Dear Reader,

In a year where the news has felt so big, it's easy to feel small. Amidst everything that has happened in the last twelve months, you could forgive an editor for wondering if anyone wants to read the introduction to a crime/thriller fiction catalogue.

Well, you’ve started now, so I may as well continue.

In all seriousness, in the middle of so much madness, I don’t think I’m alone in having found books to be one of the few things that have kept me sane this year – and, specifically, many of the brilliant books in this catalogue. Whether it’s being so gripped by a nail-biting race against time that you realize you’ve missed your Zoom quiz, or finding a line of writing that’s so sharp it changes the way you understand the world, stories have been a true lifeline this year, for me and for so many others.

I couldn’t be more proud of the ones we’ve found to share with you in 2021.

Of course, we know that we couldn’t publish these books without the wonderful book community that surrounds us. Whether you’re an author who has found time to write one of them, a reviewer who has championed them, a bookseller who has found a way to sell them even in these darkest of times, or simply a reader who took the time to dive into one of them, we couldn’t be more grateful.

Thank you so much, and here’s to a brighter 2021,

Joel Richardson
Publisher (Crime and Thriller), Penguin Michael Joseph
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>C. J. Tudor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gregg Hurwitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Matthew Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Stephanie Wrobel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Helen Callaghan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>James Brabazon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Gytha Lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Natasha Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tim Weaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Alex North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Alex Pavesi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Ragnar Jónasson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Howard Linskey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Nicolás Obregón</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Karen Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Julia Heaberlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Lia Middleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Nicola Moriarty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Jack Grimwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>David Klass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Gillian McAllister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Christian Cantrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Anthony Mosawi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Caitlin Wahrer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Matthew Frank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Samantha Downing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Camilla Bruce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Claire Douglas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Rebecca Netley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Jørn Lier Horst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Matthew Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Coming up in 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With thanks to

![Most Wanted Wines Logo](image-url)
C. J. Tudor is back with her darkest, twistiest novel yet. Welcome to the small village of Chapel Croft where all your worst nightmares come true . . .

500 years ago:
eight martyrs were burnt to death

30 years ago:
two teenagers vanished without trace

Two months ago:
the vicar committed suicide

Welcome to Chapel Croft.
For Rev Jack Brooks and teenage daughter Flo it’s supposed to be a fresh start. New job, new home. But, as Jack knows, the past isn’t easily forgotten.

And in a close-knit community where the residents seem as proud as they are haunted by Chapel Croft’s history, Jack must tread carefully. Ancient superstitions as well as a mistrust of outsiders will be hard to overcome.

Yet right away Jack has more frightening concerns. Why is Flo plagued by visions of burning girls? Who’s sending them sinister, threatening messages? And why did no one mention that the last vicar killed himself?

Chapel Croft’s secrets lie deep and dark as the tomb. Jack wouldn’t touch them if not for Flo - anything to protect Flo. But the past is catching up with Chapel Croft - and with Jack. For old ghosts with scores to settle will never rest . . .

‘A mesmerising and atmospheric page-turner, with plenty of shocks and a surprise twist for a finale. Her best novel yet’ – Sunday Express

‘Hypnotic and horrifying . . . The Burning Girls left me sleeping with the lights on’ – Chris Whitaker

‘A gothic, spine-tingling roller-coaster of a story . . . C. J. Tudor is a master of horror’ – C. J. Cooke
Why I wrote

The Burning Girls

by C. J. Tudor

"Two years ago, my family and I moved from Nottingham to a rural village in East Sussex. On the day we came to view what is now our home, we drove past a small, white-washed chapel on the outskirts of the village.

It looked so out of place, the sort of chapel you’d expect to find in a dusty, mid-western town in the US, not in the middle of the English countryside. And right away, something about it struck me as odd, creepy.

I started to research the history of the area and found that it had quite a macabre past. Five hundred years ago, eight martyrs had been burnt at the stake during Queen Mary’s Purge of the Protestants. Every year the local bonfire societies make elaborate effigies which are burnt on huge pyres on bonfire night.

It put me in mind of one my favourite films - The Wicker Man - and seemed to lend itself perfectly to a folk-horror infused mystery featuring exorcism, pagan rituals, burning apparitions and missing girls. Oh, and an unconventional priest with a few secrets of their own!

I run past the chapel every morning and it still makes the hairs rise on the back of my neck. I hope it always will!"

About the Author

C. J. Tudor’s love of writing, especially the dark and macabre, started young. When her peers were reading Judy Blume, she was devouring Stephen King and James Herbert. Over the years she has had a variety of jobs, including trainee reporter, radio scriptwriter, dog walker, voiceover artist, television presenter, copywriter and, now, author. Her novels, The Chalk Man, The Taking of Annie Thorne and The Other People, were all Sunday Times bestsellers with rights sold in over forty countries.

(Photo by Bill Waters)

@cj tudor
The world needs a new hero . . .

A tense and exciting new thriller from Gregg Hurwitz featuring Evan Smoak – a.k.a. Orphan X.

He can escape anything. Except his own past . . .

“Evan. It’s your mother. I heard you help people.”

Evan Smoak used to be known as Orphan X: a figure as elusive as a rumour, until he came to the rescue of those who most desperately needed his help. The kind of help no one else could provide. The kind that caused concern in the corridors of power.

As a boy he’d been plucked from a foster home and trained as an off-the-books assassin inside a top secret US government programme.

Which is why, even forced into early retirement, he dare not trust the phone call. Nor the caller claiming to be his mother. Asking him to protect a complete stranger who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

None of it stacks up. Yet it bears the tell-tale signs of the secret world that made him. And from inside it, a deadly new threat to the nation’s security.

But this time the danger is more personal than he could have ever imagined. Because blood runs deep . . .

Praise for Gregg Hurwitz

‘Read this series. Thank me later’ – David Baldacci

‘A stellar series. The stories get better with every instalment’ – Daily Mail

‘Weapons-grade thriller writing’ – Guardian
Assume nothing: the art of the assassin
by Gregg Hurwitz

“A hero needs a code. A code demands moral parameters.

Orphan X was raised with the Ten Commandments. Ten rules for how to operate strategically as an assassin. The First Commandment is: Assume nothing.

In an age where we’ve seen people ossified into political and cultural camps, and have the ability to “like” or “unlike” anyone who holds a different position, we’ve seen a rise in polarization unlike any I’ve experienced.

The First Commandment pounds into Evan’s muscle memory the Zen-like ability to see things as if for the first time. The deadbolt that’s not thrown, the parked car with exhaust still trailing from the tailpipe, the glint of a scope on a rooftop. There can be no reliance on past assumptions. He has to see what is. And that means accepting information that disrupts his status quo.

As a broke foster kid, a boy trained to be an expendable weapon, Evan knows how it feels to be on the wrong end of a power dynamic. And while he’s built a new life, there is one thing he still hates: those who use their power against others. Bullies. Tyrants. Abusers.

People who are powerless can call his encrypted phone line. And he will wade into any situation – no matter how entrenched, no matter how unlikely – to help them.

To do so, Evan can’t afford to “like” or “unlike” any information. He needs every bit of everyone’s reality on his side to make a difference.”

About the Author

Gregg Hurwitz is the No.1 Sunday Times bestselling author of the Evan Smoak thrillers Orphan X, The Nowhere Man, Hellbent, Out of the Dark and Into the Fire. He is also the author of You’re Next, The Survivor, Tell No Lies and Don’t Look Back. A graduate of Harvard and Oxford universities, he lives with his family in LA, where he also writes for the screen, TV and comics. (Photo by Gary Felder)

@gregghurwitz f gregghurwitzreaders ©@gregghurwitzbooks
An action-packed adventure thriller from the acclaimed screenwriter of Keeping Faith. For fans of Frank Gardner and James Swallow.

For twenty years Leo Black was in the SAS. Now he lectures on violence instead of committing it. Having put his soldiering days long behind him, Black pursues a respectful academic life.

But when a former comrade in arms is killed trying to prevent a scientist’s abduction, Black is faced with an unexpected choice.

Be the upright citizen the university demands – or avenge the dead man to whom he owes his life . . .

‘A Bond-style thriller for the 21st century, written with pace and great panache’ – Daily Mail

‘An ideal piece of escapism. I heartily recommend it’ – Shots Magazine

‘His best work yet’ – The Sun
Writing for page and screen
by Matthew Hall

“...The screenwriter's job is to perform an elegant vanishing trick.

Read a screenplay and you see a story boiled down to its dramatic essence. Each successive draft is a further distillation until all that is left on the page are the fewest words necessary. The more the writer perfects a script, the more he or she is removed from the equation until only the voices of the characters and the vital elements of their adventures remain. The moment when a script finally sings is the moment when the writer is gone and the words are no longer prose but invisible conveyors of images and dialogue – the tools of directors and actors.

The novelist enjoys several luxuries denied the screenwriter. The two greatest are the freedom to delight in the words themselves and the ability to tell a story from within the characters, lending them inner voices that simply can’t exist on screen. And no matter how pared-down the prose, the writer is always present in every phrase: you never finish a book without having established a relationship – good or bad! – with its author.

This uniquely intimate connection between writer and reader is the reason I have to write books. The letter or email from someone who has chimed with you and your story is the ultimate writing thrill.”

About the Author

Matthew Hall was educated at Hereford Cathedral School and graduated in Law from Worcester College, Oxford. He worked as a criminal barrister before getting his first screenwriting commission with the ITV hit series, Kavanagh QC starring John Thaw. He has since written over 60 hours of prime-time drama. In 2018 he won a BAFTA Cymru for his BBC series, Keeping Faith, which returns for a third and concluding season in 2021. He lives in Herefordshire with his wife Patricia Carswell. They have two sons.

@MatthewH_books
The Recovery of Rose Gold
Stephanie Wrobel

A chilling exploration into obsession, reconciliation and revenge in 2021’s must-read paperback.

Rose Gold Watts believed she was sick for eighteen years.

Turned out her mother was a really good liar.

After five years in prison, Patty Watts is free. Forgetting old grievances, she wants to reconcile with her daughter and care for her infant grandson.

When Rose Gold agrees to have Patty come home, their relationship seems genuinely on the mend.

But has Patty truly forgotten their past?
And is Rose Gold really able to forgive?

‘An absolutely brilliant book; funny, dark, authentic and a total page turner. I loved it’ – Lisa Jewell

‘Sensationally good – two complex characters power the story like a nuclear reaction’ – Lee Child

‘With a genuine menace seeping from every twist and turn. Worthy of Patricia Highsmith at her finest’ – Daily Mail
My inspiration for *The Recovery of Rose Gold* by Stephanie Wrobel

"I first learned of Munchausen syndrome by proxy (MSBP) from my best friend, an elementary school psychologist in Colorado. MSBP is a mental health disorder wherein a caregiver fakes or induces illness in the person they’re caring for, usually a child, in order to get attention or love from doctors and nurses.

As she explained it, I was fascinated, needed to know more. I discovered that perpetrators of MSBP are usually women, often mothers. I was shocked – wasn’t the mother/child bond supposed to be sacred? Not in these cases.

I kept researching, poring over first-hand accounts. One in particular stuck with me: *Sickened: The Memoir of a Munchausen by Proxy Childhood* by Julie Gregory. Julie recounts driving home from the doctor’s with her mom. Her mother praises her, says she deserves a treat – ‘Here, have a sucker’ – and pulls out a box of matches. Julie was just a little kid: she ate the match, having no idea it was one of the things making her sick.

That image of a child sucking on a match has haunted me for years. What could possibly be going through the mind of a person to make them willing to do such a thing to their own daughter? It got me wondering about these mothers: do they know that they’re lying to everyone around them? Or do they honestly think they’re doing what’s best for their children?"

About the Author

Stephanie Wrobel was born and grew up in the suburbs of Chicago in the United States. A voracious reader as a child and a later fascination with language led to work as a copywriter and, after a move to the UK in 2014, she set to work writing *The Recovery of Rose Gold*. She now lives in London where she writes full-time.

@stephwrobel  f @stephaniewrobelbooks  c @stephaniewrobel
A dark psychological thriller in a foreboding, isolated setting, from Sunday Times bestselling author of Dear Amy.

“Please come. I need your help . . .”

Fiona and Madison have been best friends since childhood. So when Madison sends her an unexpected call for help, Fiona doesn’t hesitate to come to her aid. Madison, an archaeologist, works at a dig on a tiny Orkney island, where the icy North Sea wind warns of a coming storm.

But when Fiona gets off the ferry, Madison isn’t there to meet her. She’s missing.

Madison’s colleagues claim to know nothing of her disappearance. But in such a tight-knit group, how can Fiona know that one of them isn’t responsible?

As Fiona begins her search, she soon unravels a web of lies. Madison didn’t live the life she claimed to, and now Fiona’s own life is in danger . . .

‘Totally compulsive – I read it in almost one sitting’ – Sabine Durrant

‘A masterclass in tension, coupled with the most atmospheric of settings’ – Woman’s Weekly

‘A gripping, atmospheric and dark thriller’ – The Sun
I've been going to Orkney since 2013, for writing retreats.

You have a short window to hike and breathe in the fresh air in the astonishing landscape with its red sandstone cliffs, vivid blue sea and enigmatic ancient monuments – weather permitting, of course – before the brief daylight is gone.

Then you come home to the cottage, inspired and energized by the peace and quiet, wandering outside the house every so often to look for the Northern Lights. I’ve never caught them yet. But I’m told they are often there.

The amazing landscape is steeped not only in beauty but also Viking history. These stories fascinated me, as remnants of Orkney’s Norse heritage is all around, in the place names, even in the low cadence of the Orcadian accent spoken by people across the island.

The Vikings were believers in blood feuds – if you killed someone, you either paid off their family in gold or the victim’s family and friends were then obligated to kill you to settle this blood debt.

I thought it would be interesting to reimagine that idea of a blood debt and what it would take to repay it, on rocky dramatic islands steeped in ancient blood.

---

**Blood debts and betrayals: Why I set Night Falls, Still Missing on Orkney**

by Helen Callaghan

The Vikings were believers in blood feuds – if you killed someone, you either paid off their family in gold or the victim’s family and friends were then obligated to kill you to settle this blood debt.

I thought it would be interesting to reimagine that idea of a blood debt and what it would take to repay it, on rocky dramatic islands steeped in ancient blood.

---

**About the Author**

**Helen Callaghan** was born in Los Angeles, California, to British parents, and her early years were spent in both the US and UK. After several early false starts as a nurse, barmaid and actor, she settled into bookselling, working as a fiction specialist and buyer for a variety of bookshops. Eventually, she studied for her A-Levels at night school and achieved a place at Cambridge University as a mature student. Helen is the *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Dear Amy* and *Everything is Lies*. (Photo by Lee Irvine)

@hecallaghan
The brutally authentic, tense and terrifying thriller from bestselling author and frontline journalist James Brabazon.

Officially Max McLean doesn’t exist. An off-the-books assassin for the British government, he operates alone.

But when a routine hit goes badly wrong, a cryptic note on a $100 bill prised from his target’s dead fingers suggests there’s more to the mission than meets the eye.

Is someone from Max’s former life trying to send him a message?

From Paris to Jerusalem and on to the frozen wastes of north-west Russia, Max is forced into a desperate race for the truth - with unknown enemies determined to stop him at any cost.

And when the secret coded into the banknote is finally revealed, only one thing is certain: with the fate of the world in his possession, failure is not an option . . .

‘Totally James Bond’ – The Times

‘This is modern thriller writing at its compelling best . . . it delivers in all respects’ – Crimetime

‘Will keep you guessing throughout . . . you will not be disappointed. Arkhangel is what a true thriller should be’ – NB
“Over twenty years of war reporting gave me three gifts that made writing fiction possible.

First: I’ve met the most extraordinary cast of characters whose stories for one reason or another I could never tell for television, but aspects of which can come alive on the pages of a novel.

Second: I have filmed thousands of hours of interviews and learned to listen to the ticks and quirks of how people actually speak versus how people are made to look as if they speak . . . which makes writing dialogue if not easy, then at least possible.

And finally, this: reporting on war isn’t only about soldiers and guns, it’s about people – people who have a story to tell, people who live at the ragged margins of society by choice or by tragedy. Those stories, their stories, weave their way through everything I write.

I try and be true to my experience – with perhaps one twist: in war I have seen the triumph of the human spirit, but I have also seen all too often the triumph of evil men. In fiction I allow myself one luxury: the good guys always win. The trick is working out who they are.”

About the Author

James Brabazon is an award-winning frontline journalist and documentary filmmaker. Based in London, he has travelled in over seventy countries, investigating, filming and directing in the world’s most hostile environments. He has made over thirty films broadcast by the BBC, Channel 4, HBO, CNN and the Discovery Channel. He is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir My Friend the Mercenary and the novels The Break Line and Arkhangel. (Photo by Hanna Jedrosz)

@james_brabazon  @james_brabazon
You wake up next to a man who’s not your husband – and he isn’t breathing. . . The gripping new thriller from the Richard & Judy Book Club bestselling author.

Louise wakes up. Her head aches, her mouth is dry, her memory is fuzzy. But she suspects she’s done something bad.

She rolls over towards her husband, Niall. The man who, until recently, made her feel loved.

But it’s not Niall who’s lying beside her. In fact, she’s never seen this man before.

And he’s not breathing . . .

As Louise desperately struggles to piece her memories back together, it’s clear to Detective Jonah Sheens and his team that she is their prime suspect – though they soon find she’s not the only one with something to hide.

Did she do it? And, if not, can they catch the real killer before they strike again?

‘Gripped me from the first page. Gytha Lodge is a consummate storyteller’ – Erin Kelly

‘Her best yet. I stayed up till 2 a.m. to finish it – brilliantly done’ – Harriet Tyce

‘Such an ingenious concept . . . An intelligent, twisty and compulsive thriller’ – Claire Douglas
Two truths and a lie
by Gytha Lodge

I played the title character of The Life of Lucrezia Borgia by accident. Having written a play full of smooching, sexual tension and violence, I was happy just to direct the thing. Until the poor leading lady had to drop out at the last minute and I ended up stepping in. The full-on seduction scene with Perrotti was devastatingly embarrassing, but it must have worked, because the actor and I ended up in a relationship for three years.

I am petrified of floury textures. I love to cook and bake, but I can’t deal with making bread, thanks to a skin-crawling aversion to the feeling of flour. And it’s not just about flour on my hands. One of my worst nightmares is having to eat a bread roll that has been covered in it and feeling the flour on my teeth.

My unusual name is based on a mythical Welsh monster. My parents have a lifelong obsession with Welsh culture, to the extent that they eventually moved there. They decided to name me after the Gytha, a half-woman, half-bat creature who inhabits cliffs and causes men to fall to their deaths by singing seductively.

I am petrified of floury textures. I love to cook and bake, but I can’t deal with making bread, thanks to a skin-crawling aversion to the feeling of flour. And it’s not just about flour on my hands. One of my worst nightmares is having to eat a bread roll that has been covered in it and feeling the flour on my teeth.

My unusual name is based on a mythical Welsh monster. My parents have a lifelong obsession with Welsh culture, to the extent that they eventually moved there. They decided to name me after the Gytha, a half-woman, half-bat creature who inhabits cliffs and causes men to fall to their deaths by singing seductively.

About the Author

Gytha Lodge is a writer and multi-award-winning playwright who lives in Cambridge. After studying Creative Writing at UEA, she was shortlisted for the Yeovil Literary Prize and the Arts Council England fiction awards, and developed a large online following for her young adult and children’s writing, with over seven million reads accrued on platform Wattpad. She Lies In Wait, her debut novel, was a Richard & Judy Book Club pick. (Photo by Bill Waters)

@thegyth GythaLodge @gythalodge
The Girls meets The Dry in this tense and atmospheric drama about loyalty, lies and obsession.

They call them the Dover Girls . . .

Ten years ago, Mo arrived at the white cliffs as if from nowhere, befriended by teenagers Cali and Jude. They thought they’d save each other, yet within months their friendship would see two of them dead and the third scarred for life.

Now documentary maker Tarek and his film crew are in town, asking difficult questions, dredging up old resentments, looking for secrets in the silence around what happened that summer.

Because in the shadow of the white cliffs it’s easy for stories, histories and people to get lost . . . And, as Tarek will discover, in small towns the truth is something that must be carefully unburied – in case it buries you . . .

This Nowhere Place is a tense and atmospheric mystery about the aftermath of a fateful and fatal friendship.

Praise for Natasha Bell’s His Perfect Wife

‘An astutely written, complex debut. Sterling work’ – Guardian

‘A smart, original page turner. It kept me up half the night!’ – Gillian McAllister

‘So refreshing. A thriller, a page-turner, thoughtful and thought-provoking’ – Sabine Durrant
When inspiration strikes

by Natasha Bell

I first met these characters whilst walking the cliffs between Dover and Folkestone at the beginning of September 2016. I was standing on the chalky edge of our island, staring in one direction at the remnants of concrete Second World War defence systems and in the other at the smudge of Calais on the horizon. With the newspapers full of the refugee crisis, Brexit and the ever-increasing prospect of a Trump administration, the juxtaposition of past and present was hard to ignore. But so was the beauty of those ancient cliffs, and the smallness of individual lives in the face of them.

Cali and Jude came to me bored and frustrated. They started kicking around my brain moaning about wanting to be grown. Their biggest dream is to escape – like Cali’s sister Rose already has. Like all of us who’ve left the small places we grew up in somehow have.

That’s neither Jude nor Cali’s fate, though. Because meeting a lost girl wandering their cliffs one day changes everything about their friendship, their town and their futures. As their lives – and deaths – tangle together, Cali, Jude, Rose and Mo discover more here about borders and belonging, culpability and compassion than they ever could elsewhere.

I hope this book will speak to those who grew up in small towns, those who remember the intoxication of adolescent friendship and those who feel or have ever felt like outsiders.

About the Author

Natasha Bell grew up in Somerset and studied English Literature and Theatre at the University of York and Mount Holyoke College, before moving to Chicago to take an MA in the Humanities. Over-educated and entirely unemployable, she spent her twenties in York writing TV listings and working as a barista and a projectionist. She recently completed an MA in Creative and Life Writing at Goldsmiths and now writes full-time from her home in south-east London. (Photo by Simon Way)

@byTashB
Get ready to meet Rebekah in Tim Weaver’s first standalone. She is stranded on an island, left for dead and determined to get home, but danger will continue to stalk her . . .

Rebekah Murphy knows too much . . .

She knows she’s alone on an abandoned island with a killer on her trail.

She knows that to get home to her children, she must survive long enough to understand why this is happening.

She knows someone tried to kill her for a secret.

What she doesn’t know is what that secret is . . .

Detective Frank Travis doesn’t know enough . . .

He doesn’t know where to find Louise Mason.

He doesn’t know how and why she vanished into thin air three months ago.

He doesn’t know the identity of the man last seen talking to her. Not yet.

But what he does know is that he’s a week away from retirement – and if he doesn’t find out where Louise went, no one will.

What neither Rebekah nor Detective Travis realize is that each holds a missing piece from the same puzzle – and it will cost them everything they love to finally solve it . . .

Praise for Tim Weaver

‘Bliss’ – Lee Child

‘So many twists and surprises’ – The Times

‘Weaver’s books get better each time - tense, complex, written with flair as well as care’ – Guardian
Raker, Rebekah and writing a standalone
by Tim Weaver

“After ten books and ten years of being David Raker’s less intelligent, less courageous and less handsome alter-ego, I thought there would be an initial period of uncertainty as I started work on my first ever standalone, Missing Pieces.

Even though it was something I’d been thinking about for a while, a story I’d been desperate to write, and a character, in Rebekah Murphy, that I’d been wanting to explore, I’d been readying myself for a fairly challenging adjustment . . .

But, in truth, there was hardly an adjustment at all. The rules I apply to my Raker thrillers and the things I always try to achieve with my books – the goals I set myself, and the scale of my ambition – turned out to be just as relevant as always.

Missing Pieces is so different to the Raker books in so many ways, especially in Rebekah’s lonely, fraught survival story, but it also, I hope, has many echoes of what readers have responded to in the Raker books: not just twists and turns, not just a big plot that unravels an even bigger mystery, but an emotional core that makes you care about the characters, their journey and where they end up.”

About the Author

Tim Weaver is the Sunday Times bestselling author of eleven thrillers, including You Were Gone and No One Home. Weaver has been nominated for a National Book Award, selected for the Richard and Judy Book Club twice and shortlisted for the Crime Writers’ Association Dagger in the Library Award. He is also the host and producer of the chart-topping Missing podcast, which features experts in the field discussing missing persons investigations from every angle. A former journalist and magazine editor, he lives near Bath with his wife and daughter. (Photo by Bill Waters)

@TimWeaverBooks  @timweaverbooks

If it had happened to you, you would have run away too.

Twenty-five years ago, Paul’s friend Charlie Crabtree brutally killed their classmate – and then vanished without a trace.

Paul’s never forgiven himself for his part in what happened. He’s never gone back home.

Until his elderly mother has a fall. It’s finally time to stop running.

It’s not long before things start to go wrong. His mother claims there’s someone in the house. Paul realizes someone is following him. And, in a town many miles away, a copycat killer has struck.

Which makes him wonder – what really happened to Charlie on the day of the murder?

And can anyone stop it happening again?

‘Hugely atmospheric and deliciously creepy’ – Alex Michaelides

‘The Shadow Friend is the work of a writer who is an absolute master of his craft’ – Jane Casey

A Q&A with Alex North

What gave you the idea for *The Shadow Friend*?
Stories often begin with questions. Having been fascinated by lucid dreams for years, I was intrigued by the idea of a group of troubled teenagers who become obsessed by them. In a lucid dream, you can do anything you want . . . so what would you do? And if you began to believe you were sharing dreams with your friends, what would it take to maintain that fantasy, what repercussions could that have – and how might someone take advantage of that?

Readers loved the emotional relationship in *The Whisper Man*. How have you followed that up?
Emotion is the most important thing for me; the books that have stayed with me are always ones that made me feel. So I was thrilled that readers responded to the father/son relationship in *The Whisper Man*, because, for me, that was the heart of the story. *The Shadow Friend* deals with friendship, but the heart lies in the relationship between a son and his mother. And while there are shocks and surprises along the way, I hope that heart is there from the very first page.

Could you give us a hint about what’s coming next?
Something dark and terrifying, I hope! Something a little bit . . . devilish. But more than anything – as always – something emotional.

About the Author

**Alex North** was born in Leeds, where he now lives with his wife and son. He studied Philosophy at Leeds University, and prior to becoming a writer he worked there in their Sociology department. *The Whisper Man* was a *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestseller, and is being published in more than 30 languages.

@writer_north
A story about mysteries, a mystery about stories – everyone is talking about this year’s most original mystery debut.

All murder mysteries follow a simple set of rules. Grant McAllister, a mystery writer and mathematics professor, once sat down and worked them all out.

But that was thirty years ago. Now he’s living in seclusion on a quiet Mediterranean island – until Julia Hart, an ambitious young editor, knocks on his door. Grant’s work is being republished, and together they must revisit those old stories.

But Julia soon realizes that something’s not right. Grant’s stories seem to reference a real murder – one that’s remained unsolved for thirty years.

Julia wants answers. But some mysteries can be murder to solve . . .

‘A box of delights . . . Pavesi’s revelations are completely unexpected, right up to the end’ – The New York Times

‘This super-smart homage to the Agatha Christie tradition is a must’ – Sunday Mirror

‘Terrific. One of the year’s most entertaining crime novels’ – Sunday Times, Crime Book of the Month
Eight reasons you need to read Alex Pavesi’s *Eight Detectives*

1. ‘One of the year’s most entertaining crime novels’ – *Sunday Times*

2. ‘When did you last read a genuinely original thriller? The wait is over’ – A. J. Finn, bestselling author of *The Woman in the Window*

3. Winner of the Capital Crimes Reader Award for Debut Book of the Year

4. ‘Grips like a vice’ – Sophie Hannah

5. ‘A box of delights . . . Pavesi’s revelations are completely unexpected, right up to the end’ – *The New York Times*

6. ‘This super-smart homage to the Agatha Christie tradition is a must. Stylish, ingenious and great fun’ – *Sunday Mirror*

7. ‘Has an intricacy rare in modern crime fiction. Alex Pavesi deserves huge applause for his plot, constructed with all the skill of the old masters’ – *Sunday Express*

8. ‘So, so clever. Agatha Christie would take her hat off to this one – bravo!’ – Sarah Pinborough, author of *Behind Her Eyes*

*About the Author*

Alex Pavesi lives in London, where he writes full-time. He previously worked as a software engineer and before that studied Mathematics to PhD level, during which time he worked as a part-time bookseller. *Eight Detectives* is his first novel.

@pavesi_alex
The ‘world class crime writer’ (Sunday Times) returns with his very first standalone novel – his darkest and most atmospheric mystery yet . . .

Una is devastated after the suicide of her father. So when she sees an advert seeking a teacher for two girls in Skálar on the storm-battered north coast of the island, she sees it as a chance to escape.

But once she arrives, Una quickly realizes nothing in city life has prepared her for this. The villagers are unfriendly. The weather is bleak. And, from the creaky attic bedroom in the old house she’s living, she’s convinced she hears the ghostly sound of singing.

Una worries that she’s losing her mind. And then, just before Christmas, there’s a murder . . .

Praise for Ragnar Jónasson

‘Is this the best crime writer in the world today?’ – The Times

‘Jónasson is an automatic must-read for me . . . possibly the best Scandi writer working today’ – Lee Child

‘A master of the Icelandic thriller’ – New York Post
The real-life ‘village at the edge of the world’ behind *The Girl Who Died* by Ragnar Jónasson

“...A teacher moves from Reykjavik to a small village in Iceland, as far away from Reykjavik as the road takes you. My first task was to find the right location: the lost village of Skálar.

In real life, Skálar was a fishing village as of the early twentieth century, but it was deserted mid-century. For the purposes of the novel, I imagined people were still living there in 1985. At its height, there were over one hundred inhabitants, but when the lead character, Una, moves to the village in the book she finds out that it is a village of ten people.

A part of the plot was also loosely inspired by the most famous criminal case in Iceland. In 1974, two men disappeared without a trace, a case made famous by two recent books, *The Reykjavik Confessions* by Simon Cox and Anthony Adeane’s *Out of Thin Air*, as well as a Netflix documentary.

To this day, it is not known what happened to these two men, so I started imagining: what if someone knows the truth and is keeping it hidden, for some reason? I won’t go into any more detail, but needless to say, of course, my version is pure fabrication.”

About the Author

Ragnar Jónasson is an international No. 1 bestselling author who has sold over two million books in thirty-two countries worldwide. He was born in Reykjavík, Iceland, where he also works as an investment banker and teaches copyright law at Reykjavík University. He has previously worked on radio and television, including as a TV news reporter for the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service, and, from the age of seventeen, has translated fourteen of Agatha Christie’s novels. His critically acclaimed international bestseller *The Darkness* is soon to be a major TV series. (Photo by Bill Waters)

@ragnarjo  @ragnarjo
Can she find the murderer, before he finds her? A gripping, suspenseful and nail-biting new thriller from the author of *Alice Teale is Missing*.

Eriston is a small town. It’s the kind of place where everyone knows your name – and your secrets.

Rebecca hasn’t been back in years, but she grew up in the shadow of the dark local legend. There have always been deaths in Eriston – more than can easily be explained. People dying in their houses, behind locked doors.

Her father, Sean had always warned her of the dangers. *Don’t let him in.*

When Rebecca returns, she discovers that her father wasn’t willing to let the legend lie. He was on the verge of uncovering the town’s darkest truth.

He thought he was on the trail of a killer.

Sean knew too much. Now he’s dead. And Rebecca could be next . . .

Praise for Howard Linskey

‘One of the best writers around’ – Mark Billingham

‘Dark and creepy with intrigue galore’ – Mel Sherratt

‘This story will cause nightmares, it is that good’ – *Daily Mail*
Don’t Let Him In: an extract

“...I’m watching you.

I’ve been doing it for a while now.

You’re not big on security, are you? There’s no lock on your back-garden gate. Just a latch. I tried it once during the daytime when there was no one around and it made a grating noise when two pieces of old metal scraped together, so I came back and oiled that for you. Now I can let myself in whenever I want without making a sound.

Your house is like most of the others in this town. Quite small and old, but the garden is perfect; it’s long and not overlooked by any neighbours, providing you and me with all the privacy we need.

Do you know I am here? That’s not possible but I catch myself smiling at the notion. I know you’re careless with the back door. It’s probably unlocked now and I wonder what you would do if I came in?

Would you scream?
Would your heart stop?
Would you want me?

There’s somewhere I have to be right now. I’ll be back soon, though. I feel as if I truly know you now and I’ve made up my mind.

You’re special.
You’re the one.
You’re next.”

About the Author

Howard Linskey is the author of a series of crime novels set in the north-east, featuring detective Ian Bradshaw and journalists Tom Carney and Helen Norton. Most recently, he has written standalone thrillers including Alice Teale is Missing and Don’t Let Him In. Originally from Ferryhill in County Durham, Howard now lives in Hertfordshire with his wife and daughter. (Photo by Donna-Lisa Healy)

@HowardLinksey
Inspector Kosuke Iwata returns to Japan after ten years to confront the ghosts of his past, and catch a dangerous killer.

He is a completely unremarkable man. Who wears the same black suit every day. Boards the same train to work each morning. And arrives home to his wife and son each night. But he has a secret. He likes to kill people.

Exiled detective Kosuke Iwata is asked back to the neon-drenched streets of Tokyo. An English exchange student has been murdered, the Olympics are just days away and those high up want this case closed fast. But Kosuke Iwata is not a man to be hurried. What he doesn’t realize is that out there is a killer so apparently unremarkable he’s impossible to find . . .

‘Japan-set noir doesn’t get any darker or more twisted than this’ – Sunday Times Crime Club

‘Obregón is the most atmospheric of writers. A stunning achievement’ – Crime Time, Book of the Month
Mr Sato was winding through the narrow mountain roads, his car like a stray firefly in the darkness. By now it was a strain to contain his excitement. Spotting the familiar sequence of trees, he made the usual turning. Mr. Sato loved the slow, crackling, popping sound of his tires over the twigs and dead leaves. He parked in the usual dense grove and got out. With his keyring torch, he found the old path.

After a while the path gave on to a secluded lake. He squelched his way to the jetty. There he texted his wife to tell her he hoped he hadn’t woken her but that he was making good progress at the office. Then he lowered himself into the old boat.

The islet was about 400 metres away. There was nothing special about it to the eye, simply a patch of inaccessible trees in the middle of the lake. But Mr Sato knew what lay beyond.

On the other side, he saw what he had come for at last: a simple A-frame cabin, little more than two telephone boxes in size. The country air was strikingly fresh on his lips. Mr Sato licked them. Working the locks briskly, the chain fell to the grass. The soundproofed door opened. From the darkness, a woman screamed.

About the Author

British born of a Spanish father and a French mother, Nicolás Obregón grew up between London and Madrid. As a travel writer, Nicolás has had an extensive experience of Japan, but the beginning of his fascination with the country came from watching Japanese cartoons as a young boy. Nicolás Obregón is a graduate of the acclaimed Birkbeck Creative Writing Masters course and a former bookseller for Waterstones. His first novel was Blue Light Yokohama. He lives in Los Angeles. (Photo by Bill Waters)

@NicObregon
The last person you need to protect your daughter from is her closest friend... isn’t it? A gripping new psychological thriller from the bestselling author of *Girl Unknown*.

Abi Holland considers herself lucky.

She’s happily married, and her oldest daughter, Eva, is all set for a place at a top university.

She just can’t help but worry about Beth.

So when foreign exchange student Corinne comes to stay, it’s a relief her lonely younger daughter finally has someone to talk to.

It’s only when Beth starts to misbehave that Abi begins to wonder how much they really know about their guest.

Because the Holland family have lots of secrets, and Corinne is quietly listening to them all.

And once they come out, there’s no going back...

**Praise for Karen Perry**

‘Slick, engrossing, twisted and addictive. Domestic crime drama at its best’ – Jo Spain

‘Truly remarkable... Grips your heart from the first pages and simply never lets go’ – Jeffery Deaver

‘Full of intrigue and incident and keeps us guessing until the very last page’ – Liz Nugent
Where shadows fall: how (and where) I wrote *Stranger* by Karen Perry

I began writing *Stranger* in 2019. My husband was on sabbatical, and so, with our two young daughters and our dog, we decamped to a fifteenth-century house on the banks of the Gartempe River, in the heart of western France. The house had oak beams and sloping floors, a cherrywood staircase rising up through the middle. My desk overlooked a millpond, the occasional lizard emerging to peer in through the window. It was idyllic.

Neighbours welcomed us into their homes. Our children made friends at school. And yet, the sense of being an outsider never quite left me. The silence that fell whenever we entered the tabac; long looks from the woman behind the counter – I couldn’t shake the feeling that we were strangers.

I recalled a summer I had spent in France, aged fifteen, on a school exchange programme: the same yearning to immerse myself while fighting the niggling sense that I didn’t belong. The notion of being transplanted to a different country, a different family: there’s a recklessness to it that I am attracted to as a writer. The risks involved, particularly if the one being transplanted is somehow damaged; dangerous.

From my desk in France, I watched the seasons change, the hills turning tawny, ice forming on the millpond. And I wrote a story of two families – one Irish, one French – linked by a friendship between their teenage girls. A friendship that becomes deadly. Because even in the most idyllic places, shadows fall, and evil can bloom.

About the Author

Karen Perry is the Sunday Times bestselling author of *Your Closest Friend, Can You Keep a Secret?, Girl Unknown, Only We Know* and *The Boy That Never Was*, which was selected for the Simon Mayo Radio 2 Book Club. She lives in Dublin with her family. (Photo by Bill Waters)
The discovery of a girl abandoned by the side of the road threatens to unearth the long-buried secrets of a Texas town’s legendary cold case, in this new nail-biting thriller from the Sunday Times bestselling author of Black-Eyed Susans.

Ten years ago Trumanell Branson disappeared.

Her brother, Wyatt, lives as a pariah, cleared of any involvement but tried and sentenced in the court of public opinion.

So when he finds a lost girl he believes she is a sign, someone to lead him to his sister and finally clear his name.

Instead she leads him to young police officer Odette Tucker. She knows they must tread carefully - the town, still waiting for its missing girl to come home, is a tinderbox and this new arrival might just set it alight.

‘Gracefully written, with characters that leap off the page and into your imagination, this takes your breath away with its sudden twists’ – Daily Mail

‘A gripping, richly-layered exploration of haunted souls in a haunted place’ – Lou Berney

‘Julia Heaberlin holds you spellbound all the way to the emotional and devastating conclusion’ – Lesley Kara
Challenging perceptions of beauty through fiction
by Julia Heaberlin

“What is the ideal of human beauty? The road map to physical strength? What is a sexy body?

My own conceptions were blown apart after I entered the fascinating world of prosthetics to research my new thriller, We Are All the Same in the Dark.

I met with young women who lost eyes to a fireworks accident, a ping-pong ball that shot out of nowhere, and a twist of genetics.

My two ferocious heroines — Odette, missing a leg, and Angel, missing an eye — were born out of these conversations. Like these real-life women, they are emboldened, not defined, by what they are missing. If I hit the mark in this novel, your eye is on their souls.

These characters are different from my others and also exactly the same, human beings in a battle to be more whole. There was no specific way for these characters to feel, no single way to be — that was my biggest misconception about wearing a prosthesis. A prosthesis is about augmentation and power, illusion and survival. There is nothing more beautiful.

A missing body part or a jagged scar is simply part of the architecture of a human story. Do not look away.”

About the Author

Julia Heaberlin is an award-winning journalist. She has also edited numerous real-life thriller stories, including a series on the perplexing and tragic murders of girls buried in the Mexican desert and another on domestic violence. She lives with her husband and son in Texas. Her previous novel, Black-Eyed Susans, was a Sunday Times No. 2 bestseller and a Simon Mayo Radio 2 Book Club selection as well as Waterstones Thriller of the Month.

@juliathrillers  @juliaheaberlin
A twisty, shocking and addictive debut about a desperate mother and a terrible lie which spirals out of control.

Naomi always wanted to be a mother.

But three years ago, her husband left, taking their child with him.

Now, her daughter has come to stay, and Naomi knows it’s her one chance to rebuild her family. But the night ends in a terrible accident. And Naomi tells a lie she can never take back:

Naomi reports her daughter missing.

Within hours, her home is invaded. Journalists crowd the driveway. Police search the woods at the foot of the garden. Her ex-husband paces the hall.

And Naomi can’t look away. Because the only thing worse than the lie she’s told is the truth:

Naomi has no memory of what really happened that night . . .

‘Superb. Assured, elegant and utterly gripping’ – Will Dean

‘So compelling that I read it in a single sitting’ – Allie Reynolds

‘Brilliantly written . . . I felt every single emotion’ – Sarah Pearse
Reader or accomplice?
by Lia Middleton

“Like most avid readers of crime fiction and thrillers, I have read numerous fantastic novels about missing children. And I’d always thought that a parent having lied about their child being missing could be a brilliant twist. But as I thought more about the thriller I wanted to write, I wondered: what if, rather than the lie being the final twist, the reader is privy to the lie from the very beginning?

I think we have all experienced the feeling of a lie, even a white lie, becoming impossible to retreat from. And that is from where I hope the tension in When They Find Her radiates: not from the reader trying to discover what has happened, but in the reader knowing what has happened all along, and wondering if and when the lie will be uncovered . . .

Making the reader an accomplice to Naomi’s lie also allowed me to explore post-natal anxiety and mental health, giving the reader a growing insight into Naomi’s delicate psyche. As a mother of two, I experienced difficulties in early motherhood, and I wanted to write a novel that gave a voice to the hardships and fears which are felt by so many women, while also delivering as a twisty edge-of-your-seat thriller.”

About the Author
Lia Middleton is a barrister who specializes in criminal law and offender management, and lives with her husband and two young children in Buckinghamshire. When They Find Her is her first novel. (Photo by Lily Barnes Photography)
An exhilarating novel about a family’s devastating accident and the tangle of secrets and lies it reveals . . .

The holidays are here. The extended family has gathered. The cars are packed and the convoy sets off.

The cottage is a few hours’ drive – but not everyone will live to see it . . .

For Jill, her three sons, their wives and children, a terrifying road crash will tear apart their family. The crash will be an accident but the shattering that follows has been long coming.

Because at the heart of this family lies a secret – concealed, wrestled with, festering and harmful – and nothing now can stop it coming out. But will any of them survive it?

Praise for Nicola Moriarty

‘Dramatic, mysterious and compelling’ – Vogue

‘Kept me guessing to the end’ – The Sun

‘Expect dark themes and plot twists a-plenty’ – Red
You Need to Know: an extract

“She had learned from a young age that it’s never like it is in the movies. In a film, if something dramatic happens, the music will tell you how to feel. It changes the whole feel of it. You start to imagine that a terrible accident could be an exciting event.

In real life, it doesn’t work that way.

The first thing Mimi noticed was the silence. Her eyes were drawn to the table in the centre. A mother and father standing either side of their daughter.

The mother was falling apart. She didn’t know how to help her daughter, who couldn’t breathe and was turning redder by the second. And maybe without even realizing it, she’d begun to scream. That scream was the most sickening noise Mimi had ever heard in her life.

Mimi never found out whether that girl was okay, but she did think about it a lot. She heard the sound of the mother’s cries and sometimes tears would sting her eyes and she didn’t really understand why.

Thirty years had gone by since that night. So why was she thinking about that woman right now?

It was because of the accident on the freeway.

It was just like when that girl was choking in the restaurant. There was an eerie silence. Then, a woman’s tortured screams.

She sounded just like the mother in the restaurant and Mimi was thinking: No. Not this again. No, no, no.

But then she realized. The person who’s screaming is me.”

About the Author

Nicola Moriarty is a novelist, copywriter and mum to two small (but remarkably strong-willed) daughters. In between various career changes, becoming a mum and studying at university, she began to write. Now, she can’t seem to stop. The Fifth Letter was her UK debut novel, followed by Those Other Women and The Ex-Girlfriend.

@NikkiM3
The fate of Britain rests on one unlikely spy in this rich, atmospheric Second World War thriller, from the award-winning author of *Moskva* and *Nightfall Berlin*.

**An unlikely spy.**
July 1940. As Britain braces itself for invasion, ex-Tommy and safecracker Bill O’Hagan is glad to have escaped the battlefield. But when a job goes wrong, he finds himself forced to serve his country once more.

**A former king.**
Spurned by his government and fearing for his life, the Duke of Windsor flees to Portugal with the woman for whom he abdicated the throne, Wallis Simpson. As a web of Nazi trickery threatens to ensnare him, his fate and the fate of Britain rest on one man.

**The fate of a nation in their hands.**
Dropped on an occupied Channel Island without back-up, Bill must crack an enemy safe and get its contents to safety. Failure will devastate any hope Britain has of winning the war.

But with the layers of deception and intrigue drawing ever more tightly around them, Bill and the Duke both learn they aren’t the only players in this game. And Berlin - which has the Duke in its own sights – is plotting its greatest move yet . . .

**Praise for Jack Grimwood**

‘The new le Carré . . . if you love thrillers, Jack Grimwood is a name you need to remember’ – *The Sara Cox Show*, BBC Radio 2

‘Grimwood is a damned fine writer’ – *Independent*

‘A fine book . . . for those who enjoy vintage Le Carré’ – Ian Rankin
Weaving fact into fiction
by Jack Grimwood

“The Secretary of State for Culture recently wanted a ‘Not Actually History’ banner for Netflix’s *The Crown*.

Given that my new novel *Island Reich* riffs off the less salutary aspects of the Duke of Windsor’s character, and asks questions about his political loyalties, I’m expecting it to slapped with a government health warning.

(It’s not quite Channel 4’s *The Great*, though. Write down the bullet points of Catherine the Great’s life, read through them, tear them up and write a script from what you remember . . .)

But it definitely mixes the Duke of Windsor, Goering, Wallis Simpson, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Ian Fleming with fictional spies, refugees, assassins and thieves; seeds the plot with real, paraphrased or invented letters and memos; and then weaves the life of an entirely fictional Special Operations conman and spy through the middle of it.

There’s something unnerving but addictive about introducing fictional characters to real ones, tying together unlikely historical facts, and inventing motives where the real motives are unknown, redacted or forgotten.

In part it’s the excitement of treating real figures as fictional and made-up ones as real. The trick, and I hope I’ve pulled it off, is to make the final result believable, while blurring the boundary where fact ends and fiction begins, to the point where readers begin wondering which is which.

---

About the Author

Jack Grimwood, a.k.a. Jon Courtenay Grimwood, was born in Malta and christened in the upturned bell of a ship. He grew up in the Far East, Britain and Scandinavia. He’s written for national newspapers, is two-times winner of the BSFA Award for Best Novel, and was shortlisted for Le Prix Montesquieu 2015. His work has been translated into numerous languages. He is married to the journalist and novelist Sam Baker. *Island Reich* is his third thriller. (Photo by Lou+Abercrombie)

@JonCG
A gripping thriller that asks a stunning question: what if the man you’re trying to stop is the one who’s trying to save the world?

**America’s most wanted man. The world’s only hope?**

For months, the FBI have been on the hunt for a terrorist who seems invincible. The death toll is rising, yet somehow the killer, known only as the ‘Green Man’, has avoided leaving a single clue.

This is no ordinary villain. Each attack is carefully planned to destroy a target that threatens the environment. Each time, the protest movement that supports the Green Man grows ever larger.

Tom Smith is a young computer programmer with the FBI, trying to escape his father’s domineering shadow. An expert in pattern recognition, Tom believes he’s spotted something everyone else has missed.

At long last, Tom makes a breakthrough. But as he closes in on America’s most dangerous man, he’s forced to ask himself one question: what if the man you’re trying to stop is the one who’s trying to save the world?

‘Terrific. The plotting is impeccable’
– *Sunday Times*, Thriller of the Month

‘A provocative, important and very thrilling novel. I loved it’
– James Patterson

‘A gripping, complex and heart-wrenching story. Klass can weave a tale like few others’ – David Baldacci
How my daughter’s climate activism inspired Out of Time
by David Klass

In August of 2019 my teenage daughter was going to a climate change rally at the UN and I tagged along. There were less than a hundred of them and they looked impossibly young – some were only twelve or thirteen. The message that I heard was that we had screwed things up for our children and they were calling us on it. This accusation of betrayal was expressed by different young protestors in very different ways, from anger to fear to disappointment, but it was really the same message: ‘How could you do this to us?’

I didn’t have the power to intervene to make a difference, but what if there was a brilliant engineer who believed we were almost out of time and took it upon himself to warn the world?

What if he was having a significant effect but at the same time harming innocent people? And what if the only law enforcement agent who could possibly catch him was young and deeply conflicted because he was also convinced that time was indeed running out for the earth?

All during the writing of the book I felt the power of that central underlying moral dilemma dictating the unfolding action: what if the only way to save the world requires breaking laws that should never be broken?

About the Author

David Klass is the author of many critically acclaimed young adult novels and has also written more than forty feature screenplays for the Hollywood studios including Kiss the Girls (adapted from the novel by James Patterson). He has also written for Law and Order: Criminal Intent and currently runs the TV Writing concentration at Columbia University’s Film School. Out of Time was inspired by conversations with his teenage daughter about climate change.
That Night
Gillian McAllister

The gripping new psychological thriller from the Sunday Times bestselling author which asks the ultimate question: How far should you go to protect those you love?

What would you do to protect your family?
Anything.

During a family holiday abroad, you get an urgent call from your sister one night.

There’s been an accident: her car hit a man and he’s dead.

She’s overcome with terror – fearing years in a foreign jail away from her child.

She asks for your help. It wasn’t her fault, not really. She’d cover for you so will you do the same for her?

But when the police come calling the lies start. And you each begin to doubt your trust in one another.

What really happened that night?
Who is lying to you?
Will you be the first to crack?

‘Beautifully written and incredibly gripping, it gave me genuine shivers. The dynamic between the three siblings in this book is just masterfully done’ – Beth O’Leary

‘So slippery, you will struggle to catch your breath. With That Night, Gillian McAllister has secured her throne as the queen of the moral dilemma’ – Holly Seddon
Are you capable of murder?
by Gillian McAllister

Q 1. Describe your personality?
   a. Shy
   b. Caring
   c. Ambitious

Q 2. Are you ever prone to temper flares?
   a. Never
   b. Only on family holidays
   c. Often

Q 3. In which of the following situations are you capable of murder?
   a. To help out my family
   b. If it was an accident
   c. To keep a secret

Q 4. Your holiday hire car has a dent in the side. How do you throw the hire car company off the scent?
   a. I don’t – I’d come clean and deal with the consequences
   b. I’d perform a bodged repair job
   c. I’d crash it into the hire car place so they won’t ask how I did it

Q 5. If you know your sibling did something wrong, would you . . .
   a. Keep their secrets
   b. Hand them in
   c. Kill for them

Mostly As: You’re Cathy! You’re calm, intellectual and loyal. You’d absolutely bury a body for your sibling.

Mostly Bs: You’re Frannie! You’re vivacious, kind and caring. You might not bury a body for your siblings, but you’d expect them to do it for you . . .

Mostly Cs: You’re Joe! You’re angsty, prone to temper, but smart enough to cover up a murder . . .

About the Author

Gillian McAllister has been writing for as long as she can remember. She graduated with an English degree before working as a lawyer. She lives in Birmingham, where she now writes full time. She is the Sunday Times bestselling author of Everything but the Truth, Anything You Do Say, No Further Questions, The Evidence Against You and How To Disappear. (Photo by Bill Waters)

@GillianMAuthor
I Am Pilgrim meets Minority Report – a gripping international cat-and-mouse thriller with an ending you won’t see coming.

Around the world, people have been murdered. The victims fit no profile, the circumstances vary wildly, but one thing links them all: in every case the victim is branded with a number.

With police around the globe floundering, CIA analyst Quinn Mitchell is called in to investigate.

No-one is better than Quinn at finding patterns, and it’s not long before she’s on the killer’s tail.

As she races against time to find out who the killer is, she is prepared to catch this ice-hearted assassin with limitless resources.

What she isn’t prepared for is the person pulling the strings . . .
A Q&A with Christian Cantrell

What inspired you to write *Scorpion*, and the original short story it’s based on, ‘The Epoch Index’?
I usually have a few concepts in my head at any given time that interest me, and this was the result of three ideas that I thought were especially compelling:

1. Nine-to-five spies, or people in the Washington D.C. area who work in the high-stakes world of intelligence during the day, then go home to their families at night.

2. Someone being so rich that, instead of owning multiple homes all over the world, they don’t bother owning much of anything at all, instead preferring to think of the entire world as their home.

3. And finally, the idea that people don’t change as much as they develop.

How was the process of expanding *Scorpion* into a novel?
I was nervous about the process initially because I felt like ‘The Epoch Index’ was fairly complete. But starting from the core of a solid short story turned out to be a surprisingly productive framework. My favourite thing about expanding the story into a novel was writing Part Three. The short story ends with a huge twist, and the first thing everyone always asked me after reading it was ‘What happens next?’ *Scorpion* answers that question, but not in a way that I think anyone was expecting.

About the Author

**Christian Cantrell** is a software engineer living outside of Washington, D.C. His self-published fiction has sold more than a quarter of a million copies, and three of his stories have been optioned for film or TV. Beyond his writing, he leads a team of designers and engineers who prototype the future of creativity at Adobe.

@cantrell
A pacy thriller with a supernatural twist, for fans of Lisbeth Salander and *Killing Eve*.

Sara Eden is not like other agents.

All her life, she’s been running – from the men who’ve hunted her, and from the memories that haunt her.

But the time for running is over. To right the wrongs of her past, she must act.

Sara’s abilities defy all logic and reason. With her help, MI5 have an asset unlike any other. But to keep her safe, they must keep her hidden. In the wrong hands, their greatest advantage could be an enemy’s greatest weapon . . .

Sara is determined to save as many innocent lives as possible. But as her past, present and future collide, she faces an impossible choice. Save herself? Or risk everything to protect the future as we know it . . .

Praise for Anthony Mosawi

‘Mosawi blasts Sara Eden into the pantheon of contemporary thriller stars’ – Gregg Hurwitz

‘Will have you guessing till the very last page. Explosively exciting’ – Tom Marcus
As the granddaughter of Helen Duncan, the protagonist of *In Harm’s Way* carries a distinct heritage. Duncan was the last woman to be tried in Great Britain under the Witchcraft Act of 1735.

When Germany entered the Second World War, the Nazis recruited psychics to assist against the Allies. Alarmed by this development, British Intelligence responded by enlisting their own: stage performers, gypsies and mystics. One of those enlisted was Helen Duncan, who earned her living as a medium.

In 1941, Duncan held a séance in Portsmouth. Those present claimed that a dead sailor from *HMS Bolham* appeared; *HMS Bolham* had been destroyed weeks earlier by the German Navy. The War Office, wanting to allay public concern, had denied it had sunk. The government was furious with Duncan for what they saw as a breach of an official secret. It ordered Lieutenant Commander Fleming (future author of James Bond) to arrest her.

Ever the master strategist, this gave Fleming an idea. Through double agents, he fed information to Germany that a group of persecuted psychics within Britain were sympathetic to the Nazis. By leaking a location where the psychics would be, Fleming lured Rudolph Hess, the strongest proponent of paranormal activity in the Nazi party, on a solo flight to Scotland, where he was captured. British Intelligence then spread a rumour that Hess’ flight was in fact something quite different: a defection by the Nazi to the Allied side.

Believing the rumour, the Gestapo rounded up all the occultists, psychics and astrologers they’d previously employed and sent them to the camps. Within a few years the influence of the psychics on both the English and German governments was gone. The era of the psychics was over.

And this is where my novel begins . . .

"The witch trial of the Second World War
by Anthony Mosawi"

As the granddaughter of Helen Duncan, the protagonist of *In Harm’s Way* carries a distinct heritage. Duncan was the last woman to be tried in Great Britain under the Witchcraft Act of 1735.

When Germany entered the Second World War, the Nazis recruited psychics to assist against the Allies. Alarmed by this development, British Intelligence responded by enlisting their own: stage performers, gypsies and mystics. One of those enlisted was Helen Duncan, who earned her living as a medium.

In 1941, Duncan held a séance in Portsmouth. Those present claimed that a dead sailor from *HMS Bolham* appeared; *HMS Bolham* had been destroyed weeks earlier by the German Navy. The War Office, wanting to allay public concern, had denied it had sunk. The government was furious with Duncan for what they saw as a breach of an official secret. It ordered Lieutenant Commander Fleming (future author of James Bond) to arrest her.

Ever the master strategist, this gave Fleming an idea. Through double agents, he fed information to Germany that a group of persecuted psychics within Britain were sympathetic to the Nazis. By leaking a location where the psychics would be, Fleming lured Rudolph Hess, the strongest proponent of paranormal activity in the Nazi party, on a solo flight to Scotland, where he was captured. British Intelligence then spread a rumour that Hess’ flight was in fact something quite different: a defection by the Nazi to the Allied side.

Believing the rumour, the Gestapo rounded up all the occultists, psychics and astrologers they’d previously employed and sent them to the camps. Within a few years the influence of the psychics on both the English and German governments was gone. The era of the psychics was over.

And this is where my novel begins . . .

**About the Author**

**Anthony Mosawi** moved from London to California to join Paramount Pictures as an executive. He was on the Paramount lot for eight years before launching his own film financing company. He is married with a son and splits his time between LA and London. *Trust No One* was his first novel.
As gripping as your favourite box-set, *Damage* is a compulsive and conversation-starting drama from an extraordinary new writer.

**Tony** has always looked out for his younger brother, Nick. So when Nick is badly hurt and it looks like he was the victim of sexual assault, Tony’s anger flares.

**Julia** is alarmed by her husband Tony’s obsession with Nick’s case. She’s always known Tony has a temper. But does she really know what he’s capable of?

**Nick** went out for a drink. After that, everything’s a blank. When he woke up he found himself in a world of confusion and pain, and the man who hurt him doesn’t deny doing it. But he says the whole thing was consensual.

Three ordinary people; one life-shattering event. And when the police get involved with this family in crisis, all the cracks will start to show . . .
Families in crisis: the inspiration for *Damage*  
by Caitlin Wahrer

> When I started writing *Damage*, I was working as a lawyer at a small firm in southern Maine. A lot of my work was in juvenile defense, which is lawyer-speak for representing kids charged with crimes. As much as judges and lawyers have to sort out precisely what happened during the alleged crime itself, in juvenile cases, the client’s behaviour after the event can have an immense impact on how the case turns out. Often, this is hugely influenced by how the client’s family functions in the wake of the event.

I am fascinated by the fall-out that happens after a crime is committed – how a single act can impact many people, especially the families of those involved. I have seen parents struggle with whether to trust or believe their own children; I have seen parents I could not help but blame for their child’s situation. I have seen families knit themselves together, and others crumble. Writing *Damage* was a way for me to process the work I was doing and the myriad feelings I had about it.

To push myself further, I wanted to explore how the system might look to someone on the other side of a criminal case: the survivor. And so *Damage* was born: a drama that takes one single act of violence against a young man and shows how its shockwaves reverberate through one seemingly ordinary family, with devastating consequences.

---

About the Author

Born to two hippies in a small town in Maine, **Caitlin Wahrer** left the state for college but returned to attend law school and practise law, where she worked on cases involving some of the broad issues she writes about in *Damage*. She lives in southern Maine with her husband. *Damage* is her debut novel. (Photo by Justine Johnson Photography)

@CaitlinWahrer
The masterfully crafted new crime thriller, featuring haunted army veteran and Detective Constable Joseph Stark.

Julian Sinclair is a serial killer – charming, manipulative, deadly. He hunted girls for sport, and it’s high time justice was served.

But when Sinclair’s conviction is thrown out in court, DC Joseph Stark and DS Fran Millhaven find themselves forced to protect the man they’re sure is guilty from those who would see him pay in blood.

Then another girl dies. And Sinclair can’t have killed her from his hospital bed.

Is a killer lurking inside someone they never suspected?

And have they had the wrong man all along?

Praise for Matthew Frank

‘A gripping murder story’
– Sunday Times

‘Stark is such a terrific hero . . . The writing is top-notch’
– Sarah Hilary

‘Outstanding characterisation, passion, perfect dialogue and pinpoint plotting’ – Crime Review
A reluctant hero
by Matthew Frank

“Joe Stark began, as so many of my characters seem to, in dialogue – an imagined confrontation between a young infantryman scarred by desert warfare and a homeless Falklands veteran, and in where two such men’s experience and outlook might overlap or contrast.

Britain’s increasing use of reservists in post 9/11 warfare left me thinking about those willing to step from safe jobs and lives into harm’s way, and in the nature of service and the covenant it invokes between those that do and those that are served. As Stark took shape in my head as a Territorial Army volunteer it was obvious to me that his day job would be with the police. His eyes, along with those forced into his orbit, could be an intriguing prism though which to explore crime stories, while the dark backdrop of murder investigations would be the ideal place to test his moral compass, capabilities, thinking, hopes and fears.

Thus, I became a crime writer.

Stark’s choice to don both blue and green uniforms demonstrates his drive to serve whilst placing him outside much of life looking in. A reluctant hero, scarred by war, he struggles with what it costs to place duty before desire, and character before flaw. Yet, worn to breaking, he draws his own lines in the bloody sand to hold fast, or fall trying.”

About the Author

Matthew Frank lives in Kent with his wife and three young sons. Between family life and work as an architect he tries to squeeze in a bit of mountain biking, scuba diving and midnight writing.

@M_Frank_Author
Some lessons can be deadly . . . A stunningly original new thriller from the runaway bestselling author of My Lovely Wife.

Teddy Crutcher has just won Teacher of the Year at the prestigious Belmont Academy, home exclusively to the brightest and the best.

He says his wife couldn’t be more proud – though no one has seen her in a while.

He’s deeply committed to improving his students. And well aware which ones need improving.

And all he wants is for his colleagues – and the endlessly interfering parents – to stay out of his way.

Oddly, not everyone agrees that Teddy has their best interests at heart.

But will that change when someone receives a lesson to die for . . . ?

‘Dark, sly and delicious . . . Totally original – and totally compelling’ – JP Delaney

‘A wonderfully dark, twisty and compelling thriller set in a prestigious private school. I raced through it, desperate to know how it would end’ – B. A. Paris
About the Author

Samantha Downing was born in the Bay Area, and currently lives in New Orleans, where she is furiously typing away on her next psychological thriller. Her debut novel, My Lovely Wife, was a Richard and Judy Book Club pick and a Sunday Times bestseller, and has been published in thirty languages. (Photo by Jacqueline Dallimore)

Samantha Downing in figures

Nearly **500,000** copies sold in the UK

Published in **30** languages

Shortlisted for **4** major awards –

The CWA John Creasey Dagger
The Edgar Award for Best First Novel
The ITW Thriller Award for Best First Novel
The Macavity Award for Best First Mystery

And winner of the Dead Good Reader Awards

Beginning her career with **2** Sunday Times bestsellers

**1** forthcoming film adaptation of My Lovely Wife, produced by Nicole Kidman

No-one writes thrillers like Samantha Downing
A thrilling novel based on the true story of Belle Gunness, America's first – and most notorious – female serial killer, thought to have murdered more than forty men.

Bella Sorensen loves men. She loves them to death . . .

Early in life Bella Sorensen discovers the world is made only for men. They own everything: jobs, property, wives. But Bella understands what few others do: where women are concerned, men are weak.

A woman unhampered by scruples can take from them what she wants. And so Bella sets out to prove to the world that a woman can be just as ruthless, black-hearted and single-minded as any man.

Starting with her long-suffering husband Mads, Bella embarks on a killing spree the like of which has never been seen before nor since.

And through it all her kind, older sister Nellie can only watch in horror as Bella’s schemes to enrich herself and cut down the male population come to a glorious, dreadful fruition . . .

Based on the true story of Belle Gunness whose murderous rampage began in Chicago in 1900, *Triflers Need Not Apply* explores one woman’s determination to pay men back for all they have taken.

‘A chilling, pitch-perfect novel that should finally make Belle Gunness a household name. Unforgettable’ – *New York Times* bestseller Deanna Raybourn

‘Bruce uses a framework of fact to create fiction that horrifies’ – *Booklist*
To catch a murderess
by Camilla Bruce

I don’t remember when I first heard about Belle – probably through a lurid book or magazine article. She existed in my mind as a vaguely Victorian, cleaver-wielding shadow who fed her victims’ body parts to pigs. Some said she killed fourteen people, others forty. From 1908, as bodies were found in her basement, the discoveries made headlines and attracted thousands of onlookers who came to watch the police dig. The visitors could buy refreshments and souvenir postcards with pictures of the deceased in their putrefied state. One vendor sold pink ice cream and cake next to an open grave.

A long-winded trial was set in motion; its first task was to determine if Belle was dead or alive. Her dentist came forward, describing the bridge of teeth he made for her, which had not been found in the basement. An old gold miner, Louis Schultz, was hired to sift through the ashes to look for them. Weeks later his search was successful. Mr Schultz did not testify at the trial; he disappeared without a trace shortly after the find.

Reports of sightings of Belle kept pouring in from all over the United States. In 2008, Belle’s cemetery plot in Chicago was opened in an attempt to determine once and for all if Belle died in the fire. The female remains in the grave were tested, but the results were inconclusive. The mystery of Belle Gunness’ fate has until this day not been solved.

About the Author

Camilla Bruce was born in central Norway and grew up in an old forest, next to an Iron Age burial mound. Camilla currently lives in Trondheim with her son and cat. Triflers Need Not Apply is her first foray into historical fiction.

@millacream camillabruce_writing
A new emotionally dark and unsettling read from the Sunday Times bestseller.

An inherited cottage. A body buried in the garden. And a secret spanning three generations.

When Saffy’s beloved grandmother, Rose, goes into a care home, Saffy learns that she has inherited her Cotswolds cottage.

But as work begins on much-needed renovations, the body of a young woman is uncovered in the garden.

Who is she? During Rose’s more lucid moments, she reveals snippets of information that Saffy pieces together.

And then another body is discovered.

As she delves into Rose’s past, Saffy uncovers dark secrets, calling into question everything she thought she knew about her family.

Praise for Claire Douglas

‘Few people do psychological thrillers as claustrophobic and as creepy as Claire Douglas’ – Tim Weaver

‘Thrillingly tense and twisty’ – B. A. Paris

‘Deliciously spooky’ – Jane Corry
The inspiration behind 10 Skelton Place
by Claire Douglas

“As a journalist, I covered a local news story about a young couple who were renovating their idyllic cottage in Winchester when they discovered a skeleton in the foundations. The police investigated, but it turned out that the bones dated back to Roman times. When I was thinking about the plot for my new psychological thriller I remembered this young couple and it sparked the idea for 10 Skelton Place. However, I wanted to take it further – what if the remains were much more recent?

I decided to write about three generations of women from the same family, and the secrets this discovery would uncover. The main protagonist, Saffy, inherits the cottage from her grandmother, Rose, when she has to go into a care home. Whilst Saffy and her boyfriend are renovating the cottage, builders discover two bodies, which police date back to the time when Rose lived there. Saffy’s quest to find out what really happened is hampered by Rose’s dementia, and she has to weave her way through her grandmother’s jumbled-up memories to discover the terrible truth.

I was further inspired by real-life ‘house of horror’ crimes, like 25 Cromwell Street and White House Farm. I wanted to explore the story behind the headline, and how discovering the bodies impacts Saffy’s life and her relationship with her mother, Lorna – who had only been three years old when the crimes took place – and Rose, who she adores. The dementia side of the storyline was based on my own grandmother who suffered from the disease, and the toll and heartbreak that brings to a family. It’s also about memory – not only Rose’s but her daughter, Lorna’s, who has repressed the crimes that occurred at 10 Skelton Place all those years ago.”

About the Author
Claire Douglas has worked as a journalist for fifteen years, writing features for women’s magazines and national newspapers, but she’s dreamed of being a novelist since the age of seven. She finally got her wish after winning the Marie Claire Debut Novel Award, with her first novel, The Sisters, which was followed by Local Girl Missing, Last Seen Alive and Do Not Disturb, all Sunday Times bestsellers. She lives in Bath with her husband and two children. (Photo by Ferla Paolo Photography)

@Dougieclaire
A spine-chilling ghost story with a thrilling mystery at its heart, set on a wild island off the coast of Scotland.

Alone in the world, Elspeth takes the position of nanny to a family on the remote Scottish island of Skelthsea.

Her charge is a strange child. Distracted and secretive, Mary hasn’t uttered a word since the sudden death of her twin, William – just days after their former nanny disappeared.

Elspeth’s questions are met with silence.

No one will speak of William.

Just as no one can explain the lullabies sung in empty corridors, or the whistling that comes in the night . . .

With winter closing in, passage off the island turns treacherous – and Elspeth finds herself trapped.

But is this house haunted by the ghosts of the past? Or the secrets of the living . . .?
What inspired you to write *The Whistling*? I wanted to write something evocative and genuinely chilling. I've always loved ghost stories, and have been inspired by novels such as *The Woman in Black* and *The Silent Companions*.

Tell us about the setting... *The Whistling* is set on the remote Scottish island of Skelthsea, for which I drew on my travels around the Scottish islands. It's a place of wild beauty and fierce storms.

Who's your favourite character from the book? Elspeth is my favourite character. Although devastated by grief, she puts her suffering aside and finds the courage to protect Mary, the girl she's come to nanny, by unravelling the dark mystery at the heart of the novel.

Do you believe in ghosts? I had a supernatural experience involving my great-grandmother, Violet Evangeline O' Donoghue, who was a writer herself – which is why I was compelled to name one of the main characters in *The Whistling* after her.

Describe *The Whistling* in three words... Twisty, atmospheric, haunting.

When will the book be ready to read? Proofs are out in April this year.

---

About the Author

**Rebecca Netley** grew up as part of an eccentric family in a house full of books and music and these things have fed her passions. Family and writing remain at the heart of Rebecca’s life. She lives in the UK with her husband, sons and an over-enthusiastic dog, who gives her writing tips.
William Wisting receives a chilling letter which suggests a murderer from twenty years ago is still on the loose, and could kill again . . .

One evening in 1999, seventeen-year-old Tone Vaterland was killed on her way home from work. Desperate for a conviction the police deemed the investigation an open-and-shut case and sent her spurned boyfriend, Danny Momrak, down for murder.

But twenty years later William Wisting receives a puzzling letter. It suggests the wrong man was convicted for Tone’s death and the real murderer is still out there.

Wisting is quickly thrown into a terrifying race against time where he must find the sender, decipher this mysterious letter and catch the real killer before they strike again.

Praise for Jørn Lier Horst

‘Jørn Lier Horst writes some of the best Scandinavian crime fiction available’ – Yrsa Sigurðardóttir

‘Relentlessly exciting . . . creates a sense of real menace’ – The Times
Wisting took a few steps to one side, assessing the distances and working out the position of the body. From what he could remember, it must be around the same spot as where Antonia Kleiser was found. She had been sprawled on the bedroom floor, immediately in front of the door, and a row of fitted wardrobes had lined one wall.

‘Whoever put her there must have walked through the fire-damaged part of the house,’ he said, turning to face Maren Dokken. ‘You should get hold of her husband’s footwear. Examine his shoes for soot and ash.’

Maren nodded as if she had already thought of that. ‘It will have little evidential value, though,’ she said. ‘When he reported her missing, he told us he had searched for her off his own bat. That included checking the Kleiser house.’

Nils Hammer spat on the ground and used his finger to clear his inside upper lip of snuff. ‘Slippery customer,’ he commented.

Wisting thrust his hands into his pockets as he watched the insects swarming around the floodlights.

Maren Dokken broke the sombre silence. ‘What about cause of death?’ she asked. ‘Can you say anything about that?’

The young technician shook his head. ‘That will have to wait for the post mortem.’

---

About the Author

Having worked as a police officer and head of investigations before becoming a full-time writer, Jørn Lier Horst has established himself as one of the most successful authors to come out of Scandinavia. His books have sold over two million copies in his native Norway alone and he’s published in twenty-six languages. The Wisting series, produced by the team behind Wallander and The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, was a hit BBC series in 2019. (Photo by Dag Nordsveen)

@lierhorst  @lierhorst
A thrilling novel of espionage and murder in the dark heart of Westminster, from the UK’s most exciting new spy writer.

A mole has infiltrated the highest levels of British security.

A Russian defector is found brutally murdered in a London hotel.

His trail leads back to the four most powerful figures in Whitehall.

A world-changing secret is about to be revealed.

Four suspects. One codename.

PHOENIX.

Praise for Matthew Richardson

‘Proof that the spy genre is flourishing in the 21st century’ – Guardian

‘Compelling, intense and sharply authentic’ – James Swallow

‘A splendid tale of espionage starring an old-fashioned MI6 hero . . . exciting spy literature’ – The Times
Writers are often asked where they get their ideas from. Do they emerge in dreams or while out walking the dog? In my case, the answer is both mildly exotic and far more mundane. They come from my job. For the last seven years I have worked as a speechwriter in Westminster. It is the best, and most brutal, training a writer could have.

For many people, Westminster is a place they see on the news. But few ever glimpse the unique world of the Westminster village beyond that. The corridors, the bars, the Whitehall departments and, of course . . . the spy agencies.

*The Insider*, my new novel, takes the reader into this unique and shadowy world. It explores the idea of a mole at the very top of Westminster. Each suspect holds one of the grandest positions in the land: Head of the Foreign Office, Chief of the Defence Staff, Cabinet Secretary and Chief of MI6.

It would be the greatest breach in British history. A spy more dangerous than Philby, Blake or Blunt. In the digital age, it is more of a threat than ever. As to whether the premise is truth or fiction? Well, now that would be telling . . .

---

**About the Author**

**Matthew Richardson** studied English at Durham University and Merton College, Oxford. After a brief spell as a freelance journalist, he began working as a researcher and speechwriter in Westminster, and has also written speeches for senior figures in the private sector. *The Insider* is his second novel.

@RichardsonBooks
Coming up in 2022 . . .

Two editors introduce the most exciting debut thrillers that you need to watch out for in 2022.

**Breathless**

by Amy McCulloch

“Did you know that once you climb beyond a certain height – near the top of Everest, say – there’s literally not enough oxygen to sustain human life? In not much time at all, without an oxygen mask you would start to deteriorate. You’d feel faint, you’d fall unconscious, and you’d die.

What better place for a serial killer to hide?

Amy’s debut thriller is phenomenal – almost as impressive as Amy herself. The youngest Canadian woman to climb Mt Manaslu in Nepal – the world’s eighth tallest mountain – she brings every terrifying inch of that authenticity into this book. It’s chilling in every sense.” – Joel Richardson

(Photo by Charlotte Knee Photography)

**Nobody But Us**

by Laure Van Rensburg

“*Nobody But Us* opens with Ellie, a young student, leaving New York to take her first holiday with her boyfriend – a handsome and experienced college professor. The pair travel north, driving hours through the snow to reach their romantic destination – an isolated cabin tucked away on the shoreline.

From there, this thriller takes you everywhere you least expect . . .

Represented by the same agent as *Girl A* and Richard Osman, and best described as *My Dark Vanessa* meets *Gone Girl*, this is a provocative, twisty and unforgettable debut from a stylish new voice – and it will leave you reeling.” – Clio Cornish
A Kiss After Dying
by Ashok Banker

“If you’re anything like me, you fell in love with books because you found a story, a character, that was so vital and compelling and fresh that you almost literally couldn’t put the book down. I find those memories almost bittersweet – it’s so rare to find something that grips you to that level. Reader, this is one of those books.

I could tell you it’s a revenge thriller. I could tell you it’s a wonderfully sharp story of girl-meets-boy gone horribly wrong. I could tell you it has literally the best twist I’ve read in years. But most of all, it’s got an antiheroine whose voice is like nothing else I’ve ever read. I’m jealous of everyone who gets to read it fresh.” – Joel Richardson