



DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS
LITERARY AGENCY

Frankfurt Rights Guide 2018

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DIAMOND KAHN & WOODS
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◆ CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT FICTION ◆





VANESSA CURTIS

Vanessa is the award-winning author of five novels for children, including *Zelah Green* which won the Manchester Children's Book Prize and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Prize 2009, and *The Haunting of Tabitha Grey*, a contemporary ghost story with a shocking twist.

Vanessa originally trained as a pianist and went on to play in various rock bands. She still teaches the piano when she's not writing novels. She reviews books for the national newspapers and has worked as a literary consultant. Vanessa is also the co-founder of the Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain and has written two biographies on Virginia Woolf.

THE STOLEN ONES by Vanessa Curtis

UK Publisher: Usborne (World English), January 2019

Age Group: YA 13+

Rights Sold: Audio (WF Howes), via Publisher

My name is Inge. I am sixteen.

I live with Mama and Papa in Munich. Food is still rationed, though the war ended over ten years ago.

My boyfriend is Jewish. I have to hide this from my parents.

Sometimes I think they are hiding something from me, too. Letters arrive every year on my birthday, but they are not addressed to me.

They are for a girl named Kasia.

This is her story.

Exploring the secretive and disturbing legacy of the Nazi's Lebensborn programme, under which Polish children were stolen from their families to be brought up in the Aryan ideal, it's an emotive, powerful story with a strong element of mystery.

Extract:

Papa is attempting to shut the door on whoever is outside.

He appears to be winning. But then I see it. A small, narrow foot in a cracked black leather shoe. It slides past my father's leg and plants itself firmly in the middle of our front doormat.

There's a tussle, but the foot stays in place. Mama looks back at me, mute and in fear. Her face has unravelled from its usual smooth completeness into a mass of jagged angles and lines which don't seem to fit together.

'Inge,' she says again, but this time her voice is broken. 'You really should go upstairs.' But it is too late.

The black-leather shoe has been followed by a body. A small, thin woman in a grey headscarf and a non-descript long black dress has slid into our hallway and is standing in front of me.

She holds out her hands towards me.

'Kasia,' she says. I shake my head, confused.

'Inge,' I say. 'My name is Inge.'

She speaks, in a faltering voice and a language I don't understand. Except there is one word I already know. One word I hear every night in my bad dream. A word that somehow I knew was going to come from her mouth even before she said it, pointing at herself the whole time:

Matka.



Also by Vanessa Curtis:

'A tragic, harrowing and **deeply moving** account of the Holocaust from the perspective of an ordinary girl' – Fiona Noble, *The Bookseller*

'The novel's power comes from its focus on Hanna's feelings as she struggles with her Jewish-identity, as well as from its **strong sense of place** and details such as the food, from yomtov feasts to desperate, mouldy scraps.' - Angela Kiverstein, *The Jewish Chronicle*

Publisher: Usborne, 2015 Rights sold: Danish (Forlaget 5)



SHARON GOSLING & STEVE WHITE

Sharon Gosling is the author of several fiction books for the middle grade, including *The Diamond Thief* (Redbridge Children’s Book Award winner 2014), *The Ruby Airship* and *The Sapphire Cutlass*. She has also written YA horror *FIR*, which was shortlisted for four regional book awards in 2018. When not writing fiction

she writes non-fiction making-of books about television and film (*Penny Dreadful/Wonder Woman/Tomb Raider/Men in Black 4*).

Steve White has worked in the publishing industry for 30 years, as an editor, colourist, writer and artist. His career spans a broad range of titles from children’s, science fiction and fantasy comics to critically acclaimed art books, including the *Dinosaur Art* series published by Titan Books and *Dinosaur Hunter* published by Osprey. He has also spoken at numerous lectures and events, including talks at the Natural History Museum on dinosaurs and how to draw them. He has been in love with dinosaurs since he was four and drawing them since he could hold a pencil.

DINO RANGERS by Sharon Gosling & Steve White

Status: On UK Submission, Series Proposal Available

Illustrated MG Adventure

Rights Available: All

Dash Mendoza’s mum Stephanie has quit the military and taken a top-secret new job. At first Dash isn’t happy – after all, it means that it’ll be two years before he can see the rest of his family and his friends – he’ll be 15 by the time her contract is up. But everything changes when he finds out exactly where they’re going: deep into the past to study real, live dinosaurs. He’s not the only kid on the expedition, either. The timeship is home to a whole family, including twin teens Tethys and her brother Rheic, their older brother Kenor and their little sister Nena, all of whom have been travelling back to prehistory since they were small. Dash is about to embark on the most exciting trip he’s ever taken. But the past is a dangerous place, especially when someone inside Project Phoenix has their own unpleasant plans for how it should be used...

Book One: The Deccan Traps

Super volcanoes, apocalyptic weather and giant sauropods – as an introduction to time travel, Dash’s first mission with Project Phoenix is a bit of an eye-opener. When the team’s aeroflyer crashes with no way to communicate with the timeship, it looks as if it might also be his last...



Extract:

Rheic stayed absolutely still. The young tyrannosaurus raised its head from the pool of water, as if it had scented something. She was barely ten feet away. He’d been watching the animal through the thick foliage surrounding the small watering hole. The rex was mid-moult, slowly dropping the down it had hatched with. She’d lost most of the soft, feather-like layer that would have originally covered her all over, but patches of it still clung to her tough skin, like wispy balls of dirty cotton wool. Rheic had been planning to sketch her, but now something had caught the creature’s attention.

Dinner, probably.

The Tyrannosaurus rex turned, water dripping from its open mouth, jagged teeth on full display. At first Rheic thought it was going to come straight for him, but instead it started off at an angle slightly to the west. He watched as the young creature leaned forward and extended her neck, her powerful back legs launching her into a run. He watched, pencil and sketchpad temporarily forgotten. It had always fascinated Rheic that a creature so huge, made of so much muscle and meat, could move so elegantly. Just then, the rex looked more like a bird than an elephant. A big bird. An ostrich, maybe, something fast and graceful despite its size. That would make an interesting sketch, he thought. A tyrannosaurus and an ostrich together, running. Although one would be running toward dinner and one would be dinner, obviously.

Then, through the dark green of the lush prehistoric foliage, he saw what the rex was aiming for.

It was his little sister, Nena.

She was standing not far away, one arm stretched out as if planning to give the gigantic creature a pat on the head. The rex sped up, honing in, her massive back legs pounding the earth so hard that Rheic could feel the vibrations through the soil.

“Nena!”





VIRGINIA MACGREGOR

Virginia Macgregor was brought up in Germany, France and England by a mother who never stopped telling stories. From the moment she was old enough to hold a pen, Virginia set about writing her own.

Her debut novel for adults, *What Milo Saw* (Little, Brown, 2014) was published to great acclaim and has so far been translated into 12 languages. Her second novel, *The Astonishing Return of Norah Wells*, was published in January 2016, and her third, *Before I Was Yours*, in January 2017. Her debut YA novel, *Wishbones*, was published by HQ HarperCollins in 2017. *As Far As The Stars* is her second novel for YA readers.

AS FAR AS THE STARS by Virginia Macgregor

UK Publisher: HQ (WEL), April 2019 **Age Group: 13+**
Rights Available: Translation

Two teenagers wait at Dulles International Airport, Washington D.C. Air is there to meet her brother Blake who is flying in from London. Christopher is waiting for his father, who is on the same flight.

But the plane never arrives.

With their worlds crashing down around them, Christopher and Air find themselves on a fast-paced road trip to Nashville—Air trying to convince herself that her brother must miraculously still be alive. That somehow he'd got on a different plane. Her wonderful, infuriating brother can't possibly be gone.

Christopher, meanwhile, can't tell Air his biggest secret—that his father was the pilot of the missing plane. And that he knows her brother isn't coming home. Because how can you tell someone something so terrible when you're falling in love with them? And how can he possibly be falling in love, when his world is falling apart?

AS FAR AS THE STARS is the powerful new YA novel from Virginia Macgregor, perfect for fans of Non Pratt, John Green and Jennifer E Smith.

Extract:

Where the hell are you, Blake?

I go up to a guy wearing what I recognise as a BA uniform:

'Excuse me –'

He spins round. His eyes are wide and kind of jumpy. BA officials have this way of looking totally calm. Like even if the airport was on fire every hair would stay in place. Mom says it's a British thing. But this guy doesn't look calm, not at all. Which is strange. Like it's strange that everyone around me is acting so stressed out. It's not like they've all got weddings to go to – or Moms like mine. Planes get delayed all the time.

'The plane – the one that's been delayed,' I say to the BA guy. 'I was meant to pick someone up.' I pause. 'Or I think I was. It's kind of complicated. Could you check the passenger list for me?'

He stares at me and blinks like I'm not speaking English.

I try again, trying to calm myself down enough to get the words out in the right order:

'I need to check whether my brother was meant to be on the plane that's been delayed.'

'I'm afraid we can't release that information.'

'I'm his sister.'

'We still can't release that information. Not at this point.'

'What point?'

He looks at me like I'm about two years old – or totally crazy – or both.

'I'm sorry I can't help,' the guy says, his eyes still darting around. 'I've got to go.'

My heart starts doing this weird arrhythmic pounding thing.

This can't be happening.



Praise for *Wishbones*, by Virginia Macgregor:

"A hugely enjoyable read." - TES

"Compelling, gritty and suffused with promise, this is a true triumph of contemporary YA" - lovereading4kids.co.uk

"A heartbreaking but hugely important read" - *Laura Patricia Rose Blog*

"A great book that should be read by adults and kids alike." - *A Bookworm's Guide To Life*





DAVID OWEN

David resents the fact that he was not raised by wolves and was therefore robbed of a good story to tell at parties. He achieved 1st class honours in BA Creative Writing and MA Writing for Children at The University of Winchester, where he went on to teach on the BA Creative Writing course for three years.

He is the Deputy Editor for gapyear.com and a former freelance games journalist, contributing to review sites including *IGN*, *Rock Paper Shotgun* and *Polygon*. He

has been published as a poet in journals such as *Agenda* and *Seam*. David spends most of his time thinking about biscuits.

ALL THE LONELY PEOPLE

by David Owen

UK Publisher: Atom (UK & Commonwealth ex. Canada) January 2019

Age Group: YA/Crossover

Rights Available: US & Translation, Audio (direct)

Everyone tells Kat that her online personality – confident, funny, opinionated – isn't her true self. Kat knows otherwise. The internet is her only way to cope with a bad day, chat with friends who get all her references, make someone laugh. But when she becomes the target of an alt-right trolling campaign, she feels she has no option but to *Escape, Delete, Disappear*.

With her social media shut down, her website erased, her entire online identity void, Kat feels she has cut away her very core: without her virtual self, who is she?

She brought it on herself. Or so Wesley keeps telling himself as he dismantles Kat's world. It's different, seeing one of his victims in real life and not inside a computer screen – but he's in too far to back out now.

As soon as Kat disappears from the online world, her physical body begins to fade and while everybody else forgets that she exists, Wesley realises he is the only one left who remembers her. Overcome by remorse for what he has done, Wesley resolves to stop her disappearing completely. It might just be the only way to save himself.

All the Lonely People is a timely story about online culture – both good and bad – that explores the experience of loneliness in a connected world, and the power of kindness and empathy over hatred.

Extract:

Kat stumbled into the toilets and threw her bag onto the mucky tiles. The dizziness was passing, but every atom in her body seemed to shake like they were breaking their bonds. The smell of bleach scorched her nostrils, stinging eyes already raw with tears.

'Stop crying,' she whispered to herself. They had taken away everything, and she hadn't even put up a fight.

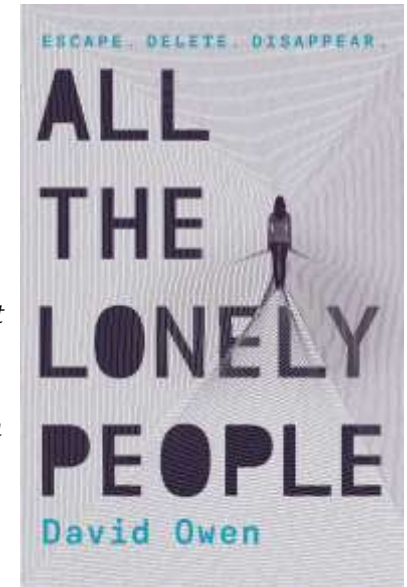
She clenched her eyes shut before she could catch sight of herself in the mirror. Back in the classroom, as she'd gripped the edge of the desk, there had been something wrong with her hands. It was like she had seen through them, through skin and flesh and bone. A trick of the light, surely, tears in her eyes blurring her vision.

So why was she so frightened to look again?

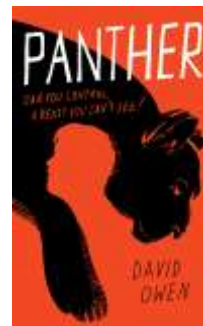
Kat wiped her eyes with trembling hands – she could still feel them, solid against her skin. She turned towards the mirrors and forced herself to look.

A ghost peered back. Kat's reflection was where it should be, but it was faded somehow, a sunblind spectral afterimage. Slowly she turned her head side-to-side and the reflection followed. The toilet stalls behind her bore cleaning notices, and she saw them through herself, too hazy to make out the words.

Irrationally she spun around, expecting to find her body lying on the tiles - she had died and become a wayward spirit – but there was nothing.



Also by David Owen:



"YA is in great hands with Owen ... he will be an **author to watch** "

- *We Love This Book*





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◆ ADULT FICTION ◆





JOANNE BURN

After studying politics at the University of Sheffield Joanne worked in the charitable sector with homelessness and community development organisations. In 2004 she completed a diploma in life coaching, travelled to Brazil in 2005 to further her training and specialises now in creativity coaching.

Despite having always wanted to live by the sea Joanne lives with her family in the land-locked Peak District, and contents herself with writing stories that conjure the coast in one way or another. Other than fiction, Joanne's great loves, in no particular order: potato masala dosa, climbing munros, camping in good weather, wild swimming, all middle-eastern food without exception, playing mahjong and eating very dark chocolate.

Petals & Stones is her debut novel. She can be found online at her website www.joanneburn.com and her blog www.notawritersgroup.com and on Twitter as [@joanne_burn](https://twitter.com/joanne_burn).

PETALS AND STONES by Joanne Burn

UK Publisher: Legend Press (UK/Comm excl Canada), September 2018
Rights sold: Audio (W. F. Howes)
Rights Available: US, Translation Genre: Upmarket Women's Fiction

When Uma discovers her husband's infidelity just hours before his untimely death, the carefully woven threads of her life begin to unravel.

Struggling to manage the grief of those around her, she escapes to a remote cottage by the coast where she swims in the winter sea, cooks the forgotten Keralan dishes of her childhood and begins the search for her husband's lover.

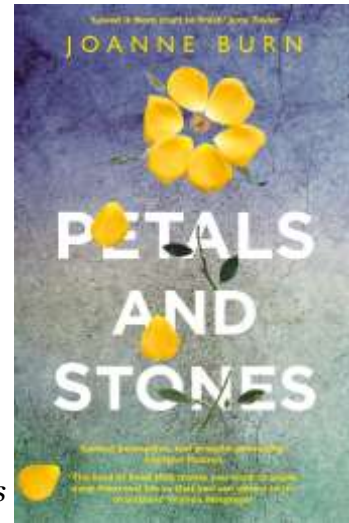
It isn't long before Uma realises what she must do to pick up the tattered threads of her life. But will her choices jeopardise the only family she has left?

Extract:

In the hallway the tiles were warm beneath Uma's bare feet. Daniel had promised that she would love the underfloor heating in the winter. Some things are worth the extra effort, he had said.

Uma unbolted the door, readying herself for the sight of him, arranging her face into something steely. She unlocked the deadlock, inserted the yale key and twisted, stepping back as the door swung open. She was already turning away, ready to leave him on the doorstep, the cold air raising goose-bumps on her neck, when she realised it wasn't Daniel.

Two police officers - a man and a woman - introduced themselves, ascertaining that Uma was Uma. There may have been a moment when she realised - perhaps when they asked whether it was okay to come in, whether they could speak inside. The wind rushed down the hall ahead of them, and Uma felt swallowed up in blackness as she stepped back to make space for them. Their boots were heavy on the hallway tiles. Their radios crackled. And somewhere in the depths of her she knew what she had just invited into her home.



Praise for Petals and Stones:

'Well written, thoughtful and **very enjoyable.**' - Katie Fforde

'The kind of book that **makes you want to sneak away from real life** so that you can return to its characters.' - Virginia Macgregor

'**Loved it** from start to finish.' - June Taylor

'Lyrical, perceptive, and **thought-provoking.**' - Christine Poulson

'A meditative, **carefully crafted debut.**' - J.M. Monaco

'**Beautiful** and redemptive.' - Liz Flanagan





NATALIE HART

As a teenager Natalie worked in her local independent bookshop in East Sussex. She still can't believe that someone actually paid her to drink tea and talk about books.

Now she specialises in public opinion research in conflict and post-conflict environments. She has spent three years in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan as a researcher, where the idea for *PIECES OF ME* began to form.

Natalie has a BA in Arabic and Spanish from the University of Cambridge and recently completed a distance learning MA in Creative Writing at the University of Lancaster. She has also completed online fiction courses with Faber Academy and the Gotham Writers' Workshop, and in April 2016 she won the London Book Fair's The Write Stuff competition with her powerful and moving pitch for *PIECES OF ME*.

PIECES OF ME by Natalie Hart

UK Publisher: Legend Press (World English), October 2018

Rights Available: US (via Publisher), Translation

Rights Sold: Audio (W.F. Howes)

Genre: Upmarket Women's Fiction

Emma did not go to war looking for love, but Adam is unlike any other.

Under the secret shadow of trauma, Emma decides to leave Iraq and joins Adam to settle in Colorado. But isolation and fear find her, once again, when Adam is re-deployed.

Torn between a deep fear for Adam's safety and a desire to be back there herself, Emma copes by throwing herself into a new role mentoring an Iraqi refugee family. But when Adam comes home, he brings the conflict back with him.

Emma had considered the possibility that her husband might not come home from war. She had not considered that he might return a stranger.

This is a novel about absence, loss and silence. How do you live a normal life, while constantly wondering whether the person you love is in danger? What do you do when they come home different, broken, and push you away?

Extract:

Iraq has invaded our home.

It is the images that flash into our living room each evening, with close-ups of stomping military boots. It is the burning metal wreckages that used to be cars. It is the grieving women who beat faces streaked with tears.

Iraq has invaded our kitchen. It is the fridge full of the foods he will miss when he leaves. It is the cover of Time magazine with the face of General Petraeus and the question 'How much longer?' It is a photo in a newspaper of a coffin, draped in a flag.

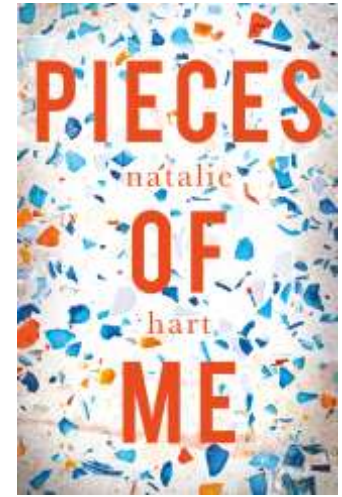
Iraq has invaded our bathroom. It is the long hot showers he takes while he still has privacy. It is the almost empty tube of toothpaste that he is eking out until he leaves. It is the hair from the fresh buzzcut that didn't quite wash down the sink.

Iraq has invaded our bedroom. It is the dust coloured boots and desert camo uniform now in the wardrobe. It is the heavy box of possessions that is waiting to be shipped. It is the piles of unidentifiable equipment that I trip over on the bedroom floor.

Iraq has invaded our bed. It is the cool space next to me when he leaves early for work. It is the way I explore his body, mapping it into my mind for when he is gone. It is the unexpected desire to conceive.

Iraq has invaded our conversations. It is the casual queries that cannot be answered. It is the plans we cannot make. It is the questions I am too scared to ask.

Iraq has invaded. The space between us has been occupied.



Praise for Pieces of Me:

'An astounding debut ... Its characters and story tugged at my heart with every turning page.' - *Nina Pottell, Books Editor Prima Magazine and Costa Book Awards Judge*

'Heart-wrenching and heart-warming in equal measure, Pieces of Me is an incredibly moving tale of love and conflict... I couldn't put it down.'
- *Harper's Bazaar*





S E LISTER

Sophie Lister grew up in Gloucestershire, and is a graduate of the prestigious Creative Writing programme at Warwick University. She has been reading stories since she was old enough to pick up a book, and writing them almost as long. Now 29, she has published two novels: *Hideous Creatures* (2014), which was shortlisted for the

Edinburgh First Book Award, and *The Immortals* (2015).

Alongside her creative writing, she has written for various magazines and websites about philosophy and film.

Sophie loves vintage clothes, art-house cinemas and growing her own courgettes.

AUGURY by S E Lister

UK Publisher: Old Street Books (UK/Comm), Spring 2020

Rights Available: US, Translation, Audio

Genre: Literary/Magic Realism

The people of an ancient city awaken one night to find the earth beneath them trembling. But only the Augur, a fearless prophetess who was once the power behind the throne, sees the fate that awaits them.

As the skies darken and portents threaten, a handful of people are drawn to do the Augur's bidding. Fierce Saba and pale-haired Aemilia, her young acolytes, stolen from their homes long ago. Myloxenes, gentle son of the savage High Priest; and crippled Antonus, the man who should have been Emperor. In the city's last days, each will be tested.

Their dearest hopes may not survive the fire that is to come.

Extract:

Saba wakes in darkness. She knows at once that the Augur has not yet returned from the mountain. She lies on her back, senses suddenly sharp. And then the earth begins to move.

It is over in a moment, a shift so low and deep that it might be mistaken for a noise imagined in sleep. The tremor is felt by hundreds in the city below who open their eyes in the dark and turn in their beds and forget by morning. Saba sits up, wide awake. Stones rattle into stillness in the courtyard below. The flames of the torches fixed to the temple gate waver and flare. By their light Saba spies three or four long shadows, men lurking on the steps outside the gate.

Aemilia mutters fretfully, but does not wake. Saba slips barefoot from bed, shrouds herself in her cloak, hood raised over her head. Palm of one hand against the wall to guide her, she climbs to the Augur's quarters, to be certain of her own intuition. When she pushes open the door at the top of the narrow stairwell, the moonlit chamber is empty. Loose leaves of parchment are strewn across the floor. Saba stands for a moment in the doorway, hearing her own heart beat harder. She feels a shadow pass over her, as though a flock of birds has winged overhead. Saba, who barely has it in her nature to worry or to fear.

Also by S E Lister:



"Grips and enchants and you never want it to end. A seductive new voice."

- Lovereadings.co.uk





CHRIS LLOYD

Chris Lloyd lived in Catalonia for over twenty years, besides brief spells in Bilbao, Madrid, Grenoble and a mill in Devon. He has written and contributed to several travel books about Spain for Rough Guides, travelling extensively around the country. Now back in South Wales, he works as a Catalan and Spanish translator. His debut crime fiction series, *The Elisenda Domènech Investigations*, was

published digitally by Canelo.

THE UNWANTED DEAD by Chris Lloyd

Status: On UK Submission
Rights Available: All

Genre: Historical Crime Fiction

Paris, Friday, 14th June, 1940.

On the first day of the Nazi occupation of Paris, four Polish refugees are found gassed in a railway truck. A fifth commits suicide later that day. With his own psychological scars from the Great War, Paris police detective Eddie Giral is determined to find out exactly what happened, even if it means taking on the Occupier.

But as he investigates, he meets a clandestine group of Polish exiles and a mysterious American journalist, which leads him to discover shocking evidence to back up the rumours of atrocities coming out of Poland. Suspecting a connection with the deaths of the Polish refugees, Eddie pursues the lead despite opposition from his French colleagues and threats from the German officers they now have to report to. As Eddie tries to bring the killers to justice and to uncover the truth behind the rumours, he finds himself in a much more dangerous and sinister world than any he's known before.

Extract:

Two things happened on June the fourteenth, 1940.

Four men no one knew died in a railway yard and a fifth man stepped off a balcony.

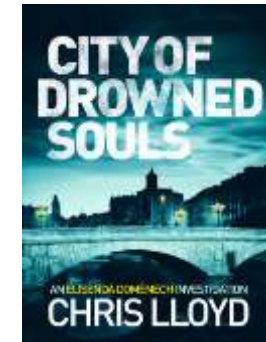
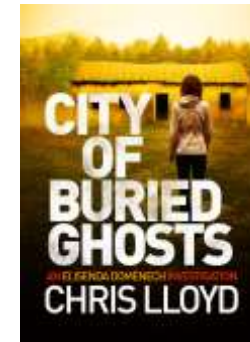
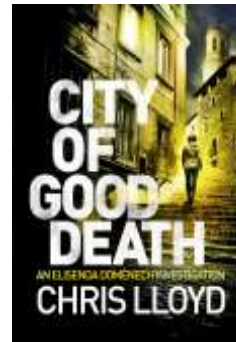
There were other things that happened on June the fourteenth, 1940. The soldiers of the 187th tank destroyers wanted to look nice as they invaded Paris, so they took a wash in the muddy waters of the Ourcq Canal, six kilometres outside the city. In a race to grab the best beds, General Bogislav von Studnitz set up camp in the Crillon Hotel on Place de la Concorde while all around him, German officers spread their dusty uniforms on the city's finest bed linen. All day long, Wehrmacht bands honked and tooted endlessly up and down a deserted Champs-Élysées until finally a giant swastika was unfurled over the tomb of the unknown soldier just in case there was still anyone left in Paris who didn't yet know we'd lost.

But in my world, four men no one knew died in a railway yard and a fifth man stepped off a balcony.

Praise for the Elisenda Domènech Investigations:

'A fantastic intelligent story with many surprising twists and turns and a fabulous ending.' - *With Love for Books Blog*

'I just LOVE this series! It is one gorgeous bundle of **crime filled delight**, wrapped up in a sunny climate and sprinkled with Catalan culture.' - *Northern Crime Blog*





NIKKI MARMERY

Nikki Marmery worked as a financial journalist for 15 years, specializing in credit derivatives and foreign exchange markets. The financial crisis, followed swiftly by the arrival of three small children, put an end to that, and she now lives in the countryside, where she writes historical fiction and watches Gardeners World

unironically. Nikki has a degree in history from the University of Nottingham and studied creative writing at the Faber Academy.

THE WORLD ENCOMPASSED by Nikki Marmery

Status: OK UK Submission; full mss available **Rights Available:**
All Genre: Upmarket Historical Fiction

April, 1579, Mare Pacificum, NOVA HISPANIA, 13°35'N

For over ten years, Maria has been a slave. She has been taken from Africa to Mexico to Manila to Lima, forced to give up everything she has ever known along the way – her freedom, her family, her name, her child. But when her Spanish master's merchant ship is captured by the infamous English Corsair, Drake, halfway through his extraordinary voyage of discovery around the globe, she senses an opportunity to regain what she has lost. Stealing an opal from her master to bargain with, she persuades the English General to let her join his ship on its long voyage back to England. Because Maria has a secret. She is with child again, and this time, she has no intention of allowing her child to be raised a slave. In England, they could be free.

As the Golden Hind explores undiscovered shores and weathers ferocious storms in search of the fabled North-West Passage, Maria undergoes her own journey of self-discovery, determined to reclaim her identity and to forge her own future. But it is not easy being the only woman on a ship full of sailors, and it will take all of her courage and endurance to survive.

Inspired by the true story of Maria, the only woman on the Golden Hind with Francis Drake when he circumnavigated the world in 1577-1580, THE WORLD ENCOMPASSED was shortlisted for *Myriad Editions First Drafts Competition 2017* and for the *Historical Novel Society's New Novel Award 2018* (under the working title ISLA MARIA).

Extract:

He looks at me like I am a great curiosity.

I open my mouth but Don Francisco pinches my arm. "This is not your place."

The General brushes him away. "Let her speak."

"General –" What am I doing? I breathe out, slowly. I start again. "I think that after this defeat, no longer can we call this ship the Cacafuego."

I look at the floor, because I know the English, like the Spaniards, think meekness a virtue. In women.

He lifts my chin. "Why not?"

"Because we fired not a shot. With the power of your guns, your ship has rightly earned that name."

His smile is like a hat that does not quite fit. "Yes! We should take that honour. But then – what would you call this – the ship of Don Francisco de Zarate?" He slaps his shoulder. Don Francisco looks skyward to master his fury.

I stop. But I am ready with it; straight-faced, my eyes locked on his: "The Cacaplata." By which I mean: she shits silver. "For you have taken every bar of it."

For a moment I think it has gone very badly. They look at me with horror. Don Francisco's face burns with anger. Captain Anton shakes, his arms rigid, all the way to his balled fists.

The sailors stare open-mouthed. Gaspar grunts like the pig that he is.

And then the General laughs. He tips back his head and he roars. The lace around his neck flutters as his chest heaves. Diego looks at him in surprise, the edges of his mouth curling upwards. Captain Anton looks as if he might burst.

When the General has righted himself, I hold him direct in the eye. I must have the right words.

"May I ask, General: where do you sail?"





CAROLINE O'DONOGHUE

Caroline O'Donoghue is an Irish writer, musician and person living in South London. She is a Contributing Editor for The-Pool.com and has written for *Glamour*, *The Irish Times* and *Buzzfeed*, among others. She co-hosts the podcast *School for Dumb Women*.

She is also a singer/songwriter for the band Greyhounds Greyhounds, and you should not add her on Facebook unless you want to be invited to all her gigs, forever.

PROMISING YOUNG WOMEN is her first book.

PROMISING YOUNG WOMEN by Caroline O'Donoghue

UK Publisher: Virago (UK & Comm, ex. Canada), June 2018

Genre: Literary/Commercial Fiction

Rights Sold: Polish (Świat Książki)

"Why do younger women get involved with older men?" Jolly Politely, online agony aunt, asks her readers. She is usually the one with all the answers. But not today: today it's her turn to ask questions.

Jolly Politely, known for her insightful and often cutting responses, is something of an enigma to her readers. But behind the screen name, she is Jane: a recently dumped twenty-something marketing professional attempting to rebuild the shattered pieces of her life. Newly single and struggling to navigate a city that suddenly feels alien to her, at first she doesn't notice the attentions of her older, married boss, Clem. But his advances soon become impossible to ignore, and as their affair takes a darker turn and the disastrous consequences become clear, Jane begins to question everything: her past, her present and even her sanity.

PROMISING YOUNG WOMEN is the novel for every young woman who has ever made mistakes, fallen for the wrong person at the wrong time, or for those who are simply still wondering about the person they will one day become.

Extract:

I slot into his arms easily, the right sized shoe for the right sized box. I breathe in.

Two weeks ago I brought home a new brand of fabric conditioner that my company are working with. We're supposed to use the products at home if we can, to have a better idea of how to sell them. This has the faint, slightly urine-y smell of lilies with something else – cherry blossom? – beneath it. I can smell its cheap, powdery fragrance on his body and suddenly everything feels very funny, and very sad. The man who used to kiss me on the nose before I went to sleep is using the same fabric conditioner as the man who sleeps on my couch. The man who now goes out of his way to avoid my gaze. I wonder what I smell like. Cigarettes, probably. Vodka. Chips.

Somewhere in the darkness, our mouths find one another. I push myself up against him, wanting him to remember what my body feels like. I snake a hand up his side, pull him toward me, and I know he's thinking about it. Think about it.

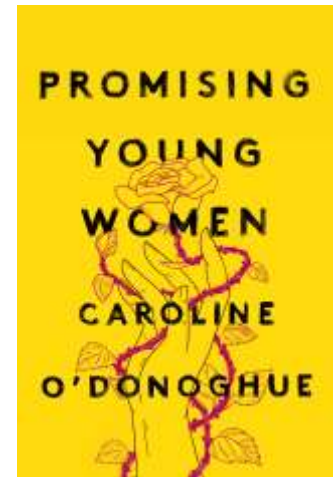
He snatches his mouth away. "Go back to your room."

"Our room," I stress.

"Go back to our old room," he replies, reasonably.

I get into bed, and sleep naked in case he changes his mind.

He doesn't.



Praise for Promising Young Women:

"I loved it... A fabulous and timely novel."—Marian Keyes

"Promising Young Women is funny, clever, upsetting, fierce and absolutely of its time. A future classic."—Jane Casey

"So brilliant ... It couldn't really be more timely ... Compelling and illuminating ... I highly recommend it." - Dolly Alderton, *The High Low Podcast*

"This is the cleverest, funniest and most assured debut novel I've ever read. It's bold, knowing and so smart - fans of Nancy Mitford or Jay McInerney will adore this, but O'Donoghue's voice is absolutely her own."—Daisy Buchanan





JANE O'REILLY

Jane would like to say that she's the secret love child of Wonder Woman and grew up on a tropical island in the Pacific, but in reality she grew up in the north of England where it was quite cold and if anyone had any super powers, they kept them well hidden.

After university and a brief and very misguided spell as a teacher, she decided it would be better for everyone if she stayed at home and looked after her children. She wrote her first novel when her youngest was a baby, and is now the author of numerous contemporary and erotic romances published by Harlequin Escape and Carina UK, as well as the Second Species Trilogy.

DEEP BLUE by Jane O'Reilly

Book 2 of the Second Species Trilogy

UK Publisher: Piatkus (Little, Brown) (WEL), June 2018

Full MS available. Rights Available: US / Audio (via publisher), Translation Genre: Science Fiction

Date: 27th September 2188. **Vessel:** The Alcatraz 2. Prison Ship **Location:** Unknown

Jennifer Blue opens her eyes to find herself in a prison ship that is the source of her darkest nightmares. Her plan to expose the horrific truth behind the government's secret Second Species programme has failed, and now she's being turned into a weapon by her worst enemy . . . her mother.

At the other end of the galaxy Caspian Dax, ferocious space pirate and Jinn's sometime lover, is facing an even more terrifying fate. He's being forced to fight in the arena on Sittan, a pitiless, ruthless alien landscape where blood is the only prize that matters. They will use him, destroy him, change him.

Jinn has only one chance – to go to Sittan and find Dax before his mind is completely destroyed. She must rely on her friends and one old enemy, leave her beloved ship the Mutant behind, and travel to a hostile planet. But hardest of all, she must keep faith that when she finds Dax, there will be something left of the man she knew. One thing's for sure: the fight has only just begun.

WHAT READERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE SECOND SPECIES SERIES:

'I was addicted from the first page! An intriguing story line with interesting characters and a different view of the future and of space travel.' *Amazon reviewer*

'This is one fabulous Sci-Fi story with a brilliantly well realised futuristic world' *Reading Revelations*

'I just had seen the Last Jedi when I read this and was looking to read something that had similarly strong female characters, this didn't disappoint. I read it within a day because each chapter left me desperate to find out what happened next. It's sexy, action packed and it was easy to get sucked into the world created.' *Amazon reviewer*



BLUE SHIFT by Jane O'Reilly Book 1 of the Second Species Trilogy

UK Publisher: Piatkus (Little, Brown) (WEL), June 2017

Full MS available. Rights Available: US / Audio (via publisher), Translation Genre: Science Fiction

2187: Earth is cold, dead and divided. The rich hide away from reality while the rest will do anything to survive. Humanity have only one hope: reaching a habitable planet. But getting there means travelling in large numbers through alien-held space, something that's politically and practically nearly impossible. Yet for some, fighting their way through space is just a way of life . . .



Jennifer Blue is a rich girl on the run. An expert pilot, she apprehends criminals on behalf of the government and keeps her illegal genetic modifications a closely guarded secret. But when a particularly dangerous job goes south, leaving her stranded on a prison ship with one of the most ruthless criminals in the galaxy, Jinn realises that the rich and the powerful are hiding more than she'd ever guessed. Now she must decide if she can trust her co-prisoner – because once they discover what the prison ship is hiding, she definitely can't trust anyone else . . .

