. Thomson. Her work has been longlisted for the CWA Endeavour Historical Dagger, and shortlisted for the Saltire Prize, the Scottish Arts Council First Book Award and the William McIlvanney Crime Book of the Year Award. *Hawthorn* is the first in a planned quartet of ghost stories, all set in Scotland during the four 'turning points' of the year: Samhain, midwinter, midsummer and the spring equinox.

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John Murray Press | March 2026
Contemporary Fiction
ISBN: 9781399826112

Black Bag

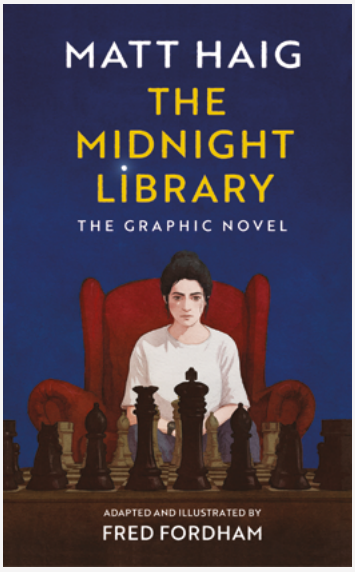
Luke Kennard

LONGLISTED FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE 2026

A penniless and out-of-work actor picks up a job working for Dr Blend, a university professor who is conducting a psychological experiment. How will Dr Blend's students react to someone zipped into on oversized bag, sitting at the back of the lecture hall over a series of autumn term lectures? The role, eagerly accepted, soon has unexpected consequences. A professor of post-humanism develops research questions of her own, in particular can you love someone secreted away inside a black bag? Meanwhile, the actor's childhood friend and flatmate forms a vision for monetising this new situation...

Luke Kennard is an award-winning poet and novelist. His literary criticism has appeared in the *London Review of Books*, *Poetry London*, and *Times Literary Supplement*. He lectures in Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham. In 2014 he was named one of the 'Next Generation Poets' by the Poetry Book Society in their once-per-decade list.

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Canongate | October 2026
Graphic Novels
ISBN: 9781837264520

The Midnight Library: The Graphic Novel

Matt Haig & Fred Fordham

Nora's life has been going from bad to worse. Then at the stroke of midnight on her last day on earth, she finds herself transported to a library. There she is given the chance to undo her regrets and try out each of the other lives she might have lived.

Which raises the ultimate question: with infinite choices, what is the best way to live?

Matt Haig was born in Sheffield. His novels include the bestsellers *The Humans*, *How to Stop Time* and *The Midnight Library*, which has sold over twelve million copies worldwide. His work has been published in fifty-six languages.

Fred Fordham is an author and illustrator of graphic novels, with a particular focus on literary adaptations. He has worked with the estates of Harper Lee and F. Scott Fitzgerald, and has collaborated with contemporary authors including Philip Pullman and Phil Earle.

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Also by Matt Haig:
The Midnight Train 9781837262137, The Life Impossible 9781838855611, Reasons to Stay Alive 9781837264629, The Comfort Book 9781786898326, How to Stop Time 9781838858476



Polygon | February 2027
Literary Fiction
ISBN: 9781846977534

Also by Jenni Fagan:
Hex 9781846976223
A Swan's Neck on the Butcher's Block 9781846976766
The Bone Library 9781846975929

The Fall of Frankenstein

Jenni Fagan

Words are disappearing from the contemporary world. So much so that an Independent Bureau of Lost Words has been created in a discrete location on Scotland's east coast, run by a new Curator of Lost Words, Mary Shelley. What is the role being played by the scientist and expert in words, meanings and monsters, Victor Frankenstein? What have his experiments in AI and large language models unleashed? And is language itself reborn as Frankenstein's monster?

Blending Mary Shelley's classic story into a work of dazzling speculative fiction, Jenni Fagan presents a crazy, fast, funny and dark tale that drags readers into the belly of what language actually is and is not, and how it is used by us and against us.

Dr Jenni Fagan is a poet, novelist and screenwriter. She won the Gordon Burn Prize for her memoir, *Ootlin*, which was also longlisted for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction. Her debut novel saw her selected as a Granta Best Young British Novelist, and she has been listed for the Encore Award, the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes, and the Desmond Elliott Prize. She is a Royal Society of Literature Fellow. Her seventh poetry collection, *A Swan's Neck on the Butcher's Block*, was published in 2024.

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Saraband | April 2025
Literary Fiction
ISBN: 9781916812352

Kingfisher

Rozie Kelly

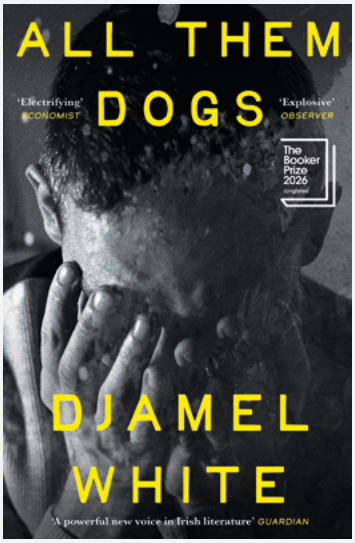
A creative writing academic falls under the spell of his colleague, a lauded author whose life seems to shimmer with a freedom he cannot reach. At home, there is Michael: beautiful, steady, safe. But this wordsmith is something else entirely – she is restless, luminous, untouchable.

As his fixation deepens, the boundaries between admiration, desire and possession begin to blur. His Kingfisher – as he thinks of her – draws him further from the life he knows, into a world shaped by art, longing and illusion. Then illness arrives, closing in on them all, and the tightrope he's been walking starts to sway.

Kingfisher is a beautifully crafted novel of queer desire and ambition, grief and creativity, and the fine lines between intimacy and obsession.

Rozie Kelly is a novelist based in West Yorkshire. After reading English Literature and Creative Writing she moved to Hebden Bridge, where she works for the Arvon Foundation, hosting creative writing courses. She was shortlisted for the PFD Queer Fiction Prize 2023 and was one of the eight participants in the inaugural Prototype Development Programme 2024. She won the 2024 NorthBound Book Award for *Kingfisher*, her debut novel which was shortlisted for the 2026 Women's Prize for Fiction.

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John Murray Press | March 2026
Literary Fiction
ISBN: 9781399824460

All Them Dogs

Djamel White

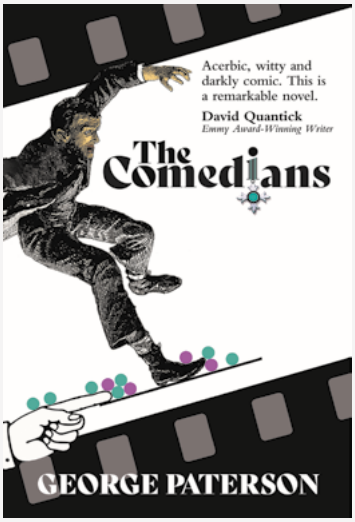
Things are different since Tony Ward landed back in town. The West Dublin gang-land has changed. His old mentor is dead, and his best pal Kenny Boyle is on the straight and narrow.

After five years keeping quiet across the way, Tony is keen to reinstate himself, and when the opportunity arises to work side by side with Darren 'Flute' Walsh, a top enforcer of notorious crime boss Aengus Lavelle, it feels like a no brainer.

Biting off more than he can chew has never bothered Tony, but Flute Walsh is not the meek, quiet boy he remembers from school. Brooding, stoic, and unpredictably dangerous, Tony finds himself drawn to his new associate in more ways than one.

After leaving school early at 17, Djamel White volunteered at the Irish non-profit literary organisation Fighting Words. At 21, Djamel went on to attend University College Dublin, where he earned a BA in English and Creative Writing, followed by an MFA in Creative Writing, and was mentored by writers such as Declan Hughes and Anne Enright. He's been the recipient of a Literature Bursary Award and an Agility Award from the Arts Council of Ireland.

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Into Creative | April 2027
Literary Fiction
ISBN: 9781919424521

Also by George Paterson:
The Girl, the Crow, the Writer and the Fighter 9781916311220
Westerwick 9781916311244.

The Comedians

George Paterson

The Comedians is a bittersweet tale of fame, betrayal and rivalry, where two damaged souls fight for laughter, love, and a last chance to defy the gods of failure.

To those who know Dennis Sargent, he is cruel, misogynistic and misanthropic. To the general public, he's a national treasure.

On the brink of surrendering to his inevitable slide, he is blindsided by a recording of a young, electrifying comedian whose anarchic humour and reckless charisma burn with an uncommon brilliance.

Recognising the rare, chaotic spark that young Mitchell has, Dennis must choose: manipulate the situation to salvage his own legacy or sacrifice it for the prodigy who could outshine him. Mitchell meanwhile, faces a darker question: can he rise without breaking under the weight of increasing expectations and silence his own demons?

George Paterson is a writer, broadcaster and musician whose work has been featured in film as well as on the London stage. His first novel, *The Girl, the Crow, the Writer and the Fighter*, published by Into Books, was shortlisted for Bloody Scotland's Debut Prize in 2022. His second novel, *Westerwick*, was shortlisted for a Crime Fiction Lover Award in 2024. *The Comedians* is his third novel, published under Into Creative.

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They Know Where They're Going

Jenni Daiches

Set in 2041 when England is dried up by climate change, this novel is seen through the eyes of 16-year-old Ishbel Saddler. Her Scottish mother has died, and drought and crop failure force her family to abandon their Cambridgeshire farm. They embark on a journey by wagon with horses, dogs and friends, their destination Scotland's north-west Highlands.

But Scotland is now independent and those seeking its plentiful water are not welcome – crossing the patrolled Border is going to be challenging. On their journey through a decaying country the family face threats and hostility as well as kindness and support. It is a tale of determination and hope with echoes of the USA's pioneering overlanders and John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Jenni Daiches' last novel, *Somewhere Else*, was longlisted for the 2025 Women's Prize for Fiction, as well as the Republic of Consciousness Prize. Also published as Jenni Calder, she was born in the USA and has lived in Scotland since 1971. She is the author of four previous novels and two collections of poetry. As Jenni Calder, she has published biography and literary and social history. She is a previous president and former trustee of Scottish PEN.

Scotland Street Press | July 2026
Literary Fiction
ISBN: 9781917881050

Also by Jenni Daiches:
Somewhere Else 9781910895955

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The Bohemian Queen

Jean Findlay

Set against the backdrop of political intrigue, religious conflict and exile. Elizabeth, heavily pregnant with her fifth child, flees Prague following the Battle of White Mountain. Married to Frederick, Elector Palatine, Elizabeth had accepted the crown of Bohemia in a move that would plunge Europe into decades of war. But exile does not diminish her influence. Through court politics, diplomacy and dynastic ambition, Elizabeth continues to shape the future of Europe while giving birth to eight more children, ensuring her descendants become woven into the ruling houses of an emerging continent.

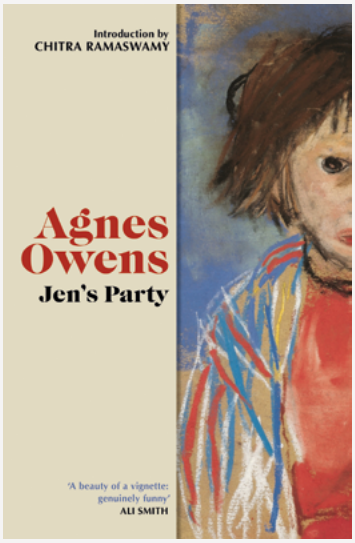
Rich in historical detail and psychological insight, *The Bohemian Queen* explores power, motherhood, survival and female influence during one of Europe's most turbulent eras.

Jean Findlay is the author of *Chasing Lost Time – the Life of C.K. Scott Moncrieff: Soldier, Spy, and Translator* published by Chatto and Windus, London, and by FSG, New York. She has a lifetime's experience in literature as a playwright, journalist, author and as an independent publisher. Her first book was shortlisted for a Lambda Award in New York and second book longlisted for the HWA Debut Crown. She has spoken at book festivals worldwide. Her agent is Peter Straus of RCW.

Scotland Street Press
November 2026
Historical Fiction
ISBN: 9781910895849

Also by Jean Findlay:
The Queen's Lender 9781910895672

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Polygon | September 2026
Literary Fiction
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Jen's Party

Agnes Owens

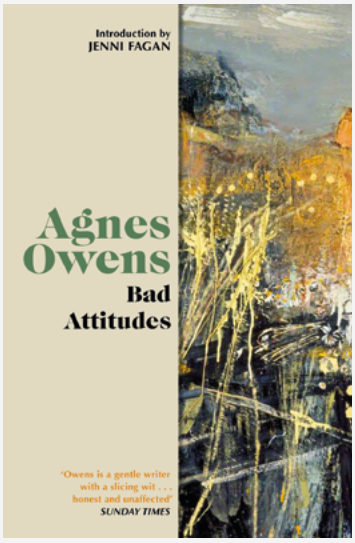
'A hidden treasure' – Douglas Stuart

'One of the most arresting and distinctive voices of twentieth century literature' – BBC *Front Row*

In *Jen's Party*, soon-to-be fifteen-year-old Jen immediately regrets agreeing to her crazy Aunt Belle's plan for a birthday party which involves, among other notions, flirting with the town's entire male population. With a perfectly tuned ear for the droll and the deadly, Owens can spin a tale of domestic mayhem that is at once disarmingly tense and movingly human.

Agnes Owens was always a writer, although for the majority of her life she was preoccupied with making a living and domesticity. She married twice, brought up seven children and variously worked as a typist, cleaner and factory worker. It wasn't until she attended an evening creative writing course that she wrote her first novel, *Gentlemen of the West*, published in 1984 by Polygon to widespread critical acclaim; she would go on to write a further five novellas. She died in 2014.

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Polygon | September 2026
Literary Fiction
ISBN: 9781846977022

Bad Attitudes

Agnes Owens

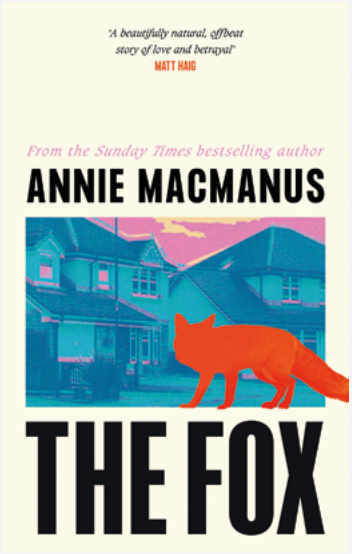
'Her black humour and piercing observation bear comparison with the work of Muriel Spark' – *Guardian*

Bad Attitudes is a wickedly dark tale of council housing and murder. This novella boasts a missing person, a lethally nosy neighbour, an extra-marital affair, a lusty councillor and a new housing law for tinkers. Who but Agnes Owens could concoct such a delicious brew of dour hilarity.

Agnes Owens was always a writer, although for the majority of her life she was preoccupied with making a living and domesticity. She married twice, brought up seven children and variously worked as a typist, cleaner and factory worker. It wasn't until she attended an evening creative writing course that she wrote her first novel, *Gentlemen of the West*, published in 1984 by Polygon to widespread critical acclaim; she would go on to write a further five novellas. She died in 2014.

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Also by Agnes Owens:
Gentlemen of the West 9781846977602; Like Birds in the Wilderness 9781846977596; A Working Mother 9781846977015; For the Love of Willie 9781846977589; Bad Attitudes 9781846977022; People Like That 9781846977046



The Fox

Annie Macmanus

53-year-old Carmel is furious at her husband for dying. Grief-stricken and holding everything together for her adult sons, she's never felt more alone. But as spring arrives in Dublin, she meets fellow widower Graham on a dating app. He makes her feel truly alive for the first time in years.

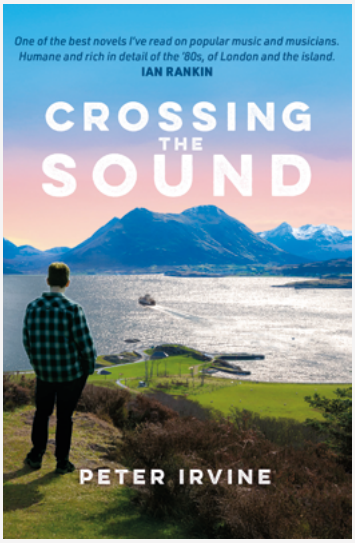
Across the sea in London, twenty-something Lisa devotes her life to helping people. Beneath the gleaming facades of Westminster, she cares for the homeless at work, and for her troubled sister at home. But Lisa has a secret that sustains her, and it's growing more dangerous by the day.

When the two women's lives collide, it brings a twisted connection that neither of them could have imagined – and cannot be undone.

Annie Macmanus is an internationally renowned broadcaster, author and DJ. She presented the flagship new music show on BBC Radio 1 for seventeen years before leaving to concentrate on writing. Since then she has written two critically acclaimed novels, the *Sunday Times* bestselling *Mother Mother* and *The Mess We're In*. Her writing has featured in the *Guardian*, *Irish Times* and *Independent* and she writes regularly for her Substack, Changes With Annie Macmanus.

Canongate | February 2027
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Crossing the Sound

Peter Irvine

It's the opportunistic eighties and Thom Lloyd is working in London's hottest ad agency. He feels the zeitgeist, but he's stuck in corporate accounts and his career is going nowhere. Making an escape, he finds himself on a remote Scottish island where he encounters Eliot, a charismatic young guitar player with a phenomenal talent.

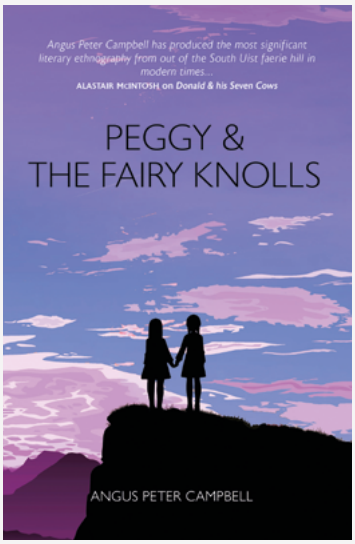
Thom's audacious ploy is to take on and outplay the music and media machine. Eliot will be the key. Naïve and idealistic, Eliot doesn't want to compromise his musical gift, but goes along with Thom, which means leaving the wildly beautiful island he loves for rock'n'roll London, New York and whatever comes.

Thom turns out to be a master of manipulation. But how can he keep driving the game-plan forward when Eliot doesn't want to be famous?

Peter Irvine is an acclaimed Scottish author and travel writer, best known for his *Scotland the Best* guides that showcase the very best places to eat, stay and explore across Scotland. Born in Jedburgh and educated at Edinburgh University, he has led major events including Edinburgh's Hogmanay, earned an MBE and an honorary doctorate, and lives in Edinburgh's New Town.

Luath Press Ltd | September 2026
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Luath Press Ltd | October 2026
Literary Fiction
ISBN: 9781804253861

Peggy & the Fairy Knolls

Angus Peter Campbell

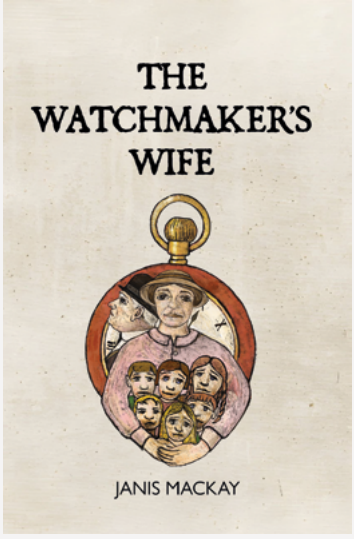
Growing up in the wild Hebridean landscape, Peggy and her best friend Penny are inseparable, with the magical fairy knolls as constant in their lives as church or school. But as childhood passes, Peggy must learn to navigate the boundaries between the ordinary and the otherworldly, especially when the lines between myth and memory start to shift and change... Does anyone else remember like Peggy does?

A spellbinding coming-of-age narrative, *Peggy & the Fairy Knolls* blends grounded emotional storytelling with Scottish folklore. It is a richly atmospheric novel that lingers long after reading.

Angus Peter Campbell is an award-winning novelist, poet, journalist, broadcaster and actor. He was born and brought up on the islands of South Uist and Seil. He attended Oban High School where his English teacher was Iain Crichton Smith, then graduated with Honours in History and Politics from the University of Edinburgh.

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Also by Angus Peter Campbell:
Donald & his Seven Cows 9781804252086, Eighth Moon Bridge 9781804251379, Electricity 9781804250501, The Girl on the Ferryboat 9781910021187, Memory and Straw 9781912147410



Luath Press Ltd | November 2026
Historical Fiction
ISBN: 9781804253953

Also by Janis Mackay:
On a Northern Shore 9781804252260

The Watchmaker's Wife

Janis Mackay

A scattering of confetti and Johanna is carried over the threshold into a cramped house he had promised was so much bigger. After ten years in domestic service, Johanna is determined to make the best of her marriage to watchmaker Willie Lockhart, but is haunted by memories of the man she loved, who was lost to the Great War. The more Willie tests her mettle the fiercer grows her love for her dead soldier, a man she barely knew. As a marriage built on lies, drink, and fiddle music chips away at her dignity, the past becomes a happier country.

This is the story of one woman's hopes, poverty, struggle and survival. Authentic and multi-layered, this poignant and compelling tortured love story will keep you guessing until the last page.

Janis Mackay is a Scottish author and storyteller residing in Portobello, Edinburgh. Her breakthrough came with her debut novel, *Magnus Fin and the Ocean Quest*, which won the Kelpies Prize in 2009. Janis teaches creative writing at Edinburgh University's Centre for Open Learning, and also runs a one year novel writing course. She led the Storyteller's Apprenticeship for many years and loves to combine oral traditional storytelling when doing author events.

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Literary Fiction
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Also by Alison Irvine:
Barrowland 9781804252567
This Road is Red 9781910021538

Daughterhood

Alison Irvine

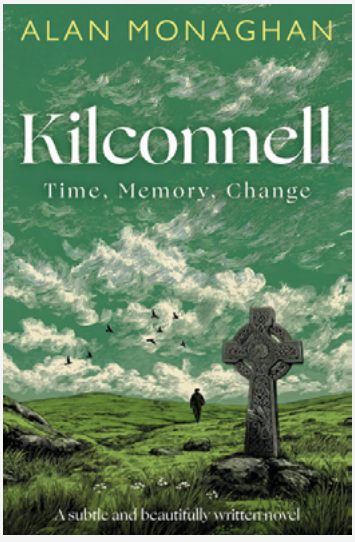
Nina Polmont's life is changing.

The on-off ex is gone, her sister is back from New Zealand and her step-daughter has come home. At the same time her parents' marriage is falling apart, her niece has estranged herself, and the music teacher who broke her heart thirty years ago suddenly wants to see her. Add hormones. Add night sweats. Add desire. And add the sinking feeling that she has made a catastrophic mess of her life. Is it ever too late to start again?

As past desires clash with new obligations and a midlife surge of rebellion and regret takes over, Nina tries to work out who has betrayed her more – her sister or her own heart.

Alison Irvine writes fiction and creative non-fiction. Her debut novel *This Road is Red* was shortlisted for the Saltire First Book of the Year award. Alison was Highly Commended in the 2024 Wigtown Book Festival Anne Brown Essay Prize for her non-fiction essay on Cumbernauld Town Centre. She is the writer in the artist collective Recollective (www.recollective.org.uk) and works regularly with photographer Chris Leslie and illustrator Mitch Miller.

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Luath Press Ltd | February 2027
Historical Fiction
ISBN: 9781804252741

Kilconnell

Alan Monaghan

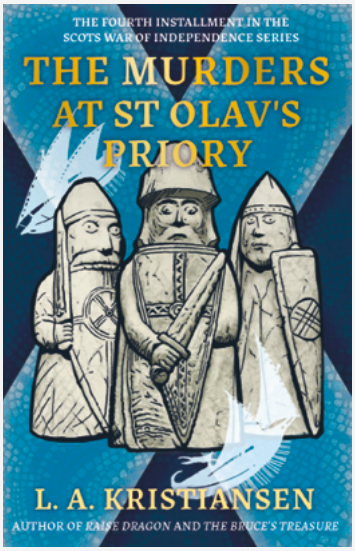
Returning to post-war Ireland, Peter is a shadow of his former self, tormented by the ghosts of those he lost. Tasked with recreating an ancient Celtic Cross in the quiet town of Kilconnell, he grapples with his identity amid rising tensions and the spectre of sectarian conflict.

Set against a backdrop of trauma and unresolved memories, this gripping narrative uncovers the profound impact of war on the human psyche. As Peter confronts his past, the line between peace and conflict blurs, challenging him to find purpose in a fractured world.

From the acclaimed author of the Soldier's Song trilogy, *Kilconnell* is a powerful exploration of sacrifice, identity and the enduring scars of conflict.

Alan Monaghan, born in Dublin in 1980, is an acclaimed author known for his engaging storytelling. He won the Hennessy New Irish Writing Award and the Prize for Emerging Fiction in 2002. His debut novel, *The Soldier's Song*, was inspired by his award-winning short story, followed by *The Soldier's Return*. *The Soldier's Farewell* completes his compelling trilogy.

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The Murders at St Olav's Priory

L. A. Kristiansen

The Murders at St Olav's Priory thrusts readers into a gripping medieval thriller where secrets, power, and destiny collide across Scotland, France, Norway, and Greenland. In 1306, a legendary treasure spirited to a remote Benedictine priory ignites a ruthless international race, drawing in kings, spies, and rivals as Robert Bruce launches his fightback for Scotland's freedom and King Philip IV moves to crush the Templars.

Murder, ambition, and shifting alliances shape this vivid tale of intrigue and betrayal, rich with genealogical and historical depth. It is a vivid medieval thriller of international intrigue and betrayal.

Glasgow-born L. A. Kristiansen is a historical fiction writer whose passion for Scotland's past grew from genealogy, uncovering ties to Bishop Wishart, Robert the Bruce, and William Wallace. Her research fuels The Independence Chronicles, a richly detailed series exploring Scotland's path to sovereignty. She divides her time between Scotland, France, and Norway, researching new adventures for her characters.

Ringwood Publishing
September 2026
Historical Fiction
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Also by L. A. Kristiansen:
Raise Dragon 9781901514766, Revenge of the Tyrants 9781901514896, The Bruce's Treasure 9781917011167



The Dead Knock

Philip Miller

'Fans of Mick Herron will adore this.' – *Publishers Weekly*

'Strikingly written… so engrossing is the author's accomplished prose, which evokes a dark and dangerous world' – *Wall Street Journal*

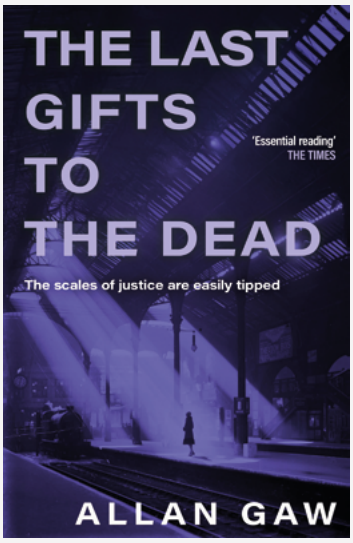
Shona Sandison returns to investigate sinister crimes forged in the shadows of Edinburgh's buried past. After being caught in a deadly blast that rips through the city's Old Town, Sandison unearths a dark trail that uncovers a city's century-old secret and the sinister plans of one of the world's most powerful men.

Philip Miller lives in Edinburgh. An award-winning journalist for twenty years, he is now a civil servant. His first book in the Shona Sandison series, *The Goldenacre*, won the Shamus Award for the Best First P.I. Novel, and the latest, *The Diary of Lies*, was longlisted for the 2026 McIlvanney Prize. His previous novels include *The Blue Horse* and *All the Galaxies*, and his poetry has been published online and in print.

Polygon | March 2027
Mystery & Detective
ISBN: 9781846977626

Also by Philip Miller:
The Goldenacre 9781846975936
The Hollow Tree 9781846976483
The Diary of Lies 9781846976841

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The Last Gifts to the Dead

Allan Gaw

London, 1932. A brutal murder, a complex forensic investigation and a safe conviction – or so everyone thinks until DCI Mowbray hears the condemned man's last words. Now he needs Dr Jack Cuthbert to re-examine the case and prove that they have not been responsible for a tragic miscarriage of justice. But with no new evidence and both the victim and the killer in their graves, where can the pathologist begin? Might the unthinkable be true – have they hanged the wrong man?

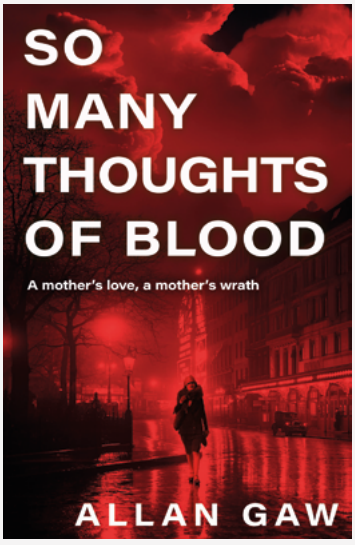
As Cuthbert struggles to find the proof, the case is also having a profound effect on his housekeeper, Madame Smith. Unbeknownst to him, a terrible secret from her own past in war-torn Liège has come back to haunt her.

Allan Gaw studied medicine and trained as a pathologist. He took early retirement and now devotes his time to writing. His published non-fiction includes medical textbooks and magazine articles on topics as diverse as the thalidomide story, the medical challenges of space travel and the medico-legal consequences of the Hillsborough disaster. The first book in the Dr Jack Cuthbert Mystery series won the Bloody Scotland Debut Prize and was selected as a Waterstones Book of the Month.

Polygon | September 2026
Historical Crime Thriller
ISBN: 9781846977480

Also by Allan Gaw:
The Silent House of Sleep 9781846977206
The Moon's More Feeble Fire 9781846977237

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So Many Thoughts of Blood

Allan Gaw

A night at the theatre for Dr Jack Cuthbert proves to be the beginning of a baffling backstage murder investigation. There is no doubt who the victim is – a star of the most prestigious West End stages – but who would have wanted him dead and in such a brutal, theatrical way? The answer seems to lie in his past: the social clubs and music-hall circuits before the First World War. But where and when did the victim first meet his killer?

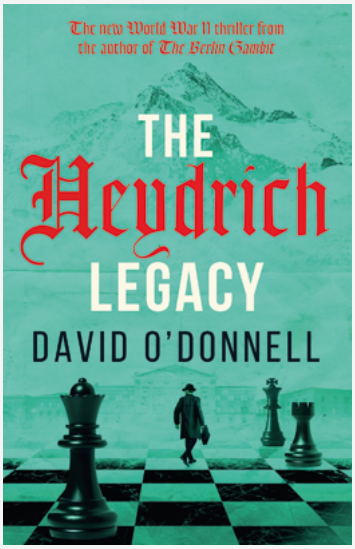
It is up to Cuthbert to unravel the complex forensics of the case, and in a world where almost no one is as they first appear, the team at Scotland Yard must peel back the masks until they can discover the truth beneath.

Allan Gaw studied medicine and trained as a pathologist. He took early retirement and now devotes his time to writing. His published non-fiction includes medical textbooks and magazine articles on topics as diverse as the thalidomide story, the medical challenges of space travel and the medico-legal consequences of the Hillsborough disaster. The first book in the Dr Jack Cuthbert Mystery series won the Bloody Scotland Debut Prize and was selected as a Waterstones Book of the Month.

Polygon | January 2027
Historical Crime Thriller
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Also by Allan Gaw:
To the Shades Descend 9781846977251
The Shadows and the Dust 9781846977244

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Polygon | October 2026
Historical Crime Thriller
ISBN: 9781846977572

Also by David O'Donnell:
The Berlin Gambit 9781846976285

The Heydrich Legacy

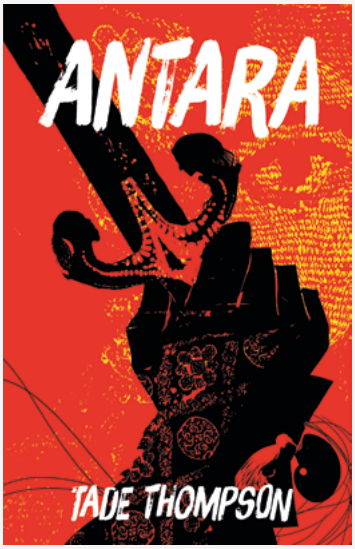
David O'Donnell

In 1942 Police Chief Inspector Rolf Schneider is ordered by Adolf Hitler to investigate the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich. During his investigation of Heydrich's secret files he inadvertently discovers a sinister plot involving Heinrich Himmler – a potential death sentence for Schneider.

In 1943, Schneider and Anna Weiss, the woman he loves, make their escape to Switzerland, where they believe they are safe. However, Himmler is hellbent on revenge, and Stalin is determined to find the secret information contained in the Heydrich papers and use it for blackmail. As war rages across Europe, a battle of wits ensues between Ivan Ivanov, a former chess grandmaster working for Stalin, a ruthless Nazi civil servant, Ilse Schmitt, and the two escapees.

David O'Donnell was born in Scotland. He is a qualified lawyer, and has both practised and taught law. He lives in rural Angus with his wife Fiona and black Labrador Niamh. When Niamh is not taking him for a walk, his passion is cooking French and Italian dishes.

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Luna Press Publishing | March 2027
Historical Fiction
ISBN: 9781915556837

Antara

Tade Thompson

'Marvelous, thoughtful, epic and deeply engaging.' – Wole Talabi, Author of *Shigidi and the Brass Head of Obalufon* and *The Fist of Memory*

One century before Islam... The Arabian Peninsula teems with tribes embroiled in conflict. Out of this cauldron comes an insistent romance...

Somewhere between legend, myth, folklore, and history, sits Antara ibn Shaddad, a warrior, a poet, a diaspora African, driven by a forbidden love in a world that reveres his talents but reviles his skin.

Largely forgotten in the English-speaking world, Antara is a folk hero in the land of his birth, with his narrative retold and remixed in a variety of media, and his poetry recited in public spaces.

Tade Thompson is the author of numerous novels, including the critically acclaimed sci-fi novel *Rosewater*, the first in his award-winning Wormwood trilogy. He has won the Arthur C. Clarke Award, a Nommo Award, the Kitschies Golden Tentacle Award, and the Julia Verlanger Award, and been shortlisted for the Hugo Award, the Philip K. Dick Award, the British Science Fiction Association Award, and the Shirley Jackson Award, among others.

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Rayany Publishing | September 2026
Romance
ISBN: 9781918193176

Home Again

Aimee Carmichael

To her family back in Scotland, Sarah Davidson is living the high-flying Manhattan dream. In reality, she's navigating a full-blown quarter-life crisis, a string of catastrophic dates, and a publishing job that involves fetching her boss's urine samples rather than editing the next bestseller.

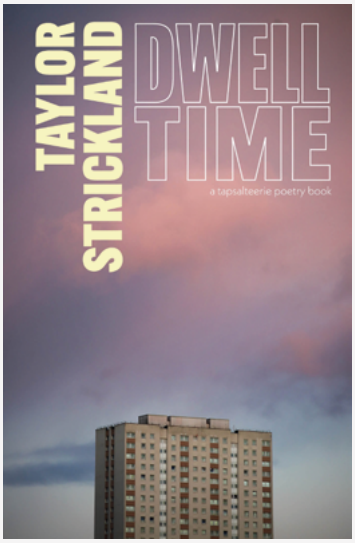
Then news arrives that her beloved Granny Jean has passed away, pulling Sarah back to the sleepy coastal village of St Drostans (New Aberdour, Scotland).

Enter Hamish McTavish, St Drostans' newest, ruggedly handsome farmer. As sparks fly, Hamish offers Sarah a sanctuary she didn't know she needed.

But to build a real future, Sarah must finally stop running, untangle her family's past, and decide if the life she's been chasing is worth more than the love waiting for her right at home.

Aimee Carmichael is a born-and-raised Aberdonian writer. She is the creator of the popular twice-weekly Substack Happily Ever After... Maybe?, where she documents the hilarious and messy reality of navigating life in your late twenties, and hosts the Happily Ever After Book Club, a community dedicated to sharing her favourite romance and fiction reviews.

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Tapsalteerie | October 2025
Poetry
ISBN: 9781738439676

Dwell Time

Taylor Strickland

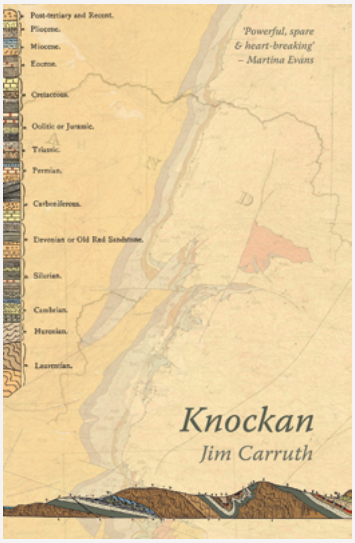
'Playful, poignant and full of the spirit of place. Taylor Strickland's poetry brings together influences from both sides of the Atlantic to make a singular blend. One of the most exciting poets working in Scotland today.' – Cal Flyn

Dwell Time, the full-length debut collection from award-winning poet Taylor Strickland, begins from the idea that 'dwelling' requires both place and the experience of 'being-in-the-world'. In taking us from the US to Scotland to Portugal, Strickland interrogates this central notion, along with ideas of non-place and environment, to explore our contemporary experience of love, language, technology, and spirituality.

Ultimately these are poems that advocate for a world against isolation, one in which we go beyond our own witness to embrace another's, and shrink the distance between us.

Taylor Strickland is a poet and translator from the US. His book *Dastram/Delirium* was 2023 Scottish Poetry Book of the Year and a Poetry Book Society Translation Choice. His work has featured in *Poetry London*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *New Statesman*, and more.

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Tapsalteerie | March 2026
Poetry
ISBN: 9781738439690

Knockan

Jim Carruth

'Powerful, spare and heart-breaking' – Cynan Jones

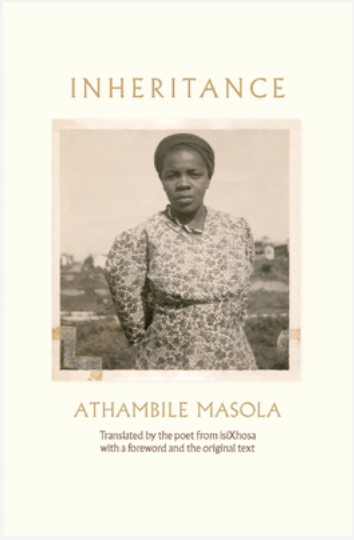
'Jim Carruth's poems sing off the page... Each crystal note in *Knockan* is precise and local but reverberates across geographies and into the far reaches of the human heart.' – Imtiaz Dharker

'He has created over the last twenty years a poetry of great tenderness in praise of the farming landscape and its human keepers' – Les Murray

In remote Assynt, where the past is recreated from rock and bone, a crofter and her estranged daughter search for some common ground in their annual week together. Rooted in the landscape and geology of north-west Scotland, this beautifully written and heart-breaking novel-in-verse is an original and powerful exploration of how our lived experience weighs on us, intimately told through the fracturing and repair of a mother and daughter relationship.

Jim Carruth is one of Scotland's foremost poets and the current Makar (Poet Laureate) of Glasgow. His publications include the acclaimed the Auchensale trilogy and *Killochries*, a verse novella that was shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Poetry Prize for a First Collection, the Saltire Scottish Poetry Book of the Year Award, and the Fenton Aldeburgh Prize.

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Batis Books | April 2026
Poetry
ISBN: 9781918073027

Inheritance

Athambile Masola

Athambile Masola burst onto the South African poetry scene with her groundbreaking, now celebrated, debut collection, written in her home language of isiXhosa. Writing from a storied literary tradition, Masola's breezy love poems and historical re-imaginings boldly question the meaning of freedom in a society that is hostile to women, and where apartheid has been replaced by other ominous oppressions. These daring, contemporary and inventive poems are now in English, translated by the poet, and presented here alongside the original text.

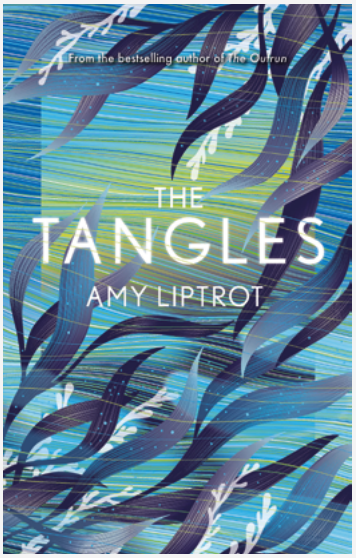
Inheritance is a window into the lives of Black women in South Africa right now – a deft dance between self-care and recrimination, between free love and social safety, and between the shadows of the past and the dim light of a just-as-complicated present.

Athambile Masola was born in Ezibeleni in 1987, and grew up in eMonti (East London, South Africa). Her debut collection of poems, *Ilifa*, was published in isiXhosa by uHlanga in 2021, and subsequently won the HSS Award for Poetry in 2022. As a researcher, her work focuses on Black women's historiography and life writing. She teaches at the University of Cape Town.

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NON-FICTION





The Tangles

Amy Liptrot

One morning while swimming, Amy's fingers wrap around some fronds of kelp. So begins her quest to understand this magnificent life form. Following her curiosity for this undersea world – and determined not to lose her appetite for adventure even with two small children in tow – she moves to the remote island of Papay. There her young boys come to experience the island life where she grew up, and spend more time with their elderly grandfather.

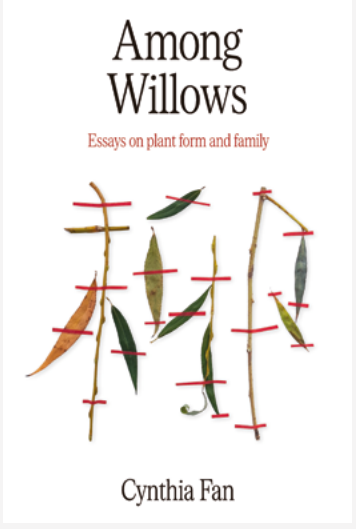
With her lyrical and wind-swept style, Amy records how her family grows and recedes in its new coastal nook. Blending ecology, history and memoir, *The Tangles* chronicles how paying closer attention to the world around her changes the way Amy moves through the tangles of her own life.

Amy Liptrot is the author of *Sunday Times* bestsellers *The Outrun* and *The Instant*. She writes columns and reviews for various magazines and newspapers including the *Guardian* and the *Orcadian*. *The Outrun* was awarded the Wainwright Prize and the PEN Ackerley Prize, and in 2024 it was adapted by Amy and Nora Fingscheidt into a BAFTA and London Critics' Circle Film Awards-nominated film starring Saoirse Ronan.

Canongate | February 2027
Memoir
ISBN: 9781837262496

Also by Amy Liptrot:
The Outrun 9781786894229
The Instant 9781838854300

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Among Willows: Essays on Plant Form and Family

Cynthia Fan

Plants not only make our lives possible but meaningful. So why do we think so little of their everyday presence?

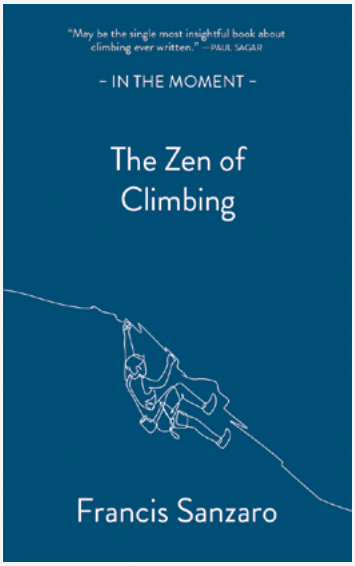
Since childhood, Cynthia Fan has been obsessed with plants, scientifically studying, artistically arranging and being continually surprised by their quirks and nature. In this, her first book, Fan ponders profound questions about plant life by reflecting on the world around her. Whether in the South Africa of her birth, the China of her parents, or the blustery Britain in which she works today, Fan delights in the complex beauty of what she finds.

Accompanied by her own photos, Fan discovers plants and people in a dance of deception and adaptation, inviting her readers to marvel at the fluidity of biology, the supremacy of serendipity, and the porous boundaries between self and environment.

Cynthia Fan was born in Durban in 1991. She is a fine artist, writer and plant biologist whose work encompasses research, curation, and sculpture in the medium of plant arrangement. She has a PhD in Plant Molecular Biology from the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, where her research focused on begonias. She is a contributing writer to *The Plant* magazine. Her plant sculpture work has been exhibited internationally. She lives in London.

Batis Books | May 2026
Nature writing | Travel
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The Zen of Climbing

Francis Sanzaro

What do Zen masters, sixteenth-century Samurai, and the world's elite climbers have in common? They have perfected the art of awareness, of being in the moment.

Climbing is a sport of perception, and our successes and failures are matters of mind as much as body.

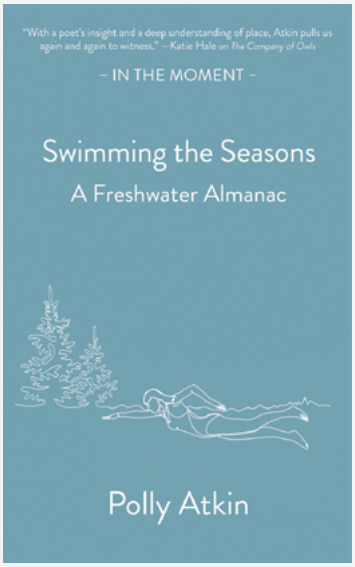
Written by philosopher, essayist, and lifelong climber Francis Sanzaro, *The Zen of Climbing* explores the fundamentals of successful climbing, delving into sports psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, and Taoism. Awareness, he argues, is the alchemy of climbing, allowing us to merge mental and physical attributes in one embodied whole.

Francis Sanzaro is a climber, writer and philosopher. The former Editor-in-Chief of *Rock and Ice*, *Ascent*, and *Gym Climber* magazines, he has been climbing for more than 30 years. He has a PhD in the Philosophy of Religion (2012) and his essays, poetry and fiction have appeared frequently in *The New York Times, Outside*, *Climbing* and *Adventure Journal*. He has appeared on the BBC, on international podcasts, and delivered a TEDx talk.

Saraband | April 2023
Nature Writing | Outdoors
ISBN: 9781913393717

Also by Francis Sanzaro:
Zen of the Wild 9781916812345
The Craft of Bouldering 9781916812161

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Swimming the Seasons: A Freshwater Almanac

Polly Atkin

To swim is an act of attention: to the self, and to everything beyond it. Follow poet and nature writer Polly Atkin as she swims in the rivers, lakes and tarns of the English Lake District, in this lyrical ode to the uplifting power of water.

This is a love story between a person and a place. It is a story of acceptance, persistence and finding joy in the everyday, as eight years of outdoor swimming through every season deepen Atkin's knowledge and understanding of both the landscape she calls home and her disabled body. Atkin swims for the sheer pleasure of it, showing how that pleasure may be found in every season, even by those who dislike the cold. Through paying attention to herself and to the living world around her, she finds swimming becomes a transformative force, a kind of natural magic through which the extraordinary is revealed each day.

Polly Atkin is a poet and non-fiction writer whose work focuses on nature, place and disability. Alongside her three poetry collections, her non-fiction includes *Recovering Dorothy: The Hidden Life of Dorothy Wordsworth* (Saraband: 2021), *Some of Us Just Fall: On Nature and Not Getting Better* (Sceptre: 2023 and Unnamed: 2024), and *The Company of Owls* (Elliott and Thompson: 2024 and Milkweed: 2026). She works from her home in Grasmere, where she co-owns Sam Read Bookseller.

Saraband | May 2026
Nature Writing | Outdoors
ISBN: 9781916812383

Also by Polly Atkin:
Recovering Dorothy 9781913393175

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BFFs: The Radical Potential of Female Friendship

Anahit Behrooz

A powerful reappraisal of friendship as one of the most intimate and transformative relationships in our lives.

Friendship can be the foundation of our earliest memories and the source of our most formative moments. So why is it often seen as secondary to romantic or familial connection, something we age out of and sacrifice to other relationships? In *BFFs*, Anahit Behrooz considers female friendship not as something lesser, but as a site of radical intimacy.

From the joys of shared coming-of-age stories and sisterhood, through the pain of break-ups and parting of ways, the vast significance and intensity of feeling within our friendships is explored through depictions in the work of Toni Morrison and Elena Ferrante, *Booksmart* and *Grey's Anatomy*, *Insecure*, *The Virgin Suicides* and more.

Anahit Behrooz is a writer, editor, and journalist based in Edinburgh. She works as events and books editor at *The Skinny* and has written extensively on film and books for *Little White Lies*, *The Quietus*, *MAP Magazine*, *Girls on Top* and others.

Saraband | October 2026
Pop Culture | Feminism
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All the Violet Tiaras: Queering the Greek Myths

Jean Menzies

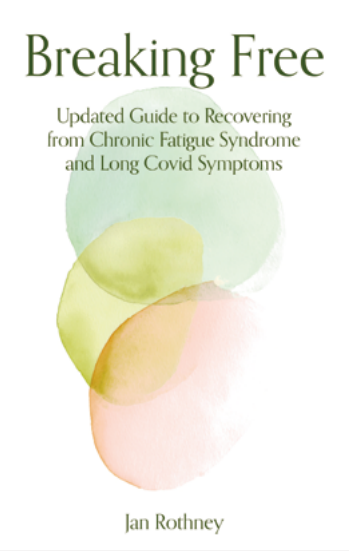
Tales as old as antiquity – whether the love affair of Achilles and Patroclus, the genderfluid Tiresias, or the infamous Heracles – are still capturing our imaginations thousands of years later. But was antiquity's relationship with queer folk more complicated than we now imagine? Historian Jean Menzies dives into the world of queer readings and retellings of Greek mythology, inviting readers to discover the power to be found in remaking these narratives.

From explorations of gender and identity across millennia, to celebrating queer love in its many forms, *All the Violet Tiaras* carves a space for queer stories to be told with all the complexity and tenderness they deserve – and a goddess or two thrown in for good measure.

Jean Menzies is an author, ancient historian and presenter. She has dedicated her career to making these topics accessible to all. Her first book, *Greek Myths: Meet the Heroes, Gods and Monsters of Ancient Greece* (2020), won the BAMB Breakthrough Author Award that year. Her debut adult novel, *The Lady of the Lake*, published in 2025, was followed by *Aphrodisia* in 2026. You can find her online at @jeansthoughts creating content about myth, history, literature, and film.

Saraband | September 2026
Pop Culture
ISBN: 9781912489992

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Breaking Free: Updated Guide to Recovering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Long Covid Symptoms

Jan Rothney

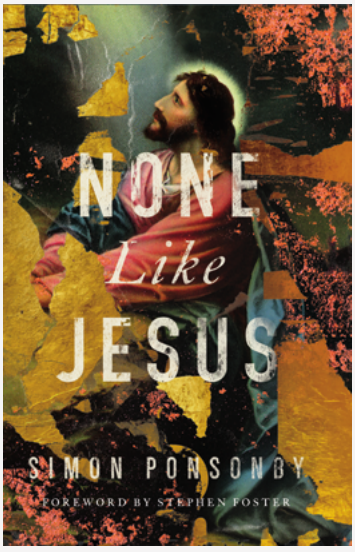
Fully updated and expanded for 2026, the second edition of the international bestseller *Breaking Free* brings new research and deeper guidance to a trusted recovery resource for Long Covid and ME/CFS.

As a former lecturer in Health and Social Care, therapist, and creator of the Reset to Thrive Recovery Programme, Jan Rothney shares her expertise and first-hand experience of recovering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Long Covid. The book explains why there is so much confusion surrounding these conditions and how it impacts recovery. Readers will understand the science behind their symptoms, learn to rebalance the autonomic nervous system, and be guided step by step towards lasting health and resilience. There is no magic: the answer lies within ourselves.

Jan Rothney wrote *Breaking Free* after recovering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome twice, despite being told she would never recover. A former lecturer in Health and Social Care specialising in the psychology of health, recovery and stress, she combined her professional expertise with lived experience to develop the approach outlined in the book. Since its first publication, *Breaking Free* has become an international bestseller, helping readers around the world recover from Long Covid and ME/CFS.

Arkbound | July 2026
Health & Wellness
ISBN: 9781911740100

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None Like Jesus

Simon Ponsonby

From the heartbeat of Simon Ponsonby's faith comes this beautiful reflection on the personhood of Jesus Christ. As Simon puts it, 'no one can hold a candle to the Light of the World'. This book is a reminder of how to hold Jesus before us as unique in all of history – God made flesh – the one who stands without comparison or competition, and to worship him as our precious Lord and Saviour.

Simon Ponsonby is an international author, speaker and theologian based at St Aldates, Oxford, UK, where he is Pastor of Theology. He has written several books on practical theology and doctrine, including an in-depth exploration of the Holy Spirit, *God Inside Out*. Simon is married to Tiffany and they have two sons, Joel and Nat.

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Also by Simon Ponsonby:
Amazed By Jesus 9781910012963, God Inside Out 9781910012239, Amazing 9781910012857

Muddy Pearl | July 2026
Religion
ISBN: 9781914553493



National Galleries of Scotland
September 2026 | Art
ISBN: 9781911054740

Also by Alice Strang:
S.J. Peploe 9781906270513
F.C.B. Cadell 9781906270407
J.D. Fergusson 9781906270629

The Scottish Colourists

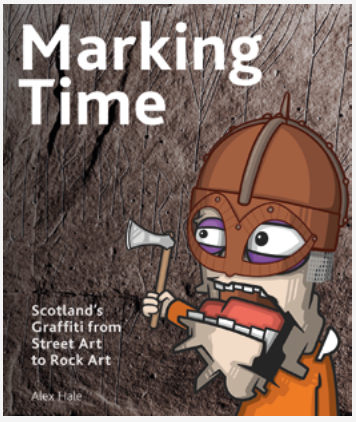
Alice Strang

This is the story of the interwoven lives of Samuel John Peploe, John Duncan Fergusson, George Leslie Hunter and Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell. They were bound together by friendship and an immersion in progressive French art, which resulted in their use of bold design, beautiful brushwork and, above all, brilliant colour. Individually and collectively the four artists were the torch bearers of modern art in Scotland.

In this richly illustrated account based on new research, acclaimed art historian Alice Strang re-examines the Colourists' lives, work and international legacy, revealing why their art continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

Alice Strang was a Senior Curator at the National Galleries of Scotland, before becoming an Associate Director at Lyon & Turnbull auctioneers. She has curated numerous major exhibitions, accompanied by publications, on subjects including modern Scottish women artists, twentieth-century Scottish art, modern British art, and individually on the Scottish Colourists S.J. Peploe, J.D. Fergusson and F.C.B. Cadell. Alice has been described as 'one of the most cultured minds on Scotland's art scene'.

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Historic Environment Scotland
February 2026
Art | Archeology
ISBN: 9781849173704

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Christine Wilson
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Marking Time: Scotland's Graffiti from Street Art to Rock Art

Alex Hale

There is something deeply human about mark-making. We want to create an imprint on the world – whether permanent or temporary – and leave a trace of ourselves in the landscape around us.

Mark-making comes in many different forms, and can be interpreted and responded to in complex ways. Scotland is part of this global phenomenon, and people have been marking time across Scotland for over 5,000 years. From prehistoric rock art to contemporary street art and graffiti, what can we learn from these messages left by hidden hands? Call it graffiti, call it art – it's all a matter of opinion, legal definitions and society's choices as to what is acceptable and what is not.

This extensively researched and illustrated hardback explores the variety of graffiti and mark-making across the country – what has been carved, scratched, painted, chiselled, cut, sprayed and daubed.

Dr Alex Hale is an archaeologist and a Learning Manager at Historic Environment Scotland. He is an archaeology Teaching Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and an Honorary Teaching Fellow at the University of Aberdeen. His research interests focus on graffiti and archives. He attempts to enable people to engage with contemporary cultures and the historic environment, to create strong, supportive relationships between people, places and practices.



Glasgow Museums Publishing
March 2027 | Art
ISBN: 9781908638526

Also by Pippa Stephenson-Sit:
Introducing Auguste Rodin 9781908638366

Salvador Dali's Glasgow Masterpiece: Christ of St John of the Cross

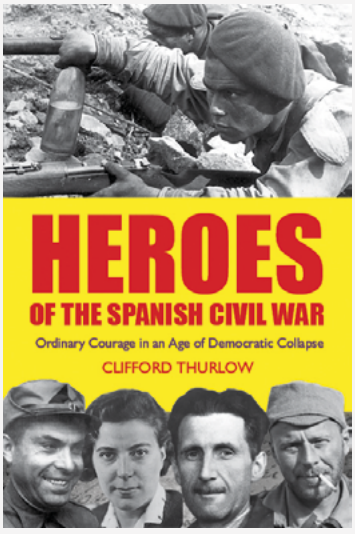
Pippa Stephenson-Sit & Suzanne Ross

Salvador Dali's 1951 painting *Christ of St John of the Cross* is one of Glasgow's, and possibly the world's, best-known and best-loved paintings, attracting thousands of visitors every year. This is the first book to focus solely on the painting: the vision that prompted Dali to paint it, the relationship between Dr Tom Honeyman (then Director of Glasgow Museums) and Salvador Dali, the uproar its acquisition for the city of Glasgow caused, the attacks on the painting and its restoration, and places it within Dali's wider oeuvre. It will explain Nuclear Mysticism and other background themes, explore Dali's politics, and look at the spirituality and religiosity associated with the painting.

Pippa Stephenson-Sit was Curator, European Art, at Glasgow Life Museums, where she curated the new display on *Christ of St John of the Cross*. She is now Senior Curator, French Art, National Galleries Scotland. Author of *Introducing Rodin* and *Discovering Degas*, her other research interests include Spanish sixteenth-century portraiture and French nineteenth-century art.

Suzanne Ross is Paintings Conservator, caring for all the paintings in Glasgow's collection.

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Luath Press Ltd | October 2026
Military History
ISBN: 9781804253588

Also by Clifford Thurlow:
We Shall Pass 9781804251751

Heroes of the Spanish Civil War: Ordinary Courage in an Age of Democratic Collapse

Clifford Thurlow

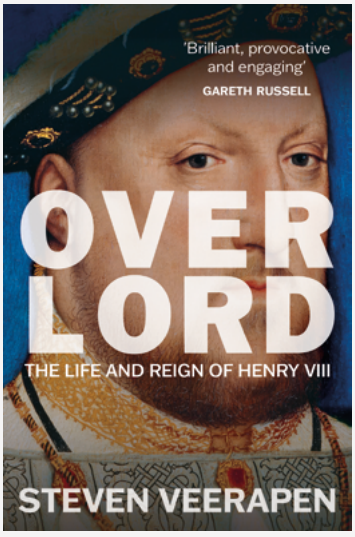
Heroes of the Spanish Civil War by Clifford Thurlow is a gripping work of non-fiction history that brings to life the courage, conviction and complexity of those who fought in one of the twentieth century's most defining conflicts.

Through vivid storytelling and meticulous research, Thurlow uncovers the human stories behind the headlines, revealing acts of bravery, sacrifice and moral struggle of the war.

This is a powerful exploration of ideology, identity and the enduring impact of civil war.

Clifford Thurlow, a renowned ghostwriter and author, has a diverse portfolio spanning novels, short stories, travelogues and film scripts. Starting as a cub reporter in Kent, he later became the editor of *The Athens News* in Greece, covering pivotal events. Thurlow's passion for writing flourished during his time in India, where he studied Buddhism and authored *Stories From Beyond the Clouds*.

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Overlord: The Life and Reign of Henry VIII

Steven Veerapen

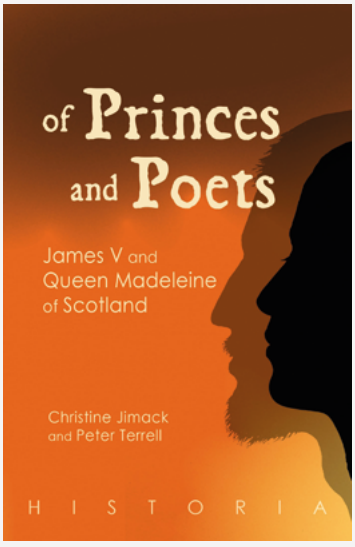
This groundbreaking study of Henry VIII's life examines and destroys many of the long-repeated myths about this complex monarch. Drawing on archival sources from across the British Isles, Steven Veerapen reveals how Henry fashioned an image of himself as a law-abiding and benevolent emperor who dreamed of uniting England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and swathes of France under Tudor rule. Yet the image was false and the dream a nightmare for his queens, his ministers and many of his subjects. This new portrait shows Henry for what he really was: a self-aggrandising actor who, by fair means and foul – murder plots, marriage negotiations and military ventures – did all he could to realise his imperial fantasy.

Steven Veerapen was raised in Paisley. Pursuing an interest in the sixteenth century, he was awarded a first-class Honours degree in English, focusing his dissertation on representations of Henry VIII's six wives. He then received a Masters in Renaissance studies, and a PhD on Elizabethan slander. Steven is fascinated by the glamour and ghastliness of life in the 1500s, and has a penchant for myths, mysteries and murders in an age in which the law was as slippery as those who defied it.

Birlinn | August 2026
Biography | History
ISBN: 9781780279732

Also by Steven Veerapen:
Witches: A King's Obsession 9781780279527
The Wisest Fool 9781780278735

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Of Princes and Poets: James V and Queen Madeleine of Scotland

Christine Jimack & Peter Terrell

Principal players: (princes) James V, François I; (supporting roles) Henry VIII, Charles V Holy Roman Emperor. Poets: Pierre de Ronsard, David Lyndsay, James V, Clément Marot. Female lead: Madeleine of France and Queen of Scotland.

This is one of the great love stories of sixteenth-century Europe. James V goes to France to find his bride and returns with Madeleine, who only has days to live.

Here is a story that has slipped out of sight in all the turbulent history of the sixteenthth century, where it is James's daughter Mary Queen of Scots who usually steals the limelight from Madeleine, sometimes known as the Summer Queen.

Christine Jimack is a former Senior Lecturer in French at the University of Glasgow and has written books and articles on French poetry of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance, concentrating in particular on Deschamps, Marot and Ronsard.

Peter Terrell is a lexicographer, translator, editor and publisher who has worked on a wide range of dictionaries and language books.

Lexus Books | September 2026
History
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McNidder & Grace | November 2026
History
ISBN: 9780857163042

Golf's Original Fairways

Mike Tucker

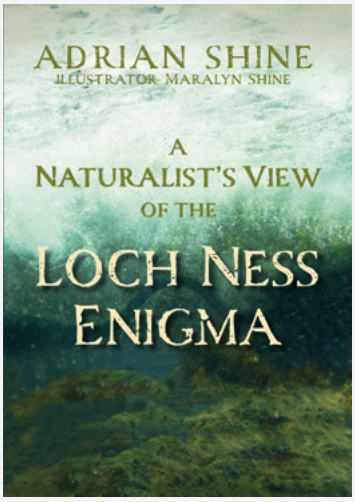
For more than a century, the story of golf's origins has largely been told through St Andrews. Yet before the game's rise to global prominence, the fairways of Leith Links, Bruntsfield Links and Musselburgh Old Course were at the heart and played a pivotal role in shaping the modern game.

With stories emerging from these historic courses between 1744 and the end of the nineteenth century, from John Rattray and the Silver Club competition to the emergence of golf clubs, clubhouses, caddies, the gutta-percha ball and the Open Championship, this book brings to life the people that helped define the sport.

With meticulous historical research, *Golf's Original Fairways* restores these overlooked courses to their rightful place in golf history, challenging conventional narratives and revealing how Scotland's earliest fairways helped create the game the world knows today.

Mike Tucker grew up in Troon, Scotland immersed in golf and inspired by the Open Championships. A lifelong fascination with the game's history deepened after a chance meeting at Musselburgh with World Hickory Open founder Lionel Freedman. Mike lives in Portobello, Edinburgh, serves as Secretary of Leith Rules Golf Society and is a member of Bruntsfield Short Hole Golf Club.

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Porto Press | October 2026
Unexplained Mystery
ISBN: 9781849957267

Also by Adrian Shine:
A Natural History of Sea Serpents 9781849955881

A Naturalist's View of the Loch Ness Enigma

Adrian Shine

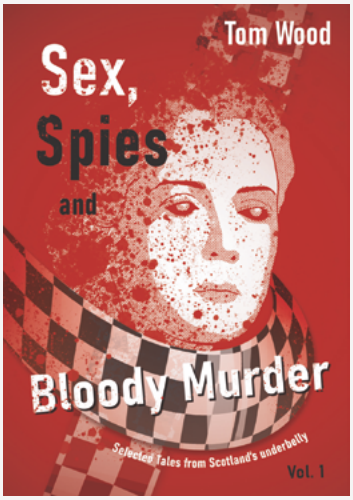
For anyone fascinated by the Loch Ness Monster and the truth behind one of the world's greatest mysteries, this is the definitive account.

Drawing on more than fifty years of research, renowned naturalist Adrian Shine brings together eyewitness testimony, groundbreaking DNA science and previously overlooked historical evidence to reveal what people have really seen in Loch Ness and why the legend has endured for more than ninety years.

Challenging long-held assumptions and offering fresh explanations for the sightings, this compelling book separates myth from reality while uncovering the remarkable story behind a global phenomenon. Read the evidence, challenge what you thought you knew, and decide for yourself what really lies behind the Loch Ness enigma.

Naturalist Adrian Shine is best known for his fifty years examining Loch Ness. Between 1988 and 2022 he was author, designer and curator of the Loch Ness Centre's five-star exhibition at Drumnadrochit by Loch Ness. He also led the Loch Ness and Morar Project. Adrian is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Fellow of the Zoological Society of London and member of the Scientific Exploration Society.

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Ringwood Publishing | June 2026
True Crime
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Also by Tom Wood:
The World's End Murders 9781917011051
Ruxton 9781901514841
The Bombing of Edinburgh & Leith 9781917011143

Sex, Spies and Bloody Murder: Selected Tales from Scotland's Underbelly

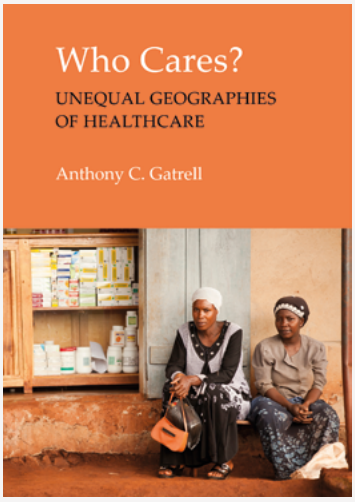
Tom Wood

Sex, Spies and Bloody Murder presents a vivid collection of true tales from Scotland's criminal underbelly, written with Tom Wood's investigative precision. The book ranges from the tragic tale of a group of German spies landing in Scotland during the Second World War to accounts of notorious criminals, brothel keepers and landmark police investigations.

Wood blends historical detail with gripping storytelling, offering insight into espionage, scandal, and murder across Scotland's past. The volume highlights Wood's expertise as a former senior police officer and respected crime writer, delivering accessible, engaging narratives for readers of true crime and Scottish history.

Tom Wood is one of Scotland's most senior former police officers and a noted authority on violent crime, major investigations, and policing. A graduate of Edinburgh University and the FBI Academy, he served as Deputy Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police and led the World's End murder inquiry. His books include *Ruxton* and *The World's End Murders*.

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Edinburgh University Press
September 2026
Current Affairs
ISBN: 9781788219204

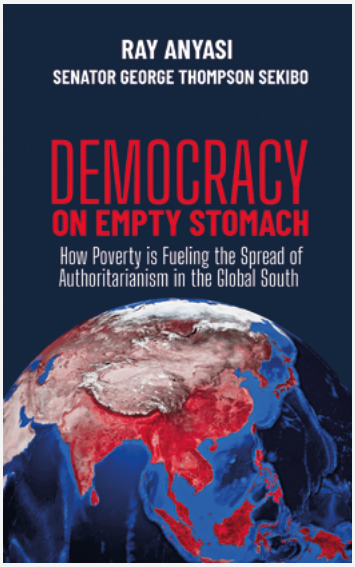
Who Cares? Unequal Geographies of Healthcare

Anthony C. Gatrell

There are massive disparities, globally, nationally and regionally, in the provision of healthcare services and access to them. This textbook from one of the foremost geographers of health examines the unequal production and consumption of healthcare and seeks explanations for such diverse distribution, in particular, asking why place is such a key determinant for access to healthcare services. The analysis includes international comparisons of expenditure and performance as well as national case studies. The geographies of supply of both services and workforce are interrogated to reveal alarming inequalities.

Anthony C. Gatrell is Emeritus Professor of the Geography of Health at Lancaster University. His books include *Geographies of Health* (with Susan Elliott) (third edition 2015). In 2006 he received the RGS-IBG Murchison Award for his contribution to the geography of health.

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Rayany Publishing | November 2026
Current Affairs
ISBN: 9781918193183

Democracy on an Empty Stomach

Ray Anyasi & Senator George Thompson Sekibo

Hungry people do not vote to defend democracy; they submit to the promise of bread. Across the Global South, soaring inflation, wage stagnation, and economic desperation are causing democratic institutions to collapse. Where elected governments offer hollow rhetoric, populist strongmen promise immediate survival – and millions are taking the trade.

In *Democracy on an Empty Stomach*, bestselling author Ray Anyasi and veteran parliamentarian Senator George Thompson Sekibo deliver a scathing insider diagnosis of this crisis. Combining geopolitical analysis with legislative experience, they expose how poverty guts civil liberties and offer a pragmatic blueprint to restore global faith in democracy before it is too late.

Ray Anyasi is one of Africa's most published authors, poet, novelist and public policy/foreign policy analyst for CN24. Anyasi's books have been translated into multiple foreign languages like French, German, Portuguese and Spanish.

Senator George Thompson Sekibo is a veteran parliamentarian seving over 20 years in Nigeria's Federal House of Representatives and the Senate up until 2023. He is a multiple-published author of texts on politics, electoral procedures and democratic principles.

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Into Creative | January 2027
Memoir | Current Affairs
ISBN: 9781919424538

After Kabul: Lives Beyond the Headlines

Ershad Honaryar

After Kabul is the memoir of former BBC correspondent Ershad Honaryar, who was born and raised in conflict, lost family members in war, survived a direct threat on his life, two brain tumour surgeries, and was airlifted to the UK after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan in 2021.

Ershad was born soon after the USSR invasion ended in Afghanistan, and was forced to leave the country two weeks after the withdrawal of the USA and its allies. This book tells the untold stories, as well as uncensored narratives behind the collapse of the western-supported government in 2021, the chaotic evacuation from Kabul airport, and the diaspora's subsequent life experiences, including the suffering of forced immigration and exile.

Ershad is a former BBC Persia correspondent, journalist, author and educator whose life has been shaped by war, displacement, illness and migration. He began his media career at age 14 and later founded a news agency before joining the BBC, where he became a senior journalist and team manager. After the Taliban takeover in 2021, he was airlifted to the UK. Drawing on his experiences, he now teaches Media, speaks on resilience and supports immigrant communities.

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Kitchen Press Ltd | November 2025
Food & Drink
ISBN: 9781739174071

Café Cùil Cookbook

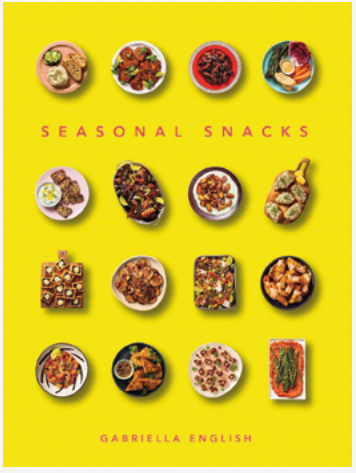
Clare Coghill

'Island life on a plate. Clare serves up the true spirit of Skye, with a modern, delicious flair.' – Coinneach MacLeod, the Hebridean Baker

Café Cùil faces the sea just outside stunning Carbost in the Isle of Skye. In this idyllic setting, award-winning chef Clare Coghill celebrates Highland produce, reimagines traditional Scottish dishes and puts a Hebridean twist on some global ones. In the *Café Cùil Cookbook*, Clare shares her recipes for everything from Tattie scone tacos and Langoustine and whisky bisque to Highland shakshuka, Seaweed sauerkraut and her legendary Bloody Mhairi.

Clare Coghill is a Scottish Gaelic-speaking chef who grew up on Skye, where her family had owned a hotel for over 100 years. Despite a childhood immersed in the hospitality industry, she spent her twenties doing everything from training brewers at Tennant's, pouring candles for an artisan candle company, and working as a TV researcher. After winning the title of Britain's Best Home Cook on C4's *My Kitchen Rules*, she started to think about returning to the world of hospitality.

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Seasonal Snacks

Gabriella English

Whether it's a cheeky bite between meals, a shared nibble over a bottle of wine or something to keep your taste buds busy while you're watching TV, the humble snack is all things to all people.

In this comprehensive homage to snacking, Gabriella English encourages you to treat yourself to something more than a bag of gourmet crisps. Raise the bar with 52 quick and easy recipes that are guaranteed to hit the spot.

From parma ham caprese roll ups, smoky kale crisps and jalapeño cornbread muffins to cheesy seeded crackers and a whole host of delicious dips, these recipes are as perfect for summer picnics as they are to have with drinks or as a lunchbox treat. You'll never be short of snack inspiration again.

So give in to those nagging hunger-pangs, feed that case of the munchies, and let *Seasonal Snacks* transform your grazing game.

Gabriella English is a cookery writer, recipe developer and food stylist. After a lifelong obsession with cooking (and snacking), she graduated with distinction from Leith's School of Food and Wine. Her work has appeared in *Delicious*, *Olive Magazine*, *Sous Chef* and *Time Inc* amongst others. *Seasonal Snacks* is her first book.

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Pâtisserie Made Simple: The Art of Petits Gâteaux

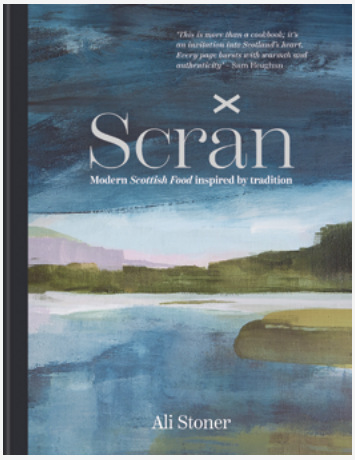
Maxine Scheckter

Have you ever stood gazing at the window of your local pâtisserie, in awe at what top-level pastry chefs can acheive? Imagine if you could make your own little cakes that look and taste just as good! *Pâtisserie Made Simple – The Art of Petits Gâteaux* is the perfect introduction to creating your own exquisite confections at home.

Complete with simple-to-follow recipes and stunning photography, this book is perfect for every wannabe Dessert Boss. For the airiest mousses, melt-in-your-mouth cheesecakes, perfectly tempered chocolate and impressively vibrant gels, this book will help you take your baking and dessert-making to a whole new stratosphere. And the wonder of it all is that every recipe is made in a single brownie tin.

Maxine Scheckter has spent the last eleven years mastering her craft in some of the world's top kitchens including The Fat Duck and Sketch London. She founded Sugar Flour Pastry School in 2019 and finds incredible joy in teaching passionate bakers the tricks of the trade.

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Octopus | September 2026
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Scran: Modern Scottish Food Inspired by Tradition

Ali Stoner

'This is more than a cookbook; it's an invitation into Scotland's heart. Every page bursts with warmth & authenticity' – Sam Heughan

Scran is a new collection of more than 100 nostalgic and traditional Scottish recipes, seen through a modern lens. From celebrated Scottish home cook Ali Stoner (@rovinghaggis) come old favourites, classic bakery treats and creative new recipes inspired by Scotland, its landscapes and its traditions.

Recipes include: Scottish eggs benedict with whisky chive hollandaise; Millionaire shortbread; Peppermint slice; Chicken Balmoral sausage roll; Macaroni pie; Confit sardines with gin pickled onions; Morning rolls; Tablet; Scottish martini.

Ali Stoner, or 'Roving Haggis' as she is known on social media, is a Scottish cook, previous Masterchef Australia contestant and social media influencer. Born in Glasgow, she currently lives in Melbourne, Australia, with her husband, family and two dogs. In May 2023, Ali launched her Instagram presence under the Roving Haggis moniker and has seen her audience grow rapidly with a large global following, particularly in North America, Canada and of course Scotland and the UK.

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Welbeck | August 2026
Food & Drink
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Bar Humbug: 60 Seasonal Cocktails to Get You in the Festive Spirit

Alicia Miller

The most wonderful time of the year calls for a twinkling tipple or two.

Whether you're full of festive cheer or channelling your inner Scrooge, *Bar Humbug* serves up 60 delicious cocktail recipes to keep spirits high (and highly spirited). From the warming to the sparkling, this boozy little book is your ultimate Christmas sidekick.

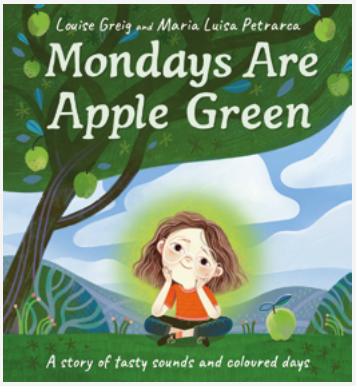
Shake up your holiday season with creations like: Ho Ho Hojito; Partridge in a Pear-Tini; Clove, Actually; Polar Espresso Martini; Sugared Apple Wassail Punch; Frosé the Snowman; Spiced Pear Sour; Candy Cane Mint Julep; Blue Iceber.

This is the perfect accompaniment for anyone who is dreaming of a wine Christmas!

Alicia Miller is an award-winning travel writer specialising in food, drink, hotels and wellness. She's a regular contributor to *The Times*, *National Geographic Traveller*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Telegraph*, *The Independent*, *Decanter* and *Family Traveller*. She is also Travel Editor at *Woman & Home* magazine.

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CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULT



Floris Books | September 2026
Picture Book
ISBN: 9781835750063

Also by Louise Greig:
The Island and the Bear 9781782503682
Home of the Wild 9781835750155

Mondays Are Apple Green

Louise Greig; illustrated by Maria Luisa Petrarca

Anna's Tuesdays are sparkly like shiny tinsel. The notes of her music teacher's violin taste like delicious chocolate sauce. And Anna's own name is blackcurrant purple! Through her colourful week, Anna happily shares her wonder at her amazing senses.

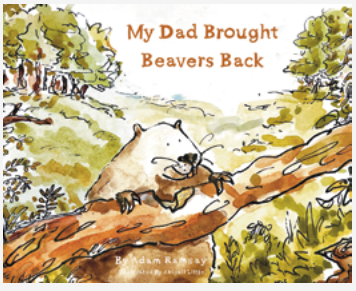
This lyrical, eye-opening picture book explores the unusual merging of the senses experienced by people with synaesthesia, presented in an engaging, child-friendly way. Written by award-winning author and synaesthete Louise Greig and beautifully illustrated by Maria Luisa Petrarcha, *Mondays Are Apple Green* is a joyful celebration of difference!

Louise Greig is a multi-award-winning poet and author born in Scotland. She has featured on the shortlist for several major children's book awards, including the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. She lives in Aberdeen, Scotland, with her husband.

Maria Luisa Petrarca is an Italian illustrator and character designer. She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples before pursuing illustration and concept art at the Italian Comix School. She lives in the Campania region of Italy.

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Scotland Street Press | August 2026
Picture Book
ISBN: 9781917881067

My Dad Brought Beavers Back

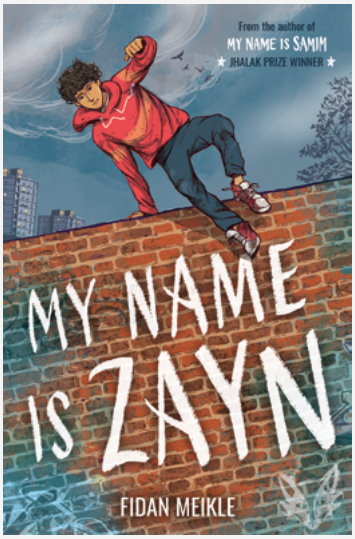
Adam Ramsay; illustrated by Abigail Little

'With the trees they cut down they built dams / across streams, / In their houses called lodges the beavers / dreamt dreams. / Of dams and deep pools they could swim in / at night, / Because beavers love swimming, but they're / scared of the light.'

My Dad Brought Beavers Back gives a rhyming account of the true story about how Adam's parents, Paul and Louise Ramsay, reintroduced beavers to the Bamff estate in Perthshire – and played a wider role in their return across the UK; it explains for young audiences how beavers help restore wetland ecosystems.

Ramsay is an investigative and campaigning journalist whose work has covered dark money and the constitutional crisis as well as environmental issues. A former special correspondent at openDemocracy, he is now a freelancer, with work appearing in *Novara Media*, *The Guardian*, *Byline Times* and elsewhere. His book for adults, *Abolish Westminster*, is due to be published by Faber and Faber, also in 2026.

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Floris Books | August 2026
Middle Grade Fiction
ISBN: 9781835750117

Also by Fidan Meikle:
My Name is Samim 9781782509301

My Name is Zayn

Fidan Meikle

The highly anticipated follow-up to *My Name is Samim*, winner of the Jhalak Prize, FCBG Children's Book Award and Hampshire Book Award, *My Name is Zayn* is an uplifting story of friendship, resilience and empathy.

After enduring a long, dangerous journey from war-torn Afghanistan, Zayn arrives in the UK, alone but convinced his best friend Samim is alive – somewhere.

Sent to live in a hotel with other asylum seekers, Zayn starts to find small pieces of normal life – he goes to school, joins the football team and is making friends. When children begin disappearing from the hotel, including his roommate Musa, Zayn must find hope and help in unlikely places. Can he find his missing friends, old and new, as well as the safe home he's been searching for?

Fidan Meikle is a multi-award-winning Azerbaijani-British writer, linguist and translator. Her debut middle-grade novel, *My Name is Samim*, won the Jhalak Children's & YA Prize, the Federation of Children's Book Groups Children's Book Award, several regional awards and was included in the 2026 Read for Empathy Collection. *My Name is Samim* and *My Name is Zayn* are inspired by the real-life stories of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the UK. Fidan lives in West Lothian, Scotland.

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DC Thomson & Co Ltd | August 2026
Comics | Children's Annual
ISBN: 9781917436434

Beano Annual 2027

Beano

The UK's No. 1 children's annual is back for another year. Meet Dennis the Menace, Minnie the Minx, Bananaman, The Bash Street Kids and other British comic legends in brand-new hilarious comic strips.

Packed with the energy and mischievous fun that have made *Beano* a household name, this year's annual celebrates and reinforces the spirit of the world's longest-running weekly comic.

One of the most recognisable British brands of all time, *Beano* is still bringing weekly laughs to kids. *Beano*'s much-loved characters and ethos power the legendary *Beano* comic, annual and various brand experiences and partnerships across live events and licensed products.

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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)

2 / A signed copy of the valid rights agreement with originating publisher OR a signed copy of contract / agreement with the author

3 / A copy of the translator(s) CV, including professional qualifications and previous works translated

4 / Current catalogue and/or backlists (paper or electronic form)

5 / A budget – cost of production, marketing and printing as well as the translation costs

6 / A copy of the English-language edition of the title

For more information on how and when to apply, please contact Lucy Feather at **lucy.feather@publishingscotland.org** or visit the Publishing Scotland website at **www.publishingscotland.org**.

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

- Argument Verlag (Hamburg) for the German edition of *The Good Liar* by Denise Mina
- Ediciones Maeva (Madrid) for the Spanish edition of *Society of Unknowable Objects* by Gareth Brown
- Editorial Mapa (Tarragona) for the Spanish edition of *Muckle Flugga* by Michael Pedersen
- Il Ponte del Sale (Rovigo) for the Italian edition of *The Keelie Hawk* by Kathleen Jamie
- Kunstmann Verlagg (Munich) for the German edition of *Men in Love* by Irvine Welsh
- Magvető Publishing (Budapest) for the Hungarian edition of *Glyph* by Ali Smith
- Old Lion Publishing (Lviv) for the Ukrainian edition of *Glasgow Boys* by Margaret McDonald
- Shanghai Translation Publishing House (Shanghai) for the Simple Chinese edition of *Poor Things* by Alasdair Gray
- Singel Uitgeverijen (Amsterdam) for the Dutch edition of *Land* by Maggie O'Farrell
- Strauss Publishing (Baku) for the Azerbaijani edition of *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll
- Uitgeverij Annex (South Holland) for the Dutch edition of *The Book Collector* by Alice Thompson

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 over 70 publishers from across the world. In 2026 Publishing Scotland hosted 10 Fellows. You can find out more about all our previous Fellows and the latest news at: www.publishingscotland.org/what-we-do/scottish-books-international/publishing-fellowship/

If you have any questions about the programme please email fellowship@publishingscotland.org



Publishing Scotland's International Fellows 2026

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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 makes 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**.

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