

# **LONDON BOOK FAIR 2024**

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Kensington currently publishes a wide range of commercial fiction in all categories and select non-fiction in all formats.

Erewhon currently publishes both adult and YA speculative fiction.

## Our recent and future titles are listed below by genre and then alphabetically by author

Please note: "Previous Rights Sold" indicates that a previous title by the author was sold in that territory. "Rights Sold" indicates that the specific title listed was sold in that territory. This does not mean these books are no longer available in these territories as we do not offer contractual options.

For your convenience we have boxed our 'highlight' titles in each category.

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# **Contemporary Fiction & Romance:**

## **GOTHICTOWN** by Emily Carpenter – April 2025

Blend of suspense and horror following a woman who moves her family from their cramped New York City apartment to a seemingly idyllic town, only to rapidly discover the darkness that lurks beneath the surface of the friendly, if forced, smiles and the sun-dappled streets: the email that lands in Billie's inbox seems like a gift from the universe. For \$100, she can purchase a spacious Victorian home in Juliana, a small town eager to boost its economy in the wake of the pandemic. She can leave behind her overstuffed New York City rental and the painful memories of shuttering her once thriving restaurant and start over with her husband and her daughter. Plus, she'll get a business grant to open a new restaurant in a charming riverside community laden with opportunity.

A few phone calls and one hurried visit later, and Billie, Peter, and 6-year-old Meredith are officially part of the Juliana Initiative. The town is everything promised—a world away from city living with weather as warm as its people. Between settling into their lavish home and starting her new restaurant, Billie is busy enough to dismiss niggling concerns.

Yet those misgivings grow. Billie's sleep is marred by haunting dreams, and her marriage with Peter is growing increasingly strained. Meanwhile the town elders, all descended from Juliana's founding families, exert a level of influence that feels less benevolent and more stifling day by day. There's something about Juliana—something off-kilter and menacing beneath that hospitality. And no matter how much Billie longed for her family to come here, she's starting to wonder how, and if, they'll ever leave. Would appeal to readers of Stacy Willingham, Julia Bartz, and Kiersten White.

## THE OTHER SIDE OF DISAPPEARING by Kate Clayborn – April 2024

Transporting love story about an unexpected road trip, true crime obsessions, and hard won vulnerability: hairstylist Jess has spent the last decade raising her younger half-sister, Tegan—and keeping a shocking secret. Ever since their reckless mother ran off with a boyfriend she'd known only a few months, Jess has been aware that he's the same con man who was the subject of a wildly popular podcast, 'The Last Con of Lynton Baltimore'.

Now 31-years-old, Jess didn't bargain on Tegan eventually piecing together the connection for herself. But Tegan plans to do exactly what Jess has always feared—leave their stable home to search for their mother. The shocker is that Tegan will be accompanied by the prying podcast host and her watchful, handsome producer, Adam. Unwilling to let the sister she's spent so much of her life protecting make this journey alone, Jess joins them. Together, the four make their way across the country, unraveling the mystery of where the couple disappeared to and why. But soon Jess is finding other things like a renewed sense of curiosity, and a willingness to expand beyond the walls she's so carefully built. And in Adam, she finds an unexpected connection she didn't even know was missing.

- With millions of views on TikTok, Georgie, All Along (2023) has sold in Czech, Danish, French, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, and Portuguese (BR), Ukrainian. It was a Book of the Month selection, Indie Next Pick, #1
   Library Reads Pick, Goodreads Most Anticipated Romances of 2023, Once Upon a Book Club Pick, Bookish Highly Anticipated Reads of 2023, Bookpage Most Highly Anticipated Romance of 2023, Paste Magazine Most
   Anticipated Romances of 2023, Cosmopolitan UK Best Books of January 2023, Bookriot Most Anticipated Books
   of 2023. UK rights sold
- "Poignant, observant, tender, and deeply romantic. Clayborn takes what she does best and goes deeper, deftly braiding mystery and family drama with an absorbing romance in her trademark lyrical voice. This book is everything."—Christine Lauren, New York Times-bestselling authors of The True Love Experiment

#### THE STILL POINT by Tammy Greenwood – March 2024

Upmarket fiction for fans of Megan Abbott's *The Turnout* and Celeste Ng's *Little Fires Everywhere* set in the cutthroat world of ballet girls and their mothers: Ever, Lindsay, and Josie have ushered their daughters—Bea, Olive, and Savvy—through years of dance classes. They've tended bloodied feet, stitched ribbons on pointe shoes, and in the process, forged friendships that seem to transcend rivalry. But now infamous Etienne Bernay of French ballet, has come to their conservatory to direct this year's production - and he's brought along a film crew to document his search for one special student who will receive a full scholarship to the Ballet de Paris Academie. For the girls, this is the chance to fulfill lifelong dreams. For Ever, recently widowed and struggling financially, it may be the only way to keep Bea dancing. And Bea is a truly gifted dancer—poetic and ethereal, breathtaking to watch. Lindsay, meanwhile, frets that Olive is growing tired of the punishing reality of training, while Josie has no such qualms about Savvy, who is a powerhouse of ambition.

From auditions to casting to rehearsals, the cameras capture the selection process, with its backstabbing and jealousy, disappointment, and triumph. But it's behind the scenes that Bernay's arrival will yield the most shocking revelations, exposing the secrets at the heart of the families—and the sacrifices women make for their children and for friendship.

- "The Still Point is a must-read full of love, hope, desire and jealousy a vivid, compelling and deeply nuanced look
  at a place where lives are forever shaped and changed." –Mary Kubica, New York Times-bestselling author of Just
  the Nicest Couple
- Amazon Best of the Month Pick

#### NOT HOW I PICTURED IT by Robin Lefler – May 2024

A former teen superstar grudgingly agrees to a reboot of the show that made her (in)famous: 20 years after Turning Tides went off the air, the beloved TV show about teenage romance and angst is back. No one is more surprised than its former star, Ness, that she's agreed to step back into the role of Hailey Grant. After her father/manager took off with her earnings, Ness ran away from the spotlight. But maybe it's time to reclaim herself.

Sadly, that enthusiasm lasts until the first table read. Ness assumed her old fling Hayes would be too busy doing 'Big Hollywood Things' to take part, but there he is, seated beside her, exuding pheromones and success. En route to the deluxe resort where they're to start filming, the cast gets stranded by a storm. Stuck on a tiny island with a paltry cache of food and quite possibly the most useless survival group in history, Ness tries to reconcile her youthful dreams with where she's ended up—figuratively and literally. The producers wanted drama on and off-screen, and they're going to get it, but where will Ness be when it's all over?

 "Reasonable Adults has everything I look for in a rom com; a relatable heroine, dialogue that zings, an original setting and most importantly - a dog. This is fresh, fun, feel-good fiction." —Sophie Cousens, New York Timesbestselling author of This Time Next Year on Reasonable Adults (2023)

## BEST, FIRST, AND LAST by Amy Matthews - July 2024

Stirring, spirited, and ultimately joyful novel following three generations of women whose hearts have been broken as they set out to see one of the wonders of the world: when 25-year-old Heather breaks up with her boyfriend—again—she can't figure out if she's to blame or he is. Either way, she's miserable, and working at home via Zoom meetings is only making it worse. What's more, all the women in her family are struggling. Her mom Sandy is convinced she's wasted her life with Heather's father, whom she's now divorcing. Grandmother Bonnie is reeling with the grief of losing her third husband. The bottom has fallen out of their lives so abruptly, the trio is clinging to any handhold they can—and slowly but surely losing their grip.

Inspired and determined not to spend her 70th birthday wallowing, Bonnie is ready to take extreme measures. Even if it means dragging her beloved girls along: they are going to hike to Machu Picchu. Of course, their emotional baggage gets packed with their jackets, but as they make the trek, the women talk, sharing stories and secrets that have been festering for far too long. With every step toward the summit, each woman sheds some of the past and its pain, and opens up to the extraordinary possibilities of the present—and a future that just might include a new happily ever after.

Czech, Portuguese (BR), and Russian Rights Sold to Someone Else's Bucket List (2023)

#### LOVE IS A FOUR-LEGGED WORD by Melinda Metz - December 2024

Irresistible story of one unruly dog looking for a home—and two unsuspecting humans who can't help falling for him: Riley is living her best life. After landing a job at a resort in Sedona, her goal of working all around the world is well underway. Everything is going according to plan—until she sees a scrappy-looking dog limping along the road. The poor pooch obviously needs help and Riley coaxes him into her car and heads to work with the idea of hiding him in one of the empty guest cabins. But when she sneaks the pooch inside, she's surprised to find it's occupied—by a very attractive, nearly naked man, Daniel, who is instantly charmed by the scruffy canine.

With Daniel's help, Riley tries to find the dog a good home—at the risk of losing her job. Her micro-managing boss has a zero tolerance for trouble. But her biggest problem? The closer she gets to finding that trouble-making dog a home, the more she can't bear to part with him — or Daniel.

 Metz is the author of *Talk to the Paw*, a charming fiction novel featuring a conniving cat, which has been published in Czech, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese (BR & PT), Spanish, Thai, Turkish, and Vietnamese

## IN THE LONELY HOURS by Shannon Morgan – August 2024

Melancholic, modern ghost story set in a majestic Scottish castle where the new owner must confront its tragic history: on a small island in a remote corner of northwest Scotland lies Maundrell castle, owned by its wealthy namesake family for centuries—until now. Edwina is shocked to learn a relative she never heard of has bequeathed the castle to her. What awaits Edie and her teenage daughter, Neve, is even more startling, for the castle is home to ghosts.

There is a strange beauty in the austere architecture and the eerie, bloody waters of Loch na Scáthanna, the Lake of Shadows. Beguiled by a frightened ghost who gazes longingly out of the castle's windows, Edie and Neve are drawn to the legends shrouding the island and the mystery of the Maundrell Red—a priceless diamond that disappeared decades before. Is the gem really cursed, and the cause of the family tragedies that have all occurred on Samhain—Scottish Halloween? As Samhain approaches once more, Edie and Neve race to peel back the dark secrets entwining the living and the dead—a twisted story of bitter cruelty and hidden love—or they will become another Maundrell tragedy trapped in the lonely hours. Ideal for fans of Kate Morton, Eve Chase, and Shirley Jackson.

- Russian rights sold to Morgan's debut Her Little Flowers (2023)
- "Morgan's prose is atmospheric without being overly dense, and tropes of the classic gothic novel are juxtaposed with references to the 21st century to create a sense of anachronism. Overall, the novel provides a compelling supernatural mystery that will hold a reader's attention right up to the last page. Recommend to fans of Kate Morton and Eve Chase."— Library Journal on Her Little Flowers

#### A DOG CALLED DUCKY by Amanda Morgan - November 2024

Second in Kensington's collaboration with the Dog Agency, a premier pet talent agency for social media famous animals: Ducky, the adorable Yorkie with 2.3M TikTok followers and legions more fans on Instagram and YouTube, makes the leap to fiction with this heartwarming and romantic novel with strong messages of inclusion, anti-bullying, and self-love.

One hot fall day, schoolteacher Layla arrives at her cozy home to find she has two guests. One is a tiny, adorable Yorkie in a cable-knit sweater and a fuzzy yellow ducky hat. The other is Layla's best friend Christine, Ducky's beloved person and momager. Ducky, after all, is no regular dog. He's a TikTok star with millions of followers, making up in personality and photogenic appeal what he lacks in size. Layla agrees to watch Ducky and is quickly charmed by the miniature mutt. Ducky instinctively seems to know how to cheer people up, whether it's by picking out the perfect canine costume or gravitating to Lucas, a shy, lonely new student in Christine's class. Layla isn't the only person concerned about Lucas. Garrett, Layla's handsome colleague, is also worried about the little boy. But it's Ducky who comes to the rescue, becoming Lucas's unlikely protector.

#### CHARLOTTE ILLES IS NOT A TEACHER by Katie Siegel – August 2024

TikTok Creator Katie Siegel has turned her successful TikTok web show about retired kid detective Charlotte Illes into a mystery series for Kensington: in the second book, the deja vu is strong as 25-year-old Charlotte finds herself once again tackling a mystery in the halls of Frencham School, but this time as a substitute teacher.

Mention "returning to the scene of a crime," and people don't usually picture a grade school. But that's where kid detective Lottie Illes enjoyed some of her greatest successes, solving mysteries and winning acclaim—before the world of adult responsibilities came crashing in. Twentysomething Charlotte is now back in the classroom, this time as a substitute teacher. However, as much as she's tried to escape the shadow of her younger self, others haven't forgotten about Lottie. In fact, a fellow teacher is hoping for help discovering the culprit behind anonymous threats being sent to her and her aunt. At first, Charlotte assumes the messages are a harmless prank. But maybe it's a good thing she left a detective kit hidden in the band room storage closet all those years ago—just in case. Because the threats are escalating, and it's clear that untangling mysteries isn't child's play anymore. For fans of Elle Cosimano's *Finaly Donovan is Killing It* and Nancy Drew nostalgia.

• UK rights sold to Charlotte Illes is Not a Detective

## THE ROAD TRIP REWIND by Kate and Danny Tamberelli - June 2024

"Back to the Future" meets "10 Things I Hate About You" as the past, the present, and two hearts with unfinished business collide in an epic and poignant way: up-and-coming screenwriter Beatrix's dream project is finally a reality—her 90s-era script is in production. Less dreamy is the A-list actor in the starring role—none other than Rocco Riziero, who jilted Beatrix on New Year's Eve back in 1999. Without his celebrity status, the project would likely still be withering, but that doesn't mean Beatrix won't shame him at every opportunity on-set—especially when it becomes painfully obvious he doesn't even remember her.

Boxed-in as a pretty-boy, Rocco is thrilled to tackle a genuinely dramatic role. But he's perplexed about why the screenwriter treats him like a maggot. And awkward becomes irksome when their bickering results in a car crash right outside the famed Roxy Theatre—site of the New Year's Eve party where everything went wrong. Shockingly, Beatrix, Rocco, and the car, are uninjured. The twist? They're clearly, truly, somehow, still in December—but in 1999. They'll have to work together to correct their old mistakes—which just might bring them closer than either expects. But can they change the past without altering their future selves—and hold on to what they've found together?

## THE LAST WITCH IN EDINBURGH by Marielle Thompson – September 2024

Beginning in an alternate 1824 Edinburgh, every woman lives in fear that she will be the next one hanged for witchcraft. All it takes is invoking the anger of the wrong person. Nellie keeps to herself until she encounters the Rae Women's Apothecary. There, Jean Rae and the other witches provide cures and teach others to become independent witches.

Nellie finds a place and a purpose at the shop, and a blossoming romance with Jean, as she learns about green magick and a witch's ability to return to life after death. But the group of witches have an ancient enemy intent on stripping the power of their deity and all her witches, leaving a wake of patriarchal violence and destruction. When heart-breaking disaster strikes, Nellie flees and spends the next two centuries hiding from the world—until love gives her the courage and the motivation to come back. This is an atmospheric novel that combines magic, queer romance, and a historical setting in a timeless story of what it means to resist the patriarchy and find your voice.

• "A book both timely and timeless. Read it for your daughters, your sisters, yourself." —Paulette Kennedy, bestselling author of The Witch of Tin Mountain

## THE VERY LONG, VERY STRANGE LIFE OF ISAAC DAHL by Bart Yates - August 2024

Blend of fact and fiction in a saga spanning 12 significant days across nearly 100 years in the life of a single man, beginning in the 1920s and leading into present day: at the age of 96, Isaac Dahl sits down to write his memoir. For Isaac, an accomplished journalist and historian, finding the right words is never a problem. But this book will be different. Focusing on 12 days, each encapsulated in a chapter, Isaac hopes to distill the very essence of his life.

There are days that begin like any other, only to morph through twists of fate. An avalanche strikes and 8-year-old Isaac and his twin sister, Agnes, survive when they are trapped in an upside-down bathtub. Other days stand apart in history—including a day in 1942, when Isaac, stationed on the USS Houston in the Java Sea as a rookie correspondent, confronts the full horror of war. And there are days spent simply, with the man whose love transforms Isaac's later years—precious days with significance that grows clear only in hindsight. Isaac tells his story with insight, wisdom, and emotional depth. A singular narrative that will spark conversation and reflection—a reminder that there is no such thing as an ordinary life, and the greatest accomplishment of all is to live and love fully.

## ONE CURSED ROSE by Rebecca Zanetti – July 2024

First in a spicy dark romance trilogy for fans of Katee Robert and Scarlett St. Clair from *New York Times*-bestselling Zanetti. Book 1 is a modern twist on Beauty and the Beast set in a world where dueling media empire billionaires play deadly games and magic is the weapon of choice. Alana is the daughter of a media giant that is about to succumb to an enemy, and her father's solution is to marry her off to the son of a competing family. Faced with only one week until the wedding, Alana is desperate to change her fate. Surprisingly, the twist in the her story comes from an unwanted rescue at the hands of Adam, the Beast whose social media empire is driving her family's company into the ground. Adam, known for being merciless, thinks he can lock Alana in his tower forever, but she is not as docile as he expected.

- UK, Spanish, Portuguese (BR), and Russian rights sold
- Special edition hardcover planned with sprayed edges and exclusive art and foiling
- Zanetti is a *New York Times* bestselling author with nearly a dozen Amazon Best Romance Picks and an Amazon Best Book of the Year for her romantic suspense title *Broken* (2020)

## **Historical Fiction:**

## THE TRIAL OF MRS. RHINELANDER by Denny S. Bryce – August 2024

Inspired by a real-life scandal that was shocking even for the tumultuous Roaring Twenties, this captivating novel tells the story of a pioneering Black journalist, a secret interracial marriage among the New York elite, and the sensational divorce case that ignited an explosive battle over race and class.

New York, 1924: born to English immigrants who have built a comfortable life, idealistic Alice Jones longs for the kind of true love her parents have. She believes she has found it with Leonard "Kip" Rhinelander, the shy heir to his prominent white family's real estate fortune. Alice too, is "white", though she is vaguely aware of rumors that question her ancestry. But when the lovers secretly wed, Kip's parents threaten his inheritance unless he annuls the marriage.

Devastated, Alice faces overwhelming odds both legally and in the merciless court of public opinion. But there is one person who can either help her—or shatter her hopes for good: Reporter Marvel Cunningham. The proud daughter of an accomplished Black family, Marvel lives to chronicle social change. At first, Marvel sees Alice's case as a tabloid sensation generated by a self-hating woman who failed to "pass." But the deeper she investigates, the more she will recognize just how much she and Alice have in common. For Rhinelander vs. Rhinelander will bring to light truths that will force both women to confront who they are, and who they can be, in a world that is all too quick to judge.

## MURDER MOST FRENCH: A Tabitha Knight Mystery (#2) by Colleen Cambridge - May 2024

Historical mystery series featuring Julia Child as a character: postwar Paris is surging back to life, and its citizens are seizing every opportunity to raise a glass or share a delicious meal. But as American ex-pat Tabitha and chef-in-training Julia Child discover, celebrations can quickly go awry when someone has murder in mind.

Paris is overflowing with stunning architecture. Yet for Tabitha, the humble building that houses the Cordon Bleu cooking school, where her friend Julia studies, is just as notable. The legendary school also holds open demonstrations, where the public can see its master chefs at work. It's a treat for any aspiring cook—until one of the chefs pours himself a glass of wine from a rare vintage bottle—and promptly drops dead in front of Julia, Tabitha, and other assembled guests. Tabitha and Julia hope to find answers in order to save innocent lives—not to mention a few exquisite vintages—even as their investigation takes them through some of the darkest corners of France's wartime past.

• **Polish and Russian Rights Sold.** Czech, Estonian, German, Hungarian, Italian, and Slovakian rights are sold to Cambridges other historical mystery series - the Phyllida Bright Mystery Series

## A DAUGHTER OF FAIR VERONA by Christina Dodd – July 2024

Continuation of *Romeo & Juliet* where the couple was able to live happily ever after, and following their daughter as a clever and fiercely independent young woman in fair Verona: once upon a time a young couple met and fell in love. You probably know that story, and how it ended. Only here's the thing: that's not how it ended at all. Romeo and Juliet are alive and well and the parents of seven children. At 20-years-old, Rosie is the eldest and a happy spinster. It's not easy to keep your taste for romance with parents like Romeo and Juliet. Picture it—constant monologues, passionate declarations, fighting, making up, making out . . . it's exhausting.

Each time Rosie has been presented with a betrothal, she sets out to find the groom-to-be a more suitable bride than herself. After all, someone sensible needs to stay home and manage this household. But their latest match, Duke Stephano, isn't so easy to palm off on anyone else. The debaucher has had three previous wives—all of whom met unfortunate ends. Conscience forbids Rosie from consigning another woman to that fate. As it turns out, she doesn't have to. And Rosie and Stephano's betrothal ball, Rosie meets a beautiful man who makes her wonder if there actually is love at first sight. Only to shortly also find Stephano with a dagger in his chest—and with half of Verona with a motive.

• New genre from Dodd who is the author of romance, suspense, and thriller novels with more than 15 million copies in print. She has received starred Booklist and starred Library Journal reviews, and her previous books have been named on Best of the Year lists by Amazon, Library Journal, and Bookpage. They have been translated into more than 30 languages. No options in place as those are not with Kensington

## THE RESURRECTIONIST by A. Rae Dunlap – January 2025

Debut in the tradition of Caleb Carr's *The Alienist* and for fans of ML Rio's *If We Were Villains*, and Lydia Kang's *The Impossible Girl*. A macabre, dark and twisty gothic novel set in 19th century Scotland – when real-life serial killers Burke and Hare terrorized the streets of Edinburgh and following a young medical student who is lured into the illicit underworld of body snatching.

Edinburgh, Scotland, 1828. Naïve but determined James has abandoned his sheltered life at Oxford to pursue a lifelong dream of studying surgery in Edinburgh. A shining beacon of medical discovery, the university offers everything James desires—except the chance to work on a human cadaver. For that, he needs to join one of the private schools in Surgeon's Square, at a cost he cannot afford. In desperation, he strikes a deal with Aneurin "Nye" MacKinnon, a dashing young dissectionist. Nye is a body snatcher. And James has unwittingly become his accomplice. Intoxicated by Nye and his noble mission to learn and educate, James rapidly descends into the underground ranks of the Resurrectionists—the grave robbers infamous for stealing fresh corpses from churchyards to be used as anatomical specimens. Before he knows it, James is caught up in a life-or-death scheme as rival gangs of snatchers compete in a morbid race for power and prestige. THE RESURRECTIONIST combines fact and fiction in a tale of the risks and rewards of scientific pursuit, the passions of its boldest pioneers, and the urges of human desire.

# FLEEING FRANCE by Alan Hlad - August 2024

WWII historical fiction: driving an ambulance in France after the fall of Dunkirk, an American nightclub singer races to evacuate a British pilot and a Jewish orphan across more than 4,000 miles towards a precarious freedom in this emotional, action-packed story of sacrifice, hope, and devotion inspired by real wartime events.

France, 1939: A talented singer, Ruth has left home to live with her aunt and uncle, dreaming of performing at the Casino de Paris. But with the outbreak of war, and the heartbreaking news that her cousin has been killed by German forces, that goal is supplanted by another—to support France in any way she can. She joins a friend in enlisting as a driver for the French ambulance corps. On their way to transfer injured soldiers to Dunkirk for evacuation, they encounter Jimmie, a British Royal Air Force pilot who has bailed out of his burning plane. As Dunkirk falls, blocking off the route to the northern coast, word spreads of a daring Allied plan to rescue the remaining troops and civilians from ports in western France: code name Operation Aerial. Over two hazardous weeks, Ruth and Jimmie will journey hundreds of miles together, helping other refugees as they rush to reach the sea before they are overtaken by the Germany army. But all their courage and resilience offer no certainty in wartime, when a single stroke of luck, or a split-second decision, can mean the difference between life and death. Ideal for fans of Kate Quinn.

• Hlad has been published in the UK, Dutch, French, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese (PT), Romanian, Spanish, and Czech. His previous titles have sold over 250k copies. **Polish rights sold** 

#### SISTERS OF FORTUNE by Anna Lee Huber – March 2024

Set in 1912 and based on the true story of the Fortune sisters, three young women who boarded the Titanic. Ideal for fans of Patricia Falvey's *The Titanic Sisters*: it's the perfect finale to a Grand Tour of Europe—sailing home on the most luxurious ocean liner ever built. For the Fortune sisters, the trip offers a chance to reflect on the castles and museums in Italy and France, the ruins of Greece and the Middle East—and contemplate the futures that await them. For Alice, there's foreboding mixed with her excitement. A fortune teller in Egypt gave her a dire warning about traveling at sea. And the freedom she has enjoyed on her travels contrasts with her fiancé's plans for her return—an existence she's no longer sure she wants. Flora is also returning to a fiancé, a well-to-do banker of whom her parents heartily approve. Yet the closer the wedding looms, the less sure Flora feels. Another man—charming, exasperating, completely unsuitable—occupies her thoughts. Youngest sister Mabel knows her parents arranged this Grand Tour to separate her from a jazz musician. But the secret truth is that Mabel has little interest in marrying at all, preferring to explore ideas of suffrage and reform—even if it forces a rift with her family. Each sister grapples with the choices before her as the grand vessel glides through the Atlantic waters. Until, on an infamous night, fate intervenes, forever altering their lives.

• This novel is based on the real story of the Fortune sisters, who traveled on the Titanic with their mother, father, and younger brother. The three sisters and their mother survived. **Polish rights sold** 

#### THE SECRETS OF ROSE BRIAR HALL by Kelsey James – July 2024

Gothic historical novel set during opulent turn of the century New York: for Millie, the young wife of a powerful stockbroker, Rose Briar Hall—a gleaming edifice of white marble on the North Shore—is more than a home. Every lavish detail speaks of Charles's status and wealth, and its stylish interior is testament to Millie's sophistication. All that's left is to prove her worthiness to be his bride and what better way than to throw a grand party for New York's social elite.

After painstaking planning, the night of the event arrives, and all is perfect—until Millie wakes to an eerily quiet house and a gray cloud where her memory should be. Can it be true that she has been in and out of consciousness for weeks, ever since the party took a terrifying turn? Millie recalls nothing. But her friends have shunned her, and it soon becomes clear that if she can't find out what really happened that night, much more than her reputation will be at risk.

As the house that promised so much happiness begins to feel more like a prison, Millie wonders whether a woman alone, even a wealthy one, can ever be entirely safe. And if she succeeds in finding the truth, will it bring relief, or shake her marriage, and her life, to the core?

"James makes a dazzling debut with this gothic tale of intrigue and danger...With its sheen of '60s Euro
glamour, this is irresistible and satisfying. James is certainly one to watch." —Publishers Weekly, STARRED
REVIEW

#### MURDER IN HIGHBURY by Vanessa Kelly - November 2024

Start of a Regency mystery series featuring Jane Austen's Emma Knightly: less than one year into her marriage to respected magistrate George Knightley, Emma has grown unusually content in her newfound partnership and sense of independence. The height of summer sees the former Miss Woodhouse gracefully balancing the management of her family estate and a flurry of social engagements. But circumstances change in an instant when Emma and Harriet Martin, now the wife of one of Mr. Knightley's tenant farmers, discover a hideous shock at the local church. The corpse of Mrs. Augusta Elton, the vicar's wife, has been discarded on the altar steps.

As a chilling murder mystery blooms and chaos descends upon the tranquil village of Highbury, the question isn't simply who committed the crime, but who wasn't secretly wishing for the unpleasant woman's demise. When suspicions suddenly fall on a harmless local, Emma—armed with wit, unwavering determination, and extensive social connections—realizes she must discreetly navigate an investigation of her own to protect the innocent and expose the ruthless culprit hiding in plain sight.

Each book in the series will showcase well-known settings and beloved characters from *Emma*, such as Harriet Martin (the former Miss Smith), Mrs. Weston (Emma's former governess), and Frank Churchill. George Knightley will also figure prominently, both as Emma's husband and as the local magistrate. Subsequent books will feature crossovers with characters and settings from other Austen novels, as Emma's world occasionally expands beyond the village of Highbury.

## A JEWEL IN THE CROWN by David Lewis - August 2024

James Bond meets Maisie Dobbs in this new historical caper series featuring a gifted young socialist-turned-spy on a World War II mission based on true events. In 1940, weeks after the evacuation of Dunkirk, Germany is poised to invade a near-defenseless Britain. To safeguard the Crown Jewels from the Nazis, Winston Churchill devises a gamble to have the priceless artifacts secretly removed from the Tower of London and driven to Scotland by two operatives posing as a young married couple.

Caitrin will play the wife of Lord Marlton, Hector Neville-Percy. A less likely couple is at first difficult to imagine. Yet Caitrin's bold, streetwise confidence and sharp wits complement Hector's social ease and connections, essential to a second part of their mission: uncovering Nazi sympathizers within the highest ranks of Britain's aristocracy. Battling enemies within and without, Caitrin wonders if anyone in their circle can be trusted—even her partner. And when unexpected events catapult her into a life-or-death chase across the continent, the morale of a nation and the fate of Europe itself in the balance.

## MISS MORTON AND THE DEADLY INHERITANCE: Miss Morton (#3) by Catherine Lloyd – September 2024

Social standing is everything in Regency England—and no one knows better than Miss Caroline Morton, a lady's companion. But when she has a chance to claim what's rightfully hers, the one obstacle in her way is a dangerous murder mystery. Miss Caroline has doubts when she receives an urgent invitation from a London law firm to discuss her late father's estate. After all, the dishonored Earl of Morton died without a pound sterling to pass on to his two daughters. But while immersing herself in helping Mrs. Frogerton's capricious daughter navigate the high social season, Caroline meets with a cagey lawyer, Mr. Smith, who shares life-altering news—the earl composed a second will, leaving behind an undisclosed fortune.

Mrs. Frogerton, however, is thoroughly unimpressed with the firm's conduct and suspicious of their true motives. Her instinct proves right when the two ladies find the office ransacked, staff in turmoil, and Mr. Smith missing. The full weight of the situation doesn't sink in until Mr. Smith dies following a brutal attack on the street—discovered with an empty envelope bearing Caroline's name in his pocket.

This series has been published in German, Greek, and Russian

#### MURDER BY LAMPLIGHT by Patrice McDonough - March 2024

Historical mystery set in Victorian London following Dr. Julia Lewis, one of Britain's first female physicians, along with the Detective Inspector Tennant of Scotland Yard: the grisly murder site in London's East End is thronged with onlookers. None of them expect the calm young woman among them to be a medical doctor, arrived to examine the corpse. Inspector Richard, overseeing the investigation, makes no effort to disguise his skepticism. But Dr. Julia is accustomed to condescension. Days later, another body is found with links to the first and Tennant calls in Dr. Lewis again. The murderer begins sending the police taunting letters and tantalizing clues with the trail going in multiple directions, from London's music halls to its grim workhouses. Lewis and Tennant struggle to understand the killer's motivations. But there is new urgency, for the doctor's role appears to have shifted from expert to target.

#### DEATH AND THE VISITORS: A Mary Shelley Mystery (#2) by Heather Redmond – September 2024

Historical mystery series set in 1814 following teenaged Mary Shelley and her stepsister Jane wherein Mary and Jane find themselves caught up in a mystery while falling for the charms of poets Percy Bysshe Shelley and Lord Byron: foreign diplomats are descending on London in advance of the Congress of Vienna to formulate a new peace plan for Europe following Napoleon's downfall. Mary and Jane's father, political philosopher William Godwin, is hosting a gathering with Russian royal staff. The Russians are followers of Mary's late mother, philosopher and women's rights advocate Mary Wollstonecraft, which leads to a lively discussion. Afterwards, Jane hears her father reassuring his creditor that the Russians have pledged diamonds to support his publishing venture, the Juvenile Library, relieving his financial burden. But when Godwin is told the man who promised the diamonds was pulled from the River Thames, his dire financial problems are further complicated by the suspicion that the family may have been involved in the murder.

• Polish and Spanish rights sold

## WE ARE ONLY GHOSTS by Jeffrey Richards – March 2024

Dual timeline between 1968 NYC and WWII depicting queer love amid the horrors of death camps—balancing the violence and hatred of war with moments of tenderness: in 1960s NYC the customers at Café Marie come for the illusion of being somewhere other than a exhausting city. Headwaiter Charles helps facilitate that through impeccable service - a skill Charles honed as a Jewish boy in war-torn Europe, when avoiding attention might mean the difference between life and death. But even then, one man saw him all too clearly—a Nazi officer who was both his savior and tormentor.

At 17, Charles was deported to Auschwitz with his family. There he was singled out by Obersturmführer Berthold, who hid him in his home. Their entanglement produced a tortured affection mixed with hatred that flares to life again, decades later, when Berthold walks into Café Marie. Drawn back into Berthold's orbit, Charles is forced to revisit the pain and the brief, undeniable pleasures of the life he once knew. And if he acts on his growing hunger for revenge, will he lose his only tether to the past or find peace at last?

#### IF THE TIDE TURNS by Rachel Rueckert – April 2024

Set in 1715 during the Golden Age of Pirates, this debut is inspired by the true story of pirate Samuel Bellamy and his star-crossed romance. As the daughter of a wealthy family, Maria has a future mapped out for her, yet it is not the future she wants: headstrong, and restless, Maria has no desire to marry the mean-spirited John, regardless of her parents' wishes. Samuel, an orphaned sailor searching for work, meets Maria and captivates her with talk of far-flung places. But neither is free from the social order into which they were born. When Sam is banished from Maria's parents' home after asking for her hand, he vows to return a wealthy man, and Maria promises to keep the faith until then.

Sam is drawn into piracy and discovers a fulfilling brotherhood, despite its dangers. Intrigued by the chance to fight for justice and make a fortune, Sam is torn between his crew and his desire to return. Time slips by as Sam and Maria cling to their love for each other. Now, on a journey no less treacherous than Sam's, Maria draws on every shred of her courage and resilience not merely to survive, but to honor her own yearning for freedom.

- Rueckert has an MFA from Colombia University
- Meticulously researched and gorgeously written, this historical novel inspired by true events is a gripping tale of piracy, love, and most of all, the costs (and joys) of self-determination." —Rosalyn Eves, author of Beyond the Mapped Stars

## THE MEDICINE WOMAN OF GALVESTON by Amanda Skenandore – June 2024

Caught in the great Galveston Hurricane of 1900, a female doctor who has joined a traveling medical show to support her disabled son is forced to weather the storm and its aftermath in a town that is hostile to the troupe's unconventional ways: once a trailblazer in the field of medicine, Dr. Tucia hasn't touched a scalpel or stethoscope since she made a fatal mistake in the operating room. Instead, she works in a corset factory, striving to earn enough to support her disabled son. When even that livelihood is threatened, Tucia is left with one option—to join a charismatic showman named Huey and become part of his traveling medicine show.

Her medical license lends the show a pretense of credibility, but the cures and tonics Tucia is forced to peddle are little more than bathwater. Loathing the duplicity, even as she finds kinship with the other misfit performers, Tucia vows to leave as soon as her debts are paid —if Huey will ever let her go. When the show reaches Galveston, Tucia tries to break free from Huey, only to be pulled even deeper into his schemes. But there is a far greater reckoning ahead, as a storm becomes a devastating hurricane that will decimate the Gulf Coast—and challenge Tucia to recover her belief in medicine, in the goodness of others—and in herself. Perfect for fans of Kristin Hannah's *The Four Winds*.

- Skenandore's novel *Between Earth and Sky* was a Publishers Marketplace Buzz Books selection and winner of the American Library Association's RUSA Reading List award for Best Historical Fiction of the year. Her novel, *The Second Life of Mirielle West*, was the 2023 Silicon Valley Reads selection, an Apple Best Books of the Month and a Hoopla Book Club Pick. Her previous novels have sold a combined amount of over 500k copies
- She has been published in French, Japanese, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, and Spanish. Polish rights sold

## UNDER THE PAPER MOON by Shaina Steinberg - May 2024

Intrigue-filled debut from film writer Steinberg, as two former spies who shared more than just missions during WWII reunite in 1948 Los Angeles. Postwar mystery for fans of *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn and *The Lost Letter* by Jillian Cantor: it's 1942, and as far as her father knows, Evelyn, heiress to an aeronautics fortune, is working as a translator in London. In truth, Evelyn—daring and as adept with a rifle as she is in five languages—has joined the Office of Strategic Services as a spy. Her goal is to find her brother, who is being held as a POW in a Nazi labor camp. Through one high-risk mission after another she is paired with rebellious Nick, growing ever close to him until the war's end brings with it an act of deep betrayal.

Six years later, Evelyn is back home in Los Angeles, working as a private investigator. Then the suspected cheating husband she's tailing is murdered, and suddenly Evelyn is back in Nick's orbit again. Teaming up, Evelyn and Nick begin to uncover the true nature of her case— and realize that the war has followed them home. UNDER THE PAPER MOON includes larger themes of rebuilding life after war, family secrets, and postwar trauma.

 Steinberg has developed pilots and features with various film companies and most recently, she optioned a feature film to Balcony 9 with shooting scheduled to begin in 2023

## THE SECRET OF THE LADY'S MAID: A Useful Woman Mystery (#2) by Darcie Wilde - January 2024

Mystery series set in Regency England inspired by the novels of Jane Austen: Rosalind Thorne's quick wits and discretion have proved invaluable to London's *ton*. Success has at last brought her financial stability and a new home, which she shares with her best friend, Alice. But now trouble has infiltrated Rosalind's sanctuary, and the reputations in danger include her own.

Alice has formed a tender attachment to Amelia, the maid in their employ, and her affection is returned. But before meeting Alice, Amelia was involved with Cate, daughter of a well-respected family. The scandalous liaison caused the Levittons to banish Cate. Amelia has no expectation of seeing Cate again—until she stumbles upon her in the marketplace, looking deathly ill. The women bring Cate to their home with the help of Bow Street officer Adam, who deduces that Cate's sickness may in fact be arsenic poisoning. But who had motive, or means? As Rosalind and Adam work side by side, their suspicions grow—as does the bond between them.

German rights sold

# Suspense, Mystery, & Thrillers:

## THE SORORITY by Nancy Bush – August 2024

Mackenzie was once in a school friend group who called themselves the Sorority. This group of girls did everything together, though there were some tensions, especially when one of them poached the other's boyfriend, Ethan. When Ethan died in a car accident just before graduation, it put a pall over the entire summer for everyone in the community. Once the fastest of friends, the "sisters" of the Sorority drifted apart and went their separate ways.

Now, 10 years later, Mackenzie is approached by one of those "sisters". Leigh wants Mac to find Mia, another member of the friend group who seems to be missing. As a private investigator, Mac takes on the job, but she's barely begun when one of Ethan's school friends, Gavin, gets in car accident eerily reminiscent of Ethan's and ends up in a coma. Mac had just reacquainted with Gavin at the funeral of his younger brother. As Mac grows closer to the truth, she senses it all relates back to the glory days of the Sorority and that all these deaths might be far less accidental than they seem.

• Bush is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling author

## THE HOUSE BY THE CEMETERY: Grave Diggers (#1) by Lisa Childs – September 2024

After she left home at 17, River swore she would never return. Growing up at the Gold Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens was a nightmare. Her father, undertaker Gregory Gold, certainly never acted like a father. But now Gregory has died. And River has surrendered to the pleas of her mother, Fiona, that she come back for his funeral. But the mourning period is cut short when it's revealed that Gregory died of poisoning—and Fiona is the number one suspect in his murder. Clearly, Fiona, his third wife and the funeral home's cosmetologist, is being framed. There are plenty of more likely suspects, and River is determined to prove her mother's innocence.

With a fortune at stake, River is sure the killer lies among Gregory's first two wives, their children, and grandchildren. Yet soon, other discoveries will be made, and longstanding secrets unearthed. But when more people are murdered, the danger hits closer to home than River imagined possible. Drawn back into the lives—and lies—of the Golds—she'll have to use her every resource to keep herself, and her loved ones, safe.

• Childs is a New York Time and USA Today-bestselling author.

## LOOSE LIPS: The Ghostwriter (#2) by Kemper Donovan – February 2025

Richard Osman meets Agatha Christie in this voice-driven series for fans of Anthony Horowitz and *Finlay Donovan is Killing It* following a ghostwriter whose famous subjects continually get wrapped up in murder. Each book in the series will feature different characters and settings, all surrounding the witty ghostwriter.

Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach. So goes the adage, but sometimes, even a first-rate ghostwriter and successful mystery author needs to make a buck. Even if that means setting foot on a cruise ship, something she vowed she'd never do. To top it off, the "Get Lit Cruise" is being organized by Payton Garrett, a self-help guru—and the ghostwriter's long-time frenemy. Over the years, Payton has reinvented herself and has acquired a rabid fan following who eagerly snapped up the invitations sent to a select few of her newsletter subscribers. The guests, all female, will receive personalized instruction from experts in five different writing genres, while basking in Payton's reflected glow.

Between mentoring guests, flirting with Payton's ex, and taking bets on how long before someone performs a reenactment of Titanic's "I'm flying!" scene (answer: not long enough), there's plenty to keep a ghostwriter occupied. But there's one activity nobody expected: solving a murder. When an attendee is found dead under suspicious circumstances and several others suffer symptoms of poisoning, there are numerous motives and suspects to choose from. But could it be that the victim wasn't even the intended target? As the body count rises along with onboard tensions, no one is safe—except, perhaps, for a killer whose scruples have long abandoned ship.

- "The Busy Body is a delight from start to finish. If you like Agatha Christie, you'll love this." Alex Michaelides, # 1
  New York Times-bestselling author of The Silent Patient
- UK and ANZ rights sold to book 1 *The Busy Body*, which was a *USA Today* bestseller and was also selected as a Best Mystery & Thriller of January by the Amazon Editors

#### LONG TIME GONE by Charlie Donlea – June 2024

When DNA results reveal a disturbing connection to the mysterious disappearance of a baby nearly 30 years ago, a forensic scientist is plunged into a dangerous search for answers in this new suspense ideal for fans of Alice Feeney, Riley Sager, and Megan Goldin: when Dr. Sloan submits her DNA to an online genealogy site for a research assignment, her goal is to better understand the treasure-trove of genetic information contained on ancestry websites. Sloan has one reservation about involving herself in the experiment: she's adopted. Grateful for a loving home, she's never considered tracking down her biological parents. The results of her search are shocking. Sloan's DNA suggests her identity is that of "Baby Charlotte" who captured the nation's attention when she mysteriously disappeared, along with her parents, in July 1995. Despite an exhaustive search, the family was never seen again, and no suspects were named in the case.

Sloan's discovery leads her to Sheriff Eric. Slowly Sloan begins getting to know her relatives. Though initially welcoming, they are also mysterious and tight-lipped. And the more she and Eric learn, the more apparent it becomes that the answers they seek are buried in a pool of family secrets that some will do anything to keep hidden.

- Hungarian, Portuguese (BR), Swedish, and Danish rights sold. Donlea is a #1 international bestselling author who has been published in Australia, Czech, Danish, French, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Polish, Portuguese (BR & PT), Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, and UK
- Donlea has both standalone and series novels available. They have sold over 1.5 million copies combined

## ECHOES OF MEMORY by Sara Driscoll – August 2024

Quinn, a florist grappling with amnesia due to a traumatic brain injury, is the only witness to a murder – and maybe the only one who can solve it. After surviving a terrible attack, Quinn has lost her ability to retain new memories. Months later, it appears as if her life is back to normal. But Quinn is barely holding on, relying on a notebook she carries with her at all times, a record of her entire existence since the assault. So when she witnesses a murder in the alley behind the her shop, Quinn immediately writes down every terrifying detail of the incident before her mind wipes it away. By the time the police arrive, there's no body, no crime scene, and no clues. As Quinn reads her notes, the police think this is just a ploy for attention since Quinn can't actually recall the details. The killing seems as erased from reality as it is from Quinn's mind - until the flashbacks begin. Suddenly, fragments of memories are surfacing—mere glimpses of that horrible night, but enough to convince Quinn that somewhere, locked in her subconscious, is the key to solving the case.

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT by Edwin Hill – February 2025

Charlie is infamous in his lakeside town as the infant who survived his father's violent rampage, one that left a family friend dead. While Charlie's father vanished, and the detectives insist he must have perished in the vicious spring storm that enveloped the area, a body was never found. 25 years later, Charlie wants to understand what could have made his father snap. He knows his mother was having an affair with the man who died, but there are too many other unanswered questions that remain. Then, a second murder hits even closer to home.

Freya, the one-time star of TV procedural has also returned home—in her case, to escape a stalker. Freya devoted an episode of her show to the Kilgore tragedy, and she believes the official account doesn't add up. As she and Charlie are drawn into an unlikely alliance, Charlie realizes how much the truth may diverge from everything he's long believed.

## OUR LITTLE SECRET by Lisa Jackson - July 2024

A pulse-pounding and twisting story of a fateful misstep, a deadly obsession, and the terrifying consequences, from #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author Jackson. Brooke is ready to end her six-week affair. Gideon is charming and sexy, but he's not worth throwing away her marriage. So she breaks it off, hoping Gideon will understand.

He doesn't. Gideon insists that he and Brooke are meant to be together. Finally, he backs off, but not before issuing a promise: he'll never let her go. Six years later, Brooke wants to believe it's all behind her. Her family has survived intact. Gideon has vanished. But the fear hasn't disappeared. Brooke can't tell how much of it is paranoia, and how much is justified, but she's worried. And maybe she's right to be. Because Gideon is a man who keeps his promises

• **UK rights sold.** Jackson is a #1 *New York Times*-bestseller with over 30 million copies of her books in print. Please inquire for specific rights availability and information

#### THE WILD SIDE by Fern Michaels - April 2024

Action-packed standalone: a former government agent is drawn back into the world of covert ops for a very unconventional mission. For Melanie, a school counselor, the day's challenges typically involve a playground scuffle or a student skipping school. It's worlds away from her previous career as a vital part of the Office of Special Investigations. Since leaving, Melanie has cherished her peaceful existence with her two beloved dogs for company. Then a call comes from her former supervisor. He needs her back for a highly specialized assignment. An international group of billionaires is known to meet regularly for decadent dinners, and they always hire high-class escorts for the occasion. Melanie is willing to pose as an escort and glean every scrap of intel that she can. But these men aren't just wealthy and powerful, they're also exceptionally ruthless. One slip, and they won't hesitate to eliminate Melanie, by any means necessary.

• Michaels is a #1 New York Times-bestselling author. There are over 95 five million copies of her books in print. Please inquire about specific series rights

## YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR: County Kerry (#3) by Carlene O'Connor – November 2024

Dark and atmospheric mystery series set in Ireland in the vein of Louise Penny and Tana French following local veterinarian and amateur sleuth Dimpna Wilde and Detective Inspector Cormac O'Brien: after two pregnant women in Dingle who have never met each receive a chilling email warning them that they're in grave danger, the two decide to meet each other to figure out what is going on. But when Shauna, a deaf woman, arrives at their meeting place, she fears a trap and hurries off to meet the couple who plan to adopt her baby.

After the adoptive couple are discovered tied up in their home, telling a terrifying story of a deaf pregnant woman being abducted by a man wearing a butterfly mask, Cormac and Detective Sergeant Barbara Neely fear a repeat of a disturbing case from 20 years earlier, when a charismatic leader calling himself the Shepherd, lured poor pregnant girls into his enigmatic cult. Though allegations of baby smuggling were never proven, he'd been put away on other charges. But then they learn that the Shepherd has recently been released from prison.

Trapped in a cold, dark room with a frightened boy, Shauna fears for their lives as well as that of her unborn baby. If she has any chance of getting out, she'll have to figure out the truth behind who she really is and how that connects to the ordeal she finds herself in now. But time is running out and her baby will be born soon.

O'Connor's Irish-set cozy mystery series has been published in Estonian and German. She has received rave reviews for both her County Kerry and Irish Village series, with starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly, Library Journal*, and *Kirkus*. Book 1 *No Strangers Here* was a *USA Today* bestseller and a Barnes & Noble "Our Monthly Pick" and Book 2 *Some of Us Are Looking* was a Library Journal Mystery Pick of the Month

## WATCH YOUR BACK by Terri Parlato – January 2025

Third novel featuring hardened female detective Rita Meyers, but each book also works as a standalone. Perfect for fans of Scandinavian thrillers and fans of Loreth Anne White, Freida McFadden, and Megan Miranda: amid the depths of a bleak Boston winter a recently married couple find their lives and their relationship unraveling.

Accidents happen, no matter how careful or well-intentioned you are. Psychiatrist Eve frequently reassures her patients of that. There are even times when accidents have good consequences—like when Eve met her now-husband, Nathan, at his mechanic shop after another car ran her off the road. After a whirlwind courtship, Nathan and Eve have settled into domestic life. They have a lovely home on a quiet street, a beautiful baby girl, and even the perfect babysitter to care for her. And yet, something isn't quite right. The stress in Eva's life is mounting, both professionally and personally. Though the clinic where she works has been remodeled since its notorious days as an institution for the criminally insane, she feels increasingly uneasy there. And in her own neighborhood, a break-in at a nearby empty house hasn't helped, either.

Detective Rita Myers hasn't yet figured out whether Eve is a target or a suspect, but every disturbing discovery in this usually peaceful neighborhood seems to revolve around her. Only as a deadly ice storm crashes through does it become clear just how far from perfect Eve and Nathan's lives really are. And as the cracks in the surface come to light, so do the sinister secrets that lie beneath.

UK and Polish rights sold to Parlato's previous novels

#### THE BITTER TRUTH by Shanora Williams – July 2024

From breakout Tiktok star and *New York Times*-bestselling author Williams comes a twisty rich-people-behaving-badly thriller for fans of Sally Hepworth, Liv Constantine, and Tarryn Fisher: the least Jo can do for her adoring husband Dominic is give unwavering support for his political run. With huge crowds showing up at Dominic's speeches and the polls in his favor, she's never been happier to stand proudly by his side. Until she and Dominic start seeing the same, strangely ominous woman turning up all along the campaign trail and their tour starts becoming a nightmare of botched events and increasingly dangerous "accidents." Suddenly Jo can't get any answers from Dominic—or understand why he is acting so paranoid and terrified. What Jo can do is start digging into his past—one she's never really questioned beyond his perfect image and dazzling accomplishments. What results is an alarming series of events that leave her baffled: Good friends turn into enemies, truths are revealed to be lies, and all clues lead back to one secret, shattering weekend that changes Jo's entire life. With her world splintering into pieces, can Jo risk trying to set things right? Or will hiding the bitter truth by any means necessary destroy her as well?

• Williams' previous novels have sold more than 200,000 copies with millions of views on Tiktok. She has previously been published in Polish

# **Erewhon (Adult & YA Speculative Fiction):**

## FALL OF THE IRON GODS: The Mechanists (#2) by Olivia Chadha - May 2024

Second in a fast-paced, cyberpunk YA/crossover duology that is a searing portrayal of the future of climate change: despite hard-won victories, the revolutionary forces known as the Red Hand are more endangered than ever. The Planetary Alliance Commission—the PAC—has branded them public enemy number one, ramping up their efforts to eliminate the Red Hand's remaining members even as the pandemic rages on. In order to protect the progress they have made, the team must adopt new tactics. Ashiva, armed with a new bionic upgrade, leads a team back into the fray on a dangerous mission across a toxic wasteland wracked by storms. Synch sets out to fortify their hidden stronghold, but his presence may actually hurt their cause. And Taru, determined to prove herself, attempts to bring down the regime from the inside. Greedy and unyielding, the PAC is all too willing to sacrifice people to achieve their optimal results, leaving Ashiva, Synch, and Taru to save their homeland from a government claiming to act for the greater good. Perfect for fans of Marie Lu and Zoe Hana Mikuta's *Gearbreakers*.

- Rise of the Red Hand (#1) was the Colorado Book Awards Young Adult winner and on the 2021 Locus Recommended Reading List
- "Fans of smart science fiction based in grounded, realistic science will devour this book. It's fast-paced, filled with dynamic characters, and topped with realistic issues relevant to modern life." The Nerd Daily on Rise of the Red Hand (#1)

## THE FEAST MAKERS (#3) by H.A. Clarke – April 2024

Voice-driven YA/crossover trilogy featuring a spunky teenage lesbian witch and her close-knit group of friends. This ode to female friendship is perfect for any reader from Gen-Z to the 80s kids who grew up loving witchy icons like *The Craft* and *Buffy*: after restoring their powers, Sideways just wants to get on with senior year. But the covens have convened for the trial of Madeline. When this stubborn, independent witch begs the Scapegracers to save her from a cruel and unusual punishment, Sideways knows they have to get involved. It's the right thing to do, even if Madeline did steal their soul and wear it for a time. Right?

Sideways, Jing, Daisy, and Yates are reluctant to abandon what they've built together, but as the college acceptances (and rejections) roll in, the offer of a magical family beyond their hometown becomes increasingly tempting.

Unfortunately, choosing a new coven will have to wait: witchfinders are gathering in town. Every witch—Scapegracer or not—is about to be in grave danger. on top of all that, Sideways thinks they just might be in love.

- "As tender and intimate as it is ferocious and volatile, Scapegracers deserves to be this generation's go-to
  grimoire. May it launch a thousand covens of angry, loving, brilliant girls." New York Times Book Review on
  Scapegracers (#1)
- Scratch Daughters (#2) was one of the Top 10 New York Times Science Fiction Fantasy Books of the Year

#### **MOTHEATER by Linda H. Codega – February 2025**

Queer fantasy featuring witches and themes dealing with the perils of climate change: after her best friend dies in a coal mine, Bennie sacrifices her job, her relationship, and her reputation to uncover what's killing miners on Kire Mountain. When she finds a half-drowned woman in a dirty mine slough, Bennie takes her in because it's right—but also because she hopes this odd, magnetic stranger can lead her to the proof she needs.

Instead, she brings more questions. The woman called Motheater can't remember her name or how she ended up inside the mountain. She knows only that she's a witch of Appalachia. But the mystery of her fate, her doomed quest to keep industry off Kire Mountain, and the promises she bent and broke have followed her a century and half into the future. A dual timeline unfurls the mystery of Motheater's past and present day to illustrate how history affects contemporary events. And now, the choices Motheater and Bennie make together could change the face of the town itself.

MOTHEATER is complex exploration of the abuse of power and the conflict between environmental and economic interests in the communities most affected by dangerous industrial practices.

 Codega is an award-nominated and well-connected SFF journalist. Codega has been nominated for the Hugo Award for Best Semiprozine and the Diana Jones Award for Excellence in Gaming for their journalistic work on Dungeons & Dragons' OGL license

#### **REKT by Alex Gonzalez – April 2025**

Disturbing examination of the future of AI and the darkest pits of the internet, tracing a young man's algorithmic descent into toxic masculinity and depravity in a not-too-distant future: once, Sammy Dominguez thought he knew how the world worked. He could push away the ugly things in his head—his uncle's pathetic death, his parents' mistrust, the twisted horror stories he writes online— because he and his girlfriend, Ellery, were on track for the good life in this messed-up world. Then a car accident changed everything.

Spiraling with grief and guilt, Sammy scrambles for distraction. He finds it in shock-value videos of gore and violence. When someone messages him a dark web link to footage of Ellery dying, he watches—first the car crash that killed her, then hundreds of other deepfake deaths, even for people still alive. Accidents. Diseases. Suicides. Murders.

The host site is sadistic, vicious, impossible. It even seems to read his mind, manipulate his searches. And what in it is even real? And who is Haruspx, the web handle who led him into this virtual nightmare? As Sammy watches compulsively, the darkness in his mind blooms, driving him down a twisted path to find the origin of the site, even if he must become a nightmare himself.

## THE STONE ROAD by Trent Jamieson – May 2024 rerelease

Vivid coming-of-age fantasy YA/crossover: with the lyrical cadence of *The Last Unicorn* and intense imagery of *A Wizard of Earthsea*, THE STONE ROAD is a timeless story of hope, belonging, and growing into your power. It is a dark fantasy story with a strong feminist bent that draws inspirations from fairy tales, folklore, and the supernatural: on the day Jean was born, the dead howled. A thin scratch of black smoke began to rise behind the hills west of town: Furnace had been lit, and soon its siren call began to draw the people of Casement Rise to it, never to return. Casement Rise is a dusty town at the end of days, a harsh world of grit and arcane dangers. While Jean's stern, overprotective Nan has always kept Casement Rise safe from monsters, she may have waited too long to teach Jean how to face them on her own. On Jean's twelfth birthday, a mysterious graceful man appears, an ethereal and terrifying being tied to her family's secrets.

Now, Nan must rush Jean's education in monsters, magic, and the breaking of the world in ages past. If Jean is to combat the graceful man and finally understand the ancient evil that powers Furnace, she will have to embrace her legacy, endure her Nan's lessons, and learn all she can—before Furnace burns down her world and everyone in it.

- Ideal for fans of speculative fiction in the vein of Erin Morgenstern and Susanna Clark and dark fantasy in the vein of Seanan McGuire and Maria Dahvana Headley
- The Stone Road was nominated for the 2022 Aurealis Awards in both the Horror and Fantasy categories, and won for Best Horror

## WHEN THE TIDES HELD THE MOON by Venessa Vida Kelley – May 2025

Historical fantasy following a Puerto Rican immigrant who captures a merman for a Coney Island carnival: newly arrived in 1911 New York City after a lonely life in Puerto Rico, young Benny has always felt like a fish out of water. He struggles with asthma, faces prejudice for being a brown immigrant, and hides his attraction to other men. Yet Benny has an aptitude for mechanical engineering, dreaming big while working at an ironworks in Brooklyn. When a special commission from famous Coney Island theme park Luna Park arrives to build an unusual water tank, it is Benny's design that impresses the park owner, Sam Morgan. Later that night, Benny is enlisted on a mysterious mission by the staff of Morgan's sideshow, but even he can't fully believe what happens next: they entice two merpeople out of New York Harbor and capture them. The mermaid dies in the process, but the surviving merman is brought into Luna Park as its newest attraction.

Benny takes on a new job being the merman's keeper. As weeks pass, he also befriends the warm-hearted and diverse band of outcasts in the sideshow. As Benny learns how to communicate with the merman, Rio, he discovers a whole new realm: a world where Benny can find acceptance. Yet tensions mount at Luna Park and Benny soon feels torn between supporting his newfound sideshow family versus his burgeoning love for Rio and his promise to free the merman. Caught between worlds, Benny must make a life-changing decision that will transform Luna Park – and himself – forever.

• Kelley is well connected in the romance and SFF world and has worked with authors such as Casey McQuiston, TJ Klune, Everina Maxwell, and Becky Albertalli

## KALYNA THE CUTTHROAT (#2) by Elijah Kinch Spector – June 2024

Second in a voice-driven fantasy adventure series following a plucky, sardonic con artist who must "prophesize" her way out of peril—discovering along the way that power and politics are nothing more than stories sold as truth. Ideal for fans of Naomi Novik's *Spinning Silver*: Radiant, scholar of curses and magical history, has spent several years on a research expedition abroad in Quruscan, one of the kingdoms of the Tetrarchia. When Tetrarchia and Radiant's home country of Loasht suddenly revoke their tenuous peace, Quruscan is no longer the safe haven for Radiant that it once was. He needs someone to help him escape: a bodyguard, perhaps, or someone with the cunning to escort him to safety. The perfect candidate is Kalyna: a crafty, mysterious mercenary with an uncanny reputation.

But the political situation is far more volatile than Radiant left it; it soon becomes clear that he may never be able to return home to his family. With a little of Kalyna's signature guile, she finds Radiant asylum in a utopian community and, for a moment, it seems like they might finally have a safe place to stay. But when the group's charismatic leader grows wary of the refugees flocking to his community, that sense of safety begins to unravel once more.

Kalyna the Cutthroat deftly imagines how the pressures of heroism can warp even the most unshakeable of survivors, asking what responsibilities human beings have to one another, and whether one good deed—of any magnitude—can absolve you of your past for the sake of a future.

"Delightful debut fantasy adventure. . . . Put your trust in Kalyna's hands and let her build a story around the two
of you. Parts of it will speak to your own specific fears and desires; other aspects will be entertaining fictions,
until you discover the devastating shard of truth within." —NPR

# **Historical Romance:**

## DAMNED IF I DUKE: Drop Dead Dukes (#2) by Anna Bradley – April 2024

Bold and adventurous, Prudence is not the kind of woman to stand by meekly when someone she loves has been wronged. And she's quite certain that Jasper, Duke of Montford, somehow duped her father into racking up enormous gambling debts. When fate offers her a chance to blackmail Jasper into forgiving her father's losses, she seizes it, only to have her scheme backfire. Jasper enjoys London's illicit delights too much to wed. Too bad his grandfather has decided that a woman with the nerve to blackmail might be exactly the sort of wife to tame him. Pressed into a marriage neither wanted—and fighting a desire neither expected—Prue and Jasper torment and tempt each other beyond reason.

• French rights sold. Bradley's previous historicals have published in French, German, Italian, and Slovenia

## THE LADY PLAYS WITH FIRE: Goode's Guide to Misconduct (#2) by Susanna Craig – May 2024

In this Bridgerton-era take on "You've Got Mail", the clever, popular, and deliciously shocking ladies' periodical Mrs. Goode's Magazine for Misses only employs women who are equal to the challenge—and for one biting theatre critic, that challenge happens to include romance: as the daughter of a clergyman, Julia knows she'll never be able to fulfill her lifelong dream of acting on the stage. But writing forthright reviews of the Season's most popular plays is the next best thing. Even better, she's got a ticket to Ransom Blackadder's latest satire about English society. Best of all, she's sharing a theater box with the gruff but handsome Lord Dunstane, which is enough to make Julia call for an encore. A fast-paced, innovative, sexy historical romance with a modern twist that readers of Sabrina Jeffries and Julia Quinn will love.

• Craig has been published in Croatian, Czech, French, German, Japanese, and Romanian

## EARLS TRIP by Jenny Holiday - May 2024

19th century (b)romantic comedy featuring three Regency-era Earls on their annual trip from *USA Today*-bestseller Holiday: even an earl needs his ride-or-dies, and Archibald counts himself lucky to have two friends that offer unconditional support. The annual trip that Archie takes with his best friends Simon and Effie holds a sacred spot in their calendars. This year Archie is especially eager to get away until a letter arrives from a family friend begging him for help. Suddenly the trip has become earls-plus-girls, as Archie's childhood pals, Clementine and Olive, tag along.

Adult Clementine, while as frank and refreshing as he remembers, is also different to the wild girl he knew. This Clem is complex and surprising—and adamantly opposed to marriage. Which, for reasons Archie dare not examine too closely, he finds vexing. Then Clem makes him an indecent and delightful proposal, asking him to show her the pleasures of the marriage bed before she settles into spinsterhood. And what kind of gentleman would he be to refuse a lady? Ideal for fans of Lyssa Kay Adams's *The Bromance Book Club* and Manda Collins' *A Lady's Guide to Mischief and Mayhem* this series features men who are more in touch with their softer side than their traditional Regency peers.

- Hungarian rights sold
- "One of the best historical romances I've read in years. I truly felt like the characters were falling in love." -- Julia Quinn, bestselling author of the Bridgerton novels

## ACCIDENTALLY HIS: Designing Debutants (#3) by Sabrina Jeffries – February 2024

Series featuring a trio of ladies who defy social constraints by starting a business as party planners to the *ton* from *New York Times*-bestseller Jeffries. As a viscount's heir, Rafe is obligated to take a wife. But she must be the right sort of wife—not too independent, and not inclined to delve into his escapades as a spy. The forthright, perceptive Lady Verity is altogether the wrong choice. But Rafe's courtship is merely a ruse to discover whether Verity or anyone else associated with Elegant Occasions is leaking crucial information to the French. After enduring one disastrous engagement, Verity won't easily open her heart again, preferring to devote herself to Elegant Occasions. Rafe is charming, handsome, and kisses like the very devil, but she knows he's harboring secrets. Still, when Rafe offers his hand, Verity has little choice but to accept.

 Czech, German, Portuguese (BR), Serbian, and UK rights sold to this series. Czech, Danish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese (BR), Romanian, Russian, and UK rights sold to her Duke Dynasty series

## THE GOLDEN LORD (#2) by Mary Jo Putney – December 2024

Second in a duology from *New York Times*-bestseller Putney set in England, 1803: the oldest foster child of the Earl and Countess Tremayne, Caden was one of several abandoned children rescued into the fold of the "Tribe of Tremayne," each bearing a special gift. Now Cade's investigative abilities and talent for preventing violence—or when necessary, executing it—are urgently required by the Home Office. For after an all-too-brief peace, Britain and France are about to be at war again. Tamsyn has always felt a deep connection to Cade. Yet though they are not blood, their family relationship has led her to suppress her love. Still, their bond is undeniable—and only grows stronger when Cade is captured by the French. Tam knows that Cade will not be easily broken, yet only their meeting of minds can truly save him—and hopefully free them to be together at last. But first, she will have to navigate a treacherous maze of enemies and allies to find him, they will have to escape France—and block a devastating plot against Britain.

Spanish, Hungarian, Italian, and Romanian rights sold

#### THE GROOM LIST: The Worthington Brides (#3) by Ella Quinn – July 2024

Intelligent. Kind. Must like children. Passable looks. A man of means. Must make us laugh...For Lady Alice, these are some of the "musts" on the checklist for eligible bachelors compiled with her sisters as they husband-hunt among the ton. Yet when she encounters a striking nobleman on her morning ride in Hyde Park, Alice soon tallies another list of first impressions: shallow. Flirtatious. Without seriousness of purpose. Impossible to avoid.

Gifford, the Marquis of St. Albans, must wed in order to wrest his estate from his controlling father. Waltzing with lovely Lady Alice at the Season's whirl of balls and soirees however, defies Giff's expectations: his dance moves are smooth but their small talk is excruciating—he offers up gossip sheet tidbits while she interrogates him on his charitable works—or lack thereof! Charming. Amusing. Irresistible . . . A disastrous idea?

German rights sold. Quinn has been published in Czech, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Slovakian

# **Nonfiction**

# THE VANISHING AT SMOKESTACK HOLLOW: A Missing Family, a Desperate Plan, an Unsolved Mystery by Jake Anderson – October 2024

Immersive exploration of the mystery that gripped internet sleuths and bloggers and inspires an avid online following—the bizarre disappearance of the Jamison family in the rugged Sans Bois Mountains: on October 8th, 2009, Bobby Jamison, his wife Sherilynn, and their six-year-old daughter Madyson, set off for a drive from their home in to the nearby Sans Bois Mountains and never returned. A week later, their truck was found abandoned and inside was their malnourished dog, the family's cell phones, wallets, and \$32,000 in cash.

The ensuing eight-month search was the largest in state history, but it yielded little evidence. Online, bloggers and web sleuths put forth dozens of theories, fueled by the Jamisons' strange, trancelike behavior on a CCTV video. In 2013, there was a tragic break in the case, when deer hunters stumbled upon the skeletal remains of two adults and a child in the Smokestack Hollow area of Panola Mountain. Forensic testing confirmed the Jamisons' identities. But the mystery was only beginning. Investigative journalist Anderson draws on police notes, interviews, and exclusive evidence to piece together the Jamisons' last days and weeks. The story is a compulsively readable account of a true murder mystery whose chilling impact continues to be felt.

## AMERICAN FLYGIRL by Susan Tate Ankeny - May 2024

One of WWII's most uniquely hidden figures, Hazel Ying Lee was the first Asian American woman to earn a pilot's license, join the WASPs, and fly for the United States military amid widespread anti-Asian sentiment and policies. Her singular story of patriotism, barrier breaking, and fearless sacrifice is told for the first time in full for readers of *The Women with Silver Wings* by Katherine Sharp Landdeck and *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell: in 1932, Hazel Ying Lee, a 19-year-old American daughter of Chinese immigrants, sat in on a friend's flight lesson. In less than a year, she earned her pilot's license and went to China to help against invading Japanese forces. In time, Hazel would become the first Asian American to fly with the Women Airforce Service Pilots. As thrilling as it may have been, it wasn't easy.

In America, Hazel felt the oppression and discrimination of the Chinese Exclusion Act. In China's field of male-dominated aviation she was dismissed for being a woman, and for being an American. But in service to her country, Hazel refused to be limited by gender, race, and impossible dreams. This is the untold account of a spirted fighter and an indomitable hidden figure in history.

## **BOMBING HITLER'S HOMETOWN by Mike Croissant – April 2024**

One of WWII's final untold stories, this visceral account of the white-knuckled bombing mission American airmen carried out on Hitler's hometown of Linz, Austria is told through the eyes of the men on the airplanes as well as the innocent Austrians under the bombs. Fans of Donald L. Miller's *Masters of the Air* and Laura Hillenbrand's *Unbroken* will be riveted by this groundbreaking story.

In April 1945, Linz was one of Nazi Germany's most vital assets. It was a crucial transportation hub and communications center. Linz was also the town Hitler claimed as home and had long intended to remake as the cultural capital of Europe. Inevitably, Linz was also one of the most heavily defended targets remaining in Europe. The airmen of the Fifteenth Air Force were a mix of seasoned veterans and newcomers. As their mission was unveiled, audible groans and muffled expletives passed many lips. The reality of that mission would prove more brutal than any imagined. Drawing on interviews with dozens of America's last surviving World War II veterans, as well as previously unpublished sources, Croissant relates a gripping chronicle of warfare, the death of Nazi Germany, and the beginning of the Cold War.

## MISTRESS OF LIFE AND DEATH: The Dark Journey of Maria Mandl, Head Overseer of the Women's Camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau by Susan Eischeid - January 2024

First-ever biography of SS Overseer Maria Mandl, the highest-ranked woman in the Nazi killing machine and one of the few female perpetrators of the Holocaust. This unflinching examination charts her transformation from engaging country girl to "The Beast" of Auschwitz. As Head Overseer of the women's camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau, she was responsible for the murders of thousands, and for the suffering of countless more. In this riveting biography, Eischeid explores how Maria Mandl, a "nice girl from a good family," came to embody the very worst of humanity. Born in 1912 in the beautiful, rural Austrian village of Münzkirchen, Maria enjoyed a happy childhood with loving parents—who later watched in anguish as their grown daughter rose through the Nazi system. After the war, Maria was arrested for crimes against humanity. Following a public trial attended by the international press, she was hanged in 1948. Eischeid draws on archival testimonies, witness interviews, and time spent with Mandl's friends and neighbors who shared their memories. The result is a chilling and complex exploration of how easily an unlikely candidate can be turned toward evil in a climate of hate and fear.

Romanian and Russian rights sold

## BLOOD: The Science, Medicine, and Mythology of Menstruation by Dr. Jen Gunter - February 2024

The newest nonfiction by *New York Times*-bestselling author and internationally known OB/GYN Dr. Jen Gunter explores the science, myths, and fearmongering surrounding menstruation. Gunter offers a no-nonsense, fact-based overview of what the menstrual cycle is; addresses what's normal, what's not, and what requires medical intervention; and bashes the myths about menstruation which keep women uninformed and disempowered. Not knowing how your body works makes it challenging to advocate for oneself, and consequently many suffer in silence thinking their bodies are uniquely broken, when in fact what they are experiencing is typical.

Gunter discusses how the patriarchy has weaponized menstruation, either through outdated cultural norms, medical dismissal, grind culture with inadequate menstrual accommodations, or selling useless products. Covering everything from puberty to menopause, irregular bleeding and normal cramping to PCOS and endometriosis, contraception methods to the morning after pill, BLOOD will give readers the knowledge they need to make decisions for *their* bodies.

- Gunter's successful TED Talk on periods (with 3 million views) has led to a podcast on the TED network. Her CBC
  web series JENSPLAINING has been picked up by Amazon Prime. She has over 350k followers on TikTok. Gunter
  is a vulvar and vaginal diseases expert who runs a clinic specifically for these concerns
- Canadian, Chinese, Greek, and UK rights sold. Gunter has been published in Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Danish,
   Dutch, the UK, Canada, French, French Canadian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Korean,
   Lithuanian, Mongol, Polish, Portuguese (PT), Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, and Ukrainian

#### SCOUT CAMP by James Renner - March 2025

Shocking in its revelations of criminal activities, Renner's new true crime book is a page-turning masterpiece of no-holds-barred journalism. In the summer of 1995, at the largest Boy Scout camp in Ohio, a night of sexual violence ended with one counselor dead and another in the hospital. The cause of death was ruled "accidental," but evidence strongly suggests suicide, or maybe even murder. Months afterward, a second violent death stunned the scouting community – and left indelible scars on the campers and staff who were there. Renner was a counselor at Seven Ranges Boy Scout Reservation that year. In this true crime memoir, Renner looks back at that turbulent summer and how a secret society within scouting contributed to this tragedy and thousands more.

As he opens up his past, Renner also shines light on the decades-long history of sexual abuse within the Boy Scouts of America. In 2022 alone, the organization was rocked by 92,000 claimants who sued them because they had been abused as children. Presenting a fresh and deeply personal perspective on incidents with disturbing repercussions, Renner reconstructs the events surrounding the case from interviews, police files, and court records, along with his own recollections.

## DOWN TO THE BONE: A Missing Family's Murder and the Elusive Quest for Justice by Caitlin Rother - November 2024

New York Times-bestselling crime author Rother take readers on a page-turning investigative examination of a multi-layered and confounding high-profile murder case: on February 15, 2010, Joseph McStay, his wife Summer, and their two young sons were reported missing from their new home in San Diego. They left eggs and fruit rotting on the counter. Their dogs were abandoned outside without food. But investigators found no blood, signs of a struggle, or clues to their whereabouts. Nearly four years later, a motorcyclist found the McStays' remains in and around two shallow graves, 100 miles away in the desert. Their skulls showed signs of blunt-force trauma, likely due to the sledgehammer buried with them. Authorities focused on Charles "Chase" Merritt, a close friend and employee for Joseph's company. Despite a lack of physical evidence, scenarios that defied logic, and numerous unanswered questions, prosecutors convinced a jury of Merritt's guilt. After an emotional sentencing hearing, the judge imposed the death penalty. But did another possible suspect, who was ignored by investigators and ducked a subpoena to testify, get away with murder?

# **Cozy Mystery:**

## ANOTHER SLICE OF MURDER: Baker Street Mystery (#3) by Valerie Burns - August 2024

Newest in the cozy series featuring social media maven Maddy Montgomery: following on the heels of a very public wedding disaster—her fiancé stood her up at the altar for all of social media to see—Maddy inherits her great aunt's bakery and house. The perfect opportunity to reinvent herself, Maddy packs up her Louboutins and flies off to a town so small the population doesn't even meet her criteria for number of reviews a restaurant must have before she'll try it.

"Snappy dialogue, a well-drawn supporting cast and an irresistible canine companion all add delicious flavor.
 Gulp this book down or savor it, but consuming it will guarantee a sustained sugar high." – The New York Times
 Book Review on Book 1 in the series

## A VERY WOODSY MURDER (#1) by Ellen Byron – August 2024

From Agatha Award-winning author Byron and perfect for fans of "Schitt's Creel", a new series featuring a sitcom writer who has checked out of the familiar comforts in Studio City and checked in to the quaint village of Foundgold to run a motel. Running a rustic getaway in the woods sure beats LA traffic—until murder ruins the peace and quiet.

## A CYCLIST'S GUIDE TO CRIME & CROISSANTS: A Cyclist's Guide Mystery (#1) by Ann Claire – June 2024

Ideal for fans of armchair travel as you can vicariously tour the sundrenched Mediterranean Coast in this perfectly escapist cozy mystery series starring American expat-turned-bike tour company owner in Southern France. Sadie shocked everyone by ditching her sensible office job and buying a sight-unseen French bicycling tour company. Now she's living the unconventional life of her dreams in the gorgeous village of Sans-Souci-sur-Mer. Sans souci means carefree, but Sadie feels the pressure when old friends arrive for a tour, including her former boss, Dom. When Dom drags his heels on fun, Sadie vows he'll enjoy if it kills her. That is, until Dom ends up dead.

Claire also writes the USA Today-bestselling Christie Bookshop Mystery Series, not with Kensington

#### A POSE BEFORE DYING: A Cat Yoga Mystery (#1) by Alex Erickson – June 2024

Fledgling entrepreneur Ashley is thrilled to open her dream business—a cat yoga studio. But helping clients find balance and felines find homes soon becomes one unhealthy exercise in murder. Ashley has a lot to prove with her new cat yoga studio, A Purrfect Pose. It's a place for humans to find inner wellness—and adopt adorable cats from the local shelter. So far, so successful. Until she discovers one of her new clients, a much-disliked college professor, dead in her studio, locked in child's pose.

#### MURDER IN AN ITALIAN CAFÉ: A Bria Bartolucci Mystery (#2) by Michael Falco – October 2024

Set in beautiful Positano, Italy, the latest novel in a cozy mystery series featuring a widowed Bed & Breakfast owner. Though she still misses her late husband, Carlo, Bria couldn't be happier that their dream bed and breakfast, Bella Bella, is humming along nicely. Of course, even on the stunning Amalfi Coast, things seldom run smoothly. Bria's also juggling the demands of the famous Chef Lugo, his producer, Massimo, and Pippa, a member of the production crew who is staying at Bella Bella for a nice, long-term stay. Until Lugo mysteriously dies on-camera, a victim of apparent murder.

## PUMPKIN CHIFFON PIE MURDER: A Hannah Swensen Mystery by Joanne Fluke – September 2024

New York Times-bestselling author and Queen of the Culinary Mystery Fluke returns with the latest installment of her mystery series featuring the charming small-town baker and her team of murder solving friends along with more delectable recipes! Six books in the series have aired as movies on the Hallmark channel, with another three to come.

 Rights to Hannah Swensen books have previously sold in Estonian, French, German, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Spanish, and the UK. Joanne Fluke is a Mystery Writer's of America Grandmaster of the mystery genre

## DEADLY WALK IN DEVON by Nicholas George – April 2024

For fans of M.C. Beaton and Alexander McCall Smith: the first in a charming mystery series set in the English countryside, as a retired US police detective embarks upon group walking tours in England's most scenic counties. After a long career as a detective, Rick "Chase" Chasen has traded in his badge for a change of scenery in the coastal comforts of Devon, England, until a local murder takes him on a deadly detour.

#### PUZZLE ME A MURDER (#1) by Roz Noonan – August 2024

Down-on-her-luck librarian Alice had hoped to retire before turning 65, not struggle to keep her cozy home and dependable job. But even after divorce leaves her golden years a mess, the pieces always come together with a little help from her friends—a fun-loving crew who thrive on jigsaws over coffee, cocktails, and gossip. So, when it's time to defend close confidant Ruby Milliner, she springs into action. Only, in this case, supporting Ruby means proving she didn't murder her cheating husband.

#### MURDER AT AN IRISH CHIPPER: An Irish Village Mystery (#10) by Carlene O'Connor – March 2024

*USA Today*-bestselling author O'Connor's mystery series following Garda of County Cork, Ireland, Siobhán O'Sullivan: a belated honeymoon turns into a busman's holiday when Gardas Siobhán and Macdara Flannery find themselves investigating a dead body found in a fish and chips shop.

- Estonian, German, and UK rights sold to this series
- Over 550K copies of this series sold domestically

## GONE WITH THE WITCH: Witch Way Librarian Mystery Series (#5) by Angela Sanders – March 2024

Mystery lovers with a taste for the witchy will be charmed by this spellbinding series featuring librarian witch Josie Way, her feline familiar, and, of course, murder! As the bones pile up librarian and apprentice witch Josie hits the books—and soon finds herself playing Dr. Watson to none of the than Sherlock Holmes!

## MURDER MARKS THE PAGE: Tomes & Tea Mystery (#1) by Karen Rose Smith – April 2024

First in a new series following Jazzi Swanson who has opened her own book and tea shop, providing a variety of literature and flavored beverages for her small community. But Jazzi has not only inherited her mother's gift for brewing tasty drinks—she also has a nose for sniffing out murder.

## Ask Us About Our Long Running Cozy & Historical Mystery Series:

LITTLE LOST LIBRARY: The Secret, Book, & Scone Society (#7) by Ellery Adams - November 2024

FIVE FURRY FAMILIARS: Kitchen Witch (#5) by Lynn Cahoon – March 2024

MURDER TAKES THE STAGE: Phyllida Bright (#4) by Colleen Cambridge - November 2024

TROUBLE IS BREWING: Tea by the Sea Mystery (#5) by Vicki Delany – August 2024

LIMITED EDITION MURDER: Beyond the Page Bookstore Mystery (#10) by Lauren Elliott – April 2024

AN ART LOVER'S GUIDE TO PARIS AND MURDER: Countess of Harleigh Myster (#7) by Dianne Freeman – July 2024

MURDER AT A SCOTTISH CASTLE: Scottish Shire (#5) by Traci Hall – February 2024 MURDER AT VINLAND: Gilded Newport (#12) by Alyssa Maxwell – August 2024

SECRETS OF A SCOTTISH ISLE: Jane Wunderly Mystery (#5) by Erica Ruth Neubauer – April 2024

MURDER AT KING'S CROSSING: Wrexford & Sloane Mystery (#8) by Andrea Penrose – October 2024

GONE WITH THE WITCH: Witch Way Librarian Mystery (#5) by Angela Sanders - March 2024

MURDER WITH EARL GREY TEA: Daisy's Tea Garden Mystery (#9) by Karen Rose Smith – June 2023