

A stylized graphic of books and a pencil. On the left, there is a stack of three books. A pencil is positioned diagonally across the top of the stack. To the right of the stack, there are two more books standing upright. The entire graphic is rendered in white on a dark blue background.

# **THE PUBLISHING POST**

## **Issue 55**

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

As someone who was looking to get into publishing, I always found it hard to consistently keep up with what was happening in the industry. Remembering to visit separate websites, news sources, job portals and keep up with changes was quite challenging. I also know it can be difficult to find information, learn about trends in the industry, or about the specifics of roles that are not editorial.

*The Publishing Post* intends to provide all of this information and more to anyone wanting to learn about, or join, the publishing industry. We want to cover as much as we can for those, like us, who want to absorb as much of the industry as they can. *The Publishing Post* is a free resource that is encouraging, honest and

accessible to every single person who is considering publishing as a career.

*The Publishing Post* stands by the fact that 2022 is a time for breaking down barriers and encouraging diversity in the publishing industry. Learning about and being included in the industry should be for everyone.

The magazine is created by publishing hopefuls, for publishing hopefuls. Each and every person who works on the magazine each issue is dedicated to producing and educating fellow hopefuls with content that is informative and interesting.

Lastly, I just want to say a massive thank you to every single person who has supported, shared and

shouted about *The Publishing Post* since our first issue. On behalf of the whole team, we are so incredibly grateful and could not be more proud of the success.

Editor in Chief, Chelsea Graham

## STAY UP TO DATE

Catch up on our previous issues, highlighted articles and recommended events at [www.thepublishingpost.com](http://www.thepublishingpost.com)

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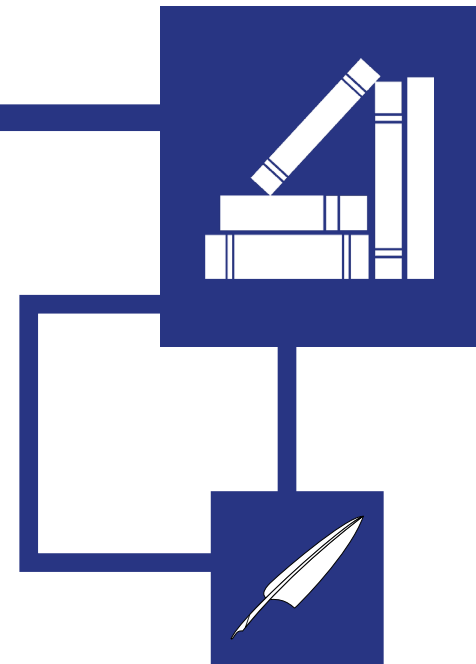
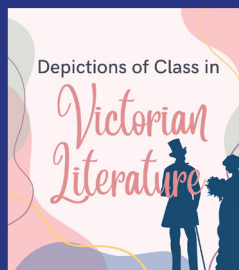
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The Publishing Post



# New Illustrated Non-Fiction Children’s List Launches in the UK

By Charlotte Brook



Weldon Owen Children’s Books, imprint of US publisher Insight Editions, has embarked on a new partnership with Bounce Sales & Marketing and is ready to relaunch into the UK after being sold by Bonnier Books in 2018.

The partnership aims to open up new channels for the illustrated non-fiction children’s list in the UK, there are already eight titles in the pipeline ready for the launch this autumn.

“I’m delighted that our beautiful and innovative books will be sold by the passionate team at Bounce Sales & Marketing. We are excited to relaunch the Weldon Owen children’s list with Bounce’s outstanding experience and get our books into the hands of as many booksellers, librarians,

teachers, parents and, of course, children as possible,” says Sue Grabham, publisher at Weldon Owen Children’s Books.

The books published at Weldon Owen are aimed at children between the ages of three and twelve and their families; they aim to make complicated subjects easy to understand with highly illustrated non-fiction that takes everyone who reads each book on a journey of discovery.

They value diversity, individuality, creativity and lateral thinking, believing we all have a responsibility to look after one another and the environment, which they aim to make shine through in what they publish.

Titles we can expect to see in the relaunch include: *The Extraordinary Book That Makes You Feel Happy*, *Mind Mappers: How Do We Stop Climate Change?*, *Jungle Animals – A Spotter’s Guide*, and more!

Sharing children’s books for every age and taste, Bounce Sales & Marketing currently

represent forty independent children’s publishers for trade in both the UK and overseas. From picture books to young adult fiction, early-learning books and non-fiction titles, their scope is only widening further.

“It is an absolute pleasure to be embarking on this relationship with Weldon Owen. The Bounce Sales & Marketing team are thrilled to be representing Weldon Owen’s exceptional books and can’t wait to share them with all our customers. We look forward to making the list a huge success,” says Robert Snuggs, Managing Director of Bounce Sales & Marketing.

As well as the eight titles published for the launch this autumn, there are a further twenty planned for 2023. So, if you’re interested in children’s publishing and marketing techniques, watch this space to see how this partnership takes on the UK publishing industry!

# Anne Frank Graphic Novel Reinstated in Texas School District

By Malachi Martin

On 16 August, various reports detailed that a graphic novel based on Anne Frank’s *The Diary of a Young Girl* had been removed from school shelves in Texas. Initially deemed “too graphic” by the Keller Independent School District of Texas, it has now been reinstated in schools within the district following the backlash received by numerous Jewish groups in Tarrant County, Texas.

The reasons for its removal from school shelves were parent complaints about the title’s subject matter, which included “unwanted sexual references and mention of homosexuality” in its pages. At the time of its removal, it was reported that the 2017 graphic novel, *Anne Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation*, was banned alongside forty-one other titles in the Texas school district. These included *The Bluest Eye* (Toni Morrison), *Out of Darkness* (Ashley Hope Pérez), *Gender Queer* (Maia Kobabe), *All Boys Aren’t Blue* (George M. Johnson), *The Bible* and more. A large number of these books featured themes of race and included characters identifying as

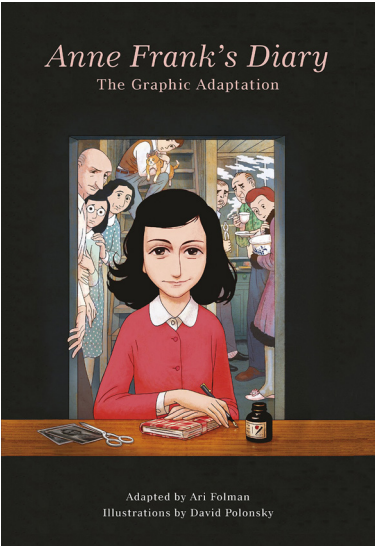
LGBTQ+, with some parents against said material claiming that it promoted pornography and “critical race theory.”

This decision was disapproved by various groups such as Hadassah, the American Jewish Committee and PEN America. Anti-Defamation League’s head Simon Greenblatt also vocalised his objection, saying that “removing a version of Anne Frank’s diary from a school library is a disgrace.”

Individuals not involved in these groups also came out to speak against the district’s decision, with Seth Leavitt saying that “Antisemitism and Holocaust denial take many forms, removing a book that tells the true story of a Jewish girl who was killed by Nazis is one of them.” *The Jewish Telegraphic Agency* reported that a Keller parent, Laney Hawes, threatened to send one hundred copies of the book to the school district in protest. She also spoke out, stating that “there were only a handful of copies of the books in our school district.” Hawes continued: “I’m sending these books so that the people of Keller,

Texas, have the opportunity to read her story. We cannot erase history.”

Superintendent Rick Westfall responded to the outcry stating that the bans were “a miscommunication,” further adding that the district was not “banning *The Bible* or *The Diary of Anne Frank*, as has been suggested in some headlines and shared on social media.” Westfall also made it known that only the graphic novel adaptation, not the original copies, were to be banned. Despite this, Westfall revealed that the graphic novel will be made available “very soon.”





# Industry Insights: Frances Sleigh

BY ELIZABETH OLADOYIN, ELIZABETH GUESS, HANNAH DEVINE AND LEYLA MEHMET

In this issue, we interview Frances Sleigh, Head of Children's Sales at Bloomsbury...

**Tell us a bit about your journey into publishing. Was sales always where you wanted to be?**

No, I didn't know what I wanted to do, beyond working with books. I started first in production on a temporary contract, working on the children's list at Penguin Random House. I had a degree in Chinese Studies and sold myself in the interview as someone who could easily communicate with the printers in China, only to end up working solely with the printers in Suffolk! When the contract was coming to an end, I really wanted to stay at PRH and work on the children's list, so I applied for a sales position that was being advertised. I got the job and within a few months realised I loved it.

**Sales is sometimes overshadowed by other teams when publishing hopefuls look to enter the industry. Could you tell us about a normal day for you? What is your favourite part of working in this department?**

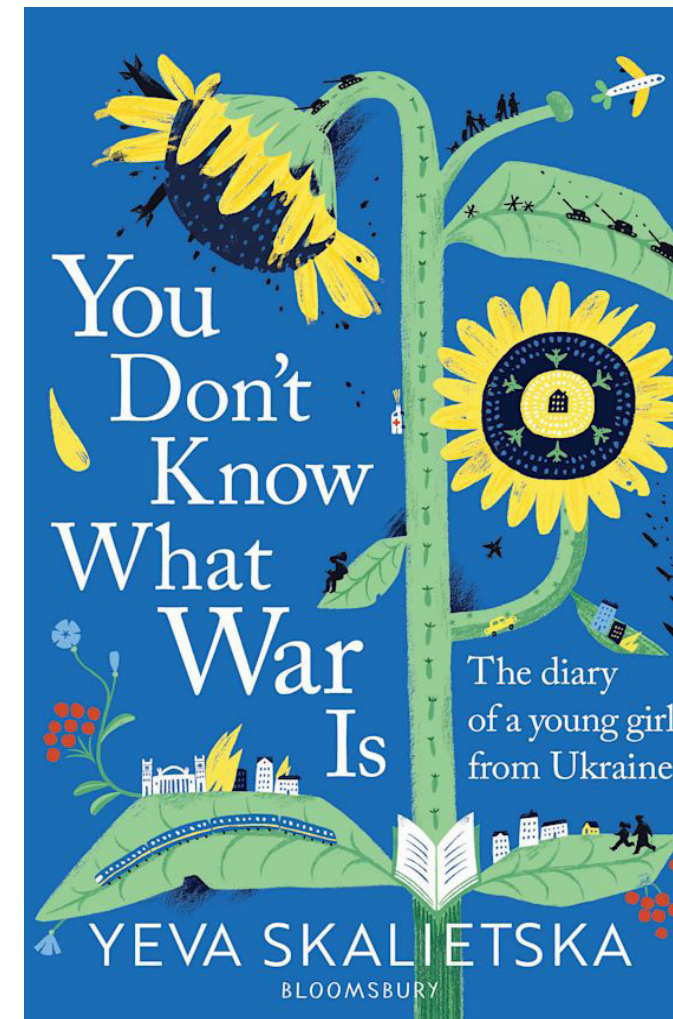
I love that sales is a department that's really collaborative; you get to work with nearly all departments and across the whole lifespan of a book. We feed in forecasts and thoughts to editorial at acquisition, work with design on covers, align our selling plans with marketing and publicity, work with production and operations on stock and special editions – the list is endless! Plus, we're customer-facing; we're always talking to customers and buyers who see the whole books market and that knowledge is invaluable for feeding back into the rest of the children's team. I could be doing any one of those things (or all of them!) in a day. We also answer

a lot of questions and you have to think creatively: Has something sold well? If so, why, and if not, why? What sold better, and what can we learn from that?

**Do you have any advice for publishing hopefuls looking for their first role, particularly those deciding what part of publishing to go into? What are the main skills you need for working in sales?**

Don't limit yourself to deciding which department you want to work in and only applying for those roles. Some areas, like editorial, are completely oversubscribed. If you can get any job in publishing, you'll learn about the process of publishing, and if you want to move on and progress into a different department, you'll have so much more experience and understanding, so your application will stand out.

For sales, I think the main skill is being a great communicator. We spend our time telling buyers and



customers about the books and you need to have a flair for explaining exactly why you think a book will work for their market. You also need to then be able to feed that back in a productive way to the rest of your publishing team, so good communication is a must!

**Before starting at Bloomsbury, you were at Nosy Crow. What are some of the differences between a small indie publisher and a big publisher?**

**Were there any major challenges you had to overcome?**

I think what has surprised me most is actually how little difference there can be. The scale of the whole business at Bloomsbury is obviously much bigger and with that there's a much greater focus on making sure information is being shared and that decisions are being made by the right groups of people. As a result, there are a lot more meetings, more processes to follow, and a lot more

cc'ing-in of people on emails! However, the basic approach and plan of publishing isn't that different. I'd always recommend anyone starting out to consider a small or indie publisher; you learn so much just by being in a small office, overhearing conversations and having to pitch in when extra hands are needed.

**What projects have you worked on that you're particularly proud of? Why do these projects stand out?**

There was a lot at Nosy Crow I was proud of, working there during the time it went from being a small indie to being a mid-sized publisher was a fantastic experience. The company culture really emphasised what an important part each individual was playing in that process, so I felt really proud of the growth we'd achieved.

At Bloomsbury, in October, we're publishing *You Don't Know What War Is* by Yeva Skalietska. She's a twelve-year-old girl who had to flee Ukraine with her grandma when the war broke out earlier this year. She wanted to tell the world what was happening in Ukraine, so she started keeping a diary, with the intention of getting it published. It's a really important piece of publishing right now that gives powerful insight into conflict, so I'm really proud to be a part of that.



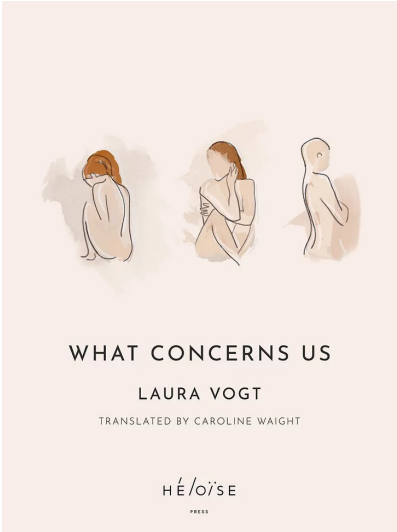
# Lost in Translation with Laura Vogt’s *What Concerns Us*, Translated by Caroline Waight

BY VICTORIA BROMLEY AND SARAH LYDON

For Women in Translation month, we (virtually) sat down with author Laura Vogt and translator Caroline Waight to discuss Vogt’s novel *What Concerns Us*, published by Heloise Press. Our discussion flitted from Laura’s inspirations and writing habits to Caroline’s experience translating the book from German into English.

*What Concerns Us* is a fruitful and tender exploration of motherhood, pregnancy and the trauma these experiences can embody. It follows sisters Rahel and Fenna through their experiences of motherhood, postnatal depression and consent.

We began by discussing Laura’s primary inspirations for the birth of the book. While she said it is “very hard to tell what the original inspiration was,” she remembers attending a reading in 2015, after which she went home and started writing what would later become the novel.



Laura said “I just sit down and start writing; I try not to think about anything.” Laura then took a break from writing after falling pregnant herself and it wasn’t until her son was two months old that she picked up the project again. With a small child, Laura admitted the difficulty of finding time to write. But when her son was older, she split the parenting “fifty-fifty” with her husband and would often write in the mornings.

Laura would get the words down on the page then find the themes to shape the fiction. At the time, Laura was “surrounded by motherhood in different ways.” She spoke to other women about their experiences with motherhood and Laura’s own pregnancy meant that she could see her own body changing. This contributed to the authenticity of her writing as she was “so emotionally close” to the topic. The themes of women and bodies have always been the essence of her work. Laura says, “our body is our home,” but there’s also “a very big pressure about bodies, especially women’s bodies.”

We then turned to Caroline to find out more about her personal experience with translating *What Concerns Us*. Caroline began by saying how this book stood out as “it’s so playful with language.” She had to be particularly careful with word choice as there “were so many layers” of meaning.

Caroline compared the translation to being a puzzle to solve as the book is so multifaceted. It’s impossible for a text to be replicated precisely in another language as a text is “not completely translatable.” Rather, she had to “produce this other text which is inspired heavily based on the original.” While something may be lost in translation, a new language also offers other possibilities to explore. Translated books often sprinkle in additional information as a helping hand to the reader who’s not as familiar with a setting or culture. But it’s a “balancing act” as the text doesn’t want to seem like a “guidebook” but a piece of literature.

Word choice in translation is often a compromise. Caroline described this as a “prioritization of hierarchy” when there are multiple layers of meaning to communicate to the reader but it’s unlikely that all these

aspects will be carried across, so the word choice must connote the most important meanings. “It’s like damage control,” she said. We were also interested in how Laura found the translated text and she said that the English translation was like reading the book with “different glasses.” For her, the experience was “strange, but in a positive way.” She and Caroline were able to find a common ground and make sure both texts were harmonious while standing alone as different texts in their own right.

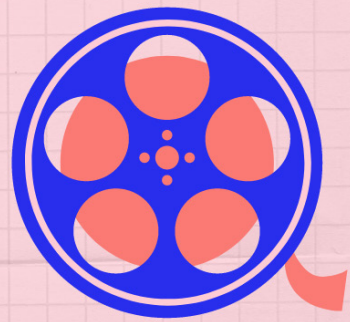
While individual words are translatable, there are broader, cultural ideas to consider in translation and whether readers from different countries will have the same emotional reaction and understanding of the text. Laura explained how deeply ingrained it is in Swiss society for the mother to look after the children at home. Laura said it’s unheard of for women to go back to work after having a child in Switzerland. This cultural particularity comes into play in the book when Rahel gives up music after her son Rico’s birth, then falls out of love with singing. It sheds light on one of the many ways women become different people after pregnancy.

As far as the behind-the-scenes of publishing this novel, we wanted to know how Laura and Caroline were paired together for this project. Caroline told us that she was approached by the Heloise Press to translate the book, then Caroline translated a sample of the text for Laura to read and check that the “voices were compatible.” Throughout the translation process, Caroline would email Laura questions to enquire about motivations for certain ideas. They would then collaboratively edit and refine the translation to make sure they were both happy with the outcome. Laura is now working towards her third novel after her English book tour for *What Concerns Us* and looks forward to future projects.

Laura (right), photo credit: Ayse Yavas. Caroline (above), photo credit: Caroline Waight.





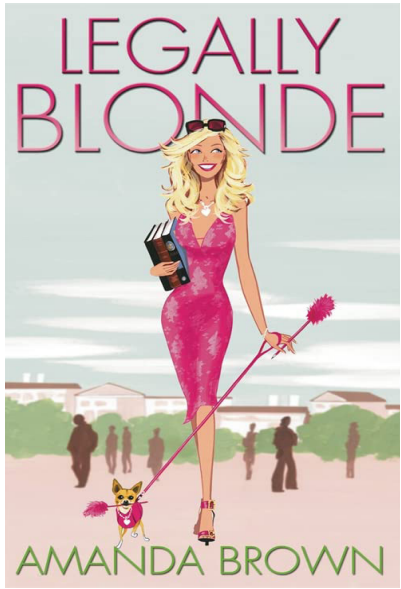


# FROM SELF- PUBLISHED TO SILVER SCREEN

BY EMMA REGAN AND JORDAN  
MAXWELL RIDGWAY  
.....

Book-to-movie adaptations are either something you love or hate. They can either be incredibly accurate and give the source a breath of fresh air or diverge from the book and leave fans of the book wishing they could forget what they had witnessed. There is even the rare occasion of the movie being considered better than the book. And with book-to-movie adaptations slowly feeling like they’re becoming the norm (along with book-to-TV show adaptations), the variety of books to adapt from is constantly expanding.

According to Publishers Association in 2018, book-to-movie adaptations gross 44% more in the UK box office and 53% more at the worldwide box office, compared to original screenplays. The report also showed between 2007–2016, 43% of the top twenty highest-grossing in the UK were book-based, and another 9% were comic-based and with the rise of the Marvel Cinematic Universe in the last five years, the latter will have increased exponentially. Yet the variety doesn’t stop there. There are a number of movies adapted from self-published books too, which might come as a shock to its viewers.

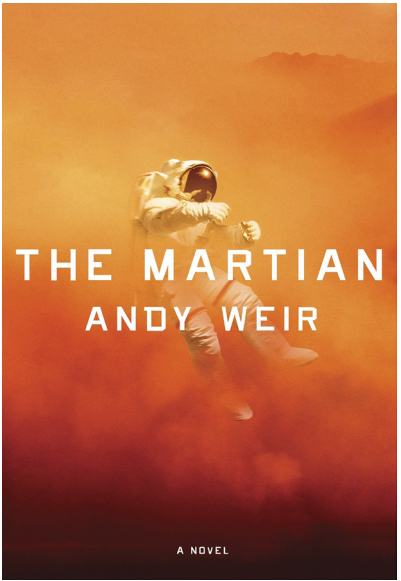


Twenty years ago, *Legally Blonde* made its debut in cinemas and gave the world Reese Witherspoon as an iconic wannabe lawyer who looked like a Barbie in a hot pink suit and heels. A lasting Hollywood favourite that secured Witherspoon’s rising stardom, the film has become a movie night-in staple. But did you know it started as a self-published book?

In 2001, Marc Platt took a chance to produce a self-published book by Amanda Brown titled *Legally Blonde*. Self-published as a semi-autobiographical novel, the book narrates Brown’s experience as a blonde woman attending Stanford Law School, who also had a passion for fashion, a passion Amanda was made aware of not having in common with her peers. It wasn’t taken seriously by the publishing houses Brown sent the manuscript to (on pink paper no less), and after no success, it was finally sold

as a print-on-demand book through AuthorHouse, a self-publishing service which has helped publish over 96,000 books in over twenty-three years. After the success of the film, the novel was acquired by Penguin Plume in the States and “officially published” in 2003.

It wasn’t the first time and certainly not the last time, a self-published novel went on to have a hugely successful afterlife as a film franchise and a West End production, and now a potential third film in the works. It is but a sparkling illustration of what can be achieved by self-published writers.

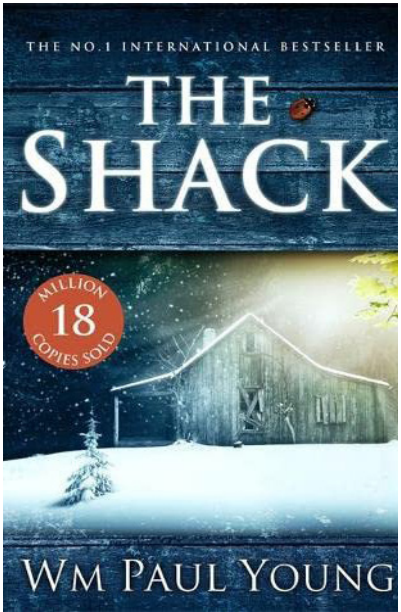


Another example of a self-published book becoming a global phenomenon is *The Martian* by Andy Weir. Weir struggled to find a publisher which was interested in his fictional tale about an astronaut, Mark Watney, who struggles to survive on Mars after being stranded

there, so he began posting each chapter for free on his website. He then published it on Amazon Kindle for ninety-nine cents (the lowest price available on Kindle) and within three months, it had reached the bestsellers chart for science-fiction titles, selling over 35,000 copies. Weir then managed to sell the print to Crown publishing so it could be printed for \$100,000, also selling the audiobook rights to Podium Publishing.

*The Martian* was adapted in 2015, directed by sci-fi enthusiast Ridley Scott, starring Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Sean Bean, Sebastian Stan and many more famous cast members. It went on to become a blockbuster at the movies, receiving various industry awards and nominations for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor (there’s even been a species of potato named after the book’s main character, Solonam Watneyi). It became the tenth highest-grossing film of 2015 and the highest-grossing film directed by Ridley Scott to date.

The success isn’t unique to *Legally Blonde* and *The Martian*, of course, other novels including *The Shack*, another self-published work, and *World War Z* and *Hidden Figures*, not self-published but had film rights bought pre-publication, also illustrate the power novelists still hold in Hollywood. There is a suggestion that film powerhouses don’t



just receive traditional film scripts anymore, but novels too. Hollywood also has to compete with streaming giants like Netflix these days, and Netflix has shown confidence in indie writers to help pull audiences in.

If you need more proof that self-published work has been hitting big in Hollywood for decades, consider that *Eragon*, *Still Alice* and, of course, *Fifty Shades of Grey* were all self-published before making it onto the screen and later being acquired by publishing houses.

Now, whilst these are all successful examples, not every self-published work will get picked up by a big studio. The film industry, like publishing, is still highly competitive, and whilst social media has made garnering an audience that bit easier, it’s still important to stand out.



# Anticipating Autumn Reads

BY GEORGIA WELLS AND CHARLOTTE BARBER

## *Less is Lost* by Andrew Sean Greer

22 September,  
Little Brown Book Group

Greer's latest novel *Less is Lost* continues the story of the lovably awkward Arthur Less on his unforgettable road trip across the United States.

The life of Arthur Less is never straightforward. His life seems to be settling into mundanity as he finds himself in a happy, steady relationship with his loving partner Freddy and his career in writing seems to be going moderately well. But of course, nothing stays easy for long in the life of Less. With the death of an ex-lover and an unexpected financial crisis on his hands, Less finds himself once again running away from the problem.

Set out on a literary tour across the US, Less finds himself moving around in every direction in order to avoid the problems at home. He treks through the "Mild Wild West," heading down south and then back again,

all the time with his trusty duo: Dolly the pug and Rosina the rusty campervan.

But as they say, you can run but you can't hide. Behind all his wacky wardrobe changes and the crazy experiences, at home still lies his strained relationships and the personal demons he has to face upon his return. This second instalment of the tales of Less speak of love and loss, family, and the enigma of American life. This joyous and profound novel is one not to be missed this autumn.

## *Kingdom of the Feared* by Kerri Maniscalco

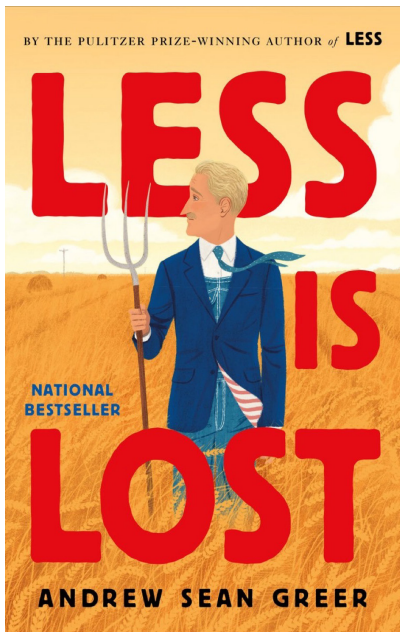
27 September,  
Hodder & Stoughton

*Kingdom of the Feared* is the much-anticipated final part to the *Kingdom of the Wicked* trilogy, as Maniscalco gives Emilia one last mystery.

Emilia's sister, Vittoria, is alive. She is still trying to come to terms with having believed that she was dead for all these years. However,

before she can face her past, she must face her future and she is desperate to have her King. The Prince of Wrath is everything she wants, even though having him in the flesh is something that he can't promise her.

When a member of the House Greed is assassinated, they are both summoned to the rival demon court. Here, they must face the fact that damning evidence points Vittoria as the murderer, making her a fast enemy to the Seven Circles.



Working together, Emilia and Wrath play a "sin-fuelled game of deception" in order to bring peace to the rift that is brewing between the witches, demons and shapeshifters. It even begins to unsettle the most treacherous foes of all, the Feared.

When nothing is as it seems, Emilia must tread carefully and when the truth is finally revealed, there is the shocking realisation that it might just "cost Emilia her heart."

## *Terry Pratchett: A Life With Footnotes: The Official Biography* by Rob Wilkins

29 September,  
Transworld

Towards the end of his life, Terry Pratchett embarked on a journey to write his greatest story yet – his own. In this story, he talks about how he proved his primary school Headmaster wrong time and time again after he had told Pratchett he believed he would amount to nothing.

However, following his untimely death at the age of sixty-six to Alzheimer's, the responsibility was passed to Rob Wilkins to complete the tales of Terry's wonderful

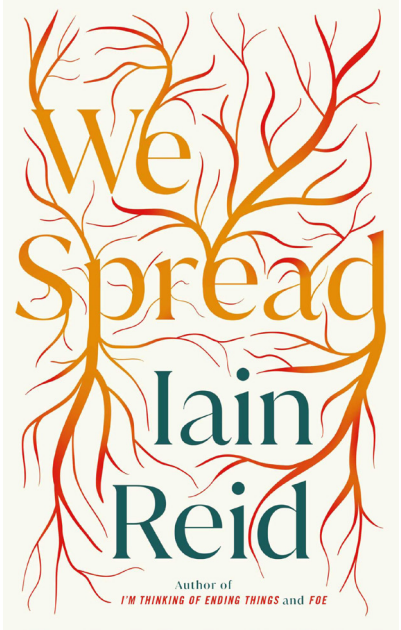
life. Through conversations with Terry's friends, family, colleagues, and fans, Rob has pulled together a culmination of stories from every side of Pratchett; this biography encapsulates everything that the much-adored author achieved in his sixty-six years.

## *We Spread* by Iain Reid

29 September,  
Simon & Schuster UK

Penny has settled into old age, still making sure to stay actively painting and creating. She has lived in the same apartment for decades amongst her lifelong keepsakes and trinkets. However, as she finds herself in the later years of her life, caring for herself is proving to be increasingly difficult. After one too many "incidents," she finds herself taken away to a long-term care residence as organised by her life partner before he passed away many years prior.

At first, life at the home feels amazing for Penny. She has company, every meal cooked for her and has social activities to get involved with, not to mention the gorgeous surroundings of the woods



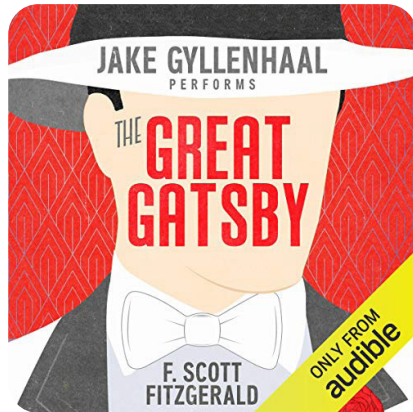
just outside the home. She even continues to paint. But as time creeps on, this seemingly perfect life starts to become unsettling. Penny finds herself unable to trust the people around her, feeling restless of her time trapped in the home. She starts to question whether these are the natural feelings of ageing, or if there is something more sinister at play. In Reid's latest novel, he explores creativity and freedom, and what it means in relation to ageing. Deeply gripping and wondrously surreal, *We Spread* is one for the reading list this autumn.





# Back To School Audiobooks

BY PAULINE BIRD, EMILY DE VOGELE AND CAMERON PHILLIPS

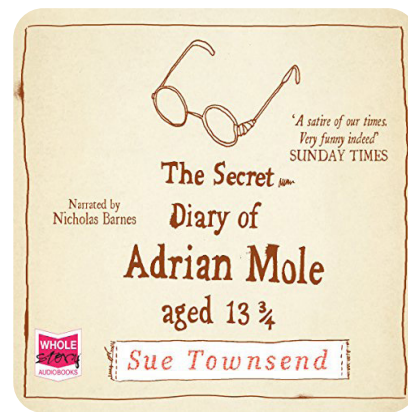


With the start of school just around the corner, we thought it would be fun to reminisce on our favourite books that we studied in school. While most of these books we read ourselves, listening to the audiobook version has helped to better understand our choices.

## Emily's Pick

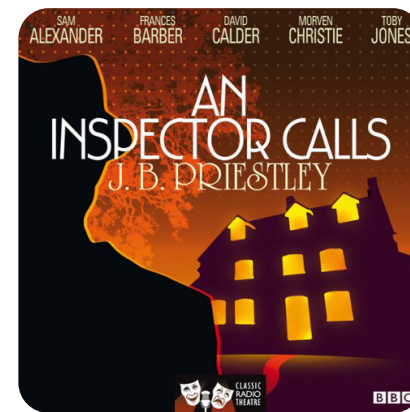
*The Great Gatsby*  
by F. Scott Fitzgerald,  
narrated by Jake Gyllenhaal.

I first read *The Great Gatsby* in my A-Level English Literature class, and I was immediately hooked. I fell into a world of intrigue,



mystery, and wealth. My English Literature teacher at college inspired me to lean into my love of literature and history, and I was over the moon that we were able to study something as iconic as *The Great Gatsby*.

There's something incredibly interesting to me about the undiscussed feud between old and new money, and the infamous green light. It's one of those stories that everyone talks about, for good reason. It's been years since I first read about Gatsby and his life, but I still find myself rereading it every year, finding something new to love about the story. There's a reason why Fitzgerald's work is so celebrated, and I think it's because of his



atmospheric writing. His writing feels so immersive that you almost forget you're reading a story, and not experiencing it yourself.

Jake Gyllenhaal's narration brings the eccentric Gatsby to life. Gyllenhaal, as a well-known figure himself, knows exactly how to make Jay Gatsby relatable to the listener. Gyllenhaal is also able to bring Nick Carraway to life, something that is infinitely more difficult given the allusive nature of his unreliable narration. Gyllenhaal does something that is incredibly hard for narrators: he makes the listeners feel for these characters as if they were their real life friends, instead of fictional people.

## Pauline's Pick

*The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*  
by Sue Townsend, narrated  
by Nicholas Barnes

I remember *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* being one of the first set texts at my high school and really enjoying it, so I was excited to revisit it as an adult in audiobook format. Although I'm a huge fan of young adult fiction, I found it lacked the same appeal. It felt rather dated to me, with the trivial concerns of the main character as unrelatable. I slowed down the pace of the narration too, as I felt it was whizzing through the quick diary entries so quickly it was difficult to absorb and grasp the passage of time. This improved the pace a little.

I do feel the audiobook may be enjoyed by young adults today. It would prove a good insight into what it was like to be a teenager in the eighties. I think, even today, the concerns and problems that Adrian Mole has will mirror some of those experienced by today's youth. Narrator Nicholas Barnes adds a certain feel of authenticity to the narrative which really brought the hapless main character to life.

I would recommend this audiobook to young adults, however I did find some of the language used and opinions shared problematic. Rather than censor the books, I would encourage discussion about what is acceptable and what is not and try to develop children and young adults' critical literacy skills. I hope that a whole new generation will discover and love this book as much as I did on first listening to it.

## Cameron's pick

*An Inspector Calls*,  
narrated by Sam Alexander,  
Toby Jones, David Calder  
and Morven Christie.

*An Inspector Calls* is a classic of the English literary and theatrical canon. Written by J.B. Priestley as a play, it tells the story of Inspector Goole, who visits the upper-middle class Birling family in the north midlands concerning the suicide of a young, working class woman in the fictional town of Brumley in 1912.

I returned to this book during my studies of 19th century England for my MA Dissertation, and only then did I appreciate what

Priestley was trying to say. Priestley's scathing dichotomy of Capitalism vs Socialism in favour of his own socialist views is clear to hear on older listening.

The critique of the so-called "generosity" of the upper-middle class Birling family, and their subsequent exploitation of poor, working class women, is to me an example of Priestley biting back against the myth of Victorian Charity and Disraeli One Nation Toryism. Priestley highlights the very Victorian idea of "deserving poor," where Victorians often saw themselves as socially superior if they gave to charity. In many people's views, and mine, this simply isn't true. Rather, the Victorians viewed their charitable acts not as altruistic, but as acts to impress their supposed moral superiority upon their peers.

In terms of the narration, the full cast is absolutely fantastic, and as the work was originally a play, they go to great efforts to give the book a theatrical performance. I loved the clear passion and enthusiasm they had for the project, which is essential when it comes to adaptations of 20th century English literature.

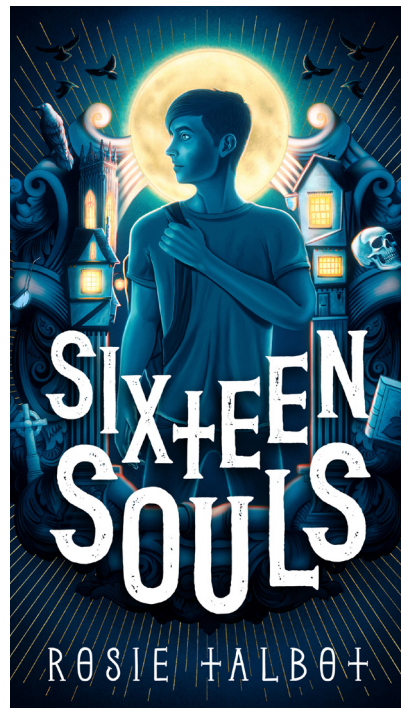


# Latest Acquisitions & Adaptations

BY GEORGIE CUTLER AND EVA LEE

## Acquisition News

Scholastic lands Rosie Talbot's debut *Sixteen Souls*



Scholastic has acquired the world rights to two releases from Rosie Talbot, a Waterstones bookseller and BookToker (@merrowchild). The first book, *Sixteen Souls*, will be released on 13 October 2022. Set in York, the novel focuses on 16-year-old Charlie Frith, a seer whose spirit friends are mysteriously vanishing. To get to the bottom of these disappearances, he has to team up with another seer, the irritating Sam Harrow.

Amidst growing romantic feelings and dangerous happenings, will they be able to save Charlie's friend's souls in time? Scholastic plan to market back to the YA market on TikTok, inspired by the staggering views Talbot was receiving pre-acquisition. Yasmin Morrissey, the senior commissioning editor from Scholastic, described the novel as a "swoony romantasy" (*The Bookseller*). We can't wait to enter the spooky season with this release.

Puffin secures magical series *Secret Beast Club*

Puffin has signed a deal acquiring three fantasy book series titled *Secret Beast Club* from children's fiction company Storymix. Jane Griffiths acquired rights to the books from Jasmine Richards, author and founder of Storymix. The books were created by Richards, written by Rachael David, with illustrations by Jobe Anderson. It follows characters Aisha and Jayden as they join the exciting *Secret Beast Club*, a secretive ancient group that protects mythological creatures where they discover real magic close to them. The book is thought to be inspired by Pablo Fanque, Britain's first Black circus owner as Puffin describes

the book as "brimming with adventure, friendship and an amazing array of magical creatures" (*The Bookseller*). The blend of magic and adventure will let readers be imaginative and follow the journey of the two characters. The first part, *Secret Beast Club: The Unicorns of Silver Street*, will be out in February 2023.

## From book to screen

What to watch?

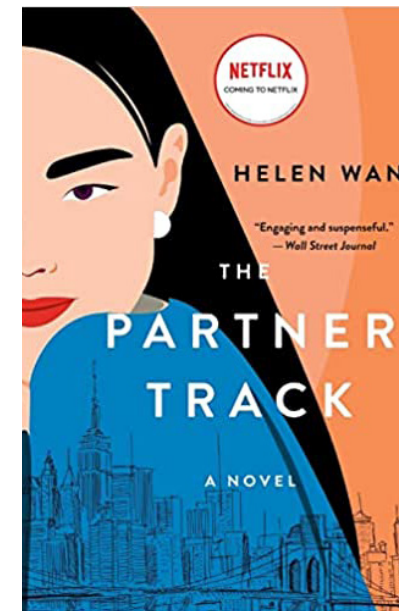
*Blonde* adaptation brings Monroe to Netflix

Netflix will be releasing Marilyn Monroe's unconventional biopic *Blonde* this September.



2000. Oates' novel is not a biography of Marilyn Monroe, it is purely fictional. Rather, the novel contrasts the life of Norma Jean Mortenson with that of her glamorous stage persona Marilyn Monroe. This is a long-awaited adaptation – production started in 2010, but was pushed back after financing issues. In 2019, it was revealed that the star-studded cast would be led by Ana de Armas. The adaptation also features the likes of Adrien Brody, Bobby Cannavale, Xavier Samuel and Julianne Nicholson. You can watch *Blonde* on Netflix from 28 September 2022.

Partner Track out on Netflix



Netflix is to release an adaptation of Helen Wan's novel *Partner Track* with Georgia Lee and Sarah Goldfinger to co-produce the series. The story follows young lawyer Ingrid Yun who is about to become the first

minority woman to partner in a prestigious old law firm whilst balancing her family, friends and expectations. Arden Cho, known for her role in *Teen Wolf*, is set to play Ingrid alongside Bradley Gibson, Dominic Sherwood, Rob Heaps and Alexandra Turshen. The first season will have ten episodes with a potential season two, though no news of this as of yet. It is out now, available to stream on Netflix.

## In the works

Anne Hathaway to star in *The Idea of You* adaptation

Stemming from a popular Harry Styles fanfiction, *The Idea of You* is set to be released on Prime Video and has cast Anne Hathaway as its lead and executive producer. The novel of the same name by Robinne Lee revolves around Sophie, a forty-year-old divorcee. Sophie saves her daughter's Coachella trip after her ex-husband cancels on her last minute. Whilst on the trip with her daughter, she meets Hayes Campbell, a twenty-four-year-old lead singer of boy band, August Moon. Joining Hathaway on the project, Michael Showalter will direct, with Cathy Schulman, Gabrielle Union and Robinne Lee executive producing. Production is set to begin in October, so we'll keep our eyes peeled for further news.

*Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* coming soon



Lionsgate is set to release the upcoming film based on the 1970 novel of the same name by Judy Blume. It is set to be directed and written by Kelly Fremon Craig with the cast to star Abby Ryder Fortson, Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates and Benny Safdie. When it initially released back in the 1970s, the book met with criticism due to its approach towards sexual and religious topics. Despite facing censorship, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* became one of the bestsellers for its exploration of adolescence. The story centres around eleven-year-old Margaret Simon (Fortson) who moves from New York City to New Jersey and embarks on a journey to discover her religious identity whilst going through puberty. The film is planned to be released on 28 April 2023.

# Highlights in the Charts

## Metronome by Tom Watson

REVIEW BY JENNA TOMLINSON  
.....

“The morning of parole, the sea is calm. Grey. Almost entirely still. Boat weather.” This stoic sentence says a lot about Watson’s debut novel *Metronome*. The calm, patient yet anticipant backdrop leaves the reader knowing there’s more behind the words but also leaves them unsure which words exactly they may be. This is what Watson excels at. Throughout the novel, Watson alludes to an anticipated event, always hinting at something potentially sinister lurking underneath. This potential, these pregnant silences hanging in the air throughout are also what pushes the reader through the book; spurring them on to look deeper and learn more.

I loved this book so much that I devoured it in one sitting, eager to understand the characters and their lives. Watson’s story follows Aina and Whitney, a couple

exiled to a deserted and desolate island they know as “the croft.” Here, they must depend on each other, their own survival skills and the wares of an almost barren landscape. Linked by their secret crime and shared history, the two fall into a monotonous routine, ticking along as a dull metronome, punctuated only by a strange clock. Programmed to their thumbprints, it dispenses mandatory mysterious pills at given times during the day; both tethering them to their exile and protecting them from the toxic spores released by the melting permafrost around them. Marooned for twelve years, we join the couple as their parole is imminent, but as they approach this milestone, Aina begins to question whether everything is as it seems and whether Whitney knows more about their situation than he is letting on.

Over the course of the novel, we watch as the two grapple with their strange situation,

its treacherous conditions, the dissipating memories of their previous lives, a growing mistrust and their differing views on how to move forward. The story of how they came to be at the croft unfolds in fractured memories, showing not only their fragile relationship but also their increasingly fragile mental states. The pace of the novel quickens as we delve deeper into their story and this unfurling is mirrored in their mental state as their behaviour becomes more frenzied. The setting, a ravaged and empty space, is claustrophobic despite only homing Aina and Whitney; a feeling that is mirrored for the reader as they encroach on the couple’s confinement.

Equal parts unnerving and atmospheric, *Metronome* is a dystopian debut that is a great read for fans of such authors as Atwood, Dalcher and Ramos.

## White Chrysanthemum by Mary Lynn Bracht

REVIEW BY HALIMAH HAQUE  
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*White Chrysanthemum* is told from the perspective of two sisters: Hanna and her younger sister Emi. While Hanna’s account explores the hardships of comfort women during the Japanese occupation of Korea, before the country’s partition in 1943, Emi’s story delves into the consequences of war and the detrimental effect it has on her family, especially after her sister’s abduction over sixty years later.

I absolutely adored this book! Everything about it was perfect: the rich history of the haenyeo (female divers in Jeju Island, South Korea), the pain of the comfort women and the warmth, acceptance and strength of familial relationships all made this a tale to remember.

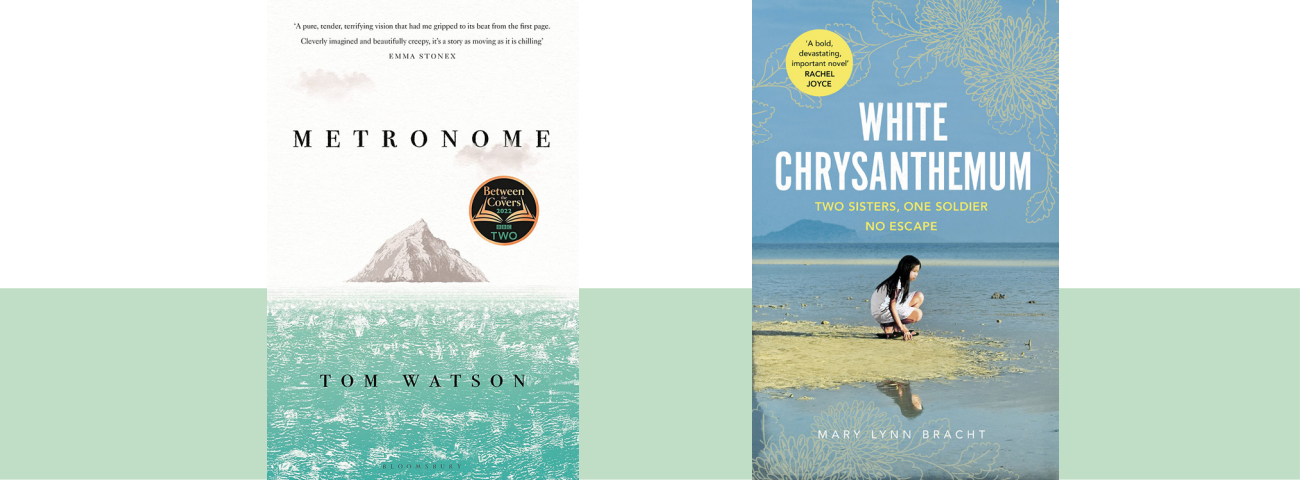
It was heartbreakingly beautiful. Every single character, protagonists and antagonists, were extremely well written; each receiving the perfect, wholesome ending that they deserved. Bracht truly has a gift.

However, what I found truly interesting was the relationship Hanna and Emi had with the sea: the oneness they felt with the waves and how they longed to be beneath the water whenever they were on land. It made me realise the gift that nature is and wholeheartedly respect the hanyeo – their beliefs, morals and way of life.

In her notes at the end of the novel, Bracht says: “Of those tens of thousands of women and girls enslaved by the Japanese military, only forty-four South Korean survivors are still alive (at the writing of this book) to tell the world what happened

during their captivity; how they survived and how they returned home. We will never know what happened to the other women and girls who perished before getting the chance to let the world know what they suffered.” Although a work of fiction, through this novel Bracht has given these women a voice. The women in this book are much more than fictional characters: they represent the people in the past whose stories need to be told and heard in order to keep their memory alive.

If you haven’t read *White Chrysanthemum* already, you definitely need to! You won’t regret it. But I have to warn you, this book is in no way a light read: heavy with sexual and physical abuse, it reveals the immense torture young girls experienced as comfort women – revealing the hidden part of World War Two that many of us remain oblivious to.





# Heartbreak, Heartthrobs and Honour: Our Anticipated Reads for Autumn

By SHANIAH SHIELDS, LEANNE FRANCIS AND MICHELLE YE

With autumn on the horizon, we have decided to share some of our highly anticipated releases for the final half of the year. From powerful young adult novels to spectacularly original fiction, authors who identify as BIPOC are as ever, delivering fantastic stories and we cannot wait to get round to them.

## General Fiction

***I Rise* by Marie Arnold**

1 September 2022

*I Rise*, is the heartbreakingly powerful new novel from Marie Arnold, author of *The Year I Flew Away*. We follow fourteen-year-old Ayo, whose mother has founded the biggest civil rights movement in New York City. The movement, entitled “See Us” tackles the racial profiling and police brutality in Harlem, something Ayo has been part of her whole life. After Ayo’s mother is put in a coma, a riot between the police and protesters breaks out and Ayo looks to the wisdom of her ancestors and her community for guidance.

The novel shines a light on the systematic racism within America and tackles important issues including inequality, social injustice and police brutality that continue to haunt contemporary America. This is a powerful celebration of Black girl magic and one of my highly anticipated releases of the year!

***If You Could See the Sun* by Ann Liang**

11 October 2022

Alice Sun has always felt invisible at her elite Beijing International boarding school as the only scholarship student there. But one day when she starts to uncontrollably turn invisible, she hatches a plan to monetise her strange new power as her parents can no longer afford her tuition. Alice begins to sell her wealthy classmates’ scandalous secrets, but at what cost?

*If You Could See the Sun* is a genre-bending young adult debut that follows a Chinese-American protagonist’s journey to friendship and love. Weaving together

Chinese culture and diaspora experience, this is a fun, light-hearted read.

## Fantasy

***Monsters Born and Made* by Tanvi Berwah**

6 September 2022

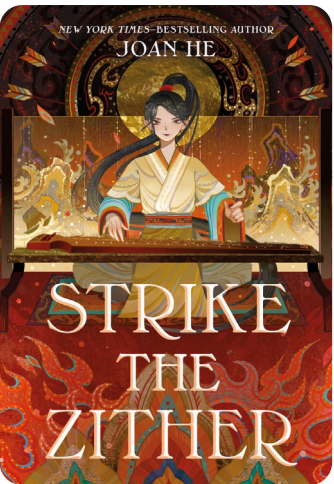
From the mind of [Tanvi Berwah](#) comes this gripping debut novel about sixteen-year-old Koral and her older brother Emrik. In *Monsters Born and Made*, the siblings risk their lives to capture sea monsters, known as “maristags,” for the ruling elite. In a deadly tournament, they prepare to battle for the last maristag of the year, the fate of her chronically ill sister and burning island in their hands.

## Romance

***The Decoy Girlfriend* by Lillie Vale**

6 September 2022

In *The Decoy Girlfriend*, Freya Lal, a writer lacking inspiration, impersonates Mandi Roy for fun, an actress who she bears a unique resemblance to.



After accidentally fuelling rumours of Mandi’s breakup with actor Taft Bamber, Freya and Taft find themselves repairing the damage...and falling for each other in the process. Featuring fame, fortune and fake dating, [Lillie Vale’s novel](#) sets itself up as the perfect autumn romance.

***A Scatter of Light* by Malinda Lo**

4 October 2022

In this invigorating novel by [Malinda Lo](#), *A Scatter of Light* follows Aria Tang West as she prepares to spend the summer with her friends before going to university. After intimate photos of her are shared online, Aria is sent to her grandmother’s, where she finds herself becoming attracted to Steph, the gardener. The only problem? Steph isn’t single. As the bond between the pair grows, Aria’s simple summer becomes increasingly complicated.

***Drizzle, Dream, and Lovestruck Things* by Maya Prasad**

18 October 2022

Set in the Pacific Northwest, the Singh sisters thread through the Inn, working together to create a perfect home. With each romantic season, the sisters find themselves challenged by love. Nidhi’s plans are knocked out of order when autumn brings not just falling leaves, but also a captivating boy. Avani’s winter of mourning and remembrance is interrupted by someone from her past. Sirisha embraces the world through a certain lens, but spring pushes her towards a new relationship. And Rani, a true romantic, steps into a summer full of possibilities, including two potential loves. Maya Prasad’s debut novel celebrates the whirlwind of first love in all seasons and highlights the strength that comes from family.

## Historical Fiction

***Strike the Zither* by Joan He**

25 October 2022

A retelling of the classic Chinese text, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *Strike the Zither* reimagines ancient China as a battleground for powerful warlordesses. Zephyr carves out her own place by honing her skills until she becomes the best strategist in the land. Trying to stay alive while following the honourable warlordess Xin Ren becomes increasingly difficult for Zephyr in a war fueled by betrayal. Complications continue when Zephyr must infiltrate an enemy camp only to be met by the opposing strategist, someone who is finally her equal. Taking full advantage of the historic period, Joan He does not shy away from the bitter realities of war. The novel shines a spotlight on the greed and corruption of humanity without ignoring the tangles of emotion, choice, and fate.



# Translating a Cover - How do Book Covers Change with their Translations?

BY NIINA BAILEY, OISIN HARRIS, TOBY SNOLLETT AND KATE WILLIAMS

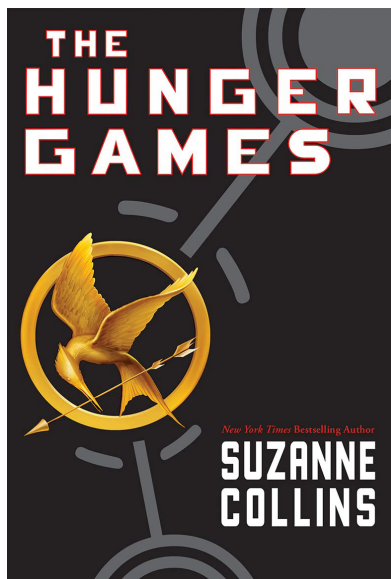
When a book is translated, the translator must take into account a wide variety of cultural and linguistic factors in order to arrive at the final product, as we have discussed [previously](#) in *The Publishing Post*. However, the translation of book covers across different languages and cultures is much less discussed, and so in this article we are looking across the genre spectrum to see how greatly (or otherwise) these vary across borders. We hope you enjoy reading this, and that the next time you see the cover for your favourite translated book, you look at it in a slightly different way.

***The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, published in 2008 by Scholastic Inc.**

The books in *The Hunger Games* trilogy are some of the most popular YA books of the last decade or so. The first one has been translated into twenty-six languages, so it has many different covers. The original English cover has a black background with a gold bird with an arrow in its beak inside a ring with

the title in block letters at the top. The bird, a 'mockingjay,' depicts the pin that Katniss takes into the Hunger Games.

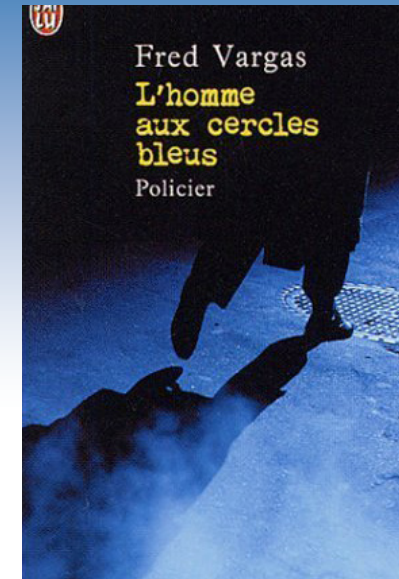
Many of the translated editions have a very similar cover to the original. Some of them are even the same. However, there are a few editions that have taken a completely different approach. The majority of these have a picture of a girl, often surrounded by leaves or forest (German, Swedish, Danish, Dutch editions). This is not unusual for the time, as having pictures of people on YA book covers was a



trend in the late 2000s to early 2010s. The Georgian and Serbian editions combine these two trends by having both the mockingjay pin and silhouettes of people on the cover; the most unique covers are on the Thai and Norwegian editions. The former has two arrows on the cover while the latter has a smoking target. Despite being different from the rest, the covers still fit the book.

## Crime Book Covers in Translation

A typical cover for a crime book is dark, shadowy and eerie, reflecting the mystery and ominous themes of the book. Fred Vargas' *L'homme aux cercles bleus* is a typical example of this, with a dark blue and black background and shadowy figure walking through smoke. However, when crime fiction books are translated, while they generally emulate these typical characteristics, they often also include an additional element which draws attention to the source culture of the story. For example, in this 2009 Penguin Books edition of Fred Vargas' *The Chalk Circle*



*Man*, we see the same dark, shadowy images, however this time the main image is of a Parisian Metro sign, perhaps to remind English-speaking readers of the source culture and language of this book.

Similarly, the translation of Seishi Yokomizo's *The Honjin Murders* cover, originally written in Japanese, is interesting. The Japanese edition depicts a person wearing a cat mask, which relates directly to the masked man in the story. The English and Italian editions, however, are focused on highlighting the Japanese cultural source of this story; the English edition is clearly inspired by traditional Japanese calligraphy with the choice of typeface and red, black and white colours. The samurai sword in the middle is also a clear Japanese reference. The Italian edition drifts even further from representing

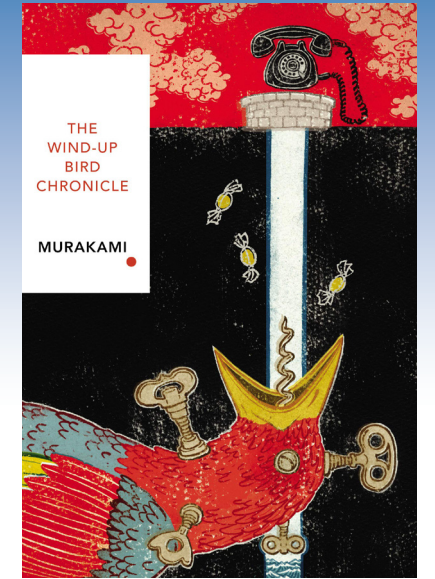


the plot of the book, with the illustration of a typical Japanese village.

## *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* by Haruki Murakami, originally published in 1994–95.

Haruki Murakami has been translated into over forty-one languages, leading to iconic covers, from the eerie close up faces of *1Q84* or the black, red and white minimalist Vintage covers.

The French and Swedish covers for *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* focus on an automated bird, which whilst true to the title, is not a key theme of the story. The Spanish and Turkish covers feature a real bird and are typical of these countries' traditionally conservative book covers. The German cover hints towards a bird but instead hones in on the details of the wind up mechanism used for such



automata. The circle around the mechanism brings to mind a watch's needle and echoes Murakami's playing with concepts of time. The US cover utilises a similar detail as the key used for wind up automata takes the shape of a white bird and is propped against a red circle. This recalls Japan's flag but also a bird's wingspan. The Japanese cover displays a huge bird, under it an inescapable well of sorts with a character trapped in its confines. One UK Vintage cover flips this by having the bird be trapped underground and a phone be the figure guarding the well's entrance. All these covers approach the bizarreness in Murakami's work differently, some by depicting a bird as a symbol of escape, others by showcasing automata and the fluid realities held within this book and some by using key objects of the story as props to signal familiar Murakami-esque themes.

# Indie Bookshop Events

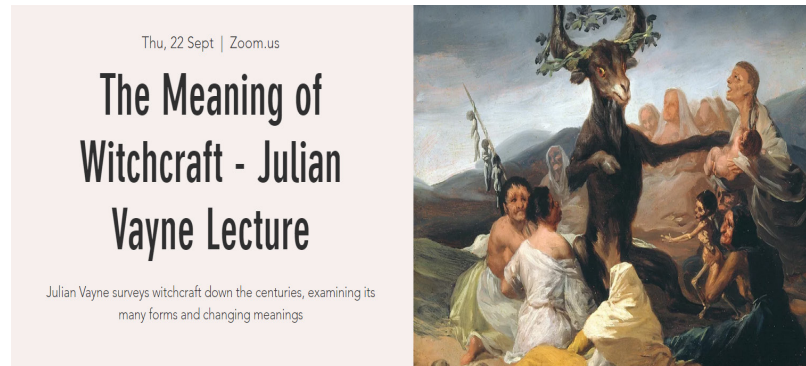
BY SHUANGYUE ZHAO, TEHZIB JANJUA AND ELLIE GORDON

The Bookshops team has compiled a series of events that are taking place in independent bookshops across the UK. Independent bookshops are great champions of events and groups of special interest, and you can always rely on them to have a lovely community feel. Here are a few of the events we are most excited about!

## October Books: Bring Your Own Book (Zoom)

October Books holds a monthly virtual book club with the tagline “bring your own book and share its magic.” This is a monthly, one-hour session that promises you the opportunity to finally recommend that book you’ve loved but haven’t been able to get anyone else to read. With its online format, and 7:00 p.m. start time, this book club is perfect for anyone who wants to take part in bookish discussions without having to leave the comfort of their own home.

The freedom of not having to read a set book, but instead coming away with



new recommendations, is liberating for anyone who struggles with assigned reading.

The September session will run on 20 September 2022 starting at 7:00 p.m., with a maximum run time of one hour. Click [here](#) for further information and to book your free virtual seat. But not to worry, if you can’t make it this month, there’s always next month’s Bring Your Own Book session!

## Treadwell’s Books: The Meaning of Witchcraft — Julian Vayne Lecture (Zoom)

Julian Vayne is an occultist with over thirty-five years’ experience, whose work is informed by chaos magic

and by lineages in Wicca and Tantra. In his lecture, hosted by Treadwell’s Books, the audience is taken across the world of witchcraft — from the witch-hunts of the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the mountains of South America, from Wicca to Traditional Craft and more. Julian explains what witchcraft means to people from different times and places, including the pagan revival of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As well as surveying witchcraft across the centuries, he also looks at how witchcraft is developing right now. Julian offers an insightful overview of the multi-faceted tradition of magical practice.

This online lecture will start at 7:00p.m. on 22 September 2022 and will last for one and a half hours. Book your £10

digital ticket [here](#) and find details of how to access the event recording.

As an independent bookshop specialising in witchcraft, Treadwell’s Books not only sells rare and quirky books, but also provides events including regular lectures and workshops both online and in-person, occasional walking tours, and appointments for Tarot readings. Some more upcoming events include: Moon and Tide Magic — Workshop on 15 September, Mythic London — Caroline Wise’s Super-walk on 18 September, Priestess and Witch: Thorn Mooney & Rebecca Beattie in Conversation on 2 October, Meeting the Figures of Death — Lecture on 3 October.

If you are attracted by witchcraft, religion, mystery and spirituality, this unique bookstore is the place for you. Find out more information on its website and pay a visit to the address 33 Store Street, Bloomsbury, London WC1E 7BS where you may find something to house or comfort your soul.

## Linghams Books: An Evening with Raynor Winn

(Linghams Booksellers, 248 Telegraph Road, Heswall, Wirral, CH60 7SG)



Join Linghams booksellers as they welcome Raynor Winn, the bestselling author of *The Salt Path*, as she discusses her latest release *Landmine*. In a haunting capture of both the environment and the nation’s growing divide, Winn details her journey from the Cape Wrath Trail in the north-west corner of Scotland to the south-west Coast Path. She questions whether we remain single-minded in our approach to preserving and protecting the environment, even as the nation becomes more fractured.

Taking place in Linghams Booksellers, going to this event is a great opportunity to listen to a bestselling travel writer whilst supporting an independent bookshop that strives to support its local community.

This evening with Raynor Winn takes place on 21 September 2022, from 7:00–8:30 p.m. Tickets start at £10 and go up to £20 (£20 includes the purchase of the book). For further information or to book your ticket click [here](#).

## Housmans — Queer Book Club

(5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX)

The longest continuous-running radical bookshop in the UK, Housmans is an independent bookshop which champions and celebrates the voices of minorities. They specialise in books which encourage progressive politics and alternative thinking, and promote the works of Black, queer and feminist authors. With its roots as a temporary bookshop space for the Peace Pledge Union, the bookshop was officially established by Laurence Housman in the aftermath of World War Two, as he sought to promote ideas of peace and human rights through literature. The bookshop remains faithful to its early pledges, having now spent decades supporting minorities in the fight for justice.

To celebrate this, Housmans runs a Queer Book Club which reads a range of LGBTQIA+ fiction and non-fiction. They meet every second Thursday of the month, from 7:00–8.30p.m. Click [here](#) to find out the details and learn more about Housman’s exciting past.

We hope you enjoy discovering the events these great bookshops have to offer.



# Spotlight on Children's Literature Festivals

BY ROSIE PINDER AND AIMEE HALDRON



According to the Children's Literature Festivals charity, there are currently over 350 literature festivals in the UK, with less than 10% solely dedicated to children. The charity argues that increasing this is vital to improving both literacy levels and children's enjoyment of books.

Yet, it is also important to celebrate the work of those that do exist and are already doing great things in this field. There are some literary festivals, for example, that began as events for adults but now run exciting events for children, too, as part of their programmes. The [TheSchoolRun](#) website and blog include a great rundown of some of the best of these running throughout the year,

from the Imagine Children's Festival held in London's South Bank in February, to the Northern Children's Book Festival which runs across the whole of the North East region during November.

In fact, there is so much going on throughout the year that we couldn't do justice to every single festival in this piece. So, we've chosen to do a quick overview of what's to come in the next couple of months, taking us to the end of 2022.

## Bath Children's Literature Festival

Coming up very soon is the Bath Children's Literature Festival, Europe's largest dedicated book festival for children's literature. Running

from 23 September to 2 October, the event is now fully back up and running after having to move online during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are lots of events taking place in nine different venues across the city, including Bath Central Library, the Guildhall and The Holburne Museum.

Some events are sold out but there are still loads of tickets up for grabs for everything from author talks and Q+As to interactive workshops

Here are some of the events that have caught our attention:

- A workshop where you can "Make your Own Gromit with Aardman Animations" on 24 September.
- A talk with Cerrie Burnell about her book *I am Not a Label* which celebrates people's different experiences of disability and talks about the need for better representation, also on 24 September.
- A talk with writer Jasbinder Bilan and illustrator Nina Chakrabati about their book *India, Incredible India*, which is a brilliant introduction to the history and culture of India. This event is to be held on 2 October.

## Cheltenham Festival for Schools

Running alongside the well-known Cheltenham Literature Festival and its events for adults is the Cheltenham Festival for Schools. The programme begins in September with online workshops followed by the LIVE Festival from 7 October to 16 October. There is a wealth of different events with different activities that are specifically aimed at primary school children, secondary school children and home-educated children.

The primary school events are sold out but there are still plenty of tickets available for secondary schools and home educators.

The theme this year, in fact, is a continuation of last year's theme – "Read the World." So, there are some really diverse, exciting events to get involved with. Here are a couple of events that we're particularly excited about:

- Lydia Monks: *Adoette*, 7 October. Lydia discusses her new book *Adoette* and encourages children to think about the natural world as they complete draw-alongs as well as readings and games in this interactive event.
- Nick Sharratt: *Super Silly Museums*, 14 October. In this fun-filled session, beloved children's illustrator Nick Sharratt will be giving a guided tour of the most super silly museums children will ever visit.

If you want to check out the whole range of other events that are taking place, you can find the brochures [here](#).

## Northern Children's Book Festival

Established in 1983 as a result of a collaboration between all the library authorities in the North East, the NCBF began. It's the only children's literature festival in the region and the only one in the UK that covers an entire region. The festival typically runs for two weeks with book-related activities, working with schools and communities across the entire region. There are visits from authors and illustrators that culminate in a free Gala Day event where children and their families meet and get involved with sessions run by some of their favourite authors.

This is the first year the festival is back in person after COVID-19 and the schedule is still being finalised, but with the 2018 Gala Day including people such as Steve Skidmore and Sophie Anderson, it's sure to be a good one!

We've barely scratched the surface of some of the amazing literature festivals available for children's literature. But hopefully, this has given you a taste of the ones that are still to come at the end of this year and inspire you to potentially attend some in the future.

# Depictions of Class in Victorian Literature

BY MEGAN POWELL, MICHAEL CALDER, HANNAH SPRUCE AND YAGMUR DUR

Throughout history, there have been defining social periods which have drastically impacted global affairs and subsequently, become a cultural fulcrum within their respective literary canon. One such epoch was the Victorian era and 19th century literature, which has fascinated novelists over the last two centuries.

Defined by its industrialism, political upheaval, imperialism and growing economic state, the Victorian period was a melting pot of sociological inspiration for literary contributors. However, perhaps most focalised within the literature of its era was classicism and hierarchical structures embedded throughout the social system. This was also the case globally.

Overrun by poverty, tyranny and hypocrisy, the nature of Victorian existence was captured by many classical novelists in Britain such as Charles Dickens, the Brontë sisters and Thomas Hardy. This theme was also indicative across the globe, with many writers exploring

also opting to write their experiences within a novel. Society is a crucial aspect that is typically explored to reflect the growing concerns of the time. Although we have decided to highlight that of the Victorian times, it is important to recall additional examples around the globe. Therefore, in this issue, the classics team will be discussing some of our favourite Victorian novels which broach the subject with driving themes connected with the class structure of the 19th century and look into how similar examples were perceived globally with special insight into one of our favourite French classics.

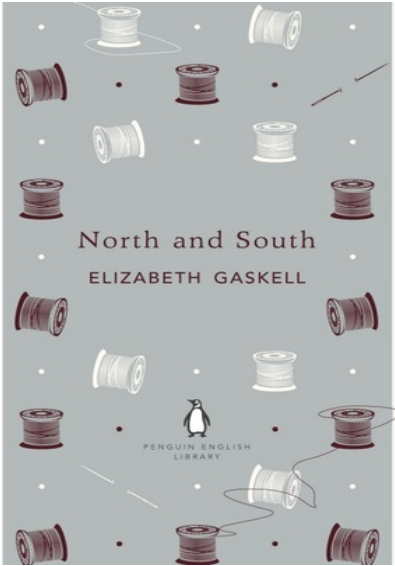
## *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell

When it came to choosing a novel that best fits into the mould of exploring class in Victorian society, Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South* aptly holds court in the class depiction. Published in 1854, this classic remains highly significant and recommended. As the title hints, the novel addresses a

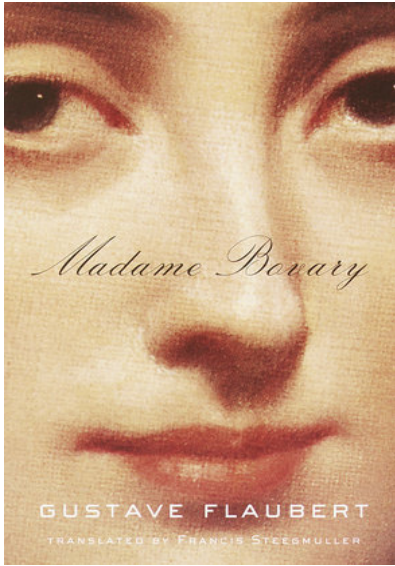
very important issue and one that has persistent elements even today; through Margaret Hale, Gaskell presents attitudes from southern England compared to the north – a fictionalised Manchester. Margaret and her family relocate to Milton, which is very different from the wealthy life Margaret is used to with her aunt in London. The effects of the Industrial Revolution are explicit with worker strikes and social conditions. Gaskell uses Margaret to stress the situation as she sympathises with the poor and the growing modernity in society with changing class traditions. The societal shift echoed many contextual experiences and through essential themes of authority and tradition, Gaskell depicts the north and south divide in a very imperative manner.

## *Vanity Fair* by William Makepeace Thackeray

The theme of social class is deeply rooted in William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*. In Victorian England, class was intrinsic to the societal



structure and its rigidity meant that many people fell into poverty while trying to sustain it. For the women in the novel, their sexuality and marriage are the only ways to change their social standing. The character Becky is from humble beginnings and spends her whole life trying to charm richer men in order to survive. Contrastingly, her friend Amelia was born into wealth but hleft in an unstable position following the loss of her family fortune, which leaves her ill-equipped for navigating the cruelty of Victorian society. Thackeray bases this rise and fall of class on his own experiences, which he uses to highlight the futility of the social system and the snobbery of the upper classes. Ultimately, dependence on money and fortune is proven to be worthless as the wealthy spend their lives fearful of losing their position while the lower classes yearn for it. Thackeray's novel is



an interesting and detailed analysis of the hypocrisy of society explored through a set of intriguing and flawed characters who seek to survive in an unforgiving environment.

## *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert

Our global example is *Madame Bovary*, written by the French writer Gustave Flaubert and published in 1856. The novel follows a young woman called Emma Bovary who is married to a small-town doctor in provincial Northern France. Throughout the novel, Emma's dangerous habit of living beyond her means and her growing attachment to the materialistic aspects of life as a way to escape the banalities of her provincial life, bring the theme of social class to the forefront of this novel.



Flaubert, through Emma and other characters, focuses on people's desperate attempt to climb up the ladder to reach high within and beyond middle-class (bourgeoise) status, which he criticises as not only superficial and selfish but also monotonous with dangerous consequences. Emma becomes a victim of the materialistic desires of her social world and her notions of wealth and romance become entangled within the superficiality and greediness of bourgeois life. Emma's strong desire for love and money causes her to commit adultery, leading her into a spiralling financial debt which she cannot repay and ultimately causing her to commit suicide. Flaubert's novel shows the readers the excesses of the bourgeoisie and the hardships and brutality experienced by those trying to survive in a class-obsessed society.



# Noteworthy Debut Cover Designs

BY BECCY FISH, AMY EVANS, LUCY ROBERTS AND JULIETTE TULLOCH  
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Waterstones recently unveiled Tess Gunty as the first winner of their new award, the Debut Fiction Prize, with her first novel *The Rabbit Hutch*. In this article we’ll be delving into the covers of some popular debut novels across a range of genres in celebration of this new award.

Khaled Hosseini’s moving story *The Kite Runner* follows Amir’s reflection on his childhood with his best friend Hassan, from growing up in Kabul to the events that led to their separation. This cover is drenched in sepia tones reflecting the age of Amir’s memories, alongside the drier landscape of Afghanistan. After reading the book, the reader will understand that the image displayed is a pivotal point in the story which Amir tortures himself over decades after its occurrence. Slapping it directly on the cover emphasises its crucial importance to the plot.

Arguably one of the most famous books ever published, J. D. Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye* was novelised in 1951 and had its cover designed by Salinger’s

close friend E. Mitchell. Holden Caulfield is expelled from his school after failing his classes so returns to New York. After several experiences with “phonies” and friends of the past, he finally reaches contentment when watching his younger sister on a carousel. The simplicity of this final scene is the emblem on the cover to demonstrate its significance to Holden’s growth and acceptance. The overwhelming red references his red hunting hat that becomes a symbol of his individuality, which is also represented in the hand-drawn imagery.

Published earlier this year, *Daughter of the Moon Goddess* is Sue Lynn Tan’s debut fantasy novel which draws on Chinese mythology – particularly the legend of the Chinese moon goddess Chang’e. The cover, illustrated by [Kuri Huang](#), reflects the mythological and fantasy elements of the book, and contains echoes of traditional Chinese paintings. The dark blue background of the cover highlights the bright gold moon, and the figure dressed in white, to stand out. The gold accents and stars also create a nice contrast with the pink flowers. The level of detail in this cover design is also a

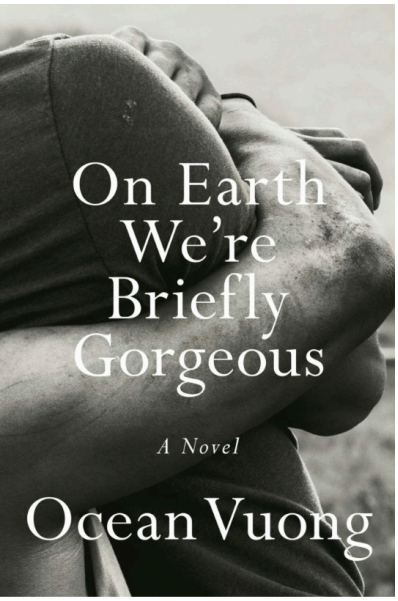
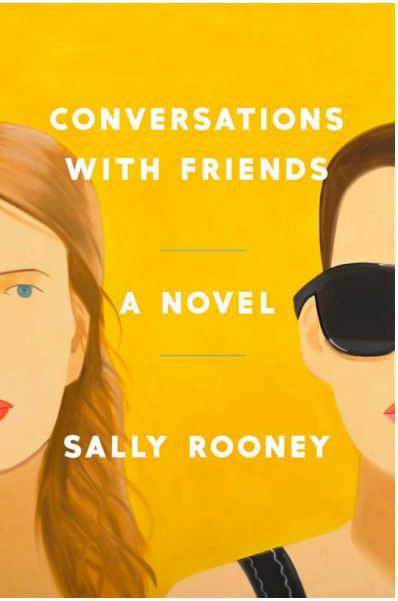
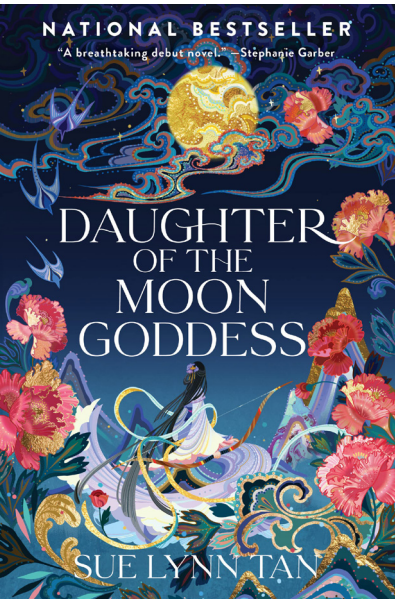
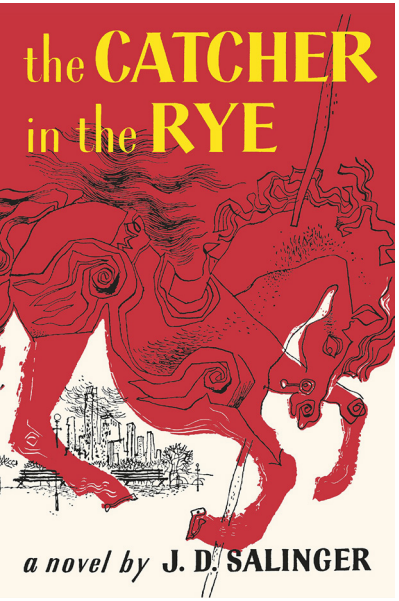
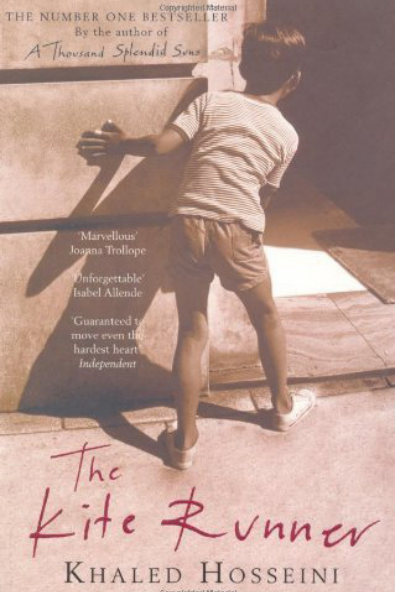
large part of what makes it stand out and look visually appealing.

*The School for Good and Evil* is the first book in the popular middle-grade fantasy series by Soman Chainani, which has a film adaptation coming out later this year. The cover, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno, highlights the two main characters, emphasising their contrasting styles. It also gives a lot of attention to the setting of the novel, with the two schools making up the background of the cover, and the school crest front and centre. This is a cover full of contrast – with the black and white swans and the stark differences been the “Good” school and “Evil” school, the cover strongly hints at the main conflict within the book itself. The placement of the schools also hints at the twist in the story.

*Conversations with Friends* skyrocketed Sally Rooney into literary stardom before her second novel, *Normal People*, earned her even more acclaim. Following the lives of students Frances and Bobby, Rooney explores the difficulties of their friendships, romances and the work they create together. They engage in a messy, whirlwind friendship-group-turned-love-quadrangle which sees their health, livelihood, and relationships come

into question. The cover’s bright yellow background contrasts some of the more difficult themes that the novel encounters. The depiction of Frances and Bobby highlights the differences between their personalities, with Frances more reserved while Bobby takes on the role of the life of the party. The decision to include “A Novel” on the front cover hints that the writing style inside may not be what the average reader expects from a modern novel.

Ocean Vuong’s debut *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous* takes on the form of a letter written to a mother from her son, nicknamed Little Dog. The novel takes the reader through the Vietnamese War from the perspectives of Vietnamese and American soldiers, but also through the struggle of the American queer experience. Little Dog takes up work on a farm where he meets his lover, and this storyline is accompanied by flashbacks to the war. Vuong destroys and rewrites whatever perspective of colonialism, patriotism, gender and sexuality the reader may already have. The decision to use an intimate greyscale photo for the cover (designed by Darren Haggard) complements the story inside, representing the history and memory seeped within. The image of one man hugging another highlights the gentle intimacy found within the novel – while the dirt found upon their skin depicts the brutality of the work and the war depicted.







# Job Opportunities

By SHERIDAN PENA AND AIMEE WHITTLE

## Editorial Assistant — Bloomsbury Visual Arts

**Closing Date:** 3 October

**Salary:** £24,000

**Location:** London

Bloomsbury is looking for an Editorial Assistant to provide administrative and organisational support working on the Design and Crafts list within the Visual Arts team, part of their academic division.

The role involves assisting the Publisher and the Commissioning Editor for Design in the effective management of print and digital products throughout the publication process. This includes liaising with authors to ensure typescripts are delivered on time, preparing typescripts for production (including evaluating image quality and selection and securing images), sending proposals, drafting typescripts for review, managing backlist titles and other administrative duties.

The ideal candidate will have strong project management and multi-tasking skills, the ability to learn and adapt to new systems and processes quickly and some commercial awareness

and understanding of the publishing industry. You should also be committed to a career in academic publishing. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

## Editorial Assistant — Taylor & Francis

**Closing Date:** 21 September

**Salary:** £27,100

**Location:** London

Taylor & Francis are looking for an Editorial Assistant to join their team on F1000Research and across their open research platforms.

The role will involve a wide range of tasks relating to facilitating the peer review process for their research platforms, including contacting internationally renowned academic researchers and clinicians, assessing the appropriateness of peer reviewers, providing additional suggestions and some basic editing and quality checks of peer review reports. Please note this role will not include the editing of manuscripts.

The successful candidate will have a background in science, technology,

engineering or mathematics (STEM) and the ability to communicate concepts clearly and enthusiastically, work efficiently and have excellent attention to detail. They will also need to be a strong team player who enjoys interacting with people and be fully computer literate. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

## Audio Operations Assistant — HarperCollins

**Closing Date:** 23 September

**Salary:** £26,250

**Location:** London

HarperCollins is looking for a new Audio Operations Assistant to oversee the administrative and organisational tasks for their in-house Audio team. This role is crucial in helping deliver their best-in-class audiobook publishing programme, which covers everything from picture books to literary fiction, fantasy to celebrity memoir, as well as audio originals and podcasts.

HarperCollins is looking for someone with outstanding attention to detail, first-rate administrative and organisational skills and a proactive, collaborative approach to work. The

successful candidate will make sure their busy, friendly team hits all the deadlines needed so that the audiobooks are on sale and to the high quality that listeners expect when they're supposed to be. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

## The Traineeship — HarperCollins Publishers

**Closing Date:** 25 September

**Salary:** £26,250

**Location:** London

The Traineeship at HarperCollins is officially accepting applications for 2023. This year-long experience provides selected individuals with the chance to follow a manuscript throughout its many stages on the way to becoming a publication.

Prior publishing experience and/or a degree are not required for this position. The Traineeship is a great opportunity for people looking to gain worthwhile

experience at one of the world's leading publishing houses. Successful applicants will work with the editorial, design, communications, sales, marketing, PR and digital teams, among others. HarperCollins will pair you with a buddy and mentor on the first day and they will grant you access to their Author and Design Academy. Meeting the board of directors, visiting the HarperCollins Glasgow distribution centre and attending book launch parties are all opportunities available to those who secure one of these positions.

The application process is comprised of an online application, a virtual assessment for longlisted candidates and an in-person assessment day for those shortlisted. The position will be based at the HarperCollins London Bridge office for at least two days out of the week. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

## Editorial Intern — Yale University Press

**Closing Date:** 9 September

**Salary:** £20,111, plus 50% of travel

**Location:** London

An editorial internship position has arisen at Yale University Press. They are looking for someone to join their trade and academic department. The contract period is six months, and the successful individual will begin in October 2022.

You will be asked to conduct research, attend various meetings with the editorial, production and marketing teams and provide support to the editorial department. Key skills needed for this job include a high level of organisation, a keen eye for detail, excellent written and verbal communication, IT proficiency, an interest in trade and academic publishing and a willingness to work collaboratively in a team. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).



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PRESS

# Indie Spotlight: Angry Robot Books

BY ELLA DAVIES AND CHARLOTTE BONNER

Many independent publishing presses have a specific focus to make them stand out from the crowd. Whether that be a focus on classical texts, women's literature or a specific genre. The indie press we are spotlighting today, Angry Robot Books, has thrived through its focus on science fiction and fantasy books.

Founded in August 2008, they were originally based in Nottingham, however, their headquarters have since moved to London. They market their brand as "SF, F and WTF!?" books, taking on general science fiction and fantasy, as well as any books which have a flare and original quality to make their readers say "WTF?!?"

They make a lot of capital from their "Robot Army," a street team of bloggers, reviewers, and influential commentators from the science fiction world. To help their street team, this "army" is able to access exclusive content and advanced reading copies of Angry Robot's books. Since September 2010, they have also been collaborating with

Penguin Random House as a distributing client, allowing them to sell their books worldwide and in all your favourite bookstores and bookish retailers.

All of their books are published simultaneously in physical paperback and eBook, with a vast ever-growing amount also being released as audiobooks as well. There is an entire section of their website dedicated to audiobooks and which platforms each book is available on.

Angry Robot Books also runs a blog on their website, keeping their readers up to date with all the newest releases, upcoming newly acquired books and job opportunities. If podcasts are more your style, don't fret, they also run their own podcast on Spotify where you can receive updates, listen to interviews from authors and exciting guests, and hear all about the latest topics and focuses within the science fiction and fantasy genre.

Since its founding, Angry Robot Books has worked very hard to increase its social

media following across all platforms. They truly love delving into online marketing and interacting with individuals in the publishing and book communities via their social media profiles. This is an indie press that's passion is deeply rooted in their love for the book community and can be regularly seen interacting and supporting many wonderful people, morals and movements – all of which are very clear across all their social media profiles and website.

The bestselling *Fix* trilogy was published by Angry Robot Books in 2016. The Barnes and Noble sci-fi blog describes the urban fantasy novels as a "one-of-a-kind series... is what might result if you put *Breaking Bad* and Reddit in a blender and hit 'frappe.'" Alongside this, Angry Robot Books has published many successful fantasy novels, including *The Lives of Tao* (2013) by Wesley Chu and *United States of Japan* (2017) by Peter Tieryas.

Angry Robot Books has recently published several bestselling sci-fi hits,

including Chris Panatier's *Stringers* (2022), a thought-provoking fantasy novel. Panatier's sci-fi adventure features aliens, robots and parallel worlds. Publishers Weekly writes: "Where *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* recommended towels, this slapstick and semisweet space opera sends its Earthlings out among the aliens armed only with a jar of pickles... Readers are in for a treat." Another exciting recent release is *An Accident of Stars* (2022) by Foz Meadows, an evocative blend of gritty realism and fantasy. This is the first book in the new *Manifold Worlds* duology, which has been updated with a stunning new cover designed by Kiernyn Tyler.

A hotly anticipated release for Angry Robot Books is *Ledge*, a sci-fi from the TikTok sensation, Stacy McEwan. The debut novel is a slow-burning romance and a gripping fantasy adventure. The press describes it as an ambitious debut based on incredible world-building. It is expected to make a strong start to the *Glacian* trilogy. *Ledge* will be published on 13 September 2022.

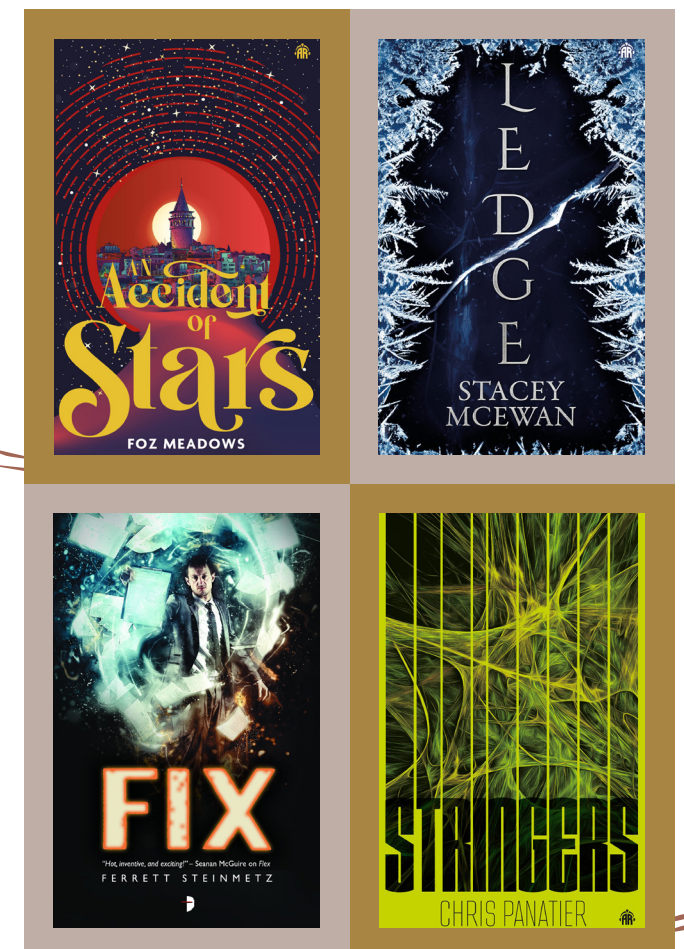
Angry Robot Books also anticipates the release of Joshua David Bellin's *Myriad*, a mind-bending sci-fi thriller. Bellin's adult debut incorporates a detective mystery with elements of cyberpunk and time travel. Angry Robot Books looks forward to welcoming Bellin to their roster of authors.

Bellin has also expressed his excitement, noting that Angry Robot Books is one of his favourite speculative fiction publishers: "I love time travel stories and I love mysteries, so putting the two of them together and watching all the pieces fall into place was the most fun I've ever had as a writer. I hope readers feel the same way!" *Myriad* will be published on 23 May 2023.

Another upcoming release is *Toxxic* by Jane Hennigan, an exciting sequel which builds on the world established in *Moths* (2021). This thrilling duology incorporates gender roles and feminism into a

post-apocalyptic world. Hennigan's characters must navigate a world which was not made for men. This is a sequel to look forward to. *Toxxic* will be published on 12 March 2024.

With Angry Robot Books continuously publishing distinctive voices within the publishing and book communities, a genuinely lovely team of people, and being incredibly supportive and interactive, they are definitely an indie publisher to watch!





# Capital Crime Festival: An Interview with David Headley

BY CAITLIN DAVIES, DANIELLE HERNANDEZ AND GEORGIA REES

Capital Crime is a “festival like no other” for crime and thriller enthusiasts, promising “a packed schedule of entertaining and thought-provoking events,” bringing fans and creatives together to celebrate this often overlooked genre. Over the two days, there is a jam-packed schedule of exciting panels and events. Crime writing giants including Robert Harris, Lisa Jewell, Paula Hawkins and Richard Osman will be in attendance to discuss their experiences and inspirations as writers. Capital Crime will also be highlighting filmmaking, journalism, and podcasts, the latter of which is becoming increasingly popular with crime genre enthusiasts. Outside of these exciting panels, there will be events such as drinks receptions, book launches and signings, in keeping with the aim of bringing people together and to entertain.

This year’s top novels will also be in the spotlight at The Fingerprint Awards, where standout works from

categories including debut novels and audiobooks will be acknowledged by fans on 29 September 2022 during the festival. In addition, should any novels showcased at Capital Crime grab the attention of readers, Goldsboro Books will be on hand with a dedicated pop-up shop. An independent shop located in Central London, whilst normally specialising in signed copies and first editions, their pop-up will be based in the Pump House Gallery for the festival.

Another key element to the festival is the community outreach work and focus upon fresh talent in the industry. The Capital Crime Social Outreach Initiative aims to “demystify the publishing industry...broaden minds, give these young people the confidence to pursue their goals, and attract new and diverse voices to publishing.” With a dedicated afternoon during the festival, twenty state schools in London will be invited to engage with this initiative. At the “Future

Generations Afternoon Takeover,” future publishing hopefuls can interact with industry agents, writers and editors. What is more, the “Pitch An Agent” session will enable future crime authors to pitch their ideas for potential novels.

Capital Crime 2022 will be a chance to both highlight the success of the British crime and thriller genres, as well as a moment to look to the future and ensure that future talent is included in the conversation. This week, the co-founder David Headley kindly joined us in a discussion of what we could expect from Capital Crime 2022.



**This year Capital Crime is even bigger than in previous years and includes not just panel events with bestselling authors and pop-up bookshops, but a community outreach programme and the new Fingerprint Awards. How do you ensure an event like this is growing organically? How do you balance expanding the literary festival with remaining connected to the individual readers who are attending?**

“I would say that all of Capital Crime’s growth is organic. The difference between the 2019 and 2022 festivals, is that we’ve had three years of not being able to hold one, so therefore we have been given the gift of time: we’ve started a book club, we’ve consciously and directly engaged with readers. The success of the inaugural festival in 2019 has meant that more authors and publishers have wanted to be involved with the 2022 festival, which of course we welcome with open arms.”

**How important are events such as this for publicising an arguably overlooked genre in the events space and for encouraging diversity within the publishing industry?**

“I’m not sure I agree that crime is an overlooked genre; I think it is a very crowded market, and certainly there



are a lot of people writing within the crime fiction space. That being said, crime fiction is so perennial; it’s so successful. There’s a saying - “crime pays” - and it literally does; it’s a lucrative genre. And we have our Outreach Programme specifically to target the diverse audience we are lucky enough to have. As an agent, as well as a festival organiser and bookseller, I spend my time trying to find diverse voices and bring that into publishing. As a working-class boy, from a very modest background, I am very well aware of the need to bring these voices into publishing.”

**Last year’s social media engagement was in the millions across a number of platforms. What role does social media play in promoting the Capital Crime event?**

“It’s massive and surprised us all by how successful it was in 2021. Social media is a brilliant tool (when used correctly), and those who

couldn’t join the festival in previous years were able to take part, thanks to that very thing. And those same people have now bought tickets to, and are attending the 2022 Festival, even from as far as Canada and the United States. We can unequivocally promise that it’s going to be the best crime festival in the UK.”

We want to extend a big thank you to David Headley for taking the time to speak to us about the upcoming Capital Crime Festival and the importance of a successful social media outreach campaign. Tickets are still available for the festival which will be taking place in London’s Battersea Park from 29 September to 1 October. To find out more about the event, you can follow them on Twitter at [@CapitalCrime1](#) or head to the [website](#).

# LGBTQ+ Graphic Novels to read if you like *Heartstopper*!

BY CARLY BENNETT, EMMA HOLBROOK, EMILY MYHILL AND BECCA BINNIE  
.....

*Heartstopper* recently took the world by storm and illustrated how brilliant the medium of graphic novels can be, which inspired us to compile a list of other brilliant LGBTQ+ graphic novels. From apocalyptic queer teens trying to survive, to Greek mythology retellings and witchy love stories, there’s sure to be something in here for everyone!

***Mooncakes*  
by Suzanne Walker  
(illustrated by Wendy Xu)**

Billed as “a story of love and demons, family and witchcraft,” *Mooncakes* is a sweet, magical graphic novel about self-discovery and the bonds of family, chosen or otherwise. Featuring a host of LGBTQ+ characters, *Mooncakes* explores both sexuality and gender and has some of the loveliest queer representation I’ve seen in literature.

We follow protagonist Nova Huang, a teen witch who works and lives with her grandmothers in their bookshop that specialises in

spell books. Our story begins when a horse demon appears in the woods and Nova finds her childhood crush, Tam, battling the demon in werewolf form. Nova and Tam’s journey leads them to discover evil forces that put Tam and the other wolves’ lives in danger, and now Nova must rely both on her magical abilities and the strength of her family to help good prevail over evil.

Blending romance, witchcraft and identity against the backdrop of Wendy Xu’s beautiful art style, *Mooncakes* the perfect cosy read to curl up with as the evenings draw in in preparation for spooky season!

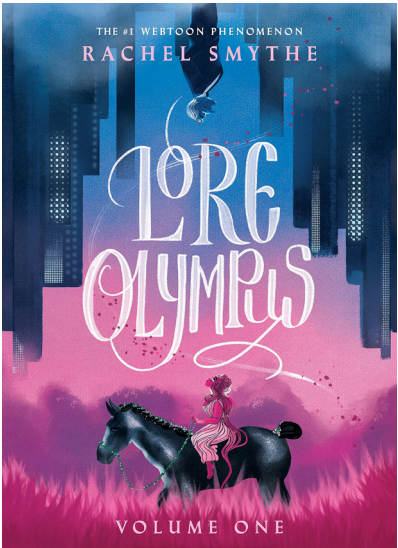
***Lore Olympus*  
by Rachel Smythe**

“Sensitive and elegant . . . Beautiful artwork and compelling characters [take] the forefront of this romantic, tech-savvy retelling of Greek mythology.” – *Booklist*

Up next, the contemporary reimagining of one of the most popular romances in Greek mythology, the first volume of the graphic novel series, *Lore Olympus* by Rachel Smythe, which will have you amused and addicted from the very first page!

In this modern retelling of the famous *Hades and Persephone* myth (or *The Rape of Persephone* as it is commonly known), we are introduced to the world of Greek gods and goddesses whose daily lives are filled with pain, pleasure, gossip and a lot of drama! Following the journey of Hades, the dark and mysterious ancient lord of the Underworld, as he seeks out a romantic relationship with the shy and innocent Persephone, the goddess of spring, Smythe presents us with a diverse selection of characters, directly appealing to the LGBTQ+ community.

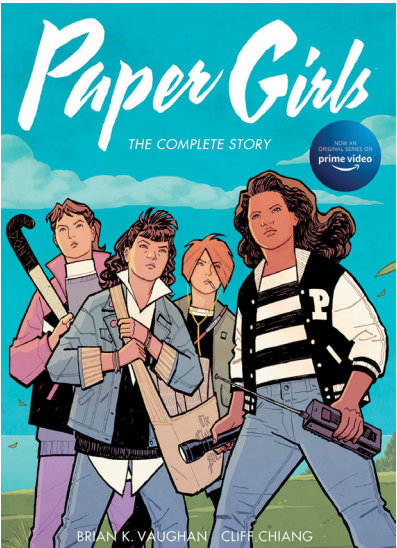
Whilst Greek mythology is known for its heavy theme of male homosexual relationships/tendencies, the lack of female homosexuality or queer representation even in today’s retellings left Smythe wanting to appeal to other members of the community. And *Lore Olympus* offers readers the perfect solution – the inclusivity of lesbian/queer relationships through the characters of Hestia and Athena, both queer goddesses who you fall in love with at first sight! If you’re looking for more female x female representation, *Lore Olympus* is for you!



***Paper Girls*  
by Brian Vaughan**

If you’re wanting an action-packed, fun and wild graphic novel series with gloriously bright 80s-themed visuals, *Paper Girls* is the right choice for you. It begins directly in the action, with four young teenage girls trying to complete their paper round in the midst of what seems to be a global apocalypse. Fast-paced and packing plenty of punches, it’s an engaging and action-filled series for science fiction graphic novel fans!

It has a range of queer representation; the series, amongst all the action, follows two of the paper girls as they come to terms with their queerness and some side characters, such as the first two male characters from the future, are also canonically queer. However, there are strong themes of homophobia and

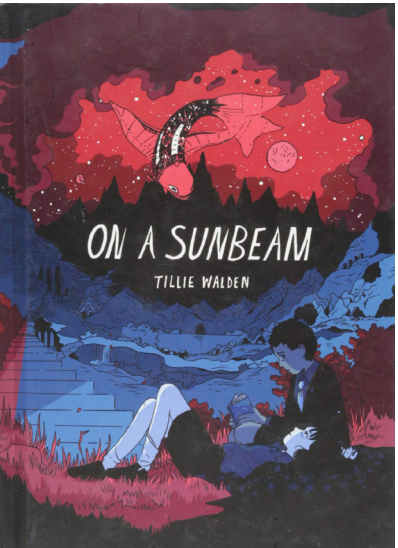


slurs used due to being set in the late 80s, so make sure this is something you’re comfortable reading about before jumping in.

This is a beautifully illustrated coming-of-age story with an immense, non-stop action storyline that focuses upon a very diverse range of characters. With an Amazon Prime series recently released, there’s plenty of *Paper Girls* content to devour when you’ve made your way through the graphic novels too! A truly brilliant, bright and wacky story with a big heart, *Paper Girls* is a must-read if you’re wanting a fun sci-fi graphic novel with a diverse queer character base!

***On a Sunbeam*  
by Tillie Walden**

Originally a sci-fi webcomic, *On a Sunbeam* tells the story of Mia on her adventure to rediscover lost love.



Published as a graphic novel in 2018, Walden created a science fictional space universe which Mia is drifting through, trying to find somewhere to belong.

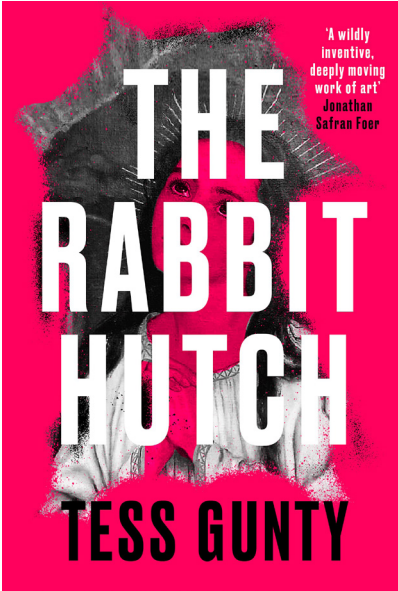
Using flashbacks, the depth of Mia’s character is explored as she joins the Sunbeam maintenance team as they restore buildings on planets. An honest and inclusive LGBTQ+ love story in a creative and exciting fictional space, with some great reflection on the importance of pronouns and the power of fighting for one’s heart. Tillie Walden has crafted a beautiful graphic novel that deserves a space on your bookshelf.



# Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize

By Paridhi Badgotri, Gabriella Sotiriou, and Thomas Caldwell

This month saw the announcement of the very first winner of the Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize. What makes this prize stand out from the crowd is that it is judged completely by Waterstones’ booksellers. Earlier this year Waterstones booksellers from each and every branch were provided with a number of books from the longlist to read, review and eventually vote on during the month of June. The titles that were provided to each bookseller who signed up to be part of the judging panel were assigned completely randomly and provided by the wonderful publishers. The prize caused quite a buzz between booksellers as well as a lot of excitement



upon the arrival of the postman to see what each bookseller had been sent to review.

The prize was awarded to Tess Gunty for her novel *The Rabbit Hutch* which has been described as “fiercely original” and was the most popular amongst the booksellers across the country. The novel follows the inhabitants of the Rabbit Hutch, an affordable housing complex in a town within the Rust Belt of the American midwest that saw great industrial decline in the 1980s. Through the individual inhabitants Gunty explores themes such as urbanisation, gentrification, the intricacies of the care system, and poverty. The main focus of the tale is Blandine, who is both beautiful and intelligent and how she eventually discovers a chosen family in unlikely places.

Gunty will receive £5000 pounds and commitment from Waterstones to continue supporting her career.

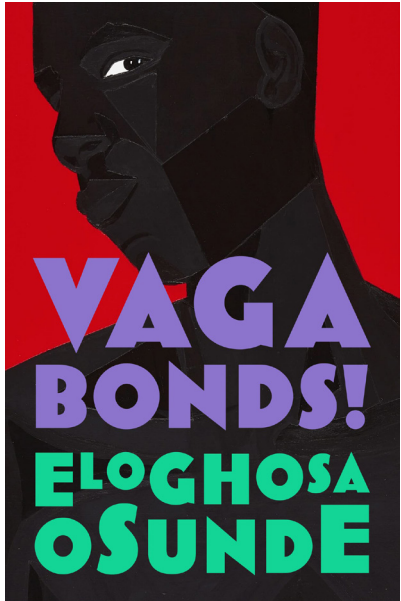
**The shortlist included:**  
*Memphis*  
by Tara M. Stringfellow

Stringfellow presents the story of an intergenerational family living in Memphis. The protagonist of the novel,

Joan, is a woman from this family. Through Joan, the book explores Black womanhood in the family. Memphis commemorates the enduring strength of female bonds between these three generations. It focuses on creating a better future of Black women in the face of horrendous history.

***Vagabonds***  
by Eloghosa Osunde

Set in Lagos, *Vagabonds* explores the corruption and hideous nature of Nigerian capitalism through the lives of the “vagabonds:” the queer, footloose and displaced. The book delves into the realm of magical realism where the



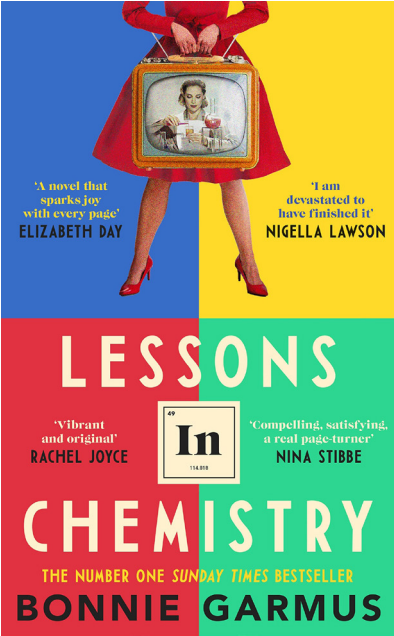
binary between reality and fantasy is blurred through the spirits that come alive in the corrupted nature of Lagos. The book provides the most radical hope in a world governed by power and oppression by advocating for resistance.

***How High We Go in the Dark***  
by Sequoia Nagamatsu

The novel is again a story of resolute hope in the middle of a plague which has destroyed the lives of most of the people on the planet. Nagamatsu focuses on a widowed painter and her granddaughter’s cosmic quest for a new planet to save mankind. A tale of making the impossible happen through love and reinvention, *How High We Go in the Dark* forces the readers to think about the possibilities of existence beyond the earth and other new inventions.

***Trespases***  
by Louise Kennedy

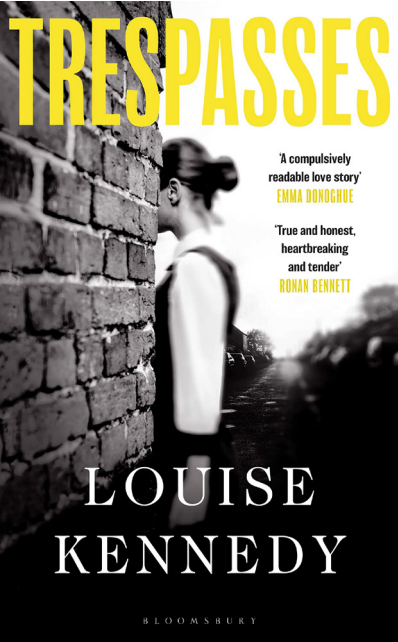
Louise Kennedy has followed up her 2021 short story collection *The End of the World is a Cul de Sac* with *Trespases*, described by *The Guardian* as a novel of “utter conviction.” Telling the story of a love taking place across the divide of the Irish Troubles, Kennedy draws us into a world so carefully realised it is hard to escape it even after turning the final page. The novel’s human and



deeply attentive prose offers a moving portrait of love and struggle as well as fresh perspective of an already well-documented time of the country’s history.

***Lessons in Chemistry***  
by Bonnie Garmus

Chemist turned cookery show star, Elizabeth Zott, is the start of this bold, funny, and exhilarating debut from former copywriter Bonnie Garmus. Examining the struggle of Zott to be recognised for her talent and personhood in the face of the institutionalised misogyny of the 1960s, and her subsequent rise to fame as one of America’s most beloved TV chefs. *Lessons in Chemistry* is at once deeply sympathetic, absurd and inspiring. Garmus brings humour and joy to what could potentially be difficult subject matter and asks to rethink how we view our lives.



Following the announcement that the Costa Book Awards would cease operating earlier this year, it is encouraging for the UK literary community to see the interest generated by this newly founded prize. Furthermore, the strength of this debut shortlist is certainly an exciting prospect for the future work of these supremely talented authors. The success of Waterstones’ other flagship prize, the Book of the Year prize, certainly highlights the potential of such projects, with numerous winners going on to be part of the top bestseller lists in the past few years. We eagerly await to see to what extent the work of the Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize will support up-and-coming authors in their work for years to come.



# Upcoming Publishing Events

BY SOPHIE DICKINSON, ERIN EVETT AND SABEEHAH SALEQ

## Natalie Haynes: *Stone Blind*

20 September, 8:30 p.m.

St Andrews Hall Plain, Norwich

Medusa is a myth that has captured the minds of great artists, filmmakers and novelists. Now, author and broadcaster, Natalie Haynes is recentering this famous myth around the titular character, finally giving Medusa a chance to share her perspective on the tragedies imposed upon her by the gods. For more information and ticket prices, click [here](#).

## BookTok Festival

21 September, 5–8:00 p.m.

Waterstones, Cambridge

BookTok has had a profound effect on the publishing industry and has thrown some novels into an unprecedented spotlight. Cambridge explores the phenomenon in this mini-festival, which includes a book signing from Simon James Green, author of LGBTQ+ teenage fiction, a talk from booksellers about popular hits, including Ali Hazelwood's latest release

and a Colleen Hoover quiz. For more information on activities and ticket prices, click [here](#).

## Wigtown book festival

23 September to 2 October

Wigtown, Scotland

This year's Wigtown Book Festival is comprised of over 200 exciting events that you won't want to miss. Located in the stunning countryside of Dumfries & Galloway, this has been one of the most highly anticipated literary events each year for over three decades. Starting on 23 September, the ten-day festival is the perfect way to kick off your bookish Autumn by joining exciting authors like Lisa Jewell, Robert Harris, Ian MacGregor and so many more! Book tickets [here](#).

## In Conversation with Claire North & Sarvat Hasin

23 September, 7 p.m.

Waterstones, Brentwood

If you love reading Greek mythology retellings, this event is a must. Join Claire North as she discusses her debut novel, *Ithaca*.

It records the story of Odysseus' wife, Penelope, and how she deals with his absence. It is the first in a series of novels detailing myths from the Trojan War. She is in conversation with Sarvat Hasin, who will be discussing her new novel, *The Giant Dark*, which is a retelling of the famous myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. For more information and ticket prices, click [here](#).

## Hachette Virtual Publishing Open House for Entry Level Professionals

29 September, 5–6:00 p.m.

Join Hachette for a LinkedIn Virtual Publishing Open House, specifically focused on those who are wanting to learn more about a career in publishing. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from, and meet, staff with varied skills and backgrounds from Hachette Book Group during this event, which takes place online. To register for the event, click [here](#).

## Bath Children's Literature Festival

23 September to 3 October

Bath

Bath Children's Literature Festival is Europe's largest dedicated children's literature festival, with a wide array of activities and events on offer. The festival features Alice Oseman, creator of the bestselling *Heartstopper* graphic novel series. Not only is Oseman in conversation with Lauren James to talk about *Heartstopper*, and with Juno Dawson to talk about screen adaptation, but she has aided in curating the teen and YA section of this year's festival. Further exciting events at this festival include talks with Jacqueline Wilson as she discusses her new book *Project Fairy*, as well as various events with Michael Rosen, Richard Ayode and Dermot O'Leary. For more information and tickets, visit the Bath Children's Literature Festival website [here](#).

## Booksellers Association Bookshop Social with BatchLine POS and Penguin Random House

5 October, 6–9:00 p.m.

Kett's Books, 3 Whartons Lane

Join Batchline POS and Penguin Random House for a bookshop social at Ketts

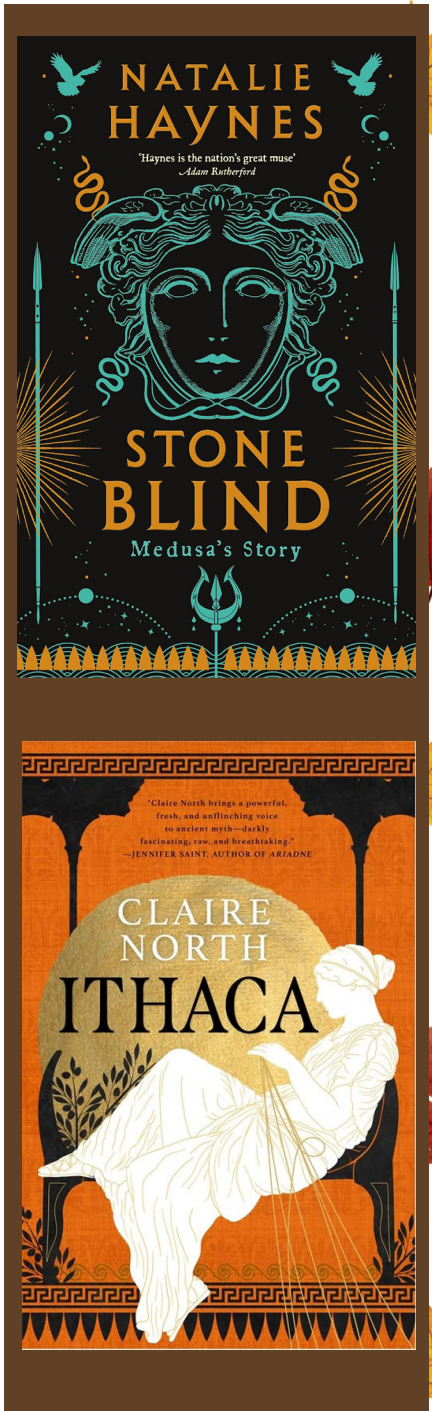
Books. Penguin Random House will be bringing authors Kirsty Logan, presenting her new book *Now She is Witch*, and Tom Crewe, debut author of the historical novel *The New Life*. The event will begin at Ketts Books, followed by an evening meal at The Queens Head, Wyndmonham. To register for the event, click [here](#).

## Henley Literary Festival

6–9 October

Birmingham

Birmingham's biggest literary festivals returns this autumn with a stunning line-up of unmissable events. The talented guestlist is made up of some of the UK's best writers, artists and activists. This year's line up includes *Love Marriage* author Monica Ali and award-winning poets Caleb Femi and Liz Berry amongst many more. Some of this festival's thought-provoking, conversation-starting events include a discussion of *My Pen is the Wing of a Bird: Stories from Afghan Women* and Birmingham Poetry All Stars, which features the talented line up of poets Casey Bailey, Jasmine Gardosi, Safiya Kinshasa and Roy McFarlan. When there's so much to offer, you won't want to miss out. Get tickets [here](#).





# Shuffling of the Shelves September, Part One

BY HANNAH MOORE, LUCY SHARDLOW, MELISSA TRAN AND HOLLY WATSON

**As we move into Autumn there is a focus on romance novels and these types of books are perfect for those wanting to get cosy on colder days! That being said, there are still darker themes in the thrillers and non-fiction in this issue of Shuffling of the Shelves for those interested.**

Scoring high in the Waterstones chart is Tess Gunty's debut novel *The Rabbit Hutch* currently taking the number two spot. This witty story follows a group of neighbours, all with complex lives – that is, except for Blandine, who spends her time reading and daydreaming. Yet, everything suddenly changes as she is given the chance to escape her life. Sitting at number three is *Love on the Brain* by Ali Hazelwood, author of *The Love Hypothesis*. Once again, Hazelwood offers a science-based romance that is perfect for anyone who enjoys the enemies-to-lovers trope. At number twelve we

have Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides*, newly released in a beautiful Collins Modern Classics edition. This novel follows a group of boys as they try to discover why all five of the fascinating and beautiful Lisbon girls took their own lives after years of speculation. This classic depicts suburban American life in a way never seen before.

A new edition to the WHSmiths chart is *The Judges List* by John Grisham, which has also been named *The Sunday Times* bestseller of the month. John Grisham's drama-filled novel places at number three. A thriller that is guaranteed to captivate you, *The Judges List* follows the story of Lacy Stoltz as she follows the clues of a serial killer. At number eleven is *The Party Crasher* by Sophie Kinsella, which is a "chick-lit" beach read following the story of Effie, whose parents have split up and her dad has just got remarried. In a light-hearted, humorous story of growing up, belonging and family dynamics, Kinsella charts with the perfect read to end off the summer.

At number eleven in the Amazon charts this week is Harlan Coben's *Fool Me Once*. Coben is well loved for his best-selling thrillers, a love which has only been enhanced by the television adaptations that we have seen over recent years. According to the Today Show, Coben signed a deal with Netflix in 2018 to have fourteen of his novels turned into television shows for the streaming site, and *Fool Me Once* is rumoured to be one of the fourteen (*today.com*). *Should I Tell You* by Jill Mansell is at number fourteen. Mansell creates the perfect romantic novel set against the backdrop of sunny Cornwall. Described as a "gorgeous" read that you can "curl up with," Mansell's novel will be perfect for readers desperately waiting for autumn days where you can get cosy with a book and a cup of tea! (Amazon).

If you love a dark contemporary romance, then we have the perfect series for you! Proving to be extremely popular on Bookstagram and BookTok is Ana Huang's *Twisted* series. This four-part series features the books

*Twisted Love*, *Twisted Games*, *Twisted Hate* and the newest release; *Twisted Lies*. Kicking off the series is Huang's *Twisted Love*, a contemporary brother's best friend romance centred around characters Alex Volkov and Ava Chen. A love that was never supposed to happen, but when it does, unleashes many secrets that could end up hurting both protagonists. Huang's ability to capture the "soaring highs and devastating lows" throughout this raunchy series is what really draws the reader in and only leaves them wanting more (@beasleylovesbooks on Instagram). This is a steamy romance series that is bound to get your heart swooning and pulse racing in no time; each book unravels an air of suspense that makes them so addictive to read!

Our noteworthy book this week is *I'm Glad My Mom Died* by Jennette McCurdy. McCurdy's highly anticipated memoir has shot to the top of the charts and is still only a pre-order for those in the UK. McCurdy gained fame as a child star on the Nickelodeon shows *iCarly* and *Sam and Cat*. In her book she discusses her life growing up as a Nickelodeon star, as well as her toxic relationship with her mother who forced her into the industry. McCurdy has spoken openly in interviews about why she quit acting, stating that she "chose a path of integrity" instead of following the career her mother had set out for her (ABC News YouTube channel). McCurdy's

novel is

extremely honest as she opens up about her personal life and the many struggles she faced as a teenager, an actress and a victim of several forms of abuse. Fans of McCurdy will be desperate to read her memoir and this is reflected in the book's high ranking across the charts.





# Not to be Overlooked

BY NATALIA ALVAREZ AND SANDHYA CHRISTINE THEODORE

*Not To Be Overlooked* introduces a variety of wonderful but lesser-known books to assist readers in finding their next great reads. This week's column covers a review of *Acts of Violet* by Margarita Montimore and *Girl Made of Gold* by Gitanjali Kolanad.

## *Girl Made of Gold* by Gitanjali Kolanad

Gitanjali Kolanad's debut novel is set in the 1920s in South India. It follows the story of Kanaka, a temple dancer and courtesan. One morning, she fails to arrive to play her part in a ritual. In her place, is a golden statue of a dancing girl in the temple's sanctum. The priest in charge, as well as her mother, says that she has miraculously turned into a statue. But when two bodies are found near the temple, the people of the town begin to search for less supernatural answers.

The story is narrated by various people in Kanaka's life; her friend, lover, family, teacher and others who are

loosely linked with her story. The author weaves together a non-linear narrative from the points of view of many people. As the reader gets to know Kanaka, they also learn about the varied cast of characters including a selectively mute girl of the devadasi community, a queer member of the royal family and a former priest with leprosy.

The story is loosely based on the legends and testimonies of devadasis. The author also attempts to create a historically accurate setting. The author's expertise in Bharata Natyam, a classical dance form practiced by the devadasis, is reflected in the book. Words from the regional dialect are sprinkled throughout the book as it seems to be written for a primarily Indian audience, but other readers will still be able to follow the story. The book gives the reader a glimpse into the history and culture of the region.

While the mystery itself is not dramatic or shocking, the story is a look into a unique

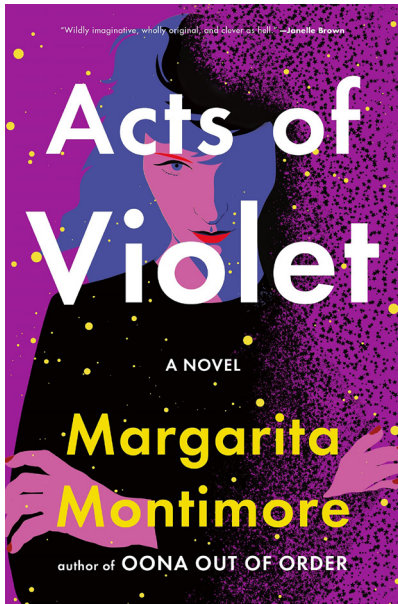
culture. The author does not gloss over the exploitation prevalent in a caste-based social structure. But her characters are not one-dimensional as they serve a purpose to the story beyond their caste or economic status. *Girl Made of Gold* is a murder mystery but also a story of struggle and desire. It is a great book for readers who enjoy character-driven mysteries or historical fiction.

## *Acts of Violet* by Margarita Montimore

For this issue, I have chosen to review Margarita Montimore's third novel *Acts of Violet* which was released in July 2022 by Flatiron Books. Fans of Montimore's work were heavily anticipating her next release after the success of her award-winning second novel *Oona Out Of Order* which is currently in the works for a TV show.

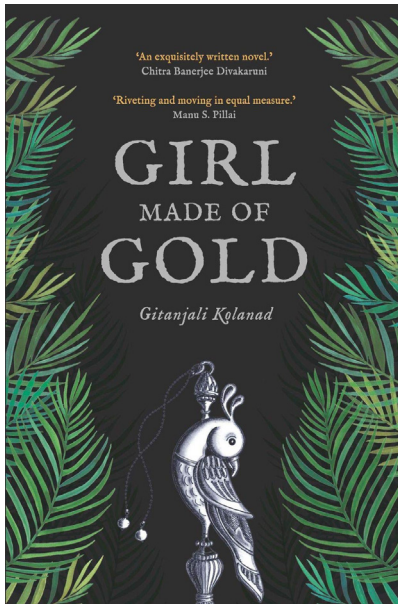
The novel follows journalist and podcast host Cameron Frank as he begins his new show focusing on the lives of famous people who have

disappeared. With the ten-year anniversary of world-renowned magician Violet Volk's mid-act disappearance just around the corner, it is only natural that her life be the first up for examination on Cameron's show. He does extensive research – emailing people Violet knew in different periods of her life, including fellow magicians, potential lovers and even family members. When these people are brought onto the show to interview, they always have different, sometimes contradictory opinions of Violet. These accounts give us the readers a biased and inaccurate depiction of who Violet was. We are unable



to form a concrete opinion on whether Violet was a person worth caring about. There are as many people who ridicule her as there are those who praise her.

The novel is also told through Violet's sister Sasha's point of view, who up until this point had refused interviews or given any sort of opinion on her sister's personality or her thoughts on her disappearance. With each episode, the host delves deeper into Violet's life and brings up old memories Sasha has tried hard to block out and forget. Her decision to remain neutral and withhold her opinion makes the media question



her and the relationship she had with her sister. They want to hear what she has to say and with Cameron's show putting Violet at the front of everyone's thoughts, the crazed fans start coming out again, harassing Sasha and her family for answers they do not have.

This really was an interesting read from beginning to end. The author does a wonderful job building up suspense surrounding Violet's disappearance and accurately portrays the media frenzy that happens in pop culture today when a scandal breaks out and questions are left unanswered. Additionally, with narration taking place mostly through transcripts, emails and documentary outlets, reading this book felt like I was piecing together the story right alongside Cameron. This was something I greatly enjoyed and believe many others will as well. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the world of professional magic as well as those looking for a fun mystery to get them into the beginnings of autumn.



# Our Fantasy Book Recommendations

BY ROWAN JACKSON, ZOE DOYLE, ANA MATUTE AND AMY WRIGHT

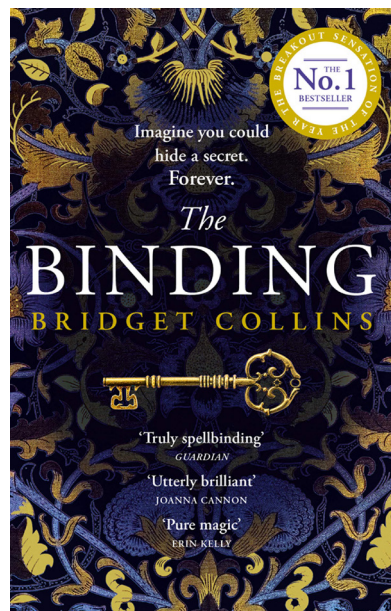
Fantasy is seeing a surge in popularity, particularly in visual media, with recent releases including *House of the Dragon*, *The Sandman* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*. Following the successful debut of the highly anticipated *House of the Dragon* fantasy drama television series, we have decided to recommend books from the fantasy and magical realism genres.

## *The Binding* by Bridget Collins

*The Binding* centres around Emmett Farmer. Emmett grew up working on his parents' farm but one day comes down with a peculiar illness and is sent to a Binder named Seredith, who is often referred to by the village folk as the witch that lives by the marshes.

In this world, which resembles Victorian England, Binders are keepers of memories and secrets that people do not want told or to remember. Emmett discovers he is destined to be a Binder. Written in three parts, the book begins with Emmett discovering his talent and working with Seredith. The second part focuses on the contents of

the book he finds with his name on and the final part is focused on a different, but equally important character and his own book. Bridget Collins writes in a way that encapsulates the magic and atmosphere of a stark, bitter winter in both the Victorian gothic and medieval eras simultaneously. *The Binding* is an atmospheric and spellbinding gothic fantasy, soaked in magic and literary symbolism with an underlying love story. A perfect read as we approach autumn.



## *His Majesty's Dragon* by Naomi Novik

In keeping with the epic dragon theme, I present to you the *Temeraire* series. Although it is not a new release, this series has not had a substantial amount of hype and is perfect for fantasy novices. It is set in an alternate historical world during the Napoleonic wars, where the air force is made up of dragons! The novel follows the adventures of Laurence, a tight laced captain in the Royal Navy who discovers a dragon egg stowed in the cargo of a captured French ship. He is horrified to find that the hatched dragonet takes a liking to him and, now bonded to the dragon named Temeraire, they are sent for training while the ever increasing threat of Bonaparte looms over them.

Novik has created an entirely convincing world where dragons fit realistically as part of the air force. There are dragons of all shapes and sizes: from speedy messenger carriers to giant behemoths that fight in battle. Perhaps the best part of this book however, is the sweet relationship that develops between Laurence

and Temeraire. Although initially reluctant to embrace his new role due to society's attitudes towards the air force, the caring and close bond that blossoms between the two is heartwarming. Future instalments in the series see Laurence and Temeraire embark on many escapades across continents with an abundance of different dragon species. Those who love historical fantasy should definitely add this series to your list!

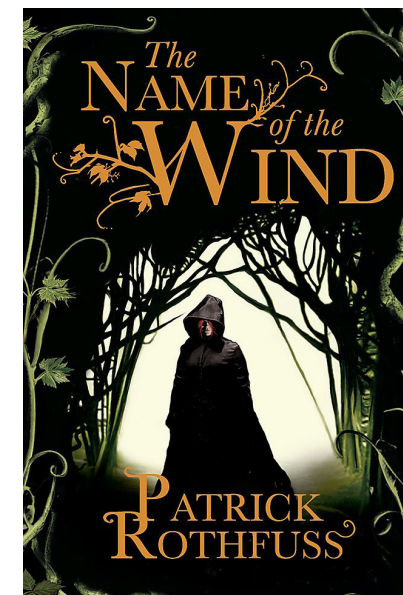


## *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss

*The Name of the Wind* is a fantastic book that you have probably seen before, as its popularity is enormous on the internet because of its distinctive fantasy harmonious world and story. This book is part of the trilogy called *The Kingkiller Chronicle*, where we learn

about the life of talented Kvothe, which is full of luck and misfortune, and a medieval world. One of the most incredible things in this book is the music, as it is beautifully descriptive and will make you feel like you are listening to it.

I particularly like Patrick Rothfuss' narrative for its meticulous and poetic style. The development of the world and all magical creatures are uniquely created, making them stand out from other fantasy novels. Also, the mystery around the novel's story will make you read it all night long.



## *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig is the story of Nora Seed who, after making the decision to end her life, is transported to a magical library consisting of what

seems like an endless amount of books. However, these books are actually other versions of her life and in this library she is given the chance to try out other lives, which are all unique in how every choice that the protagonist could have made leads to entirely different outcomes. Some of the lives that Nora tries are more extraordinary than others; in one she is transported to the Norwegian archipelago Svalbard and is faced with a polar bear with little knowledge of how to survive in the world she has been placed in. Other lives that seemed more promising turn out to be more disappointing than expected, which is perhaps the moral of the story. The magic of the library alongside the real life locations makes this a thought provoking read that makes you look at the choices you've made in your own life with a different perspective.





# Upskilling Tips for Publishing Newbies

BY MEGHAN CAPPER, TANVI JAISWAL, MISHA MANANI AND GEORGIA STACK

In this issue, we provide useful insight on resources, organisations and courses for anyone who's just starting out in the publishing world and wants to build their knowledge of the industry. These can support your career journey and grow your publishing skill set.

## Publishing Organisations:

- [SYP \(Society of Young Publishers\)](#): This organisation informs and assists publishing hopefuls across the UK and Ireland. They also offer a mentorship scheme each year which provides career guidance from publishing professionals.
- [BookMachine](#): They host online and in-person events and courses. Hopefuls can make connections, build key skills and develop their careers.
- [Independent Publishers Guild \(IPG\)](#): A friendly network of independent publishers with a range of resources and events to support their growth and efficiency.

- [Bookcareers](#): An online career development and guidance service. They offer professional advice on CVs, cover letters, and interview preparation. They even have a Newcomers Job Club.
- [Inspired Selection](#): A leading publishing recruitment agency. Take a look at their website to find some entry-level roles near you!
- [Publishers Pending](#): A social media project created by hopefuls aiming to make the industry more accessible by sharing their knowledge, experiences, and perspectives. Follow their Instagram [@publishers.pending](#) or Twitter [@pubpending](#) to join their community.
- [Publishers Association](#): They run a Work in Publishing campaign every November to inspire 14–24 year-olds interested in a career in publishing. They offer CV and interview tips, showcase a breadth of career opportunities, and host Q&As with professionals.

## Useful Resources:

- [Hachette Career Webinars](#): Ten “Opening the Book” recorded events hosted by Sharmaine Lovegrove. They cover the experiences in different departments, tips, and skills for getting a job.
- [Publishing Hopefuls Facebook Group](#): Join this community for those hoping to break into publishing. You will find Q&As, job opportunities, CVs and cover letters.
- [The Bookseller Job Search](#): Filter by job and employment type, location and company. [Sign up](#) to the Jobs in Books email for the latest every week!
- [Creative Access](#): There are forty-three employer partnerships in book publishing for underrepresented backgrounds. Look at the [job opportunities board](#) and [sign up](#) for the emails.
- [ERIC](#): Explore your career options, upskill through resources and find work in the creative industries. [Download](#) the free app on your mobile and sign up for

the newsletter.

- [Book Brunch](#): A UK publishing trade magazine to read about the industry and develop your commercial awareness. [Subscribe](#) to the free daily newsletter.
- [The Publishing Post: Subscribe](#) to the free bi-monthly digital magazine where you can learn more about the industry such as events, marketing campaigns and upskilling tips.
- [Publishing Hopefuls Toolkit](#): Created by Ellie Pilcher who lists many resources for interviews, applications, side hustles, etc.

## Publishing Courses

**Universities with Publishing MA's:** [University of Derby](#), [University of Stirling](#), [Kingston University](#), [Oxford Brookes University](#), [Edinburgh Napier University](#) and [UCL](#). Please find more [here](#).

[LDN Publishing Apprenticeship](#): This programme collaborates with various publishing houses such as Penguin Random House, Bloomsbury and HarperCollins. They match your profile with the most fitting opportunity in the industry and give publishing hopefuls a chance to learn on the job!

**Short Courses:** If you're looking for shorter courses, then the industry is full of them. They offer both online and in-person workshops. Some of these

courses are offered by [Book Machine Book Campus](#), [The Publishing Training Centre](#), [University of City London](#), [Get Into Publishing](#), [Columbia Publishing Course](#), and [The Fundamentals of Digital Marketing](#) by Google.

**LinkedIn Courses:** You can explore different courses offered by LinkedIn as well. They specialise in [Ebook Foundation](#), [Editing Ebooks](#), [Metadata for Book Publishing](#), [Marketing Copywriting](#), [Creating an Editorial Calendar](#) and [Content Marketing of Ebooks](#).

## Top Tips

**Watch Videos from YouTubers in Publishing:** [Ellie Pilcher's #MarketYourMarketing](#), [Ain Chiara](#), [Eleanor Marie Rose](#), [The Society of Young Publishers](#), [Bookish Babe](#), [Claire Fenby](#), [Jack Edwards](#), [Jasmine Reads](#), [Leanne Rose](#) and [Books and Things](#).

**Develop Your Technical Skills:** Key software like Booksonix for metadata, Canva, Adobe (InDesign and Photoshop) and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook) are used frequently in publishing.

**Network:** LinkedIn is a great tool for making connections within publishing. Reaching out may open doors. For those attending university, most have

alumni that you can contact, so it is worth searching for fellow students that have gone into your aspired field!

**Get Experience:** There are many paid publishing internships and work experience vacancies advertised at indie publishers. Alternatively, sending a CV and cover letter may get you noticed! If finances are an issue, [The Book Trade Charity](#) offers sponsorship to support candidates with travel costs or other funding required. Additionally, you can develop skills and show an interest in publishing by writing for a student newspaper, having a Bookstagram, or joining *The Publishing Post*.

Thanks for reading Issue Fifty-Five! Join us again for Issue Fifty-Six, where we will cover Upskilling Tips for Career Progression Part 1.





# Influencers Turned Writers

BY ALEXANDRA CONSTABLE, HAYLEY CADEL AND YASHIKA M.

In this issue, we are focusing on the turn of influencers to writers, the themes influencers cover in their books as well as some of the potential criticisms. Now in the age of social media, influencers have an engaged audience interested in their life and their business, which both makes their books appealing to their specific audiences but is also a large market for publishers to tap into. While many entrepreneurs and celebrities have written autobiographies, now there is a growing market not just for online content from influencers but also books authored by them.

Many influencers have chosen to use their platform to inspire their readership and share the secrets of their success in their autobiographies. For example, Jacy Duprie – a top fashion influencer – released her autobiography *Liking Myself Back: An Influencer's Journey from Self-Doubt to Self-Acceptance* this June, in which she shares her journey from farm girl to online celebrity. She offers a candid

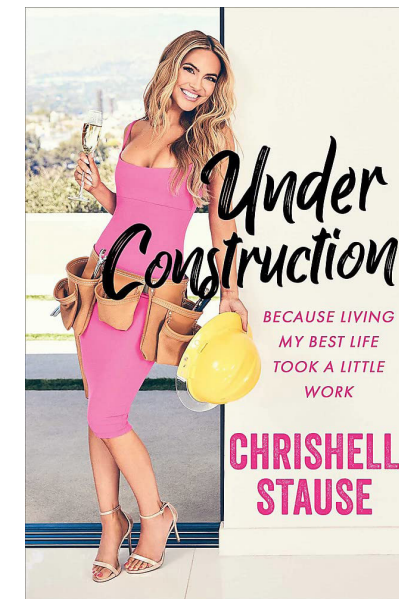
account of her success and shares tips for embracing self-growth and confidence. Similarly, Chrishell Stause's *Under Construction: Because Living My Best Life Took a Little Work* was released earlier this year in February. Stause is an American actress, known primarily for her role in the reality TV show *Selling Sunset*, in addition to her roles in *The Days of Our Lives* and *All My Children*. The book is a humorous and poignant memoir that recounts the obstacles Stause has faced in her journey to success and offers tips on how to overcome these personal trials.

As part of influencer-turned-writer success, many publishers are tapping into this market with books which act as a how-to for aspiring influencers. One example of this is *Influencer: Building Your Personal Brand in the Age of Social Media* by Brittany Hennessy which aims to teach readers how to monetise their content whilst doing what they love. *Influencer* is marketed as insider information from Hennessy who has “seen the

role of influencers evolve and expand.” Another example is *InstaStyle: Curate Your Life, Create Stunning Photos, and Elevate Your Instagram Influence* by Tezza (Tessa Barton) and other well-known influencers. In this book, Tezza focuses on Instagram, which teaches users how to gain followers and grow an authentic brand. In both these examples, whilst creativity is at the heart of influencing, the authors do not neglect the business element and discuss analytics, engagement, and management representation.

However, it is worth noting that books by influencers and about influencing do not exist without criticism. When it was announced that Molly-Mae Hague would be releasing her book *Becoming Molly-Mae*, the similarity between her book title and Michelle Obama's *Becoming* was commented upon, as well as the book's potentially misleading angle. Whilst Molly-Mae has been financially successful, opportunities have, in part at least, stemmed from her stint on *Love Island* and

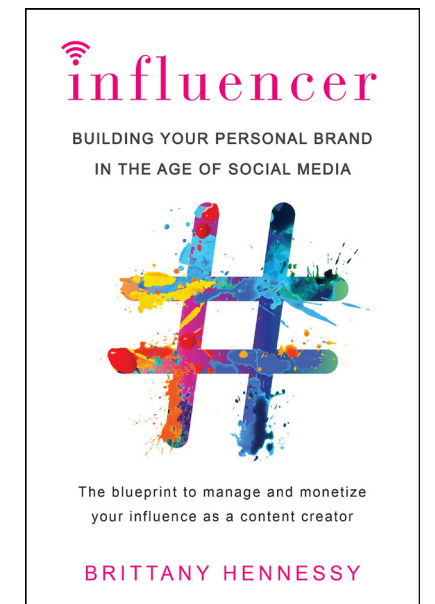
after many interviews, she has been criticised for her naivety on this boost of her platform. On the one hand, from a publishing perspective, books could be seen as just another business endeavour for an influencer and their brand, on the other, it could be argued that they are to some extent lacking authenticity or experience. Alternatively, *The Accidental Influencer: How My Need to Get Likes Nearly Ruined My Life* by Bella Younger has been praised for showing the realities of social media influencing. In her book, she frankly discusses balancing the online and offline versions of the self, as well as being honest about staged shots and sponsored content.



Influencer biographies have become an increasingly popular trend: not only do influencers use social media as an effective platform to reach out, influence and make the audience a part of their life, but they are also now releasing biographical books. Influencers, artists and celebrities are gradually joining the writer community with their memoirs. Here are some of the most awaited biographies recommendations of 2022. Brianna Madia's *Nowhere for Very Long* is a little sneak peek into the influencer's lifestyle and travelling experiences across Western America and her take on living life authentically behind the scenes. Another



upcoming release that caught our eyes was *Tough* by Terry Crews who is a well-known television host, actor and former NFL player. The book highlights the importance of staying true to yourself while being a public figure and living up to both personal and professional standards, a very essential thing that needs to be focused upon. With this trend, it is worth keeping a look-out for your favourite creators and influencers because it's likely that before long they will be releasing a book!



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