

Aitken Alexander Associates



London Book Fair 2023

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FICTION



The Midnight News

by Jo Baker

A tour de force from *Sunday Times* bestselling author Jo Baker – a breathtaking story of friendship, love and war.

It is 1940 and twenty-year-old Charlotte Richmond watches from her attic window as enemy planes fly over London. Still grieving her beloved brother who never returned from France, she is working hard to keep her own little life ticking over: holding down a dull typist job at the Ministry of Information, sharing gin and confidences with her best friend Elena, and dodging her difficult father. She has good reason to keep her head down and stay out of trouble. She knows what happens when she makes a nuisance of herself.

On her way to work she often sees the boy who feeds the birds - a source of unexpected joy amidst the rubble of the Blitz. But every day brings new scenes of devastation, and after yet another heartbreaking loss Charlotte has an uncanny sense of foreboding. Someone is stalking the darkness, targeting her friends. And now he is following her.

She no longer knows who to trust. She can't even trust herself. She knows this; her family have told so her often enough. As grief and suspicion consume her, Charlotte's nerves become increasingly frayed, and soon her very freedom is under threat . . .

JO BAKER is the acclaimed author of seven previous novels, including the *Sunday Times* bestseller *Longbourn*. She lives with her family in Lancashire.

Publication date: Phoenix – 20th April 2023

Praise for *The Midnight News*:

'Gripping, intriguing and evocative... This clever and accomplished novel is simultaneously a vivid evocation of London life during the Blitz, and a fascinating exploration of identity – and one woman's fight to hang onto her own.' – Joanna Quinn

'A winter pleasure . . . deep and dark and wonderful.' – Francis Spufford

'As ever, Jo Baker's writing gives us intellectual satisfaction and great narrative pleasure. I stayed up late reading and I was glad.' – Sarah Moss

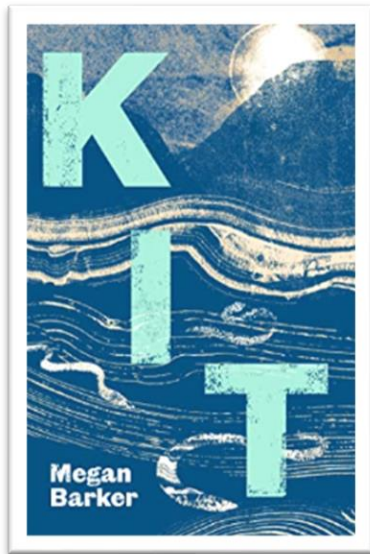
'Immediately immersive and utterly enthralling, *The Midnight News* is full of atmosphere and intrigue and tells a deeply moving story that is as surprising as it is satisfying' – Cathy Rentzenbrink

'A riveting and moving novel that masterfully captures the reality of wartime in all its sorrow and uncertainty as well as the light that can still be found in the dark and the beauty of lasting friendship.' – Nina Stibbe

'An intriguing and thrilling novel, believable in the tiniest details - I've read half a dozen novels set in the Blitz but this one is the most atmospheric and memorable. It had me by the throat.' – Emma Donoghue

Rights sales for *The Midnight News*: UK (Phoenix), US (Knopf), France (Laffont).

Agent: Clare Alexander



Kit

By Megan Barker

*I owe you a book
Will you write with me
Shall we hold hands?
I know I am only high noon like this for a limited time
We can jump together
One two thr...*

Megan and Kit met in their early twenties. Their friendship was intense, wild and long-lasting.

Years later, when Kit becomes desperately unwell, Megan tries to pull her old friend back from the precipice, navigating the difficulties of revisiting a relationship conceived in the great freedom of youth, whilst attempting to remain fully present in the messy beauty of her family life.

Kit is a story of the sumptuous complication - and precariousness - of life and relationships. It describes a call to intimacy in a state of emergency. It is a story of one life disrupted as another moves toward its end.

Told in a spare, winding prose-poem, with a voice reminiscent of Max Porter, Elizabeth Smart, Kae Tempest and Rebecca Watson, *Kit* is a splintered, powerful work of empathy, friendship and unconditional love.

MEGAN BARKER lives in South Wales. She has a background in theatre, and her plays have been produced at theatres such as Soho Theatre, Sherman Cymru, The Arches, The Traverse and The Tron. She also writes song lyrics, most recently for Quiet River of Dust by Richard Reed Parry. *Kit* is her first novel.

Publication date: Cheerio – 6th July 2023

Praise for *Kit*:

'In both its open-throated exclamations and its concentrated meditations on myriad forms of pain and joy, *Kit* is searching for a loving root system and finds it in the losses we don't always afford one-another a language for. It finds it in children and strangers, in arguments and text messages. In hindsight and hope. It finds it working away beautifully in our everyday wreckages. *Kit* reaches places other books don't.' – Max Porter

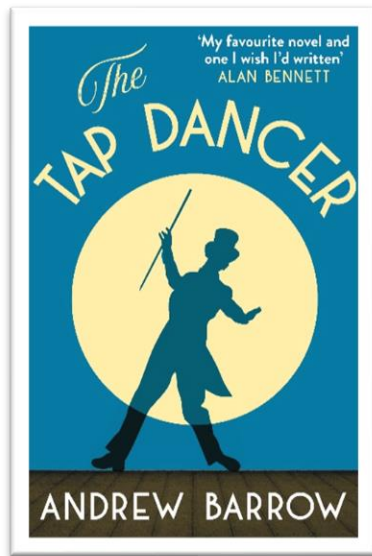
'Very few things I've read recently have stopped me in my tracks quite as unexpectedly as *Kit*. It's a cry, and a demand, and it's brashly beautiful.' – Cynan Jones

'It's glorious. Held me throughout (one sitting). Terrific images. Indelible moments. A powerful astringency. It left me with a poignant afterglow of defiance / love in the face of helplessness... Tragedy, in other words (though I laughed at times too).' – James Scudamore

'*Kit* is love and pain distilled: a book of extraordinary force. It left me reeling for days.' – Tom Bullough

Rights sales for *Kit*: UK (Cheerio).

Agent: Lisa Baker



The Tap Dancer by Andrew Barrow

**‘My favourite novel and one I wish I’d written.’
– Alan Bennett**

Everyone craves retirement from the Civil Service, don’t they? That time for an ageing patriarch to enjoy the fruits of a well-earned pension and the respect of his family; maybe even to indulge in a love of music halls and metropolitan life. If only people would listen and do as they were told...

His fourth son William, the long-suffering narrator, is the constant butt of his father’s jokes and victim of his brother’s indifference. But as death, divorce and other darker dramas follow, father and son slowly establish a strange harmony.

ANDREW BARROW is a writer and artist. He is the author of two novels, *The Tap Dancer* and *The Man in the Moon*, and the double biography, *Quentin and Philip*. He lives in London.

Publication date: 1993 – new edition forthcoming from HarperCollins in July 2023

Praise for *The Tap Dancer*:

- ◆ Winner of the 1993 Hawthornden Prize◆
- ◆ Winner of the 1993 McKitterick Prize◆

‘Andrew Barrow’s first novel is reminiscent of John Mortimer’s *A Voyage Round My Father*. Both are portraits of ageing patriarchs whose behaviour is outrageously self-centred but who retain a place in their children’s affections by their sheer eccentricity.’ – *Sunday Telegraph*

‘All the characters, even the minor ones, are perfectly realised, thanks largely to Barrow’s remarkable skill at pinpointing the social and psychological undercurrents of casual conversation.’ – *Times Literary Supplement*

‘Father, tap dancing weirdly across the kitchen in moments of glee, has immense vitality . . . A comic masterpiece.’ – *Financial Times*

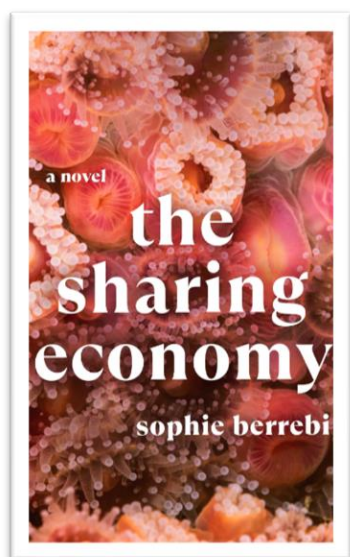
‘A comic masterpiece . . . Andrew Barrow’s insight into the minutiae of English family life is absolutely brilliant . . . his ear for dialogue is matchless . . . this is a great literary creation.’ – *Spectator*

‘A magnificent creation . . . Could rank alongside Mr Pooter and Nancy Mitford’s Uncle Matthew.’ – *Independent*

‘Weird but wonderful first novel . . . brilliantly funny . . . horribly true.’ – *Harpers & Queen*

Rights sales for *The Tap Dancer*: HarperCollins (World English).

Agent: Amy St Johnston



The Sharing Economy by Sophie Berrebi

***Three Women* meets *Crudo*: a frank and fresh literary debut about the dawn of dating apps in Amsterdam.**

‘Sexual infidelity is unavoidable, for whatever reasons, in long monogamous relationships, so why not give the other sexual freedom, as a gesture of love, of communication maybe?’

Amsterdam in 2014 is an historic city situated at the heart of the future. One of the biggest hubs for internet traffic in the world, it has become a favourite testing-ground for the new internet platforms that form the vanguard of what has been coined ‘the sharing economy’.

Gabrielle Bloom is a woman in her mid-40s, working as an exhibition curator. She is happily married to Anton and loves her son Victor. They have a circle of sophisticated friends and enjoy the life of two successful and respectable professionals living in one of the world’s most beautiful and culturally rich cities.

There is, though, one crucial difference between their relationship and those of their friends. Gabrielle and Anton enjoy an open marriage.

When Gabrielle is introduced, during a visit to a feminist art collective, to a new dating app that has recently launched in the city, fresh horizons open up. With an almost unlimited number of potential partners suddenly available to her, she quickly develops a taste for the thrill of a brief sexual encounter. Moving from one assignation to the next, things at first seem exhilarating and uncomplicated. But the human heart has not evolved at the same rate as the silicon chip and when attachments start to form things rapidly become less simple.

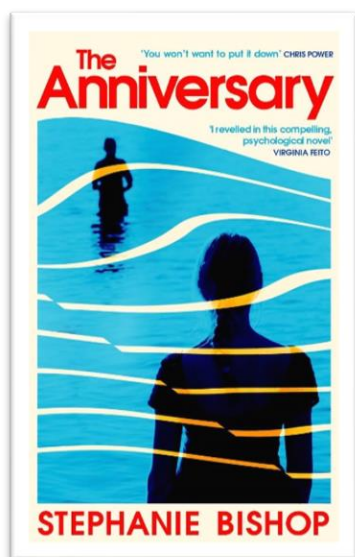
Set during one intense and transformative year, and suffused with art, sex and philosophy, *The Sharing Economy* is at once a uniquely radical reappraisal of the way we view relationships and a tender and moving depiction of the many ways in which the human heart is capable of love.

SOPHIE BERREBI is an author, exhibitions curator and art historian born in Paris and currently based in Brussels. She is an associate professor in the history of art at the University of Amsterdam where she teaches and researches photography, fashion, and contemporary art. Her 2018 book *Dubuffet and the City: People, Place and Urban Space* (H&W Publishers), received the 2019 Richard Schlagman award for best book of art history. *The Sharing Economy* is her first novel.

UK publication date: Scribner – 2nd March 2023

Rights sales for *The Sharing Economy*: UK (Scribner), Netherlands (Het Spectrum).

Agent: Clare Alexander



The Anniversary by Stephanie Bishop

For fans of Lisa Halliday and Patricia Highsmith, *The Anniversary* is a feat of literary psychological suspense about an ascendant writer, the sudden death of her husband, and what it takes to emerge on her own.

Novelist J.B. Blackwood is on a cruise with her husband, Patrick to celebrate their wedding anniversary. Her former professor, Patrick, is much older than J.B.. But when they met, he seemed somehow ageless, as all new gods appear in the eyes of those who worship them. He is a film director. A cult figure. But now his success is starting to wane and J.B. is on the cusp of winning a major literary prize. Her art has been forever overseen by him, now it may overshadow his. For days they sail in the sun. They lie about drinking, reading, sleeping, having sex.

There is nothing but dark water all around them.

Then a storm hits and Patrick falls off the ship. J.B. is left alone, as the search for what happened to Patrick — and the truth about their marriage — begins.

STEPHANIE BISHOP is professor in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. In 2016 she was a Visiting Scholar at Oxford University's Centre for Life Writing. Her criticism and fiction have appeared in the London Review of Books, the TLS, and the Sydney Review of Books. Her second novel, *The Other Side of the World* was named Literary Fiction Book of the Year in the Australian Book Industry Awards 2016 and winner of The Readings Prize for New Australian Writing 2015. It was also shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, the Indie Book Awards and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards as well as being longlisted for the 2016 Stella Prize. Her next novel, *Man Out of Time* was also longlisted for the Stella Prize, and shortlisted for the Christina Stead Prize for fiction.

UK publication date: W&N – 30th March 2023

Praise for *The Anniversary*:

'A surprisingly dark and complex novel. It is intelligent and literary in the best sense of the word: fluent in style, self-aware in its deployment of genre... In the metaphysical reach of this book, the writer I kept thinking of was Iris Murdoch.' – *Weekend Australian*

'Stephanie Bishop's *The Anniversary* is an example of both deft literary craft and an engrossing read – a feat rarer than it should be... This is a novel worth reading twice, for all the subtleties missed the first time around.' – *Australian Book Review*

'*The Anniversary* is a compulsive yet redemptive book layered with nuances that will have those new to Bishop's work hunting out her backlist.' – *Financial Times*

'The sense of foreboding increases as the narrative progresses and I found it impossible to put down. It's excellent on how a partner's resentment can grow until it explodes as if from nowhere. It's also wonderful on writing itself and how our protagonists both enable and block each other's process. I adored it.' – *Daily Mail*

Rights sales for *The Anniversary*: UK (W&N), US (Grove), Australia (Hachette), Germany (DTV), Hungary (Magveto), Italy (Marsilio), Romania (Trei); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Agent: Emma Paterson



The Ministry of Time

by Kalia Bradley

There are several ways to tell a story. A boy meets a girl. The past meets the future. A finger meets a trigger. The beginning meets the end. England is forever; England must fall.

In the near-future, a civil servant starts working as a 'bridge' - a liaison, helpmeet and housemate - in an experimental project that brings expatriates from the past into the twenty-first century. This is a science-fiction story.

In a London safehouse in the 2020s, a disorientated Victorian polar explorer chain smokes while listening to Spotify and

learning about political correctness. This is a comedy.

In a government institution devoted to the creation and maintenance of history, the child of an immigrant grapples with her ethnic identity and her responsibility to herself, her conscience, and her country. This is a novel of ideas.

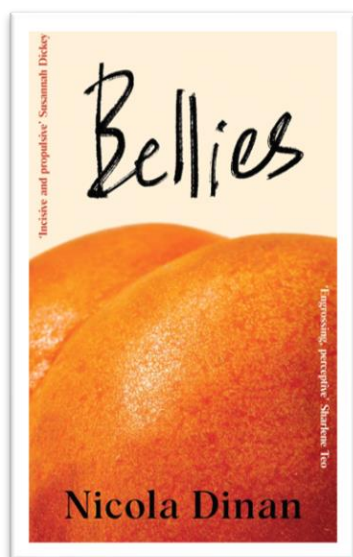
The Ministry of Time is a novel about Commander Graham Gore (R.N. c.1809-c.1847) and a woman known only as the bridge. As their relationship turns from the strictly professional into something more and uneasy truths begin to emerge, they are forced to face the reality of the project that brought them together. Can love triumph over the structures and histories that shape them?

KALIANE BRADLEY is an Anglo-Cambodian writer and editor based in London. Her short fiction has appeared in *Granta*, *Somesuch Stories*, *The Willowherb Review*, *Electric Literature*, *Catapult* and *Extra Teeth*, among others. Her dance and theatre reviews have appeared in the *Observer*, *Time Out* and *The Stage*. Her essay 'The Wishing Dance' was published in *Gifts of Gravity and Light* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2021). She was the winner of the 2022 *Harper's Bazaar* Short Story Prize and the 2022 V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize.

UK publication date: Sceptre – Summer 2024

Rights sales for *The Ministry of Time*: UK (Sceptre), US (Avid Reader Press), Brazil (Rocco), Croatia (Vorto Palabra), Finland (Tammi), France (Autrement), Germany (Penguin Verlag), Greece (Metaichmio), Hungary (General Press), Italy (Mondadori), Netherlands (Prometheus), Norway (Kagge), Poland (Poznańskie), Romania (Litera), Slovenia (under offer), Spain (Salamandra); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



Bellies by Nicola Dinan

★ Chosen by *Elle*, *Independent* and Waterstones
as one to watch in 2023 ★

‘I wore a dress on the night I first met Ming.’

It begins as your typical boy meets boy. At a party in a university town, Tom meets Ming. Confident, witty and a talented young playwright, Ming is the perfect antidote to Tom’s awkward energy. They fall hard for each other; an instant connection. But upon moving to London to start the next chapter of their lives, Ming announces her decision to transition. At once, Tom and Ming are each propelled into an unknowable future.

From London to Kuala Lumpur, New York to Cologne, we follow Tom and Ming in the years after graduation, through glass offices and artistic endeavours, friendships and heartbreak. But just as they learn what it means to move through life without the other, an unexpected tragedy strikes, throwing them together once more. Tom and Ming must at last confront the vastly different shapes their lives have taken, and face an essential question: is it worth losing a part of yourself to become who you are?

NICOLA DINAN grew up in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur, and now calls London home. She trained and practised as a lawyer before leaving the law to focus on writing. *Bellies* is her first novel, for which she was shortlisted for the Mo Siewcharran Prize. She is a graduate of the Faber Academy Writing-a-Novel course. Her work has appeared in *Huck Magazine*, *i-D*, *Paper Magazine*, *Necessary Fiction* and elsewhere.

UK publication date: Doubleday – 6th July 2023

Praise for *Bellies*:

‘With *Bellies*, Nicola Dinan has written an intimate odyssey - full of warmth and humor, punctuated with prose that’s thrilling and tender and elegant and pungent. Dinan weaves an irresistibly queer love story within a scrupulously architected world, offering a story about connection, loneliness, identity, and the many different forms that family can take. Thoughtful, seductive, and entirely engrossing - *Bellies* is already a classic.’ – Bryan Washington, author of *Memorial*

‘Wry, vulnerable, chic, devastating, aflutter with supple insights into becoming dimensional and beholding the puzzle of other people.’ – Jeremy Atherton Lin, author of *Gay Bar*

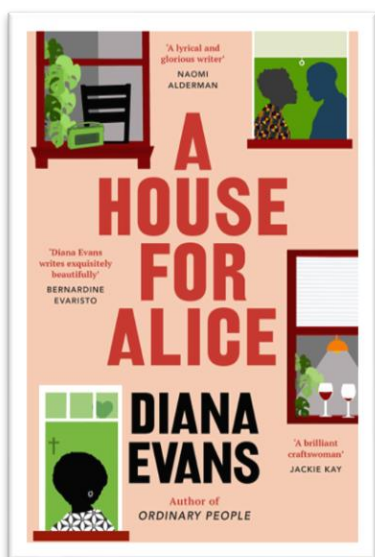
‘A youthful and urgent look at relationships, family, gender expression, intimacy and trust.’ – Paul Mendez, author of *Rainbow Milk*

‘A really beautiful, underrepresented love story in fiction.’ – *Independent*, ‘19 Debut Authors Set To Make Their Mark This Year’

‘Triumphant and humane.’ – *Elle*, ‘A Most Anticipated Book of 2023’

Rights sales for *Bellies*: UK (Doubleday), US (Hanover Square Press), Spain (Urano); **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori; **Film/TV rights:** Element Pictures.

Agent: Monica MacSwan



A House for Alice by Diana Evans

Acute, deft and delicate: a stunning new novel from the author of acclaimed bestseller, *Ordinary People*

After fifty years in London, Alice wants to live out her days in the land of her birth. Her three children are divided on whether she stays or goes, and in the wake of their father's death, the imagined stability of the family begins to fray.

Meanwhile youngest daughter Melissa has never let go of a love she lost, and Michael in return, even within the sturdy walls of his marriage to the sparkling Nicole, is haunted by the failed perfection of the past. As Alice's final decision draws closer, all that is hidden between Melissa and her sisters, Michael and Nicole, rises to the surface . . .

Set against the shadows of Grenfell and a country in turmoil, Diana Evans's ordinary people confront fundamental questions. How should we raise our children? How to do right by our parents? And how, in the midst of everything, can we satisfy ourselves?

DIANA EVANS has received nominations for the Whitbread First Novel, the Guardian First Book and the Commonwealth Best First Book awards and was the inaugural winner of the Orange Award for New Writers. *Ordinary People* won the 2019 South Bank Sky Arts Award for Literature and was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Rathbones Folio Prize and the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction, and also received a nomination for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction. She lives in London.

UK publication date: Chatto – 6th April 2023

Praise for *A House for Alice*:

'A gorgeous novel from one of our most outstanding writers to be savoured for its beautiful language and profound insights into families, relationships and life in contemporary Britain.' – Bernardine Evaristo

'A wise, tender novel about family and love that explores the tension between duty and desire and the question of what 'home' really means.' – Monica Ali

'Diana Evans is one of this country's best contemporary novelists. In *A House For Alice*, she tells the story of a family and a city, of loss and belonging, of youth and age, of the uneasy truces we make with the past and the people we used to want to be. I adored it. Her writing is exquisite: every sentence a jewel; every paragraph containing some insight that makes you draw breath with its rightness. I'm so, so grateful to live in an age when Diana Evans writes books.' – Elizabeth Day

Rights sales for *A House for Alice*: UK (Chatto), US (Pantheon).

Rights sales for previous title, *Ordinary People*: UK (Chatto), US (Liveright), Canada (Doubleday), France (Globe), Germany (Hoffman & Campe), Italy (Einaudi), Portugal (Quetzal), Romania (Curtea Veche), Russia (Sindbad); **TV rights:** House Productions.

Agent: Clare Alexander



The Seventh Son by Sebastian Faulks

Thirty years after the UK publication of the modern classic *Birdsong*, one of the best-loved and best-selling novels of the twentieth century, Sebastian Faulks returns with his most propulsive and profound novel to date.

The Seventh Son takes place between New York and London in the near future. A British couple is paired with Talissa, an American academic who will act as their surrogate in order to pay for her postgraduate studies in anthropology. The fertility lab is owned and run by a tech billionaire – rich, arrogant, desperate to create a legacy that is more than the sum of his wealth and prepared to buy his way out of any scandal. A top-secret switch in the lab has grave

consequences which will force everyone concerned to face questions about love, loyalty, and the very nature of what it is to be human.

The Seventh Son is a high-stakes thriller that poses fundamental questions about our species, the nature of our subconscious, and whether madness is the price that we pay for being Sapiens.

SEBASTIAN FAULKS has written nineteen books, of which *A Week in December* and *The Fatal Englishman* were number one in the *Sunday Times* bestseller lists. He is best known for *Birdsong*, part of his French trilogy, and *Human Traces*, the first in an ongoing Austrian trilogy. Before becoming a full-time writer, he worked as a journalist on national papers. He has also written screenplays and has appeared in small roles on stage. He lives in London.

UK publication date: Hutchinson Heinemann – September 2023

Praise for previous title, *Snow Country*:

‘A fine and profoundly intelligent novel, written by an author who balances big ideas with human emotion. Wistful, yearning and wise.’ – Elizabeth Day

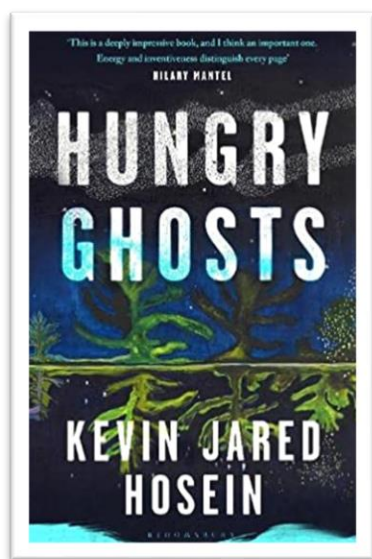
‘Faulks’s most poignant love story yet.’ – Antony Beevor

‘Sebastian Faulks’ latest novel is beautifully written, shot through with a sense of the frailty of love that is at times reminiscent of William Faulkner’s *The Wild Palms*... This is a superb novel.’ – *Spectator*

‘A 5* masterpiece that I devoured in a day.’ – *New Books Magazine*

Rights sales for previous title, *Snow Country*: UK (Hutchinson Heinemann), Greece (Klidarithmos), Israel (Penn), Romania (Litera); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Agent: Clare Alexander



Hungry Ghosts by Kevin Jared Hosein

The music was still playing when Dalton Changoor vanished into thin air...

On a hill overlooking Bell Village sits the Changoor farm, where Dalton and Marlee Changoor live in luxury unrecognisable to those who reside in the farm's shadow. Down below is the barrack, a ramshackle building of wood and tin, divided into rooms occupied by whole families. Among these families are the Saroops - Hans, Shweta, and their son, Krishna, who live hard lives of backbreaking work, grinding poverty and devotion to faith.

When Dalton Changoor goes missing and Marlee's safety is compromised, farmhand Hans is lured by the promise of a handsome stipend to move to the farm as watchman. But as the mystery of Dalton's disappearance unfolds their lives become hellishly entwined, and the small community altered forever.

Hungry Ghosts is a mesmerising novel about violence, religion, family and class, rooted in the wild and pastoral landscape of 1940s colonial central Trinidad.

KEVIN JARED HOSEIN is a Caribbean novelist from Chaguanas in Trinidad. He was named overall winner of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize in 2018 and was the Caribbean regional winner in 2015. Two of his books, *The Repenters* and *The Beast of Kukumyo*, were longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award and the latter received a CODE Burt Award for Caribbean Young Adult Literature. His writings have been published in numerous anthologies and outlets. His latest book, *Hungry Ghosts*, was published in the UK and US in early 2023 to widespread critical acclaim. He lives in Trinidad and Tobago.

UK publication date: Bloomsbury – 16th February 2023

Praise for *Hungry Ghosts*:

'What luscious, troubling, shimmering cloth Hosein has spun... *Hungry Ghosts* reads like a Greek tragedy relocated to a gothic Caribbean setting worthy of Jean Rhys – a story of cursed families and inherited vengeance, inexplicable horrors and impossible dreams and a country haunted, as Hosein reminds us, by the ghosts of the indentured... Hosein gives us no easy answers in this sumptuous, brilliantly written novel. An early contender for the Booker? I wouldn't bet against it.' – *The Times*

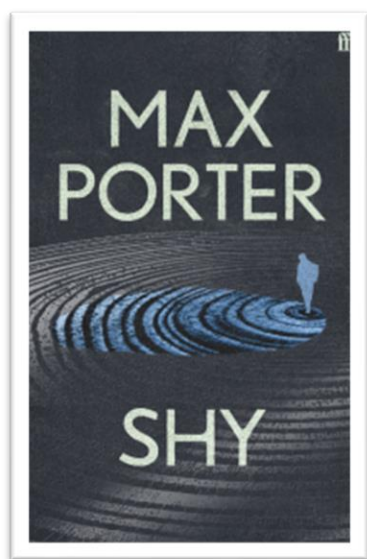
'Inventive, at times audacious, a noteworthy image on almost every page ... Hosein excels in his compassion for his characters ... The many passages of evocative description in *Hungry Ghosts* are neatly contrasted with the aura of foreboding that underpins the lives of those in the barrack, the sense that someone will have to be sacrificed in order for others to survive.' – *Irish Times*

'This is a deeply impressive book, and I think an important one. Its intensity, its narrative attack, the fascinations of its era and setting, make it impossible to tear the attention away. Energy and inventiveness distinguish every page.' – Hilary Mantel

'An astonishing book – linguistically gorgeous, narratively propulsive and psychologically profound.'
– Bernardine Evaristo

Rights sales for *Hungry Ghosts*: UK (Bloomsbury), US (Ecco), Arabic (Pi Press), Croatia (Petrine Knjige), Czech (Leda), Italy (NN Editore), Netherlands (Mozaik), Poland (Czarne), Romania (Trei).

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



Shy

by Max Porter

★ The Sunday Times #1 bestseller ★

The rucksack is shockingly heavy.
The floorboards complain.
He checks again, the spliff is diagonal-snug in the empty
Embassy box.
The daytime check is a half-dream away.
The room is molten soft. Tempting.
Jumpy.
The rucksack is shockingly heavy.
It's 3.13 am.

Shy. A troubled teen, a 'dangerous young man', a reject from the social structures that no longer wish to nurture him. Shy knows that society has not failed him, he has failed it – parents, schooling, friends and sometime girlfriends. Judged and found wanting, he now lives at *Last Chance*, a boarding school for boys like him. In this dilapidated mansion, at 3.13 am, Shy is considering what could be his final decision in this world.

Set over a few hours of a single night, *Shy* exists between the stillness and beauty of a nocturne and the exhilarating shout of simultaneous youthful joy and anguish.

MAX PORTER is the author of *The Death of Francis Bacon*, *Lanny*, longlisted for the Booker Prize, and *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*, winner of the International Dylan Thomas Prize and shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and the Goldsmiths Prize. He is the recipient of the Sunday Times/Peter, Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year award.

Publication date: Faber – 6th April 2023

Praise for *Shy*:

'*Shy* is an act of humanity and grace, heightened by its distinctive form and artistry. It is Porter's best work since his debut *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*.' – *Telegraph* 5*

'*Shy* is an intervention, a warning, a dazzling bolt of prose in the long night of our times.' – *Inews*

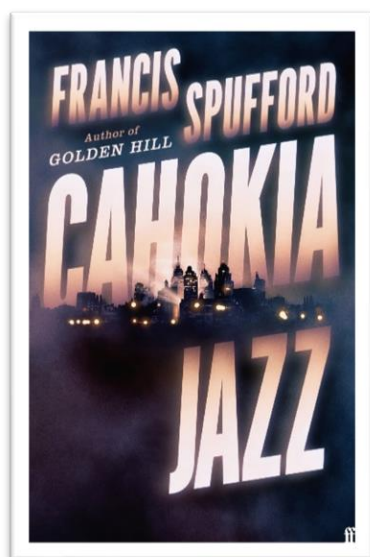
'With masterly economy... [Porter has] created a fragile character on the edge of sanity yet alive to the beauty of the natural world.' – *Sunday Times*

'The troubled boy at the heart of this novel is full of rage and sadness but Max Porter finds tenderness and hope in him. Just beautiful.' – Mariana Enriquez

'A stormy and moving story about Shy, a young angry man in a world of barbed wire, in a world of bruises. In language that shimmers, rages and churns, Max Porter has once again written an unparalleled masterpiece.' – Marieke Lucas Rijneveld

Rights sales for *Shy*: UK (Faber), US (Graywolf), Canada (Strange Light), Finland (WSOY), France (Sous Sol), Germany (Kein und Aber), Hungary (Jelenkor), Italy (Sellerio), Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Norway (Gyldendal), Poland (Zysk), Portugal (Elsinore, PRH), Spain (Literatura Random House), Sweden (Sekwa), Turkey (Monokl); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Agent: Lisa Baker



Cahokia Jazz by Francis Spufford

A lovingly recreated, richly entertaining homage to the Golden Age of Noir, from the author of the bestselling, award-winning *Golden Hill*.

In a city that never was, in an America that never was, on a snowy night at the end of winter, two detectives find a mutilated body on the roof of a skyscraper.

It's 1922, and Americans are drinking in speakeasies, dancing to jazz, stepping quickly to the tempo of modern times. But in this 1922, where European diseases never ravaged the New World, and the ancient indigenous city of Cahokia has lived on beside the Mississippi to become an industrial metropolis, a different peace has been struck

between the peoples of the United States. Different, and fragile.

The murder on the roof of the Land Trust sparks off a week of ever-expanding crisis that will spill the secrets of this altered world, and bring it, against a soundtrack of cornets and wailing clarinets, either to destruction or rebirth. That will carry it all the bloody way to spring.

Cahokia Jazz is the third novel from the author of the award-winning *Golden Hill*, offering up a heady noir-soaked mixture of virtuoso writing and propulsive plot.

FRANCIS SPUFFORD is the Booker-longlisted author of *Light Perpetual*, *Golden Hill* and *Red Plenty*. He teaches at Goldsmiths College.

UK publication date: Faber – October 2023

Praise for *Cahokia Jazz*:

'Francis Spufford has discovered a new riff on a favourite tune, and in exploring it has created something wholly unique. *Cahokia Jazz* is extraordinary.' – Mick Herron

'The book is itself Cahokia jazz; the play of possibilities beyond the linear progression of the tune we all already know, that goes to wild places and then winds back, beautifully, heartbreakingly, to echo the notes of where it started.' – Jo Baker

Rights sales for *Cahokia Jazz*: UK (Faber), US (Scribner)

Rights sales for previous title, *Light Perpetual*: UK (Faber), US (Scribner), Arabic (Dar Athar), Bulgaria (Kryg), Catalan (Enciclopedia), Denmark (Politiken), Estonia (Gallus Kirjastus), Germany (Rowohlt), Italy (Bollati Boringhieri), Lithuania (Vaga), Netherlands (Nieuw Amsterdam), Russia (Exmo), Spain (Enciclopedia); **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Agent: Clare Alexander



The Termite Queen by Olivia Sudjic

In the final days of 2020, having failed to find a publisher for her project — *Desire Lines: Transgression in the Films of Alys Veron* — Justine, a furloughed, frustrated arts administrator, leaves her partner and relocates to a remote town in southern Europe. With its dwindling population, the town is slowly dying, but its mayor has an unorthodox scheme to attract youthful residents: offering empty homes, remote working opportunities and lucrative incentives to have a baby.

Through the scheme, Justine is allocated an abandoned house and a generous grant to set up her own cultural initiative. Repurposing her project, she devises a film festival with a plan to erect an open-

air cinema in the picturesque town square. Though the mayor is reluctant to accept her on the grounds she has no interest in getting pregnant, she secures the support of his wife, Alma, who is drawn to Justine's idea and sees a chance to make her mark through something other than her children.

Alma introduces Justine to Harmony, another successful applicant to the scheme, come to take advantage of free IVF at the mayor's private clinic, and tells her about Barbara, the former owner of Justine's new home, who deserted her own family as a young mother. Haunted by Barbara's presence, her own failed relationship, and threatened with the removal of her funding, she agrees to attend the mayor's clinic in order to become Harmony's surrogate.

While Alma finds her small-town world expanded by Justine's presence, not everyone welcomes the mayor's scheme. As the film festival opens and strangers begin to colonise the town square, local resentment towards the new residents peaks. When heavy rains descend and landslides sweep the stage away, Alma reveals the darker purpose of her husband's scheme and the lengths some will go to leave a legacy.

OLIVIA SUDJIC's debut novel, *Sympathy*, was a finalist for the Salerno European Book Award and the Collyer Bristow Prize in 2017. Her second novel, *Asylum Road*, was shortlisted for the Encore Award and the Gordon Bowker Volcano Prize in 2021. Her non-fiction work, *Exposure*, was named an *Irish Times*, *Evening Standard* and *White Review* Book of the Year.

UK publication date: Bloomsbury – 2024

Praise for previous title, *Asylum Road*:

◆ Shortlisted for the Encore Award 2022 ◆

◆ Shortlisted for the Gordon Bowker Volcano Prize 2022 ◆

◆ Chosen by the *Observer*, *Financial Times*, *Independent*, *Elle*, *Grazia*, *Esquire*, *Stylist*, *Evening Standard* and *the Bookseller* as a Book to Read in 2021 ◆

'One of the best novels published in the last few years and the first great Brexit novel...in the elegance of her sentences, the erudition and scholarship worthy of a historian, her dark humor and her ability to so eerily needle into the pulse of the moment, Sudjic reminds me of Don DeLillo.' – LARB

'It is a caustic, claustrophobic – and distinctly European – reinvention of the road novel...Sudjic is a cartographer of menace: she gives us squirming infestations, dictatorial relics, portentous headlines ("Experts Warn Against Optimism"), roads to nowhere.' – *Times Literary Supplement*

Rights sales for previous title, *Asylum Road*: UK (Bloomsbury), Spain (Alpha Decay).

Agent: Emma Paterson



The Horse by Willy Vlautin

The author's most personal novel yet, this is a poetic and deeply moving story about what it takes to be an artist and the realities of a musician's life on the road...

65 year-old Al Ward, several months into an isolated stint living on the mining claim in Nevada left to him by his great uncle, has been living on canned soup, instant coffee and memories of his life as a touring musician. One morning an old and worn-out horse, blinded by eye disease, arrives outside his hut, unable to defend itself from coyote attacks. 6000 feet up, 30 miles from Tonopah and broken by alcoholism and anxiety, Al must decide what to do.

Intercut with Al's present-day journey are episodes from his life as a songwriter and guitarist. His story begins in Reno and we follow his colourful life as a touring musician, playing in bars and casinos across the country. Along the way there are flashes of real success, but the lifestyle is punishing and many of his friends and bandmates don't make it.

The Horse is a gorgeously depicted homage to the uncelebrated musicians who make our lives more joyful, and, as always, an exploration of loneliness, humanity and resilience.

WILLY VLAUTIN has published six previous novels, *The Night Always Comes*, *The Motel Life*, *Northline*, *Lean on Pete*, *The Free and Don't Skip Out on Me*. *The Motel Life* and *Lean on Pete* were turned into feature films, released in 2012 and 2017 respectively. The former starred Kris Kristofferson and Emile Hirsch and the latter, starred Charlie Plummer and Steve Buscemi, and was adapted and directed by Andrew Haigh. Vlautin lives outside of Portland, Oregon and is the founding member of the bands Richmond Fontaine and The Delines. *The Night Always Comes* is being developed by H2L Media with Vanessa Kirby's production company, for Vanessa to star. Ben Caron (*Sharper*) will direct.

UK publication date: Faber – Summer 2024

Praise for previous title, *The Night Always Comes*:

'This is a novel that lives firmly in the melancholia of the city's gentrification, hurtling readers through one woman's desperation to keep her life afloat in a city that's pushing its working class out, one razed lot at a time.' – *New York Times*

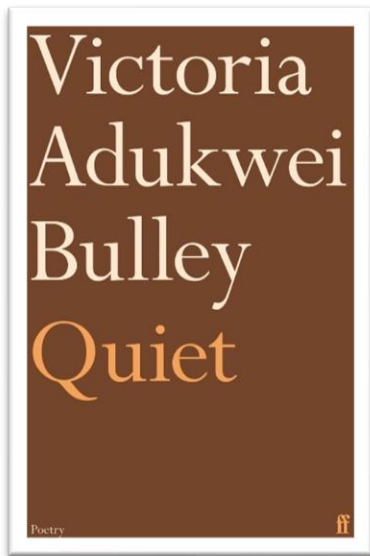
'I can't remember the last time I worried myself sick about a fictional character the way I did about Lynette in Willy Vlautin's terrific, big-hearted new novel *The Night Always Comes*. You won't soon forget either her or the fraught world she so courageously navigates.' – Richard Russo

'His stories are sturdy and bighearted and full of lives so shattered they shimmer.' – Cheryl Strayed

Rights sales for *The Horse*: UK (Faber), US (HarperCollins), Netherlands (Meulenhoff), Sweden (Bakhall); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Agent: Lesley Thorne

POETRY



Quiet by Victoria Adukwei Bulley

- ◆ Winner of the Rathbones Folio Poetry Prize 2023 ◆
- ◆ Shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize 2022 ◆
- ◆ Shortlisted for the Pollard Poetry Prize 2023 ◆
- ◆ A Poetry Book Society Summer Recommendation ◆

Victoria Adukwei Bulley's debut collection, *Quiet*, circles around ideas of black interiority, intimacy and selfhood, playing at the tensions between the impulse to guard one's 'inner life' and the knowledge that, as Audre Lorde writes, 'your silence will not protect you'. The poems teem with grace and dignity, are artful in their shapes, sharp in their intelligence, and possessing of a good ear, finely attuned to the sonics that fascinate and motivate the writing 'at the lower end of sound'.

VICTORIA ADUKWEI BULLEY is a poet, writer and artist. An alumna of the Barbican Young Poets, she is the recipient of an Eric Gregory Award, and has held residencies in the US, Brazil, and the V&A Museum in London. She is currently a doctoral student at Royal Holloway, University of London, supported by a Techne award for practice-based research in Creative Writing.

UK publication date: Faber – June 2022

Praise for *Quiet*:

'This debut poetry collection is abundant with thoughtful storytelling. Each poem is ruminative and distills the intimacies of Black girl/womanhood with fascinating images, compelling observations and a nomadic sense of questioning, while honouring the concept of silence and the ways it plays out in one's interior life. These delicate poems unpick encounters with loved ones, friends and animals (there's a beautiful poem about snails) and also focus firmly on the wider world, with poems such as Pandemic vs Black Folk written with the sharpest of tongues.' – Kadish Morris, *Guardian*

'I've been waiting for this book for years and Victoria Adukwei Bulley's *Quiet* does not disappoint. There is so much to celebrate, so much to live for. Adukwei Bulley's poems find new ways to look outwards by looking inwards in a range of lyric modes and volumes. They are quietly articulated prayers of the searching, missing and surviving as well as poems full of loud joyful living. These highly complex and accomplished poems keep moving themselves (and us, the readers), towards a feeling of aliveness in that rare way that feels earned and fought for.' – Raymond Antrobus

'Victoria Adukwei Bulley's stunning poems draw you in with their melodious versatility, intellect and dexterity; perfectly embody the political through the personal; and are freedom-loving shapeshifters constantly changing form and animating ideas and language to surprising effect. This is her debut collection, but she arrives fully formed.' – Bernardine Evaristo

'In *Quiet*, Victoria Adukwei Bulley advances a poetics of balance. The poems collected in these pages mix a technically assured, sonically resonant, surface with a profoundly evocative, scrupulously integrated core. This book is a seismic event; its vibrations will be felt for a long time to come.' – Kayo Chingonyi

Rights sales for *Quiet*: UK (Faber), US (Knopf).

Agent: Emma Paterson



Bright Fear by Mary Jean Chan

Following on from their award-winning debut, *Flèche*, Mary Jean Chan's gleaming new collection fearlessly explores intertwined themes of queer identity, multilingualism and postcolonial legacy: interrogating acts of Covid racism, instances of queerphobia and the hegemony of the English language.

Yet *Bright Fear* remains deeply attuned to moments of beauty, tenderness and grace. It asks how we might find a home within our own bodies, in places both distant and near, and in the 'constructed space' of the poem. The contemplative central sequence, *Ars Poetica*, traces the radically healing and transformative role of poetry during the poet's teenage and adult years, culminating in a reconciliation of tongues. Throughout, Chan offers us new and galvanising ways to 'withstand the quotidian tug-of-war / between brightness, terror and love'.

MARY JEAN CHAN is the author of *Flèche* (2019), which won the 2019 Costa Book Award for Poetry and was shortlisted in 2020 for the International Dylan Thomas Prize, the John Pollard Foundation International Poetry Prize, the Jhalak Prize, the Seamus Heaney Centre First Collection Poetry Prize, and a 2021 Lambda Literary Award. Chan recently co-edited *100 Queer Poems* (Vintage, 2022) with Andrew McMillan and serves as Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing (Poetry) at Oxford Brookes University. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Chan currently lives in Oxford.

UK publication date: Faber – August 2023

Praise for previous collection, *Flèche*:

◆Winner of the 2019 Costa Poetry Prize◆

◆Lambda Literary Award Finalist◆

◆Shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize◆

◆A *Guardian* Book of the Year◆

'[E]xtraordinary, brilliant and searingly honest...beautifully governed by formal rigour and literary excellence.' – *The Poetry Review*

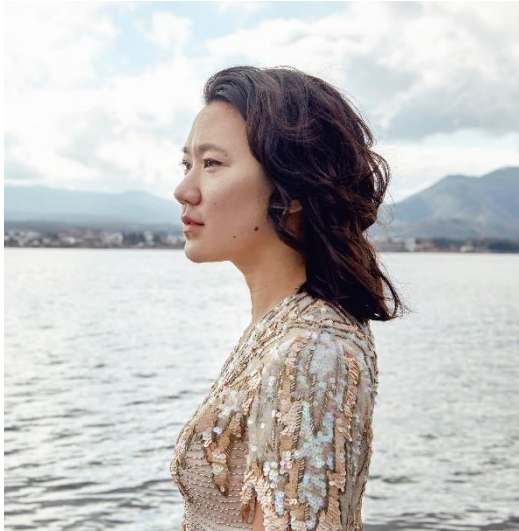
'[Chan] is one of those rare poets who leave you looking up with a sense that you can engage even the smallest part of the world around you with a much greater intensity.' – *PN Review*

'Chan has picked a perfect title, one that is as expansive and evocative as the poems that it encompasses.' – *The Hong Kong Review of Books*

'As [a] governing metaphor and organising principle...the sport [of fencing] provides enlivening strategies for the poetic realisation of loss and rebellion.' – *The Guardian*

Rights sales for *Bright Fear*: Faber (World English)

Agent: Emma Paterson



Root Fractures by Diana Khoi Nguyen

In *Root Fractures*, Diana Khoi Nguyen excavates the moments of rupture in a family: a mother who was forced underground after the Fall of Saigon, a father who engineered a new life in California as an immigrant, a brother who cut himself out of every family picture before cutting himself out of their lives entirely. And as new generations of the family come of age, opportunities for repair co-mingle with visitations of the past upon the present. Through poems of disarming honesty and personal risk, Nguyen examines what takes root after a disaster and how we make a story out of the broken pieces of our lives.

Poet and multimedia artist DIANA KHOI NGUYEN was born and raised in California. Her debut poetry collection *Ghost Of* was selected by Terrance Hayes for the Omnidawn Open Contest, and was a finalist for the National Book Award and Los Angeles Times Book Prize. It received the 2019 Kate Tufts Discovery Award and a Colorado Book Award. A Kundiman fellow and member of the Vietnamese diasporic artist collective, She Who Has No Master(s), Nguyen's other honors include awards from the 92Y "Discovery" Poetry Contest, Key West Literary Seminars, and Academy of American Poets. She teaches creative writing at Randolph College Low-Residency MFA and is an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

US publication date: Scribner – January 2024

Praise for previous collection, *Ghost Of*:

- ◆ Finalist for 2018 National Book Award for Poetry and the L.A. Times Book Prize ◆
- ◆ Winner of the 92Y "Discovery" / *Boston Review* Poetry Contest, 2019 Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and Colorado Book Award ◆
- ◆ Winner of the Omnidawn 2016/17 Open Poetry Book Prize selected by Terrance Hayes ◆

'This collection is steeped in the poetics of exile and elegy. ... Lyric fills in the holes in the stories. These poems sing to and for the ghosts of identity, history and culture; they sing like a ghost who looks from the window or waits by the door. *Ghost Of* is unforgettable.' – Terrance Hayes, Judge of the Omnidawn Open Poetry Book Contest

'An astonishing scrapbook of lyric poems and photos where the central muse—her brother—is violently cut out. Poems are shaped into his silhouette as if Nguyen is trying to anatomize his tragic absence with pained and urgent remembrance. Nguyen writes with haunted precision and wondrous innovation. *Ghost Of* breaks my heart.' – Cathy Park Hong

'In her innovative debut, Nguyen documents an immigrant family grappling with a son and brother lost to suicide. The opening poem sets the stakes, noting that "There is no ecologically safe way to mourn." Poems alternate between lyric fragments that are scattered across the page, akin to "ashes into the sea," and altered family photographs that operate as testimony and generative force... Though devastating, Nguyen's impressive lyric-visual rendering details survival despite overwhelming tragedy.' – *Publisher's Weekly*, Starred Review

Agent: Emma Paterson

NON-FICTION



Great and Horrible News *Murder and Mayhem in Early Modern Britain* by Blessin Adams

In early modern England, murder truly was most foul. Trials were gossip events packed to the rafters with noisome spectators. Executions were public proceedings which promised not only gore, but desperate confessions and the grandest, most righteous human drama. Bookshops saw grisly stories of crime and death sell like hot cakes. This history unfolds the true stories of murder, criminal investigation, early forensic techniques, high court trials and so much more.

In thrilling narrative, we follow a fugitive killer through the streets of London, citizen detectives clamouring to help officials close the net. We untangle the mystery of a suspected staged suicide through the

newly emerging science of forensic pathology. We see a mother trying to clear her dead daughter's name while other women faced the accusations – sometimes true and sometimes not – of murdering their own children.

These stories are pieced together from original research using coroner's inquests, court records, parish archives, letters, diaries and the cheap street pamphlets that proliferated to satisfy a voracious public. These intensely personal stories portray the lives of real people as they confronted the extraordinary crises of murder, infanticide, miscarriage and suicide. Many historical laws and attitudes concerning death and murder may strike us as exceptionally cruel, and yet many still remind us that some things never change: we are still fascinated by narratives of murder and true crime, murder trials today continue to be grand public spectacles, female killers are frequently cast as aberrant objects of public hatred and sexual desire, and suicide remains a sin within many religious organisations and was a crime in England until the 1960s.

Great and Horrible News explores the strange history of death and murder in early modern Britain, yet the stories within may appear shockingly familiar.

BLESSIN ADAMS' fascination with historical true crime was largely formed by her previous career as a police officer. After several years of gruelling shift work, she left the force and found her calling as a researcher in early modern English law and literature at the University of East Anglia, where she received her doctorate. Much of her time over the past few years has been spent working in law libraries and archives throughout England, where she uncovered many compelling stories of early modern murder and mayhem.

UK publication date: HarperCollins – 30th March 2023

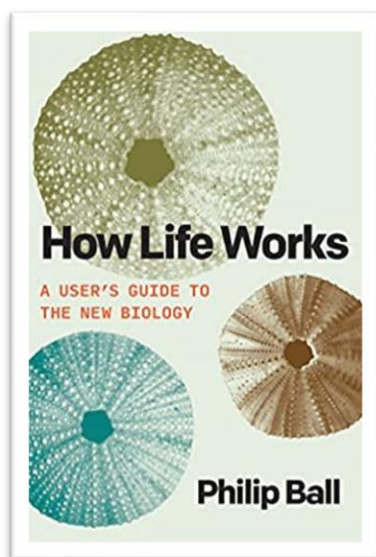
Praise for *Great and Horrible News*:

'This gory history of crime shows that our obsession with lurid podcasts is nothing new... Adams, a police officer turned historian, has poured over coroners' inquest records, court documents, pamphlets, newspaper articles, parish archives, ballads, wills, letters and diaries to restage nine grim stories of crime in England between 1500 and 1700. As an ex-copper, Adams is greatly interested in developments in forensic pathology in this period, which are superbly reconstructed from the sources.' – *The Times*

Rights sales for *Great and Horrible News*: World English (HarperCollins); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Material available: Final PDF

Agent: Clare Alexander



How Life Works

A User's Guide to the New Biology

by Philip Ball

A cutting-edge new vision of biology that will revise our concept of what life itself is, how to enhance it, and what possibilities it offers.

Biology is undergoing a quiet but profound transformation. Several aspects of the standard picture of how life works—the idea of the genome as a blueprint, of genes as instructions for building an organism, of proteins as precisely tailored molecular machines, of cells as entities with fixed identities, and more—have been exposed as incomplete, misleading, or just plain wrong.

In *How Life Works*, Philip Ball explores the new biology, revealing life to be a far richer, more ingenious affair than we had guessed. Ball explains that there is no unique place to look for an answer to this question: life is a system of many levels—genes, proteins, cells, tissues, and body modules such as the immune system and the nervous system—each with its own rules and principles. *How Life Works* explains how these levels operate, interface, and work together (most of the time).

With this knowledge come new possibilities. Today we can redesign and reconfigure living systems, tissues, and organisms. We can reprogram cells, for instance, to carry out new tasks and grow into structures not seen in the natural world. As we discover the conditions that dictate the forms into which cells organize themselves, our ability to guide and select the outcomes becomes ever more extraordinary. Some researchers believe that ultimately we will be able to regenerate limbs and organs, and perhaps even create new life forms that evolution has never imagined.

Incorporating the latest research and insights, *How Life Works* is a sweeping journey into this new frontier of the life sciences, a realm that will reshape our understanding of life as we know it.

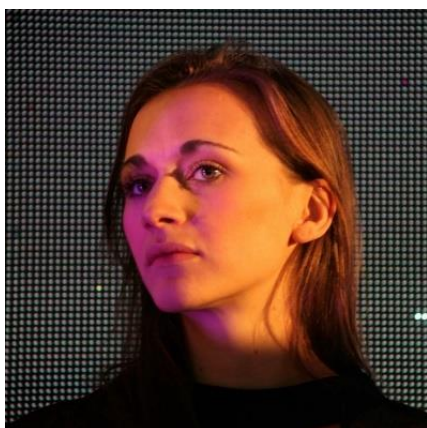
PHILIP BALL is a freelance writer and broadcaster whose many books on the interactions of the sciences, the arts, and the wider culture include *Bright Earth*, *Curiosity*, *Patterns in Nature*, *How to Grow a Human*, *The Modern Myths*, *The Elements*, and, most recently, *The Book of Minds*, all also published by the University of Chicago Press. His book *Critical Mass* won the 2005 Aventis Prize for Science Books. Ball is also the 2022 recipient of the Royal Society's Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Medal for contributions to the history, philosophy, or social roles of science. He trained as a chemist at the University of Oxford and as a physicist at the University of Bristol, and he was an editor at *Nature* for more than twenty years. He lives in London.

UK publication date: Picador – 9th November 2023

Rights sales for *How Life Works*: Picador (UK), University of Chicago Press (US); **Japanese co-agent:** The English Agency.

Material available: First proofs

Agent: Clare Alexander



Vulture Capitalism

Corporate Crimes, Backdoor Bailouts and the Death of Freedom

by Grace Blakeley

Welcome to the world of corporatocracy, where our societies are governed by a tight-knit cartel of planners, made up of big monopolies, financiers, states and international institutions.

All over the world, democracy is in crisis. Liberal political systems are straining under the pressure imposed by authoritarian strong men who are undermining institutions, the rule of law, and the international system that governs relations between states. Donald Trump and Boris Johnson might be the most obvious examples of this phenomenon, but it stretches around the world, from Brazil, to Hungary, to the Philippines. Liberals increasingly see ‘populist’ leaders, working class voters and rogue states as sharing the blame for the collapse of liberalism. But what if the threat to liberal democracy does not come from the outside, but from within?

Liberal democracy and free market capitalism always go hand in hand. And yet, it is capitalism that is responsible for the crisis of liberalism. Capitalist ideology is founded upon the idea that free market competition is the best social system ever developed. But the idealised visions of capitalism outlined by liberals like Adam Smith bear no resemblance to the political economic system under which we live today. Rather than free market competition between small scale producers that benefits everyone, production and exchange are controlled by a few huge organizations that use their power to promote their interests over those of society as a whole.

In *Vulture Capitalism*, Grace Blakeley will chart the emergence of this new age of planned capitalism and powerfully demonstrate the consequences for democracy, and its role in creating the political, social and economic worlds we live in today. She’ll use real-world case studies, starting with the role of fossil fuel producers in early climate change denial in the late 1980s, through to the finance industry’s propping up of organised crime, Big Tech and financial and industrial imperialism, to show how the end stage of liberal democracy functions in the interests of the most powerful. And she looks to the future to ask what we can do about it, identifying the green shoots of change, and highlighting examples of where better, fairer systems have come close to success in the past. For if we are going to have planned economies, might it not be better if they were planned by us, and for us?

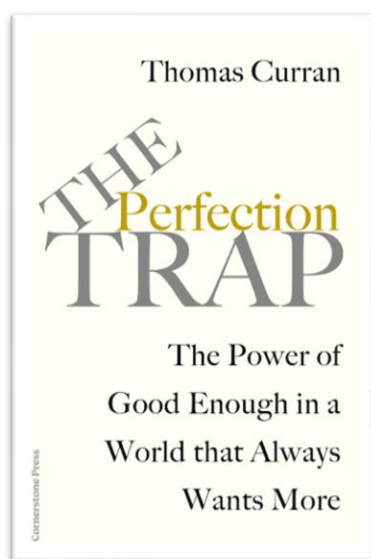
GRACE BLAKELEY is an economic and political commentator and staff writer at *Tribune*, having previously worked as the *New Statesman*’s economics correspondent and a research fellow at the Institute of Public Policy Research. She is the author of *The Corona Crash* and *Stolen*. She appears regularly on the BBC and writes for *Vice*.

UK publication date: Bloomsbury – March 2024

Rights sales for *Vulture Capitalism*: UK (Bloomsbury), US (Simon & Schuster), Germany (Suhrkamp), Japan (Toyokan), Italy (Il Saggiatore), Netherlands (De Arbeiderspers).

Material available: Edited manuscript (97k words)

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



The Perfection Trap

The Power of Good Enough in a World that Always Wants More

by Thomas Curran

When did ‘good enough’ become the same as ‘perfect’? Why does society increasingly promote ideals that are completely unrealistic? And what does it mean for all of us that perfectionism is on the rise?

In *The Perfection Trap*, you’ll discover what’s really driving the rise in perfectionism, its impact on how we learn, work, parent and relate to ourselves and each other. From the personal to the impact on the economy, grounded in over a decade of research and filled with real stories, this timely book reveals how our quest for perfection impacts our health and mental well-being and promises practical techniques

and policy proposals to help us break free of the perfection trap.

THOMAS CURRAN is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science at the London School of Economics. His TED talk, ‘Our Dangerous Obsession with Perfectionism is Getting Worse’, has been viewed more than 2.7 million times. He has written for the *Harvard Business Review*, and his research has been covered by the *New Scientist*, *Goop*, *Guardian*, *Telegraph*, Ariana Huffington’s *Thrive Global* and many others.

UK publication date: Cornerstone – 1st June 2023

Praise for *The Perfection Trap*:

‘A powerful, poignant book on the impossibly high expectations that stand in the way of happiness, health, and success. Thomas Curran is the world’s leading expert on perfectionism, and he’s written the definitive book on why it’s rising, how it wreaks havoc on our lives, and what we can do to stop it. If you’ve ever found yourself fearing failure, ruminating about mistakes, or just feeling that you aren’t good enough, this is a must-read.’ – Adam Grant, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Think Again* and host of the TED podcast Re:Thinking

‘In this timely and bracing book, Thomas Curran has revealed a danger that often masquerades as a virtue: our desire to be perfect. He shows that perfectionism corrodes our well-being rather than improves our performance — that it is the very opposite of resilience, flow, and genuine excellence. *The Perfection Trap* offers a hopeful beacon and a steady path for anyone struggling to find their footing in a world of impossible standards.’ — Daniel H. Pink, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Drive* and *The Power of Regret*

Rights sales for *The Perfection Trap* – rights sold in 22 languages: UK (Cornerstone), US (Scribner), Arabic (Jarir), Brazil (Companhia das Letras), China (Beijing Qianqiu Zhiye), Czech (Dokoran), Germany (Rowohlt), Greece (Metaichmio), Hungary (Partvonal), Israel (Tchelet), Italy (Einaudi), Japan (Kobunsha), Korea (Business Books), Lithuania (Baltos Lankos), Netherlands (Het Spectrum), Poland (Zysk), Portugal (Presenca), Romania (Trei), Russia (Exmo), Sweden (Mondial), Taiwan (Sunrise Press), Turkey (Kronik).

Rights available in: France, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Serbia, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam.

Material available: Final PDF

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



Men Without Men
The Crisis of Male Connection
and the Making of a New Masculinity
by Angelica Ferrara

Our culture is facing a crisis of male connection. 1 in 3 single men in the UK and 1 in 4 in the US have zero close friendships. Men are significantly more likely than women to experience social isolation in Japan and South Korea, and recent cross-cultural analyses warn that in 237 nations around the globe, being male is a primary risk factor for loneliness.

It wasn't always this way. The lack of deep emotional connection we witness among men today is a relatively recent development. For most of history, men in most societies, from Ancient Greece until the Industrial Revolution, enjoyed emotional and physical intimacy without fear of judgement or repercussion.

Angelica Ferrara, developmental and social psychologist at Stanford University and the London School of Economics and Political Science, has dedicated years of academic research to confronting and understanding this profound shift in society. How did we get here, and what does it mean for modern masculinity? What is the cost to men and women both? Why is this issue relevant to feminism? Tracing its history, Ferrara explains how we arrived at a contemporary landscape of masculinity that looks fundamentally different from those that preceded it, identifying in this trajectory a world of rich possibility: if it changed once, it can change again, in the direction of a better future.

In popular culture, when this issue is touched on it is either routinely trotted out in opinion pieces that barely scratch the surface, or framed as a problem that only concerns men—and at the most extreme end of the conversation, the debate has been taken over by the open misogyny of controversialists like Andrew Tate, making the importance of a new narrative even more urgent.

Men Without Men is led by Ferrara's expertise, by the data, and by a framework of feminism. Using these, she demonstrates that this is a crisis that affects us all and in turn, the solutions will help us all. It offers understanding and solace to everyone affected by this unignorable societal shift: men, women, parents, caregivers, and teachers of every background.

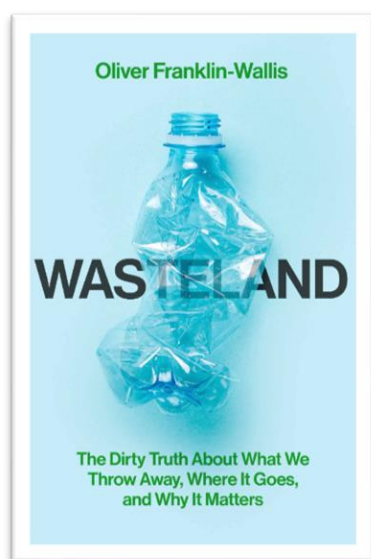
Using a wide range of evidence—including interviews with hundreds of boys and men around the globe; fascinating case studies; data; cultural analysis; and history—*Men Without Men* calls for profound societal change, asking for nothing less than a masculinity revolution.

ANGELICA PUZIO FERRARA, Ph.D., is a developmental and social psychologist at Stanford University and the London School of Economics and Political Science. After completing her doctorate at New York University, she joined Stanford's Clayman Institute for Gender Research as a postdoctoral fellow and the LSE as a visiting fellow in the Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science. Her writing and research sit among the top journals of her field, including *Sex Roles*, *Psychology of Men and Masculinities*, *The Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology* and *The European Journal of Social Psychology*.

Rights sales for *Men Without Men*: UK (Penguin Random House, Michal Shavit), US (S&S), Canada (Knopf), Germany (Under offer); **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Material available: Proposal

Agent: Emma Paterson



Wasteland

The Dirty Truth About What We Throw Away, Where It Goes, and Why It Matters

by Oliver Franklin-Wallis

There are stories in all our discarded things: who made them, what they meant to a person before they were thrown away. In the end, it all ends up in the same place – the endless ingenuity of humanity in one filthy, fascinating mass.

When we throw things ‘away’, what does that actually mean? Where does it go, and who deals with it when it gets there? In *Wasteland*, award-winning journalist Oliver Franklin-Wallis takes us on an eye-opening journey through the global waste industry. From the mountainous landfills of New Delhi to Britain’s overflowing sewers, from hollowed-out mining towns in the USA to Ghana’s flooded

second-hand markets, we meet the people on the frontline of our waste crisis – both those being exploited, and those determined to make a difference. On the way, we discover the corporate greenwashing that started the recycling movement; the dark truth behind our second-hand donations; and come face to face with the 10,000-year legacy of our nuclear waste.

Both shocking and hopeful, *Wasteland* is the timely and ultimately human story at the heart of an urgent global issue.

OLIVER FRANKLIN-WALLIS is an award-winning magazine journalist. His writing has appeared in *British GQ* (where he is Features Editor), *WIRED*, the *Guardian*, the *New York Times*, the *Economist*, *The Times Magazine*, *The Sunday Times Magazine*, *Men’s Health* and many other publications. In 2017, he was named ‘Print Writer Of The Year’ by the British Society Of Magazine Editors. *Wasteland* is his first book.

UK publication date: Simon & Schuster – 22nd June 2023

Praise for *Wasteland*:

‘Waste is a serious problem and also a curiously fascinating one. In this brilliant book, Franklin-Wallis goes into it up to his neck - so we don’t have to! The result is a gripping read that will anger as much as it fascinates. There’s lots we can all do to help, but he’s right to conclude that it’s government and business who really have to step up, and clean up.’ – Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

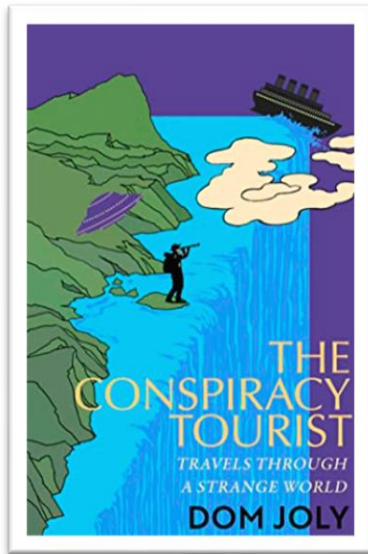
‘This is an incredible journey into the world of rubbish, full of fascinating characters and mind-bending facts. My relationship with garbage is never going to be the same.’ – Oliver Bullough

‘Sometimes it seems as if our main role as humans is to enjoy shiny things for a little while until they become discarded things. This is a fascinating and comprehensive tour of the second half of that equation – the tossed-out usually gets a thousandth the attention of the not-yet-purchased, but Oliver Franklin-Wallis does his best to redress that balance, in a book that wills you see the world quite differently than you did before.’ – Bill McKibben, author *The End of Nature*

Rights sales for *Wasteland*: UK (Simon & Schuster), US (Hachette), Italy (Mondadori), Poland (Poznańskie); **Japanese co-agent:** Japan Uni.

Material available: Edited proofs (90k words)

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



The Conspiracy Tourist

by Dom Joly

Dom Joly sets off on his travels again, immersing himself in the strange world of conspiracies. On his journeys he meets conspiracy theorists galore while visiting a multitude of conspiracy destinations, some famous, some rather less so...

Conspiracy theories used to be fun, a bit of laugh. Did we really land on the moon, was Paul McCartney cloned? Nowadays, however, in the aftermath of Donald Trump, a global Pandemic and the ever-increasing power of social media algorithms, they are part of the body politic and a massive cause of division and mistrust.

In *The Conspiracy Tourist*, Dom Joly sets out on a global journey to find out what's going on. His travels see him meeting followers of QAnon, hunting for UFOs in Roswell, chasing Alex Jones of Info

Wars around Austin, trying to prove that Finland exists and taking a flat earther to the edge of the world.

On the way Dom inevitably finds the funny and the quirky, but he also tries to understand what makes people so drawn to conspiracy theories. What if those he has long dismissed as crazed loonies actually have a point? What if we are the sheeple and they've been right all along?

Join a wide-eyed, slightly jaded, adventurous tourist on a very different kind of sight-seeing trip.

DOM JOLY is an award-winning travel writer, broadcaster and comedian most famous for his internationally successful show *Trigger Happy TV*. His travel books include *The Dark Tourist*; *Scary Monsters, Super Creeps*; and *The Downhill Hiking Club*.

UK publication date: Robinson Books – November 2023

Praise for Dom Joly:

'Dom Joly writes travel books for people who don't usually read travel books. This is the best adventure I've had on my sofa for years. It's funny, weirdly informative and most importantly, blister-free.' – Jenny Éclair

'Compelling, enlightening, funny and yet serious too. This trip through Lebanon is both journey and reportage, both intimate and informative on this complex country.' – Simon Sebag Montefiore

'A total delight, from beginning to end. Immensely funny, and shot through with illuminating and telling insights into a country Joly clearly adores. I read it at a sitting and was charmed and enlightened by every page.' – John Simpson CBE, World Affairs Editor, BBC News

Material available: First draft (80k words)

Agent: Lesley Thorne



Fear

An Alternative History of the World

by Robert Peckham

A ground-breaking examination of the societal impact of fear that gives us a thrilling new insight on world history.

It's been said that, after 9/11, the 2008 financial crash and the Covid-19 pandemic, we're a more fearful society than ever before. Yet fear, and the panic it produces, have long been driving forces – perhaps *the* driving forces – of world history: fear of God, of famine, war, disease, poverty, and other people. In *Fear: An Alternative History of the World*, Robert Peckham considers the impact of fear in history, as both a coercive tool of power and a catalyst for social change.

Beginning with the Black Death in the fourteenth century, Peckham traces a shadow history of fear. He takes us through the French Revolution and the social movements of the nineteenth century to modern market crashes, Cold War paranoia and the AIDS pandemic, into a digital culture marked increasingly by uniquely twenty-first-century fears.

What did fear mean to us in the past, and how can a better understanding of it equip us to face the future? As Peckham demonstrates, fear can challenge as well as cement authority: some crises have destroyed societies; others have been the making of them. Through the stories of the people and the moments that changed history, *Fear: An Alternative History of the World* reveals how fear and panic made us who we are.

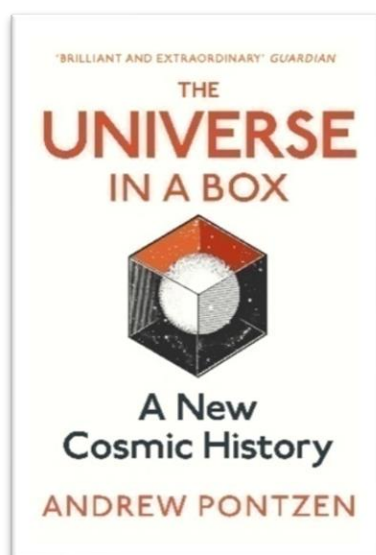
ROBERT PECKHAM is a cultural historian and founder of Open Cube, an organization that promotes the integration of the arts, science, and technology for health. He was previously Professor of History and MB Lee Endowed Professor in the Humanities and Medicine at the University of Hong Kong. He has held fellowships at Cambridge, Oxford, LSE, and King's College London, and been a visiting scholar at NYU. A fellow of the Royal Historical Society, he has published in *Foreign Affairs*, *New Statesman*, *Prospect*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*. He lives in New York.

UK publication date: Profile – September 2023

Rights sales for *Fear*: UK & Translation (Profile), Arabic (Arab Cultural Center), Spain (Paidós, Planeta); **Translation Rights handled by Aitken Alexander; Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Material available: First proofs (110k words)

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



The Universe in a Box

A New Cosmic History

by Andrew Pontzen

*How was our universe built?
What happened at its beginning?
And where do humans fit in?*

We are a minuscule part of an incredible continuum: a chain of events spanning 13.8 billion years, with an infinite future. But what does that future hold? And will we ever truly understand our cosmic home?

The Universe in a Box is Andrew Pontzen's tribute to simulation – the remarkable fusion of technology and science that, over the last century, has allowed us to understand the distant past and far future

of the universe. It challenges everything we think we know about galaxies, black holes and matter itself. And it reveals the pioneer scientists who unlocked mysteries of space, from redshift to improbable dark materials that pass, ghost-like, through solid rock.

Illuminating, provocative and bold, this is the story of the computer codes that allow us to look up, to learn, and to discover our place in the cosmos.

ANDREW PONTZEN is Professor of Cosmology at University College London, and a Royal Society University Research Fellow. His research, which has won national and international awards, uses galaxies and other structures observed by telescopes today to shed light on fundamental physics such as the nature of dark matter, dark energy, and the very early Universe. He worked with Stephen Hawking to write new updates for *A Brief History of Time*, and has written for the *New Scientist*, *BBC Sky at Night* and *BBC Focus*. He is also a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's *Inside Science* and *Curious Cases of Rutherford and Fry*, and a series of videos for TED-ED on Einstein's relativity, written and presented with Tom Whyntie, has been viewed more than 2.2 million times. In 2020 he was awarded the Royal Astronomical Society's Gerald Withrow Prize for bringing cosmology to wide audiences.

UK publication date: Jonathan Cape – 15th June 2023

Praise for *The Universe in a Box*:

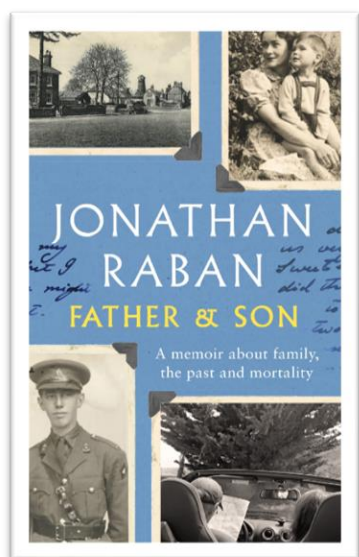
'This is a truly excellent exposition of a fascinating, little understood, and very important scientific activity. I was enlightened, amazed, and profoundly impressed. I've seldom seen a book (and this is an age of really good writing about science for the general public) so clear, so vivid, and so full of - well, interesting things. I hope it reaches a very wide audience and sells in the millions. I was thrilled to read about your own research, and your ability to describe and evoke the vast mystery of the universe is really admirable. It was a delight to read.' – Philip Pullman

'Andrew Pontzen gives a vivid perspective on what it's like to be a scientist trying to 'model' the universe - and doesn't shy away from highlighting the mysteries that are coming into focus. This fascinating book, written with clarity and zest, deserves wide readership.' – Martin Rees

Rights sales for *The Universe in a Box*: UK (Jonathan Cape), US (Riverhead), Czech (Argo), Italy (Adelphi), Japan (Diamond), Korea (RH), Netherlands (Atlas Contact), Poland (Zysk), Russia (AST), Spain (Debate).

Material available: Final PDF

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



Father and Son by Jonathan Raban

The final work from the peerless man of letters is a tremendous, continent-sweeping story of love and resilience in the face of immense loss.

On 11 June 2011, three days short of his sixty-ninth birthday, Jonathan Raban suffered a stroke which left him unable to use the right side of his body. Learning to use a wheelchair in a rehab facility outside Seattle and resisting the ministrations of the nurses overseeing his recovery, Raban began to reflect upon the measure of his own life in the face of his own mortality. Together with the chronicle of his recovery is the extraordinary story of his parents' marriage, the early years of which were conducted by letter while his father fought in the Second World War.

Jonathan Raban engages profoundly and candidly with some of the biggest questions at the heart of what it means to be alive, laying bare the human capacity to withstand trauma, as well as the warmth, strength, and humour that persist despite it.

JONATHAN RABAN was the author of over a dozen books, both fiction and non-fiction, including *Passage to Juneau*, *Bad Land*, *Hunting Mister Heartbreak*, *Coasting*, *Old Glory*, *Arabia*, *Soft City*, *Waxwings* and *Surveillance*. Over the span of six decades, he won the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Royal Society of Literature's Heinemann Award, the Thomas Cook Award, the PEN West Creative Nonfiction Award, the Pacific Northwest Booksellers' Award, and the Governor's Award of the State of Washington. His work appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *Harpers*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Outside*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *New Republic*, *The London Review of Books*, and other magazines. In 1990 Raban, a British citizen, moved from London to Seattle, where he lived with his daughter until his death in 2023.

UK publication date: Picador – 14th September 2023

Praise for *Father and Son*:

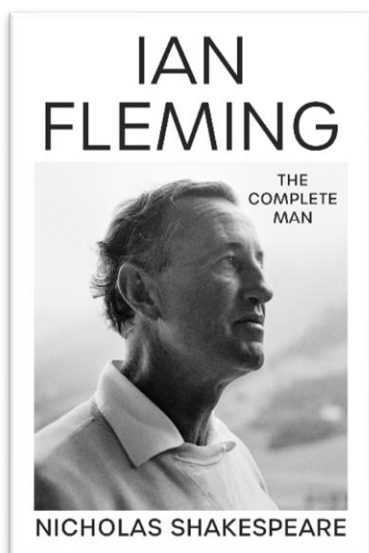
‘A world war fought on three fronts by a young artillery officer; a courtship, marriage and forced separation in a hesitant, old-fashioned English style; a sudden, devastating upheaval in the author's own life – Jonathan Raban deploys the skills of an accomplished novelist to braid these elements into a beautiful, compelling memoir drawn from his parents' wartime love letters. He is a master, as he has shown in his legendary travel writing, of summoning place and people with vivid economy. Haunting, *Father and Son* is an exquisite, sometimes lunatic tension between powerful emotions and carnage on one side, and on the other, the conventional codes of what must remain unsaid. This, Raban's final work, is a gorgeous achievement.’

– Ian McEwan

Previous publishers for Jonathan Raban: Belgium (Nevicata), Brazil (Objetiva), China (Nanjing University Press), Estonia (Varrak), France (Hoebeke), Germany (Mare Verlag), Israel (Am Oved), Italy (Einaudi), Japan (Tokyo Sogen Sha), Netherlands (Atlas Contact), Portugal (Quetzal), Russia (AST), Spain (Peninsula), Sweden (Norstedts), Taiwan (Marco Polo).

Material available: First proofs

Agent: Clare Alexander



Ian Fleming *The Complete Man* by Nicholas Shakespeare

A fresh portrait of the man behind James Bond, and his enduring impact, by an award-winning biographer and novelist with unprecedented access to the Fleming Archive.

Ian Fleming's greatest creation, James Bond, has had an enormous and ongoing impact on our culture. What Bond represents about ideas of masculinity, the British national psyche and global politics has shifted over time, as has the interpretation of the life of his author. But Fleming himself was more mysterious and subtle than anything he wrote.

Ian's childhood with his gifted brother Peter and his extraordinary mother set the pattern for his ambition to be 'the complete man', and he would strive for the means to achieve this 'completeness' all his life. Only a writer for his last twelve years, his dramatic personal life and impressive career in Naval Intelligence put him at the heart of critical moments in world history, while also providing rich inspiration for his fiction. Exceptionally well connected, and widely travelled, from the United States and Soviet Russia to his beloved Jamaica, Ian had access to the most powerful political figures at a time of profound change.

Nicholas Shakespeare is one of the most gifted biographers working today. His talent for uncovering material that casts new light on his subjects is fully evident in this masterful, definitive biography. His unprecedented access to the Fleming archives and his nose for a story make this a fresh and eye-opening picture of a man who lived his life in the shadow of his famous creation.

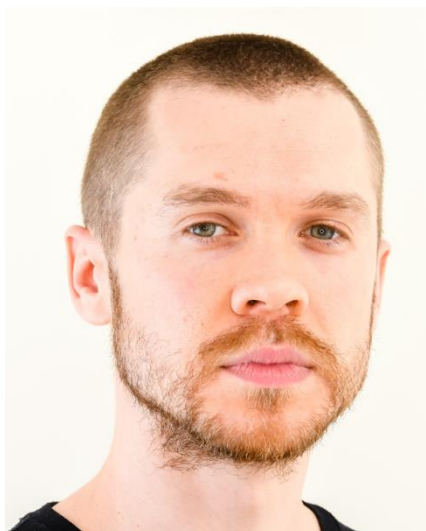
NICHOLAS SHAKESPEARE was born in 1957. His books have been translated into twenty-two languages. They include *The Vision of Elena Silves* (winner of the Somerset Maugham Award), *Snowleg*, *The Dancer Upstairs*, *Inheritance*, *Priscilla* and *Six Minutes in May*. He has been longlisted for the Booker Prize twice and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

UK publication date: Harvill Secker – 5th October 2023

Rights sales for *Ian Fleming*: UK (Harvill Secker), US (HarperCollins).

Material available: Edited manuscript

Agent: Clare Alexander



The Trading Game

by Gary Stevenson

In 2011, 25-year-old Gary Stevenson became Citibank's most profitable trader in the world. In 2014, he gave it all up. Why would a millionaire trader give up a job he's dreamed of since being a kid? Why does nobody else seem to see what he sees? And for how many years does he have to be right before people start to listen?

Gary Stevenson grew up in Ilford on the outskirts of East London, in a little terraced house sandwiched between an abandoned factory and a recycling centre. His was an upbringing dominated by poverty – the threat of it hanging over his family and the families of the friends on his street he used to play football with. But then the skyscrapers of Canary Wharf started to emerge on the horizon, offering the possibility of something bigger.

The path to those towers starts at the London School of Economics. While there he hears about a competition run by Citigroup: The Trading Game, a maths-based card game open to students at the UK's top universities. He wins. The prize: one internship on the trading floor, which turns into a job offer on an unfashionable desk trading interest rates.

In 2008, at 21, he has a front-row seat as colleagues on other desks explode the world economy. But while friends at Lehman Brothers are losing their jobs, Gary and his immediate colleagues are thriving. At the end of his first year he is handed an enormous bonus – more money than he'd ever imagined – but something about it doesn't make sense. Traders and economists keep on predicting things will get better, but he's seen what's happening to ordinary people back home in Ilford. They're losing their homes, their jobs and their savings, while the rich keep getting richer.

By 2011 he understood why: inequality was the problem. Wealth flowed from governments and ordinary families to an increasingly super-rich elite, draining the spending power of the middle and working classes. That could only mean one thing: that there would never be an economic recovery. House prices would rise, real wages would fall, broad living standards would collapse. He went back to his desk and put a huge bet on the death of the global economy. By the end of the year he was Citibank's most profitable trader globally. He was also a millionaire.

But for how long is it possible to make money by betting on the immiseration of those closest to you? Not long, it turns out. Within a couple of years, depressed and disillusioned, Gary quit. And then all hell broke loose...

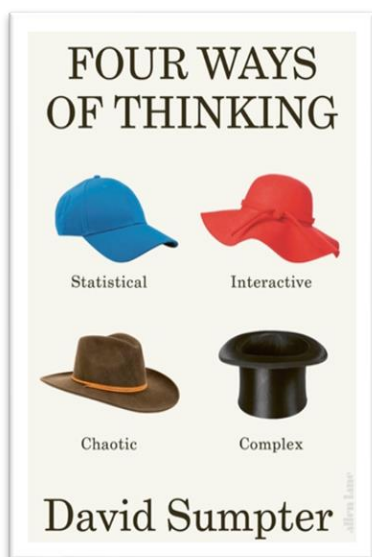
GARY STEVENSON left trading in 2014, convinced that solving inequality was the only way to repair the world economy. Since then he has studied for an MSc at Oxford, volunteered at economic think tanks and founded a YouTube channel, GarysEconomics, which explains real-life economic problems to ordinary people. He has written for the *Guardian*, *New Statesman*, *Mirror*, *OpenDemocracy* and others, been profiled by the *Observer* and the *New Statesman*, and appears regularly on television and radio.

UK publication date: Allen Lane – February 2024

Rights sales for *The Trading Game*: UK (Allen Lane), US (Crown), Germany (Ariston, Heyne), Japan (Hayakawa), Netherlands (Ambo Anthos).

Material available: First draft (115k words)

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



Four Ways of Thinking A Journey into Human Complexity by David Sumpter

Beyond all the facts and figures, there is just one question at the heart of science: what is the best way to think about the world? Yet in our everyday lives, this is something we rarely consider. How often do we wonder about our own thinking and how it might impact the way we approach our daily decisions? How it might help or hinder our relationships, our careers, or even our health?

Acclaimed mathematician David Sumpter has spent decades pondering what we could all learn from the attitudes and mindsets of scientists. *Four Ways of Thinking* is the result. Combining engaging personal experience with insightful analyses of everyday conundrums and life choices - from how to bicker less with our partners to the best way to pitch to an unreceptive audience - Sumpter shows there are four easily applied approaches to our problems: statistical, interactive, chaotic and complex.

With warmth and wit - and a tiny bit of number crunching - he guides us through all four, revealing how these tried and tested ways of thinking can change our lives. Along the way, he tells the inspiring stories of the ground-breaking mathematicians, biologists and rocket scientists who first put them into practice and transformed the world.

DAVID SUMPTER is Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. He is the author of *The Ten Equations That Rule The World*, *Soccermatics* and *Outnumbered*, which have been translated into ten languages, and *Collective Animal Behaviour*, the leading text in the academic field he helped create. He has worked with a number of the world's biggest football clubs, advising on analytics, as well as consulting on betting.

UK publication date: Allen Lane – 31st August 2023

Praise for previous title, *The Ten Equations*:

◆ An international bestseller ◆

‘An entertaining tour that will change how you see the world.’ – Sean Carroll, author of *Something Deeply Hidden*

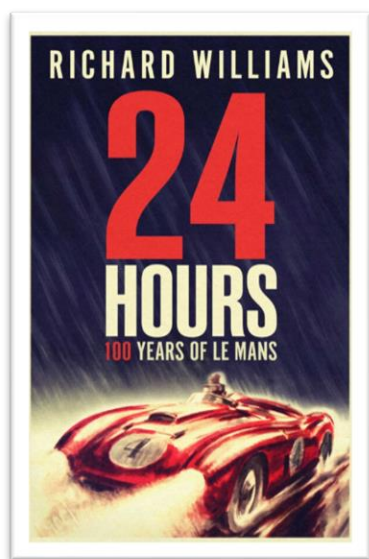
‘Sometimes books about numbers come along and we’re so ecstatic that we just pop with delight. One such book is *The Ten Equations that Rule The World*.’ – Tim Harford, More or Less BBC4

Rights sales for previous title, *The Ten Equations*: UK (Allen Lane), US (Flatiron), Brazil (Bertrand), China (Shandong Savanne Culture Communication Co), Japan (Kobunsha), Russia (MIF), Sweden (Mondial), Taiwan (Briefing Press).

Rights sales for *Four Ways of Thinking*: UK (Allen Lane), US (Flatiron), China (CITIC); **Japanese co-agent:** Tuttle Mori.

Material available: First draft (80k words)

Agent: Chris Wellbelove



24 Hours *100 Years of Le Mans* by Richard Williams

Award-winning writer Richard Williams tells the remarkable story of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, one of the world's most iconic motorsports events, which celebrates its centenary in 2023.

The event was created by a group of Frenchmen in 1923 and remains uniquely compelling to spectators, to the major motor manufacturers who continue to see it as an opportunity for priceless publicity, as well as to drivers hoping to add their names to its distinguished roll of honour. Between the wars, those manufacturers included Bugatti, Bentley and Alfa Romeo. Subsequently, Ferrari, Jaguar, Mercedes, Aston Martin, Ford, Porsche, Audi and Toyota have all been serial winners, guaranteeing the continuation of ferocious inter-marque

rivalry.

Over the decades the race acquired a rich folklore, including stories of leaking petrol tanks being sealed with chewing gum, one competitor making his last pit-stop for a fill-up and a glass of champagne, or the woman who drove her MG through the night wearing a fur coat. Competitors have included princes, debutantes, drug smugglers and a Nazi spy. Leading Hollywood film-makers lured to the romance of the race include Steve McQueen, who conceived and starred in *Le Mans* in 1971, and James Mangold, who made *Le Mans '66* in 2019. But in 1955 it had also been the scene of the greatest tragedy ever to befall motor racing, when 82 people were killed by a competing car, an accident that for a while threatened the sport's entire future.

From the Bentley Boys of the 1920s, through record-breaking multiple winners Jacky Ickx and Tom Kristensen to modern stars such as Allan McNish, *24 Hours* celebrates the skill, courage and technical brilliance of the men and women who gave the race its worldwide renown.

RICHARD WILLIAMS was the chief sportswriter of the *Guardian* from 1995 to 2012, having previously worked for *The Times* and the *Independent*. He was the original presenter of BBC2's *The Old Grey Whistle Test* and was the artistic director of the Berlin Jazz Festival from 2015-17. Among his previous books are *The Death of Ayrton Senna* (1995), *The Last Road Race* (2004) and *A Race with Love and Death* (2020). His most recent publication is *The Boy* (Simon & Schuster, 2021).

UK publication date: Simon & Schuster – 25th May 2023

Rights sales for *24 Hours*: Simon & Schuster (World English)

Material available: First proofs

Agent: Clare Alexander