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A USER’S GUIDE TO MAKE-BELIEVE

JANE ALEXANDER

PRAISE FOR JANE ALEXANDER:
‘Chilling and hard-hitting’
The Herald

YOU CREATE THE FANTASY, THEY CONTROL YOUR MIND

Working for tech giant Imagen, Cassie McAllister got to know virtual reality experience Make-Believe™ well. Too well. Now she has been blocked and legally gagged. But the nightmare is only just beginning ...

Immerse yourself in a near-future world comparable to Black Mirror and Vox with an all-too-plausible slant on reality and fantasy for our ‘connected’ times.

JANE ALEXANDER has completed a PhD in creative writing and teaches at the University of Edinburgh and the Open University. For several years she ran creative writing workshops for people in recovery from substance abuse. Her first novel was The Last Treasure Hunt (Saraband 2015). She lives in Edinburgh. janealexander.net @DrJaneAlexander

THE PHOENIX OF FLORENCE

PHILIP KAZAN

‘This is a historical crime novel with soul, written with beauty and tenderness’
Antonia Senior, The Times

16th century Italy, deep in the Tuscan countryside, a long-held feud between two aristocratic families ends in tragedy, leaving only one young girl alive. Having barely escaped with her life, she vows to survive at all costs ...

Years later, amidst the winding streets and majestic facades of Florence, two murders are not all they seem. As Onorio Celavini, commander of the Medici police force, investigates, he is horrified to find a personal connection to the crimes, and a conspiracy lurking beyond. The secrets of his past threaten to spill out and Celavini is forced to revisit the traumatic memories hidden deep within him to lay the ghosts of history to rest.

PHILIP KAZAN was born in London and grew up in Devon. He is the author of two previous novels set in fifteenth-century Florence and the acclaimed The Black Earth. After living in New York and Vermont, Philip is back on the edge of Dartmoor with his wife and three children. philipkazan.wordpress.com @pipkazan
THE UNSEEN HAND
HOME FRONT DETECTIVE 8

EDWARD MARSTON

‘A master storyteller’
Daily Mail

1917. The Lotus Hotel prides itself on hosting the cream of London’s society, offering sanctuary and respite for its exclusively female clientele in its elegant surroundings. But its reputation as a safe haven is cast in doubt when a dead body is discovered in one of the rooms, the woman neither a guest of the hotel nor a member of staff.

The Home Front Detectives Inspector Marmion and Sergeant Keedy are dispatched to look into the incident and soon suspect foul play. Tangling with a forgetful widower, a wily competitor and the haughty hotel owner, the pair will have to delve into the past to solve this crime in the present.

EDWARD MARSTON has written well over a hundred books. He is best known for his hugely successful Railway Detective series and he also writes the Bow Street Rivals series featuring twin detectives set during the Regency period, as well as the Home Front Detective series. He lives in Gloucestershire with his wife, fellow crime writer Judith Cutler.
edwardmarston.com

THE MISSING AMERICAN

KWEI QUARTEY

PRAISE FOR KWEI QUARTEY:
‘Quartey provides such a strong sense of Ghana that you’ll be wishing for a platter of kenkey’
Oprah.com

Gordon Tilson is a lonely American widower, who has found solace in an online support group. He befriends a young Ghanaian widow, and when her sister is in a car accident, he sends her thousands of dollars to cover the hospital bill – to the horror of his son, Derek. And when Gordon runs off to Ghana to surprise his new love but disappears without a trace, Derek hurries overseas himself, fearful for his father’s safety.

Frustrated by the lack of interest from local police, Derek turns to Emma Djan, the newest member of a private detective agency. The case of the missing American man will drag both Emma and Derek into a world of sakawa scams and corruption.

KWEI QUARTEY was born in Ghana and is a practising physician in Pasadena, California. He is the author of five critically acclaimed novels in the Darko Dawson series. The Missing American is the first novel in his new crime series featuring detective Emma Djan.
kweiquartey.com
@Kwei_Quartey
MURDER AT THE ASHMOLEAN
MUSEUM MYSTERIES 3

JIM ELDRIDGE

1895. A manager at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford is found in his office with a bullet hole between his eyes, a pistol discarded close by. The death has officially been ruled as suicide by local police, but with an apparent lack of motive for such action, the museum suspects foul play. Private enquiry agent Daniel Wilson is a natural choice to discreetly explore the situation, ably assisted by his partner Abigail Fenton.

PRAISE FOR THE MUSEUM MYSTERIES:
‘This is just the novel for whiling away a few pleasant evenings with a nice cup of tea’
Publishers Weekly

The latest in the bestselling Museum Mysteries series.

1895. A manager at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford is found in his office with a bullet hole between his eyes, a pistol discarded close by. The death has officially been ruled as suicide by local police, but with an apparent lack of motive for such action, the museum suspects foul play. Private enquiry agent Daniel Wilson is a natural choice to discreetly explore the situation, ably assisted by his partner Abigail Fenton.

With rumours of political ructions from South Africa, mislaid artefacts and a lost Shakespeare play, Wilson and Fenton soon find themselves tangled in bureaucracy. They will need all their intellect and ingenuity to reveal the identity of a killer.

JIM ELDRIDGE was born in central London towards the end of World War II, and survived attacks by V2 rockets on the area where he lived. In 1971 he sold his first sitcom, starring Arthur Lowe, to the BBC and had his first book commissioned. Since then he has had more than one hundred books published. He lives in Kent with his wife.

jimeldridge.com

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MURDER AT THE MANCHESTER MUSEUM
MUSEUM MYSTERIES 4

JIM ELDRIDGE

1895. Former Scotland Yard detective Daniel Wilson, made famous from his days working the Jack the Ripper case, and his archaeologist sidekick Abigail Fenton are summoned to investigate the murder of a young woman at the Manchester Museum. Though staff remember the woman as a recent and regular visitor, no one appears to know who she is and she has no possessions from which to identify her. When the pair arrive, the case turns more deadly when the body of a second woman is discovered hidden in the museum. Seeking help from a local journalist, Daniel hopes to unravel this mystery, but the journey to the truth is fraught with obstacles …

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‘This is just the novel for whiling away a few pleasant evenings with a nice cup of tea’
Publishers Weekly

The latest in the bestselling Museum Mysteries series.

1895. Former Scotland Yard detective Daniel Wilson, made famous from his days working the Jack the Ripper case, and his archaeologist sidekick Abigail Fenton are summoned to investigate the murder of a young woman at the Manchester Museum. Though staff remember the woman as a recent and regular visitor, no one appears to know who she is and she has no possessions from which to identify her. When the pair arrive, the case turns more deadly when the body of a second woman is discovered hidden in the museum. Seeking help from a local journalist, Daniel hopes to unravel this mystery, but the journey to the truth is fraught with obstacles …

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Crime Fiction
FINDING CASSIE
PENNY LAKE 2

ANNA JACOBS

PRAISE FOR ANNA JACOBS:
‘Heart-warming’
Books Monthly

When the teenage girl who’s been hanging round near the house knocks on the door and tells her she’s her granddaughter, Cassie is shocked rigid. There’s only one way this can be true: if Evie is the daughter of the baby Cassie gave away for adoption when she was herself a troubled teenager. Is this a trick? Or is Evie’s tale true? When she finds out why the girl has come to find her, it brings a tangle of other problems that she can’t ignore. This was the last thing she expected to be dealing with as she moves into her new home in a leisure village in Wiltshire.

ANNA JACOBS is the author of over eighty novels. She grew up in Lancashire, emigrated to Australia in the 1970s and writes stories set in both countries. She lives with her husband near the Swan Valley, the earliest wine-growing area in Western Australia. Her house is crammed with thousands of books.

annajacobs.com

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Romance

A LIFE OF SECRETS

MARGARET KAINE

PRAISE FOR THE BLACK SILK PURSE:
‘A superb saga to delight Catherine Cookson fans’
Peterborough Telegraph

London, 1926. Life has not turned out as Deborah had expected. But while occasionally haunted by how the Great War snatched away the love of her life, she quietly and determinedly works away at the staff agency she set up as Miss Deborah Claremont, leaving her alter ego of Lady Deborah at the door. Amid an undercurrent of social unrest and with the General Strike looming ahead, Deborah meets two very different men: Theodore Field MP and Evan Morgan, a Union speaker. What lies ahead for her and how much will the past she has carefully put aside direct her path forward?

Born and educated in Stoke-On-Trent, MARGARET KAINE now lives in Eastbourne. Her debut novel, Ring of Clay, won the RNA New Writer’s Award and the Society of Authors’ Sagittarius Prize.
margaretkaine.com
@MargaretKaine

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Romance
ALL THAT IS BURIED
PORTER & STYLES 3

ROBERT SCRAGG

PRAISE FOR NOTHINhG ELSE REMAINS:
‘Intricately plotted and expertly paced …
British crime writing at its finest’
M. W. Craven, author of The Puppet Show

A parent’s worst fear is realised when seven-year-old Libby Hallforth goes missing at a funfair; no witnesses, no leads, and no trace. Months later, after the trail for Libby has gone cold, DI Jake Porter and DS Nick Styles find human remains, but that’s just the tip of a gruesome iceberg. Everyone is a suspect, nobody can be trusted, including the Hallforth family. The chances of getting justice for Libby are fading fast, along with Porter’s chances of stopping a killer before they strike again.

ROBERT SCRAGG had a random assortment of jobs before taking the dive into crime writing; he has been a bookseller, pizza deliverer, Karate instructor and football coach. He lives in Tyne & Wear and is a founding member of the North East Noir crime writers group.

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@robert_scragg

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Crime Fiction

THE MALTESE HERRING
HERRING MYSTERIES 8

L. C. TYLER

PRAISE FOR THE HERRING MYSTERIES:
‘Very much set in “Golden Age” territory …
a great deal of fun’
The Guardian

Dr Hilary Joyner is neither liked nor respected among his academic peers. However, he believes his next project will bring him the recognition he deserves. He is working to uncover the truth behind a local Sussex legend involving an invaluable golden statue, fabled to be hidden among the religious houses in the county.

Although his latest book deadline is looming, Ethelred Tressider unwittingly finds himself hosting both the academic and his own redoubtable literary agent, Elsie Thirkettle, for the weekend. The three soon find themselves part of a hunt for the missing figure, but it isn’t long before Joyner’s research comes to an abrupt end with his death ...

L. C. TYLER’s day jobs have included being a systems analyst, a cultural attaché and working for Bomb Disposal. He has won awards for his writing, including the Last Laugh Award for the best comic crime novel of the year. He is a former chair of the Crime Writers’ Association and has been a CWA Daggers judge. He lives in London and Sussex.
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@lenctyler

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Crime Fiction
THE LOST SHRINE

HILLS & BARBROOK 2

NICOLA FORD

PRAISE FOR THE HIDDEN BONES:
‘A cracking debut. First class’
Mari Hannah

Clare Hills, archaeologist and sometime sleuth, is struggling to finance her recently established research unit with her friend, Dr David Barbrook, so when Professor Margaret Bockford finds them work with a housing developer on a site in the Cotswolds, the pair are hardly in a position to refuse. There is just one catch: the previous site director, Beth Kinsella, was found hanged in a copse on-site surrounded by mutilated wildlife.

Despite initial misgivings, Clare continues work on the dig, but with rumours that the site was historically significant refusing to be laid to rest, and lingering disquiet between local residents and the developers, progress is impeded at every turn. When one of the workers finds something unsettling, Clare suspects there may be more to Beth’s claims than first thought. But can she uncover the truth before it is hidden for ever?

NICOLA FORD is the pen-name for archaeologist Dr Nick Snashall, National Trust Archaeologist for the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site. Through her day job and now her writing, she’s spent more time than most people thinking about the dead.

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@nic_ford

BLOOD WILL BE BORN

DI OWEN SHEEN 1

GARY DONNELLY

‘An exciting new voice in Northern Irish noir’
Adrian McKinty, author of The Chain

DI Owen Sheen vowed never to return to Ireland, but he needs answers to the questions he has surrounding his brother’s death. On loan from the Met to the Police Service of Northern Ireland, he is meant to be setting up a new cold case team, but instead he finds himself partnered with DC Aoife McCusker to work on her first murder investigation.

As the investigation begins to unravel into chaos, its roots deep in the dark past of the Troubles, will Sheen be able to put his personal agenda aside? And will McCusker keep her career long enough to crack the case and prove herself as a detective?

GARY DONNELLY is a writer and teacher who was born and raised in west Belfast. He read History at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and has lived and worked in London since the late 1990s. Blood Will Be Born is his debut novel and the first book in the DI Owen Sheen series.
donnellywriter.com
@DonnellyWriter
POSSSESSED
MATT HUNTER 4

PETER LAWS

PRAISE FOR SEVERED:
‘Dark and delicious with plenty of edge-of-the-seat moments’
Liz Loves Books

Professor Matt Hunter is an expert on religion, brought in by the police to advise on cases with theological or supernatural overtones. When they receive a report of strange noises behind a blood-soaked door, they are baffled to discover a man, who will only speak in whispers, and with Baal-barith tattooed on his chest. They have no choice but to call in Hunter to help – he knows that Baal-barith is an ancient demon, thought to be the spirit of ‘blasphemy and murder’. But as more ‘demons’ appear around the city, the police and Hunter must work quickly to find out what is behind this terrifying situation.

PETER LAWS is an ordained Baptist minister with a taste for horror. He writes a monthly column in the Fortean Times and also hosts a popular podcast and YouTube show. He is the author of The Frighteners which explores our fascination with the macabre. He lives with his family in Bedfordshire.
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@revpeterlaws

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Crime Fiction

THE PATTERNDALE PLOT
LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 9

REBECCA TOPE

PRAISE FOR REBECCA TOPE:
‘A cracking good read’
Mystery People

Persimmon ‘Simmy’ Brown had hoped that her autumn would be less frantic than usual to give her a chance to enjoy her pregnancy, her upcoming nuptials, and some time looking for a new house in the Patterdale area of the Lake District. But it is not to be ... When one of the lodgers at her parents’ B&B dies in her arms after seemingly being poisoned, she becomes embroiled in a complex investigation, headed up by her friend DI Moxon. It is clear the victim had some connection to a controversial new building project near Patterdale and Simmy’s ideas of a quiet run up to Christmas are cruelly dashed.

REBECCA TOPE lives on a smallholding in Herefordshire, where she plants trees and watches wild birds, but also manages to travel the world and enjoy civilisation from time to time. Most of her varied experiences and activities find their way into her books, sooner or later.
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Crime Fiction
The Night Raids
A Cambridge Wartime Mystery
Jim Kelly

Praise for The Mathematical Bridge:
‘Intelligent and absorbing’
Historical Novel Society

A lone German bomber crosses the east coast of Britain on a moonless night in the long hot summer of 1940. The pilot picks up the silver thread of a river and, following it to his target, drops his bomb over Cambridge’s rail yards. The shell falls short of its mark, and lands in a neighbourhood of terraced streets on the edge of the city’s medieval centre. DI Eden Brooke is first on the scene and discovers the body of an elderly woman, Nora Wylde, beside her shattered bed in a terraced house on Elm Street, two fingers on her left hand severed, in what looks like a brutal attempt by looters to steal her rings. When the next day Nora’s teenage granddaughter, Peggy, a munitions worker, is reported missing, Brooke realises there is more to the situation than meets the eye.

Jim Kelly was born in 1957 and is the son of a Scotland Yard detective. He went to university in Sheffield, later training as a journalist and worked on the Financial Times. His first book, The Water Clock, was shortlisted for the John Creasey Award and he has since won a CWA Dagger in the Library and the New Angle Prize for Literature. He lives in Ely, Cambridgeshire.
A TIME FOR PEACE
SYLVIA BROADY

‘A fine saga of great humanity’
Historical Novels Review

It is 1945 and while England is once again at peace, it is a time of challenge. Returning soldiers are strangers to their families; women have managed to keep their families safe and fed on their own. When Rose meets Joe, a widowed airman with a young son, she gives them her friendship and gradually her heart. But when Rose’s brother, Freddie, comes home from Germany with a pregnant wife, the woman is shunned by neighbours as the enemy. And Freddie has a secret which threatens to destroy Rose and Joe’s relationship. In a time for peace, the strength of Rose and Joe’s love is tested. Can they sustain their love in such adversity and build a future together?

SYLVIA BROADY was born in Hull and has lived in the area all her life, although she loves to travel the world. She has had a varied career in childcare, the NHS and the Library Services, but is now a full-time writer.
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@SylviaBroady

WATERMARKS
LENKA JANIUREK

Lenka Janiurek’s story really begins after the death of her mother when she was a small child, and speaks of the men who came to define her life; she is the daughter of a Polish immigrant father, the sister of five brothers, the wife of one husband, the lover of several men, and the mother of two more. Her memoir speaks of identity and trying to find your place in a country that isn’t your own, within a family that doesn’t feel like your own.

This remarkable book traces Lenka’s journey from the UK to Eastern Europe, from the 1960s to the present day. However, across the years, she remains haunted by the rage, addiction and despair of the men she is closest to. Alongside these challenges, she develops a powerful connection with the natural world, particularly water, which provides her with strength and joy.

LENKA JANIUREK was born in York. After winning a competition at the age of seventeen, she had three plays on at the Royal Court Theatre, a platform play at the National Theatre, and one at the Other Place with the RSC in Stratford-on-Avon. She has facilitated workshops in writing, drama, art and well-being, in schools, colleges, at camps, and in a women’s prison. And worked as a baker, fundraiser, caretaker, green builder and researcher. She now lives close to the sea in Wales.
Death in Saint-Chartier

Translated by Allen Young

Ivo Fornesa

Seeking a quiet spot to write his memoirs, Laurent de Rodergues secludes himself in Saint-Chartier, a village in the heart of France where his grandfather once lived. Yet his tranquil life is soon disturbed by Carlos, an eccentric millionaire determined to give the town's medieval chateau a costly and controversial makeover. When the chateau is unveiled at last, after months of anticipation, the whole town turns out to gaze in wonder – only to find their host lying dead in a pool of blood.

Laurent suspects foul play, and after the gendarmes find nothing, he makes it his mission to unmask the murderer. But where to begin? From jilted lovers to jealous rivals, disgruntled employees to shadowy associates, practically everyone had a reason to want Carlos dead. As Laurent quickly learns, behind its idyllic facade, the town of Saint-Chartier is rife with resentment and secret passions.

Spanish businessman and historian, Ivo Fornesa is known for his work as a consultant in China, as well as for his many collaborations with newspapers and publications. His fascinating life has seen him volunteer in the Spanish Foreign Legion; train as a parachutist; live as a Catholic friar in the Holy Land; restore traditional houses in South America, Morocco, China, Thailand and Burma. Fornesa now lives in France, in a chateau in Saint-Chartier.

The Evil Within

Dark Devon Mysteries 1

S. M. Hardy

Praise for S. M. Hardy:
‘Sinister and thought-provoking’
Booklist “starred review”

On the brink of a breakdown two years after the death of his fiancée, Jim Hawkes quits his high-powered job in the City to rent a cottage in the Devonshire countryside seeking some well-needed rest. But Slyford St James is far from the peaceful haven Jim was hoping for.

Almost immediately he is plagued by strange occurrences: a combination lock that won’t open, loud noises in the attic, the figure of a little girl always just out of sight. His new friends, Jed and Emma, are convinced Jim has found his way to the village for a reason, to solve the mystery surrounding the suspicious death of a child. But as Jim is haunted by the ghosts of his past and endangered by a real-world threat in the present, it soon becomes apparent that true evil never dies.

S. M. Hardy grew up in south London and worked in banking for many years before turning her attention to arboricultural management. She has now given up the day job to allegedly spend more time with her husband; he, however, has noticed that an awful lot more writing appears to be going on. She currently lives in Devon. The Evil Within is her first paranormal mystery novel.
Returning from a much-needed holiday, Persimmon ‘Simmy’ Brown discovers that life in the Lake District is, as ever, far from relaxing. Before she can enjoy the idea of being the future Mrs Chris Henderson, her fiancé discovers the body of his friend, antiques dealer Jonathan Woolley, strangled in a house in Grasmere.

Simmy enlists the help of her friends and amateur detectives Ben and Bonnie, but the investigation appears to ask more questions than it answers as historical grudges against the dead man are revealed. It seems that many people had a reason for wanting him dead. But with Chris’s increasingly evasive and odd behaviour, Simmy begins to wonder if he is more involved in the murder than he is saying …

REBECCA TOPE lives on a smallholding in Herefordshire, where she plants trees and watches wild birds, but also manages to travel the world and enjoy civilisation from time to time. Most of her varied experiences and activities find their way into her books, sooner or later.

rebeccatope.com
@RebeccaTope

Juno Browne has a lot on her plate, from opening a fledgling antiques store gifted to her by her now-deceased employer to continuing her role as a woman-of-all-trades in the town of Ashburton. When her trusty van goes up in flames it is just the disaster she can’t afford – literally. Fortunately, she meets the owner of a large family estate, James Westershall, who invites Juno and her friends from Old Nick’s to bring their goods for sale at an upcoming garden fete.

But what should have been a joyous occasion is soon mired in tragedy when one of Juno’s friends is discovered dead in nearby woodland. The police conclude it was just a bizarre accident, yet she is unconvinced. As her own investigation reveals that this is not the first time someone has died in suspicious circumstances at Moorworthy House, Juno suspects the Westershalls may be keeping a deadly secret …

STEPHANIE AUSTIN has enjoyed a varied career, working as an artist and an antiques trader, and for the Devon Schools Library Service. When not writing she is actively involved in amateur theatre as a director and actor, and attempts to be a competent gardener and cook. She lives in Devon.

stephanieaustin.co.uk
HOSTAGE TO FORTUNE
BRADECOTE & CATCHPOLL 4
SARAH HAWKSWOOD

January, 1144. Undersheriff Hugh Bradecote does not want his betrothed travelling on a pilgrimage to the shrine of St Edgyth. The Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy and his entourage of monks seem perfect as escorts, until they are captured by a renegade who kills for pleasure.

Against a backdrop of a hard winter and frozen River Severn, Bradecote and Serjeant Catchpoll are struggling to rescue the captive before a psychopath does his worst, the lord Sheriff loses patience, and Bradecote cracks under the pressure.

VALE OF TEARS
BRADECOTE & CATCHPOLL 5
SARAH HAWKSWOOD

April, 1144. A body is found floating by Fladbury mill, a man who has been stabbed but not robbed. Bradecote, Catchpoll and apprentice Walkelin discover him to be a horse dealer with a beautiful young wife who strays. Did the wife or a lover get rid of him? What link is there to a defrocked monk who was hanged for theft, and where is the horse dealers' horse?

The trio must unravel the thread that ties together seemingly disparate deaths before even more people die.
DAUGHTER OF THE SEA
SYLVIA BROADY

PRAISE FOR THE LOST DAUGHTER:
‘A gripping saga of tension and drama that will stay with you long after you have turned the final page’
Val Wood

Jessica is grieving for her beloved father, Jacob Kingdom, a trawler owner fondly remembered by those who knew him. But with Jacob gone, a confrontation with her mother leads to Jessica being cast out from the family home and the revealing of a shameful secret. She finds herself wandering alone in the night, but luckily happens upon the kindness of strangers. And it isn’t long before she meets a charismatic trawlerman who is proud to walk out with Kingdom’s daughter on his arm.

With her cold-hearted brother now at the helm of the business, there is discontent among the fishermen, and being Kingdom’s daughter soon begins to lose its charm. With Jessica desperate to prove herself worthy of a place in the tight-knit community, does she have what it takes to weather the storm to come, or will her secret hold her back from embracing who she is?

SYLVIA BROADY was born in Hull and has lived in the area all her life, although she loves to travel the world. She has had a varied career in childcare, the NHS and the Library Services, but is now a full-time writer.
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Romance

THE MERMAID’S CALL
CORNISH MYSTERIES 3
KATHERINE STANSFIELD

PRAISE FOR THE MAGPIE TREE:
‘A haunting evocation of a place and time when superstition and logic coexisted in uneasy alliance’
Publisher’s Weekly

Cornwall, 1845. Shilly has always felt a connection to happenings that are not of this world, a talent that has proved invaluable when investigating dark deeds with master of disguise, Anna Drake. The women opened a detective agency with help from their newest member and investor, Mathilda, but six long months have passed without a single case to solve and tensions are growing.

It is almost a relief when a man is found dead along the Morwenstow coast and the agency is sought out to investigate. There are suspicions that wreckers plague the shores, luring ships to their ruin with false lights – though nothing has ever been proved. Yet with the local talk of sirens calling victims to the sea to meet their end, could something otherworldly be responsible for the man’s death?

KATHERINE STANSFIELD is a novelist and poet whose first Cornish Mystery, Falling Creatures, was published to great acclaim in 2017 and whose sequel, The Magpie Tree, won the Holey an Gof Fiction Award. She grew up in the wilds of Bodmin Moor in Cornwall and now lives in Cardiff.
katherinestansfield.blogspot.co.uk
@K_Stanfield
A DANGEROUS ENGAGEMENT
AMORY AMES 6

ASHLEY WEAVER

‘Charming, polished and engrossing ...
Brings to life the glamorous world where
the rich and well-to-do gather for fun,
intrigue – and murder’

Good Book Guide

Amory Ames is travelling to New York, excited to
be a bridesmaid at her friend Tabitha’s wedding,
but with Prohibition in full swing, her husband
Milo is less than enthused. When a member
of the wedding party is found murdered on the
front steps of the bride’s home, the happy plans
take a darker twist.

Amory discovers that the dead man has links
to the notorious gangster Leon De Lora. While
the police seem to think that New York’s
criminal underworld is at play, Amory feels
they can’t ignore the wedding guests either.
Milo and Amory are drawn into the glamorous,
dangerous world of nightclubs and bootleggers.
But as they draw closer to unravelling the web
of lies the murdered man has left in his wake,
the killer is weaving a web of his own.

ASHLEY WEAVER is the Technical
Services Coordinator for the Allen Parish
Libraries in Louisiana, having worked
in libraries since she was fourteen. Her
debut novel, Murder at the Brightwell,
was nominated for the Edgar Best First Novel
Award. She lives in Oakdale, Louisiana.

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Crime Fiction

THE FIGURE IN THE PHOTOGRAPH
KEVIN SULLIVAN

PRAISE FOR KEVIN SULLIVAN:
‘Engaging’
Yorkshire Post

1898. When Juan Camerón’s father is killed while
working as a photographer in Cuba amid the
chaos as the war between Spain and America
escalates, he leaves behind nothing but his last
photos for his son. The images reveal a sinister
truth to his father’s last moments, and Juan soon
realises his death was no accident.

Juan travels alone to Scotland to grieve with his
surviving family. Trying to move on from recent
horrors and honour his father’s memory, he
immerses himself in the study of photography
and pioneers a new invention. When this
technology inadvertently solves a crime, it isn’t
long before the device draws the attention
of local law enforcement, and he is invited to
Glasgow to assist police hunt down a serial killer.

KEVIN SULLIVAN was born in Glasgow.
His career in journalism has placed him on
the frontline of defining historical moments
in living memory, from documenting events
at Tiananmen Square to driving over a
landmine while reporting in Sarajevo. His
work has taken him to Singapore, Japan,
Bosnia and Spain, and his experiences
influence his writing. Kevin is currently
based in The Hague.

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Crime Fiction
Southampton, 1920. Phoebe Collins rose to the challenge of running the family fruit and veg stall when her father did not return from the Front. The work outside in Kingsland market in all weathers can be hard, but with her mother and younger brother Tim to support, she’s determined that it continue to be a success. However, when Phoebe finds herself in the wrong place at the wrong time and witnesses something terrible, she will need all her strength to face the trials ahead and the fear that her loved ones may come to harm.

JUNE TATE was born in Southampton. After leaving school she became a hairdresser on cruise ships the Queen Mary and the Mauretania, meeting many Hollywood film stars and VIPs on her travels. After her marriage to an airline pilot, she lived in Sussex and Hampshire before moving to Estoril in Portugal. June, who has two adult daughters, now lives in Sussex. junetate.info

SECRETS IN THE Cotswolds
Cotswold Mysteries 17

REBECCA TOPE

PRAISE FOR CRISIS IN THE Cotswolds:
‘Intrigue and family disputes, hidden secrets and suspicion ... a pleasant read’ Yorkshire Gazette & Herald

Thea Slocombe is struggling to entertain her stepchildren through the long summer holiday while her husband Drew works, so she keenly accepts a new job house-sitting in Barnsley, near Bibury. However, her commission proves to be far from relaxing when she stumbles across a woman hiding among some bushes. The woman’s story is thin and incoherent, but Thea agrees to offer her sanctuary for the night.

When her guest is found dead the next morning Thea turns to the police for help, but their preoccupation with a major animal trafficking investigation means she is effectively on her own. As she digs deeper into the deceased’s background, she discovers a tangled web of lies, secrets and at least three very likely suspects ...

REBECCA TOPE lives on a smallholding in Herefordshire, where she plants trees and watches wild birds, but also manages to travel the world and enjoy civilisation from time to time. Most of her varied experiences and activities find their way into her books, sooner or later. rebeccatope.com @RebeccaTope
THE HONOURABLE LIFE OF
THOMAS CHAYNE

CYNTHIA JEFFERIES

PRAISE FOR THE OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE OF
ABEL MORGAN:
‘An enjoyable romp’
The Times

Thomas Chayne has never managed to impress his overbearing father, and when a small act of rebellion has lasting consequences, Thomas finds himself exiled in disgrace. But with England on the brink of civil war, a larger revolution is in the air, and Thomas has an opportunity to prove his worth by rallying a troop of royalists to defend Oxford from the escalating violence. Yet he soon faces an impossible choice between honouring his family and his loyalty to the Crown …

CYNTHIA JEFFERIES is a long-established writer for children, whose work has been translated into many languages. She was born in Gloucestershire and her love of history was encouraged by regular family outings to anything of interest, from great cathedrals to small museums. The Outrageous Fortune of Abel Morgan was her first historical novel for adults and published to great critical acclaim. Cynthia lives in Stroud.
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BLOOD WILL OUT
CONTRABAND SHORE 3

DAVID DONACHIE

PRAISE FOR DAVID DONACHIE:
‘Compulsively readable’
Cambridge Evening News

1787. Captain Edward Brazier is wounded and in desperate need of medical attention, but those from whom he could seek help have no idea where he is – although neither do his enemies. With his beloved Betsey currently imprisoned by her brother Henry, who is considering committing her to an asylum to take her off his hands, time is running out for Brazier to rescue her and end the tyranny of the local smuggling ring in Deal once and for all.

DAVID DONACHIE was born in Edinburgh in 1944. He has always had an abiding interest in the naval history of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as well as the Roman Republic, and under the pen-name Jack Ludlow has published a number of historical adventure novels. David lives in Deal with his partner, the novelist Sarah Grazebrook.
twofingersbooks.com
FEAR ON THE PHANTOM SPECIAL
RAILWAY DETECTIVE 17
EDWARD MARSTON

PRAISE FOR EDWARD MARSTON:
‘A grand romp … packed with characters Dickens would have been proud of’
Time Out

Hallowe’en, 1861. A special train steams across the Lake District at night on its way to a place notorious for its record of supernatural incidents. The mood is boisterous on board as the passengers fortify themselves with alcohol in preparation for the frights ahead. When the train stops suddenly in front of a raging fire, the leader of the group heroically sprints off to investigate. But he doesn’t return …

Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming are called in to investigate this peculiar occurrence. With some believing the missing man is the victim of a ghost said to haunt the site and no discernible trace of the man anywhere to be seen, this will prove to be a puzzling case indeed for the Railway Detective.

RAGE OF THE ASSASSIN
BOW STREET RIVALS 5
EDWARD MARSTON

PRAISE FOR EDWARD MARSTON:
‘The past is brought to life with brilliant colours, combined with a perfect whodunnit’
The Guardian

London, 1818. The MP Sir Roger Mellanby attends a performance of Macbeth at Covent Garden, featuring Hannah Granville as Lady Macbeth. It is the final performance of what has been a triumphant production and also in the audience is the Prince Regent, as well as Hannah’s love, Bow Street Rival Paul Skillen.

When the performance is over, both Mellanby and the Prince Regent make their way to the stage door for a glimpse of – and introduction to – Hannah. As the crowd jostles around them, a shot is fired and Mellanby is killed, but Paul quickly deduces that the assassin was really after the Prince Regent. As his attempt has failed, the assassin follows the royal party to Brighton Pavilion. Will Paul and his twin brother Peter be able to stop him? The Bow Street Rivals will most certainly try …

EDWARD MARSTON has written well over a hundred books. He is best known for his hugely successful Railway Detective series and he also writes the Bow Street Rivals series featuring twin detectives set during the Regency period, as well as the Home Front Detective series. He lives in Gloucestershire with his wife, fellow crime writer Judith Cutler.
edwardmarston.com
ALL THAT IS BURIED
PORTER & STYLES 3

ROBERT SCRAGG

PRAISE FOR NOTHING ELSE REMAINS:
‘One of the best new Brit crime writers’
Peterborough Telegraph

A parent’s worst fear is realised when seven-year-old Libby Hallforth goes missing at a funfair; no witnesses, no leads, and no trace. Months later, after the trail for Libby has gone cold, DI Jake Porter and DS Nick Styles find human remains, but that’s just the tip of a gruesome iceberg. Everyone is a suspect, nobody can be trusted, including the Hallforth family. The chances of getting justice for Libby are fading fast, along with Porter’s chances of stopping a killer before they strike again.

ROBERT SCRAGG had a random assortment of jobs before taking the dive into crime writing; he has been a bookseller, pizza deliverer, Karate instructor and football coach. He lives in Tyne & Wear and is a founding member of the North East Noir crime writers group.
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@robert_scragg

A USER’S GUIDE TO MAKE-BELIEVE

JANE ALEXANDER

PRAISE FOR JANE ALEXANDER:
‘A trumpet call of urgency and great promise’
The Scotsman

YOU CREATE THE FANTASY, THEY CONTROL YOUR MIND

Working for tech giant Imagen, Cassie McAllister got to know virtual reality experience Make-Believe™ well. Too well. Now she has been blocked and legally gagged. But the nightmare is only just beginning ...

Immerse yourself in a near-future world comparable to Black Mirror and Vox with an all-too-plausible slant on reality and fantasy for our ‘connected’ times.

JANE ALEXANDER has completed a PhD in creative writing and teaches at the University of Edinburgh and the Open University. For several years she ran creative writing workshops for people in recovery from substance abuse. Her first novel was The Last Treasure Hunt (Saraband 2015). She lives in Edinburgh.
janealexander.net
@DrJaneAlexander
A LIFE OF SECRETS
MARGARET KAINE

PRAISE FOR THE BLACK SILK PURSE:
‘A real page-turner which you will never forget’
Historical Novel Society

London, 1926. Life has not turned out as Deborah had expected. But while occasionally haunted by how the Great War snatched away the love of her life, she quietly and determinedly works away at the staff agency she set up as Miss Deborah Claremont, leaving her alter ego of Lady Deborah at the door. Amid an undercurrent of social unrest and with the General Strike looming ahead, Deborah meets two very different men: Theodore Field MP and Evan Morgan, a Union speaker. What lies ahead for her and how much will the past she has carefully put aside direct her path forward?

Born and educated in Stoke-On-Trent, MARGARET KAINE now lives in Eastbourne. Her debut novel, Ring of Clay, won the RNA New Writer’s Award and the Society of Authors’ Sagittarius Prize.
margaretkaine.com
@MargaretKaine

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Romance

CHANGE OF SEASON
ANNA JACOBS

PRAISE FOR ANNA JACOBS:
‘Jacobs excels at creating vivid, memorable characters’
Booklist

Rosalind's husband forces her to move from Australia to England because of his job with a multi-national company. But he is called away to deal with a crisis in Hong Kong and she is left to settle into a new country on her own.

One by one, her three grown-up children need help with major life problems and there is only her to help them, because as usual, Paul puts his job first. When she finds out that her husband has been unfaithful for years, it’s the final blow to their marriage, especially as she has met another man.

Her confidence grows as she wins acclaim as an embroidery artist and comes into an inheritance. Will her loyalty keep her with her husband, as it has before, or will Paul get more than he’d bargained for with the new independent Rosalind?

ANNA JACOBS is the author of over eighty novels. She grew up in Lancashire, emigrated to Australia in the 1970s and writes stories set in both countries. She lives with her husband near the Swan Valley, the earliest wine-growing area in Western Australia. Her house is crammed with thousands of books.
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Romance
October 2019
During the past two centuries, over seventy European and American women (and a New Zealander) – including queens, a poet, missionaries, novelists, a photo-journalist and a Flamenco dancer who married a Sikh raja – have attempted to capture the essence of the Sikhs.

From their attempts to understand the teachings of the Sikh Gurus and the experience of visiting the Golden Temple of Amritsar to the mysteries of colourful turbans bound over uncut hair and the impact of conflicts both against and for the British Empire, the enthusiasms of female writers and artists during 200 years of social transformation are revealed.

ELEANOR NESBITT is Emeritus Professor at the University of Warwick. Her career specialism was the ethnographic study of the UK’s Hindu and Sikh communities. She has written numerous scholarly books and has spoken at conferences worldwide. She often features on BBC radio. She is on the editorial board of the journals Fieldwork in Religion and Religions of South Asia, is a founder member of the Punjab Research Group, and is co-editor of Brill’s Encyclopedia of Sikhism.

When the Mughal Empire began persecuting the Sikhs in the 1600s, this community of North Indian devotees was forced to take up arms or face extinction. Warrior Saints (Vol. 1) told the remarkable story of how they fought back to establish a powerful modern-day empire, stretching from the borders of Tibet to Afghanistan. Warrior Saints (Vol. 2) continues that compelling story.

Initially mobilised to protect the borders and outposts of the British Empire in China, Ethiopia, Somaliland, Cyprus, Afghanistan, Egypt and Burma, thousands of Sikhs went on to lay down their lives in the Two World Wars. With the emergence of independent India, the Sikhs opened a fresh chapter in the saga of their fighting tradition.

AMANDEEP SINGH MADRA and PARMJIT SINGH are independent historians and curators who co-founded the UK Punjab Heritage Association (ukpha.org), a charity dedicated to promoting Punjab’s rich cultural heritage.

They have co-authored several highly acclaimed books on Sikh history and are leading global players in showcasing the culture, history, art and heritage of the Sikhs and Punjab. Most recently they curated two major exhibitions at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London, covering the Golden Temple of Amritsar and Sikhs in World War One. They continue to work as special consultants for various organisations including the BBC, The Discovery Channel, Victoria & Albert Museum, British Museum, British Library and Wallace Collection.