

# Jennifer Barclay Books

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## **About Jennifer Barclay Books:**

My career in books began in 1993 at Westwood Creative Artists in Toronto, where I worked with authors such as Rohinton Mistry and Naomi Klein and set up a list of literary fiction and narrative non-fiction authors. Later I moved back to England and became editorial and rights director at Summersdale Publishers, working with commercial and narrative non-fiction including travel writing. I launched Jennifer Barclay Books in 2013 after I moved to a Greek island and started working from home as an editor and agent. I love honest, powerful storytelling, underdogs and bold living, and learning about the world through captivating tales, whether fiction or non-fiction. I am also a writer and my most recent book, *Wild Abandon: A Journey to the Deserted Places of the Dodecanese* was published in September 2020.



**fiction**



## **AN EMBER RISES**

**Hasan Ali**

**Genre: literary/upmarket fiction**

**115,000 words**

**On submission**

*January 27, 1944. London*

*It had been a week since the Luftwaffe had resumed their bombing, and the morale of the public was at a particularly low ebb, but for Anita, who'd missed the excitement of the Blitz, it was precisely this sort of danger that had brought her to London.*

After completing his education in Britain, Salman meets Anita one dark night of the Blitz when he lights a cigar. That summer, he returns to India with her as his bride. Beautiful and brilliant, she is the perfect foil for Salman's pinched formality and for a time they are intensely happy in Salman's family home in Malabar Hill, Bombay.

Then Anita is molested by demonstrators during an anti-imperial rally in Calcutta. She puts herself under the protection of the Anglo-Indian police and returns to England. Salman, devastated, takes to drinking and gambling. After British India is partitioned, Salman's family migrate to Pakistan, where eventually he falls in love with Nesrine, a refugee who has lost everything in the sectarian bloodbath of the Punjab.

Years later, Anita finds Salman and tries to rekindle their relationship. *An Ember Rises* is a sweeping, elegant and immersive novel about two different kinds of love: the kind that blows forth and breaks all the windows, and the kind that drifts in once the windows are already broken.

**Hasan Ali** was born in 1989 and grew up in Islamabad, Pakistan. He studied at Christ Church, Oxford, presented an arts programme on Pakistani national television for a season, completed a master's degree at New York's Columbia University and worked as lead producer on the feature film *Rigged*, an investigative documentary about the US presidential election. He currently lives in London and has written for publications such as *The Nation* and *Bustle*.



## **THE HOUSE WE LEFT BEHIND**

**Mittpheap You**

**Genre: literary/upmarket fiction**

**79,000 words**

**On submission**

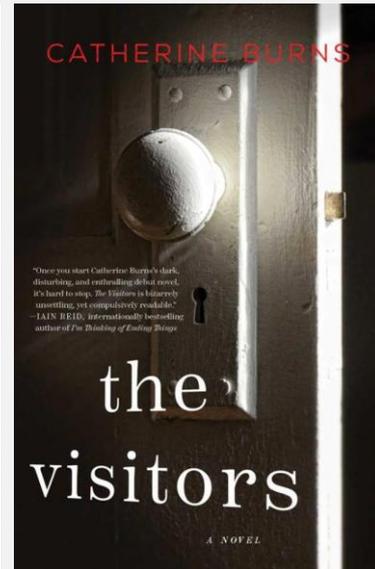
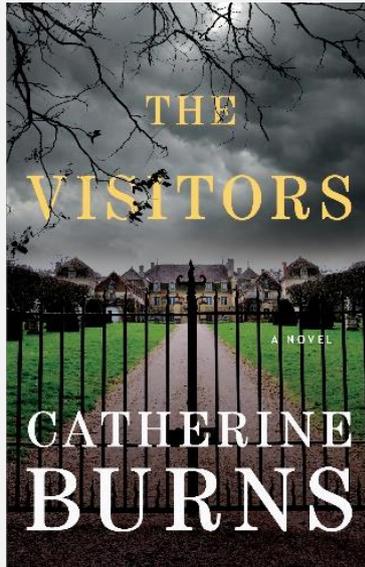
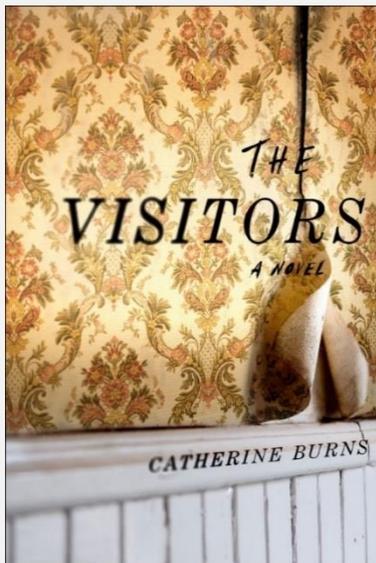
*I took a deep breath and tore the photographs into pieces, thrusting them towards the river... We had said goodbye to our house. Now we had to say goodbye to all the memories we had made within it. We had to forget our past, as if we had never existed before this moment.*

In the early 1970s, as Sakhan and Soeung drive in their VW Beetle around Phnom Penh, the prospering Pearl of Asia, they feel proud that their beloved Cambodia offers great prospects for their happy, growing family. Then a band of fanatical communists called the Khmer Rouge take over the city, heralding a four-year nightmare no one could have ever imagined.

Mitty You's debut novel takes us on an immersive and unflinching journey through Cambodia's modern history. It is a universal story about love, survival, sacrifice and the resilience of the human spirit, and how hopes and dreams sustain us when all seems lost.

*My bones protruded out of my skin. My hair was short and filled with lice. I wore filthy black pajamas, tire sandals, and a red krama, the uniform of the revolution. I became the peasant they wanted me to be. I had changed on the outside, but with time that would heal. It was what they took away, my children, my parents, and love for my country that burned a deep hole in my heart. They broke my spirit, and that would never heal.*

**Mittpheap (Mitty) You** was born in Cambodia in 1975, a few months after the Khmer Rouge marched into the capital. Her family immigrated to the United States as refugees in 1981 and settled in Arlington, Virginia, where she grew up. In 2012, Mitty left her job in international development and moved to Cambodia to reconnect with her roots and dig deeper into her parents' story, told in this debut novel.



**Genre: literary crime/horror**

**UK: Legend**

**US: Scout Press (Simon & Schuster)**

**ANZ: Hachette**

**Audio: Oakhill**

**Croatia: Znanje**

**Czech: Alpress**

**Spanish: Panamericana**

US mass market paperback Feb 2020

‘Once you start Catherine Burns’ dark, disturbing, and enthralling debut novel, it’s hard to stop. *The Visitors* is bizarrely unsettling, yet compulsively readable.’ – Iain Reid, internationally bestselling author of *I’m Thinking of Ending Things*

- Reached #1 on Kindle on Amazon UK for Crime/Suspense/Horror
  - ‘This week’s must-read books’ – *New York Post*
  - Books Etc’s October Book of the Month
    - A ‘Crime must-read’ - LitHub
  - A ‘Book to read in one sitting’ – MediaBookBub

Marion lives with her older brother John in a crumbling house. A timid woman in her fifties, she turns a blind eye to the noises she hears coming from the cellar.

You can lock them in... But secrets find a way out.

‘thrilling debut novel: disturbing, gripping, and hugely impressive’ – The Bookbag

‘Burns blurs the line between crime fiction and horror’ – *Publishers Weekly*

**Catherine Burns** was born in Manchester, graduated from Cambridge, worked as a bond trader in the City of London before studying at the Moscow Institute of Film and teaching film theory at Salford University. This is her first novel.

**non-fiction**



## **MINARETS IN THE MOUNTAINS**

### **A Journey into Muslim Europe**

**Tharik Hussain**

**Genre: narrative non-fiction, travel**

**80,000 words**

**Publisher: Bradt**

*Pencil-thin, snow-white minarets topped by sharp pointed cones peered up at us as we wound our way down the sweeping plains of northern Bulgaria, close to the Romanian border... These*

*were living ancient Muslim villages! But what were they doing here?*

It was purely by chance that travel writer and Londoner Tharik Hussain first discovered mosques and the remains of Ottoman villages in Eastern Europe. Soon after, he set off on an exploratory journey around the Western Balkans, home to the largest indigenous Muslim population in Europe.

*Minarets in the Mountains* is the first non-fiction travelogue by a Muslim writer to explore the regions of Eastern Europe where Islam has shaped the places and people. It is a magical, eye-opening voyage into a Europe that rarely makes the news and is in danger of being erased altogether.

Tharik follows in the footsteps of one of the great medieval Ottomans, Evliya Celebi, who was renowned for his wit, knowledge and oratory skills. His 'Book of Travels' made him one of the first European Muslim travel writers and he visited many of the same towns and cities in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, shortly after the Ottoman Empire had reached its cultural zenith.

**Tharik Hussain** is a journalist specialising in Muslim travel and Islamic heritage. His work has been published by the BBC, Aljazeera and Arab news amongst others. He is the co-author of several Lonely Planet titles including, *Oman, UAE, and Arabian Peninsula* and *Thailand* and a contributing author for *The Ordinary Chaos of Being Human: Tales from Many Muslim Worlds*. He has also produced an award-winning BBC radio documentary on the Muslim heritage of America.



**MODERATE BECOMING GOOD LATER**  
**Sea Kayaking the Shipping Forecast**

**Toby Carr**

**Genre: memoir, adventure travel/sport**  
**Not yet submitted**

**Featured on BBC TV and Radio 4**

*I experienced the tidal flats and fine sands of the North Sea coast. I saw gannets, puffins, guillemots, eider ducks, dolphins, porpoises and seals. I ate a lot of fish. I loved hearing about similar forecasts and radio broadcasts in other nations, and recorded people reading them in their own language. I returned with the feeling that the sea and its shared, strange salty fables can bring us together.*

*And now, the shipping forecast: Viking, North Utsire, South Utsire, Cromarty, Forties...*

The shipping forecast is broadcast on BBC Radio four times a day. From the southern shores of Iceland to the tip of North Africa and from Denmark to the west coast of Ireland, the forecast covers some of the most varied and exposed coastlines in the world with large tidal ranges creating unique and unusual features.

Following life-threatening illness and his father's death, Toby felt a desire to push himself further and experience things he never thought possible. He decided to take a sea kayak and paddle in all 31 sections of these estuaries, islands, sand banks, bays and stretches of sea. The book tracks a three-year journey and a personal narrative about tragedy, loss and rediscovery.

**Toby Carr** is a kayaker, university tutor and practicing architect. When not on the sea, he lives in a small fishing cottage on the Cornish coast of England.



## **TANKED UP: A Diver's Story**

**Ben Thompson**

**Genre: memoir, adventure/sport**

**90,000 words**

**Publisher: Bradt**

**Spring 2021**

*As with so much in life, it's about being in the right place at the right time, and the right place is rarely sitting at home, wishing.*

Ben's fascination with the deep started with a poster in a Yorkshire chip-shop window. The northeast coast of England may not be the most idyllic place to learn to dive, but it instilled a hardiness that became the bedrock for a dream life.

After difficult times as a teenager with his mother's depression, the restrictions of office life and the destructive influence of drugs, doing what he loved saved him. By the age of thirty, he was getting paid to dive the world's most exquisite coral reefs off paradise beaches around the world.

He sought remote and undamaged marine ecosystems in Asia, the Caribbean and Africa; encountered the ocean's biggest sharks and mysterious wrecks, political riots and capsizing ferries; and weathered the dramas that are the daily routine of a dive instructor. The story ends as he and his partner found a perfect place to build their own dive centre.

Ben's story demonstrates that while it's never easy to follow an alternative path, if you get out there and take some calculated risks, opportunities always turn up.

**Ben Thompson** grew up in Yorkshire, England, and has worked in the dive and yachting industry for over twenty-eight years. He teaches SCUBA diving to the highest levels, dealing with clients that range from disadvantaged children to some of the wealthiest people on the planet. He built and ran his own dive centre in Mozambique, which he chronicled in a series of articles for UK-based *Dive* magazine. A keen environmentalist, he has a BA honours degree in Marine Environmental Management and has been involved with many campaigns to help save our seas.



## **LOVE HER WILD**

### **An Ordinary Adventurer's 1000-km Hike along Israel's National Trail**

**Bex Band**

**Genre: memoir/adventure travel**

**50-60,000 words**

**Publisher: Bradt**

**Summer 2021**

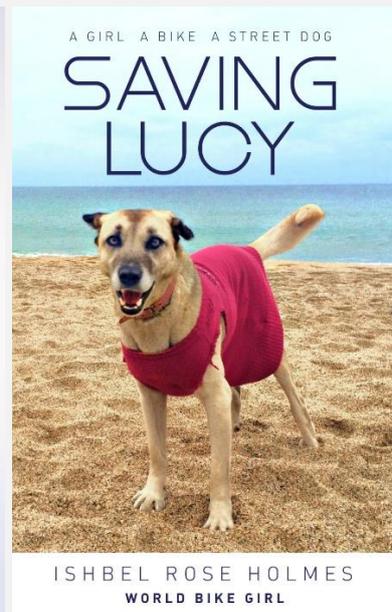
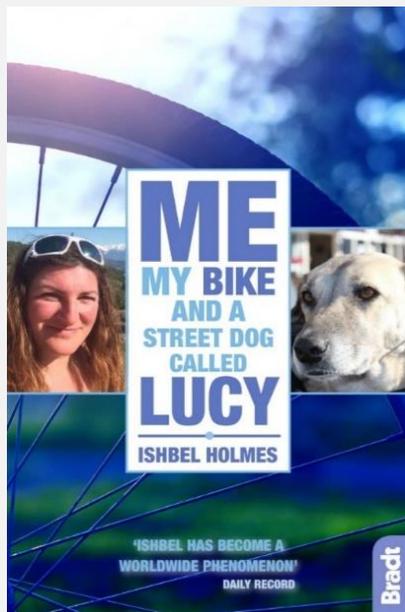
*Love Her Wild* is about a young woman losing her confidence, getting it back on a big adventure, and how this led to launching the UK's largest women's adventure community.

Low self-esteem is something a lot of women can relate to. For Bex, it began at school with undiagnosed dyslexia and bullying. In her 20s she found herself in a vicious cycle of unhappy jobs and bouts of depression.

Desperate for a change, she decided to walk the length of Israel with her partner, including a dangerous crossing through the vast Negev desert. She'd never done anything like it before and the experience completely changed her life, building back her confidence.

Having noticed the outdoors was male-dominated and competitive, which can be unfairly off-putting to women, she decided to tackle this injustice with the community Love Her Wild. Since launching 3 years ago she's taken over 1,000 women on adventures around the world and become a spokesperson for women in the outdoors.

**Bex Band** has been nominated for The Great Outdoors Personality of the Year and a National Diversity Award, was awarded 'Legacy Maker' on the San Miguel Alternative Rich List and won the Next Generation Award. In 2019, Business Leader named her one of the UK's Top 30 Inspirational Entrepreneurs and she's featured in *Conde Nast*, *The Observer*, *High Flying Magazine*, *Trail* & the BBC.



**Genre: memoir, travel/animals. 50,000 words + photos**

**UK: Bradt**

**US and Canada: Velo Press (*Saving Lucy*)**

**Audio: Tantor Media**

**German: DuMont Reise (lead title winter 2019-2020)**

**Spanish world: Planeta Mexico**

**Chinese: China Industry and Commerce Associated Press**

**Norwegian: Mangschou**

Ishbel Holmes, the Scottish-Iranian ‘World Bike Girl’, was cycling the world when a lame street dog crossed her path, determined to follow. Protecting Lucy, Ishbel began to understand her own past: homeless at age sixteen, unwanted, abused, vulnerable. She decided to give her the love and the home she never had. Their journey across Turkey to Syria took them into the hearts of everyone they met.

- Shortlisted for the Lonely Planet/Stanfords Adventure Travel Award 2019
  - Featured in [The Herald Scotland](#), [Daily Record](#), [Lonely Planet](#), [The Telegraph](#), [The National Student](#), [The Big Issue](#)
- Reached #12 in all books on Amazon UK after her interview on BBC Radio 4’s Saturday Live show, #1 in Cycling/Dog Care/Middle Eastern travel

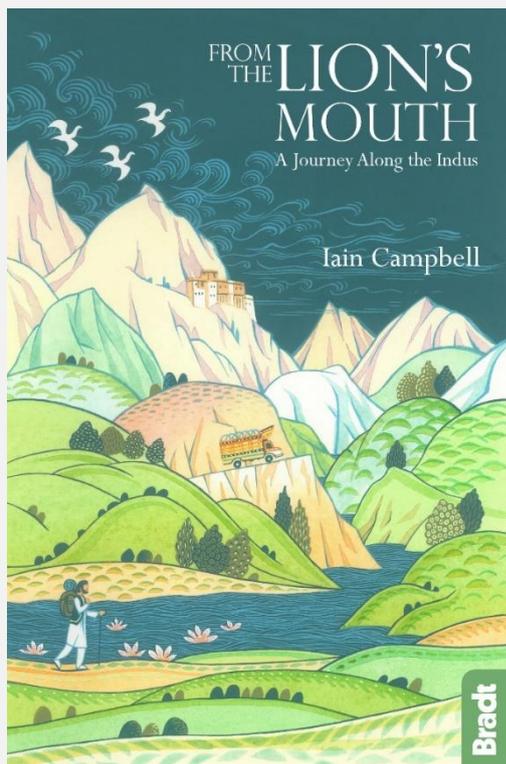
‘A journey of tears, laughter and hope... Beyond inspiring!’ – Dion Leonard, author of *Finding Gobi*

‘Hooked by page 2. Tears by page 5.’ – Jason Lewis, author and adventurer

‘Down to earth, honest and funny’ – Anna McNuff

‘Ishbel is awesome.’ – Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister for Scotland

**Ishbel Holmes** lives in Scotland with her dog, her partner and her daughter.



**FROM THE LION'S MOUTH**  
**A Journey Along the Indus**

**Iain Campbell**

**Genre: travel literature**

**65,000 words**

**Publisher: Bradt (2019)**

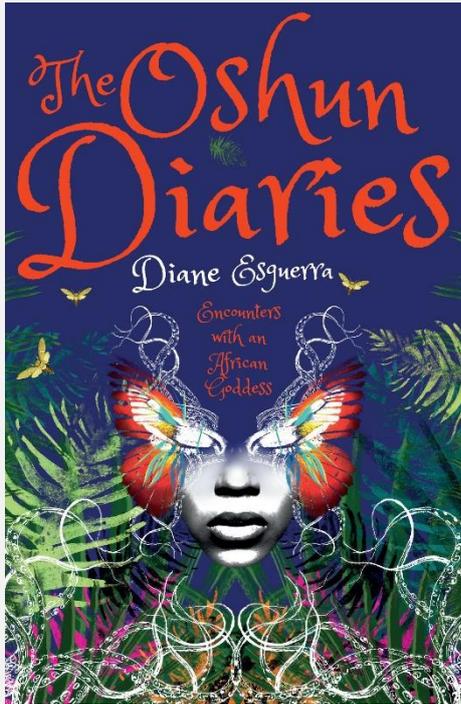
- **Shortlisted for the Stanfords Adventure Travel Book of the Year Award**
- **Multiple-page features in: *The Scotsman, The Daily Record, Sunday Mail***

*I was tired after travelling for hours through Sindh on the roof of a bus. It had been a day of flatness and heat. A 360-degree horizon, level and unblemished; the sky felt low.*

Iain Campbell followed the Indus River – ‘the river from the lion’s mouth’ as the Tibetans call it – from the muddy delta to its source in the Tibetan plateau. He journeyed on bus roofs and trains, making lung-crushing mountain ascents, through a world defined by water.

His book reveals the secrets of a river that both gives life and destroys lives as it twists through Pakistan and The Punjab, Kashmir and Ladakh. This is also a story about stories, with first-hand accounts from Alexander the Great’s armies to European mountaineers, and the characters he encounters on his way – Sufi ascetics, Pakistani spell-makers, toddler Buddhist abbots and mischievous mountain fairies.

**Iain Campbell** has travelled widely in the mountains of his home country of Scotland and further afield. He studied history at Oxford University where he specialised in medieval religious history. He lives with his family in Edinburgh.



## **THE OSHUN DIARIES**

**Encounters with an African Goddess**

**Diane Esguerra**

**Genre: travel literature**

**55,000 words**

**Publisher: Eye Books**

**Excerpted in Watkins *Mind Body Spirit* magazine October 2020**

*Memory is visceral. All I can recall, about the drive into the southern Nigerian town of Oshogbo that November afternoon in 1986, is the screech of worn tyres on khaki-coloured roads, the all-pervading dust, the torrid heat and the rivulets of sweat trickling down the back of the albino driver's neck.*

When Diane Esguerra first heard of a mysterious Austrian high priestess to Ifa goddess Oshun in Nigeria, a love goddess of female empowerment, her curiosity was aroused. It was the start of an extraordinary friendship leading to a quest to take part in Oshun rituals. Decades later, fulfilling a promise, she found herself travelling with her sister to Ifa shrines in Florida amid vultures, snakes, goats' heads, machetes, torrential rain and a cigar-smoking god.

'profoundly moving and enlightening... A stunning memoir.' - Cal Turner Reviews

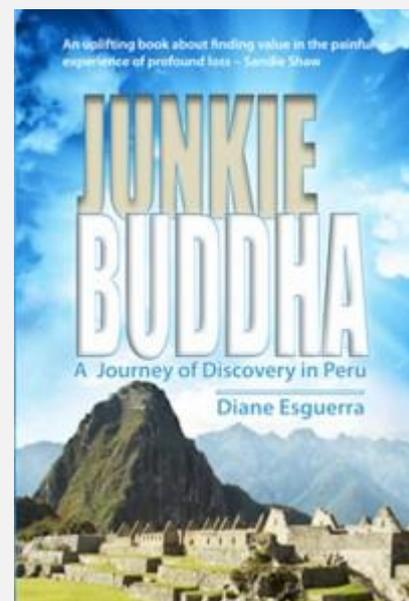
'pushed me completely out of my comfort zone' – Bookbound

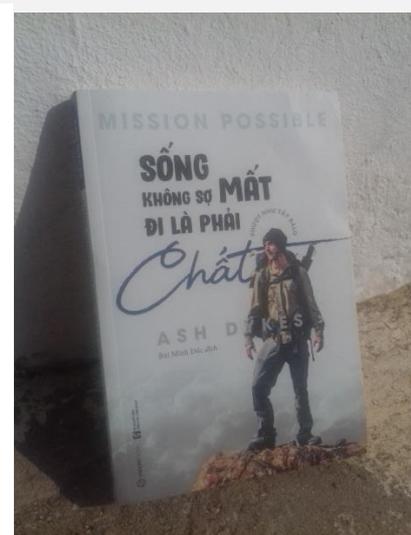
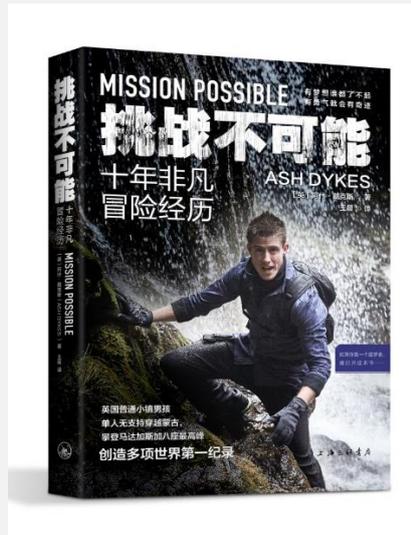
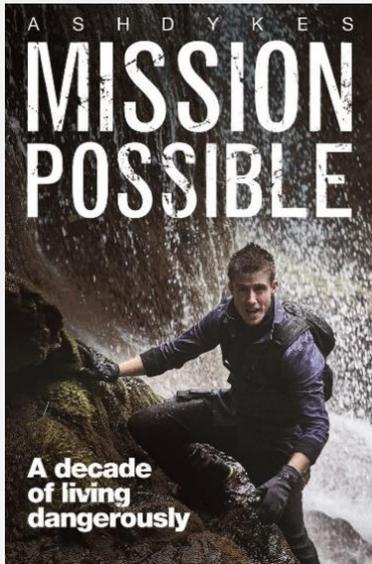
Praise for *Junkie Buddha*:

'This is an inspiring and uplifting book about finding infinite value in the most intense and painful experience of profound loss' – Sandie Shaw, singer

'I could not put this gripping travel memoir down' – Julia Stephenson, author and journalist

'Diane Esguerra is a very fine writer' – Eddy Canfor-Dumas, screenwriter and novelist



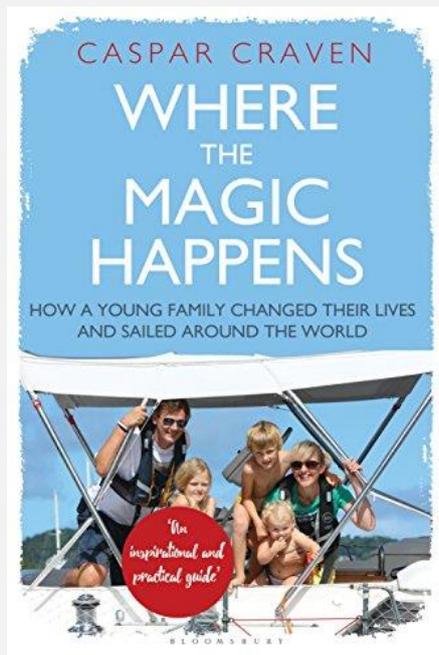


**Genre: memoir, adventure travel**  
**60,000 words + photos**  
**UK: Eye Books**  
**China: Shanghai Joint Publishing**  
**Vietnam: Saigon Books**

- **Documentary Walking the Yangtze to be broadcast by National Geographic across Asia, Middle East and Africa in October 2020**
- Media appearances include Sky News, ITV's Good Morning Britain, BBC's The One Show, Fox News, the BBC, *The Guardian*, *The Times*, Joe Rogan podcast
- Affiliated with major brands and organisations, Ash has a global reach of over 1 million people per month through his social media channels – and growing

Ash Dykes at 23 became the first person to walk solo and unsupported across Mongolia. At 25, he traversed the length of Madagascar via its eight highest peaks, achieving another world first. The Welsh adventurer's down-to-earth, positive approach, his ordinary background and his honest voice are irresistibly inspiring.

In August 2019, **Ash Dykes** became the first person on record to walk the entire length of the Yangtze River, a 12-month, 4,000-mile journey along the third longest river in the world, the longest to run through a single nation. He followed it on foot from its true, scientific source on the Tibetan plateau as far as its mouth where it pours into the East China Sea, highlighting positive environmental stories and wild terrain rarely seen.



**Genre: memoir, family travel/nautical**  
**70,000 words + photos**  
**US & UK: Adlard Coles (Bloomsbury) 2018**  
**Audio: Audible**

**Amazon UK bestseller**

**Shortlisted for Mountbatten Award**

**Featured on BBC Radio 2, ITV News, *The Daily Express*, *The Times*, CNN.com, WGN News Chicago (TV)**

When Caspar and Nichola created a plan to sail around the world with their children aged 9, 7 and 2, they didn't even own a boat. People thought they were mad. But magic happens when you step outside your comfort zone, when you dare to imagine. An inspirational story of their vision and family teamwork to create life-changing adventure.

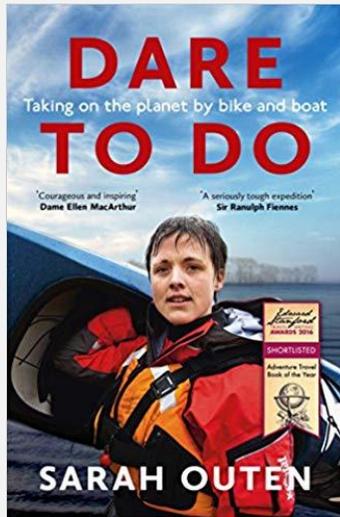
‘Caspar's message is incredibly motivating’ - Sir Ranulph Fiennes

'... freedom from the pressures of modern life saved his marriage, and transformed his relationship with his kids' - *The New York Post*

‘an incredible personal development and business book all told through the lens of a gripping real life transformation and adventure story... needs to be made into a film.’  
– Dr John Demartini, author of *The Values Factor*

**Caspar Craven** is a respected keynote speaker on leadership, team building and dealing with adversity, and inspires and motivates teams to create change. He and his wife Nichola run Thrive workshops to help people achieve more from life.

See Speaker Showreel and press: [www.casparcraven.com](http://www.casparcraven.com)



**World Rights: Nicholas Brealey (Hodder)**

**Published 2016**

**Shortlisted for the Edward Stanford Adventure Travel Book of the Year**

**An Amazon bestseller**

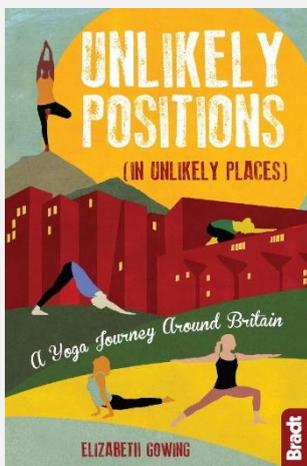
‘remarkable’ – *Sunday Times*

DARE TO DO chronicles Sarah Outen’s attempt to circumnavigate the planet by human power only: by bike and boat.

The documentary film, HOME: An Outward Journey Inward, was launched in 2019 and won prizes around the world.



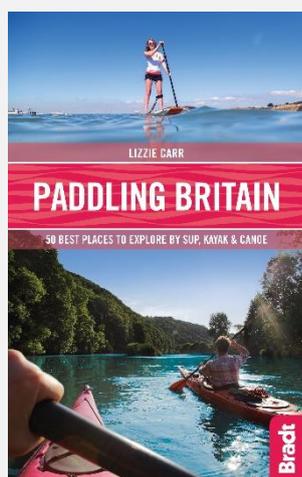
# British interest



**World English: Bradt**

**Audio: WF Howes**

Elizabeth Gowing follows yoga around Britain, discovering new positions and philosophies. She is the author of *Travels in Blood and Honey; becoming a beekeeper in Kosovo* (2011); *Edith and I; on the trail of an Edwardian traveller in Kosovo* (2013), *The Rubbish-Picker's Wife; an unlikely friendship in Kosovo* (2015) and *The Silver Thread; a journey through Balkan craftsmanship* (2017). She is regularly on Radio 4's From Our Own Correspondent.



**World English: Bradt**

**Amazon #1 bestseller for several months**

Lizzie Carr, a.k.a. Lizzie Outside, is an adventurer and environmentalist. She was the first person to paddleboard the length of England's waterways solo and unsupported, and was the first woman to cross the English Channel alone on a stand-up paddleboard. In this practical book she shares 50 of her favourite paddles around Britain.



**TALES FROM THE TILLERMAN: 50 YEARS ON THE ENGLISH WATERWAYS**

**Publisher: Adlard Coles (Bloomsbury)**

**To be published in 2021**

**New title also under offer**

**Steve Haywood** is the author of five waterways books and a HarperCollins Crime Club novel. Previously a producer on BBC's Newsnight and Panorama, he was editor of the award-winning BBC1 programme *Rough Justice* and BBC2's *Taking Liberties*. His company produced programmes for Channel Four and in 1999 he was awarded a Royal Television Society

award for his contribution to specialist journalism.