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BOOK-TO-SCREEN CATALOGUE

Highlights for film and TV rights

Welcome to our book-to-screen catalogue

For your consideration of the film, TV and stage rights, it is with pleasure that we present here a showcase of our current highlights from across our three imprints: **Bookouture**, **Thread** and **Second Sky**. Our key genres are procedural crime, thrillers, suspense, romantic comedies, historical fiction, memoir and science fiction & fantasy. We have so many more titles than we have showcased here, so please do let us know if there is anything in particular you are seeking out, as we may well have the book for you!

Please don't hesitate to request reading materials for anything that you would like to consider.



Film, TV and stage rights are now handled in house at Bookouture by Rights Director, Richard King.

Please contact Richard for any more information or to arrange to a meeting.

richard@bookouture.com

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THRILLERS AND
SUSPENSE

THE SURGEON

BY LESLIE WOLFE (MARCH 2023)

Bestselling author Leslie Wolfe returns with her most ambitious, most accomplished and most high-concept novel yet.

This is a heart-racing story about a brilliant surgeon, Anne Wiley, with an immaculate track record, who realises with heart-stopping certainty that the patient on the operating table in front of her is the same man who visited evil upon her family years before, and was responsible for her sister's death.

Minutes later she pronounces him dead.

Quick to suspect foul play is the Assistant District Attorney, Paula, who is convinced malpractice has occurred and wastes no time beginning an investigation, seemingly determined to sink Anne's golden career. But Paula is also having an affair with Anne's political hopeful husband, Derreck, who is currently in the midst of a hotly-contested mayoral campaign, and he can't afford a scandal...

As the medical, legal and political worlds collide, this dog, cat and mouse thriller is going to get personal *very* fast.

Filmic in its execution, packed with jaw-dropping twists, this breathless page-turner challenges the reader to question when justice should be taken into one's own hands, and the fine line between love and revenge. This is an intelligent, razor-sharp and slick psychological thriller that is perfect for TV adaptation.

An utterly unputdownable and pulse-pounding psychological thriller packed with twists

LESLIE WOLFE



THE SURGEON

Trusted
surgeon.

Loving wife.

Murderer?

THE SNOWSTORM

BY TRÍONA WALSH (FEBRUARY 2023)

Six friends are trapped. One of them is dead. One of them is the killer.

Set on a remote storm-swept island called Inishmore off the Irish coast in the Atlantic Ocean, six friends – all originally from the island, but all gone their separate ways – reunite before New Year's Eve. Tonight they are honouring the anniversary of the tragic death of Cara's husband Cillian in a boating accident ten years before.

But the day before New Year's Eve, Maura, another one of the friends, is found dead at the bottom of a cliff, murdered. And as a storm descends and they are cut off from the mainland, Cara – who is also the only serving member of the Irish police force on the island – has no choice but to investigate the death of her own friend herself before the storm lifts and the killer can escape from the island.

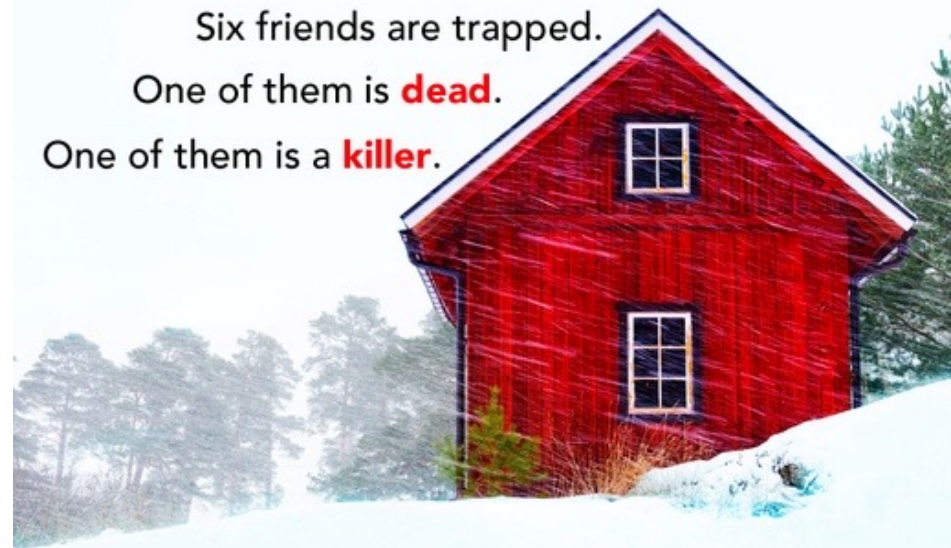
But as her off-the-record investigation starts to expose the many lies that each of her friends has told, Cara is forced to confront the possibility that one the group must be guilty of Maura's death. But how many more tragedies will occur before Cara finds out the truth and exposes the killer – and will it all eventually lead her back to what really happened to Cillian all those years before?

Surprising and shocking until the end, *The Snowstorm* is also beautiful, lyrical, distinctive and totally taut with suspense. The novel is bursting with atmosphere, from the wild, ruthless landscape of the desolate island, to the creepy, weathered and isolated house, and the folklore and legends of the island. And, as well as being a gripping, thrilling and a completely heart-racing read, it is moving, poignant and tender.

It isn't just a novel about a murder, and a group of close, lifelong friends infested with secrets and lies, rotting them from the inside out. It's a novel about being an outsider, about loneliness and loss, about tradition and superstition, and how greed and guilt can eat you up.

Fans of Ruth Ware and Lucy Foley will absolutely devour ***The Snowstorm***.

Six friends are trapped.
One of them is **dead**.
One of them is a **killer**.



THE SNOW STORM

TRÍONA WALSH

An absolutely gripping, pulse-pounding thriller packed with twists

THE PERFECT PATIENT

BY LUANA LEWIS (APRIL 2022)

There's only one person who knows what happened that night in the hotel room, but she's remained silent... until now. As she walks into her therapist's office, she's finally ready to answer the first question: Did you kill him?

The moment Jade opens her eyes and takes in the dark hotel room, she can sense something isn't right. The curtains are pulled across the large window overlooking London, and she swears she had left them open. A strange metallic smell permeates the room and it isn't until she rolls over before she realise it's blood...

The body in the bed next to her is still and cold. She already straight away he's dead. But she has no idea who he is or how he got there.

When you hear what happened in the hours before Jade woke up in that hotel room with Carl Rees, you'll think you know what happened – too many drinks, things got out of hand, Jade got angry... But you'll be wrong. You'll think you know who the guilty one is, but it won't be who you think...

Fans of *The Silent Patient* and *The Wife Between Us* will not be able to put down this thrilling read from Luana Lewis.

THE PERFECT PATIENT

**Innocent woman or ruthless killer?
Only I know the truth...**



LUANA LEWIS

A completely gripping psychological thriller with a shocking twist

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THE DOCTOR'S WIFE

BY DANIEL HURST (January 2023)

The #1 UK Kindle Store bestseller!

Doctor Drew Devlin thinks his secret is safe. But unbeknownst to him, his wife Fern knows the truth...

He's smart and charming and everybody trusts him. Except her.

On the surface, it looks like they have it all – the perfect marriage, the perfect house, the perfect life. But it's far from the truth.

Doctor Drew Devlin is not the respectable figure he makes out to be. The reason they moved to their new beautiful property with a gorgeous view of the sea was because they needed to put their past behind them. It should've been a fresh start for them both.

But Fern knows that her husband has been lying to her again about the *real* reason they've moved. He's using the power he has in his job to mess with people's lives, and to get exactly what he wants – no matter who it hurts.

But Doctor Drew Devlin has underestimated his wife, who has had plenty of time, in their big, isolated house, to think about all of his mistakes.

And he has no idea what's about to happen next...

An instant #1 Kindle Store bestseller, *The Doctor's Wife* is an absolutely gripping psychological thriller packed with jaw-dropping twists that will keep you reading late into the night. Readers who loved *Behind Closed Doors*, *Gone Girl* or *The Housemaid*, will be hooked on *The Doctor's Wife*.

THE DOCTOR'S WIFE

He thinks his
secret is safe.



But she knows
the truth...

DANIEL HURST

An absolutely gripping and unputdownable psychological thriller with a shocking twist

THE TYLER FAMILY SERIES

BY EMMA TALLON

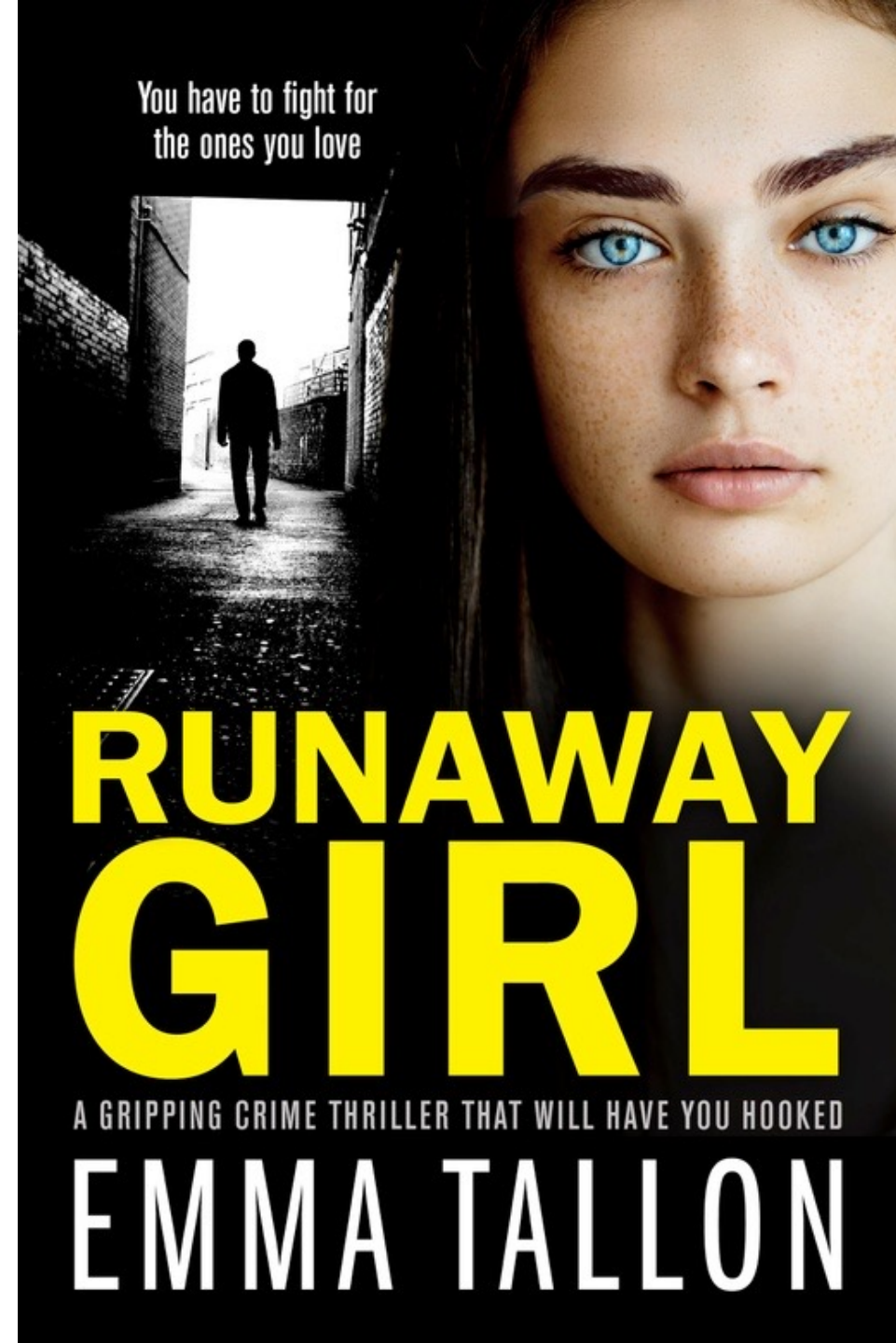
This totally addictive gritty crime series receives rave reviews from its fans, who madly root for middle-class lost girl Anna Davies, escapee of an abusive marriage, who by the end of the series eventually finds herself running the biggest crime family in London alongside irresistible antihero and gangland royalty, Freddie Tyler.

Anna has spent years terrified of her sadistic boyfriend. Right up until she runs away in the dead of night, she's frightened he will kill her. And she knows he still will, if he ever finds her...

As Anna starts her new life in London, she falls in with two strangers who will change her fortunes forever. Tanya Smith is a gorgeous stripper with a big heart. And East End gangland baron Freddie Tyler, who is everything Anna's ex-boyfriend was not.

But Anna knows her past will catch up with her. She could be about to lose everything – even her life. But she's a different person now. She's not going to give up without a fight.

This bestselling 7-book series follows the Tyler family through their various criminal enterprises and through the thick and thin of family life and relationships. Amazing for fans of Martina Cole.



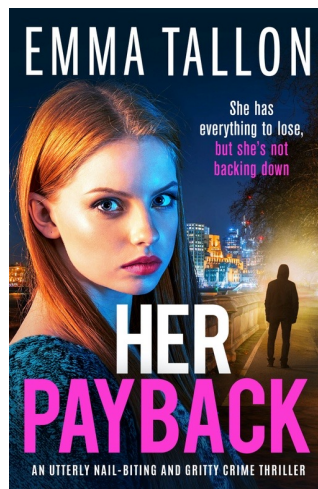
THE DREW FAMILY SERIES

BY EMMA TALLON

Bestselling crime author Emma Tallon's spin off second series introduces her army of fans to the Drew family – a smaller firm than gangland royalty that is the Tylers from Emma's other series – headed up by not-to-be-messed-with Lily Drew and her smart and strong niece Scarlett, who has kept her nose clean so far, but is thrust into a leading role in the family firm when her crime boss father is taken out in a gangland hit. Imagine an East End version of Meadow Soprano stepping up the plate after Tony's death!

Scarlet's aunt Lily is fierce, straight-talking and a force to be reckoned with. As head of the family firm and queen of the London underworld, she welcomes her niece into the business and swears to help her get revenge – after all, family comes first.

Scarlet soon discovers that the murder is just one part of a plot by a rival firm to take down the entire Drew empire. She stands shoulder to shoulder with her aunt, ready to fight back, but these new enemies are the most dangerous threat the Drew family has ever faced.



THE FAMILY ACROSS THE STREET

BY Nicole trope (AUGUST 2021)

Everybody wants to live on Hogarth Street, the pretty, leafy avenue in the peaceful suburbs of Sydney. The new family, the Wests, are a perfect fit. Katherine and John seem so in love and their gorgeous five-year-old twins race screeching around their beautiful emerald-green lawn.

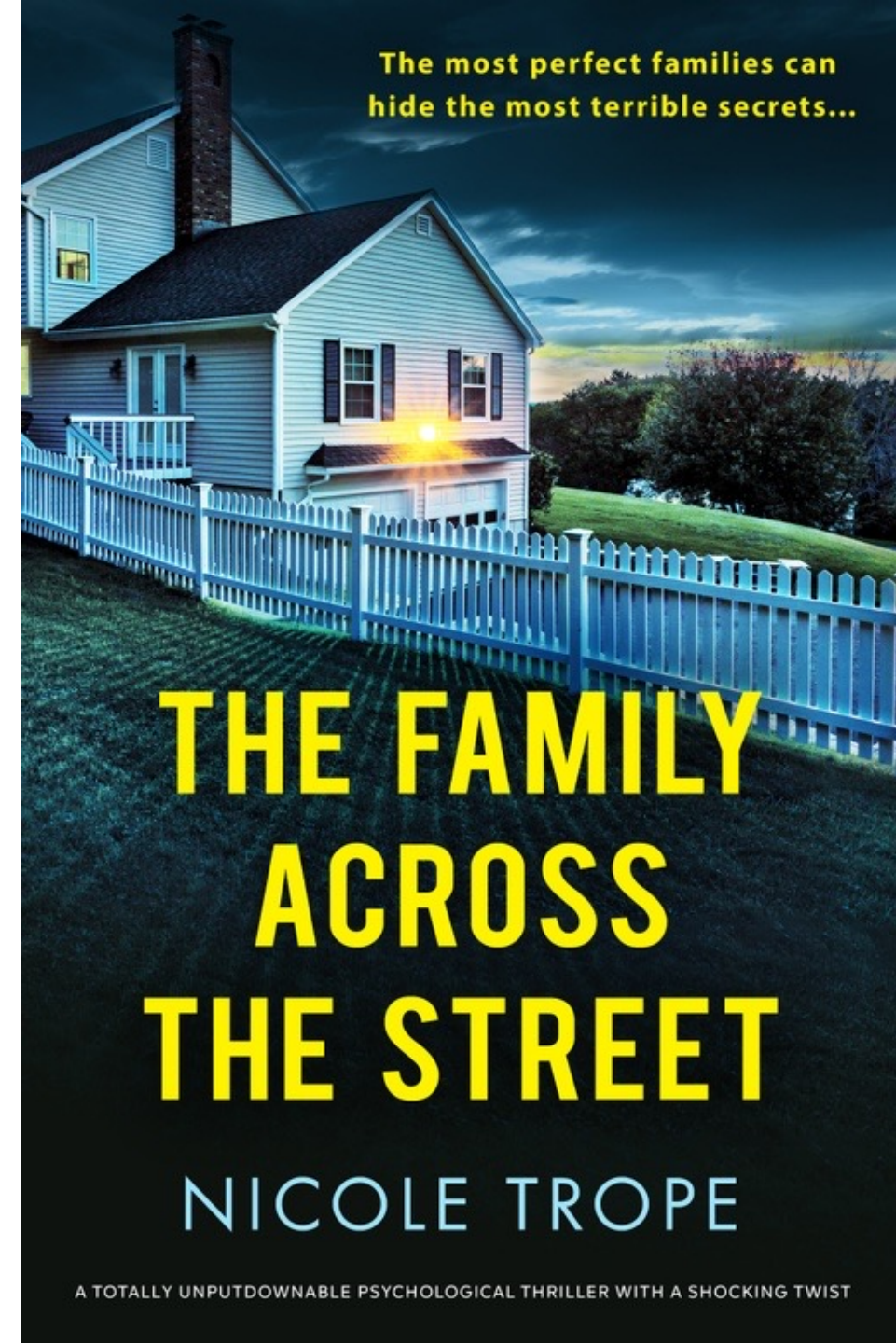
But, every family has secrets, and on the hottest day of the year, a tragedy unfolds behind their closed doors. To the oblivion of the neighbours, a lone gunman is holding the family hostage, and none of the Wests knows if they will ever get out alive.

As ex-con delivery driver, Logan, arrives that morning needing a signature for a new laptop, he is rejected by a nervy Katherine West who refuses to open the door. Covered in violent tattoos – which bely Logan's troubled past from which is desperate to escape – he initially assumes it is fear of him that caused the terse exchange. But the more he ponders it, the more he realises he can't leave it alone. Something is wrong.

And Gladys, the well-meaning but nevertheless interfering next door neighbour, who spends her days caring for her unwell husband Lou and giving him a running commentary on the neighbours' comings and goings, wonders why the West children haven't left for school yet...

The truth is about to come out, and as the dawn chorus is split by the wail of sirens, one by one the families who tried so hard to welcome the Wests realise that Hogarth Street will never be the same again.

***The Family Across the Street* is one of Bookouture's biggest sellers of 2022, and has now sold over 300,000 copies. It is an utterly gripping character-driven suspense thriller, which breathes life into its four main characters who are all vividly realised and their pasts explored. It also brilliantly challenges themes such as external vs internal perception, breakdown of marriage, and how much the sins of the parents may be visited on their children. Perfect for fans of Lianne Moriarty.**



THE EX-HUSBAND

BY SAMANTHA HAYES (JUNE 2022)

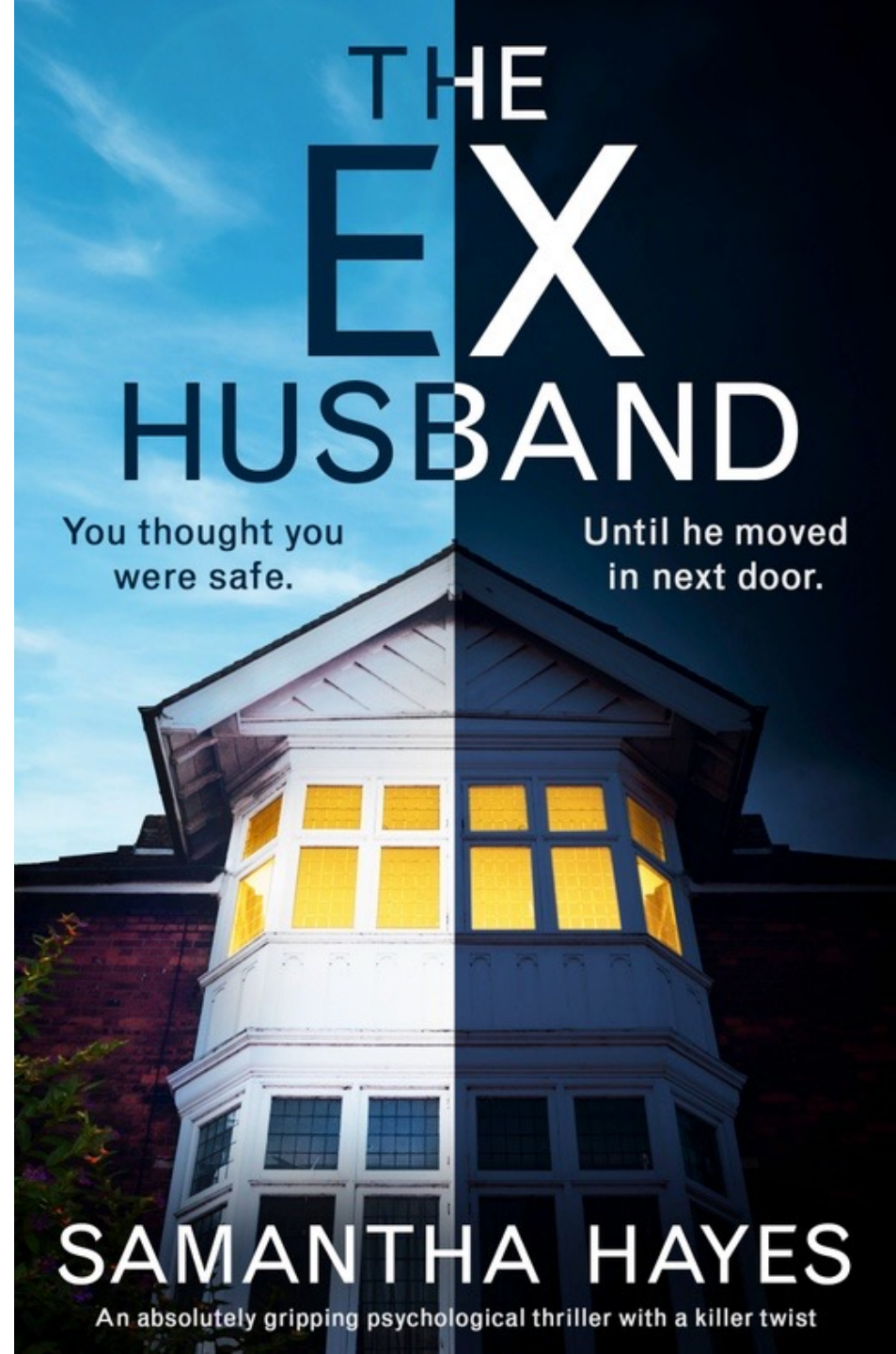
What would happen if the cheating and gaslighting ex husband you thought you'd finally escaped moves in next door?

Leah has finally started her life anew having split up with her psychologically abusive ex husband, Craig, and bought the small but perfectly formed house of her dreams. But then when the new neighbours in the bigger house next door turn out to be her ex husband and his new partner, Leah's safe new life falls to pieces. Craig is intent on ruining Leah forever and bit by bit starts a campaign against her which gets worse and worse until the devastating conclusion.

The set up here is super compelling and you will be rooting for Leah from the start. And as for Craig: he is the most infuriatingly detestable of villains, and readers will not be able to put this book down until he gets his comeuppance.

The tone of this book is very relatable and the setting very grounded and readers will be completely invested in Leah and everything happening to her. Supporting characters are realised and utilised in the story brilliantly and you really get a sense of Leah's social circle and her daily life, so when things go so wrong for her you feel every bit of her anguish and rage. You will also know from the domestic carnage of the opening chapter that – like all brilliant psychological thrillers – things are going to get crazily bad before the end. I defy you not to read on after the prologue!

An absolutely unputdownable psychological thriller from an Amazon No1. bestseller that will keep you turning pages long into the night. Fans of *The Wife Between Us*, *The Family Upstairs* and TV's *Doctor Foster* will be totally hooked! Cast Suranne Jones as Leah immediately!



THE WIFE'S HOUSE

BY ARIANNE RICHMONDE (AUGUST 2020)

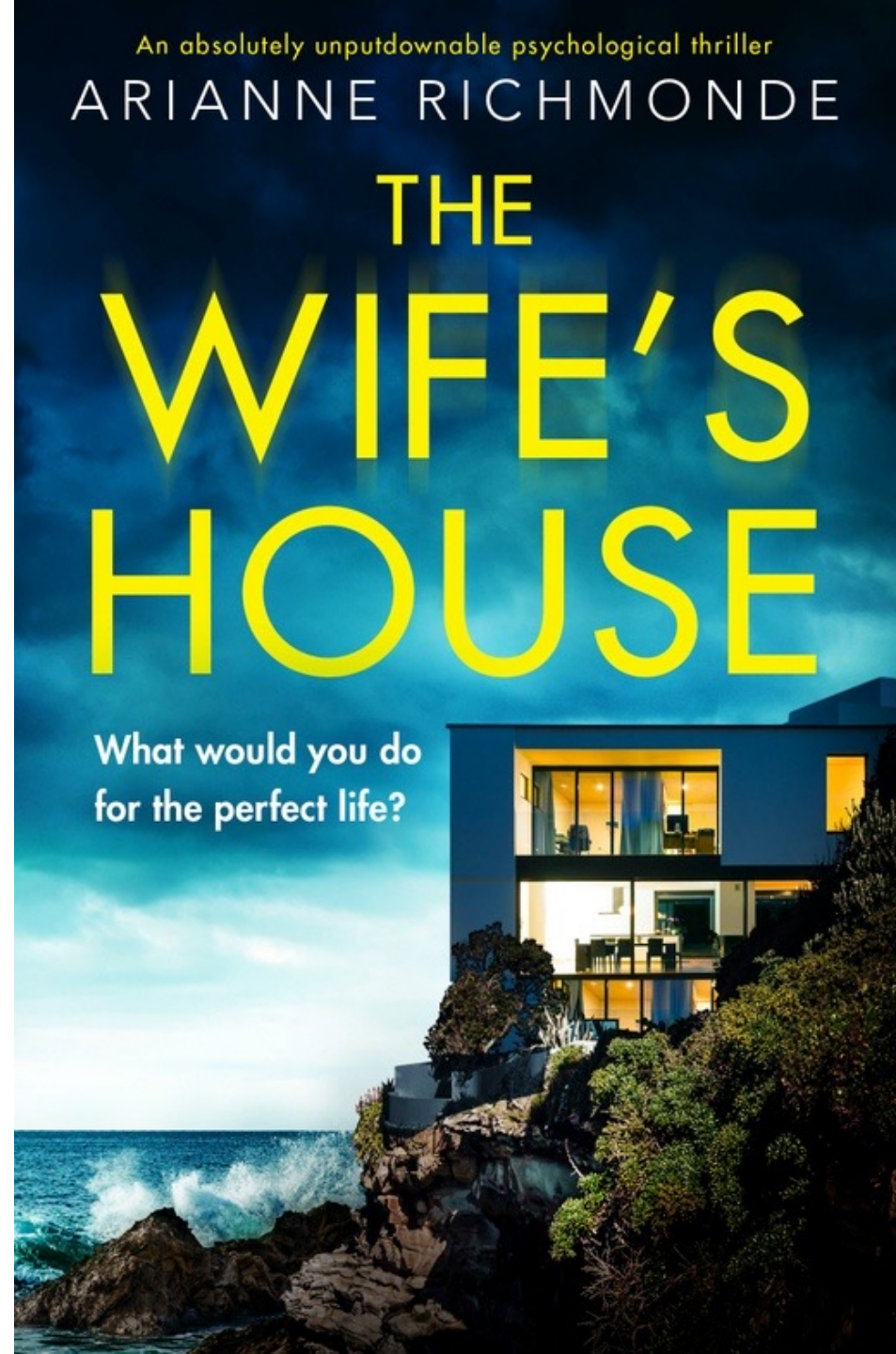
The perfect home... or the perfect lie?

She fell in love the moment she saw Cliffside – the incredible glass house on a beautiful stretch of coastline in Big Sur. She just couldn't believe her husband had bought their dream home, but nothing stays perfect for long...

When tragedy strikes and her husband is killed in a car accident, she finds herself living in the remote clifftop home on her own, and suddenly the glass-fronted house feels more threatening than comforting. And when she discovers footprints leading from the beach to her front door and a bunch of blood-red roses left on her step, she knows she's not alone anymore.

You might think you know what happens next, but you're wrong. With jaw-dropping twists and turns, this is a book you will not be able to put down!

Fans of *The Woman in the Window*, *Gone Girl* and Netflix's *You*, will love *The Wife's House* from USA Today bestselling author Arianne Richmond.



214 PALMER STREET

BY KAREN MCQUESTION (APRIL 2022)

A house with a secret. A woman with nothing to lose.

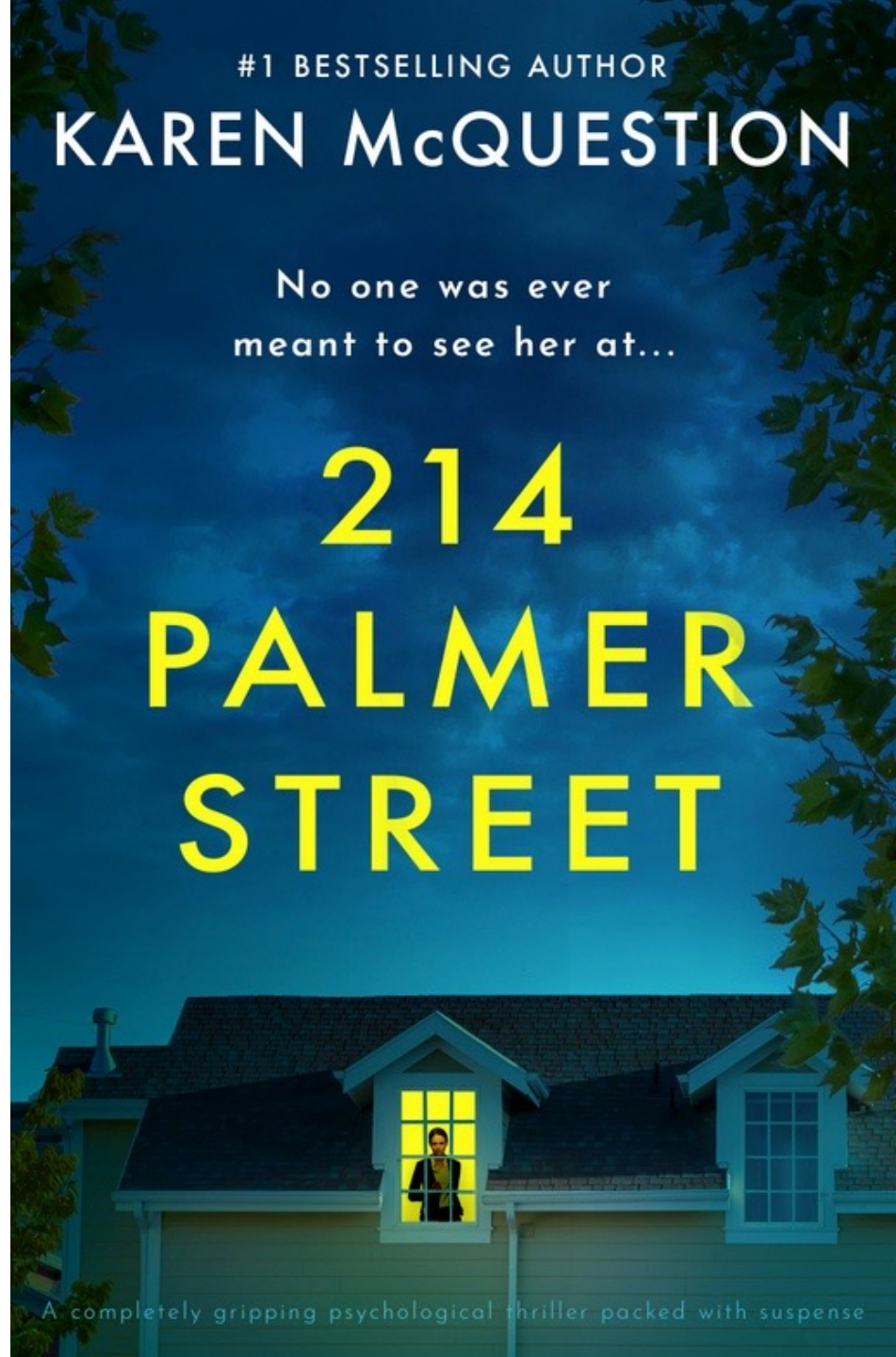
When Maggie sees the beautiful Venetian blinds moving in the Caldwells' front window, she freezes. Her favourite neighbours Cady and Josh are away, so who is in their house?

The pretty young woman who answers the door tells a convincing story. She's Sarah. The house-sitter. Just here for a month. An old friend of Cady's who needed a place to stay. She's pleasant and warm, and Maggie wanders back to her house thinking she might have made a new friend. Yet she can't help but wonder why Cady never mentioned Sarah.

What Maggie doesn't know is that on the other side of the door, Sarah is starting to panic.

No one was meant to see her at 214 Palmer Street...

An unputdownable psychological thriller from number one bestseller Karen McQuestion, which will make you question what secrets your own neighbours are hiding... For fans of *The Girl on the Train*, *The Woman in the Window* and *Gone Girl*.



THE MISSING WIDOW

BY L.G. DAVIS (OCTOBER 2022)

I thought we would be safe here. But I was wrong...

Since her husband died, Meghan and her son have lived in a beautiful cabin outside a rural town, somewhere nobody will find them. Meghan could not have found a more perfect place to start over, shielded by the trees and far away from prying eyes. But when she finds a newspaper clipping on her porch, it drives fear into her bones. **Widow wanted for murder** screams the headline. And that's her face in the picture, circled with red marker. She look out into the forest, but can't see anyone. How did they find her? And what do they want?

Meghan doesn't know where to run next, only that she has to keep her son safe. And deep down she knows the only way she can finally be free is to find out what really happened that night a year ago, when her terminally ill husband Brett died. When he asked her to kill him to end his suffering.

But that night is a blur for Meghan, and as she tries to prove her innocence, the dark secrets she uncovers force her to question everything she believed. The people she trusted most are not who she thought they were. And the person who is coming for her is very close to home...

An atmospheric cabin in the woods, a widow on the run with her child, a powerful and dangerous family in hot pursuit... this book is an absolute rollercoaster ride, with nail-biting suspense, the punchiest of twists and a mind-blowing ending.

L.G. DAVIS

She
says she's
innocent...

THE MISSING WIDOW

So
why did
she run?



A heart-pounding psychological thriller packed with nail-biting twists

BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

BY SHANNON HOLLINGER (JANUARY 2023)

This is a twisty and dark psychological crime thriller with a 'everyman' procedural element in the vein of Harlan Coben or Karin Slaughter. It combines intricate friendships, teenage drama and family secrets within a hot and claustrophobic small-town Florida setting and an unsolved string of murders from years ago. It's a fantastic, plot-twist-a-minute tale, and Shannon is an author that we have really high expectations for.

Kate has lived her whole adult life troubled by her last night of high school when she and her friends were embroiled in the death of a homeless man, and this has driven her away from her hometown. Now returned to look after her mother following an accident, Kate becomes convinced that there is more to be uncovered about a string of murders that seem to be connected to her ex-best friend Emma, also there that fateful night, but who has recently died in suspicious circumstances – but the local police have written her death off as suicide.

There is a slow-burn element to the storytelling that helps to get the characters and the hot claustrophobic setting really under your skin as a reader. And by the end you will be completely invested in Kate as a character and shocked by the reveal. This feels quite different than a typical psychological thriller - more crime, more atmosphere and in many ways more unsettling.

Bringing to mind Karin's Slaughter's *Pieces of Her* (minus the political drama) in that a seemingly quiet, if troubled, small-town domesticity gives way to something altogether more brutal and unhinged as the main character goes on a quest for truth and redemption.

Shannon Hollinger is absolutely an author to watch.

THEY SAY TO KEEP YOUR
ENEMIES CLOSE...



BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

SHANNON HOLLINGER

A completely gripping thriller with a jaw-dropping twist

AFTER THE WEDDING

BY LAURA ELLIOT (MARCH 2022)

Laura Elliot's novels have sold over half a million copies worldwide and regularly hit the top of the Amazon bestseller lists in the UK, US and Australia. *After the Wedding* is a highly original and addictive page-turner of psychological suspense about what happens when a little girl witnesses something terrible at a wedding and, how years later, it comes back to devastate her life. One of our biggest titles of 2022, this is upmarket psychological suspense for fans of Lisa Jewell and Liane Moriarty.

Everyone said she was the prettiest flower girl. But now her dress lies on the floor. It's wet and torn, her shoes are lost. 'Tell us what happened to you?' her daddy sobs. Christine shakes her head. All she can remember are the red rose petals scattering like drops of blood spilling to the ground.

When Christine Lewis was a little girl, she witnessed something terrible at a wedding and buried it so deep in her memory, she managed to forget it ever happened.

Years later, Jessica Newman walks into the successful advertising agency Christine runs with her husband in Dublin. Jessica is beautiful and excellent at her job but her presence triggers disturbing memories for Christine. Fragments of the wedding are starting to flicker in her mind and an unexplainable ball of dread begins to form in Christine's stomach. Jessica is slowly beginning to destroy Christine's marriage and her business. Why can't anyone else see it?

Christine and Jessica's lives were connected long before they set eyes on one another. But in unlocking the mystery of what happened at the wedding all those years ago, is Christine prepared for the truth she's about to find?



THE MILLIONAIRE'S WIFE

BY SHALINI BOLAND (MAY 2018)

Twisted student Fin proposes a pact to his girlfriend Anna: to both meet rich partners and kill them off. Years later, Anna has moved on... and married a millionaire... and Fin is going to hold her to that pact, no matter what...

The opening scene: a rich woman and her husband on a beach. The woman stands at edge of sea, waves to husband and then goes for a swim. As she's swimming a speed boat drives into her and kills her.

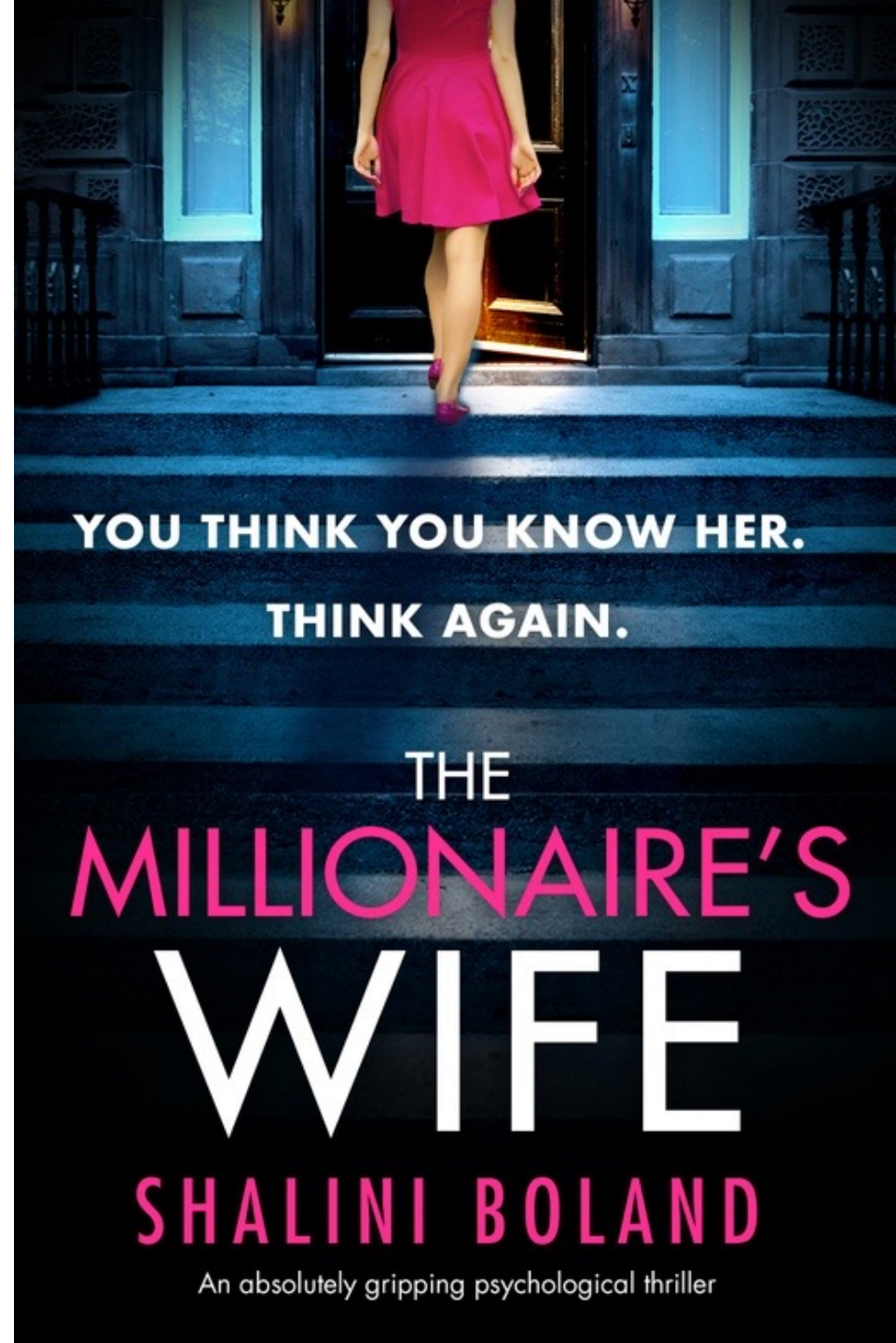
A few years before, Anna moved from Sweden to England to do her A levels and has a relationship with the most popular boy in school, Fin. But Fin's get rich quick schemes start to take darker and darker turns, and when he proposes that they make a murderous inheritance pact, Anna is horrified and moves back to Sweden, secretly pregnant with Fin's child...

Later, Anna is living in the UK again. She meets Will, who happens to be a millionaire. But it was never about the money. Anna married for love.

Meanwhile, Fin has deliberately married a rich woman and killed her in a speedboat accident. He then sends Anna an email with a picture of the dead woman with a note: *it's your turn next*.

Fin begins stalking Anna until in desperation she agrees to meet him, horrified to discover Fin wants *her* to kill her new husband, and he'll provide her with a series of accidents for Will, whether she likes it or not. She refuses, but Fin knows about their daughter back in Sweden, and he's taken her, and if Anna doesn't kill Will within one month, then he will kill their little girl....

This heart in mouth thriller takes our characters from Barbados to England and to a chilling final showdown in the epic forests of Sweden, and has left readers gasping at every twist.



YOU THINK YOU KNOW HER.

THINK AGAIN.

THE MILLIONAIRE'S WIFE

SHALINI BOLAND

An absolutely gripping psychological thriller

AFTER THE ACCIDENT

BY KERRY WILKINSON (may 2020)

"On a Friday night two years ago, British businessman Geoffrey McGinley was standing on a cliff, looking out towards the Mediterranean. He was on the island of Galanikos, a place he had visited numerous times in the past. A short while later, his unconscious body was found on the beach below.

This book attempts to unravel what happened through the eyes of the people who were there.

For reasons that will become apparent, some of the interviews for this book took place on the island close to the time of the incident. Others happened afterwards in the United Kingdom. Everything has been transcribed accurately and faithfully.

All names have been changed to protect those involved."

Told entirely in interview transcripts, this original suspense thriller takes you to a beautiful Greek island, under the Mediterranean sun, where two families are enjoying a well-deserved holiday until one balmy evening. When head of the family and wealthy businessman Geoffrey McGinley is found unconscious on the beach, everyone must recall the events surrounding the accident.

Everyone's accounts are different. Who will you believe?

***After the Accident* is a limited series waiting to happen. Think *Succession* meets *Criminal* on a sunbasted Mediterranean island.**

A compelling and addictive psychological suspense novel

KERRY WILKINSON

AFTER THE ACCIDENT

Two families. One week away.
And one killer secret...



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PROCEDURAL &
COSY CRIME



ONLY GIRL ALIVE

BY HOLLY S. ROBERTS (JANUARY 2023)

Holly S. Roberts is not only a USA Today bestselling author but also a homicide and sex crimes detective, and she brings all her gruesome and technical experience to bear on this, her first crime series.

Set in Utah, this series delves into the world of fundamentalist Mormon communities and the secrets that happen behind closed doors.

The specialist team is headed by Eve Bennet, a detective who grew up within a fundamentalist family and was kidnapped by her own mother to break her free from the restrictions of her faith.

Eve is still coming to terms with her own past in the first book and her nemesis, her non-biological brother Aaron, who is now a town elder and the liaison between the fundamentalist sects and the justice system, is her constant antagonist.

As she investigates the murders of four members of one family, Eve is haunted by her own past but she must put all of that aside to find the killer before anyone else is murdered.

This series is arresting in its storytelling, eye-opening in its world building and precinct, and incredibly authentic in its detail, with an author who is writing from her own experiences as a homicide detective. Netflix vibes? We think so.

Fans of Melinda Leigh, Kendra Elliot and Lisa Regan will be absolutely gripped by this explosive and totally unputdownable crime thriller.

A gripping crime thriller that will have you hooked

D.K. HOOD

DON'T TELL A SOUL

Detectives
Kane and Alton
Book 1

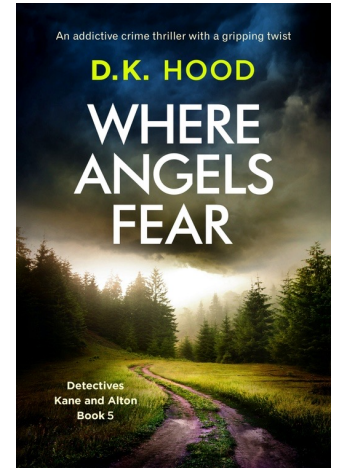
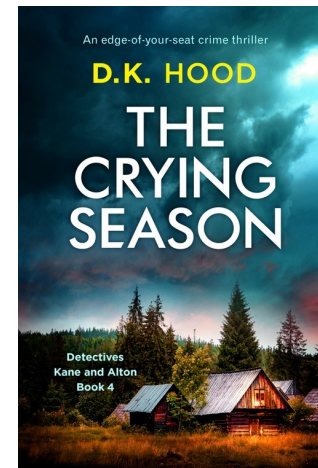


DON'T TELL A SOUL

BY D.K. HOOD (OCTOBER 2017)

This is the first book in the million-copy-selling Kane and Alton series from USA Today- and Wall Street Journal-bestselling author. Set in the fictional town of Black Rock Falls in Montana, this series delivers twisted killers, fast-paced action, and larger-than-life characters, including the unforgettable detective duo Jenna Alton and David Kane – *both* FBI ex-special agents hiding in plain sight in this supposedly sleepy town, both mistrusting of the other, both trying to keep their pasts from catching up with them. Think a procedural, precinct version of Mr and Mrs Smith!

In book #1, after his death is faked by the FBI, ex-special agent David Kane is hidden away on witness protection in the supposedly quiet town of Black Rock Falls as the deputy to the town's sheriff Jenna Alton, who herself also has an FBI background as a special agent – and she has many enemies. The two detectives immediately mistrust each other, but they must work together to catch a killer on the loose in Black Rock Falls – someone who is connected to previous disappearances in the town's history. But Jenna is the one that the killer really wants...



A COMPLETELY GRIPPING SERIAL KILLER THRILLER

ALISON BELSHAM

THE
GIRLS
ON
CHALK
HILL

TWO
ARE DEAD.

ONE IS
MISSING...

DETECTIVE LEXI BENNETT BOOK 1

THE GIRLS ON CHALK HILL

BY ALISON BELSHAM (JUNE 2023)

From the international bestselling author of *The Tattoo Thief* (Orion), translated into 15 languages, comes a brand new hooky police procedural series featuring a knock-out lead character in Detective Lexie Bennett that her army of fans will become obsessed with.

Lexi is a fascinating character. One of triplets, as a child she and her sisters were abducted. Two of them escaped... and one of them was lost. Her need for justice, and to help people put into terrible situations like hers, has driven Lexi during her whole career, and led her to work for a time with the FBI's specialist serial killer unit in the US. Now back in her home country, she's leading a new homicide team in Canterbury, Kent in South East England, trying to reconnect with her sister and family, and contending with new shocking cases.

In this first novel, Lexi is out running when she discovers the bodies of two sisters... triplets like her. Where is the third sister? Is this a message? The scene is set for a completely heart-in-mouth investigation with Lexi racing against time to save the missing girl while confronting her own memories. And it's such a page-turner. It's the perfect combination of kick-ass character and intriguing crime, and with a plot deepened by emotion.

Detective Lexi Bennet returns in *The Girl's Last Cry*.





THE GIRL FROM SILENT LAKE

BY LESLIE WOLFE (FEBRUARY 2021)

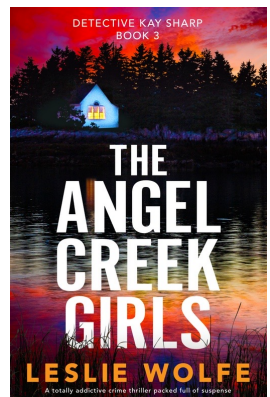
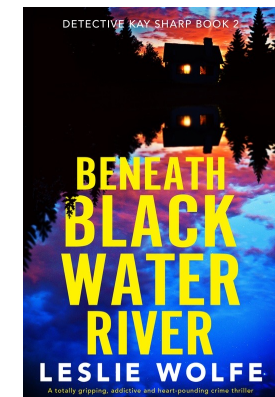
In this phenomenal first book in the series, former FBI criminal psychologist turned small-town detective, Kay Sharp, returns home to her sleepy home town in the epic mountains outside San Francisco, where not only her own deepest secrets are buried, but also where a serial killer mimicking Native American burial rituals will put her considerable profiling skills to the test.

Detective Kay Sharp killed her abusive father as a child with a kitchen knife. She and her brother buried his body in the back garden underneath a willow tree. She has carried this burden for the rest of her life, pushing it deep down inside her. Perhaps this is why she became such a brilliant criminal profiler. She knows what it feels like to be a killer.

Years later her brother goes to prison on a trumped-up DUI charge, and Kay is forced to return to her home town of Mount Chester to help him, living in the old family home that harbours her darkest secret. The knife she killed her father with is still missing from the knife block in the kitchen.

But this is not the only reason she has come home. Women are going missing from across the country, some with children in tow – their connection: they are all travelling to Mount Chester. The first body is found presented with all the rituals of a Native American tree burial. Her child is still missing.

Kay leads a frenzied search to find the other women and children before it's too late. But as more adult bodies are found, she realises perhaps too late that her own past is catching up with her, and in order to save those children, she is going to have to face it to unlock the mind of the most twisted killer she has ever encountered.



DETECTIVE JOSIE QUINN BOOK 1

A totally heart-stopping crime thriller

VANISHING GIRLS



LISA REGAN

VANISHING GIRLS

BY LISA REGAN (JANUARY 2018)

One girl was taken. Another girl returned.

Everyone in the small town of Denton is searching for Isabelle Coleman, a missing seventeen-year-old girl. All they've found so far is her phone, a clump of her blonde hair – and another young girl they didn't even know was missing.

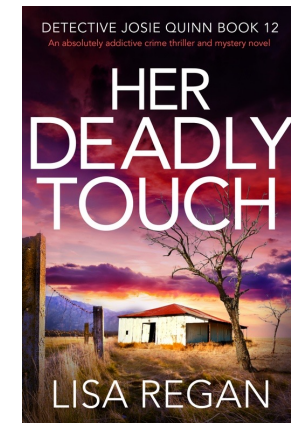
Mute and unresponsive, it's clear this mysterious girl has been damaged beyond repair. All Detective Josie Quinn can get from her is the name of a *third* girl and the flash of a neon tongue piercing that matches Isabelle's.

The race is on to find Isabelle alive, and Josie fears there may be other girls in terrible danger. When the trail leads her to a cold case labelled a hoax by authorities, Josie – suspended from the force for misconduct – discovers a trail of police corruption of the most despicable kind that goes back generations.

Someone in this close-knit town is committing unspeakable crimes. Is there anyone left she can trust? And can Josie catch the killer before another victim loses their life?

Lisa Regan is a shining star in Bookouture's crown. She is an Amazon, USA Today and Wall Street Journal bestselling author, and in 2021 reached a career landmark of 2 million copies sold across Bookouture's editions of her work alone.

Looking for the next *Mare of Easttown*? You've found it.



AN ABSOLUTELY ADDICTIVE MYSTERY THRILLER

ROGER STELLJES

SILENCED GIRLS

AGENT TORI HUNTER BOOK 1

SILENCED GIRLS

BY ROGER STELLJES (NOVEMBER 2020)

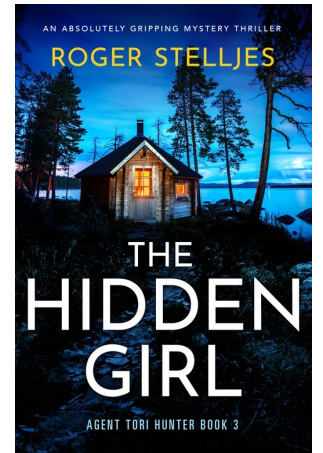
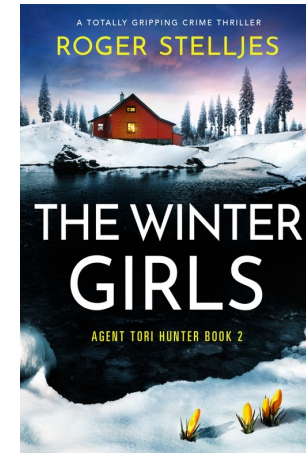
Guilt has kept FBI Agent Tori Hunter away from her home in Manchester Bay, Minnesota for twenty years, ever since her twin sister disappeared on the Fourth of July, when the girls should have been together. In the years since, living in New York, she has risen through the ranks of the FBI to become one of the bureau's brightest and best kidnap and abduction specialists.

But when she receives an anonymous newspaper clipping about another missing girl back in Manchester Bay, Tori is dragged back to the past. Just like Tori's sister, Genevieve vanished without a trace, her empty car abandoned on a lonely lakeside road as Independence Day fireworks lit up the sky overhead.

Returning to Minnesota lake country, Tori finds Genevieve's distraught yet politically influential parents desperate for answers. Under pressure to make an arrest, the police have no time for Tori's theories.

Pulled out of the state on another mission to solve a middle-class kidnapping with links to corporate corruption, Tori continues to try and steer the Manchester Bay case remotely. But on returning finds both herself – and Braddock, the local detective with his own past tragedies – in the direct sights of the killer.

When the only suspect is found dead in his isolated cabin, days later another girl's body is discovered bound and strangled in the trunk of her car. The bloodstains surrounding her body belong to Braddock, the one man Tori thought she could trust. Reeling, Tori knows the closer she gets to the truth, the more her own life is at risk. But can she catch this killer before it's too late for Genevieve?



An absolutely gripping crime thriller with nail-biting suspense
DETECTIVE JO FOURNIER BOOK 1

THE DANCING GIRLS

M.M. CHOUINARD

THE DANCING GIRLS

BY M.M. CHOUINARD (MAY 2019)

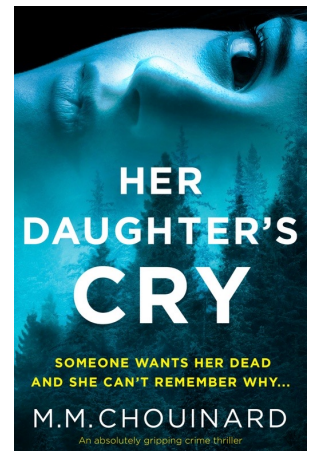
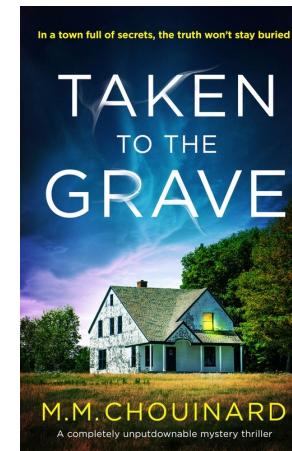
Jo pulled together the victims' pictures. In all cases their arms were askew, in a way that looked like—what? It was like they were freeze-framed in the middle of some action. It was like they were dancing.

When loving wife Jeanine is found dead in a small leafy town in Massachusetts, newly promoted Detective Jo Fournier is shocked to her core. Why leave her body posed like a ballerina? Why steal her wedding band and nothing else? Hungry for answers, Jo questions Jeanine's husband, but the heartbreaking pain written on his face threatens to tear open Jo's old wounds. It's the same pain she felt when her boyfriend was cruelly shot dead by a gang in their hometown of New Orleans. She couldn't get justice for him, but she's determined to get justice for Jeanine's devastated family.

But before Jo can get answers, another woman is found, wedding ring stolen, body posed in the same ritualistic way.

Digging through old files, Jo makes a terrifying link to a series of cold cases. She knows a serial killer is on the loose, but nobody will listen to the truth—not her bosses, nor the FBI. Still, Jo won't let her superiors keep her from stopping the murderer in his tracks, even if it means the end of her career.

A USA Today bestseller, *The Dancing Girls* is the first book in an absolutely unputdownable and gripping crime thriller series with 7 entries to date. Fans of Robert Dugoni, Lisa Regan and Melinda Leigh will devour it in one sitting and will never see the massive twist coming.



A gripping cozy historical mystery
HELENA DIXON

MURDER at the DOLPHIN HOTEL

A MISS UNDERHAY MYSTERY

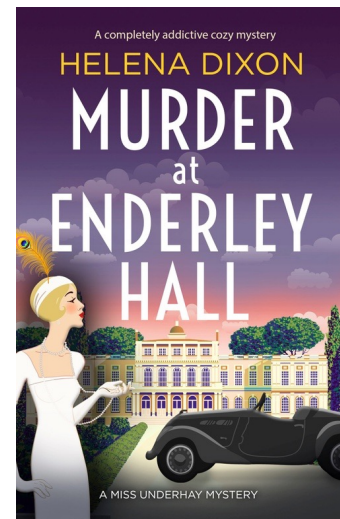
THE MISS UNDERHAY SERIES BY HELENA DIXON (2019-)

It's 1933, but Kitty is every bit the modern woman. Having taken on the responsibility of the legacy of her family's ancient and historic hotel on the English coast, all Kitty wants is to keep the hotel running and running well. So, when a body is found not far from the hotel and rooms are ransacked in search of a stolen ruby – that just might have been possessed by her mother before she went missing... – the hotel and Kitty herself are thrown into the midst of a murder investigation that puts her at its centre.

Kitty finds she's up against more than she bargained for when their new head of security, ex-army captain Matthew Bryant, is tasked with protecting Kitty from the building threats against her.

What Helena does brilliantly is sprinkling in these drops of secrets and backstory, that will have you wanting to come back and uncover; Kitty isn't just unravelling the truth behind these murders, but unveiling the truth behind her mother's disappearance more than 10 years prior... Think Netflix's *Enola Holmes* for a slightly older audience!

The role of ex-army-captain Matthew Bryant also makes this series particularly enjoyable and will have readers come back for book after book: there is a burgeoning romance between the two protagonists, who take on co-lead status, ultimately resulting in their wedding later in the series. Joy!



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ROMANTIC
COMEDIES

A totally hilarious and unforgettable
Christmas romantic comedy

CATHERINE WALSH

Holiday Romance

She's meant to be
catching flights,
not catching
feelings...



HOLIDAY ROMANCE

BY CATHERINE WALSH (OCTOBER 2022)

She's meant to be catching flights, not catching feelings...

Molly and Andrew are just trying to get home to Ireland for the holidays, when a freak snowstorm grounds their flight.

Nothing romantic has ever happened between them: they're friends and that's all. But once a year, for the last ten years, Molly has spent seven hours and fifteen minutes sitting next to Andrew on the last flight before Christmas from Chicago to Dublin, drinking terrible airplane wine and catching up on each other's lives. In spite of all the ways the two friends are different, it's the holiday tradition neither of them has ever wanted to give up.

Molly isn't that bothered by Christmas, but – in yet another way they're total opposites – Andrew is a full-on fanatic for the festive season and she knows how much getting back to Ireland means to him. So, instead of doing the sane thing and just celebrating the holidays together in America, she does the stupid thing. The irrational thing. She vows to get him home. And in time for his mam's famous Christmas dinner.

The clock is ticking. But Molly always has a plan. And – as long as the highly-specific combination of taxis, planes, boats, and trains all run on time – it can't possibly go wrong.

What she doesn't know is that, as the snow falls over the city and over the heads of two friends who are sure they're not meant to be together, the universe might just have a plan of its own...

A totally gorgeous and escapist friends-to-lovers festive romance with a swoon-worthy hero. Perfect for fans of Sophie Kinsella, Mhairi McFarlane, and Christina Lauren.

KRISTEN BAILEY



GREAT SEXPECTATIONS

**What's wrong with a
little bit of faking it?**

An absolutely hilarious and unputdownable romantic comedy

GREAT SEXPECTATIONS

BY KRISTEN BAILEY (JULY 2022)

What's wrong with a little bit of faking it?

After Josie Jewell got dumped by her ex through a note on the fridge, she hasn't let herself get close to anyone. But when she meets Cameron at a Halloween party, who turns up in the same Ghostbusters costume as her, it's virtually impossible to stay away.

Cameron, a curly haired video-games designer with dazzling blue eyes, the sexiest dimples and the same encyclopaedic knowledge of movies as Josie, seems too good to be true.

And maybe he is... Because there's one teeny tiny problem as Josie falls madly in love. Cameron has no idea that Josie lives at home with her ex-porn-star parents, or the minor detail that she works for their sex toy empire. After her ex broke up with her because of the family business, Josie decides to tell a little white lie.

But it's just a matter of time until the truth comes out. When it does, will Cameron end things?

And what if she's not the only one who's keeping secrets?

This romantic comedy combines Kristen Bailey's outstanding humour with tender emotion, and a completely unique hook; you haven't read a book with a concept like this before. Yet it is completely and utterly relatable – and this makes for such an intoxicating combination. You will see yourself in these characters, and you will bond with them and root for them, and feel a gut-punch when you have to say goodbye. Plus, there's a love story that's truly swoon-worthy; prepare to get the warm and fuzzies! It's the rom-com of dreams.

KRISTEN BAILEY

Am I Allergic to Men?



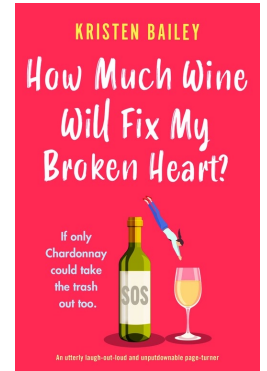
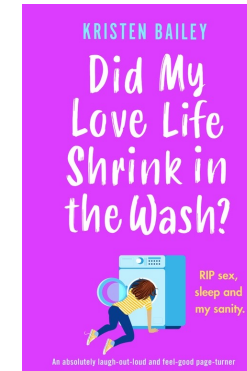
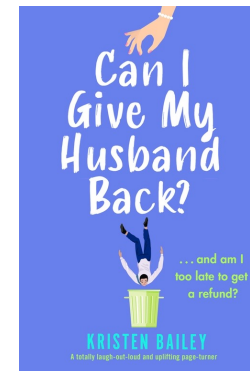
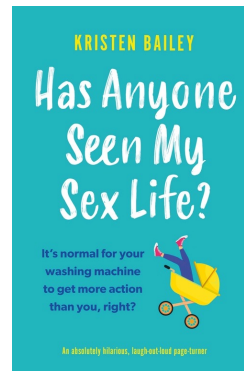
A completely laugh-out-loud and addictive page-turner

THE CALLAGHAN SISTERS SERIES BY KRISTEN BAILEY (2020-2022)

Meet the Callaghan sisters: Meg, Emma, Beth, Grace and Lucy – all completely different, all with their own challenges and joys. Each laugh-out-loud book focuses on a different sister and the things that modern life throws at them. Now the series is completed by Lucy's showstopper of a story, *Am I Allergic to Men?*, there is no better time to discover these amazing characters. This is streamer TV waiting to happen!

Firecracker Lucy Callaghan – nearly 30, single, and living her life to the absolute max - spends her days as an entertainer at kids' parties dressed as various Disney princesses, trying to make it as an actress, but not quite knowing why she is still doing this at 30. Whereas her 4 older sisters are by now all married with kids. One day, rushing to the next kid's party on her bike (dressed as Elsa), Lucy is hit by a London bus – and the next thing she knows she's waking up from a month-long coma, but has completely forgotten the last decade of her life. As far as she remembers, it is still 2009 and she is 17! She has forgotten all her sisters' weddings and children's births, the bad-news boyfriends and husbands that have come and gone during the missing years, and not to mention her own conquests and escapades. She doesn't remember dramatically dumping her cheating ex-boyfriend when she was 18, she can't believe her school best friend in all the world is no longer in her daily life, and how have her sisters all got so old? And what is this Netflix thing?

Helped by her four sisters, this is Lucy's journey of self-discovery to remember the last decade of her life. She visits ex-boyfriends, places she has studied and worked, and trawls through her phone contacts list and Facebook. She is both baffled and impressed by the woman she became in the missing years, but at the same time questioning why she doesn't seem to have settled into adult life like her sisters have. Is she allergic to men? To growing up?



SHARON M. PETERSON

*She's heading
toward her
future...*



THE DO OVER



*He's running
from his past*

**A totally laugh-out-loud,
feel-good romantic comedy**

THE DO OVER

BY SHARON M. PETERSON (AUGUST 2022)

Meet Perci – recently dumped live on air over the radio. While in the dentist's chair. On New Year's Eve.

Perci is forced to re-evaluate her life at this unexpected upheaval with some New Year's resolutions she can't possibly fail at – though with her mother hellbent on getting her back with her terrible ex, she needs to take matters into her own hands.

So, what's the perfect solution to keep her mother out of her love life? An imaginary boyfriend. At least he was imaginary before Perci accidentally blurts out that her new boyfriend is the hot bad boy neighbour next door, with the razor-sharp jawline and mysterious scar, who now has absolutely no idea they are fake dating. What could possibly go wrong?

The Do Over is a warm, delightful, and timeless romance that is seriously like a warm hug from start to finish, with an engaging and funny first-person narrative, that will have you absolutely kicking your legs in delight. It's an ode to all those failed New Year's resolutions, and what it means to learn to love yourself and be loved, without reducing yourself or abandoning what you hold dear.

An absolutely hilarious page-turner for anyone who feels they need to start living life to the fullest, perfect for fans of Ali Hazelwood and Mhairi McFarlane.

A totally hilarious and heart-warming romantic comedy

How to Keep a Husband for 10 Days

Pretending to be married...
isn't as easy as you think



JESSICA HATCH

HOW TO KEEP A HUSBAND FOR 10 DAYS

BY JESSICA HATCH (FEBRUARY 2023)

Pretending to be married to the man you were married to... How hard can it be?!

When Lina's oldest friends unexpectedly announce they're coming to stay, she has to think fast. No one knows she and her husband Brown are breaking up, and so she persuades him to act as if they aren't... After all, how hard can it be to pretend to be married for ten days?

Turns out, a lot harder than she thought. On day one, she strikes so many couple poses that she throws her back out. On day two, she gets muscle spasms from smiling too hard at her husband's jokes. On day three, she almost has a heart attack when she puts her hand far too high up his thigh at the dinner table. And on day four, when she accidentally grazes Brown's lips when aiming for his cheek, she almost passes out in the middle of the restaurant.

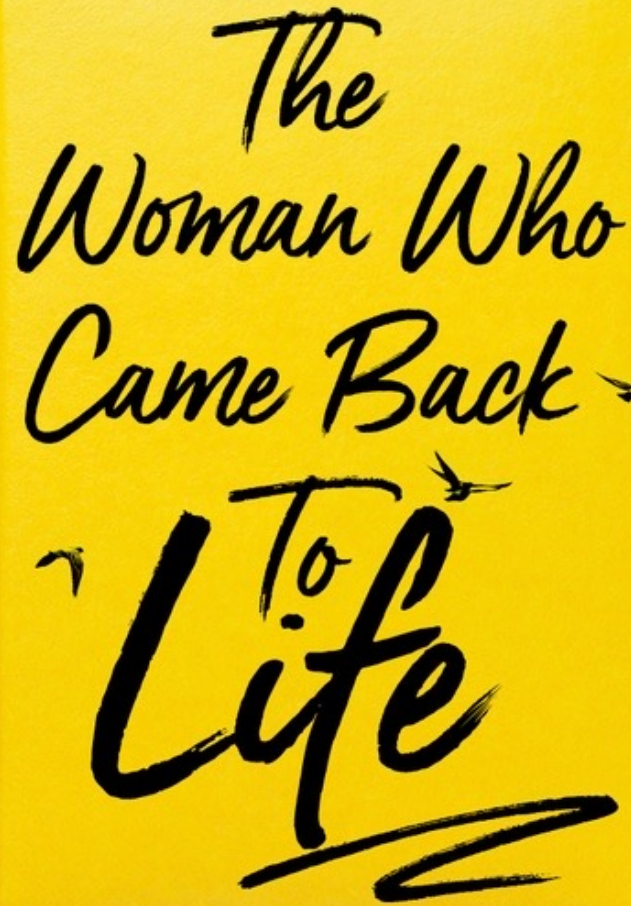
By day five, Lina is starting to realise there's a thin line between love and hate. And while she can try to fool her friends, she can't fool her heart. Was she too hasty calling time on her marriage? Is this more than make believe? And does she even have enough time to find out if Brown feels the same?

This absolutely hilarious and totally addictive romcom is perfect for fans of Ali Hazelwood's *The Love Hypothesis*, Christina Lauren's *The Unhoneymooners*, and Emily Henry.

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CONVERSATION
STARTING DRAMA

An utterly heartbreaking, feel-good novel about life,
loss and second chances



The Woman Who Came Back To Life

BETH MILLER

THE WOMAN WHO CAME BACK TO LIFE

BY BETH MILLER (JANUARY 2022)

This beautiful novel about second chances is about a woman who is reunited with the daughter she gave up for adoption when she was sixteen by way of revelations in the coded journals bequeathed to her in the will of her estranged father.

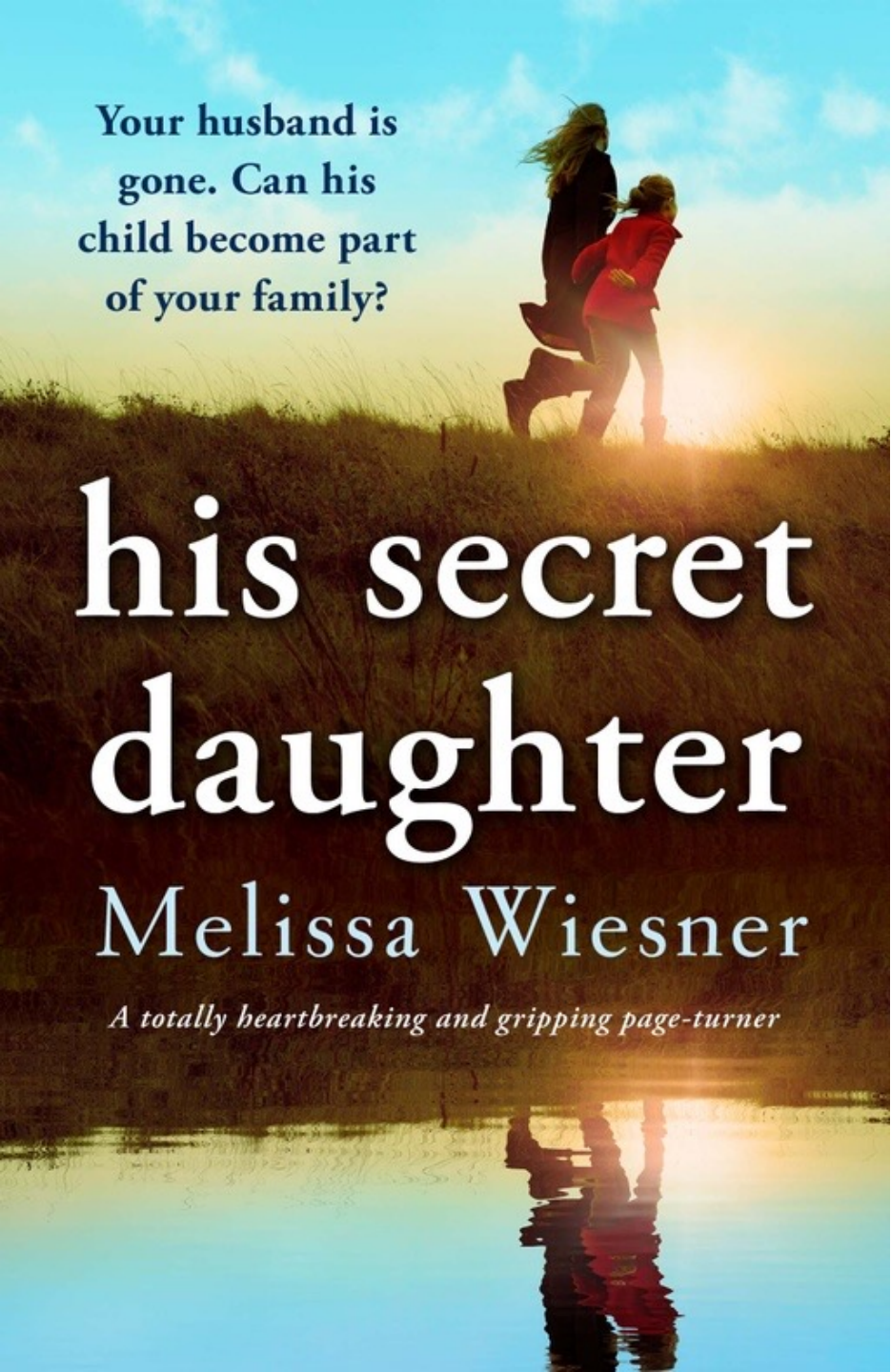
Pearl Flowers, 52, has retreated from her troubled family life in the UK by moving to a quiet woodland cottage in France with her husband Denny.

And then she receives a phone call that throws her calm world into chaos. Her father, Francis, who she has been estranged from for decades while he raised his second family, has died – and he has bequeathed something in the will specifically for Pearl: a diary written in coded shorthand that only she can understand.

As she begins to decipher her father's diary, Pearl discovers that for forty years he had been thinking of her almost every day. And as she reads on, secrets begin to emerge from the pages causing her to question everything she thought she knew.

The key revelation of the diaries is that Francis has spent years secretly tracking down Pearl's daughter, who was born of her teenage pregnancy and given up for adoption when Pearl was 16. Francis had successfully found this little girl, Carrie, now grown up with a baby of her own, and as his redemptive last act at the end of his life managed to orchestrate a reunion between Pearl and Carrie – a reunion which challenges both women to reconcile their own grief over past losses – to come back to life.

The novel is absolutely beautiful and has so many learnings to take from the journeys of both Pearl and Carrie, as well as from Francis' story. Every character is realised with a great deal of nuance and depth, and there is a realism to this book that is so wonderfully observed. But importantly it is also hugely entertaining. The family dynamics of Pearl and her two brothers, as well as the tension between them and Francis' second family is a blast. The reading of the will where the diaries are bequeathed to Pearl, and all the characters madly scramble over them, is a showstopper.



Your husband is
gone. Can his
child become part
of your family?

his secret daughter

Melissa Wiesner

A totally heartbreaking and gripping page-turner

HIS SECRET DAUGHTER

BY MELISSA WIESNER (JANUARY 2023)

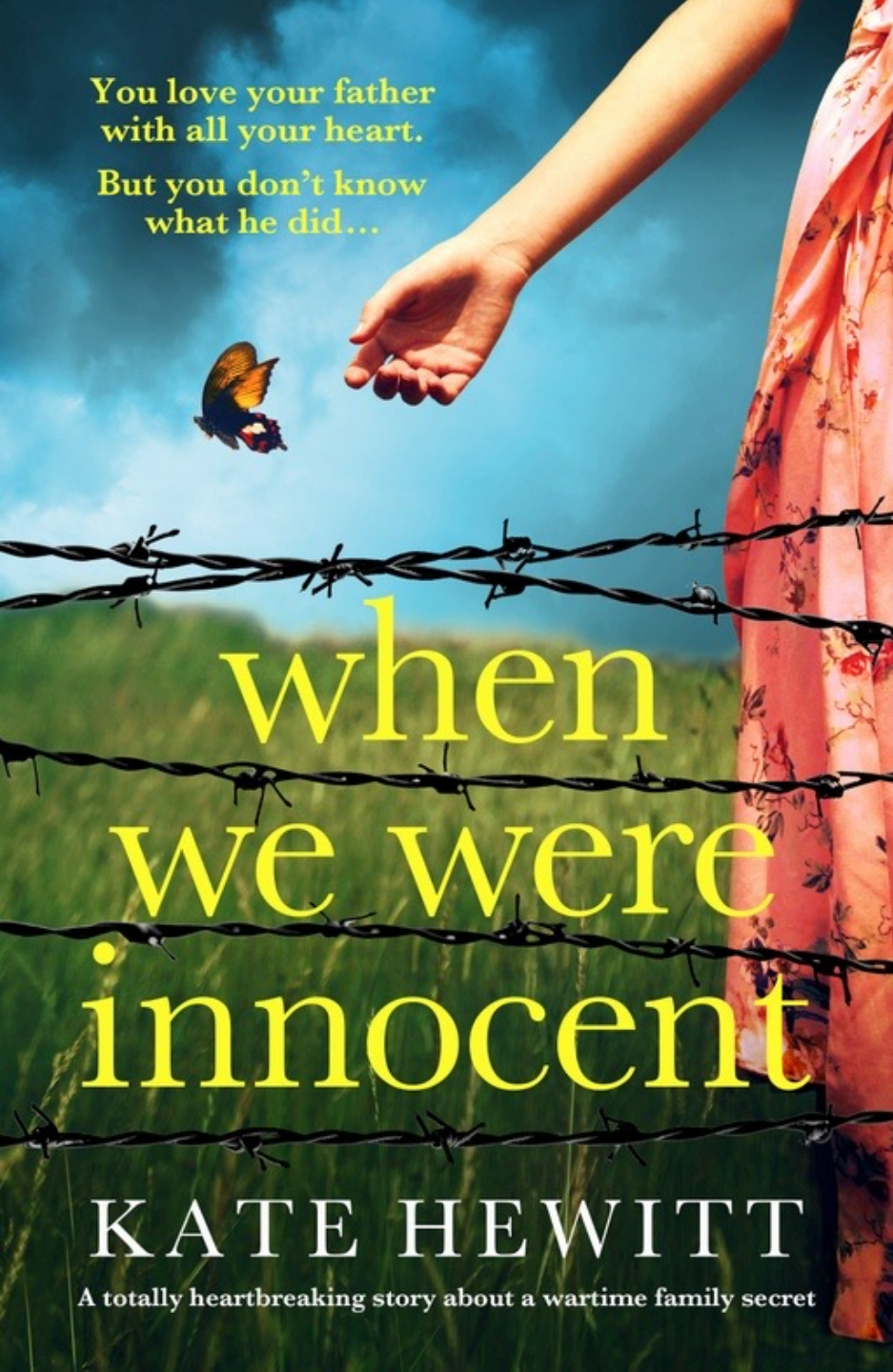
Emma's family of three is perfect. But the day the police knock at Emma's door, telling her about the car accident that her husband Noah was in, is the worst day of her life. Emma's heart shatters, but what they say next almost makes it stop beating: Noah was in the car with another woman who died at the scene. Her two-year-old girl, Luna, miraculously survived.

With Noah fighting for his life, Emma's desperate for the truth: and when she searches his desk, she finds checks made out to Luna's mother. Did her loving, loyal husband have a secret family all along?

Despite her own terrible pain, at the hospital Emma can't help but comfort this poor child as she cries for her mommy. With nowhere else for Luna to go, Emma finds herself opening her home. And seeing her own daughter Maya hold Luna's hand and giggle as they chase butterflies in the garden, it's almost like her daughter has a sister...

Emma has an impossible choice. Does she tell Maya the truth about her father? If Noah wakes up, will even more secrets come out about who he really is? And can she forgive him enough to give this sweet, innocent girl a home... or will Noah's betrayal tear them all apart?

Fans of Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* and Diane Chamberlain will adore this absolutely unputdownable read about how the people we love most can hide the darkest secrets.



You love your father
with all your heart.
But you don't know
what he did...

when we were innocent

KATE HEWITT

A totally heartbreaking story about a wartime family secret

WHEN WE WERE INNOCENT

BY KATE HEWITT (SEPTEMBER 2022)

You love your father with all your heart. But what if he's not who you think he is? What if he's kept an unforgivable secret from you his whole life?

Libby Trent believes she knows the difference between right and wrong.

But everything changes when the authorities come knocking at her daughter asking about a man named Hans Brenner, a Nazi who escaped Germany after the Second World War. A war criminal who has lived his whole life in hiding.

Because the man suspected of being Hans Brenner is Libby's own beloved father. And they are asking Libby's help to find evidence.

The sweetest, gentlest man she knows. Who raised her alone, who lives in her family home. Who cares for and watches over Libby's own children.

When Libby finds a secret box in her father's bedroom, she knows it might contain evidence. But does she dare open it, if it could prove her father guilty of the most heinous crimes in history?

Because if she finds evidence, she won't just have to choose between right and wrong, she'll have to choose whether to betray her own father...

A totally heartbreaking and powerful story about a daughter's impossible dilemma and the darkest of family secrets, perfect for fans of Jodi Picoult, Amanda Prowse, and Diane Chamberlain.

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HISTORICAL
FICTION

THE LAST RESTAURANT IN PARIS

BY LILY GRAHAM (JULY 2022)

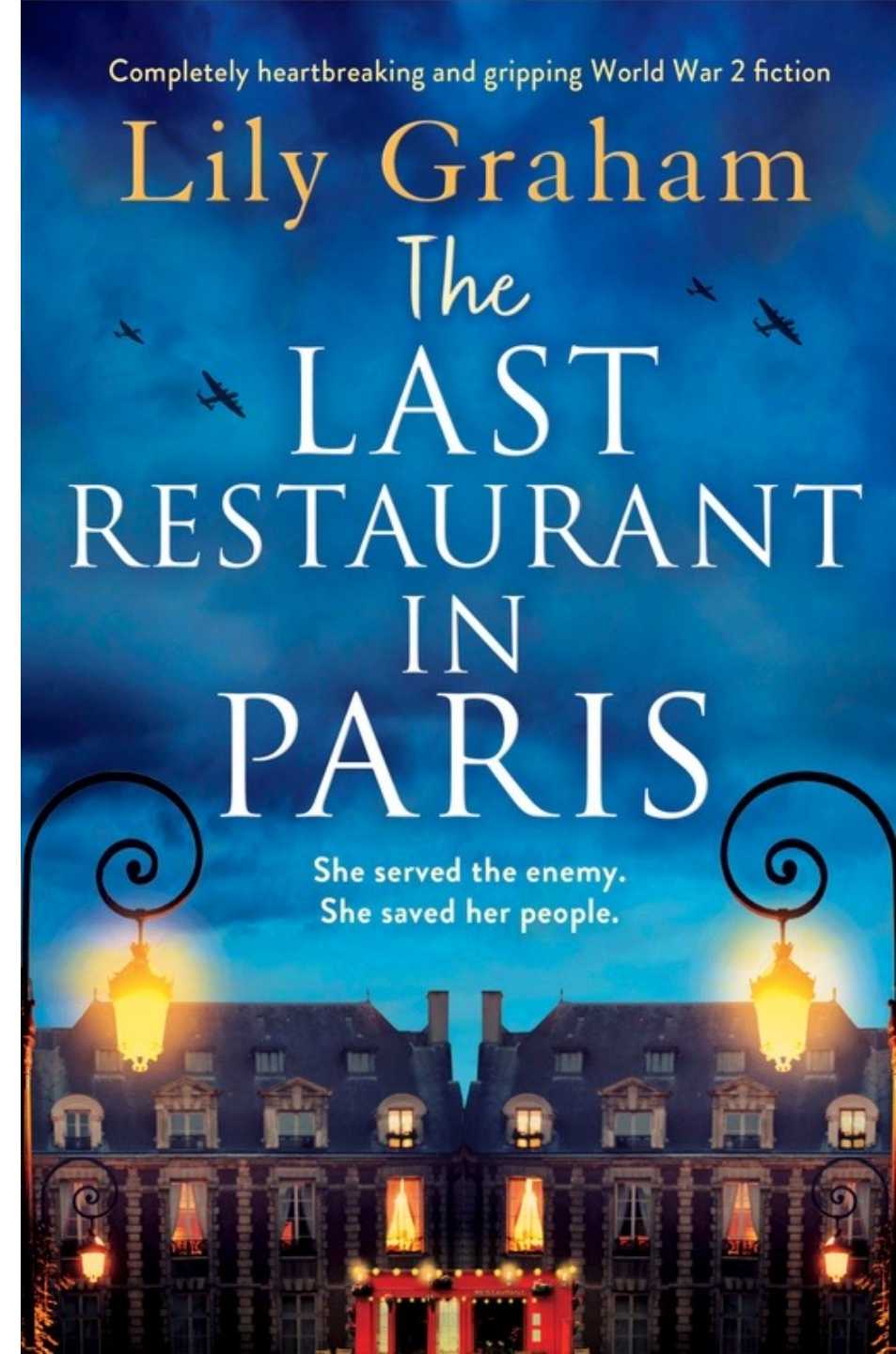
A haunting and compelling story of love, strength and sacrifice following how a young woman called Elodie, brought up in rural Provence by her kindly grandmother, became 'Marianne', a Parisian femme fatale who infamously poisoned a cafe full of Nazi officials one evening and disappeared.

The novel opens in the 1980s when Gilbert, an elderly rare book shop owner with ties to Marianne and her restaurant in the 1940s, is sought out by Marianne's granddaughter, Sabine, who has newly discovered her lost legacy and inherited the now long-abandoned restaurant from the grandmother she never knew existed.

Gilbert's own innocent younger brother, Henri, became one of Marianne's victims that fateful night and, now rallied by Sabine who is desperate to uncover her lost legacy, Gilbert and Sabine embark on a journey of historical rediscovery that leads them to Provence where they uncover a childhood romance between a young mute girl called Elodie and an intrepid but introverted young Jewish boy called Jacques, who helps her find her voice, while she helps him spread his wings. It is a love story that will end in tragedy and that will change this family forever.

Elodie's story will sweep readers off to the idyllic Provencal countryside and a bittersweet story of love and sacrifice that can only end in tragedy. As Elodie's story nears the events of the fateful night in the last restaurant in Paris, we see why and how she transforms herself into 'Marianne' and we finally see the whole story, one painful revelation at a time.

This is sweeping, character-driven historical fiction with just the perfect amount of the melodrama of *Inglorious Basterds*!



THE AMERICAN WIFE

BY CHRYSTYNA LUCYK-BERGER (APRIL 2023)

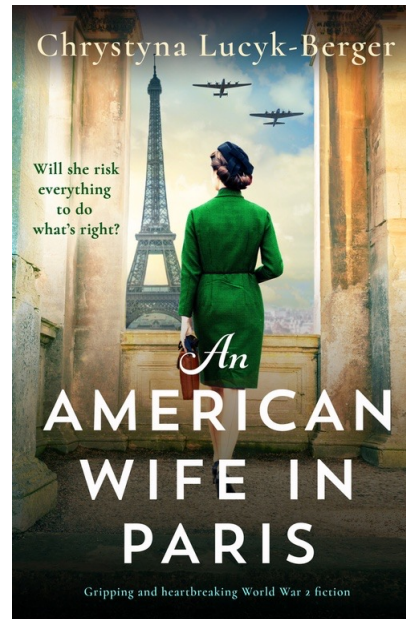
A gripping and globetrotting historical series about courage, friendship and impossible choices.

This story opens in interwar Japan where Kitty Larson, an American woman from a politically powerful family is on a diplomatic jolly with her brother and parents, and meets Edgar, an Austrian diplomat that she will later marry and start a new life with in Vienna in 1942.

Kitty realises here that her powerful position means she must choose between saving her new friends from the Nazis, or betraying the man she loves by stealing his papers. Edgar on the other hand, she discovers, may or not be working for the Nazis, who she despises, and only eventually will Kitty learn that he is in fact a British informant.

The first novel in the Diplomat's Wife Trilogy continues with *An American Wife in Paris*, in which Kitty and Edgar move to Paris on a secret mission to rescue as many people from the Nazis as possible, but will result in Edgar's disappearance. The final entry in the trilogy will complete Kitty's transformation from frivolous socialite to vengeful resistance operative and will have readers hooked from start to finish.

This gripping series is perfect for fans of Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale*.



THE GIRL ON THE PLATFORM

BY ELLIE MIDWOOD (OCTOBER 2020)

"Be brave. Don't run. Fight."

With her eyes tightly shut, tears rolling from under her dark lashes, she felt his lips gently touch her burning cheek. The train on the platform whistled, and he disappeared into the steam.

Berlin, 1939: Libby is determined to start a new life, starting a new job at MGM Studios Berlin. But even in this cosmopolitan city, there's no escape from Hitler's brutal regime. And when Libby's friend vanishes into thin air, she cannot stand back and do nothing...

And then Libby meets Harro and her world tips upside down as they fall desperately in love. But she knows there's a story behind his cornflower-blue eyes. The whip marks on his back, scars from the SS, tell his secret: he is a resistance fighter.

Harro draws Libby into the world of the resistance, and their life grows increasingly dangerous as they do everything they can to bring about Hitler's downfall. With each risk they take, Libby is terrified of losing Harro – how will she live without him?

Libby starts to believe that the Gestapo is stalking them – their every move watched, their phone calls recorded. And one day, Harro simply disappears. Her worst nightmare has come true, and she knows that it is just a matter of time before she's next.

Will they live to see each other once again? Or will everything they've risked be in vain?

Based on a true story, this beautiful novel shows that even when our freedom is stolen, we still have a choice...

Based on a true story, a totally heartbreaking, epic and gripping World War 2 page-turner

ELLIE MIDWOOD

THE GIRL ON THE PLATFORM



1939: SHE WILL FIGHT FOR
FREEDOM, EVEN IF THE
COST IS HER LIFE...

THE STORYTELLER OF AUSCHWITZ

BY SIOBHAN CURHAM (JULY 2022)

If we're going to survive this, we need something to believe in. I can give them that. I can give them hope. These people and their stories matter, and the world needs to hear about what happened here...

1941. As inmate 132256 at Auschwitz, everything that Claudette Weil loved has been taken away from her and every day is a fight for survival. Imprisoned with thousands of others, trapped and starving, she is devastated by the daily horrors those around her suffer.

A successful author in her previous life, Claudette could never have imagined the brutality her and her fellow inmates are facing. The Nazis might have taken away her freedom, but she is adamant they will never take away her spirit, or her hope.

An idea strikes her. She cannot do much to stop the suffering around her, but she can try to use her talent to give her fellow prisoners hope, when seemingly all else is lost. Slowly, she encourages them to share their stories with her, to counter the dehumanising treatment they endure every day. They matter, and their stories matter too.

This beautiful novel about the life-giving power of storytelling shines a light on one of history's darkest moments to uncover the resilience of the human spirit and our will to never let evil win, despite the odds.



THE EDELWEISS SISTERS

BY KATE HEWITT (JUNE 2021)

Set in wartime Salzburg, in the shadow of the events made famous in *The Sound of Music*, *The Edelweiss Sisters* tells the story of three sisters who were involved in the Austrian resistance, helping Jews and dissidents escape over those famous mountains.

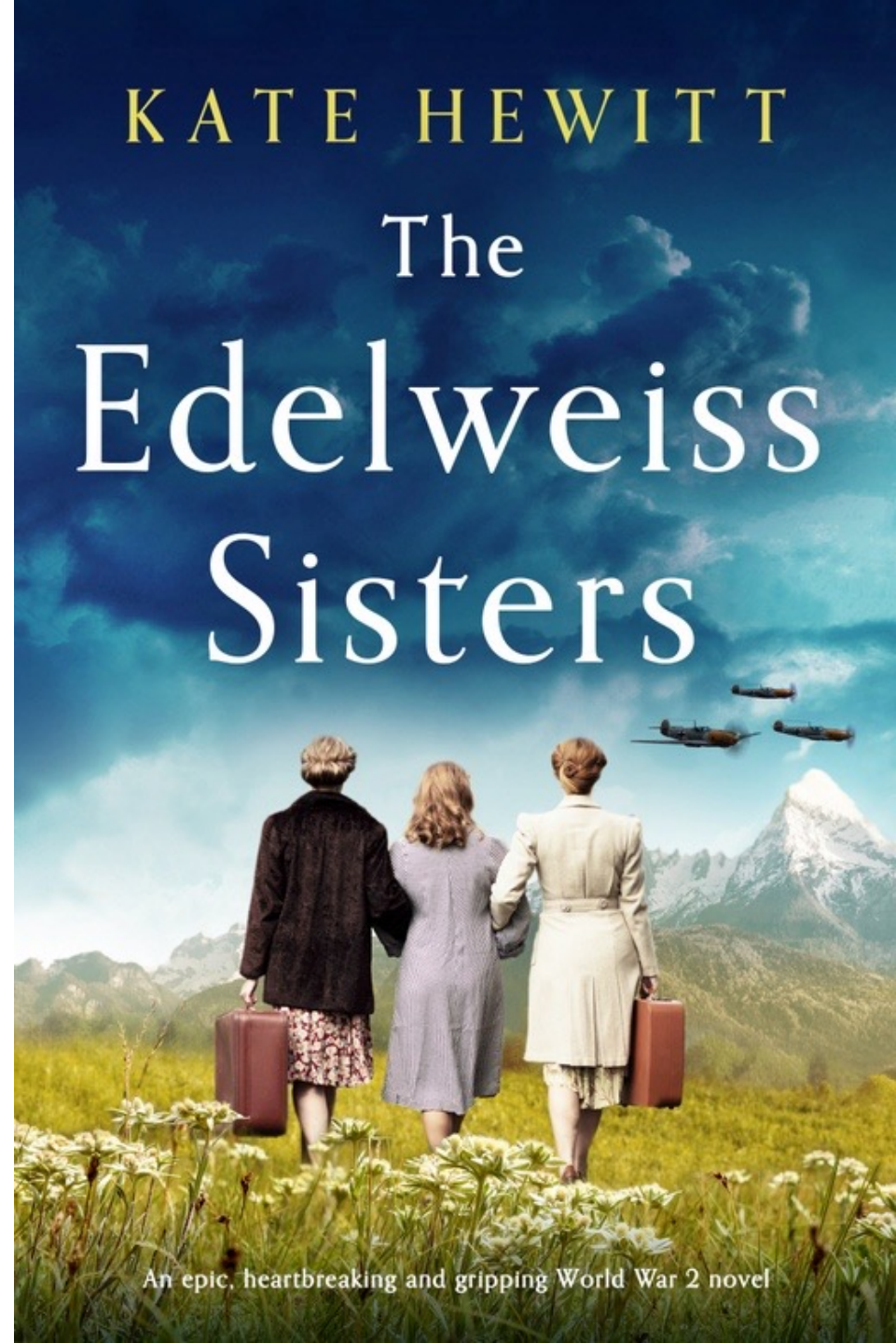
Johanna Eder and her sisters Birgit and Lotte have always lived quiet lives, working in their father's clockmaking shop and helping their mother in the house. But they find it impossible to ignore the changes in the world around them.

At first Johanna finds it hard to believe the Nazis pose a real threat. But then her father hires Franz. He's soulful, with dark eyes that twinkle with intelligence and humour. But he's Jewish, and as Johanna falls for him, she realizes that loving him puts them all in danger.

The only way to save Franz is to get him to the safety of Switzerland. For this, she needs her sisters' help, and they join the resistance. As the world turns dark around them, they must slip unnoticed right under the noses of the Nazi soldiers filling their cobbled streets.

Johanna could never have foreseen how falling for a dark-eyed man would take her from an innocent girl to a fearless woman; from her quiet clock shop into the very depths of hell.

***The Edelweiss Sisters* is a joy of a historical novel, pitch perfect in its setting and bringing to life three very different sisters who each have their own response to the incoming storm of Nazism. Featuring cameos from Maria von Trapp herself, it also playfully continues the story made famous in *The Sound of Music*, against the epic and beautiful backdrop of Salzburg and the Swiss Alps.**



THE CHILD OF UKRAINE

BY TETYANA DENFORD (JULY 2022)

Ukraine, 1940. She cups her daughter's face with her trembling hands, imprinting it on her mind. 'I love you. Be brave.' she whispers through her tears, her heart breaking into a thousand pieces. Sending her child away is the only way to keep her safe. But will she ever see her again?

When war rips their country apart, Julia is sent away by her tearful parents in the dead of night, clutching her mother's necklace and longing for one last embrace. But soon she is captured by Nazi soldiers and forced into a German labour camp, where behind a tall fence topped with cruel barbed wire, she has never felt more alone.

Just as she begins to give up on all hope, Julia meets Henry, a young man from her village who shares her heart full of dreams. And when she feels a fluttering in her belly that grows and grows, she longs to escape the camp and begin a new life with their child. But then Julia is forced to make a terrible choice. A choice no mother should have to make.

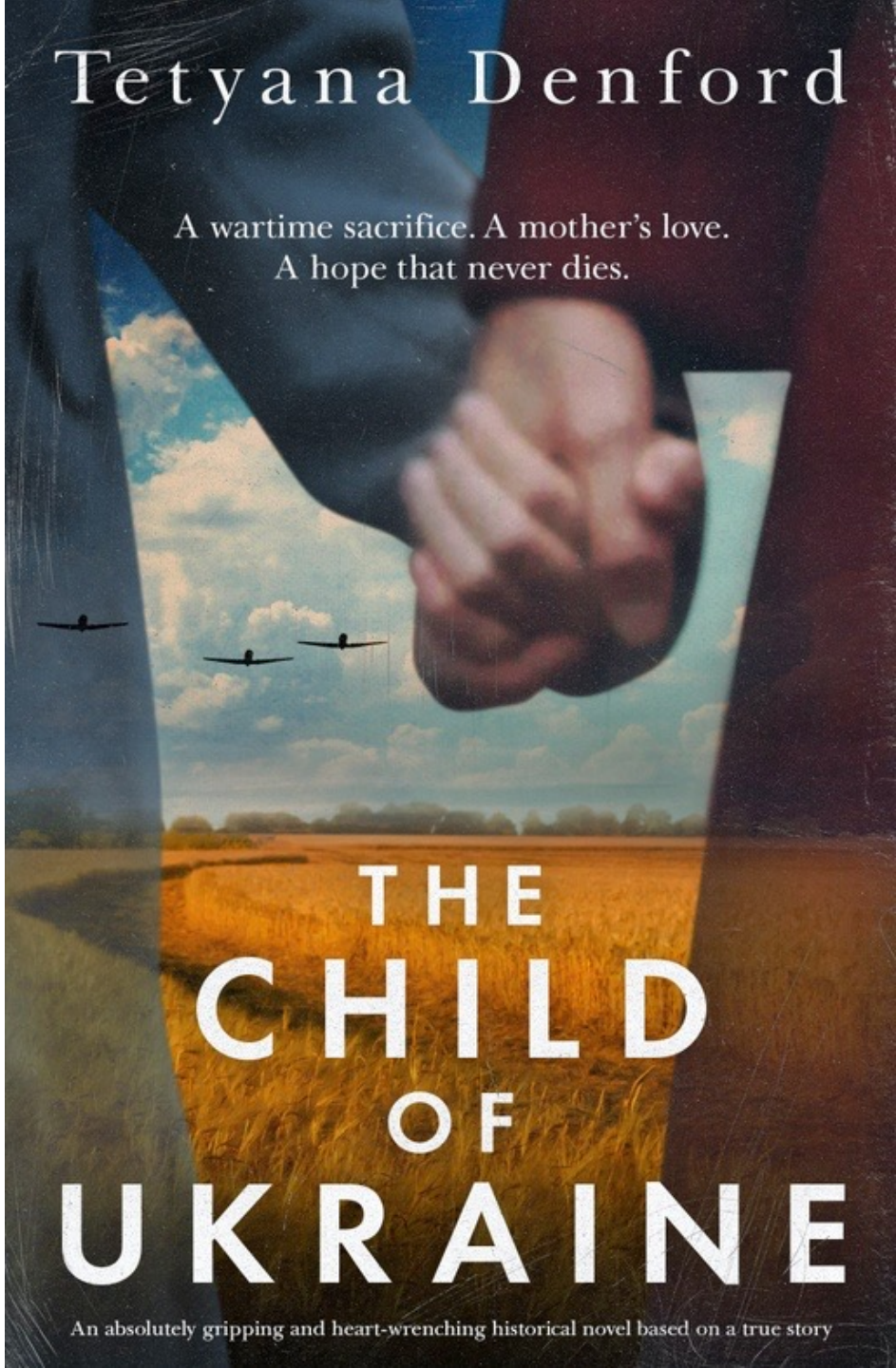
New York, 2011. With her heart shattered and her life changed forever by the shadows of war, as the years go by Julia thinks she will never be whole again. For decades she has been carrying a terrible secret with her, her every moment tainted by tragedy and loss since those dark days of the war.

But when she receives a phone call in the middle of the night, far away from the home and family she lost in the war, will Julia finally be reunited with the missing piece of her heart? Or is it too late for her wounds to heal?

Based on the incredible true story of the author's grandparents, *The Child of Ukraine* is piercing, heart-wrenching and beautifully written, amplifying a fierce, stunning Ukrainian voice and shedding light on real immigrant stories from history with profound relevance for us today.

Tetyana Denford

A wartime sacrifice. A mother's love.
A hope that never dies.



THE CHILD OF UKRAINE

An absolutely gripping and heart-wrenching historical novel based on a true story

A LIGHT IN THE WINDOW

BY MARION KUMMEROW (JULY 2021)

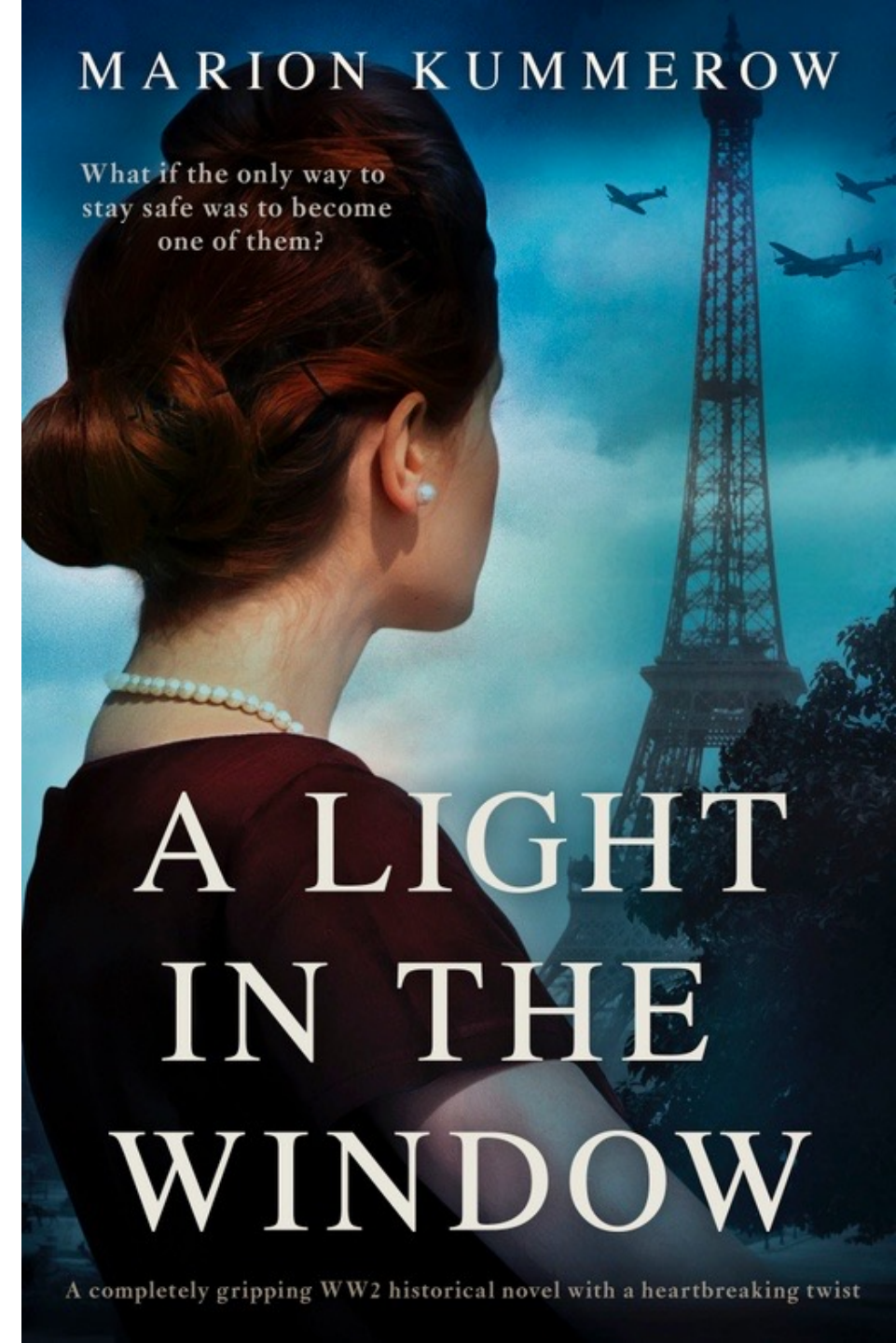
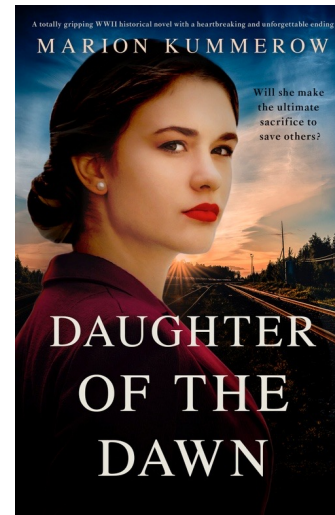
Berlin, 1941: Margarete Rosenbaum is working as a housemaid for a senior Nazi officer when his house is bombed, leaving her the only survivor. But when she's mistaken for his daughter in the aftermath of the blast, Margarete knows she can make a bid for freedom...

Issued with temporary papers – and with the freedom of not being seen as Jewish – a few hours are all she needs to escape to relative safety. That is, until her former employer's son, SS officer Wilhelm Huber, tracks her down.

But strangely he doesn't reveal her identity right away. Instead, he insists she comes and lives with him in Paris, and seems determined to keep her hidden. His only condition: she must continue to pretend to be his sister. Because whoever would suspect a Nazi girl of secretly being a Jew?

Can Margarete trust a Nazi officer with the only things she has left though... her safety, her life, even her heart?

The beginning of a gripping historical fiction series, Margarete's story continues in three sequels, *From the Dark We Rise*, in which Margarete inherits the family's Nazi fortune, *The Girl in the Shadows* and *Daughter of the Dawn*.



SECOND SKY

FANTASY AND
PARANORMAL

THE FURY OF KINGS

BY R.S. MOULE (MAY 2023)

Bonds of blood are tested. Armies gather. An ancient magic is stirring.

In the shadow of Eryispek – a mountain said to have no summit – the kingdom of Erland has known peace for fifteen years.

But when King Hessian's only son is murdered, Erland is plunged into crisis. The new heir is a spoiled fool, but his mother will stop at nothing to secure his claim. The king's mind is failing, and he grows more volatile every day.

Civil war seems inevitable. And none will escape the coming storm.

It was Andrick Barrelbreaker, the king's bastard brother, whose victories placed Hessian on the throne. As chaos threatens, and alliances between powerful families break, Andrick must choose between protecting his family from those against them, and taking up arms for a king he barely recognizes.

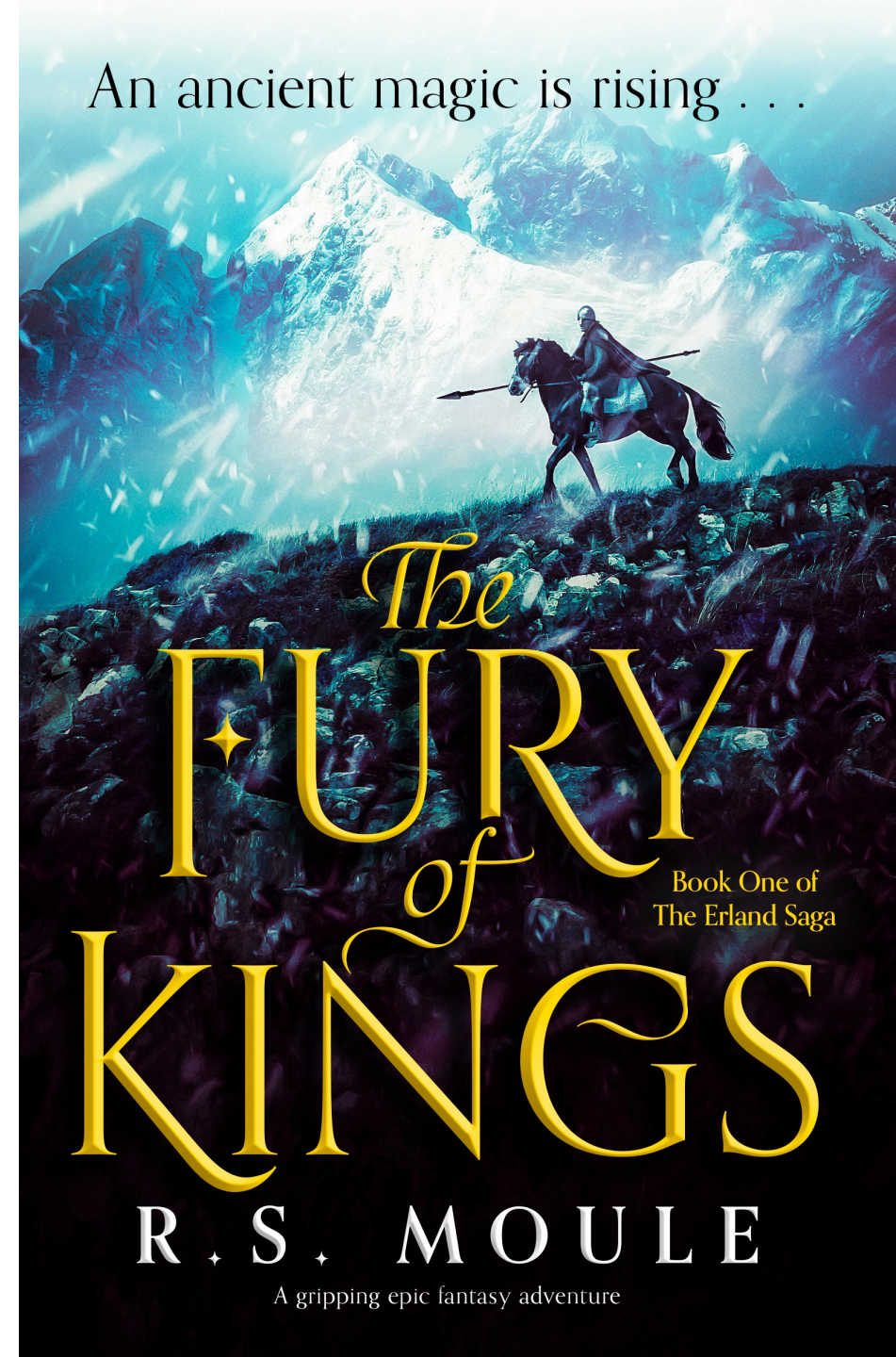
Andrick's children must also choose their paths. Orsian has always dreamed of fighting beside his father. Now he faces the brutal reality of war. Pherri is haunted by very different dreams – of snow and death and the mountain. Only she can reveal the dark magic that awaits on the slopes above and the mysterious magical disaster that looms...

Every character – fighter, noble or thief – must choose their loyalties and make painful, powerful choices.

Enter a world of intrigue, battles and destiny and race through the pages of an epic new series that combines the grit and heroism of Anthony Ryan with the intricate, ever-shifting politics of George R.R. Martin.

This is epic fantasy at its finest and is an exciting launch title for our debut SFF list in 2023.

An ancient magic is rising . . .



THE SPIRIT GIRLS

BY DAWN MERRIMAN (MAY 2023)

Rylan Flynn has always been able to see what others don't—the restless spirits haunting Ashby, Indiana. She's learned to live with her "gift" but sometimes she longs to escape.

The woods have always been a peaceful place for Rylan. But on a visit to her aunt's cabin, she catches sight of a spirit in the trees. The ghost of a young woman approaches, leading Rylan to her body. With a flood of horror, Rylan realizes that the girl, Celeste Monroe, has been murdered. An outgoing newcomer to town, Celeste had no enemies. Who on earth would want to see her dead?

When a coin carved with strange symbols is discovered in Celeste's throat, it's clear that a twisted, cold-blooded killer is at work.

Rylan's abilities could be the only way to prevent further deaths. But Ashby's handsome head detective, Ford Pierce, has made it very clear that he doesn't want her help.

And any unexplained knowledge of the case could make Rylan the perfect suspect.

When another body is discovered and blood at the scene points to Rylan's family, she is more determined than ever to uncover the truth. She must race against time to untangle a web of dark secrets... but can she find answers before the murderer claims another victim?

A heart-pounding mystery with a touch of romance, *The Spirit Girls* begins a new series of paranormal thrillers that are impossible to put down. If you love urban fantasy or psychic thrillers by Heather Graham and Wendy Wang, this book will grab you from the first page and never let go.

A RYLAN FLYNN MYSTERY BOOK 1

THE SPIRIT GIRLS



A TOTALLY GRIPPING PARANORMAL MYSTERY THRILLER

HIDDEN

BY SHALINI BOLAND (March 2023)

From USA Today bestseller Shalini Boland, comes the addictive Vampires of Marchwood series. Falling in love has never been so dangerous... Shalini Boland's psychological thriller novels have made over £2 million in revenue for the Bookouture list. We're excited to re-launch her Vampire fantasy series under Bookouture's new SFF imprint, Second Sky.

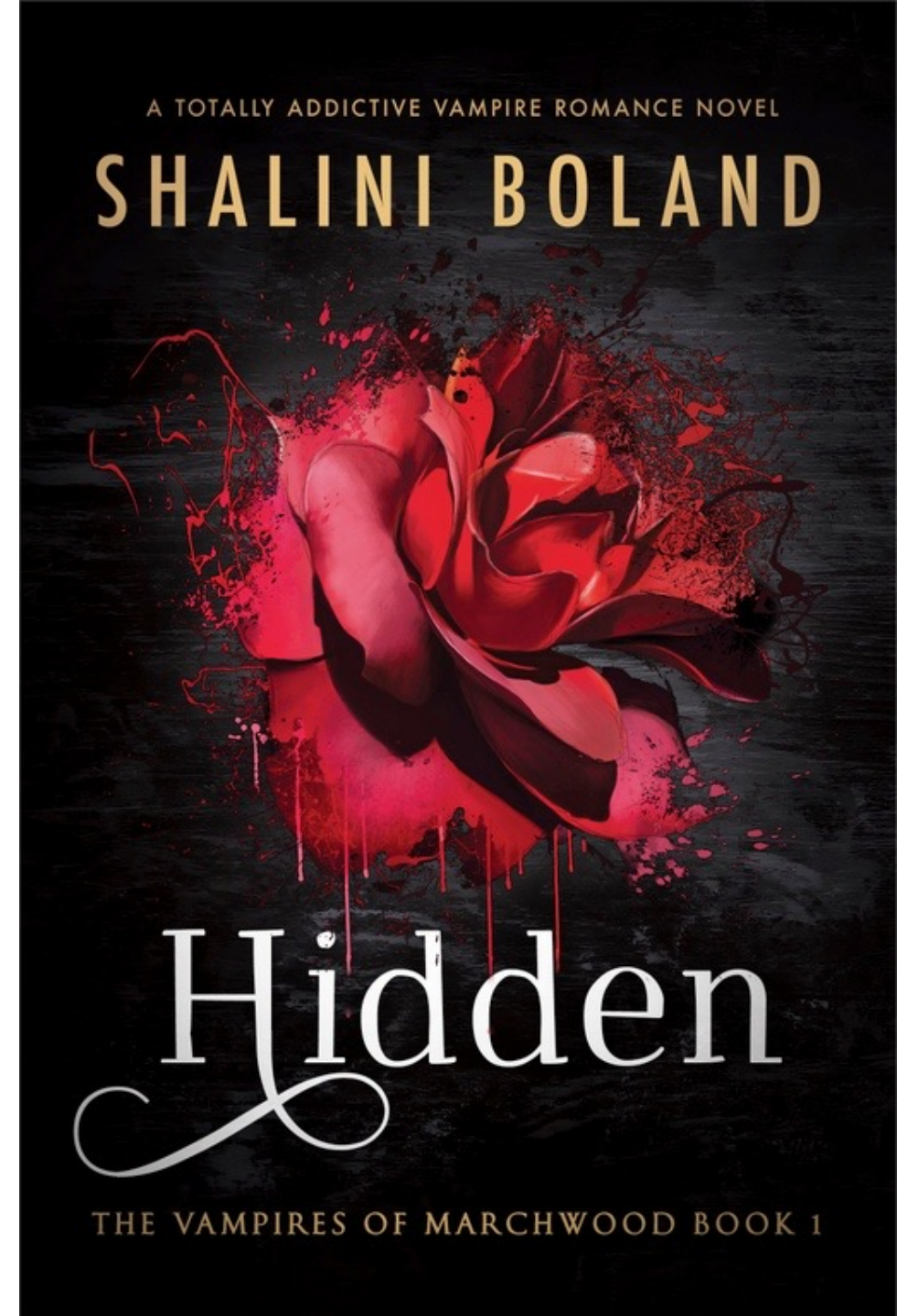
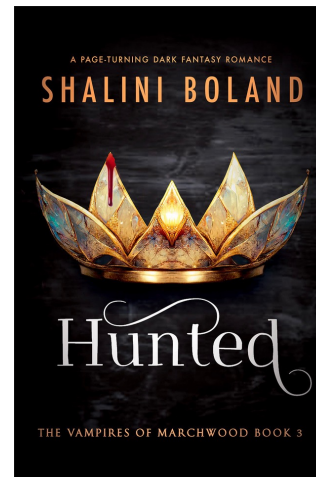
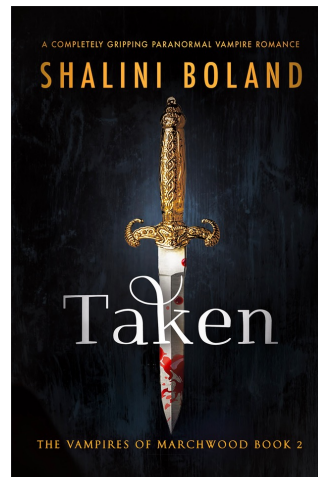
My name is Madison Greene. On my sixteenth birthday, I inherited an old mansion and wealth beyond my wildest dreams. I thought it was a joke, but as I step through the creaking door of the sprawling building, I realise my life in foster care is in the past. I've been chosen and my world has changed forever.

But I wasn't told that Marchwood House hides a secret.

As I explore every inch of the crumbling property, I stumble upon a set of large, dusty boxes in the basement. When I pull back the lid and look down, I find myself staring at the most handsome face I've ever seen. High cheekbones, porcelain skin...

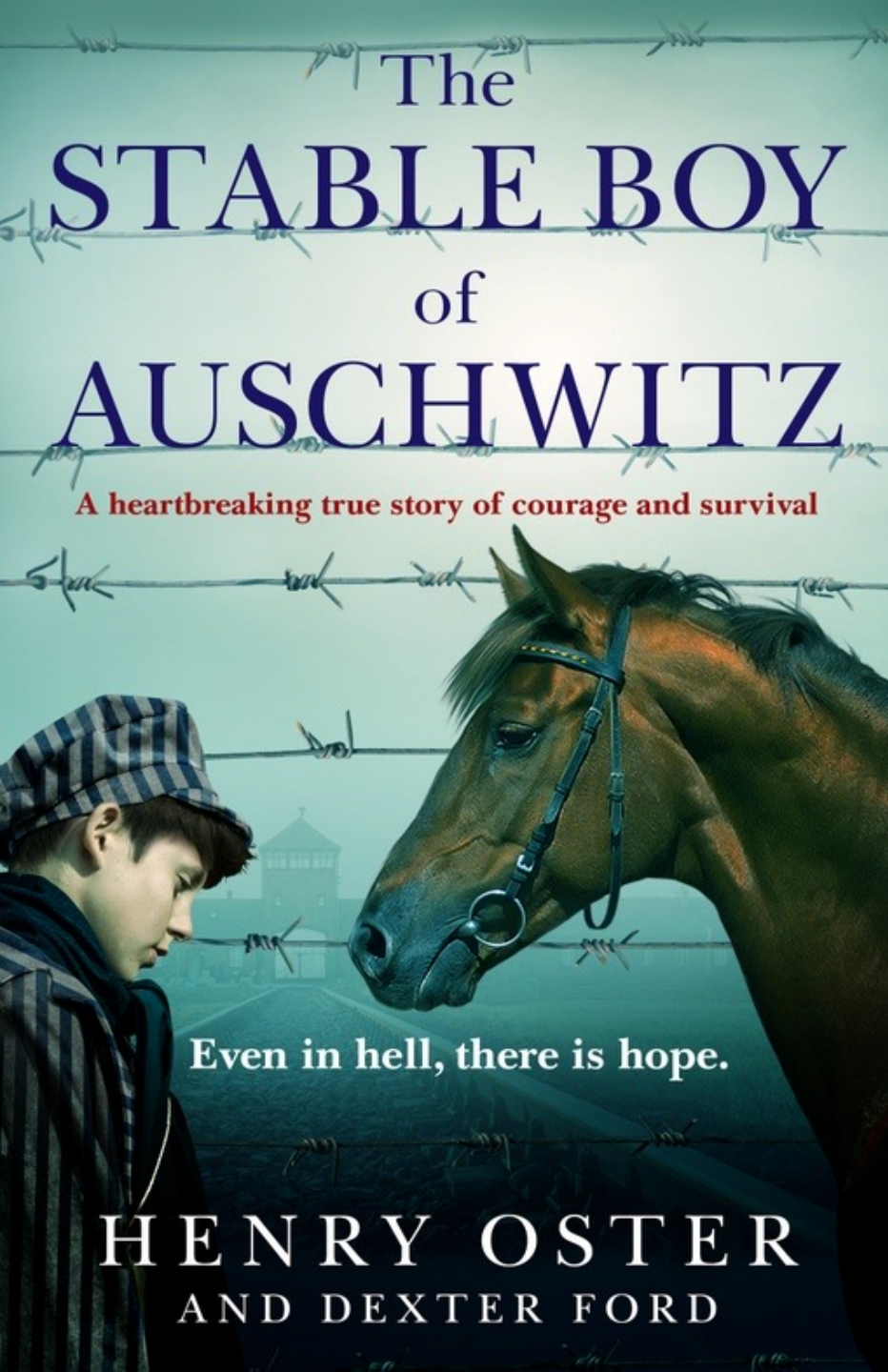
And when he wakes up and locks eyes with me, I realise my heart already belongs to him, even though my head is screaming at me to get as far away from Marchwood as possible. Because I know what he really is.

I never planned to fall in love – but it's too late now. Alexandre has a dark and dangerous past. He needs me and I have to help him. But can a human really save a vampire?



Thread

INSPIRING
MEMOIR



THE STABLE BOY OF AUSCHWITZ

BY HENRY OSTER AND DEXTER FORD (APRIL 2023)

A courageous and heart-wrenching memoir by holocaust survivor Henry Oster, co-authored by Dexter Ford.

Henry was just five years old when Adolf Hitler took power in 1933. One of the 2,011 Jews who were rounded up by the Gestapo and deported from Cologne to the Łódź ghetto, and from there to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Here, in Auschwitz, Henry performed forced labour in the stables, where horses were bred for the German war machine. Henry had to tend his mares, Mutti, Olga, and the stallion Barbarossa from dawn into the night. It was back-breaking labour, but Henry clung to the belief that if he made himself hard to replace, he might just stay alive. With crippling hunger pains, Henry fed the horses each day, knowing that if he were caught pocketing a carrot or cramming some grain into his mouth, he would face the hangman. Through it all – from finding ways to escape being selected for death in the Auschwitz-Birkenau gas chambers, to surviving a machine-gun firing squad, to enduring a brutal death march through the bleak Polish winter – Henry somehow found the strength and the will to keep on going.

Eventually Henry was liberated in 1945, having been moved to the Buchenwald camp, and he was one of only 18 German-speaking Jewish boys to emerge alive from the concentration camps after the war, and one of only 2 survivors of the original 2,011 Jews taken from Cologne. Following a period living in Paris, he later would join his extended family in Los Angeles with no money, no English and no education – yet he rose from the ashes and became an optometrist, with his own practice, and would also speak at schools, colleges and museums about his experiences during the war.

The creation of this book began in his Beverly Hills optometrist office where one of his many patients was writer Dexter Ford, who noticed the faded, crooked blue-black tattoo on Henry's forearm: B6748. "How did you get that, Henry?" he asked. And so here we have the heart-wrenching and inspiring true account of a little boy who, against incomprehensible odds, after losing almost everything a human can lose, survived to tell his story.

COCONUT

A Black girl fostered by a white family in the 1960s
and her search for belonging and identity



FLORENCE OLÁJIDÉ

'Extraordinarily moving' ABI DARÉ 'Remarkable' ADJOA ANDOH

COCONUT

BY FLORENCE OLAJIDE (JULY 2021)

'Why am I not white like everybody else?' Nan came and sat on the edge of my bed. 'What do you mean?' A tender finger brushed against my cheek. 'Well, everyone in this house is white. Why am I Black?'

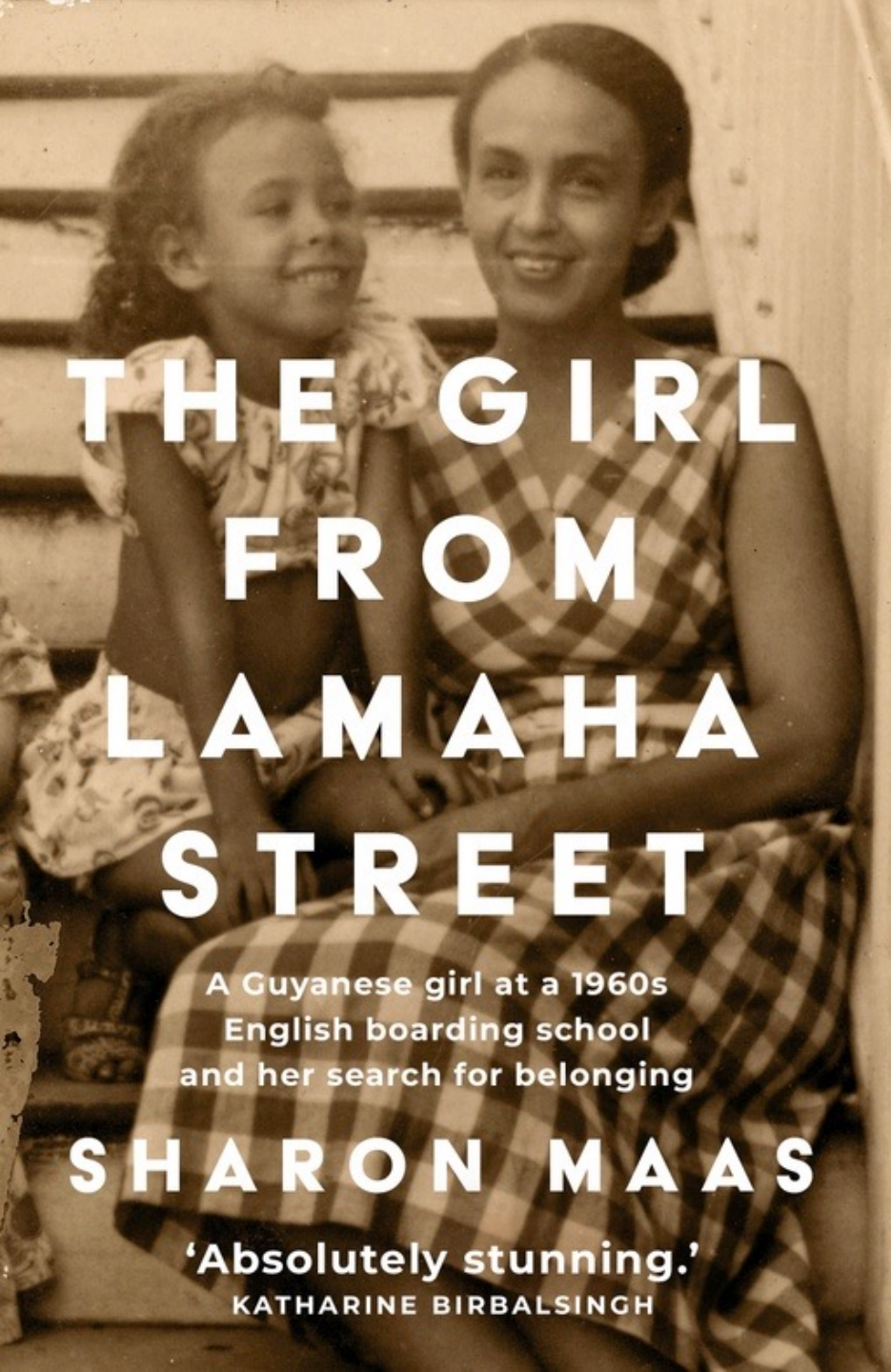
A generation of Nigerian children were born in Britain in the fifties and sixties, privately fostered by white families, then taken to Nigeria by their parents.

Coconut is the story of one of those children.

1963, North London. Nan fosters one-year-old Florence Olájidé and calls her 'Ann.' Florence adores her foster mother more than anything but Nan, and the children around her, all have white skin and she can't help but feel different. Then, four years later, after a weekend visit to her birth parents, Florence never returns to Nan. Two months after, sandwiched between her mother and father plus her three siblings, six-year-old Florence steps off a ship in Lagos to the fierce heat of the African sun.

Swapping the lovely, comfortable bed in her room at Nan's for a mat on the floor of the living room in her new home, Florence finds herself struggling to adjust. She wants to embrace her cultural heritage but doesn't speak Yoruba and knows nothing of the customs. Clashes with her grandmother, Mama, the matriarch of the family, result in frequent beatings. Torn between her early childhood experiences and the expectations of her African culture, she begins to question who she is. Nigerian, British, both?

Florence's story is an unputdownable tale of loss and loneliness, surviving poverty, maltreatment and fighting to get an education. Most of all, it's a moving, uplifting and inspiring account of one woman's self-determination to discover who she is and find her way to a place she can call home. Perfect for fans of Lemn Sissay's *My Name is Why* and Tara Westover's *Educated*.



THE GIRL FROM LAMAHA STREET

A Guyanese girl at a 1960s
English boarding school
and her search for belonging

SHARON MAAS

'Absolutely stunning.'

KATHARINE BIRBALSINGH

THE GIRL FROM LAMAHA STREET

BY SHARON MAAS (APRIL 2022)

A young Guyanese girl, raised by divorced, atheist, liberal parents, flies across the Atlantic to a conservative Christian boarding school in 1960s England. What could possibly go wrong?

Growing up in British Guiana in the 1950s, Sharon Maas has everything a shy child with a vivid imagination could wish for. She spends her days studying bugs in the backyard, eating fresh mangos straight from the tree and tucked up on her granny's lap losing herself in books.

But with her father campaigning for Guiana's independence and her mother away for work, there's a void in Sharon's heart, and she craves rules and structure. The books she devours give her a glimpse of life in a faraway country: England. And although none of the characters in these books look like her, her insatiable curiosity leads Sharon to beg to be sent to boarding school.

Life at a conservative, Christian school is quite different from Sharon's liberal, atheist upbringing. Girls march silently and single file along corridors and earn badges for deportment. There are twice-daily hymns, grace before and after meals and mandatory bedside prayers. And, all the girls are posh and white, while Sharon is the only one with dark skin. Will she ever fulfil her dream of horseback riding over green hills and going on adventures like her literary heroes? And has she truly found what she was looking for in this chilly corner of the world, thousands of miles away from home?

You will be swept off your feet by the unputdownable story of Sharon Maas's extraordinary childhood in British Guiana and England, a beautiful and inspiring coming-of-age tale of self-discovery, determination and chasing your dreams.

Bookouture

Thread SECOND SKY