

27.06.25

ISSN 0006-7539  
9 770006 753118

# THE BOOKSELLER

At the heart of the book trade since 1858.

£5.95

## Jacaranda

Spreads fresh roots

BLACK  
ISSUE



**SAREETA DOMINGO**

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR



**MAGDALENE ABRAHA**

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

US EXPANSION • AWARD WINNING LISTS • GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS • INCLUSIVE PUBLISHING



27.06.25

# THE BOOKSELLER

ISSN 0006-7539  
9 770006 753181



## Diaspora Noir

Foday Mannah  
on the power of  
language to root  
a story in lived  
experience



## Break barriers

Mireille Harper  
and other trade  
figures assess  
Black publishing  
in the UK

At the heart of the Black Publishing Focus 858.

£5.95

Women's Prize  
for Fiction winner  
Tayari Jones discusses  
her new novel *Kin* as  
part of this year's  
Black Publishing Focus

folk

PP28-39

# Your voice matters.

Submit your audiobook  
or audio drama today.





Issue 6,114

On the cover  
Tayari Jones  
photographed by  
Tyson Horne

# Welcome

Letter

# Will Black authors ultimately receive the long-term support they need? Natasha Onwuemezi

Associate editor, The Bookseller



Each year, the Black publishing issue offers a critical pause: a moment to reflect, not only on the books, voices and visions shaping Black British publishing today, but also on the wider systems in which they are trying to thrive. It is an issue produced with care, but also with urgency – because the stories shared here are not new. What is new is the increasing clarity with which they are being told, the precision with which patterns are being named, and the deepening call for change that will not settle for surface-level progress.

In many of the conversations we have had this year – with debut and established authors, publishers, editors and DEI leads – a shared thread has emerged: exhaustion with short-termism. As author and publisher Jasmine Richards puts it: “We are always the new voices. Give me established franchises. Give me a deep



In many of the conversations we have had this year, a shared thread has emerged: exhaustion with short-termism

backlist and a long tail.” That desire, to build enduring careers, deep backlists and lifelong readerships, is echoed across these pages. We hear from writers such as Mel Pennant, whose late-in-life debut raises sharp questions about sustainability and support, and from Jacob Ross, associate editor at Peepal Tree Press, who reflects that mainstream publishers often invest in individual books, rather than in developing careers of writers – a pattern with serious implications for the longevity of Black authors.

What this issue of *The Bookseller* makes painfully clear is that the challenges facing Black professionals in publishing are not due to a lack of talent, tenacity or readership. The work is being done: books are being written, audiences reached and networks built. But the infrastructure around that work too often falls short. And yet, time and again, it is Black authors, editors and entrepreneurs who are plugging the gaps, with time, money, mentorship and emotional labour.

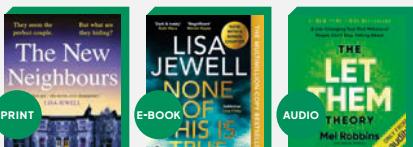
This year’s preview of forthcoming Black-authored books is thrilling in scope and substance. From genre-bending fantasies to urgent political memoirs, from retellings and “untellings” to bold experiments in form, these titles signal not a niche, but a rich and varied canon in motion. And still, the question remains: will they get the support they need to succeed, not just at launch, but long-term? That is the provocation at the heart of this issue. Not simply who gets published, but what happens next. Who gets to fail and be backed again? Who gets to grow? Who gets the benefit of the doubt?

Representation has moved beyond the page; it is now about power, positioning and permanence. What does it look like to truly invest in Black publishing? To see it not as a one-season cause or crisis response, but as a vital and valuable pillar of our literary landscape?

We continue to see glimpses of what a more equitable, expansive industry could look like – one that does not relegate Black writers and professionals to token roles or one-off debuts, but invests in long-term careers, platforms and creative freedom. This issue is our way of keeping the focus sharp – of refusing to let the conversation fade, and insisting that progress must look different this time.

## Contents In this week's magazine

The official charts  
This week's number ones



Average selling price

**£9.56**

Year/Yearrise

**2.2%**

p40

### Books

#### Author Profiles:

Louis Sachar	6-7
Patricia Lockwood	8-9
Jack Mackay	10-11
Paperback Preview	12-24

#### Black Publishing Focus

State of Play	28-29
Peepal Tree Press	30-31
Q&A: Tayari Jones	32
Q&A: Foday Mannah	33



#### Spotlight: Listings

**34-39**

#### Charts

The Official UK Top 50 **40**

Fiction **42**

Non-Fiction **43**

Children's **44**

Audio & Digital **45**

Market Spotlight **46**

#### Classified

Jobs in Books **48**

Leader

Comment

05

## Books

# Author Profile

## Louis Sachar

The bestselling author of *Holes* makes his adult fiction debut with a Renaissance-set tale featuring a hairless magician, a rebellious princess and a medieval Italian castle. **Katie Fraser** reports



**Imprint**  
Mountain Leopard Press

**Publication**

5th August 2025

**Format/s**

HB (9781035426591, £20); EB (9781035426621, £20)

**Rights sold**

Three territories including US (Berkley)

**Editor**

Bethany Wickett

**Agent**

Sam Birmingham, Trident Media Group

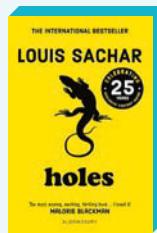
**I**t feels like one of those rare pinch-me moments when I sit down to interview acclaimed children's author Louis Sachar over video call. Like many, I remember reading *Holes* at school and becoming completely swept up in the capers of Stanley Yelnats and the mystery at the heart of Camp Green Lake Detention Centre.

Adults who read Sachar as children will recall his whip-smart dialogue, humour and propulsive plotting. Now, 46 years into his career and 23 children's books later, he has brought the same skill, wit and verve to his enchanting adult debut, *The Magician of Tiger Castle*. "It's like I've suddenly become famous again," he says, eyes twinkling. "All the kids who read my books are now in positions of being critics, reviewers, publishers or booksellers. When I was starting out, the people in power had their favourites, and now I'm the one they look at and remember from their childhood."

*The Magician of Tiger Castle* opens in the present-day, where we meet Anatole sitting, sipping a cappuccino and admiring the turrets of the medieval Tiger Castle. Anatole is no mere tourist, but an unageing magician who worked



## Key backlist



## Holes

Bloomsbury, £7.99, 9781408865231  
Winner of the National Book Award and the John Newbery Medal 1999, *Holes* has become a children's classic. "One of those instant classics that adults, as well as children over eight, will thoroughly enjoy," said the *Daily Telegraph*.

735,097

TCM copies sold



## Small Steps

Bloomsbury, £7.99, 9780747583455  
The sequel to *Holes* follows Armpit three years after he leaves Camp Green Lake Detention Centre. "Funny dialogue, a fast-moving story, some emotive scenes, an interesting central character," said the *Guardian*.

144,146

TCM copies sold

at the castle hundreds of years ago, during the Renaissance. Think the Arthurian Merlin, if he were much grumpier, prone to bouts of self-aggrandising and had a penchant for tea-drinking. The novel is told through the eyes of this jaded, disgruntled man, who recounts part of his time spent in Tiger Castle working in the service of King Sandro and Queen Corinna, rulers of the Italian kingdom of Esquaveta.

Anatole recalls a time when he had fallen in the estimation of the court, having suffered what the magician terms a series of "temporary setbacks". An opportunity to ingratiate himself with the king and queen soon arises when, weeks before Princess Tullia's arranged marriage to Prince Dalrympl of Oxatania, she announces her love for the scribe Pito and reneges on the betrothal. Pito is thrown in the dungeons pending execution and Anatole suggests an ambitious solution to save the marriage: he will concoct a memory-loss potion that will erase all memories of Pito from the rebellious princess' mind.

However, while testing prototypes on Pito, Anatole's motives become conflicted. Can he leave this innocent man to be publicly executed, or should he perform an extraordinary rescue mission? His choice will change his fate and that of the two kingdoms. Welcome to Esquaveta, a world of wonder, trickery and strong-willed princesses, where the fate of two kingdoms rests on the shoulders of a hapless magician.

I always thought I wanted to write an adult book. I didn't start out thinking I wanted to be a children's writer

Sachar beautifully reimagines Renaissance Italy in a story that reads like myth, brimming with wit and daring escapades. Tullia and Pito's relationship harkens to some of the key tenets of legend – fate, love lost and, perhaps, regained. But Sachar did not set out to write adult fiction. *The Magician of Tiger Castle* began life as a YA novel, but the story "evolved" when, three drafts into his usual six-draft procedure, Sachar realised "this isn't a book for kids".

"I always thought I wanted to write an adult book. I didn't start out thinking I wanted to be a children's writer. I wrote my first book after helping out at a primary school and thought: 'Ok, I'll try writing a kids' book.' After that, I just felt a lot more comfortable writing children's books. I felt in control. I felt if I wanted to write for adults, it had to be great." For Sachar, because *The Magician of Tiger Castle* began as a YA novel, "there wasn't that same pressure". Sachar also is not sure whether, at the age of 71, he can "relate to kids anymore". He continues: "I'm just a lot older, but I can relate to the same people who grew up reading my books."

Originally, Anatole was a secondary character, simply narrating the fraught love story of Tullia and Pito. But, in typical Anatole fashion, he

barged his way through to centre stage. "I became completely enamoured with Anatole... He became my alter ego while writing it." One key similarity Sachar points to is their shared love of tea. "I'd make a pot of tea every morning. I've got a special teapot, and I use this crude pottery mug I got in Italy. I would just become Anatole for those few hours when I would write." Sachar favours Dragon Well green tea and I have since noticed that Anatole enjoys Dragon Pearls green tea in the novel.

For Sachar, there is "something special" about the Renaissance and the medieval world, a time where industrialisation was yet to take hold and ambiguity and uncertainty were part of everyday life. "The world seems more magical when there's wilderness and there's still wild animals around. Everything [now] is too mechanised and getting too homogenous." There is undoubtedly something intrinsically magical about Sachar's medieval castle and the realms of possibility that lie beyond it.

Although the story contains magical elements, Sachar does not see it as a fantasy novel. "That's the problem, everything has to be labelled, but I don't think of it that way." He continues: "Because most of my books are for young people, I get letters from kids asking me what genre *Holes* is or something like that. I never think in terms of genre. I tell them that's not my job. I'm just trying to write an engaging story." The fantastical elements in *The Magician of Tiger Castle* are sparse, folding into the narrative more as a product of the wonder and uncertainty of the historical period rather than as a separate magic system.

Anatole's magical abilities lie at the boundary between science and magic, an idea inspired by two online lecture series on the Renaissance and medieval world by Professor Jennifer McNabb and Professor Dorsey Armstrong, respectively. "One of the things the lecturers said was that magic and science were two sides of the same coin [in this period]," explains Sachar. "I liked the idea of a world where people are still just figuring things out."

Anatole's potion success rate appears to fall into what Sachar enjoys about the period – the sense that everyone is still figuring things out. One inadvertent side effect of a potion designed to "limit human perspiration" has rendered Anatole completely bald across his entire body. He may be hairless, but he also lost the ability to sweat, which, although it may sound appealing to the average London commuter, does seem to leave the magician with a myriad of overheating problems.

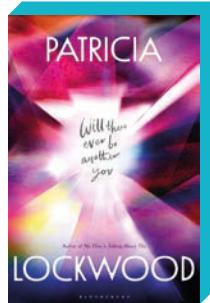
*The Magician of Tiger Castle* is a beguiling tale of fate, morality and adventure. Anatole learns that true transformation occurs, not from a potion, but from true love. It is a strangely comforting thought to think of this exceptionally bald magician observing the workings of our world. As Sachar says, "he is this peculiar person still bopping around". Best keep an eye out.

# Author Profile

## Patricia Lockwood

Lockwood balances humour with pathos as she reflects on the Covid-19 pandemic in her second novel.

**Daisy Game** reports



**Imprint**  
Bloomsbury Circus  
**Publication**  
23rd September 2025  
**Formats**  
HB (9781526689207, £16.99), EB (9781526689221, £11.89)

**Editor**  
Alexis Kirschbaum  
**Agent**  
Caspian Dennis,  
Abner Stein



**S**omeone from my lovely publicity team at Bloomsbury said it's like losing your phone for three weeks..."

Patricia Lockwood and I are discussing what it feels like to read her new semi-autobiographical novel, *Will There Ever Be Another You* (WTEBAY). By the writer's own admission, this is no easy task.

A slippery, disorientating story penned during the Covid-19 pandemic, WTEBAY is, in the words of its female protagonist, an "attempt to write a masterpiece about confusion". After contracting the virus, she develops a series of mind-melting neurological symptoms. Reality begins to buckle: floorboards become frightening, an angel can be seen "flapping in the corner" of her eye and Shakespeare's wife is spotted sipping espresso while "dressed as an equestrian", writes Lockwood. "She feels like all of her component parts have been disassembled and sent up into the whirlwind," the poet, essayist and Booker Prize-longlisted novelist says of her fictional counterpart. The only thing keeping her on the straight and narrow(ish) is a determination to "put the writing mind back together". From Lockwood's own experience, "part of the trouble of trying to write through the pandemic was that it was just your own echoing voice. There was no conversation. You were completely reliant upon this echoing, compounded voice of your own. People became multiplied in themselves... I felt that, in a way, the book was about the process of putting together a self".



**I'm not the sort of writer who feels the need to draw veils over my work. If anyone asks me what in a particular book is true and what is false, I'll just tell them**

It is a strange and unsettling thing to return to lockdown through fiction. Lockwood's prose – littered with swab tests, masks, news "of fish and animals shyly returning to natural habitats" – snags on a still-soft wound. Not many novelists, I suggest, have attempted such a direct treatment of the pandemic.

"I think that we've really attempted to cover over this time – to shut a door," Lockwood agrees. "But the reality is that we all went through it together, and even people who didn't experience what I specifically experienced had some sense of it, I think. With the first pandemic, we swept it under the rug. We were like: 'Okay, we're moving directly on to the Roaring Twenties. All of us have lost 40% of our brains and we're just going to send it straight into dancing the Charleston, living it up.' It was like bathtub gin and that sort of thing..."

Noggin for Lockwood, mind. The writer spent her post-Covid-19 years soberly searching through the seven notebooks she filled while sick for the bones of WTEBAY. "It is really interesting to have written it as a lunatic, but to have edited it as a sane person," she observes. Lockwood has no qualms publicly declaring the role her personal life plays in each of her books; the writer's oeuvre includes the much-lauded memoir *Priestdaddy*, an account of the year she moved back in with her father, a born-again Catholic priest. If anything, Lockwood explains, maintaining a porous boundary between fiction and fact can be helpful. "If a story arrives in my ear in that fictional voice – if I tell myself it's fiction – then I do feel freer to write down things that are true. It's a paradox, right?" she considers. "I'm not the sort of writer who feels the need to draw veils over my work. If anyone asks me what in a particular book is true and what is false, I'll just tell them."

Lockwood first documented her brain's response to the virus in an essay for the *London Review of Books*, where she is contributing editor, titled *Insane After Coronavirus?*. WTEBAY is an extended, semi-fictionalised "insanity narrative" based on the same experience. "Reading it afterwards, in a much better state of health and mind, I thought: 'Wow, this really creates a very accurate clinical picture of this state.' All of her perceptions, all of her sensory or cognitive distortions, are true..."

Despite her penchant for weightier subjects – the pandemic, organised religion (*Priestdaddy*), the ramifications of being chronically online (*No One Is Talking About This*) – Lockwood is also expert at the tonal U-turn, often pulling the manoeuvre within a single sentence. "For a moment I was in danger of telling her everything: fear of my floors, the Refrains, how I knew I was separating from the common run because I no longer believed that Meryl Streep could act," riffs WTEBAY's protagonist from the therapy couch.

"This is the thing that I'm always trying to present," says Lockwood on her ability to balance light with dark: "How can life be this 360-degree mirror ball, where you're seeing all these things at once – all these things coexisting?" When I suggest that being able to see the everyday through such a holistic lens is a skill in itself, she demurs that "it's certainly a muscle that had to be flexed... I feel that sometimes when people choose a lens – this is going to have gravity, or this is going to be hilarious – you put the other side of things in your own blind spot. But if you can just open yourself up like a sieve and let everything rush through, some things are going to catch."

There are times, however, when even Lockwood has no interest in hearing the punchline: "It was difficult for a lot of poets during the first Trump administration. Because you're like – wait, is this a completely frivolous thing? Should I be outside, boots on the ground? Is there something concrete I can

## Key backlist



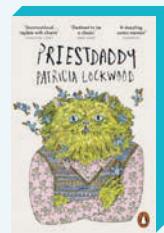
### No One Is Talking About This

Bloomsbury, £8.99, PB,  
9781526629777

Shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2021, Lockwood's debut novel is "a masterpiece", said the *Guardian*.

**46,351**

TCM copies sold



### Priestdaddy

Penguin, £9.99, PB,  
9780141984599

Winner of the 2018 Thurber Prize for American Humor.

**12,780**

TCM copies sold



### Motherland Fatherland Homelandsexuals

Penguin, £7.99, PB,  
9780141984865

"Surreal, funny and subversive," said the *Sunday Times* of Lockwood's second poetry collection.

**2,557**

TCM copies sold

be doing? A lot of the people I know and knew who write poetry, a lot of us slowed down at that time." It took a moment of almost divine inspiration for Lockwood, who tells me she considers poetry her most grounding medium, to feel her way back to verse. "I started writing this Sylvia Plath piece for the *London Review of Books*, and I was doing all of my background reading, and about halfway through reading her collected poems, I just picked up my pen – it was like I was suddenly hearing a radio station – and started to write poetry again. In the middle of writing this essay, I wrote an entire collection," she marvels, telling me with endearing glee that this had not happened before, or since.

During Trump's current second presidential term – "Oh God," Lockwood groans – she has chosen to travel in a different direction entirely: back to prose, and back in time. Set in 1947, Lockwood's next novel is a historical fantasy exploring the "great post-war flowering of the arts". Not what you would expect from a writer who ordinarily chooses to home in on reality, not create an alternate version of it.

"I'm going to give it a whirl – to off-balance people," she laughs: "Sometimes it's just fun to build a world – more fun than having to build on paper the world that we live in." Once again, balancing light with dark.

Books

# Author Profile

## Jack Mackay

When his 12-year-old sister started showing interest in the horror genre, Mackay spotted a gap in the market. The author talks to **Charlotte Eyre** about the process of writing scary stories for younger readers



**Imprint**

Rock the Boat

**Publication**

14th August 2025

**Formats**

PB (9780861549528, £7.99); EB (9780861549535, £3.99)

**Rights sold**

Five territories to date including the US (Viking)

**Editor**

Katie Jennings

**Agent**

Savanna Wicks, Curtis Brown

**H**orror is one of the best genres ever.”

Jack Mackay, the author of the soon-to-be-released *Gloam* (Rock the Boat), is speaking about his debut novel – a children’s horror story for readers aged nine to 12. “You can get into things that you just can’t in other genres. It’s the best place to talk about things that exist in the world and that a lot of kids experience, but don’t have the tools to understand. Fiction and storytelling is the best arena for kids to get a linguistic and psychological grasp on things that are quite abstractly frightening.”

In Mackay’s debut novel, due to be published in August, four siblings go to live at their late grandmother’s remote house with their stepfather following the death of their mother. The children are isolated – both in terms of literal space and because they have lost family members – so their well-meaning stepfather’s solution is to hire a babysitter. The family is initially taken in, but oldest sibling Gwen realises that there is something not quite right with the beautiful and seemingly perfect Esme. Her instinct is, of course, correct, and the children soon find themselves fighting off a terrifying monster and creatures from their nightmares that have come to life.

*Gloam* is one of Rock the Boat’s most important titles this year (publication will be supported by the company’s biggest marketing campaign of 2025) and rights have sold in France, Brazil, Italy, Croatia and the US. WF Howes is producing the audiobook and Indira Varma is set to narrate. Not bad going for a debut author who is, at the time of writing, only 21 years old. So where did the idea for *Gloam* come from? Partly from his grandparents’ house – a big, country home that was an important part of Mackay’s childhood – and partly from the desire to write something for his younger sister.

“My sister was 12 and really getting into horror stories. She loved anything that was slightly spooky and that pushed the boundaries in terms of the scare factor,” says Mackay. “She wanted to watch things like Halloween and Alien and I noticed that there isn’t as much as I thought there was in terms of horror for that age range. I thought I should write something that suits that age range and test it out on my siblings.”

The fictional family came first and, once they were in place, Mackay – who “loves” designing villains and monsters – thought to himself: what are they frightened of? “Guillermo del Toro [the film director] has a big affinity for monsters and he always talks about how monsters are living symbols in horror fiction,” he says. “That was the angle I was trying to take.”

Gwen, for example, is scared of her childhood slipping away and is feeling the loss of her mother quite strongly, so when she enters into her nightmare in a climactic moment she sees mouldering childhood toys and photographs, plus a creature that bears an unpleasant resemblance to someone she knows. There is also a character called the Stitchy Man, which

represents the twins’ fear of being permanently inseparable and not seen as individuals.

Esme is, however, the most truly frightening thing about the whole book. Mackay agrees, saying that for him the most terrifying scene is when she drops her perfect persona just for a moment and it is only Gwen who notices.

“It is a moment of quite realistic abusive power against a child. The thing that freaks you out is that in that moment you are at the complete mercy of someone who is significantly older and more powerful, and who has the trust of the authority figures in the house.” That, says Mackay, is more frightening than any kind of stereotypical monster figure.

Mackay began writing at a young age and speaks with love and affection about his grandfather, who nurtured the young Jack’s literary enthusiasm. The writer first submitted a story to publishers at the age of 11 (it did not get picked up because it was “obviously terrible”), and he tried a couple more times in his teens. He also studied English at “every level” of education, never entertaining the idea of being something other than a writer.



### Just because horror is scary and intense doesn’t mean that it can’t be life-affirming

“I think the first story I wrote was called ‘Grandad Stinks’ and I wrote that on a magnetic board and gave it to my grandad. We used to tell each other stories and I was always read to as a kid. All of that stuff rolled together turned into me wanting to be a storyteller forever, if I can.”

Mackay remembers *Bloody Horowitz* (and the sequel *More Bloody Horowitz*), the collections of horror stories by Anthony Horowitz, including one about a man whose wife replaces his suncream with cooking oil. At the end he runs into a wall in agony, leaving a red imprint behind. “It was so spooky and visceral and visual. That’s the kind of stuff you don’t find anywhere else when you’re a kid. It feels like you’ve stumbled across some sort of secret, forbidden, ancient text.”

For Mackay, horror can also be uplifting, something which comes across in *Gloam*. The aforementioned stepfather is a figure who provides love and support, even if he does introduce the terrifying Esme, and Mackay, who calls his own stepfather “dad”, wanted to show how those relationships can be positive and loving. He also shows a group of siblings who, despite the monsters and the nightmares, come out on top.

“[*Gloam*] is a story about being young, having all the odds stacked against you and still banding together and reaching out to take the power back... Just because it’s horror and it’s scary and intense doesn’t mean that it can’t be life-affirming. It can be full of love and joy and show a real passion for life.”

### Extract

At the bleakest edge of the world, crammed into a car that was much too small for five people, Gwen watched as *Gloam* Island loomed closer and closer. If she had been told a few months ago that this place would one day be her home, she would have laughed, then cried, then she probably would have punched a wall.

‘I’m squashed,’ said Hazel.

‘I’m hungry,’ said Hester.

Hazel and Hester Clayton-Fenn were twins, six years old and identical to the pore, dark-haired and freckled with matching button noses. They writhed against their seatbelts.

Gwen was sat in the passenger seat with her suitcase in the footwell. She was both squashed and hungry, but she was thirteen, which meant she was old enough to keep her complaints to herself. She returned her attention to her notebook, where she was writing her latest story. This one was going to be a bestseller and she couldn’t afford to get distracted.

‘How much longer?’ muttered Roger.

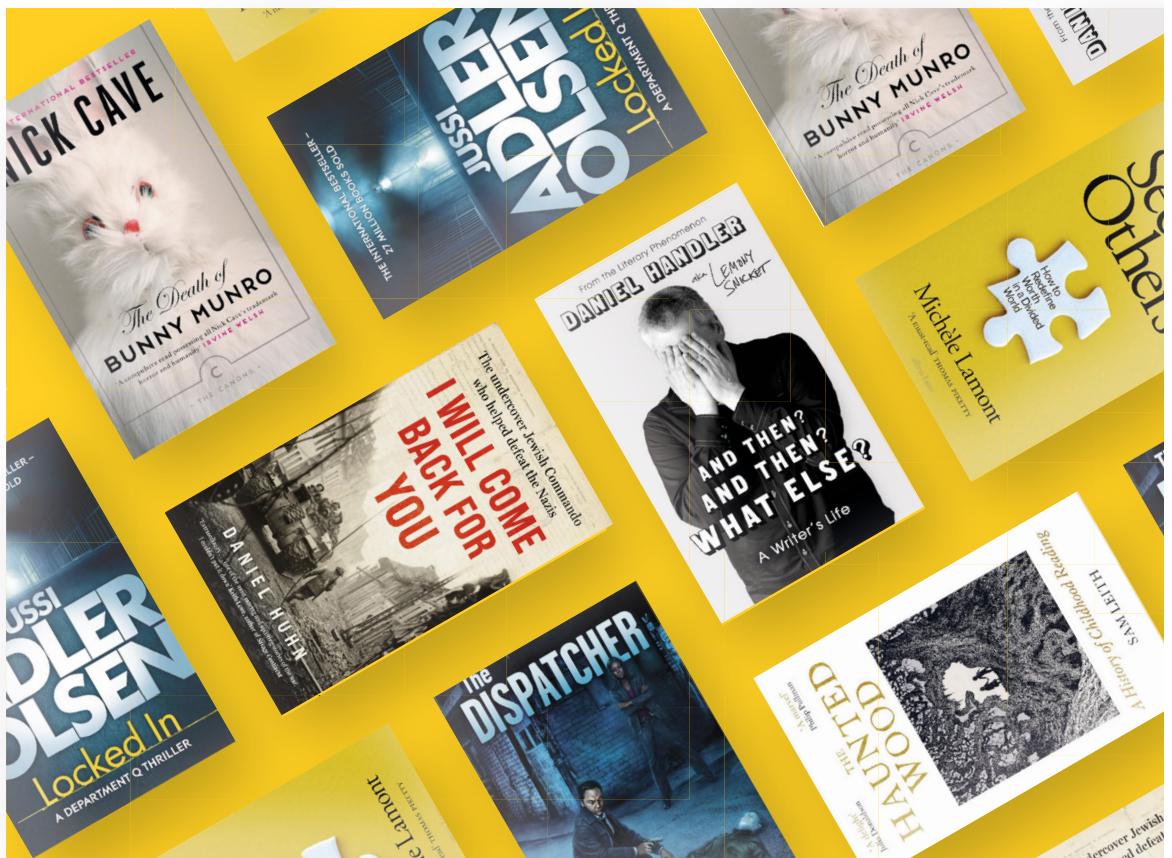
Roger was ten. His full name was Roger Clayton-Fenn Junior, after their grandfather. Roger Senior had died soon after the twins were born, so there wasn’t much need for the distinction anymore. With his elbows wedged between the twins’ car seats, Roger Junior glowered through his curly fringe.



### Our expert

#### Will Smith

Will is co-owner of Sam Read Bookseller, an independent bookshop in Grasmere that has served the Lake District for more than 130 years. He has more than two decades of experience in bookselling with previous roles at Blackwell's and Ottakar's. Will has been a judge for the Nero Book Awards, Costa Book Awards and the Nature Chronicles Prize, writes book reviews for Cumbria Life magazine and regularly appears on BBC Radio Cumbria.



# Paperback Preview September

### Previews

## Golden oldies: a new lease of life for classic texts

Classic fiction titles enjoy a second moment in the sun thanks to TikTok and several exciting reissue series from Vintage and Penguin Michael Joseph

As our bookshop celebrates Independent Bookshop Week hot on the heels of *The Bookseller's* Northern Powerhouse analysis, I have again been thinking about what we sell in our shop and why it matters. While we sell a fair share of national bestsellers, about 80% of our book sales are spread over the thousands of titles that do not trouble the Top 50. One browser, who memorably berated their partner for "not finishing the last Marcus Aurelius they bought", demonstrated how a writer's trajectory ebbs and flows; I'm inclined to think that the spread of sales bookshops make are essential for seeding conversations around myriad books and supporting what might

become the next word of mouth hit. My colleague Abi recently raved about Jacqueline Harpman's *I Who Have Never Known Men*, (Vintage) which, though published 30 years ago, has TikTok to thank for renewed attention. Who is to say which book will experience that kind of amplification next? I was delighted by Daniel Handler's memoir, *And Then? And Then? What Else?* (Oneworld), which is this month's Book of the Month for many reasons, but particularly because he suggested he wanted other people to read the (often obscure) books he loved so that he had more people to talk to about them. I am resolving to think less about charts and sales figures and more about the joy of sharing a book that will resonate with a customer.

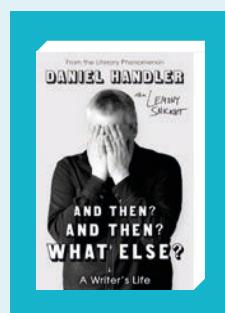
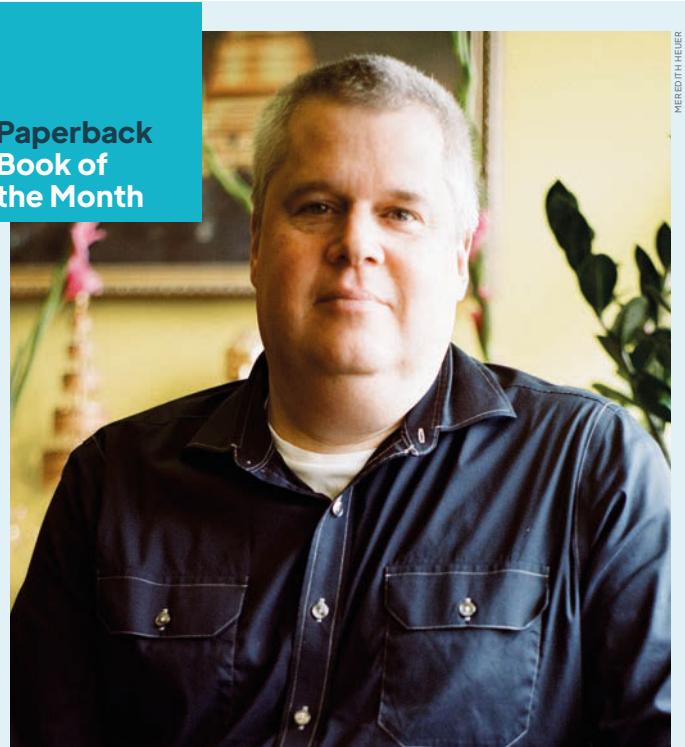
A huge amount of non-fiction is hitting the shelves in September. The bulk of submissions centred around history, politics and current affairs reflecting, perhaps, the perpetual feeling that there is "a lot going on". Publishers are feeding our appetite to understand the context of the contemporary moment, from the tremendous courage and sacrifice of wars past and present in Daniel Huhn's *I Will Come Back For You* (Ithaka) and Lara Marlowe's *How Good It Is I Have No Fear of Dying* (Apollo) to how we measure our self-worth and recognise those around us in Michèle Lamont's *Seeing Others: How to Redefine Worth in a Divided World* (Penguin). Children's reading remains a pressing concern too, and Sam Leith's *The Haunted Wood* (Oneworld) has some pointed observations from history about meeting children where they are.



I am resolving to think less about charts and sales figures and more about the joy of sharing a book that will resonate with a customer

Two new reissue series land this month, both focusing on eclectic selections of women writers. The new Vintage Classics Weird Girls series champions nine works of "weird-girl fiction" that disrupt standard notions of femininity, including works by Audrey Niffenegger, Intan Paramaditha, Hitomi Kanehara, Yoko Ogawa, Ottessa Moshfegh, Jewelle Gomez, Angela Carter, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Marjorie Bowen.

## Paperback Book of the Month



### Memoir

#### Daniel Handler And Then? And Then? What Else?

Oneworld, 25th, £9.99,  
9781836430339

The man also known as Lemony Snicket has written a thought-provoking and entertaining series of autobiographical essays reflecting on writing, reading, publishing and our place in the world of books. Unfortunate events aplenty litter Handler's life but all are shown sensitively to be a part of his drive to read and write. Topics include the frustrations of being a medical mystery, the Pet Shop Boys, adopting his mystery persona, writing for children, banned books and the wildly varied reception his books have received from publishers, booksellers and readers, with the latter reading his books in droves and the former sometimes being lukewarm.

Handler's book, which started life as a preface to Aaron Poochigian's translation of Baudelaire's *The Flowers of Evil*, is filled with comic anecdotes. Baudelaire returns frequently, as in the title. A young Handler read Baudelaire's mocking of epic poetry and understood that the rules of art are fallible. Handler's comments on reading acclaimed books nobody reads anymore will resound with many, but I am self-aware enough to know few will laugh like I did when Handler mentioned being at a party and trying to engage in conversation by bringing up E Arnot Robertson's *Four Frightened People*.

Meanwhile, Penguin Michael Joseph (PMJ) celebrates 90 years of publishing with the Mermaid Collection, striking B-format paperbacks with flaps designed by PMJ senior designer Lauren Wakefield and picture editor Alice Chandler. The collection will champion quality commercial women's fiction from the mid-to-late 20th century, with a first instalment including novels by Lettice Cooper, Helen McCloy, Fay Weldon and Margaret Kennedy. A new commercial heritage list will be hugely appreciated by readers who have been well served in recent years by the brilliant work of Persephone, British Library Publishing, Handheld Press and Dean Street Press among others, all of whom draw attention to neglected women writers.

Film and TV tie-ins range from Nick Cave's *The Death of Bunny Munro* (Canongate) ahead of a six-part Sky TV adaptation starring Matt Smith and Lindsay Duncan, to Ryan David Jahn's Texan crime-thriller *The Dispatcher* (Pan) transposed to Australia in an upcoming Apple TV+ adaptation starring Patrick Brammall and Maxine Peake. Jussi Adler-Olsen's final Department Q novel *Locked In* (Quercus) arrives just after viewers are getting a taste of the new Edinburgh-set adaptation on Netflix starring Matthew Goode.

### Submissions

Submissions to be sent to Will Smith, at will.smith@thebookseller.com; Als essential. Please contact Will for the grid on which submission details need to be entered. [thebookseller.com/publishingcalendar](http://thebookseller.com/publishingcalendar)

## Upcoming Previews

For submission information and deadlines, visit [thebookseller.com/publishingcalendar](http://thebookseller.com/publishingcalendar)



4<sup>th</sup> July

New Titles: Fiction  
Covering titles published in October 2025.



4<sup>th</sup> July

Discover  
Covering titles published in August 2025.



11<sup>th</sup> July

New Titles: Non-Fiction  
Covering titles published in October 2025.



11<sup>th</sup> July

Religion spotlight  
Covering titles published August 2025 to July 2026



18<sup>th</sup> July

Children's previews  
Covering titles published in October 2025.

# 10

## Titles not to miss in September

From slave ships bound for the Americas to small-town Ireland in the 1960s, this month's paperbacks span a range of times and places.

**Will Smith** reports



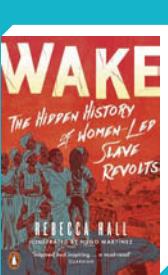
### Literary

**Niall Williams** (1)

**Time of the Child**

Bloomsbury Publishing, 25th, £9.99, 9781526675156

In 1962, as Advent arrives in small-town Ireland, a baby girl is abandoned. A doctor saves her life and his unmarried daughter begins to care for her, entwining them all more closely in the community around them. The poverty and cold realism of those who had "seen the poet-revolutionaries replaced by bank managers" are re-enchanted by this time of the child. Winner of the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award. "Brimming with kindness and courage," said the *Mail on Sunday*.



1

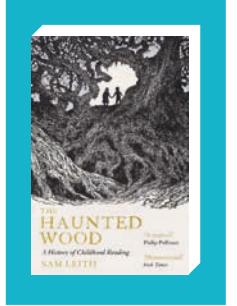
### History, politics & current affairs

**Sam Leith** (3)

**The Haunted Wood: A History of Childhood Reading**

Oneworld, 4th, £14.99, 9781836430407

A history of children's literature through the centuries, from Aesop's Fables and the Brothers Grimm to Philip Pullman and Julia Donaldson. Leith captures the magic of childhood reading, and the ability of children's literature to retain that magic, while weaving a convincing story of the shifting concerns of generations of eclectic writers. Strong reviews across the board, and a beautiful reframing of the hardback cover to make an appealing paperback package.



### History, politics & current affairs

**Rebecca Hall** (2), Hugo Martinez (illus)

**Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts**

Penguin, 4th, £12.99, 9780141997735

A graphic history of women rebels who fought for freedom on slave ships bound for the Americas and those who led slave revolts in colonial New York, drawing on archival research and Hall's own history as a granddaughter of slaves. Billed as "MAUS meets Angela Davis", it blends the direct political communication of the former with the concerns of the latter. Drawing on stories found in archives in London and Liverpool, it has much to say about the UK, too.



3



2



4

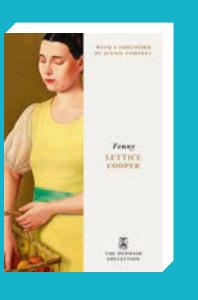


5

## Reissue/Literary

Lettice Cooper (5) *Fenny*

Michael Joseph, 11th, £14.99, 9781405984157  
One of four titles in a new heritage list, the Mermaid Collection, launching to celebrate 90 years of Penguin. The series gives a new look to out-of-print books by women, including new introductions by contemporary writers. Yorkshire-born Cooper's 1953 classic depicts Yorkshire teacher Ellen Fenwick taking a position as a governess in 1930s Florence, and her evolving life in pre and post-war Italy across a span of 15 years. Introduced by Jennie Godfrey.



7

## Natural history &amp; pets

Tom Lathan (4), Claire Kohda (illus) *Lost Wonders: 10 Tales of Extinction from the 21st Century* Picador, 4th, £10.99, 9781529047950

From the Bramble Cay melomys to the Christmas Island pipistrelle, these stories of species that have become extinct in the past 25 years palpably demonstrate the urgency of our global situation. With such extinctions becoming more frequent, Lathan's accounts of those attempting to save threatened species hits home and should serve as a reminder that attention is what is required. "Timely, elegiac," said the *Daily Mail*. Shortlisted for the Richard Jefferies Award.



9

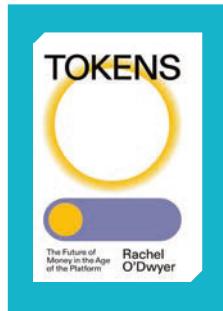
## Literary/historical

Andrew Miller (9) *The Land in Winter*

Sceptre, 25th, £9.99, 9781529354300  
Fourteen years after Miller's historical novel of pre-revolutionary France, *Pure*, won the Costa, his 10th novel set in the West Country in the deep freeze of winter between December 1962 and February 1963 has just been announced as winner of the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction. A quiet study of the inner lives of two married couples hints at a Britain on the cusp of a new era. "You can sink into this novel as one would into freshly driven powdery snow," said the *Financial Times*.



10



## Business &amp; economics

Rachel O'Dwyer (7) *Tokens: The Future of Money in the Age of the Platform*

Verso Books, 23rd, £12.99, 9781839768378

A history of extra-monetary economies right up to our current landscape filled with gift tokens, game tokens, phone credit, non-fungible tokens, Web3, Crypto and blockchain and a warning of their political consequences. Questions include: What happens when money is programmed with memory and transactions are folded into a token? Or when transactions no longer seem transparent? Longlisted for the *Financial Times* Business Book of the Year Award.



6

## SFF

Kim Curran (6) *The Morrigan*

Michael Joseph, 4th, £9.99, 9781405969376

When a tribe of gods land on the shore of Ireland, a hungry, shape-changing, red-haired girl reclaims her story from those told about her, revelling in being magnificent, multitudinous and full of anger. Curran's rich storytelling quickly immerses the reader in the tale of the Morrigan, Ireland's mythic goddess of war. "Imaginatively engages with some of today's most polarising anxieties," said the *Irish Examiner*. Follow-up *Brigid* is due in 2026.



8

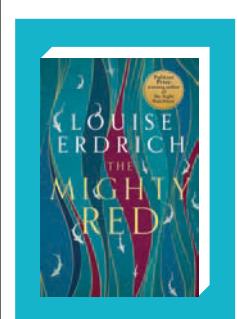
## Poetry

Various

*The Forward Book of Poetry 2026*

Faber, 25th, £9.99, 9780571397679

The latest volume of winning, shortlisted and commended poems submitted for the Forward Prize for Poetry 2026. A perfect book to introduce readers to a cross-section of contemporary poetry unencumbered by any one theme, and representative of voices from small presses, large presses and performance work. This year's judging panel are particularly strong, led by chair of judges Sarah Hall and poets Rommi Smith, Hannah Lavery, Sean O'Brien and Lisa Kelly.



## Literary

Louise Erdrich (8) *The Mighty Red*

Corsair, 4th, £9.99, 9781472159533

In Argus, North Dakota, during the financial crash of 2008–09, ordinary people dream, grow up, fall in love, struggle, endure tragedy, carry bitter secrets and show our tattered bond with the earth. This is the 19th novel from Erdrich, a Pulitzer Prize winner, Women's Prize Finalist and bookseller in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A narrative voice with "brio and lightness that wends and weaves, as the titular river does, between modes and moods", said the *Guardian*.



**Literary****Rumaan Alam (2)****Entitlement**Bloomsbury Publishing, 11th, £9.99, 9781526674234  
Alam follows *Leave the World Behind* with an exploration of money and race in this tale of an old white billionaire and a young Black woman meeting across divides.**Susan Barker**  
**Old Soul**

Penguin, 25th, £9.99, 9781405963657

Two grieving strangers recall encounters with a dark-haired woman in the days before tragic losses, but can she be stopped? A "super-sophisticated horror, as indebted to literary fiction... as it is to Gothic gore", said the *Times*.**Alan Bennett**  
**Killing Time**

Profile Faber, 11th, £8.99, 9780571394821

Celebrating his 91st birthday this year, a new story from the writer of *The History Boys* and *The Lady in the Van*. An anarchic dark comedy set in Hill Topp House, a superior council home for the elderly. A community of raucous characters are ruled over by Mrs McBryde, who is keen to state that "in the event of any correspondence please note it's Hill Topp with two p's". Termed by the *Spectator* as "a geriatric Lord of the Flies."**Sergio De La Pava**  
**Every Arc Bends its Radian**

Scribner, 11th, £9.99, 9781398542198

An existential detective novel about a poet, philosopher and private investigator who flees New York City for Colombia after personal tragedy.

**Virginie Despentes, Frank Wynne (trans)**  
**Dear Dickhead**

MacLehose Press, 25th, £9.99, 9781529430820

When middle-aged author Oscar uses Instagram to insult Rebecca, a famous actress in her 50s, it sparks a fiery ongoing argument that spirals into two humans finding common ground amid their hostility and Covid-19 lockdowns.

**George Harrison**  
**Season**

Lightning, 4th, £9.99, 9781785634437

**Debut**  
Thirty-eight chapters tell the story of a season of 38 football games, as two men in adjacent seats of a football stadium gradually develop a friendship.**László Krasznahorkai, Ottlie Mulzet (trans)**  
**Herscht 07769**

Tuskar Rock Press, 4th, £12.99, 9781800815063

A graffiti-cleaner adopted by a neo-Nazi fears the end of the world in the new novel from the International Booker Prize winner Krasznahorkai.

**Sonoko Machida, Bruno Navasky (trans)**  
**The Convenience Store by the Sea**Orion, 4th, £9.99, 9781398728417  
A 24/7 coastal convenience store has whatever you might need. Interweaves stories of the employees and store customers. "A delightful tale of community and connection," said *My Weekly*.**Haruki Murakami, Philip Gabriel (trans)**  
**The City and Its Uncertain Walls**

Vintage, 9th, £9.99, 9781529926941

When a young man's girlfriend mysteriously vanishes, he sets his heart on finding the imaginary city where her true self lives.

**Fiona Scarlett**  
**May All Your Skies Be Blue**

Faber, 11th, £9.99, 9780571390922

In the summer of 1991, Shauna, daughter of the new salon owner, and Dean find a burgeoning friendship. When feelings and responsibilities deepen will they continue to find each other?

**Kiyoshi Shigematsu, Jesse Kirkwood (trans)**  
**The Blanket Cats**

MacLehose Press, 4th, £9.99, 9781529435245

A unique pet shop in Tokyo provides temporary companion cats to solve problems and change lives, but they must sleep in their familiar blankets and be returned in three days.

**Sandi Toksvig**  
**Friends of Dorothy**

Virago, 11th, £9.99, 9780349018997

Married young couple Amber and Stevie buy the perfect home in Grimaldi Square, but surprises begin when the previous owner, wise-cracking octogenarian Dorothy, will not leave.

**Literary short stories****Ben Shattuck**  
**The History of Sound**

Swift Press, 11th, £9.99, 9781800754829

Debut collection of 12 short stories charting love and loss across generations. The title story is being adapted into a forthcoming film starring Paul Mescal and Josh O'Connor, which I can confirm as I saw Mescal on set in Wordsworth's former home, Dove Cottage in Grasmere.

**Lynne Tillman**  
**Thrilled to Death**

Peninsula Press, 25th, £12.99, 9781913512699

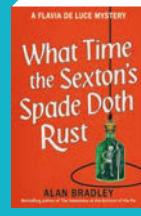
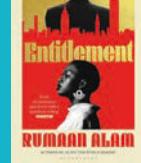
New career-spanning selection of stories about sex, death, memory and anxiety.

**Commercial****Toshikazu Kawaguchi, Geoffrey Trousselot (trans)**  
**Before We Forget Kindness**

Picador, 4th, £10.99, 9781035046287

Four new patrons head back in time for emotional encounters via a special Tokyo café. Fifth book in the *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* series.**Lucy Rose**  
**The Lamb**

W&amp;N, 25th, £9.99, 9781399619752

**Debut**  
In a remote, pebble-dashed house in the fells, a mother and daughter live, entrapping and eating those who have wandered

from the path. Not for the faint-hearted, a dark and visceral Gothic coming-of-age tale about mother-daughter relationships, desire and animality.

**Danielle Steel****Trial by Fire**

Pan, 11th, £8.99, 9781529085686

Wildfires lead a perfume CEO to volunteer at a pet rescue centre and into the life of a handsome lawyer.

**Crime & thriller****Ben Aaronovitch**  
**The Masquerades of Spring**

Orion, 4th, £9.99, 9781473224414

Flâneur extraordinaire Augustus Berrycloth-Young is an Englishman abroad when his latest adventure takes in the jazz clubs of Harlem. A novella in the Rivers of London series.

**Jussi Adler-Olsen, Caroline Waight (trans)**  
**Locked In**

Quercus, 25th, £8.99, 9781529434583

The past catches up with Carl Mørck when he finds himself handcuffed in a police car headed for Copenhagen's Vestre prison. The final Department Q novel. Recently adapted for Netflix as Edinburgh-set Dept. Q, starring Matthew Goode, Leah Byrne and Jamie Sives.

**MC Beaton, RW Green**  
**Hamish Macbeth: Death of a Smuggler**

Constable, 4th, £9.99, 9781408718599

A woman is murdered in Lochdubh in the 37th book in the series. Edited by Krystyna Green.

**Sash Bischoff**  
**Sweet Fury**

Penguin, 11th, £9.99, 9781804993101

**Debut** Hollywood golden girl Lila Crayne starts therapy to prepare for a new film role, but as secrets are revealed, obsession and revenge ensue.**Christopher Bollen**  
**HAVOC**

Borough Press, 25th, £9.99, 9780008730499

Octogenarian American Maggie Burkhardt is resident at the Royal Karnak Hotel in Luxor, Egypt, spying on and manipulating fellow guests, but meets her match in unassuming eight-year-old Otto and his well-meaning mother.

**Alan Bradley**  
**What Time the Sexton's Spade Doth Rust**Orion, 4th, £9.99, 9781398721388  
Twelve-year old Flavia de Luce investigates the murder of a former public hangman. Eleventh book in the series.**Chris Chibnall (2)****Death at the White Hart**

Michael Joseph, 25th, £9.99, 9781405959513

**Debut** When the landlord of a country pub in Dorset is murdered, former CID detective Nicola Bridge unravels dark secrets. The first novel from the Broadchurch creator and former Doctor Who showrunner. ITV have commissioned a TV series based on the book.**Mason Coile**  
**William**

Baskerville, 25th, £8.99, 9781399812764

Reclusive engineer Henry creates an AI robot called William but domestic upsets lead Henry to try to destroy him.

**Andreina Cordani**  
**Murder at the Christmas Emporium**

Zaffre, 11th, £9.99, 9781804187487

Christmas shoppers are trapped in a bespoke gift shop by someone who knows their secrets.

**Martin Davies**  
**Mrs Hudson and the Capricorn Incident**

Allison &amp; Busby, 18th, £9.99, 9780749032111

When a princess disappears, Sherlock Holmes' housekeeper Mrs Hudson is called upon to investigate. Seventh book in the series.

**Cory Doctorow**  
**Picks and Shovels**

Head of Zeus – an AdAstra Book, 11th, £9.99, 9781804547854

Marty Hench investigates a start-up in the early days of the tech industry in San Francisco in 1986. Prequel to *Red Team Blues* and the third book in the series.**Alice Feeney**  
**Beautiful Ugly**

Pan, 11th, £9.99, 9781035053827





A year after his wife disappears, author Grady Green travels to a tiny Scottish island to try to get his life back on track, where he sees a woman who looks exactly like his missing wife. Feeney's *His & Hers* is soon to be a Netflix limited series executive produced by Jessica Chastain.

**Joseph Finder**  
**The Oligarch's Daughter**

Head of Zeus – an Aries Book, 11th, £9.99, 9781838930608

To save his own life, Paul must unravel a decades-old conspiracy involving the US government and Russian oligarchs.

**Juan Gómez-Jurado,**  
**Nicholas Caistor (trans)**  
**White King**

Pan, 4th, £9.99, 9781529093841  
The lynchpin of a secret crime-fighting project is blackmailed. Conclusion to the trilogy.

**Elly Griffiths (✉)**

**The Frozen People**

Quercus, 11th, £9.99,

9781529433371

Ali Dawson attempts to clear the name of the eccentric great-grandfather of Tory MP Isaac Templeton, with the help of time travel. The first in a series.

**Tom Hindle**

**Death in the Arctic**

Penguin, 11th, £9.99,

9781804949412

Aspiring travel writer Chloe's luxury airship trip to the North Pole is interrupted when a fellow passenger is found dead in their cabin.

**Tami Hoag**  
**Bad Liar**

Orion, 25th, £9.99,  
9781409169680

Two missing men lead Broussard and Fourcade deep into the Louisiana swamp. The third book in the series.

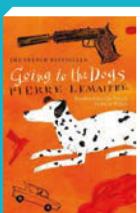
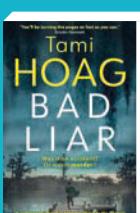
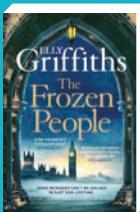
**Anthony Horowitz**  
**Marble Hall Murders**

Penguin, 25th, £9.99,  
9781804943007

Susan Ryeland edited two novels about the famous detective, Atticus Pünd, and both times came close to death. Now back in England, she has been persuaded to work on a third, a "continuation" novel by Eliot Crace who also believes his grandmother, a famous children's author, was murdered. Third book in the series, due to be adapted, again starring Lesley Manville as Ryeland and Tim McMullan as Pünd.

**Ryan David Jahn**  
**The Dispatcher**

Pan, 25th, £9.99, 9781035087617



A police dispatcher in East Texas gets a call from his 14-year-old daughter, Maggie, who he believed to be dead. Published ahead of an upcoming Apple TV+ adaptation featuring Patrick Brammall and Maxine Peake.

**Steve Jones**  
**The Last Laugh Club**

Michael Joseph, 4th,  
£9.99, 9781405958721

Diagnosed with cancer, former policeman Ray "Sugar" Leonard responds to a mugging by delivering some summary justice and ponders a late in life shift to vigilantism. Published in hardback as *Terminally Kill*.

**Amy Jordan**  
**The Dark Hours**

HQ, 11th, £9.99, 9780008656942

**Debut** Retired detective Julia Harte is called back to Cork to track a serial killer with ties to an old case.

**Marcus Kliewer**  
**We Used to Live Here**

Penguin, 25th, £9.99,

9781804995587

**Debut** Young couple Charlie and Eve move to an old house deep in the mountains, but when an old inhabitant visits strange things start to happen.

**Lynda La Plante**  
**Crucified**

Zaffre, 25th, £9.99,

9781838779924

A body is discovered nailed to a giant cross in a framer's shop, and Detective Jack Warr is drawn to the case. The fifth book in the series.

**David Lagercrantz,**  
**Ian Giles (trans)**  
**Fatal Gambit**

MacLhose Press, 25th,  
£9.99, 9781529413267

Claire Lidman died 14 years ago, so why does she appear in the background of a recent holiday photo taken in Venice? Second book in the Hans Rekke series.

**Pierre Lemaitre,**  
**Frank Wynne (trans)**  
**Going to the Dogs**

Mountain Leopard Press,

11th, £12.99, 9781914495823

Paris, 1985. Sixty-three-year-old Mathilde Perrin, decorated Resistance fighter, is a ruthless contract killer but loyal dalmatian Ludo notices a change in her: Mathilde becomes forgetful and impulsive and bodies pile up. How long before she becomes a target herself?

**Asia Mackay**  
**A Serial Killer's Guide to Marriage**



SARA REEVE

Wildfire, 11th, £9.99,  
9781035410897

Ex-soldiers Hazel and Fox are an ordinary married couple with a baby, until one of them murders again.

**Mike Maden**  
**Clive Cussler's Ghost Soldier**

Michael Joseph, 11th,  
£9.99, 9781405975010

When African jihadis attack a Nigerian regiment using American weapons, the Oregon crew track an arms dealer. Eighteenth book in the Oregon Files series.

**Faith Martin**  
**The Last Word Is Death**

HQ Digital, 25th, £10,

9780008706883

In the up-and-coming resort of Galton-next-the-Sea, a holiday engagement party leads to murder. The second Val and Arbie mystery.

**Simon Mason**  
**Missing Person: Alice**

riverrun, 11th, £8.99,

9781529425987

A specialist in finding people searches for a missing schoolgirl. The first of two books in Mason's new Finder Mysteries series arrives in paperback. Published alongside *The Case of the Lonely Accountant*.

**Laura McLoughlin**  
**The Many Ghosts of Donahue Byrnes**

Black & White Publishing,

11th, £9.99, 9781785305788

**Debut** When a hotel owner dies, Mia is promoted from waitress to concierge for the dead and must entertain and appease a ballroom of ghosts to solve a decades-old mystery.

**CL Miller**  
**The Antique Hunter's Death on the Red Sea**

Pan, 25th, £9.99, 9781035021772

A painting vanishes from a maritime museum, and a dead body is found nearby. Freya and Carole return to investigate in Miller's follow-up to *The Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder*.

**James Oswald**  
**The Rest Is Death**

Wildfire, 11th, £9.99,  
9781472298904

A break-in at a biotech firm leaves a trail of bloodshed. Fourteenth Inspector McLean mystery.

**James Patterson**  
**25 Alive**

Penguin, 25th, £9.99,

9781804948972

A body is found in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Twenty-fifth novel in the Women's Murder Club series.

**Nita Prose**  
**The Maid's Secret**

HarperCollins, 25th, £9.99,  
9780008708580

When a Fabergé egg goes missing, Molly's grandmother's long-lost diary reveals secrets that could help with the search. Third book in the Molly the Maid mystery series.

**Trisha Sakhlecha**  
**The Inheritance**

Penguin, 11th, £8.99,

9781804949665

When the Agarwal family gather on a private island off the west coast of Scotland, one of the reunion will kill to keep a secret.

**Mary Watson**  
**The Cleaner**

Penguin, 25th, £8.99,

9781804994177

A carriage accident brings a vampire into Lenore's household in this contemporary sapphic retelling of *Carmilla*, set

**Debut** Cleaner Esmie is not all she seems, which is dangerous for a resident of a wealthy gated community.

**Kate Webb**

**Hollow Grave**

Quercus, 11th, £9.99,

9781529433562

Twenty years after a young woman disappears in Wiltshire during an archaeology dig, DI Lockyer and DC Gemma Broad reinvestigate. Third book in the series.

**Historical**

**Clare Beams**  
**The Garden**

Atlantic Books, 18th,

£9.99, 9781805462378

In 1948, Irene Willard has had five miscarriages and, pregnant for a sixth time, she checks into an isolated Gothic hospital with a mysterious garden.

**Lila Cain**

**The Blackbirds of St Giles**

Simon & Schuster, 25th,

£9.99, 9781398526594

In 18th-century London, Daniel and his sister Pearl have escaped a Jamaican sugar plantation only to become trapped in a dangerous underworld.

**Elizabeth Chadwick**

**The Royal Rebel**

Sphere, 4th, £10.99,

9781408729823

First in a 14th-century duology following young royal, Jeanette of Kent, cousin to Edward III, and her rise to power.

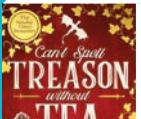
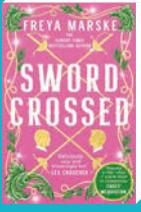
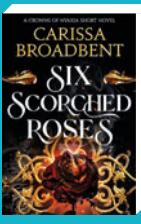
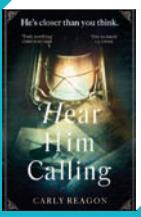
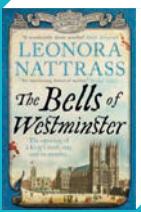
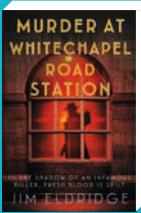
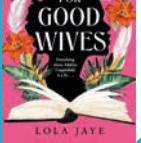
**Kat Dunn**

**Hungerstone**

Manilla Press, 11th, £9.99,

9781786583949

A carriage accident brings a vampire into Lenore's household in this contemporary sapphic retelling of *Carmilla*, set



in the Peak District during the Industrial Revolution.

**Lola Jaye**

**The Manual for Good Wives**

Pan, 18th, £9.99, 9781529064643

Set between Victorian and contemporary London, a dual narrative historical novel exploring Black British history, love, generational trauma and second chances.

**Anne O'Brien**

**The Queen and the Countess**

Orion, 11th, £9.99, 9781398711266

England, 1450s. As the Wars of the Roses rage, Queen Margaret considers working with rival Anne, Countess of Warwick in a fight to protect the crown.

**Minette Walters**

**The Players**

Allen & Unwin, 4th, £9.99, 9781805463184

England, 1685. Lady Jayne Harrier and her enigmatic son attempt to save rebels from the gallows.

## Historical crime & thriller

**Jim Eldridge**

**Murder at Whitechapel Road Station**

Allison & Busby, 18th, £9.99, 9780749031565

April, 1941. A woman's body is discovered in the former Whitechapel Road Underground station, repurposed as an air-raid shelter. The fourth book in the series.

**Leonora Nattrass**

**The Bells of Westminster**

Viper, 25th, £9.99, 9781800817036

Westminster Abbey, 1774. Ghost sightings, a murdered antiquary and the missing body of Edmund I present a mystery for the Dean's daughter Susan.

**Simon Scarrow**

**A Death in Berlin**

Headline, 11th, £9.99, 9781472287311

Berlin, 1940. Hitler's rule makes criminals more brazen than ever and, when innocent victims are caught in the crossfire between warring gangs, Criminal Inspector Horst Schenke struggles with his superiors to track those responsible.

## Horror

**Elisa Lodato**

**Ghost Story**

Manilla Press, 25th, £9.99, 9781786583406

Seren retreats to an isolated Scottish island to write, only to be plagued by unsettling events.

**Carly Reagon**  
**Hear Him Calling**

Sphere, 18th, £9.99, 9781408726488

When Kyle and his wife inherit an old house in a Welsh mountain village, something has waited decades to be let in.

**Jacquie Walters**  
**Dearest**

Zaffre, 25th, £10.99, 9781804188606

New mum Flora is visited by her estranged mother and feels her reality slipping.

## Saga

**Anna Jacobs**

**Lavender Lane**

Allison & Busby, 18th, £9.99, 9780749030193

Australian Nina faces surprises in the Wiltshire countryside when she works on reopening properties that were once a convalescent home for the armed forces.

## SFF

**Carissa Broadbent**

**Six Scorched Roses**

Tor Bramble, 11th, £8.99, 9781035051786

Lilith strikes a bargain with a vampire to save her village in this Beauty and the Beast-inspired tale from the world of the Crowns of Nyaxia series.

**MR Carey**

**Once Was Willem**

Orbit, 30th, £9.99, 9780356519463

A medieval fantasy-horror sees Once Was Willem rise from the dead to defeat a great evil facing a village.

**CJ Cooke** (✉ 4)

**The Book of Witching**

HarperCollins, 25th, £9.99, 9780008656256

A centuries-old mystery and accusations of witchcraft link women targeted on an idyllic Orkney beach.

**Rachel Greenlaw**

**The Woodsmoke**

**Women's Book of Spells**



**HQ**, 25th, £10, 9780008708535

Cosy fantasy where a curse intervenes in a small-town witchy love story.

**Esmie Jikiemi-Pearson**

**The Principle of Moments**

Gollancz, 25th, £10.99, 9781399633598

Centuries-spanning space opera. Longlisted for the 2024 TikTok Book Awards.

**Sophie Jordan**

**A Fire in the Sky**

HQ, 11th, £10, 9780008712389

The son of a great dragon slayer is tricked into marrying a servant with dark secrets. First in an adult romantasy duology.

**Sung-il Kim, Anton Hur (trans)**

**Blood of the Old Kings**

Orbit, 2nd, £9.99, 9780356525099

Three heroes stand against an empire powered by necromancy. First in a series.

**TJ Klune**

**Somewhere Beyond the Sea**

Tor, 25th, £10.99, 9781035009398

When Arthur is forced to make a public statement about his dark past he must fight for those under his care. Sequel to *The House in the Cerulean Sea*.

**Freya Marske** (✉ 5)

**Swordcrossed**

Tor, 25th, £9.99, 9781035039302

Historical fantasy and queer romance as part-time con-artist Luca is blackmailed into giving sword lessons to wool merchant Matti ahead of his arranged marriage.

**Ed McDonald**

**Witch Queen of Redwinter**

Gollancz, 25th, £10.99, 9781473233720

When rumours of

unknown horrors emerge from her homeland, Red Raine and her companions are stuck in a magical wasteland while the fate of two worlds hangs in the balance. Concluding book in the Redwinter Chronicles trilogy.

**Alan Moore**

**The Great When**

Bloomsbury Publishing, 11th, £9.99, 9781526643247

In post-Second World War east London, Dennis, a young man employed by a second-hand bookseller, finds a book that has crossed from a magical version of London, which exists beyond time and space. A densely visual fantasy and the first book in the new Long London series.

**Chloe C Peñaranda**

**The Night Is Defying**

Wildfire, 11th, £10.99, 9781035415373

The second book in the dark romantasy Nytefall trilogy, inspired by the Greek myth of Astraea.

**Helen Phillips**

**Hum**

Atlantic Books, 4th, £9.99, 9781805461746

In a city populated by intelligent robots called "Hums", May and her family are threatened when the rare oasis of the Botanical Garden is not all it appears to be. "Ingenious and unsettling," said the Observer.

**Gail Simone**

**Red Sonja: Consumed**

Orbit, 9th, £9.99, 9780356520629

When rumours of unknown horrors emerge from her homeland, Red Sonja, She-Devil and barbarian of Hyrkania, must revisit her past.

**Rebecca Thorne**  
**Can't Spell Treason Without Tea**

Tor, 4th, £9.99, 9781035031016

Cosy fantasy featuring a sapphic romance between an elite bodyguard and a mage who follow their dream of opening a bookstore against a backdrop of a murderous queen, dragons and assassination attempts.

## Various

**Star Wars: From a Certain Point of View**

Penguin, 25th, £10.99, 9781804944462

Forty storytellers re-create an iconic scene from Return of the Jedi through the eyes of a supporting character, including Emperor Palpatine, Wicket the Ewok and the Sarlacc.

**Kiersten White**

**Lucy Undying: A Dracula Novel**

Penguin, 25th, £9.99, 9781804947715

Gothic fantasy where Lucy Westenra escapes the thrall of Dracula as a vampire and embarks on her own search for self-discovery and true love.

**Samantha Sotto Yambao**  
**Water Moon**

Penguin, 4th, £9.99, 9781804993323

Hana inherits a pawn shop in Tokyo where you can sell your regrets, but her father's disappearance pairs her in a search with a charming stranger.

## Non-fiction

**Art, design & fashion**

**Pepe Karmel**  
**Abstract Art: A Global History**

Thames and Hudson, 4th, £40, 9780500298381

New history of abstraction from a global perspective, demonstrating how artists across the world have used abstract imagery to convey personal, social and political experience.

**Ezio Manzini,**  
Rachel Coad (trans)  
*Design, When Everybody Designs: An Introduction to Design for Social Innovation*

The MIT Press, 2nd, £23, 9780262554008

Study of how social innovations occur when specialists and non-specialists collaborate in design, generating new solutions and new meanings.

**Alison Place (ed)**  
*Feminist Designer: On the Personal and the Political in Design*

The MIT Press, 30th, £21, 9780262553018

A collection of voices bringing theory and critical thinking to life in design, by feminist ways of doing and acting.

## Biography & memoir

**Peter Godwin**  
*Exit Wounds: A Story of Love, Loss and Occasional Wars*

Canongate Books, 11th, £10.99, 9781837260829

Memoir from Zimbabwean former journalist, soldier and presenter Godwin on how his life has been shaped by three women, prompted by his mother's declining health and the end of his marriage. "An elegant, cerebral book," said the *Sunday Times*.

**Daniel Huhn,**  
Rachel Stanyon (trans)  
*I Will Come Back for You*

Ithaka, 4th, £9.99,

978104185346

Biography of Jewish German refugee Manfred Gans, who became a British Army soldier and who joined the D-Day landings and fought across a defeated Germany to find his family. Draws on recently discovered diaries and letters.

**Lisa Marie Presley, Riley Keough**  
*From Here to the Great Unknown: A Memoir*

Pan, 25th, £10.99,

9781035051069

Presley's life story, completed by daughter Keough, reflecting on the love she felt for her father Elvis, her marriage to Michael Jackson, addiction and grief. "A truly wild, compelling tale," said the *Telegraph*.

**Lara Marlowe**  
*How Good It Is I have No Fear of Dying: Lieutenant Yulia Mykytenko's Fight for Ukraine*

Apollo, 11th, £12.99, 9781035910182

Based on a series of interviews, a biography of Mykytenko, a 28-year-old female commander serving on the frontline of the Ukraine War, whose political awakening came in the 2014 Euromaidan protests.

**David McGowan**  
*A Life Among the Dead: Stories from an Irish Funeral Director*

Headline, 11th, £10.99, 9781035412266

Insights into the business, science and underexamined elements of death from Irish funeral director McGowan, subject of a Netflix documentary, *The Funeral Director*.

**Angela Merkel**  
*Freedom: Memoirs 1954–2021*

Pan, 25th, £12.99, 9781035020782

Merkel reflects on her 16-year tenure as German Chancellor and places it in her own life story, spending half of her life in the GDR and half in a united Germany.

**Elliot Mintz (6)**  
*We All Shine On*

Penguin, 25th, £10.99, 9781804994238

The story of John Lennon and Yoko's life, from The Beatles' split to John's death in 1980, told by former DJ, publicist and business manager Mintz who was in their inner circle.

**Sonia Purnell**  
*Kingmaker*

Virago, 4th, £10.99, 9780349014753

How to find joy in food, travel and gardening, drawing on episodes in Slater's life and driven by his need to keep notes of

A social and political life of Pamela Churchill Harriman, daughter-in-law of Winston Churchill, who persuaded Americans to back Britain in the Second World War and later hand-picked Bill Clinton from obscurity, supporting his presidential bid.

**Orlando Reade**  
*What in Me Is Dark : The Revolutionary Life of Paradise Lost*

Vintage, 4th, £10.99, 9781529923261

How Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost* has been read across centuries and continents.

**Anthea Rowan**  
*A Silent Tsunami: Swimming Against the Tide of My Mother's Dementia*

Bedford Square Publishers, 11th, £10.99, 9781835010594

Rowan shares the realities of living with a mother who has forgotten her daughter; how illness affects lives and the science of dementia.

**Simon Russell Beale**  
*A Piece of Work: Playing Shakespeare and Other Stories*

Abacus, 4th, £12.99,

9780751534610

Acclaimed actor Russell Beale considers the life of Shakespeare through what it is like to approach and live with some of Shakespeare's most famous characters. Shortlisted for the 2025 Theatre Book Award.

**Nigel Slater**  
*A Thousand Feasts*

Fourth Estate, 25th, £12.99, 9780008670788

How to find joy in food, travel and gardening, drawing on episodes in Slater's life and driven by his need to keep notes of

A black and white portrait of Orlando Reade, a man with short, light-colored hair, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a dark, patterned tie and a dark shirt. The background is plain and light-colored.  
JIMMY STEINFELDT

6

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design  
Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

→ On the Personal and the Political in Design

Edited by Alison Place

Design by Alison Place

Renegade Books, 4th, £10.99, 9781408749029  
Writers examine their personal relationship with the TV show Gilmore Girls.

**Robert Hunter**  
**The Silver Snarling Trumpet**  
Constable, 11th, £12.99, 9781408721520

Posthumous publication of a lost manuscript of Grateful Dead co-founder and lyricist Hunter, written in the 1960s, observing the Palo Alto scene from the shelves of Kepler's Books to renting instruments and road trips. Foreword by John Mayer.

**Vanessa Kisule**  
**Neverland: The Pleasures and Perils of Fandom**

Canongate Books, 11th, £10.99, 9781838857103  
Slam poet Kisule examines our relationship with fandom and its fallout, holding stars to account while loving them all the same.

**Francesco Lotoro, Katherine Gregor (trans)**  
**The Lost Music of the Holocaust**  
Headline, 11th, £14.99, 9781472297822

The story of the music composed in concentration camps and the biographies of its composers, spanning 8,000 scores and counting, and how their music lives on.

**Tim Robey**  
**Box Office Poison: Hollywood's Story in a Century of Flops**

Faber, 11th, £10.99, 9780571581210  
From Land of the Pharaohs to Speed 2 and beyond, an alternative history of Hollywood through its most notable flops.

**Jérôme Soligny**  
**David Bowie: Rainbowman: 1967–1980**

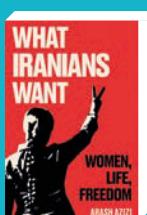
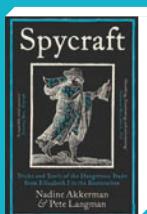
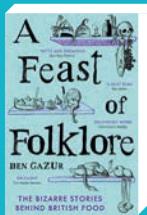
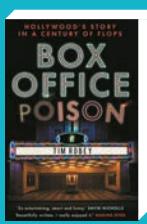
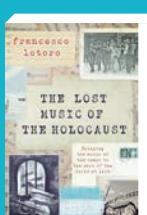
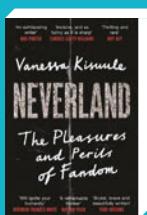
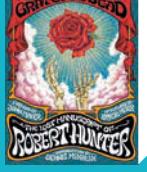
Monoray, 11th, £28, 9781800962040  
Portrait of Bowie's life based on interviews with 150 musicians, producers and friends. Foreword by Tony Visconti.

**Deryck Whibley (✉ 7)**  
**Walking Disaster**

Constable, 4th, £10.99, 9781408719749  
Memoir from founder and lead singer of pop-punk band Sum 41, who were inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 2025.

## Food & drink

**Julian Baggini**  
**How the World Eats: Where Our Food Comes from and Why It Matters**



Granta Books, 11th, £10.99, 9781783788583  
How we grow, make, buy and eat our food around the world, with examples from the past and present, and how we can develop new approaches to respond to the climate crisis.

**Ben Gazur**  
**A Feast of Folklore: The Bizarre Stories Behind British Food**

Unbound, 25th, £10.99, 9781789652475  
The ancient folklore behind common British ingredients, revealing how they cured ailments, lured away spirits and enticed lovers.

**Adrian Tierney-Jones**  
**A Pub for All Seasons: A Yearlong Journey in Search of the Perfect British Local**

Headline, 11th, £12.99, 9781035404483  
Beer writer Tierney-Jones goes in search of the best British pub and finds what makes the perfect place to drink across all four seasons. "A splendid book, ruminative, delightful," said the *Mail on Sunday*.

## Graphic novels

**Amanda Conner, Jimmy Palmiotti**  
**Harley Quinn: Wild at Heart: DC Compact Comics Edition**

DC Comics, 16th, £8.99, 9781799503033  
The clown queen of crime takes on the DC universe's heroes and villains.

**Grant Morrison, Dave McKean (illus)**  
**Batman: Arkham Asylum: DC Compact Comics Edition**

DC Comics, 2nd, £8.99, 9781799506997  
From the origins of Arkham Asylum to the present, where the inmates have taken over and have issued Batman an ultimatum.

## Health & parenting

**Marina Gerner**  
**The Vagina Business: The Innovative Breakthroughs that Could Change Everything in Women's Health**

Icon Books, 25th, £11.99, 9781837732012  
How entrepreneurs, researchers and investors are developing female-centred healthcare solutions. Winner of the Porchlight Business Book Award in Innovation and Creativity.

**Anne-Marie O'Dwyer**  
**The Cancer Guide: How to Nurture Wellbeing Through and Beyond a Cancer Diagnosis**

Bedford Square Publishers, 25th, £10.99, 9781915798305  
A guide to strengthening psychological wellbeing after a cancer diagnosis.

## History, politics & current affairs

**Nadine Akkerman, Pete Langman**  
**Spycraft: Tricks and Tools of the Dangerous Trade from Elizabeth I to the Restoration**

Yale University Press, 23rd, £12.99, 9780300284270  
From ciphers to counterfeiting, invisible inks to assassination, the tools of espionage as they developed in early modern Europe.

**Sunil Amrith**  
**The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years**

Penguin, 25th, £12.99, 9780141993867  
How human history has reshaped the planet, and vice versa. A "bleak, stunningly written book", said the *New Statesman*.

**Peter K Andersson**  
**Fool: In Search of Henry VIII's Closest Man**

Princeton Uni Press, 23rd, £14.99, 9780691250649  
A Tudor history telling the story of Henry VIII's court fool William Somer, a legendary entertainer. "A fascinating window onto Tudor life," said the *Telegraph*.

**Arash Azizi**  
**What Iranians Want: Women, Life, Freedom**

Oneworld, 11th, £11.99, 9780861549146  
Critical reflections on contemporary Iran following the uprisings of 2022 and 2023.

**Vernon Bogdanor**  
**Making the Weather: Six Politicians Who Changed Modern Britain**

Haus Publishing, 18th, £12.99, 9781914979330  
Essays on six politicians who have had an outsized influence on British political life: Aneurin "Nye" Bevan, Roy Jenkins, Tony Benn, Enoch Powell, Keith Joseph and Nigel Farage.

**Jerry Brotton**  
**Four Points of the Compass: The Unexpected History of Direction**

Penguin, 4th, £10.99, 9780141999562  
Humanity's historical relationship with compass points, from Hebrew culture privileging east to the

Aztecs use of a five colour-coded cardinal.

**Kerry Brown**  
**The Great Reversal: Britain, China and the 400-Year Contest for Power**

Yale University Press, 9th, £11.99, 9780300284935  
Britain and China's relationship from 1600 to the present.

**Sara Caputo**  
**Tracks on the Ocean: A History of Trailblazing, Maps and Maritime Travel**

Profile Books, 4th, £12.99, 978178168830  
How journeys around the world became fixed lines on maps. Longlisted for the 2025 BSHS Hughes Prize. "Erudite and accomplished," said the *New Statesman*.

**Sara J Charles**  
**The Medieval Scriptorium: Making Books in the Middle Ages**

Reaktion Books, 1st, £12.99, 9781836391067  
A guide to the world of medieval book labour, examining the plans and networks required to produce a manuscript.

**Erwin Chemerinsky**  
**No Democracy Lasts Forever: How the Constitution Threatens the United States**

WW Norton, 12th, £14.99, 9781324096887  
How flaws in the constitution have led to an American government unable to deal with urgent issues of the day and an argument for its rewriting.

**Emily Cockayne**  
**Penning Poison: A History of Anonymous Letters**

Oxford University Press, 25th, £12.99, 9780198795063  
History of anonymous letter campaigns between 1760 and 1939, examining those who pen them and their recipients.

**Alex Cuadros**  
**When We Sold God's Eye**

W&N, 4th, £12.99, 9781399628914  
How one of the Amazon's last uncontacted tribes embraced capitalism

and its consequences by running their own illegal diamond mine deep in the rainforest.

**Martin Daunton**  
**The Economic Government of the World: 1933–2023**

Penguin, 18th, £20, 9780141038674  
A history of money, trade and development since 1933, focusing on the institutions and individuals who have managed the global economy.

**Christine Denniston**  
**The Meaning of Tango: The Story of the Argentinian Dance**

Pavilion, 11th, £10, 9780008725068  
The history, culture and politics of a dance, from the backstreets of Buenos Aires to Parisian high society, and to small screen success on *Strictly Come Dancing*.

**Richard J Evans**  
**Hitler's People: The Faces of the Third Reich**

Penguin, 4th, £14.99, 9780141994437  
How Hitler's inner circle demonstrates the texture and values of the Nazi regime during the Second World War.

**Diarmuid Ferriter**  
**The Revelation of Ireland 1995–2020**

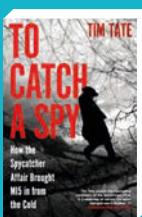
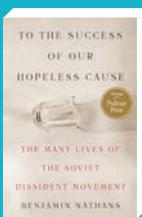
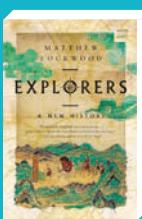
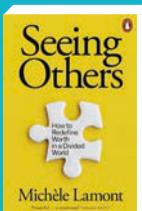
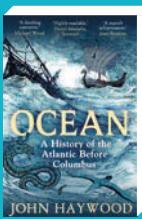
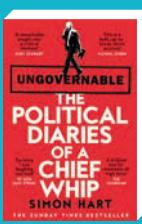
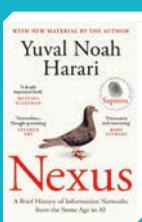
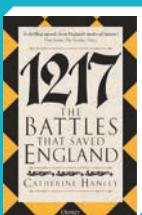
Profile Books, 4th, £12.99, 9781800810969  
How Ireland transformed economically, socially and culturally over 25 years.

**Annie Gray**  
**The Bookshop, the Draper, the Candlestick Maker: A History of the High Street**

Profile Books, 25th, £10.99, 9781800812253  
The history of the British high street from medieval marketplaces to purpose-built precincts. "A light, nostalgic-provoking read with a social conscience," said the *Times*.



SHUTTERSTOCK



**Adam Hanieh**  
**Crude Capitalism: Oil, Corporate Power, and the Making of the World Market**  
Verso Books, 16th, £14.99, 9781839763434  
The hidden connections between oil and capitalism from the late 1800s to the present climate crisis.

**Catherine Hanley**  
**1217: The Battles that Saved England**  
Osprey, 11th, £10.99, 9781472860897  
How three battles proved pivotal to the history of England, affirming the importance of the Magna Carta and preventing Louis "The Lion" from taking the crown.

**Yuval Noah Harari (9)**  
**Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI**  
Vintage, 16th, £12.99, 9781529933611  
How information networks brought us together, from books to the internet, and the possibilities of AI seen in this context.

**Simon Hart**  
**Ungovernable: The Political Diaries of a Chief Whip**  
Pan, 11th, £10.99, 9781035068838  
Insider account of the Conservative government, shedding light on Partygate, Brexit and the 49 days that Liz Truss had the keys to 10 Downing Street.

**John Haywood**  
**Ocean: A History of the Atlantic Before Columbus**  
Apollo, 11th, £14.99, 9781801109918  
A history of the early world of the Atlantic Ocean, from the formation of the mid-Atlantic ridge 200 million years ago to the Castilian conquest of the Canary Islands in the 15th century. "Eminently readable," said the *TLS*.

**Chris Heath**  
**No Road Leading Back**  
The Bridge Street Press, 4th, £14.99, 9780349136295  
How 12 Jewish men escaped imprisonment and enslavement in Second World War Lithuania, drawing on first-person testimony and reflecting on why their story is little told.

**Debbie Hines**  
**Get Off My Neck: Black Lives, White Justice, and a Former Prosecutor's Quest for Reform**  
The MIT Press, 2nd, £21, 978026253964  
The MIT Press, 2nd, £21, 978026253964

Study of the American justice system's historic and present racial inequities.

**Ronald Hutton**  
**Oliver Cromwell: Commander in Chief**  
Yale University Press, 23rd, £12.99, 9780300284256  
Second volume in Hutton's biography of Oliver Cromwell, from 1647, covering the capture of Charles I, to the expulsion of the Long Parliament.

**Michèle Lamont**  
**Seeing Others: How to Redefine Worth in a Divided World**  
Penguin, 4th, £10.99, 9780141993225  
Drawing on four decades of research and interviews, how new narratives of recognition are essential to heal a divided world, shifting our sense of success to focus on respect and dignity.

**Natalie Lawrence**  
**Enchanted Creatures: Our Monsters and Their Meanings**

W&N, 25th, £10.99, 9781474619035  
A human history of imaginary beasts, reflecting our deepest fears and fascinations.

**Matthew Lockwood**  
**Explorers: A New History**

WW Norton, 19th, £8.99, 9781324110316  
A history of exploration considering a diverse cast, including Uighur monk Rabban Bar Sawma, Venetian merchant Marco Polo and Chinese admiral Zheng, examining what it means to be an explorer, what might qualify as discovery and the myriad motivations and experiences involved in exploratory journeys.

**Keith Lowe**  
**Naples 1944: War, Liberation and Chaos**

William Collins, 25th, £12.99, 9780008339630  
History of Naples during the Second World War, from German occupation and Allied bombing to eventual liberation.

**Rose Mitchell, Andrew Janes**  
**Maps: Their Untold Stories**

JUSTIN GRANGE

Conway, 11th, £25, 9781844867462  
Updated paperback edition of this journey through the world of maps and mapmakers, across seven centuries of maps from the National Archives. Stretches from a woodcut map of 16th-century London to newly digitised maps from North America and a new chapter on mapping buildings.

**Oleksandr Mykhed, Maryna Gibson (trans), Hanna Leliv (trans), Abby Dewar (trans)**  
**The Language of War**



9

"Rigorous, but humane and colourful," said the *Financial Times*.

**Anabel Loyd**  
**The Dervish Bowl: The Many Lives of Arminius Vambery**

Haus Publishing, 25th, £14.99, 9781914979316  
Complex life story of 19th-century Hungarian traveller, polyglot and political player Arminius Vambery.

**Diarmaid MacCulloch (8)**

**Lower than the Angels: A History of Sex and Christianity**

Penguin, 18th, £18.99, 9780141990958  
Christianity's encounters with questions of sex, gender and the family through the ages.

**Rose Mitchell, Andrew Janes**  
**Maps: Their Untold Stories**

Conway, 11th, £25, 9781844867462

Updated paperback edition of this journey through the world of maps and mapmakers, across seven centuries of maps from the National Archives. Stretches from a woodcut map of 16th-century London to newly digitised maps from North America and a new chapter on mapping buildings.

**Ed Simon**  
**Devil's Contract: A History of the Faustian Bargain**

Melville House Publishing, 16th, £14.99, 9781685892074

From the Bible to

the blues, a history

of exchanging a

soul for riches and

power. "Scholarly and

passionate," said the *Daily Telegraph*.

Titles in this preview are published in September



Bloomsbury Publishing, 25th, £10.99, 978152664679  
New account of the last dynasty of ancient Egypt, from Alexander the Great to Cleopatra.

## Humour, gift & reference

Frankie Boyle, Charlie Skelton, Frank Quiteley (illus) *A Short History of the Apocalypse*

John Murray, 11th, £12.99, 9781399817738

Chaotic recollections of Alonso, a time traveller from the future, outlining how to survive the end times, as narrated by Boyle and Skelton.

Alan Connor  
*The Traitors*

Penguin, 25th, £10.99, 9781804947685

Official interactive game book tie-in for the BAFTA-winning TV show.

Victoria Wood  
*Chunky: The Best Bits from Acorn Antiques to Kitty and more*

Trapeze, 18th, £12.99,

9781398707528

Selection of Wood's comic writing, introduced by Celia Imrie with additions and annotations from Wood's biographer Jasper Rees.

## Language & literature

Rachel Cooke (ed) *The Virago Book of Friendship*

Virago, 4th, £10.99,

9780349018423

Literary anthology of friendship between women, stretching from Naomi and Ruth in the Bible, via Charlotte Brontë's Shirley to Margaret Drabble's *The Radian Way* and Jackie Kay's *Fiere*.

## Natural history & pets

Joanne Bourne  
*Flint: A Lithic Love Letter*

Eye, 11th, £10.99, 9781785634611  
A geological, architectural and social history of flint on the North Downs.

Philippa Forrester  
*Wild Woman: Empowering Stories from Women Who Work in Nature*

Bloomsbury Wildlife, 11th, £10.99, 9781399400862  
A study of women who live and work in the wild, from a 16th-century botanist to modern-day women responding to bear attacks in Yellowstone, all interwoven with



10

Forrester's own return to England from Jackson, Wyoming.

## Poetry

Charly Cox  
*Nobody Asked for This*

HQ, 25th, £11, 9780008639839  
New and collected poems of poet and activist Cox, whose work soared to fame on Instagram.

Major Jackson  
*Razzle Dazzle: New and Selected Poems 2002–2022*

WW Norton, 5th, £13.99, 9781324105138  
Collection drawing on five books of acclaimed Nashville-based poet Major Jackson's work and featuring a selection of new poems entitled Lovesick.

Robert J Meindl, Mark T Riley, RF Yeager  
*Vox Clamantis by John Gower: "The Voice of One Crying"*

DS Brewer, 2nd, £24.99, 9781843847557  
First English verse translation of the full Vox Clamantis, Jon Gower's medieval Latin poem, with explanatory notes.

## Popular science, philosophy & self-help

Steve Bidulph  
*Wild Creature Mind: Transform Anxiety and Live a Fiercely Loving Life*

Bluebird, 11th, £10.99, 9781529076516  
How our hidden animal minds are an untapped power that can help us trust our intuition and overcome stress, anxiety and trauma.

Paul Bierman  
*When the Ice Is Gone: What a Greenland*

**Ice Core Reveals About Earth's Tumultuous History and Perilous Future**

WW Norton, 19th, £13.99, 9781324110309

How the discovery that Greenland's ice sheet had melted before and is more fragile than scientists once realised, impacts our understanding of the earth's climate, past and present.

**James Binney**  
*Entropy: A Very Short Introduction*

Very Short Introductions, 25th, £9.99, 9780198901488  
How the concept of entropy has implications for many different fields and our own material reality.

**Deepak Chopra, Jack Tuszynski, Brian Fertig**  
*Quantum Body: The New Science of Living a Longer, Healthier, More Vital Life*

Rider, 4th, £12.99, 9781846407718  
Exercises to improve our well-being, steeped in scientific research into the quantum universe.

**Josh Cohen**  
*All the Rage: Why We Feel Anger and How to Use It*

Granta Books, 11th, £10.99, 9781783789467

Psychoanalyst Cohen explores the taboo of anger in our personal and political lives.

**Richard Fortey**  
*Close Encounters of the Fungal Kind: In Pursuit of Remarkable Mushrooms*

William Collins, 11th, £10.99, 9780008639723  
Study of the rule-breaking world of fungi, which can cure and cause disease, clean up metallic waste and move through trees like "mycelial monkeys".

**E Jay Gilbert**  
*Haunted: The Ghost Stories and Folklore of the British Isles*

Zaffre, 11th, £10.99, 9781786582928

Spooky tale, memoir and cultural exploration of ghost stories, examining their origins and why we love them.

**Malcolm Gladwell** (10)  
*Revenge of the Tipping Point: Overstories, Superspreaders and the Rise of Social Engineering*

Abacus, 4th, £12.99, 9780349147208

Gladwell returns to the subject of 2000's *The Tipping Point*, re-evaluating epidemics and the ways we manipulate the spread of ideas, viruses and trends to good or ill effect.

**Verity Harding**  
*AI Needs You: How We Can Change AI's Future and Save Our Own*

Princeton Uni Press, 2nd, £14.99, 9780691277479

Determining what and who AI is for and how to ensure AI serves the public good. Paperback edition contains a new foreword by Harding.

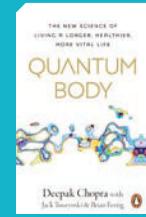
**Brandon Keim**  
*Meet the Neighbors: Animal Minds and Life in a More-than-Human World*

WW Norton, 5th, £14.99, 9781324110439

Our developing understanding of animal intelligence, from snake friendships to rats reflecting on the past, and how we might live with the wild creatures around us.

**Janette Manrara**  
*Tiny Dancer, Big World: How to Find Fulfilment from the Inside Out*

William Collins, 11th, £10.99, 9780008619268



Life advice and motivational tips, illustrated with stories from dancer Manrara's life and career.

**Arvind Narayanan, Sayash Kapoor**  
*AI Snake Oil: What Artificial Intelligence Can Do, What It Can't, and How to Tell the Difference*

Princeton University Press, 23rd, £12.99, 9780691249148  
How AI works and why it often does not, written to stop us falling for false or distorted claims.

**Ollie Ollerton**  
*How to Survive Almost Anything: The Special Forces Guide to Staying Alive*

Blink, 25th, £9.99, 9781788705028  
Ex-special forces soldier Ollerton on surviving any scenario.

**Bijal Shah**  
*Bibliotherapy: The Healing Power of Reading*

Piatkus, 5th, £10.99, 9780349436050  
Counsellor Shah presents a history of how therapeutic reading evolved, noting the role played by the Stoics, Michel de Montaigne, George Eliot and William Wordsworth.

**Andrew Smith**  
*Devil in the Stack: Searching for the Soul of the New Machine*

Grove Press UK, 11th, £12.99, 9781804710999  
The bizarre world of computer code seen through Smith's attempt to become a coder. "Dense, prickly and rewarding," said the TLS.

**David Spiegelhalter**  
*The Art of Uncertainty: How to Navigate Chance, Ignorance, Risk and Luck*

Pelican, 18th, £12.99, 9780241658635  
Data-driven guide to living with risk and uncertainty, from the Emeritus Professor of Statistics at the University of Cambridge.

**James Timpton**  
*The Happy Index: A People-First Approach to Leadership*

HarperNorth, 11th, £9.99, 9780008654788  
Practical leadership advice for a happier workforce, inspired by Timpton's column on business and leadership for the Sunday Times.

**Sport**

**Neil Atkinson**  
*Transformer: Klopp, the Revolution of a Club and Culture*

Canongate Books, 19th, £10.99, 9781837262953  
Nineteen notable games, which explore how Jürgen Klopp's footballing approach transformed Liverpool FC.

#### Adam Hurrey *Extra Time Beckons, Penalties Loom*

Headline, 18th, £12.99, 9781035408382

A top-drawer guide to the language of football, which takes the game by the scruff of the neck to repay the reader's faith. Shortlisted for the Sports Book Awards 2025 and longlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award.

#### Daniel Light *The White Ladder: Triumph and Tragedy at the Dawn of Mountaineering*

OneWorld, 4th, £12.99, 9781836430476

Stories of the Incan priests, Gurkha riflemen and tweed-clad mountaineers who broke ground for modern mountaineering.

#### Joe Posnanski *Why We Love Baseball: A History in 50 Moments*

Old Street, 2nd, £10.99, 978197532075

Defining incidents from baseball's history, ranging from mesmerising mistakes to heroic actions.

#### Venus Williams (11) *Strive: 8 Steps to Train for Success*

Platkus, 11th, £12.99, 9780349443140

Williams shares her training strategy after her diagnosis with an autoimmune disease, introducing habits to improve long-term health and wellness goals.

#### Travel

#### Gavin Francis *The Bridge Between Worlds: A Brief History of Connection*

Canongate Books, 11th, £10.99, 9781837260812

How bridges around the world can improve human connection.

#### Lonely Planet *Epic Runs of the World*

Lonely Planet, 12th, £18.99, 9781837587599

Maps and photographs accompany 50 first-person accounts of running routes across all seven continents, and 150 suggestions of similar runs to experience.

#### Reissues

#### Jalal al-Din Rumi, Jawid Mojaddedi (trans) *The Masnavi Book 6*

Oxford World's Classics, 11th, £10.99, 9780192874283

First English verse translation of book six of Rumi's *Masnavi*.

#### Andrea Ashworth *Once in a House on Fire*

Picador, 4th, £10.99, 9781035065264

Picador Collection edition of Ashworth's memoir.

#### Jo Baker *Longbourn*

Black Swan, 4th, £9.99, 9780552779517

Baker's reimagining of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* from the point of view of the servants, reissued to mark the 250th anniversary of Austen's birth.

#### John Berger *Art and Revolution*

Verso Books, 30th, £10.99, 9781529956351

One of three books joining the Essential John Berger list this month, alongside *From A to X* and *A Seventh Man*.

#### Jeremy Bowen *The Making of the Modern Middle East*



11

Picador, 18th, £10.99, 9781035083992

Personal history of the Middle East drawing on three decades reporting from the region, updated with a new chapter.

"weird-girl fiction" and inclusive feminist defiance, including works by Ottessa Moshfegh, Jewelle Gomez, Angela Carter and Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

#### Marjorie Bowen *Black Magic*

Vintage, 4th, £9.99, 9781529956351

The revival of interest in Bowen's writing continues with a new edition of this Gothic classic with a gender-non-conforming protagonist. One of nine books in the new Vintage Classics Weird Girls series, championing

#### Katharine Briggs, Fee Greening (illus) *Briggs's Dictionary of Fairies: Banshees, Bogarts and Other Folklore Creatures*

Monoray, 11th, £18.99, HB, 978180093504

From brownies to Shetland selkies, Briggs' A-Z of British folklore is reissued in an appealing gift edition with new artwork

from West Country illustrator Greening.

#### Anthony Burgess *One Hand Clapping*

Galileo Publishing, 25th, £10.99, 978191530714

Satire of 1960s consumerism. One of two Burgess titles reissued by Galileo this month, alongside *Tremor of Intent*.

#### Nick Cave

#### *The Death of Bunny Munro*

Canongate Books, 25th, £9.99, 9781837264193

Tie-in edition of Cave's novel ahead of a six-part Sky TV adaptation

# Get the latest

# book trade news

# every morning

Sign up to The Bookseller's Morning Briefing today at [thebookseller.com/mailing-list](http://thebookseller.com/mailing-list)

Paperback Preview

Books

23

starring Matt Smith and Lindsay Duncan.

**Mary Chamberlain**  
**Fenwomen**

Virago, 11th, £10.99,  
978034902049

Fiftieth anniversary edition of Virago's first book. A "feminist Akenfield" portraying the lives of the women of the village of Isleham, Cambridgeshire and an oral history of their generational memories. New introduction by Alexandra Harris and an updated afterword from Chamberlain expanding on the previous edition published by Full Circle Editions in 2011.

**Emma Chapman**  
**First Light: Switching on Stars at the Dawn of Time**

Bloomsbury Sigma, 11th,  
£11.99, 9781399427432

The science of space and the history of the universe. Updated to include the latest developments from radio interferometry to gravitational waves and the discoveries of the James Webb Space Telescope.

**Colette,**  
**Frances Egan (trans),**  
**Helen Southworth (ed)**  
**The Vagabond**

Oxford World's Classics, 11th, £6.99, 978019881582  
A new translation of writer and dancer Colette's novel of the stage.

**Martin Edwards (ed)**  
**As If by Magic: And Other Miraculous and Locked-Room Mysteries**

British Library Crime Classics, 10th, £10.99, 978072355636  
Cerebral classic crime stories featuring puzzling locked-room mysteries and impossible crimes. Includes stories by John Dickson Carr, Julian Symons and Margery Allingham, as well as newly rediscovered writers from the British Library's archives.

**Robert Glück**  
**Jack the Modernist**

NYRB Classics, 16th,  
£15.99, 9781681379715

Previously out of print, a new edition of Glück's postmodern novel of a love affair. Introduced by Rob Halpern.

**Kim Gordon**  
**Girl in a Band**

Faber, 25th, £12.99,  
9780571398362

Tenth anniversary edition of Gordon's memoir, updated and expanded with a new chapter. Foreword by Rachel Kushner.

**Mark Greene**  
**Fruitfulness on the Frontline: Making A Difference Where You Are**

IVP, 18th, £11.99, 9781789745634  
Revised 10th anniversary edition of Greene's guide to serving God wherever you are, addressing changes in the workplace.

**Deborah Harkness**  
**A Discovery of Witches**

Headline, 25th, £9.99,  
9780755374045

The first four books in the All Souls series are being reissued following the May paperback release of fifth book, *The Black Bird Oracle*, and in anticipation of the sixth instalment *The Falcon and The Rose* in 2026.

**MacDonald Harris**

**The Carp Castle**

Galileo Publishing, 25th,  
£10.99, 9781915530998

New edition of Harris' posthumously published novel, set in a 1920s post-war Europe filled with "airships, mysticism and erotic love".

**Juliet Hebdon**

**Pel Is Provoked**

Farrago, 18th, £9.99,  
9781788425292

The twenty-second Inspector Pel mystery receives a modern cover.

**James Herbert**

**The Fog**

Tor Nightfire, 25th, £10.99,  
9781035058907

Fiftieth anniversary edition of Herbert's horror classic.

**Violet Hunt, Melissa Edmundson (ed)**

**The Tiger-Skin and Other Tales of the Uneasy**

Tales of the Weird, 18th,  
£10.99, 9780712355780

New edition of Violet Hunt's eeriest work, including short stories from Hunt's 1911 collection *Tales of the Uneasy* and 1923

volume *More Tales of the Uneasy*.

**Margaret Kennedy**  
**Lucy Carmichael**

Michael Joseph, 11th,  
£14.99, 9781405982825

After a woman is abandoned on her wedding day, a new job in a rural Lincolnshire village offers her a fresh start. One of four launch titles in Michael Joseph's 90th anniversary Mermaid Collection. Foreword by Lucy Mangan.

**Fonda Lee**

**Jade City**

Orbit, 9th, £9.99, 9780356510514  
First book in a trilogy, reissued this month with new cover art. Published alongside *Jade War* and *Jade Legacy*.

**Helen McCloy**

**Through A Glass, Darkly**

Michael Joseph, 11th,  
£14.99, 9781405984711

Supernatural crime classic, McCloy's 1950 novel is the eighth outing for series sleuth Dr Basil Willing. One of four launch titles in Michael Joseph's 90th anniversary Mermaid Collection. Foreword by Gillian McAllister.

**Tony Medawar (ed)**

**Spirits from the Shadows: Lost Tales from Masters of the Macabre**

British Library Gilded Nightmare, 18th, £16.99,  
HB, 9780712355681

New gift anthology of haunted tales and nightmares from "rare periodicals and obscure tomes".

**Mihaela Moscaliuc,**

**Michael Waters (ed)**

**Fruits of the Earth: Harvest Poems**

Everyman Pocket Poets,

25th, £12, 9781841598352

Poems from past to present reflecting on the harvest of gardens, fields and orchards, including Emily Dickinson's *Forbidden Fruit* and Flavor

Has, William Carlos Williams' chilled plums in *This Is Just to Say* and poems by Robert Frost and Gwendolyn Brooks.

**Vladimir Nabokov**  
**Ada, or Ardor**

Everyman Adult Classics, 11th,  
£16.99, HB, 9781841594361

Joins four other Nabokov titles on the hardback contemporary classics list. Introduced by Brian Boyd.

**Orhan Pamuk,**

**Erdag Goknar (trans)**

**My Name Is Red**

Faber, 25th, £9.99,  
9780571268832

New edition of Pamuk's International Dublin Literary Award-winning novel.

**Michelle Paver (ed)**

**Dark Matter**

Orion, 4th, £9.99, 9781398724112

Fifteen years after first publication, a new edition for Paver's haunting Arctic ghost story.

**Oliver Sacks**

**An Anthropologist on Mars**

Picador, 4th, £10.99,  
9781035068357

One of three Sacks backlist titles joining the Picador Collection, alongside *Everything in Its Place* and *Musicophilia*.

**James Salter**

**A Sport and a Pastime**

Picador, 4th, £10.99,  
9781035068343

Picador Collection edition of Salter's 1967 classic.

**Seneca**

**Letters from a Stoic**

Penguin, 25th, £9.99,  
9780140442106

New edition of Seneca's letters following the recent boom in interest in stoicism. New introduction and notes from Liz Gwynn.

**Kamila Shamsie**

**Kartography**

Bloomsbury Publishing, 25th,  
£9.99, 9781526680013

ANTHONY UPON

Shamsie's John Llewellyn Rhys Prize-shortlisted novel is one of three backlist titles given a refreshed colourful cover look, alongside *Salt* and *Saffron* and *In the City by the Sea*.

**Edward St Aubyn**  
**At Last**

Picador, 4th, £10.99,  
9781035063826

Picador Collection edition of the fifth Patrick Melrose novel.

**Gertrude Stein**  
**Blood on the Dining-Room Floor**

Renard Press, 25th, £7.99,  
9781804471708

Eye-catching cover for this reissue of a 1933 murder mystery from queer Modernist icon Stein.

**Jon Spurling**  
**Highbury: The Definitive History of Arsenal at Highbury Stadium**

Seven Dials, 4th, £14.99,  
9781399625913

Players spanning generations, including Ted Drake, Bob Wilson, Anders Limpar and Patrick Vieira, contribute to Spurling's biography of Arsenal FC's ground for 93 years. Updated 20th-anniversary edition.

**Mort Walker**  
**The Lexicon of Comicana**

New York Review Comics,  
9th, £27, 9781681379562

Forty-five years after first publication, new edition of a classic handbook for drawing and reading cartoons. Introduced by acclaimed cartoonist Chris Ware.

**Fay Weldon**  
**Down Among the Women**

Michael Joseph, 11th,  
£14.99, 9781405982641

Two decades in the lives of women who find strength in each other. One of four launch titles in Michael Joseph's 90th-anniversary Mermaid Collection. Foreword by Jenny Colgan.

**Tim Winton**  
**Dirt Music**

Picador, 4th, £10.99,  
9781035063819

Picador Collection edition of Winton's Booker-shortlisted novel.

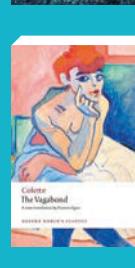
**Virginia Woolf,**

**Edward Mendelson (ed)**

**Mrs Dalloway**

NYRB Classics, 30th,  
£15.99, 9781681379982

New centenary edition accounting for all of Woolf's own revisions to the book for the very first time.



# The Bookseller events

THE BOOKSELLER  
**Marketing & Publicity**  
Conference

30th June

THE BOOKSELLER  
**Children's**  
Conference

29th September

THE BOOKSELLER  
**Future Book**  
Conference

1st December

  
**Speakies**  
The British Audio Awards

24th November

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



THE BOOKSELLER

# Marketing & Publicity Conference

## MORNING

### COUNTY SUITE

09:00 – 09:30

#### Breakfast

09:30 – 09:35

#### Introduction

**Molly Flatt** M&P conference co-programmer & comment editor, The Bookseller

09:35 – 09:50

#### KEYNOTE

**Penguin at 90:** Celebrating our heritage while being relevant in a changing world

**Rebecca Sinclair** Chief brand officer, Penguin Random House

9:50 – 10:05

#### Decisions That Matter

**Adrienne Adhami**

Author, wellbeing coach & brand advisor

10:05 – 10:20

#### KEYNOTE

10:20 – 11:00

#### PANEL

#### Bluesky Thinking:

Redefining community in today's social media landscape

**Molly Flatt** Chair

M&P conference co-programmer & comment editor, The Bookseller

**Lois Bray** Corporate communications director, Pan Macmillan

**Alice Shortland** Marketing director, Canongate

**Hattie Crisell** Writer

**Indira Birnie** Head of digital marketing, Booker Prize Foundation

## TEA BREAK: 11:00 – 11:30 FEATURING SURGERIES

### COUNTY SUITE

11:30 – 11:50

#### CASE STUDY

#### Onyx Storm

**Laura Vile** Deputy marketing director, Little, Brown Book Group

**Stephanie Melrose** Director of commercial publicity, Little, Brown Book Group

**Katy Brigden** Senior marketing executive, Little, Brown Book Group

11:50 – 12:05

#### TALK

#### Everything is Copy:

Crafting the perfect lines for every channel

**Jonny O'Brien** Copywriter, Simon & Schuster UK

### WESTMINSTER

11:30 – 11:50

#### CASE STUDY

#### Warhammer

**James Atkinson** Senior brand manager, DK



## ROOM SWITCH: 12:05 – 12:10

12:10 – 13:00

#### PANEL

**On the Road:** Examining the ups and downs of author tours

**Eve Wersocki-Morris** Chair Director, EWM PR

**Fiona Razvi** Festival director & CEO, Wimbledon BookFest

**Helen Schnabel** Central events co-ordinator, Waterstones

**Alison Barrow** PR director, Transworld, Penguin Random House

**Maria Garbutt-Lucero** Freelance PR & co-founder, ESEA Lit Fest

12:10 – 13:00

#### PANEL

**Changing Lanes:** The shape-shifting, overlapping roles of sales, marketing & publicity

**Gemma Rostill** Chair Lead marketing strategist

BookMachine Creative Agency

**Pru Rowlandson** Campaigns & publicity director, Granta

**Vicky Palmer** Creative & marketing director, Hodder & Stoughton

**Sasha Cox** Head of UK sales, Canongate Books

Monday 30th June | In person & online | #MPConf

# Programme

## LUNCH: 13:00 – 14:00 FEATURING SURGERIES

### COUNTY SUITE

14:00 – 14:20

#### Evenings & Weekends

**Liv Marsden** Head of marketing, 4th Estate & William Collins

**Naomi Mantin** Head of publicity, 4th Estate

14:20 – 14:35

#### I Make My Own Fun

**Sophie Walker** Senior marketing executive, Atlantic Books

**Laura O'Donnell** Publicity manager, Atlantic Books

### WESTMINSTER

14:00 – 14:20

#### The DOSE Effect

**Philly Cotton** PR director, HQ, Akan & Juniper

**Joanna Rose** Associate publisher, HarperCollins

14:20 – 14:35

#### Building Pre-Pub Buzz:

Promoting your titles before they hit the shelves

**Stuart Evers** Director, NetGalley UK

## ROOM SWITCH: 14:35 – 14:40

14:40 – 15:30

### PANEL

#### Cultural Confidence: Ensuring our campaigns for writers of colour are reaching their readers

##### IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DARK MATTER

**Vicki Watson** **Chair** Marketing director, HarperFiction

**Mia Oakley** Marketing manager, Bloomsbury

**Duro Oye** CEO & founder, 2020 Levels

**Sabah Khan** Publicity director, adult, Simon & Schuster UK

**Nancy Adimora** Founder, OtherStories

14:40 – 15:30

### PANEL

#### A Whole New World: Navigating New Adult

**Katie Fraser** Staff writer & Chair of the New Adult Book Prize, The Bookseller

**Sam Soar** Content creator

**Emma Whittle** Programming strategic lead, The Times & Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival

**Rosie Grant** Marketing executive, Cornerstone, Penguin Random House

**Lucy Richardson** Publicity director, Bonnier Books UK

## TEA BREAK: 15:30-16:00 FEATURING SURGERIES

### COUNTY SUITE

16:00 – 16:15

### TALK

#### How to Stand Out:

Pitching, but not as you know it

##### Danny Fontaine

Author & host of the Pitch Masters Podcast

16:15 – 16:45

#### Indie Booksellers Ask-Me-Anything

**Miriam Robinson** **Chair** Head of strategy, Booksellers Association

**Rebecca Roberts**

Founder & director, Night Owl Books

**Amanda Truman** Owner, Truman Books

**Jasper Sutcliffe** Head of business development, Bookshop.org

**Chrissy Ryan** Founder, BookBar

16:45 – 17:00

### ENDNOTE

#### How half-arsing can transform your campaigns

##### Leena Norms

Writer & YouTuber

## CLOSING REMARKS & DRINKS : 17:00 – 18:00

### Sponsors



NielsenIQ BookData

REDWOOD  
publishing recruitment



BBBF

## Feature

# State of play: can stalled momentum in Black publishing be undone?

If gatekeeping and a concentration of power remain critical barriers in publishing, progress for Black writers will always be temporary

**I**n 2020 – amid a glut of black Instagram squares, urgent tweets and bold diversity declarations – publishing promised change. Five years on, the industry is seemingly teetering between stasis and regression. Behind the public messaging, many publishing insiders describe a quieter, more insidious reversal: funding has dried up, initiatives have folded and editorial interest has waned. Instead, the landscape of Black publishing appears marked by stalled momentum, systemic fatigue and profound frustration.

Despite the declarations made in the wake of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, the numbers tell a sobering story: industry-wide representation of ethnic minorities dropped (from 17% to 15%) in 2024, according to the Publishers Association. Black staff numbers

remain stubbornly low at 3%, and mission-led ventures such as the Good Literary Agency, Unbound and Pop Up/Pathways Into Children's Publishing have shuttered. And as mainstream publishers double down on commercial predictability and political agendas shift, there is also a growing sense that DEI is being quietly pushed off the agenda.

"The progress is temporary," says Jasmine Richards, author and founder of Storymix. "It feels like we are in a cycle of attention and then attrition. A movement sparks interest, but then the spotlight fades and so does the interest and investment." Abiola Bello (2), author, editor and co-founder of Hashtag Press, agrees: "When BLM happened, publishing went into a frenzy of trying to 'help' and signed lots of authors, but there doesn't seem to have been a plan on how to help after," she says. "I know a lot of authors who feel like once their debut didn't blow up, the energy went down significantly."

Author and journalist Kuba Shand-Baptiste says the support from industry figures was "self-congratulatory and shallow". "Those of us who broke through barriers were considered exceptions, not a tiny sample of a very clear abundance of untapped or unrecognised talent," she says. "Almost a decade later, it's not at all surprising that interest has dwindled so much."

Selina Brown, founder of the Black British Book Festival (BBBF) (1), describes the progress

as “surface-level”, likening the spike of positive activity prompted by the BLM movement to the big injection of funding into the arts for “so-called ‘diverse communities’” after the murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993. “But again, it wasn’t sustained,” she says. “What’s still missing is deep, structural change. Who’s actually in the room making decisions? Who holds the budgets? Black publishing in the UK has so much potential – but it’s still being treated like a side dish, not the main course.”

Indeed, gatekeeping and concentration of power remains a critical barrier. “The industry has quite a narrow, fixed definition of quality that has been influenced largely by the white middle class,” says Jodie Williams, head of DEI at Pan Macmillan. “Many in the industry don’t read books by Black authors. That makes it harder to recognise or champion talent.”

Mireille Harper (✉ 3), author and editorial director at Bloomsbury Tonic, agrees: “Not only are a lot of people in publishing not Black – many do not engage with Black people or people of colour in either their professional or personal lives. This breeds a culture of conformity and groupthink that results in Black publishers, authors and readers being entirely disregarded.”

Williams also speaks of a “disconnect” between the industry as a whole and some of the “amazing” organisations and people set up to support Black literature, such as the BBBF, Dark Matter and the Black Writers Guild. “They can feel like two separate worlds,” she says. “It was brilliant to see Selina Brown named Leader of the Year at this year’s FutureBook Conference, but I was surprised by how few people from the industry came to the BBBF last year. If the industry immersed itself more in events like these, we’d see real progress because the talent out there is undeniable.”

When it comes to talent, as Shand-Baptiste says, “there’s no shortage of brilliant Black British authors”, with numerous figures pointing to the success of *Queenie* by Candice Carty-Williams, *Why I’m No Longer Talking to White People About Race* by Reni Eddo-Lodge and *My Name Is Why* by Lemn Sissay as examples of positive audience reaction after big publisher investment. “These weren’t one-offs,” says Brown. “They were the result of long-term commitment, belief and visibility – exactly what we fight to create at the BBBF.”

Brown also argues that success does not always look like overnight bestsellers. “For authors like Yomi Sode, Caleb Femi and Jeffrey Boakye the impact is deep and lasting – through classrooms, curriculæ, theatre and community work,” she says. “Often, it’s the community that gets behind these books first – and then the sales follow. It’s a slower build because the infrastructure isn’t always there. But when publishers invest early and meaningfully, the outcome isn’t just commercial. It’s cultural transformation.”

A number of figures argue that this slower cultivation of long, sustained careers for Black authors should be a main focus for change. “I’ve seen more and more ‘mainstream’ publishers

investing in individual books, rather than in the developing careers of writers,” says Jacob Ross, associate editor at independent publisher Peepal Tree. “It has enormous implications for the careers of Black and other ethnically minoritised writers.” But Richards is blunt: “Black people shouldn’t always be the ‘new voices’. We deserve franchises, backlists and careers.”

Meanwhile, Mel Pennant, a debut novelist, warns against statistics becoming excuses. “I’d like to see the dial shift significantly from viewing Black publishing as a risky statistic to it being seen as creating vast opportunities.” While Pennant’s publication journey has been mostly positive, she adds that the uncertainty is compounded for a Black debut writer. “I am anxious going forwards about being viewed as the ‘token’, or as the reason why other stories can’t get through the door.”

Williams points to the ostensibly data-driven risk aversion of mainstream publishing as a major barrier. “The practice of comparing books to others that are deemed similar in order to predict audiences and sales can hinder diversity and limit opportunities for new voices because there is not enough data on books published by Black writers,” she says.

Brown agrees: “Don’t expect the same outcomes or metrics you use for white authors. And stop relying so heavily on BookScan. A lot of diverse bookshops aren’t tracked by TCM, so you’re missing huge chunks of sales data when it comes to Black and diverse titles. If you’re not counting us properly, how can you claim we’re not performing?”

The problem, of course, is not only with books that are published, but also by whom they are published. And the state of play for Black publishing professionals is bleak. “The challenge is progression,” says Brown. “People can get in, but they struggle to move up. You can be the only Black person in the room for five, 10 years – still waiting for a real opportunity. It’s exhausting. And that’s why so many leave.”

Demi Echezona (✉ 4), a publishing executive at Oldcastle Books, describes her experience as “extremely fortunate” but acknowledges how rare that is. “When [I] walk into publishing events, I am still one of very few – showing that more needs to be done. It is not enough to launch the odd prize or to champion the few diverse bookshops that exist here and there – this needs to be ingrained into publishing. Diversity and inclusion need to be everyday practices.”

The broader question facing the industry is not whether progress is necessary, but whether publishers are prepared to commit to systemic change. That commitment extends beyond statements of intent to investment in acquisition, staffing, marketing and leadership. “Martyrdom shouldn’t be a burden Black professionals have to bear,” says Shand-Baptiste. “Publishers and agencies need to take responsibility from the top down. If you can’t figure out how to market anyone but white people, or how to hire people from under-represented groups, that is a serious failure.”



2



3



4

REPORTING Natasha Onwuemezi



1

## Feature

# Getting to the root: Peepal Tree Press reflects on 40 years of publishing

Peepal Tree founder Jeremy Poynting and associate fiction editor Jacob Ross look back on 40 years of publishing Caribbean and Black British literature.

**Natasha Onwuemezi** reports

**C**elebrating 40 years at the forefront of Caribbean and Black British literature, Leeds-based independent publisher Peepal Tree Press has become a “honeypot” for writers and readers seeking stories that transcend the mainstream and preserve the cultural richness of the Caribbean and its diaspora.

The press’ inaugural title, *Backdam People* by the late Guyanese writer Rooplall Monar, captured the nuanced lives of sugar estate workers and exemplified the press’ commitment to literature that tells stories from within communities rather than simply about them. “*Backdam People* was really a do-it-yourself enterprise,” press founder Jeremy Poynting (61) recalls. “An act of discovery about how books could be made – finding out how to sell them was a longer act of learning.” Thus began a 40-year (and counting) commitment to this act, which has seen the press grow from a

one-man band into a globally respected publishing house that now employs nine people and has more than 400 titles in print.

Founded in 1985 and named after the *ficus religiosa* tree brought to the Caribbean by Indian indentured labourers, Peepal Tree Press is deeply symbolic of cultural transplantation and resilience. The press has since nurtured and launched the careers of some of the most significant voices in Caribbean and Black British literature, from Bernardine Evaristo to Kwame Dawes, both of whom were first published by Peepal Tree in the 1990s. “Neither Bernardine nor Kwame had agents at this stage, but we know what’s good. Bernardine [has since] moved on, but she was gracious enough to say to me recently how often Peepal Tree Press got there first,” says Poynting.

Dawes remains a core part of the press as associate poetry editor, publishing more than 20 books with the press. “The fact that we

publish Kwame is undoubtedly seen as a signal of the press' quality," says Poynting. "And the relationship with him encouraged other quite established writers to submit work and he's always there as a touchstone of our publishing values."

The same is true of Jacob Ross (2), author and, since 2012, Peepal Tree's associate fiction editor. He credits the press' inclusivity, integrity and editorial depth as a rare find in the publishing landscape. "Independent publishers like Peepal Tree have always taken the nurturing role seriously," Ross notes. "I've seen highly accomplished writers returning to Peepal Tree when the commercial viability of their recent work is up for question."

Indeed, Peepal Tree does not chase bestsellers. Instead, it cultivates what it calls "long sellers" – books with enduring value that may sell modestly but steadily over time. This philosophy not only helps sustain the press financially but reflects its resistance to the disposability of literary trends. "I have a political and cultural resistance to the idea of books as objects of fashion, as disposable commodities with a short shelf life," Poynting explains. "We've always been interested in finding new writers, but we're equally committed to continuing to give space to writers we've published and are continuing to develop, even if their sales are modest."

This outlook has enabled the press to support writers often deemed "unmarketable" by agents or mainstream publishers. Case in point: Monique Roffey's *The Mermaid of Black Conch*, which was turned down by multiple publishers, but found a home at Peepal Tree and went on to win the Costa Book of the Year. "When this novel was offered to [us], we promptly agreed that it was one of Roffey's best works to date. Our decision was not clouded by the financial performance of her previous work. What mattered was the quality of the novel," says Ross.

**When I discovered that so much foundational Caribbean writing was out of print, it became a priority to do something about it**

This nurturing spirit is also reflected in the press' demographic commitments. Nearly half its recent titles are by women, with some years reaching as high as 69%. Its openness to LGBTQ+ authors working within often hostile cultural contexts has led to the publication of groundbreaking work by Andre Bagoo, Kei Miller and Dorothea Smartt, among others. "Writing for some of these authors is both an act of courage and defiance," says Ross.

Independent publishers are a vital part of the publishing ecosystem, but their role in nurturing talent often goes unacknowledged



2

by the wider industry. As Poynting points out: "The commercial mainstream tends to treat the independents as mere nurseries for writers without any kind of payback for the investment they make in their development. Perhaps there should be a system, as in the English football leagues, where the clubs who have nurtured the beginnings of top players keep on getting a share of the transfer fees as they move to richer clubs."

Peepal Tree Press has been instrumental in building literary infrastructure for Caribbean and diasporic writers, both locally and globally. Its partnership with the SI Leeds Literary Prize has supported authors including Kit de Waal and Mahsuda Snaith, while initiatives such as Peekash Press (a collaboration with Akashic Books in the United States) and writer development programme Inscribe have expanded its reach and impact. Its Caribbean Modern Classics series has restored vital works to the canon, driven by the belief that writers must know their literary ancestry.

"When I discovered that so much foundational Caribbean writing was out of print, it became a priority to do something about it," says Poynting. "I chose books that I thought writers should have access to, so they would be challenged by their ambition and not allow themselves to imagine they wrote out of a void."

Operating outside of London, Peepal Tree has had to overcome challenges of visibility, but it has also reaped the benefits of lower costs and strong local networks. Its Leeds base has now become a hub for Caribbean literary culture in the North. Early adoption of digital technologies, from websites to short-run digital printing, allowed the press to stay nimble and sustainable. Initially, it even printed and bound its own books in-house. "We used to think of ourselves as part of the 'plot' rather than the 'plantation,'" Poynting says, referencing Caribbean history; although part of a broader

capitalist structure – the plantation – the plot represented cultural survival and autonomy. "Our kind of publishing has to engage with the plantation system of international publishing, and like the plot it tends to involve a degree of self-exploitation for those who work in it, but it is also a space where you can do your own thing and maintain alternative values."

At 79, Poynting is candid about the need to pass the torch: "Peepal Tree needs to find someone from a much younger generation to lead us into the next decade, to bring fresh ideas, vision and energy, but also the commitment to embrace our history and mission." Still, he remains focused on future projects, including compiling the collected works of Jennifer Rahim and Anthony McNeill, two Caribbean poets of profound influence. Poynting also points to Peepal Tree's recent partnership with HopeRoad Publishing, and its role in amplifying works such as *Small Boat* (shortlisted for the International Booker), as heralding an exciting new chapter.

More than a publisher, Peepal Tree Press stands as a political and cultural force. Its mission is rooted in a deep understanding of the Caribbean's complex colonial history and a desire to honour the intertwined legacies of Britain and the Caribbean. "I think Britain owes the Caribbean a huge debt of conscience (and material compensation) and Peepal Tree attempts to do some of that repayment."

That commitment is evident not just in the press' catalogue, but in its ethos: nurturing over exploiting, preserving over discarding and amplifying voices that history disregarded. Forty years in, Peepal Tree Press continues to grow with grace, resilience and what a friend of the publisher once called "pathological optimism".

"There are occasions when I pause and feel astonished by how much Peepal Tree Press has achieved, given its size and limited resources," says Ross. "I don't think I'm being hyperbolic when I say that this is a publishing house that punches well above its weight."



Focus

## Paging Tayari Jones

The Women's Prize-winning author of *An American Marriage* is back in the UK to celebrate the prize's 30th anniversary and introduce her powerful new novel, *Kin*. *The Bookseller* caught up with Jones to talk about writing as an act of empathy, finding creative joy, and why women's stories – especially those from the margins – matter now more than ever.

### How does it feel to return to the UK for the first time in five years, especially for the Women's Prize's 30th anniversary celebrations?

Each time I return to the UK, I am reminded how much I love the literary culture here. London, especially, is such a reading city! In every restaurant I see at least one person dining alone, nose in a book. Books are just in the air. Novels are part of the natural landscape.

[At the Women's Prize party], Bedford Square was packed with readers. On a weekday afternoon! Naga Munchetty and I held an on-stage conversation and it was really the best interview I have ever had. The crowd was alive, and Naga was electric. We really went there about literature, the state of the world and just what it means to be an artist in this moment. There is such urgency, agency and enthusiasm surrounding women's writing today.

### Winning the prize in 2019 for *An American Marriage* was a landmark moment – how has that recognition shaped your writing life and career since then?

Winning the Women's Prize was a great honour, and really a turning point. The UK is really the hub of international literature. Prizes in the US tend to be very local. At home it is difficult for writers who don't live in New York City to get attention. In the UK, on the other hand, readers and critics are more cosmopolitan. Because of this, the Women's Prize has a certain – I guess I would say – gravitas. When my name was called, it brought tears to my eyes – and I am not a sentimental person.

Another important aspect of the Women's Prize is that the UK literary world offers a connection to so much of the African diaspora,

particularly the anglophone countries. The UK paperback cover, with artwork by Jamilla Okubo, is a visual reminder of this. Of all the international editions of the novel, her image best depicts the heart and soul of the story.

**You will be introducing your new novel, *Kin*, during your visit. Can you tell us a little about the inspiration behind the book and what readers can expect?**

*Kin* is the story of two women – Annie and Bernice – who have been friends since they shared a cradle as infants. Their lives go in different directions as they grow into adulthood. Bernice is given the opportunity to go to university, while Annie runs away in the night to be with a boyfriend. Although they occupy different places in the world, they remain dedicated to one another, even though class dynamics threaten their bond.

It is set in the 1950s and '60s. This was the time of segregation in the American South, and also a moment of radical change. Writing it gave me a deeper understanding of my mother's generation. I think it can be difficult to walk in the shoes of the generation right over your head. Growing up, we work so hard to differentiate ourselves from them – that we can't see how they formed us. Or why they tried to form us in the way they did. Writing this novel, for me, has been an exercise in radical empathy.

“

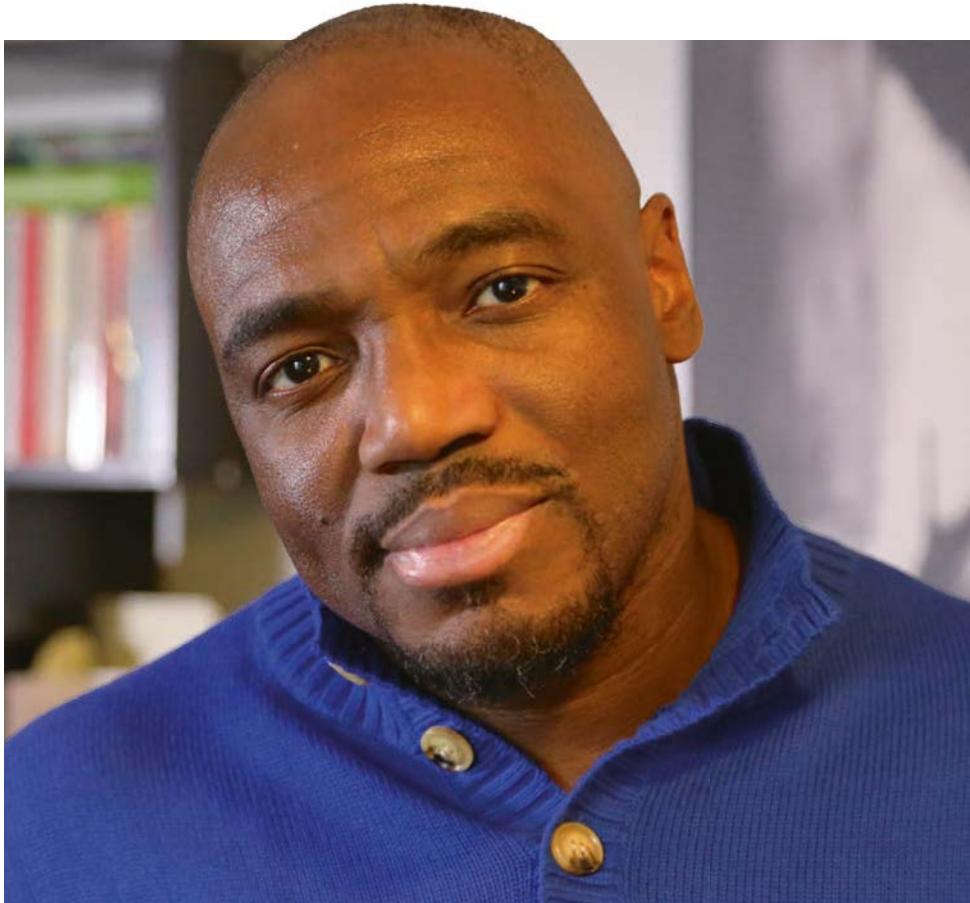
**Early in my career, I would call every Black woman that I heard had gotten a book deal and talk to her for at least an hour. The numbers were so lean that I could do that**

**As a Black woman in publishing, what changes have you observed – or still want to see – in how the industry supports and promotes under-represented voices?**

I published my first novel, *Leaving Atlanta*, about 20 years ago. I have seen so many changes in the industry – for Black women, but also in the industry as a whole. The landscape has become much more diverse. Early in my career, I would call every Black woman that I heard had gotten a book deal and talk to her for at least an hour. The numbers were so lean that I could do that. But now, there is no way that could be done!

And I see so many debut writers being reviewed in prestigious places. Can you believe that I had to publish four novels before getting my first review in the *New York Times*? So, I am seeing much more visibility of Black writers. But, of course, there is still so much work to be done.

*Kin* will be published by Oneworld in May 2026



## Focus

## Searching for answers

In 2022, Foday Mannah won the Mo Siewcharan Prize for his then-unpublished crime novel *The Search for Othella Savage*, set between Sierra Leone and Scotland. Mannah talked to *The Bookseller* about his journey, his dual role as a writer and teacher and the power of language to root a story in lived experience.

**Your debut draws inspiration from a real crime. What attracted you to this story, and why did you feel compelled to explore it through fiction?**

The foundation of the novel came from the harrowing case of a South African nurse living in Scotland, who was abducted from her house and locked in the boot of her car. Crime fiction is often a reflection of the darkest and most depraved aspects of life and the world, with human beings occasionally having a proclivity for unspeakable actions of cruelty and terror.

**You have said that the novel is shaped by your personal experiences as part of the African diaspora in the UK. How did your own journey – from London to Sierra Leone, and now to Scotland – inform the characters and emotional landscape of the book?**

I was born in London but moved with my entire family to Sierra Leone when I was six years old, returning to the UK after completing university. I have lived in Scotland since 1997, which therefore provides me with an insightful vista of these two very special countries. Characters are drawn from my experience of these two culturally diverse settings. The immigrant experience within the context of the diaspora is a well-trodden path, especially in literary fiction. I therefore saw no reason for this to not also apply to crime fiction. After all, nobody has a monopoly on misery; crime is an intrinsic element of the human condition irrespective of race, creed, religion and ethnicity. A lovely workmate aptly described the novel as an example of "Diaspora Noir", a classification I adore.

**The novel delves into heavy themes such as religious corruption and the vulnerability of women in tight-knit communities. How did you**

**approach writing about these issues and why did you choose to explore them?**

The thread that connects the themes you mention – religious corruption and the vulnerability of women – is power. I have always been interested in how power is wielded and abused in society. The character of Tina Kanu in the novel, who happens to be a newspaper journalist, perfectly sums up the trifecta of power, pointing out that a rich man with religious and political influence is capable of doing almost anything, especially in African societies where faith is almost sacrosanct.

Patriarchal structures also often glibly present women as needing "special prayers" as a means of fulfilling stereotypical markers of validation such as child birth and marriage to a "good husband", which unfortunately still heavily applies. This skewed and misguided mindset therefore makes women often open to abuse and exploitation, as is the case in the novel.



**The immigrant experience within the context of the diaspora is a well-trodden path... I saw no reason for this to not also apply to crime fiction**

**You weave Sierra Leonean Creole and aphorisms into your dialogue, which bring such rich texture to the novel. Why was it important for you to keep those cultural elements intact, and how do you think readers will respond to that authenticity?**

Absolutely. I addressed the use of Sierra Leonean Krio expressions in an essay while doing my writing degree. Imagery especially is such a pure form of any language, adding such lustre and depth to creative writing. Krio, being heavily English based, has led to the creation of some amazingly original expressions, which I tried to incorporate in the novel. They were indeed intrinsic and essential to the novel, especially with regards to dialogue.

**You are also a teacher of English – how has your teaching influenced your writing, and vice versa?**

Teachers of English are exceptional human beings, as I stated in the novel's acknowledgements. Teaching English keeps your finger on the pulse since by sheer default you are in a constant state of flux, being introduced to different brands and genres of literature. We not only study literature but also teach pupils how to write. Can I also mention how non-fiction is also a massive part of my development as a writer? Articles in quality newspapers are a phenomenal source of both ideas and style when it comes to writing.

*The Search for Othella Savage* was published by Quercus on 22nd May

# Books Spotlight

## Black Publishing



**Titles in this Spotlight are to be published between June 2025 and July 2026**

### Previews

## Rewriting the canon with fresh takes on familiar stories

For Black writers, this coming year is shaping up to be one of reimaginings, retellings – or “untellings” – and reclamations. Ayana Gray casts Medusa as a Black woman in *I, Medusa* (Zaffre), while Elle Machray reframes Dickens through a feminist lens in *Havisham* (HarperNorth) and Alayo Akinkugbe’s *Reframing Blackness* (Merky Books) interrogates Western art history with a fresh, incisive perspective.

Windrush narratives also take centre stage. Highlights include Kuba Shand-Baptiste’s rich debut *Soon Come* (Dialogue Books), Marcia Hutchinson’s tender novel *The Mercy Step* (Cassava Republic), and the late, great Benjamin Zephaniah’s vivid graphic novel *Windrush Child* (Scholastic), illustrated by Markia Jenai.

In non-fiction, memoirs and manifestos blend the personal with the political: Matt Hutchinson’s *Are You Really the Doctor?* (Blink) explores racism in the NHS; Janet Alder’s *Defiance* (Dialogue Books) is a searing account of her brother’s death in police custody; and Djamila Ribeiro’s *Where We Stand* (Yale University Press) delves into Black feminist thought and how social position shapes voice and visibility.

In children’s, we see stories grounded in adventure. Look out for *Make Me a Monster* by Kalynn Bayron (Bloomsbury YA), a *Frankenstein*-tinged horror romance; adventure story *Wild Magic: Journey of the Lost Elephant* by Abiola Bello (Simon & Schuster); and the return of Iyi Hendrix’s Afro-fantasy heroine in *Adia Kelbara and the High Queen’s Curse* (Usborne).

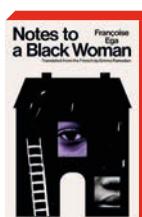
### Our expert, their picks

#### Natasha Onwuemezi

Natasha is a freelance writer, editor and strategist with more than 10 years' experience working across print and digital. She guest edits the Black Issue of *The Bookseller*, an annual focus on Black writers and publishing professionals.



**Pemi Aguda**  
**One Leg On Earth**  
Virago, 7th May, £16.99, 9780349018270  
Set in a mesmerising, menacing Lagos, Aguda's debut follows newly pregnant Yosoye as she begins working for a sinister corporate firm and uncovers a chilling epidemic: pregnant women are being drawn to water and jumping tragically to their deaths... The famed short story writer weaves themes of capitalism, motherhood and decay into a dazzling, original novel, which was awarded the Deborah Rogers Foundation Writers Award in 2020, judged by Sarah Perry, Max Porter and Ian Rankin.



**Françoise Ega, Emma Ramadan (trans)**  
**Notes to a Black Woman**  
Yale University Press, March, £15, 9780300270297  
In the 1960s, hundreds of young girls and women travelled from French colonies in the West Indies to France to become domestic servants for white families. After hearing tales of Caribbean domestic workers, Ega took a position as a cleaning woman in a wealthy French home in order to chronicle these abuses and unveil them to the world. *Notes to a Black Woman* is a piercing denunciation of the ongoing legacies of colonialism and slavery and an intimate archive of friendship, joy, solidarity, motherhood and hope.



**Jackson Brown**  
**The Reaper**  
Del Rey, 7th October, £16.99, HB, 9781529907193  
From the founder of the Black Girl Writers mentoring programme comes a dark and gripping urban fantasy, set in the heart of a hidden world beneath the streets of London. The story follows weapon-for-hire Gerald Reaper and empath Amy St Clair as they solve fantastical mysteries while maintaining the secrecy of the city's underground supernatural community. It is one of Del Rey's big debuts of the year, with a marketing and publicity focus to make Brown the "next big name" in British fantasy.



**Dorcas Gwata**  
**The Street Clinic: Stories of Gangs and Violence, Care and Compassion**  
Picador, 19th February, £18.99, HB, 9781035006915  
In 10 powerful stories of young people's lives, award-winning mental-health nurse Gwata tackles the traumatic aftermath of youth violence on London's troubled streets. With compassion and clarity, Gwata draws on 25 years on the NHS frontline to explore the brutal realities of youth violence, trauma and social inequality and offers a bird's-eye view of London: its multicultural population, wealth inequalities, tireless healthcare professionals and an NHS that does not always work for everyone.



**Leodora Darlington**  
**The Exes**  
Michael Joseph, 26th February 2025, £16.99, HB, 9780241725603  
Natalie has a string of bad exes. The one thing they have in common? They all ended up dead. But now, she has finally found The One – her loving husband, James. So, why does she have a knife in her hand? Natalie does not want to murder him. She wants her marriage – and her husband – to survive. But old habits die hard... From Orion publishing director Darlington, this shocking debut thriller was acquired following a hotly contested 12-way auction.

## Fiction

**Jose Ando,**  
**Kalau Almony (trans)**  
**Jackson Alone,**

Footnote Press, 15th January, £12.99, HB, 9781804442838

This short, sharp debut is about four mixed-raced Black Japanese gay men out for revenge when a disturbing pornographic video of one of them is circulated online.



**Yvonne Battle-Felton**  
**Curdle Creek**

Dialogue Books, 30th October, £9.99, PB, 9780349703558

This haunting take on the American Gothic pushes the boundaries of inheritance and blame, asking: how far would you go to keep your community safe?



**JJ Bola**  
**The Life and Times of Ota Benga**

Dialogue Books, 19th March, £14.99, HB, 9780349702124

The new novel from Bola depicts the remarkable true story of Ota Benga, a Congolese man of small stature who was kidnapped and taken to the US to be exhibited with monkeys.



**Janisha Boswell**  
**Falling**

Sphere, 16th September, £10.99, PB, 9781408734780

A fake-dating college romance featuring a figure skater and an ice-hockey player.



**Janisha Boswell**  
**Unravelling**

Sphere, 13th February, £9.99, PB, 9781408734803

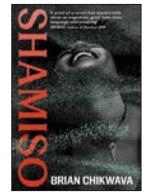
An academic rivals-to-lovers romance with sizzling tension and forced proximity.



**Jasmine Burke**  
**Quarter-Love Crisis**

Renegade Books, 17th July 2025, £9.99, PB, 9781408749692

This sizzling rivals-to-lovers workplace romcom about surviving your 20s.



**Brian Chikwava**  
**Shamiso**

Canongate, 28th August, £12.99, HB, 9781805301271

A Zimbabwean girl meets a gender-fluid Afro-Brit boy. They cannot stand each other but fall hopelessly in love, before being traumatised into taking separate paths by their mutual prejudices.

**Kamilah Cole**  
**Wicked Endeavors**

Atom, 5th May, £9.99, PB, 9780349125879

Set in a Spanish Renaissance-inspired kingdom, a vengeful teen cons her way into a high society of elite witches, only for her revenge to be threatened by her warring feelings for both a manipulative enemy prince and the stoic childhood friend who betrayed her.



**Yrsa Daley-Ward**  
**The Catch**

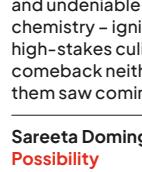
Merky Books, 7th October, £16.99, HB, 9781529923643

This stylishly intriguing and experimental debut novel explores family, fate and female fantasies.

**Zuri Day**  
**Champagne Taste on a Bad Boy**

Afterglow Books, 18th December, £9.99, PB, 9780263397642

When a struggling restaurateur hires a rule-breaking ex-con chef, clashing passions – and undeniable chemistry – ignite a high-stakes culinary comeback neither of them saw coming.



**Sareeta Domingo**  
**Possibility**

Renegade Books, 23rd April, £9.99, PB, 9781408748756

When Anika Lapo wakes up in hospital on her 30th birthday, it is not dying she is afraid of: her real fear is how much of her life she has wasted. After a successful operation, she vows not to lose another second. A novel

about changing your life, learning to love yourself – and what it really means to be free.

**IO Echeruo**  
**The Comfort of Distant Stars**

Canongate, 12th March, £18.99, HB, 9781837263332

This "highly original" debut novel draws from quantum physics and Igbo cosmology.

**Yvette Edwards**  
**Good Good Loving**

Virago, 5th March, £22, HB, 9780349019697

The story of a multi-generational British-Caribbean family across five decades.



**Akwaeke Emezi**  
**Son of the Morning**

Renegade Books, 4th November, £16.99, HB, 9780349703725

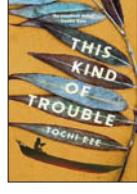
A Southern Gothic paranormal romance of angels and demons, forbidden love, heavenly secrets and deadly desires.



**Percival Everett**  
**Watershed**

Picador, 28th August, £10.99, PB, 9781035087044

A suspenseful, rediscovered classic from the twice Booker-shortlisted author in which a curious hydrologist stumbles into murder, espionage and Native American treaty disputes – uncovering dark government secrets in the Colorado wilderness.



**Tochi Eze**  
**This Kind of Trouble**

Merky Books, 8th July 2025,

£16.99, HB, 9781529928747

An emotionally charged tale of forbidden love, centred on an estranged couple who are brought together to reckon with the events that tore their family apart decades ago.

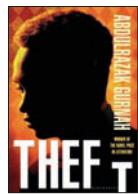


**Ayana Gray**

**I, Medusa**

Zaffre, 20th November, £18.99, HB, 9781785306822

A re-imagining of Medusa as a young Black woman caught in the crossfire of cruel games played by the Olympian gods.

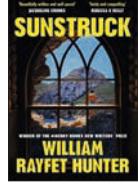


**Abdulrazak Gurnah**

**Theft**

Bloomsbury Publishing, 12th March, £9.99, PB, 9781526680143

A captivating story of the intertwined lives of three young people coming of age in postcolonial East Africa from the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature.



**William Rayft Hunter**

**Sunstruck**

Penguin, 21st May, £9.99, PB, 9781804948330

A dazzling and poignant exploration of race, status and the parts of ourselves we risk losing when we fall in love.

**Marcia Hutchinson**

**The Mercy Step**

Cassava Republic, 22nd July 2025, £16.99, HB, 9781913175740

A raw and tender debut novel informed by the author's own experience as a child of Windrush generation parents.



**Esther Ifeasiachchi**

**Okonkwo**

**The Tiny Things**

**Are Heavier**

Manilla Press, 14th August,

£16.99, HB, 9781785689690

A debut novel about a Nigerian immigrant as she tries to find her place at home and in America.



**Danielle Knight**

**A Rather Vengeful Accord**

Titan Books, 18th November, £19.99, HB, 9781837840847

A rivals-to-lovers dark-academia fantasy.

**Karmen Lee**  
**The Secret Crush Book Club**

Afterglow Books, 28th August, £9.99, PB, 9780263397567

A dedicated single mother and a librarian with a secret write their own love story in this small-town romcom.

**Liv Little**

**Bitter Melon**

Dialogue Books, 14th May, £14.99, HB, 9780349702988

In Little's second novel, a father-daughter trip to Jamaica uncovers buried secrets, old wounds and a journey toward truth, love and reclaiming identity.

**Elle Machray**  
**Havisham**

HarperNorth, 15th January, £16.99, HB, 9780008560393

A feminist "untelling" of Dickens' "most underestimated" literary heroine, Miss Havisham.

**Nadine Matheson**  
**The Shadow Carver**

HQ, 26th February, £20, HB, 9780008548483

The fourth book in Matheson's Inspector Henley thriller series.

**ES McLeod**

**Andromeda**

Penguin, 14th May, £16.99, HB, 9780857507655

A powerful reclaiming of the "most famed, white-washed woman" in Greek mythology.

**Marvellous Michael Anson**  
**Firstborn of the Sun**

Michael Joseph, 23rd October, £20, HB, 9780241705056

An epic fantasy debut inspired by the Yoruba myths.

**Zora Neale Hurston**  
**The Life of Herod the Great**

HQ, 15th January, £9.99,

PB, 9780008732745

A never-before-published novel from Neale Hurston, which follows the historical Herod the Great – not the demon the Bible makes him out to be but a religious and philosophical man who lived a life of adventure.

**Shiko Nguru**

**Soni and the Life Drinkers**

Lantana, 1st May, £8.99,

PB, 9781836290285

The Intasimi Warriors must save their mentor in their toughest mission yet.

**Moses Ose Utomi**

**The Memory of the Ogisi**

Tor US, 7th August, £14.99,

HB, 9781250849045

The epic conclusion to Utomi's Forever Desert series.

**Andi Osho**

**Most Wanted**

HQ, 12th March, £9.99,

PB, 9780008431013

From comedian and screenwriter Osho comes a multi-generational debut novel about three best friends who come up with a plan to solve their relationship woes once and for all.

**Derek Owusu**

**Borderline Fiction**

Canongate, 6th November,

£18.99, HB, 9781838855710

Told through two parallel narratives – one past, one present – this title is a close-up examination of what it means to be a young Black man navigating today's world.

**Del Sandeen**

**This Cursed House**

Michael Joseph, 23rd October,

£9.99, PB, 9781410596796

A young Black woman abandons her life in 1960s Chicago for a position with a mysterious family in New Orleans only to discover the dark truth: they are under a curse.

**JL Seegars**

**Restore Me**

DK, 6th January, £9.99,

PB, 9781464267468

An enemies-to-lovers romance about love after loss.

**Mai Sennaar**

**They Dream in Gold**

Picador, 17th July 2025,

£9.99, PB, 9781035033713

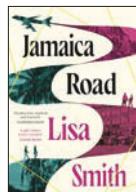
An Afrobeat love story about a young Senegalese jazz musician and an aspiring African-American producer thrown together by chance, and destined to make music that will change the world.

**Kuba Shand-Baptiste**  
**Soon Come**

Dialogue Books, 25th November,

£20, HB, 9780349704975

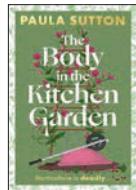
This title explores and celebrates the nuances of the Windrush generation as they try to establish a home and family, revealing their struggles both within and beyond the community.


**Lisa Smith**  
**Jamaica Road**

Dialogue Books, 12th June 2026, £18.99, HB, 9780349703572  
A transformative love story about two best friends who fall for each other, fall apart and try to find their way back together in their tight-knit British-Jamaican community.

**Rivers Solomon**  
**Model Home**

Merky Books, 2nd March, £9.99, PB, 9781529901702  
Two bodies lie in the garden of a sprawling property in Oak Creek Estate, a wealthy gated community in Dallas, Texas. The bodies belong to the parents of Ezri, Eve and Emmanuel, who have long-since abandoned the childhood home in which their parents remained all these years.


**Paula Sutton**  
**The Body in the Kitchen Garden**

Renegade Books, 10th July 2025, £16.99, HB, 9780349703794  
The next cosy, quirky and twist-packed instalment in Sutton's cottagecore murder-mystery series.

**Chika Unigwe**  
**Grace**

Canongate, 15th January, £16.99, HB, 9781837261918  
A stirring novel about motherhood, finding meaning for yourself and fighting for the people that you love.

**Vanessa Walters**  
**Black Excellence**

Hutchinson Heinemann, 28th May, £16.99, HB, 9781529155396  
The second novel from the author of *The Lagos Wife*.

**Charmaine Wilkerson**  
**Good Dirt**

Michael Joseph, 5th March, £9.99, PB, 9781405950107  
A tale about love, family and seeking a new life in the aftermath of tragedy.

**Non-Fiction**
**Adelola Mackson**  
**Unprocess: The 30-Day Wholefood Challenge**

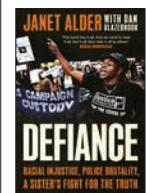
Carnival, 18th December, £25, HB, 9781836009610  
This cookbook and eating plan reveals the benefits of an unprocessed diet.

**Alayo Akinkugbe**  
**Reframing Blackness**

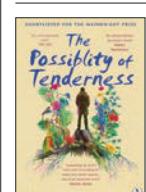
Merky Books, 7th October, £20, HB, 9781529186406  
An original and wide-ranging riposte to the current understanding of Blackness in Western art and museums, from an upcoming curator and founder of @ablackhistoryofart.

**Alayo Akinkugbe**  
**Reframing Blackness**

Merky Books, 21st May, £12.99, PB, 9781529186420  
The paperback of Akinkugbe's exploration of Blackness in Western art.


**Janet Alder**  
**Defiance: Racial Injustice, Police Brutality, a Sister's Fight for the Truth**

Dialogue Books, 16th October, £9.99, PB, 9780349702865  
From the sister of Christopher Alder, a Black man who was unlawfully killed while in police custody, comes a damning account of injustice in the UK police system.


**Jason Allen-Paisant**  
**The Possibility of Tenderness**

Penguin, 22nd January, £10.99, PB, 9781804944950  
The first work of non-fiction from award-winning poet Allen-Paisant is a memoir that roams Jamaican hills and the woodlands of Leeds.


**Jaz Ampaw-Farr**  
**Because of You, This Is Me**

Crown House, 30th June, £16.99, PB, 9781781352984  
Ampaw-Farr shares her story, showing how the everyday heroes in our

schools can transform the lives of the children who need their help the most.


**Byron Athene**  
**Find Your Path to Resilience**

Leaping Hare Press, 18th December, £7.99, PB, 9781836006978  
A compassionate, mindful guide to building inner strength.

**Jesse Bernard**  
**Escaping Babylon: An Intimate History of Black British Music**

Profile Books, 5th July 2026, £22, HB, 9781788169356  
This title outlines how the Black diaspora in Britain reshaped music and defined a generation.

**Caroline Bird, Rachel Long**  
**Something New: Alternative Poems for Alternative Weddings**

Picador, 3rd July 2025, £16.99, HB, 9781035069170  
An anthology of 100 fresh and unconventional poems for weddings.

**Philip Brookman, Deborah Willis**  
**Photography and the Black Arts Movement, 1955-1985**

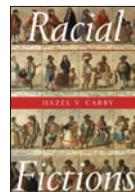
Yale University Press, 6th August, £50, HB, 9780300283501  
Featuring more than 100 artists, this landmark book charts the intricate connections between photography and the Black Arts Movement.

**Symeon Brown**  
**The Good, the Black and the Bougie: The Story of Britain's New Black Middle Class**

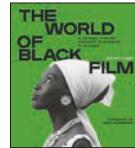
Dialogue Books, 15th September, £18.99, HB, 9780349702490  
A memoir-led non-fiction book about the Black elite and the new, emerging Black middle class.

**Gemma Cairney**  
**The Immortal Sisterhood: A Beautiful Entanglement of Women Past, Present and Future**

Canongate, 5th September, £16.99, HB, 9781838851293  
Broadcaster and writer Cairney explores the collective power and wisdom found in the lives of 12 remarkable women, from Grace Jones and Mary Wollstonecraft to Pharaoh Hatshepsut and Wang Zhenyi.


**Hazel V Carby**  
**Racial Fictions**

Verso, 5th November, £22, PB, 9781804299937  
A powerful critique of the myths that continue to shape our world.


**Ashley Clark**  
**The World of Black Film: A Journey Through Cinematic Blackness in 100 Films**

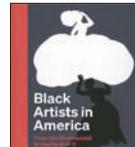
Laurence King, 12th February, £35, HB, 9781529438253  
A thought-provoking survey of important and influential Black films from around the world.


**Stephen Curry**  
**Shot Ready**

Macmillan, 11th September, £35, HB, 9781035012596  
A memoir encapsulating Curry's philosophies and strategies for life, work, basketball and the nature of high performance and success.

**Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah**  
**Seeking Sexual Freedom: African Ritual, Tradition and Sankofa in the Bedroom**

Dialogue Books, 5th March, £18.99, HB, 9780349703411  
Part-memoir, part-workbook, this new book intends to help readers find their route to sexual freedom.

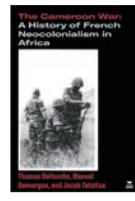

**Ellen Daugherty, Earlene Jenkins, Julie L McGee, Kevin Sharp**  
**Black Artists in America: From the Bicentennial to September 11**

Yale University Press, 8th October, £35, HB, 9780300283563  
The final volume in the Black Artists in America series, featuring work from the transitional moment of the late 1970s to the 21st century.

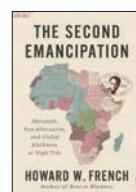
**Neil deGrasse Tyson**  
**Just Visiting This Planet: Merlin Answers More Questions about Everything under the Sun, Moon and Stars**

Blink, 21st October, £16.99, HB, 9781785307669

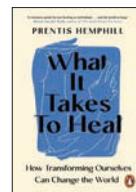
Another guided tour of the universe from deGrasse Tyson – answering quirky, cosmic questions with wit and wonder.



Fair Winds Press, 31st July 2025, £18.99, PB, 9780760396773  
75 recipes for balanced and nutrient-dense salad bowls.


**Howard W French**  
**The Second Emancipation: Nkrumah, Pan-Africanism, and Global Blackness at High Tide**

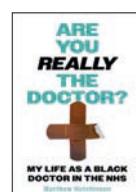
WW Norton, 9th September, £29.99, HB, 9781324092452  
French recasts African liberation and the American civil rights movement through the leadership of Ghana Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah.


**Prentis Hemphill**  
**What It Takes to Heal**

Penguin, 24th July 2025, £10.99, PB, 9781804950845  
A new approach to healing at both personal and collective levels from a leading voice in trauma work.

**Fasicka Hicks, Metasebia Afework, Shan Wong**  
**The Ethiopian Kitchen**

Rock Point, 25th June 2026, £23, Board, 9781577154433  
Authentic recipes offering a gastronomic journey through Ethiopia's rich culinary landscape.


**Matt Hutchinson**  
**Are You Really the Doctor?: My Life as a Black Doctor in the NHS**

Blink, 4th September, £22, HB, 9781785121340  
A compelling memoir about race and medicine on the NHS frontline.

**William J Barber**  
**White Poverty**

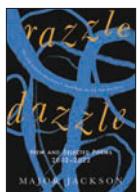
WW Norton, 19th September, £13.99, PB, 9781324096757

This title confronts

myths about poverty in

America and proposes a unifying "moral fusion

movement" for change.



**Major Jackson**  
**Razzle Dazzle: New and Selected Poems 2002–2022**

WW Norton, 5th September, £13.99, PB, 9781324105138

Jackson brings together two decades of passionate poetry from a major American voice.

**Katarina Johnson-Thompson**  
**Unbroken**

Pan, 28th August, £12.99, PB, 9781035055197

A memoir from the two-time world heptathlon champion and four-time British Olympian.

**Anthony Joseph**  
**Haunting the Black Air**

Bloomsbury Poetry, 9th April, £12.99, PB, 9781526683380

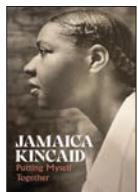
A poetry collection from the TS Eliot Prize-winning author of *Sonnets for Albert*.



**Euphrase Keziahabi, Jay Boss Rubin (trans) Rosa Mistika**

Yale University Press, 12th August, £14.99, PB, 9780300276558

This controversial Swahili classic follows a teenage girl navigating abuse, power and survival in a patriarchal society, challenging norms around womanhood, agency and moral responsibility.

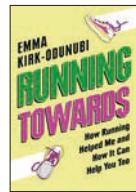


**Jamaica Kincaid**  
**Putting Myself Together**

Picador, 11th September, £20, HB, 9781035036103

A landmark essay collection spanning five decades of writing, touching on Muhammad Ali, Diana Ross, gardening,

motherhood, colonialism and the act of writing.



**Emma Kirk-Odunubi**  
**Running Towards: How Running Helped Me and How It Can Help You Too**

Bluebird, 8th January, £18.99, HB, 9781035062799

Part-memoir, part-practical-guide to the transformative power of running from a gait analyst and coach.



**Michael Kleber Diggs**  
**My Weight in Water: Notes of a Fat Black Swimmer**

Footnote Press, 26th February, £16.99, HB, 9781804442234

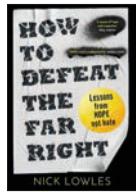
A lyrical memoir exploring swimming, Black identity, body image and family legacy in America.



**Paige Lewin**  
**How to Love Your Afro: Your Natural Hair Care Companion**

Bloomsbury Tonic, 11th September, £12.99, HB, 9781526686985

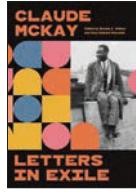
A comprehensive and empowering guide to afro hair care from the host of the Texture Talks podcast.



**Nick Lowles**  
**How to Defeat the Far Right: Lessons from Hope Not Hate**

HarperNorth, 28th August, £20, HB, 978000872970

A passionate, practical guide to fighting extremism by one of Britain's leading anti-fascist campaigners.



**Claude McKay**  
**Letters in Exile: Transnational Journeys of a Harlem Renaissance Writer**

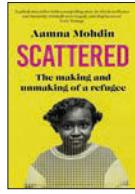
Yale University Press, 8th October, £30, HB, 9780300276473

A collection of private correspondence from the Jamaican-born, queer author and Harlem Renaissance icon.

**Bianca Miller-Cole, Byron Cole**  
**Self Made: The Definitive Guide to Business Startup Success**

John Murray Press, 26th February, £15.99, PB, 9781399822350

This guide by two UK entrepreneurs – The Apprentice runner-up, Miller-Cole and serial entrepreneur, Cole – is a toolkit designed for anyone who wants to make a success of running their own business.



**Aamna Mohdin**  
**Scattered: The Making and Unmaking of a Refugee**

Bloomsbury Publishing, 28th August, £10.99, PB, 9781526652584

An investigation into the costs and consequences of displacement.

**Davon Moseley**  
**Let's Get Into It: 130+ Comfort Food Recipes for Novice Cooks**

DK, 4th November, £27, HB, 9780593958612

The debut cookbook from the Royale Eats website-creator; packed with comfort food.

**Angela F Murphy**  
**Jermaine Wesley Loguen: Defiant Fugitive**

Yale University Press, January, £18.99, HB, 9780300279573

The gripping biography of "the Underground Railroad King": a fugitive who became a pivotal abolitionist and educator.

**Irenosen Okojie**  
**Quixotic Fissures**

Dialogue Books, 16th April, £22, HB, 9781408773147

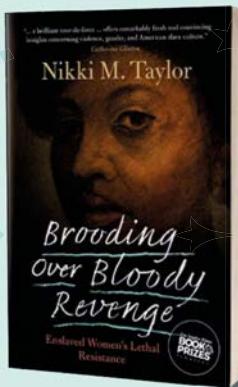
A hybrid collection of essays and experimental writing exploring transformation, healing and embodied knowledge.

**Poppy Okotcha**  
**A Wilder Way: How Gardens Grow Us**

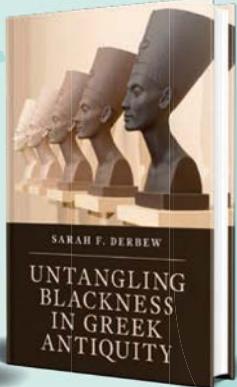
Bloomsbury Publishing, 7th May, £9.99, PB, 9781526666505

An exploration of how cultivating gardens can restore our connection to the land and to ourselves.

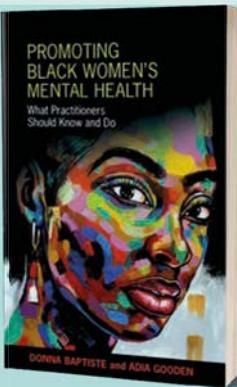
## HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS



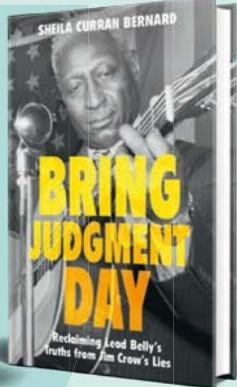
**Brooding over Bloody Revenge: Enslaved Women's Lethal Resistance**  
9781009276856 | £15.99



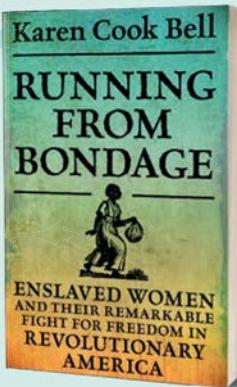
**Untangling Blackness in Greek Antiquity**  
9781008495288 | £29.99



**Promoting Black Women's Mental Health**  
9781008823098 | £22.99



**Bring Judgment Day**  
9781009098120 | £25



**Running From Bondage**  
9781008926720 | £14.99

[cambridge.org/highlights](http://cambridge.org/highlights)

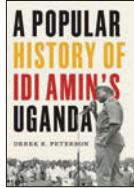


**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Elizabeth Owuor**  
**A Brawling Woman in a Wide House: The Blues, Belonging and a Black Expat's Search for Home Abroad**

Canongate, 7th May, £16.99, HB, 9781805301431

This title explores how the Black American blues tradition took flight to Europe in the 1960s, intertwining the narratives of pioneering musicians with her own audiophile coming of age in Obama-era Europe.



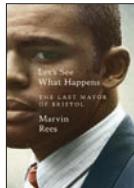
**Derek R Peterson**  
**A Popular History of Idi Amin's Uganda**

Yale University Press, 26th August, £25, HB, 9780300278385

This book delves into how Africa's "most notorious" tyrant made his oppressive regime seem both necessary and patriotic.

**Ashley Reaver**  
**Simple Meal Solutions for High Cholesterol**

Fair Winds Press, 28th August, £16.99, PB, 9780760397190  
 Seventy-five quick recipes to lower cholesterol.



**Marvin Rees**  
**Let's See What Happens**

Picador, 21st August, £10.99, PB, 9781035009190

The memoir from the first Black mayor of a European city.

**Ebony Reid**  
**Trap Life**

Merky Books, 16th April, £18.99, HB, 9781529911893  
 A powerful narrative from a criminologist and ethnographer, capturing inner-city life on London's Northville estate and challenging stereotypes through intimate insight.

**Walter Rodney**  
**How Europe Underdeveloped Africa**

Verso, 17th February, £12.99, PB, 9781836742524  
 A work of political and historical analysis detailing the impact of slavery and colonialism on the history of international capitalism.

**Harmonia Rosales**  
**Chronicles of Ori: An African Epic**

WW Norton, 14th October, £30, HB, 9781324111115

A sweeping retelling of African myth, illustrated with paintings.

**Michael E Sawyer**  
**Sir Lewis: The Definitive Biography**

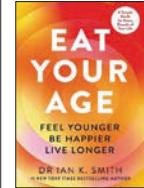
Pan, 8th January, £10.99, PB, 9781035017661

The definitive biography of Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton.

**Komali Scott Jones**  
**The Blackprint: Untold Stories of a Black British Music**

Nine Eight Books, 9th April, £16.99, HB, 9781785121241

A vital celebration of Black British voices in music, long ignored or erased.



**Dr Ian K Smith**  
**Eat Your Age**

HQ, 15th January, £9.99, PB, 9780008739102

Science-backed, age-specific wellness advice from Smith.

**Bola Sol**  
**Your Money Life: How to Afford the Future You Want**

Penguin, 21st August, £10.99, PB, 9781529912401

A guide to financial wellness, securing your future and spending on what matters most.



**Suandi**  
**Leaning Against Time**

Carcanet, 28th August, £16.99, PB, 9781800174993

A poetry collection exploring women's lives, Black communities and unheard voices.

**Mary Helen Washington**  
**Paule Marshall: A Writer's Life**

Yale University Press, March, £18.99, HB, 9780300253856

The first full biography of influential Black feminist writer, Paule Marshall.

**Keon West**  
**The Science of Racism**

Picador, 2nd March, £10.99, PB, 9781035030675

Does racism still exist? Social psychologist West lays out the data to answer the question "once and for all".

**Deborah Willis**  
**Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers: 1840 to the Present**

WW Norton, 25th November, £75, HB, 9781324091790

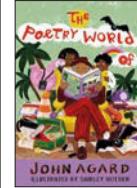
The first comprehensive history of Black photographers, this pictorial collection documents African-American life and artistry.

## Children's

**Tomi Adeyemi**  
**Children of Anguish and Anarchy**

Macmillan Children's Books, 31st July 2025, £9.99, PB, 9781509899432

The finale to Adeyemi's Legacy of Orisha series.



**John Agard**,  
**Shirley Hottier (illus)**

**The Poetry World of John Agard**

Otter-Barry Books, 10th July 2025, £12.99, HB, 9781915659477

Poetry legend Agard's own selection of more than 80 of his poems for younger readers, in a gift hardback edition.

**Andrea Ballo**  
**Coloring with Coco: Sisterhood in Solidarity**

DK, 13th February, £11.99, PB, 979886084429

Celebrate the unity and sisterhood of Black women with Ballo.

**Kalynn Bayron**  
**Make Me a Monster**

Bloomsbury YA, 30th September, £8.99, PB, 9781526804644

A Frankenstein-tinged horror romance.

**Abiola Bello**  
**Wild Magic: Journey of the Lost Elephant**

Simon & Schuster Children's, 14th August, £6.99, PB, 9781398520516

Join twins Misha and Ziggy on another magical wildlife adventure in the second book in the Wild Magic series.

**JJ Bola**,  
**Clara Anganuzzi (illus)**  
**Shy Girl**

Simon & Schuster Children's, 14th August, £7.99, PB, 9781398502574

An enchanting picture book about finding your voice from fiction author and poet Bola.

Book two of a bold series where Nina and her friends

**Joseph Coelho**,  
**Kate Milner (illus)**  
**The Boy Lost in the Maze**

Otter-Barry Books, 5th June 2025, £9.99, PB, 9781915659750

A verse-novel blending Greek myth with a modern-day quest for fatherhood and identity. Winner of the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024.

**Kamilah Cole**  
**An Arcane Inheritance**

DK, 27th January, £9.99, PB, 9781464266430

A dark-academia fantasy with a romantic twist, set at a university built on forbidden magic and hidden legacies.

**Enowwoyi Damali**,  
**Ruthine Burton (illus)**

**Amber Class: Making Friends**

Otter-Barry Books, 7th August, £8.99, PB, 9781915659699

The children of Amber Class learn how to welcome others and show kindness. Second title in a warm, inclusive early-reader series.



**Denzell Dankwah**

**The Power Keepers**

Scholastic, 12th February, £9.99, PB, 9780702332906

Miles Morales with a Ghanaian twist: Marcus and friends discover powers rooted in African mythology in this action-packed graphic novel.



**Benjamin Dean**

**Bury Your Friends**

Simon & Schuster Children's, 14th August, £8.99, PB, 9781398540712

A dark, decadent YA thriller about spoiled rich kids and the messy, murderous things they will do to get what they want.

**Channelle Desamours**  
**They Call Her Regret**

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 12th February, £8.99, PB, 9781526675019

A page-turning thriller with a supernatural twist.

**Marti Dumas**  
**Nina and the Keeper of the Keystone: Secret Society of Rebel Girls**

DK, 2nd October, £7.99, PB, 9798889641131

Book two of a bold series where Nina and her friends

use a magical mailbox to help classmates – and uncover new secrets.

**Diane Ewen**

**The Great Unicorn Escape**

Macmillan Children's Books, 30th April, £12.99, HB, 9781035017089

A magical adventure with friends around every corner.

**Diane Ewen**

**The Great Unicorn Escape**

Macmillan Children's Books, 30th April, £12.99, PB, 9781035017096

A charming, unicorn-filled tale about siblings and looking after each other.

**Abena Eyeson**

**Running My Own Race**

Nosy Crow, 3rd July 2025, £7.99, PB, 9781805133735

When Kofi earns a scholarship to a top private school, he faces pressure from all sides – family, friends and rivals – as he struggles to follow his dreams and find his own path.



**Mina Fears**  
**The Scorpion Queen**

Macmillan Children's Books, 18th September, £9.99, PB, 9781529097221

The first novel from Fears is a thrilling epic fantasy adventure, inspired by a Malian fairy tale.

**Jayri Gómez**

**Black History**

Campbell Books, 7th August, £7.99, Board, 9781035056231

A novelty board book introducing preschoolers to Black men and women who made a difference.

**Isi Hendrix**

**Adia Kelbara and the High Queen's Curse**

Usborne, 5th June 2026, £7.99, PB, 9781803706566

Book two in a fast-paced, witty Afro-fantasy series following 12-year-old Adia and her epic quest to save the kingdom.



**Ella McLeod**

**Rochelle Falconer (illus)**

**Goldilocks**

Scholastic, 15th January, £7.99, PB, 9780702313875

Retold with rhyme and rhyme, McLeod's retelling breathes new life into the classic story.

When Santa retires, 10-year-old Mikey secretly enters his Gramps into a magical contest – whisking them to Christmasland for enchanted trials, sabotage and a heartwarming rediscovery of festive spirit.

**Asli Jensen**

**Love on Sight**

Chicken House, 14th August, £8.99, PB, 9781915947864

An English-Jamaican girl and Somali Muslim boy fall in love against the odds in this powerful debut from the Lime New Storyteller 2023 winner.

**PJ Killburn**,  
**Markia Jenai (illus)**

**Dead Yard:**

**Seeds of Doom**

Little Tiger, 4th September, £7.99, PB, 9781788957649

The first in a spook-tastic new series.

**Siren Knight**

**Princess (Apparently)**

Usborne, 12th February, £7.99, PB, 978180507626

A fun, romantic coming-of-age drama featuring one summer, two boys, and a secret that could change everything...

**Patrice Lawrence**  
**The Case of the Dreaming Dragon: An Elemental Detectives Mystery**

Scholastic, 9th October, £7.99, PB, 9780702315657

The Elemental Detectives are back to solve a third mystery on the streets of multicultural 18th-century London.

**Pablo Leon**,  
**Justin A Reynolds**,  
**Penelope R Gaylord (illus)**

**Miles Morales: Around the Spider-Verse**

Scholastic, 11th September, £8.99, PB, 9780702340499

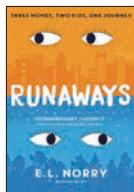
Join beloved Marvel characters Spider-Man, Ghost-Spider and Araña in three original Spider-Verse stories.

**Ella McLeod**,  
**Rochelle Falconer (illus)**

**Goldilocks**

Scholastic, 15th January, £7.99, PB, 9780702313875

Retold with rhyme and rhyme, McLeod's retelling breathes new life into the classic story.



**EL Norry**  
**Runaways**

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 3rd July 2025, £7.99, PB, 9781526683335

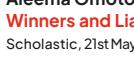
A contemporary story following two 11-year-olds living in London, desperate to get away from home.



**Tolá Okogwu**  
**Champions of the Galaxy**

Simon & Schuster Children's, 25th September, £7.99, PB, 9781398523159

A brand-new, epic SFF action-adventure.



**Aleema Omotoni**  
**Winners and Liars**

Scholastic, 21st May, £7.99, PB, 978072314940

When Derin's favourite professor and his wife,

Cornelia, unexpectedly die, their students are instructed to compete in a series of challenges, based on Cornelia's beloved historical novel, to win their stately home and its multi-million-pound inheritance.

**Chibundu Onuzo**  
**Mayowa and the Fire of Speech**

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 4th June 2026, £12.99, HB, 978152661098

The second title in an adventure trilogy about one girl's power to change the world through the magic of book-jumping and the power of words.



**Marcus Rashford**,  
**Abiola Bello**  
**The Breakfast Club Adventures: The Movie Monster**

Macmillan Children's Books, 9th October, £7.99, PB, 9781035082070

The bestselling spooky mystery series from Rashford is back.

**Emma Slade Edmondson**  
**Mixed: Explore and Celebrate Your Mixed-Race Identity**

Macmillan Children's Books, 12th February, £9.99, PB, 9781035041619

Edmondson, the co-host of the Mixed Up podcast, guides readers to be their authentic selves and live "outside of the box".

**Adeola Sokunbi**  
**Destiny Ink: Baking Mix-Up**

Nosy Crow, 3rd July 2025, £6.99, PB, 9781805131342

Destiny uses her creativity to overcome her worries. The fourth in the new, highly-illustrated chapter-book series.



**Ashley Thorpe**  
**Spirit Warriors**

Usborne, 14th August, £7.99, PB, 9781805075653

In this epic story of chaos, myth and adventure, ancient magic and all-new heroes battle for survival.

**Traci N Todd, Jade Orlando (illus)**  
**This Is Not a Small Voice: Poems by Black Poets**

Nosy Crow, 11th September, £20, HB, 9781805132646

A beautiful, bold and moving collection of 100 poems by Black poets for the whole family to treasure.



**Mary Watson**  
**Strange Nature**

Bloomsbury YA, 14th August, £8.99, PB, 9781526619372

A compulsive dark-academia mystery thriller.

**Kimberly Whittam**  
**Always Angel**

Usborne, 12th February, £7.99, PB, 9781803708072

A novel about second chances, friendship and finding the courage to rewrite your story.



**Anna Wilson, Jenny Bloomfield (illus)**  
**Be Back Soon**

Andersen Press, 28th June 2025, £7.99, PB, 9781839136504

A comforting story that follows the migration of birds, written for any child whose parent, sibling or loved one needs to be away from home.



**Ken Wilson-Max**  
**The Big Green: Everyone Can Make a Difference**

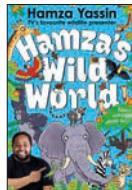
Otter-Barry Books, 8th January, £12.99, HB, 9781915659561

The story of how one family helps to bring hope and regeneration to their community in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Jessica Wilson, Rochelle Falconer (illus)**  
**Rasta Granny's Rainbow**

Two Hoots, 30th July 2026, £12.99, PB, 9781035007110

A celebration of cooking with Granny. Dylan is feeling low and Granny knows just how to lift his spirits... She will show him how to make a rainbow. From red ackee to orange plantain, this beautiful story shows the richness and deliciousness of Jamaican foods.



**Hamza Yassin**  
**Hamza's Wild World**

Macmillan Children's Books, 3rd July 2025, £8.99, PB, 9781035032228

Everything you need to know about animals from naturalist and television presenter Yassin.

**Benjamin Zephaniah, Markia Jenai (illus)**  
**Windrush Child: Graphic Novel**

Scholastic, 12th March, £10.99, PB, 9780702344497

In this story, Zephaniah shows us what it was like to be a child of the Windrush generation.

**READERS 8+**

# WHEN CHRISTMAS LOSES ITS SPARKLE, IT'S UP TO MIKEY AND GRAMPS TO BRING BACK THE MAGIC.

**THE FIRST PUBLISHED TITLE FROM STORYMIX, THE MULTI-AWARD-WINNING INCLUSIVE FICTION STUDIO BEHIND FABLEHOUSE AND THE LIZZIE AND BELLE MYSTERIES.**

**WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK A CHRISTMAS CRACKER:**

**A joyful reinvention of the Santa myth**  
Perfect for families seeking more inclusive Christmas storytelling

**Christmas gets a competitive twist**  
Magical trials and festive sabotage

**Highly illustrated with short, punchy chapters**  
Ideal for younger middle-grade readers



Scan the QR code and support our audiobook Kickstarter.

**Booksellers:** Scan the QR code to secure your signed, limited-edition, five-book hardback bundle (includes a 50% discount) or visit [storymixbooks.com](http://storymixbooks.com).

Storymix Books | 6th Nov | Paperback | 978-1-916747-72-2 | £8.99 | Extent 304 pages

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: [jasminerichards@storymix.co.uk](mailto:jasminerichards@storymix.co.uk)

Contact your sales representative to request an early edition - available September 2025



## Charts

# Everybody needs good Neighbours: Claire Douglas finds the perfect blend

A summer slump sees total sales plummet despite big numbers for the top new releases

In one of the quietest weeks of the year so far, Claire Douglas' *The New Neighbours* (Penguin) has moved straight into the number one slot of the Official UK Top 50, according to the latest data from NielsenIQ BookScan's Total Consumer Market (TCM).

With sales of 14,575 copies, Douglas' newest has improved on the first week performance of 2024's *The Wrong Sister* by 32.7%, and this is the first time she has hit number one at the first time of asking. In the summer of 2024, *The Wrong Sister*'s sales increased in its second week to 19,644 copies

and took the TCM number one spot for a fortnight – and the Mass-Market Fiction (MMF) number one for a month – before going on to sell 258,105 copies by the end of the year.

Douglas pushes Richard Osman's *We Solve Murders* from pole position to second place in the TCM with sales of 13,182 books. That is a drop of 39.3% on the previous seven days, an almost identical percentage change compared with 2024's post-Father's Day performance for *The Last Devil to Die*, but from a higher base, meaning that for a second consecutive week,

Osman has beaten his past year's performance.

In a relatively quiet week for the paperback charts, the only other story of note is Yael van der Wouden's 2025 Women's Prize winner *The Safekeep*. Debuting in 24th place in its first week on sale, it has risen 17 places to take seventh in the TCM Top 50 – a volume leap of 29.6% that is likely thanks in part to independent bookshops. While NielsenIQ does not provide sales data by retail channel, *The Safekeep* paperback debuted in third place on the indie chart, just in time to capitalise on extra Indie Bookshop Week footfall.

In what is perhaps another victory for indie bookshops, this week sees a shuffling of titles in the Paperback Non-Fiction (PBNF) chart as *Raising Hare* by Chloe Dalton bounces into first place with 5,639 copies. That is still a decline on the previous week of 17.9%, but not as much of a contraction as that faced by last week's adaptation-boosted PBNF

► Claire Douglas top the charts with her lastest novel, *The New Neighbours*

# The Official

Week ending 21st June 2025



## Data

Unless otherwise stated, information supplied by and copyright of NielsenIQ BookData (niq.com/bookdata). Information is provided "as is". Neither Nielsen nor The Bookseller accept liability for any loss, damage or expense arising from reliance on this data. Any title discounted by more than 74.5% is ineligible for inclusion.



## Key

- No move
- ✚ New entry
- ▲ Climbing
- ▲ Re-entry
- ▼ Falling

			UNITS	
1	✚ <i>The New Neighbours</i> Claire Douglas	Penguin, 9781405975656	14,575	
2	▼ <i>We Solve Murders</i> Richard Osman	Penguin, 9780241997482	13,182	
3	✚ <i>Heir of Storms</i> Lauryn Hamilton Murray	Penguin, 9780241778586	12,847	
4	▲ <i>The Midnight Feast</i> Lucy Foley	HarperCollins, 9780008385088	9,053	
5	✚ <i>The Greatest Story Ever Told</i> Bear Grylls	John Murray, 9781399820141	8,691	
6	▼ <i>The Hotel Avocado</i> Bob Mortimer	Gallery, 9781398529656	8,561	
7	▲ <i>The Safekeep</i> Yael van der Wouden	Penguin, 9780241999776	8,009	
8	► <i>Intermezzo</i> Sally Rooney	Faber, 9780571365487	7,251	
9	▲ <i>Long Island</i> Colm Tóibín	Picador, 9781035029464	7,147	
10	▼ <i>Midnight and Blue</i> Ian Rankin	Orion, 9781398709454	6,493	
11	▼ <i>Guilty</i> Martina Cole	Headline, 9781472249548	6,485	
12	▼ <i>Here One Moment</i> Liane Moriarty	Penguin, 9781405942287	6,410	
13	▲ <i>The Life Impossible</i> Matt Haig	Canongate, 9781838855611	5,824	
14	▲ <i>The Housemaid</i> Freida McFadden	Little, Brown, 9781408728512	5,818	
15	▲ <i>The Tenant</i> Freida McFadden	Poisoned Pen Press, 9781464228629	5,707	
16	▼ <i>Raising Hare</i> Chloe Dalton	Canongate, 9781837260867	5,639	
17	▲ <i>Cozy Corner</i> Coco Wyo	Penguin, 9780241764220	5,489	
18	▼ <i>House of Flame and Shadow</i> Sarah J Maas	Bloomsbury, 9781526650344	5,217	
19	▼ <i>In Too Deep</i> Lee and Andrew Child	Penguin (Transworld), 9781804993675	5,043	
20	▲ <i>Butter</i> Asako Yuzuki, Polly Barton (trans)	Fourth Estate, 9780008511715	4,919	



number one, Raynor Winn's *The Salt Path*. The standard edition of Winn's memoir, first published in 2019, has seen sales drop 35.4% – just behind the full PBNF Top 20, which has seen a reduction in volume of 33.2% this week.

The film tie-in of *The Salt Path* has also seen sales slip, but not as precipitously, and it manages to rise to second place. The two editions have sold a combined total of 9,244 copies – a 24.8% drop on the previous week, but that would have been enough to keep it in first place.

The second biggest new release of the week is Lauryn Hamilton Murray's *Heir of Storms* – it takes third place in the TCM and tops the Children's chart with 12,847 copies sold, thanks to a slot in FairyLoot's Young Adult box. Unsurprisingly, last week's number one – *Bluey: My Dad Is Awesome* has dropped out of the Children's Top 20 altogether.

Just making it into the overall Top Five is this week's biggest Non-Fiction title – Bear Grylls' *The Greatest Story Ever Told*,

BookScan TCM volume

**2,822,961**

▼ -14.4% week on week

BookScan TCM value (£)

**26,995,853**

▼ -14.5% week on week

a non-fiction "eyewitness account" of the life of Jesus and somewhat of a departure from Grylls' previous offerings. With sales of 8,691 copies in its first week on sale, it takes fifth place in the TCM, pushing Bob Mortimer's *The Hotel Avocado* into sixth place.

That number is around 5,000 more than last week's Hardback Non-Fiction (HBNF) number one – Mel Robbins' *The Let Them Theory* has seen sales fall 45% to 3,842 copies. Though that is still enough to keep it in second place, just ahead of Caroline Hirons' *Teen Skincare*, which appears in its first week with 3,312 copies sold.

Grylls and Hirons lead the way in the HBNF chart in a week that sees 10 new releases. Despite that heavy publication schedule and a large haul from Grylls, sales of the Top 20 have fallen 91.4% this week as the market resets following Father's Day.

The Original Fiction chart sees a raft of launches as well, with three new titles appearing in the Top Five. These are led by Karin Slaughter's *We Are All Guilty Here*, which has sold 4,259 copies in its first three days on sale – a slight increase of 0.9% compared with 2024's *This Is Why We Lied* – and just ahead of Rob Rinder's *The Protest*, which has shed just under 200 readers versus 2024's *The Suspect*.

In total, it was a bad week for the TCM this week – compared with the previous week, volume has dropped 14.4% to 2.8 million books and value has seen a decline of 14.5% to £27m. Compared with the same week in 2024, volume has fallen 9.7%, with value performing slightly better, down 7.7%.

REPORTING Alex Call

# UK Top 50

		UNITS		UNITS		UNITS		
21	▲ <i>The Dicktionary Club</i> Sophia Gravia	4,840	31	▼ <i>The Let Them Theory</i> Mel Robbins	3,842	41	▼ <i>Joy</i> Danielle Steel	3,488
	Zaffre, 9781785127571			Hay House UK, 9781788176187			Pan Books, 9781529085723	
22	▲ <i>The Salt Path</i> Raynor Winn	4,737	32	▲ <i>The Housemaid's Secret</i> Freida McFadden	3,819	42	▲ <i>Problematic Summer Romance</i> A Hazelwood	3,478
	Penguin, 9781405972147			Little, Brown, 9780349132600			Sphere, 9781408729885	
23	▲ <i>There Are Rivers in the Sky</i> Elif Shafak	4,601	33	▼ <i>One Cornish Summer With You</i> P Ashley	3,816	43	▲ <i>All Fours</i> Miranda July	3,463
	Penguin, 9780241988749			Penguin (Cornerstone), 9781804945568			Canongate, 9781838853488	
24	▼ <i>Precipice</i> Robert Harris	4,593	34	▲ <i>A Court of Thorns and Roses</i> Sarah J Maas	3,790	44	▲ <i>The Glassmaker</i> Tracy Chevalier	3,317
	Penguin (Cornerstone), 9781804941294			Bloomsbury, 9781526605399			Borough Press, 9780008153892	
25	▼ <i>The Salt Path</i> Raynor Winn	4,507	35	▲ <i>By Any Other Name</i> Jodi Picoult	3,662	45	▲ <i>Teen Skincare</i> Caroline Hirons	3,312
	Penguin, 9781405937184			Penguin, 9781405961899			HQ, 9780008729707	
26	▲ <i>The Courage to Be Disliked</i> I Kishimi, F Koga	4,358	36	▲ <i>Ward D</i> Freida McFadden	3,661	46	▲ <i>The Women</i> Kristin Hannah	3,290
	Allen & Unwin, 9781760630737			Poisoned Pen Press, 9781464228575			Pan Books, 9781035005697	
27	▲ <i>We Are All Guilty Here</i> Karin Slaughter	4,259	37	▲ <i>What a Way to Go</i> Bella Mackie	3,645	47	▼ <i>The World's Worst Superheroes</i> D Walliams	3,279
	HarperCollins, 9780008625870			Borough Press, 9780008365981			HarperCollins, 9780008305826	
28	▲ <i>Cozy Cuties</i> Coco Wyo	4,224	38	▲ <i>Atmosphere</i> Taylor Jenkins Reid	3,620	48	▲ <i>Murder on the Marlow Belle</i> R Thorogood	3,258
	Penguin, 9780241764206			Hutchinson Heinemann, 9781529152975			HQ, 9780008567385	
29	▲ <i>The Stranger in Room Six</i> Jane Corry	4,080	39	▲ <i>Sunrise on the Reaping</i> Suzanne Collins	3,522	49	▲ <i>The Missing Family</i> Tim Weaver	3,176
	Penguin, 9781405975292			Scholastic, 9780702340574			Penguin, 9781405953016	
30	▲ <i>The Protest</i> Rob Rinder	4,013	40	▲ <i>Fourth Wing</i> Rebecca Yarros	3,502	50	▲ <i>My Favourite Mistake</i> Marian Keyes	3,145
	Century, 9781529934755			Piatkus, 9780349437019			Penguin, 9781405945424	

4,259

Karin Slaughter's *We Are All Guilty Here* sold 4,259 copies in its first three days on sale – a slight increase compared with 2024's *This Is Why We Lied*

ALISON ROSA

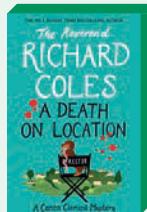
Out next week



Charts

# Fiction

## In the Spotlight



**Richard Coles**  
***A Death on Location***  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £22, 9781399621410  
In his third official week on sale, Reverend Richard Coles' *A Death on Location* – the fifth instalment in the Canon Clement Mysteries series – has seen its sales drop 40.4% compared with the previous seven days. The 2,356 copies sold this week have brought its total to 12,238 books since the beginning of June – a figure that is down 15.6% from the 14,492 that *Murder at the Monastery* managed to do in June 2024.

2,356

TCM copies sold



## Original Fiction

Rank	Book	Author	Copies sold
1		<b>We Are All Guilty Here</b> Karin Slaughter	4,259
2		<b>The Protest</b> Rob Rinder	4,013
3		<b>Atmosphere</b> Taylor Jenkins Reid	3,620
4		<b>Never Flinch</b> Stephen King	2,948
5		<b>What the Night Brings</b> Mark Billingham	2,602
6		<b>A Death on Location</b> Reverend Richard Coles	2,356
7		<b>Six Wild Crowns</b> Holly Race	2,316
8		<b>Onyx Storm</b> Rebecca Yarros	1,967
9		<b>Bury Our Bones in the Midnight...</b> VE Schwab	1,938
10		<b>My Friends</b> Fredrik Backman	1,662
11		<b>The Rush</b> Beth Lewis	1,534
12		<b>Star Wars: Trials of the Jedi</b> Charles Soule	1,526
13		<b>The First Gentleman</b> Bill Clinton, J Patterson	1,506
14		<b>By Your Side</b> Ruth Jones	1,413
15		<b>Woven by Gold</b> Elizabeth Helen	1,311
16		<b>Forged by Malice</b> Elizabeth Helen	1,308
17		<b>Broken by Daylight</b> Elizabeth Helen	1,306
18		<b>Nightshade</b> Michael Connelly	1,278
19		<b>A Cornish Legacy</b> Fern Britton	1,133
20		<b>The Names</b> Florence Knapp	965

## Mass-Market Fiction

Rank	Book	Author	Copies sold
1		<b>The New Neighbours</b> Claire Douglas	14,575
2		<b>We Solve Murders</b> Richard Osman	13,182
3		<b>The Midnight Feast</b> Lucy Foley	9,053
4		<b>The Hotel Avocado</b> Bob Mortimer	8,561
5		<b>The Safekeep</b> Yael van der Wouden	8,009
6		<b>Intermezzo</b> Sally Rooney	7,251
7		<b>Long Island</b> Colm Tóibín	7,147
8		<b>Midnight and Blue</b> Ian Rankin	6,493
9		<b>Guilty</b> Martina Cole	6,485
10		<b>Here One Moment</b> Liane Moriarty	6,410
11		<b>The Life Impossible</b> Matt Haig	5,824
12		<b>The Housemaid</b> Freida McFadden	5,818
13		<b>The Tenant</b> Freida McFadden	5,707
14		<b>House of Flame and Shadow</b> Sarah J Maas	5,217
15		<b>In Too Deep</b> Lee and Andrew Child	5,043
16		<b>Butter</b> Asako Yuzuki, Polly Barton (trans)	4,919
17		<b>The Dictionnaire Club</b> Sophia Gravia	4,840
18		<b>There Are Rivers in the Sky</b> Elif Shafak	4,601
19		<b>Precipice</b> Robert Harris	4,593
20		<b>The Stranger in Room Six</b> Jane Corry	4,080

## Fiction Heatseekers



2,316

TCM copies sold

1 **Book Boyfriend**  
**Lucy Vine**  
Simon & Schuster, £5.43,  
9781398532021

2 **Ride the Wave**  
**Katherine Reilly**  
Aria, £6.03,  
9781035912865

3 **The Rush**  
**Beth Lewis**  
Viper, £18.91,  
9781805223115

4 **Star Wars: Trials of the Jedi**  
**Charles Soule**  
Del Rey, £20.26,  
9781529945539

5 **Evenings and Weekends**  
**Oisin McKenna**  
Fourth Estate, £9,  
9780008604219



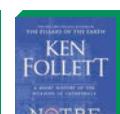
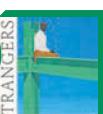
1,404

TCM copies sold

6 **Heart Lamp**  
**Banu Mushtaq**  
And Other Stories,  
£14.59,  
9781916751163

7 **Once Upon a Time in Venice**  
**Carol Kirkwood**  
HarperCollins, £5.06,  
9780008551018

8 **The Sky on Fire**  
**Jenn Lyons**  
Tor, £6.09,  
9781035048595



5,639

The Paperback Non-Fiction chart sees *Raising Hare* by Chloe Dalton bounce into first place with 5,639 copies

FISHER STUDIOS



Charts

# Non-Fiction

## In the Spotlight



Miranda Hart's *I Haven't Been Entirely Honest with You* was one of the big hits of Christmas 2024, selling a total of 143,686 copies in hardback by the end of the year and earning its place as the second bestselling book in the three months from the beginning of October. It has had a quieter start to its life in paperback though, selling an average of 2,555 copies a week, though it is steadily creeping up the charts.

2,501  
TCM copies sold



## Hardback Non-Fiction

1		<b>The Greatest Story Ever Told</b> Bear Grylls	8,691
2		<b>The Let Them Theory</b> Mel Robbins	3,842
3		<b>Teen Skincare</b> Caroline Hirons	3,312
4		<b>How Not to Be a Political Wife</b> Sarah Vine	3,091
5		<b>The Unprocessed Plate</b> Rhiannon Lambert	2,962
6		<b>Big Dunc</b> Duncan Ferguson	1,922
7		<b>Live to Eat</b> Emily English	1,777
8		<b>Dave and Me</b> Lili Myers	1,590
9		<b>Boustany</b> Sami Tamimi	1,562
10		<b>The BBQ Book</b> Tom Kerridge	1,334
11		<b>A Different Kind of Power</b> Jacinda Ardern	1,318
12		<b>Free Ride</b> Norary Schoenmaker	1,208
13		<b>The Snack Hacker</b> George Egg	1,028
14		<b>Ocean</b> David Attenborough, Colin Butfield	1,015
15		<b>Sword</b> Max Hastings	910
16		<b>The Genius Myth</b> Helen Lewis	867
17		<b>SAS Great Escapes Four</b> Damien Lewis	832
18		<b>Unbreakable</b> Melvyn Downes	800
19		<b>Is a River Alive?</b> Robert Macfarlane	785
20		<b>Cartier</b>	761

## Paperback Non-Fiction

1		<b>Raising Hare</b> Chloe Dalton	5,639
2		<b>The Salt Path</b> Raynor Winn	4,737
3		<b>The Salt Path</b> Raynor Winn	4,507
4		<b>The Courage to Be Disliked</b> Ichiro Kishimi, Fumitake Koga	4,358
5		<b>Diddly Squat: Home to Roost</b> Jeremy Clarkson	2,831
6		<b>The Siege</b> Ben Macintyre	2,545
7		<b>I Haven't Been Entirely Honest... Mirand...</b> Miranda Hart	2,501
8		<b>Atomic Habits</b> James Clear	2,317
9		<b>A History of Britain in Ten Enemies</b> Terry Deary	2,234
10		<b>SAS Daggers Drawn</b> Damien Lewis	2,213
11		<b>Arnhem: Black Tuesday</b> Al Murray	2,013
12		<b>Surrounded by Idiots</b> Thomas Erikson	1,817
13		<b>The Anxious Generation</b> Jonathan Haidt	1,741
14		<b>The Official Highway Code</b>	1,693
15		<b>Murdle</b> GT Karber	1,653
16		<b>The Trading Game</b> Gary Stevenson	1,623
17		<b>A Pawtobiography</b> Ted the Dog	1,593
18		<b>Prisoners of Geography</b> Tim Marshall	1,523
19		<b>The Psychology of Money</b> Morgan Housel	1,477
20		<b>A History of the World in 47 Borders</b> J Elledge	1,460

## Small publishers

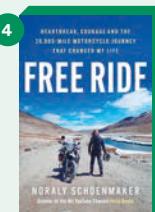


1,693

TCM copies sold

2 **Prisoners of Geography**  
Tim Marshall  
E&T, £9.21,  
9781783968596

3 **Kaleidoscope Squishmallows Colouring Book**  
Hinkler Books, £3,  
9781488960628



1,208

TCM copies sold

5 **Blue Blood**  
Damien Boyd  
Thomas & Mercer,  
£6.99,  
9781662524660

6 **In Service of Death**  
JD Kirk  
Canelo Crime, £2.65,  
9781804368329

7 **Where the Pieces Lie**  
JD Kirk  
Canelo Crime, £2.63,  
9781804368350

8 **Dead Man Walking**  
JD Kirk  
Canelo Crime, £2.68,  
9781804368336

9 **Perfection**  
V Latronico,  
S Hughes (trans)  
Fitzcarraldo, £12.48,  
9781804271049

10 **A Killer of Influence**  
JD Kirk  
Canelo Crime, £6,  
9781804368343

Non-Fiction

Charts

12,847

Lauryn Hamilton Murray's *Heir of Storms* hardback exclusive is the second-biggest new release this week and tops the children's chart with 12,847 copies sold, thanks to its inclusion in this month's *FairyLoot* YA box



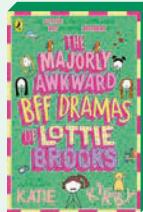
Out  
next  
week



## Charts

# Children's

### In the Spotlight



Katie Kirby  
**The Majorly Awkward BFF Dramas of Lottie Brooks**  
Puffin, £7.99.

9780241647264  
The latest instalment of the six-strong Lottie Brooks series (a seventh edition is due at the beginning of July) has sold a total of 26,739 copies since the beginning of May, bringing the title's total across all editions to 126,294 copies. The 8,479 copies across all editions of the series have, this week, taken Lottie Brooks' lifetime sales to just over one million copies since the first title's publication in 2021.

2,477

TCM copies sold



### Children's & YA Fiction

Rank	Book	Author	Publisher	Copies sold
1	Heir of Storms	Lauryn Hamilton Murray	Penguin	12,847
2	Sunrise on the Reaping	Suzanne Collins	Scholastic	3,522
3	The World's Worst Superheroes	David Walliams	HarperCollins	3,279
4	The Scarlet Shredder	Dav Pilkey	Scholastic	2,728
5	The Majorly Awkward BFF Dramas of Lottie...	Katie Kirby	Puffin	2,477
6	Powerless	Lauren Roberts	Simon & Schuster	2,103
7	Dork Diaries: Sister Showdown	Rachel Renée Russell	Simon & Schuster	1,886
8	Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea	Dav Pilkey	Scholastic	1,753
9	Fearless	Lauren Roberts	Simon & Schuster	1,605
10	No Brainer	Jeff Kinney	Puffin	1,546
11	Mothering Heights	Dav Pilkey	Scholastic	1,525
12	For Whom the Ball Rolls	Dav Pilkey	Scholastic	1,479
13	Big Jim Begins	Dav Pilkey	Scholastic	1,447
14	Grime and Punishment	Dav Pilkey	Scholastic	1,407
15	Reckless	Lauren Roberts	Simon & Schuster	1,398
16	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	JK Rowling	Bloomsbury Children's	1,337
17	How to Train Your Dragon	Cressida Cowell	Hodder Children's	1,301
18	Minecraft Movie		Farshore	1,238
19	A Box Full of Murders	Janice Hallett	Puffin	1,237
20	The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie...	Katie Kirby	Puffin	1,229

### Pre-school & Picture Books

Rank	Book	Author	Publisher	Copies sold
1	Oi Dinosaurs	Kes Gray; Jim Field	Hodder Childrens	2,276
2	Hare's New Dress	Julia Donaldson; Axel Scheffler	Macmillan Children's	2,089
3	The Very Hungry Caterpillar	Eric Carle	Puffin	2,077
4	Sticker Dolly Dressing Fairy Weddings	Fiona Watt; Antonia Miller	Usborne	1,976
5	Disney Stitch: The Ultimate Colouring Book	-	Autumn	1,866
6	The Tooth Fairy and the Croc...	Julia Donaldson; Lydia Monks	Macmillan Children's	1,587
7	The Camel Who Had The Hump	Rachel Bright; Jim Field	Orchard Books	1,448
8	Guess How Much I Love You	Sam McBratney; Anita Jeram	Walker	1,402
9	Follow the Swallow	Julia Donaldson; Thomas Docherty	Farshore	1,381
10	Dear Zoo	Rod Campbell	Macmillan Children's	1,353
11	Kaleidoscope Squishmallows Colouring Book Oh So Sweet	Hinkler Books	Hinkler Books	1,321
12	Peppa Pig: Fun at the Farm		Ladybird	1,296
13	Ultimate Football Heroes Colouring Book		Studio Press	1,223
14	Tiddler	Julia Donaldson; Axel Scheffler	Alison Green	1,201
15	No More Nappies		Campbell Books	1,201
16	Zog	Julia Donaldson; Axel Scheffler	Alison Green	1,107
17	Bluey: Daddy Robot		Ladybird	1,100
18	Sticker Fun: Princess Palace	Susan Mayes; Lauren Ellis	Two Windmills	1,089
19	Sticker Fun: Under the Sea	Oakley Graham; Dan Crisp	Two Windmills	1,080
20	Ms Rachel: 100 First Words	Ms Rachel	Ladybird	1,079



Bookstat Top 10 Bookstat tracks e-books, print books and audio titles through online retailers and calibrates against publisher-supplied data; volume figures are estimates. **Publisher E-Book Ranking Titles** with a selling price below £2 are excluded, as are those priced £4.50 or below with any print versions priced above £17.99. Participating publishers: Bonnier Books UK, Bloomsbury, Hachette, HarperCollins, Joffe Books, Pan Macmillan and Penguin Random House.

## Charts

# Audio & Digital

## Dual victory: Lisa Jewell takes top spot for a second week

REPORTING Alex Call

Lisa Jewell has retained her position at the top of the Bookstat E-Book chart with *None of This Is True*. Sales of the thriller, first published in 2023, have fallen slightly compared with last week, down 6.1% – the equivalent of 657 copies.

That fall is a little more than the total Bookstat E-book Top 10,



1

which has seen its sales contract 2.5% this week.

There is no move in second place for Andrea Mara's (2) *It Should Have Been You*, which manages to improve its week-on-week performance by just 14 copies. A week of little change appears to be the theme, with fourth place Freida McFadden retaining her position by selling just 31 fewer copies of *Death Row* compared with the previous seven days.

There are two new releases in the Top 10 this week; Damien Boyd's *Blue Blood* – the 15th instalment in Boyd's DI Nick Dixon series – has taken third place with an estimated 8,340 downloads. Meanwhile, Rachel McLean's *The Poole Harbour Murders* – the 10th in her Dorset Crime series – has debuted in fifth.

On the Audible chart, despite losing its crown at the top of Hardback Non-Fiction, Mel and Sawyer Robbins' *The Let Them Theory* has retained first place for a 13th consecutive week.

**NB** Hachette has stated that *The Waiting* has sold 4,131 copies

### Bookstat E-Book Top 10



Data source Bookstat. Week ending 21st June 2025.

1		None of This Is True	Lisa Jewell	10,116
2		It Should Have Been You	Andrea Mara	9,944
3		Blue Blood	Damien Boyd	8,340
4		Death Row	Freida McFadden	7,828
5		The Poole Harbour Murders	Rachel McLean	7,451
6		In a Thousand Different Ways	Cecelia Ahern	6,168
7		The Waiting	Michael Connelly	5,854
8		The Glassmaker	Tracy Chevalier	5,326
9		Rock Paper Scissors	Alice Feeney	5,069
10		The Tenant	Freida McFadden	4,916

### Publisher E-Book Ranking

Data source Publisher-supplied. Week ending 14th June 2025.

1		In a Thousand Different Ways	Cecelia Ahern	HarperCollins, 9780008194994
2		Rock Paper Scissors	Alice Feeney	HQ, 9780008371005
3		Caught Up	Navessa Allen	Quercus, 9781529442441
4		Murder Under the Sun	Faith Martin	Joffe Books, 9781805731122
5		The Salt Path	Raynor Winn	Penguin (Michael Joseph), 9781405937528
6		Evenings and Weekends	Oisín McKenna	Fourth Estate, 9780008604196
7		After That Night	Karin Slaughter	HarperCollins, 9780008499419
8		Fourth Wing	Rebecca Yarros	Piatkus, 9780349436982
9		Iron Flame	Rebecca Yarros	Piatkus, 9780349437040
10		The Secrets of Flowers	Sally Page	HarperCollins, 9780008612917

### Audible Audio Top 10



Data source Audible. Week ending 21st June 2025.

1		The Let Them Theory	Mel Robbins	Audible Studios, 9781788176187
2		By Your Side	Ruth Jones	Penguin, 9781787633896
3		The Salt Path	Raynor Winn	Penguin, 9781405937184
4		The Devils	Joe Abercrombie	Gollancz, 9781399603560
5		The Protest	Rob Rinder	Penguin, 9781529934755
6		Caught Up	Navessa Allen	Quercus, 9781529442427
7		Atomic Habits	James Clear	Penguin, 9781847941831
8		Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	JK Rowling	Pottermore, 9781408855652
9		The Hotel Avocado	Bob Mortimer	Simon & Schuster, 9781398529625
10		The Thursday Murder Club	Richard Osman	Penguin, 9780241988268

Data source NielsenIQ BookData  
Date range 2025, Weeks 1–24

# Bestselling Black authors

(and their bestselling book)

Rank	Author	Title	£
1	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Dream Count	834,615
2	Rachel Renée Russell	Dork Diaries: I Love Parties	816,854
3	Percival Everett	James	758,641
4	Saara El-Arifi	Faebound	305,326
5	Steven Bartlett	Diary of a CEO	298,364
6	Marcus Rashford	The Goblin's Revenge	215,505
7	Patrice Caldwell	Where Shadows Meet	205,263
8	James Baldwin	Giovanni's Room	195,294
9	David Goggins	Can't Hurt Me	167,898
10	Amber V Nicole	The Book of Azrael	153,119
11	Joseph Coelho	All Poems Aloud	142,957
12	MH Ayinde	A Song of Legends Lost	132,542
13	Zadie Smith	The Fraud	121,856
14	Alexandre Dumas	The Count of Monte Cristo	114,724
15	bell hooks	All About Love	112,195
16	Lemn Sissay	Let the Light Pour In	110,584
17	Malorie Blackman	Noughts & Crosses	110,261
18	Benjamin Dean	This Story Is a Lie	104,977
19	Ta-Nehisi Coates	The Message	99,439
20	Benjamin Zephaniah	Nature Trail	90,787



## Charts

# Chimamanda to the fore, as Black writers look for positives from sales rise

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie has just pipped children's author Rachel Renée Russell to the top of the list of the UK's bestselling Black authors, according to data from NielsenIQ BookScan's Total Consumer Market (TCM). Ngozi Adichie's books have earned £834,615 across the first 24 weeks of 2025 – largely thanks to her latest novel *Dream Count*, which was published at the beginning of March and accrued £648,011 across 43,823 copies.

Such is the dearth of Black authors at the top end of the TCM data that even stripping out *Dream Count* – which is the 109th bestselling book of the year so far

– the Nigerian-born author would still be in seventh place in the Black authors Top 20, an increase on her ranking of 18th in the equivalent period in 2024.

A note about the data – NielsenIQ's data does not include ethnicity data on the authors in its charts, so a manual sift-through has led to the compilation of this data. And while every care has been taken to compose an accurate list, we may be missing an author or two.

To give some context to the size of the task, in the Top 250 ranking of all writers, there are just four Black authors. We have had to look through the Top 1,000 authors to find the first 19 on our list, with Benjamin Zephaniah just outside

“

We should be seeing at least another 30 Black authors in the Top 1,000



## In the Spotlight



**Marcus Rashford, Isaac Hamilton-McKenzie, The Goblin's Revenge**

Macmillan Children's, £7.99, 9781035062294  
Marcus Rashford's Breakfast Club Adventure titles – on which he has collaborated with both Isaac Hamilton-McKenzie and Alex Falase-Koya – have helped the footballer's total value reach £215,505 so far this year. That is a 38.4% drop compared with the equivalent period in 2024, although this is partly due to this year's addition to the series, *The Goblin's Revenge*, selling 16,361 copies fewer than *The Treasure Hunt* did in 2024.

**9,303**

TCM copies sold

MANNY JEFFERSON

**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie tops the Bestselling Black authors chart**

**Yomi Adegoke sits resplendent in 126th place in the TCM rankings**

that list of 1,000. Interrogating that statistic reveals that a mere fraction of the UK's book sales are generated by Black authors: taking up 1.8% of the slots in the Top 1,000, this Top 20 only accounts for 1.6% of the money spent.

Meanwhile, the 2021 census estimates that 4% of the UK's population is Black, with a further 1.3% describing themselves as Mixed White/Black African or Mixed White/Black Caribbean – suggesting that, with all things equal, we should be seeing at least another 30 Black authors in the Top 1,000.

Just under half of the £5m that has been spent on those authors comes from the top three alone, with Russell and Percival Everett appearing alongside Ngozi Adichie in the overall Top 100 bestsellers of the year thus far.

It is Everett who has the bestselling title from a Black author in 2025, setting aside Benjamin Dean's World Book Day (WBD) title *This Story Is a Lie* for a moment. Everett's *James* – which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2024, won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2025 and last month, perhaps most prestigiously, was awarded the Nibbie for Fiction Book of the Year – has sold a total of 77,473 copies in mass-market paperback since its end-of-February launch and is

one of only three Black-authored titles to appear in the overall UK Top 100.

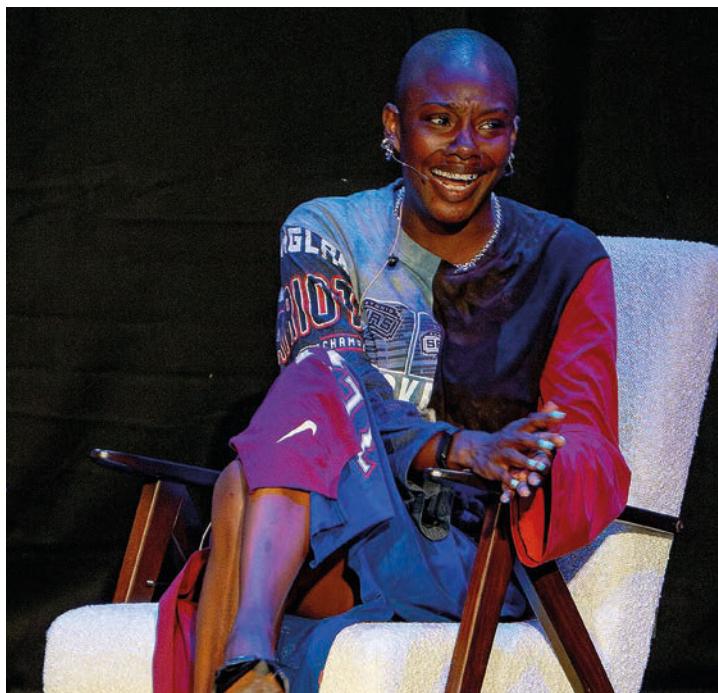
The other two slots are taken up by the previously mentioned Dean and his WBD stable-mate Joseph Coelho whose *All Poems Aloud* (illustrated by Daniel Gray-Barnett) interested 20,000 fewer children than did Dean's offering.

At this point in 2024 there were also three books from Black authors in the TCM Top 100, however in this instance they were all £1 WBD titles – given away by booksellers in exchange for the WBD voucher handed out to children across the country. It is not until position 126 on the chart that we find the first non-WBD Black-authored title – *The List* by Yomi Adegoke – which sold 40,465 copies, just over 37,000 units fewer than Everett's *James*.

So far in 2025, £5.1m has been spent on the Top 20 Black authors – that is roughly the same amount of money earned by Sarah J Maas' titles, significantly less than the amount spent on Dav Pilkey, Rebecca Yarros and Julia Donaldson, respectively, and roughly half the amount generated by revision guides from CGP.

Still, one glimmer of hope is that figure is up 11.9% on the bestselling Black authors in 2024, when the list could only take 1.4% of the total pie. At this rate of growth, the market sales will reflect the UK-wide demographics in just under two decades.

REPORTING Alex Call



## Five biggest titles overall



1

**85,044**

TCM copies sold

***This Story Is a Lie***

**Benjamin Dean (✉ 1)**

Simon & Schuster, 9781398542679

The bestselling book by a Black author so far in 2025 comes from the World Book Day (WBD) list. Dean's titles excluding *This Story Is a Lie* have racked up sales of 2,698 copies – down 72.2% compared with the first months of 2024.

**77,473**

TCM copies sold

***James***

**Percival Everett**

Picador, 9781035031269

The paperback edition of Everett's reimagining of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has seen the American author's sales rise 260% compared with the same period in 2024. Everett's previous Booker-nominated title, *The Trees*, has only sold 17,445 copies in paperback in its lifetime.

**65,763**

TCM copies sold

***All Poems Aloud***

**Joseph Coelho; Daniel Gray-Barnett**

Wide-Eyed Editions, 9781836002864

The second WBD title in the Top Five for Black authors, it is just one of 34 books for Coelho in the TCM data this year. That number is down from 38 in 2024, with both sales units and volume following suit for the poet.

**43,823**

TCM copies sold

***Dream Count***

**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

4th Estate, 9780008685737

*Dream Count* is Ngozi Adichie's first full-length novel since 2013's *Americanah* and, with 43,823 copies sold in hardback since publication at the beginning of March, it is outstripping its predecessor, which sold a total of 13,387 units in hardback.

**19,313**

TCM copies sold

***Dork Diaries: I Love Paris!***

**Rachel Renée Russell**

S&S Children's, 9781471968505

The author has held second place in the Black author Top 20 – but has seen sales rise 31.7% in 2025. Just £17,761 behind Ngozi Adichie, it is likely Russell will take the crown as the UK's biggest-selling Black writer before the summer is over.



*The Bookseller's* recruitment platform is the premier job-finding resource in the publishing industry. Jobs in Books advertises roles every week in print and to a broad pool of jobseekers online. It is the only place to list your vacancies and services.

# Jobs in Books

## Contact us



Call  
0203 358 0374



Email  
jobsinbooks@thebookseller.com



Twitter/X  
@jobsinbooks



Website  
jobs.thebookseller.com

## Job of the Week

Nottingham

Desk Editor

Games Workshop

Games Workshop has an exciting opportunity for a Desk Editor to join our renowned Black Library, working as part of a team to deliver top-quality fiction across a range of genres.

Thorough, and with a meticulous eye for fine detail, you will ensure that all our books are copyedited and proofread to the highest standards while making sure the IP is authentically represented. Through careful planning and excellent communication with our typesetters, you will adhere to deadlines so that all books go to print on time and you will strive for perfection in all aspects of the work, constantly checking and rechecking to get things right.

Collaborative and passionate about the written word, you will assist the Desk Editing Manager as you maintain accurate style guides and dictionaries for all major ranges. You will work closely with our in-house commissioning and submissions teams to ensure continuous improvement of product and skill, and form productive relationships with our freelance editors, proofers and authors, offering appropriate and effective feedback during the copyediting and proofreading stages.

If you are excited by the idea of contributing to Black Library's bestselling and award-winning range of novels, through scrupulous attention to detail and top-quality editing, apply today.

To apply, please send us a letter or a video telling us why you want this job. This is a great opportunity for you to let us know that you understand what we are looking for. Applications must be received by midnight, UK time, on Sunday 13th July 2025.

## GAMES WORKSHOP

London/Sheffield/Bristol | £50,000–£65,000pa

Editorial Director/Publishing Director (12 month FTC)  
Hodder & Stoughton



**Featured** The successful applicant will edit and publish a non-fiction list of expert-led subjects like history, science and nature, as well as acquiring select new titles in line with the list's strategic aims. Reporting to the Non-Fiction Executive Publisher, you will also contribute to the overall Hodder Press and Hodder Non-Fiction strategy. You will be an experienced editor of expert-led/literary non-fiction with a network of industry contacts and will be comfortable working closely with a range of authors and agents.

London/Sheffield/Edinburgh | £36,000pa+

Key Account Manager (12 month FTC)  
Hachette



**Featured** This is a brilliant opportunity working in the Gift team, selling across the group (books, gifts, games and stationery) and managing some of our key gift accounts. Working across a range of accounts you will be tasked with maximising sales across all Hachette UK divisions, working closely with the Sales Directors for Non-Trade, Divisional Sales Directors and key internal stakeholders to ensure sales meet specific author and brand development strategies for the Gift channel.

London/Sheffield | £34,000–£36,000pa

Marketing Manager  
Hachette UK



**Featured** We are looking for a highly creative and consumer-focused Marketing Manager to join our award-winning team. You will lead on your own marketing campaigns, working across the wide variety of Orion's imprints, as well as have the opportunity to work with senior members of the team on some of the biggest brands and launches in the market. Our ideal candidate will bring initiative, creativity and passion to their work and have experience planning and executing standout marketing campaigns.

London | £32,000–£33,750pa

Junior Managing Editor (Trade Division)  
London



We are looking for a Junior Managing Editor to join the Adult Editorial team at Bloomsbury in the Trade division, where we publish bestselling, award-winning and internationally renowned fiction and non-fiction from authors such as Isabel Allende, William Dalrymple, Peter Frankopan, Louise Kennedy, Kamila Shamsie, Patti Smith and Johann Hari – to name just a few. It is not a commissioning role – rather, we are looking for someone with a passion for the detail of making books, from a well-balanced plate section to a clean proofread.



# Future-proof Your Textbooks

Create interactive digital editions of your textbooks with **YUDU Publisher**.



Visit our website to see how YUDU can help with digital publishing and apps.



[www.yudu.com](http://www.yudu.com)



[enquiries@yudu.com](mailto:enquiries@yudu.com)



UK +44 (0)207 430 6600 US +1 888 367 9838

**London | £32,000–£33,750pa**

**Junior Managing Editor (General Division)**  
Bloomsbury

This is a project-management role. You will oversee a list of fiction, non-fiction and illustrated books from handover from the commissioning editor through to print. This entails organising everything a book might need before it can be released into the world, from a copy-edit to a map. You will learn from senior members of the team as you take on more complex titles, including on major brands. This is a non-commissioning role within editorial management.

**London | £34,545–£42,650pa**

**Commissioning Editor/Senior Commissioning Editor (9-month FTC)**  
Penguin

We're seeking a Commissioning Editor or Senior Commissioning Editor to work on Century's women's fiction publishing, on a 9-month fixed-term basis. This role offers a unique opportunity to cover an editor's list during their parental leave, working closely with top-tier authors and agents, as well as acquiring new projects. If you have a keen interest in commercial fiction, an in-depth understanding of the market and a hunger for generating ideas and turning them into bestselling books we want to hear from you.

**London | £27,500pa**

**Editorial Assistant, Macmillan Collector's Library**  
Pan Macmillan

We are looking for an enthusiastic editorial assistant who appreciates classic literature to join Pan Macmillan's classics imprint, Macmillan Collector's Library (MCL). As the Editorial Assistant for MCL, you will provide editorial and administrative support to the Publisher. You will play a vital part in the editorial process and you will help deliver our ambitious and varied publishing programme. This is a great role for someone with a good knowledge of classic literature in all its forms as well as being widely read in contemporary fiction.

**London**

**Executive Publisher, Commercial Fiction, Adult Editorial**  
Simon & Schuster

Reporting to the Chief Executive, the Executive Publisher, Commercial Fiction, Adult Editorial will lead and grow our fiction publishing. This is a senior strategic leadership role, ideal for a dynamic individual with a proven track record in acquiring bestselling fiction, nurturing talent and delivering market-leading results. The successful candidate will oversee our fiction portfolio – spanning commercial, genre, and debut fiction – and drive our publishing programme to the next level. This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of our fiction list.

**London | Competitive salary**

**PR Account Manager**  
Four Agency

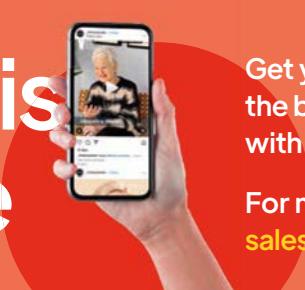
The successful candidate will lead campaigns from briefing to delivery; drive creative solutions that build cultural brands and destination experiences; collaborate with clients and Four Agency specialists to deliver big-impact storytelling and more. You will be working as part of a fast-paced team delivering high-impact campaigns for literature festivals such as Cambridge Literary Festival and Cheltenham Literature Festival, as well as awards such as the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-fiction, among a range of other clients in the cultural sphere.

**London | £26,500pa, rising to £27,000**

**Marketing Assistant**  
Turnaround Publisher Services

We are looking for an enthusiastic and hard-working Marketing Assistant with excellent data, communication and tech skills. They will join our lively marketing department and work alongside the team to ensure all new titles are set up on our internal system, that data feeds are accurate and that metadata is correct on Amazon and other online retailers. The candidate will also work with the marketing team to help promote our publishers and their titles to the book trade, creating marketing materials such as Advance Information sheets for our sales reps.

# Our audience is your audience



Get your brand in the hands of the book trade by advertising with The Bookseller.

For more information, email [sales@thebookseller.com](mailto:sales@thebookseller.com)



## The team

<b>Post</b> The Bookseller 47 Bermondsey Street London SE1 3XT	<b>Editor Philip Jones</b> <hr/> <b>Managing editor</b> Tom Tivnan <hr/> <b>News editor</b> Maia Snow <hr/> <b>Deputy news editor</b> Heloise Wood <hr/> <b>Senior news reporters</b> Lauren Brown, Melina Spanoudi <hr/> <b>Associate editors</b> Molly Flatt, Natasha Onwumezi, Caroline Sanderson <hr/> <b>Books editor</b> Alice O'Keeffe	<b>Book previewers</b> Lauren Brown, Charlotte Eyre, Will Smith, Julie Vuong, Madeleine Feeny (on maternity leave) <hr/> <b>Charts editor</b> Alex Call <hr/> <b>Staff writer</b> Katie Fraser <hr/> <b>Deputy features editor and children's editor</b> Caroline Carpenter <hr/> <b>Head of production</b> Stuart Gidden <hr/> <b>Production manager</b> Eleanor King	<b>Deputy production editor</b> Jason Holmes <hr/> <b>Production sub-editors</b> Daisy Game, Bella Green, Cath Gerbrands <hr/> <b>Charts editor</b> Alex Call <hr/> <b>Staff writer</b> Katie Fraser <hr/> <b>Deputy features editor and children's editor</b> Caroline Carpenter <hr/> <b>Head of production</b> Stuart Gidden <hr/> <b>Production manager</b> Eleanor King	<b>Social media assistant</b> Annabelle Smart <hr/> <b>Marketing executive</b> Ellie Lieberman <hr/> <b>Account manager</b> Mathilde Sire <hr/> <b>Recruitment sales executive</b> Sasha McMullin <hr/> <b>Sales executive</b> Katie Wood <hr/> <b>Head of events</b> Grace Lewis <hr/> <b>Events executives</b> Yasmin Norville, Genevieve Osili	<b>Customer services manager</b> Derrell Ballard-Levy <hr/> <b>Customer services assistant</b> Caterina Fucecchi <hr/> <b>Administrative assistant</b> India Hammal <hr/> <b>Finance director</b> Keith Marriott <hr/> <b>Managing director</b> Hugh Comerford <hr/> <b>HR manager</b> Nicky Jooste
--	--	---	---	---	--

**Jobs in Books**

**Subscriptions**  
subscriptions@thebookseller.com

**Email the team**  
firstname.surname@thebookseller.com

**Post**  
The Bookseller  
47 Bermondsey Street  
London  
SE1 3XT

**Customer service**  
020 7183 5088

**Subscriptions**  
subscriptions@thebookseller.com

**Email the team**  
firstname.surname@thebookseller.com

**Regulated** Printed by Buxton Press, Palace Road, Buxton SK17 6AE. Annual subscription: UK £158.40 (libraries); UK £198 (all other businesses); Europe £250, RoW £292. ISSN 0006-7539. ©2025 The Stage Media Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

50



Find out more at [yabookprize.com](http://yabookprize.com)

# Meet the shortlist for the YA Book Prize 2025

The winner will be announced on **Thursday 21st August**  
at Edinburgh International Book Fair

THE BOOKSELLER

The weather might  
be unpredictable  
but the book market  
doesn't have to be

Try  
The Bookseller  
for £1



Get ahead of the curve this summer  
with our insights and forecasts

