

# **LONDON BOOK FAIR 2025**

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Kensington currently publishes a wide range of commercial fiction in all categories and select non-fiction in all formats.

Erewhon publishes speculative fiction.

#### Our recent and future titles are listed below by genre and then alphabetically by author

Please note: "Previous Rights Sold" indicates that a previous title by the author was sold in that territory. "Rights Sold" indicates that the specific title listed was sold in that territory. This does not mean these books are no longer available in these territories as we do not offer contractual options.

For your convenience we have boxed our 'highlight' titles in each category.

If you have any specific inquiries regarding translation rights, please reach out to Susanna Grüninger (sgruninger@kensingtonbooks.com).

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# **Contemporary Fiction & Romance:**

#### **GOTHICTOWN by Emily Carpenter – April 2025**

Kensington debut for fans Kiersten White and Camilla Sten's *The Lost Village* that is a blend of suspense and horror following a woman who moves her family from their cramped New York City apartment to a seemingly idyllic town, only to discover a darkness that lurks beneath the surface of the friendly smiles and the sun-dappled streets: the email that lands in Billie's inbox seems like a gift from the universe. For \$100, she can purchase a spacious home in Juliana, a small town eager to boost its economy in the wake of the pandemic. She can leave behind her overstuffed New York City rental and the painful memories of shuttering her once thriving restaurant and start over with her husband and daughter.

A few phone calls and one hurried visit later, and Billie, Peter, and 6-year-old Meredith are officially part of the Juliana Initiative. The town is everything promised—a world away from city living with weather as warm as its people. Between settling into their lavish home and starting her new restaurant, Billie is busy enough to dismiss niggling concerns.

Yet those misgivings grow. Billie's sleep is marred by haunting dreams, and her marriage with Peter is growing increasingly strained. Meanwhile the town officials, all descended from Juliana's founding families, exert a level of influence that feels increasingly stifling. There is something off-kilter and menacing beneath that hospitality. And no matter how much Billie longed for her family to come here, she is starting to wonder how, and if, they will be able leave.

- Japanese and Ukrainian rights sold
- TV series adaptation from AMC is in development

#### THE BIG FIX by Holly James - April 2025

Genre-blending novel with a strong voice that is part romcom, part comedic suspense, and is ideal for fans of *Raiders of the Lost Heart* by Jo Segura and the *Finlay Donovan* series by Elle Cosimano. A mashup of screwball action and romantic attraction when a case of mistaken identity lands a college professor on the run with a mysterious—and dangerously hot— fixer: when bookish Penny lets her sister drag her to an estate sale at a neighbor's house, she's hoping for a little diversion rummaging through dusty antiques. Instead, she ends up in a public squabble over candlesticks with the deceased owner's (very hot) nephew, Anthony—right before a dead body tumbles out of a closet.

Penny's plan for the summer involved finalizing tenure at the university where she is a computer sciences professor. Instead, she is suddenly on the run with a man she barely knows, scaling walls, evading bullets, and accidentally stabbing henchmen. It seems the wrong people have got it in their heads that she is Anthony's girlfriend, in possession of something they desperately need—and will do anything to get.

As for Anthony, he has a top-secret occupation as a fixer—in addition to a set of impossibly ripped abs. But a recent fix went dangerously awry, and now he and Penny are dodging both a ruthless billionaire and the FBI. And it'll take all of Penny's plentiful common sense, in addition to Anthony's skills, to survive long enough for her to see the next semester.

- "A case of mistaken identity leads to danger and unexpected love in this entertaining contemporary...James keeps the twists coming, leading readers on a fast-paced thrill ride complete with a ruthless villain who will do anything to stop Penny and Anthony in their track. Readers who like their romance to come with plenty of action will be pleased."- Publishers Weekly
- Hebrew rights sold

#### DISTANCE: A Dark Mafia Romance (#1) by Luna Mason – March 2025

**DETONATE** (#2) – June 2025

#### DEVOTED (#3) – September 2025

Intense dark mafia romance series featuring elite criminal families, morally gray anti-heroes, and breath-stealing tension for fans of J.T. Geissinger, Sophie Lark, and Shantel Tessier: from a poor, underground street fighter, Keller rose to fame as the world heavyweight boxing champion. What no one knows is that he is also trapped in the mafia until his debts are paid. A simple deal was offered to gain his freedom – or at least it seemed simple until an enchanting British firecracker arrived on the scene. Wanting Sienna was dangerous for both her and Keller, but he goes for it anyway. But when the truth is revealed, can Sienna still love Keller?

Ideal for fans of very high heat dark romance novels with lots of Booktok buzz. This series was independently published in 2023/2024 to a huge fanbase and we will now be re-releasing the four books every three months beginning March 2025, copyedited and with new bonus content.

• This series has nearly 50k Amazon reviews and 80k Goodreads ratings. With +425k likes and +21k followers on Tiktok, another +38k on Instagram and a very engaged Facebook readers group, Mason knows how to connect with her fans on social media. Not available in: Hebrew, Russian, Dutch, German, Italian, Hungarian

#### ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME by Yamile Saied Méndez – July 2025

A young woman who's spent years traveling the globe to outrun her own grief faces a momentous decision on her 33rd birthday: all Stevie wanted was a cozy life in suburbia. That simple dream shattered when she was only 16 and she has spent the years since trying to outrun the pain and make something of herself, if only to prove to her estranged family that she's happy and successful. So Stevie "dates" new countries, from Paris to Cairo to Cabo San Lucas, curating a gorgeous Instagram feed. Then one frigid January day in Rome she meets Paulo. He would be her perfect match—if they weren't separated by continents and obligations. Unable to say goodbye, they agree that if they're both single at 33, they'll marry each other. And then January of their 33rd rolls around and suddenly it's up to Stevie to choose happiness.

#### LOVE IS A FOUR-LEGGED WORD by Melinda Metz – November 2025

Feel-good fiction romance filled with layered characters, witty dialogue, and an adorable dog: Riley is living her best life. After landing a job at a resort in luxurious Sedona, her goal of living in all 50 states is underway. Everything is going according to plan—until she sees a scrappy-looking dog limping along the street. The poor pooch obviously needs help.

Determined to find the dog a home, Riley coaxes him into her car and heads to work. She figures she can stash him in one of the empty guest cabins. But when she sneaks the pooch inside, she's surprised to find it's occupied—by a very attractive, nearly naked man, who is instantly charmed by the scruffy canine. And Riley, too.

With Daniel's help, Riley tries to find the dog a good home—at the risk of losing her job. Her micro-managing boss has a zero tolerance for trouble. But her biggest problem? The closer she gets to finding that trouble-making dog a home, the more she can't bear to part with the furry guy. Or a certain human named Daniel...

• Metz is the author of the *Talk to the Paw* trilogy, which was published in Czech, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese (BR & PT), Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese

#### **SUMMER IN A BOTTLE by Annie Rains – May 2025**

Feel-good fiction from *USA Today*-bestseller Rains ideal for readers of Rebecca Searle: dumped by her fiancé, opinion columnist Lyla returns home to heal, and to help her parents prep their house for sale. When she decides to open a time capsule she buried when she was 18-years-old, she finds a diary filled with moments from the last summer she spent at home. Some of the events feel like they happened yesterday. That's normal. Not so normal is that they start happening all over again. As her current summer increasingly mirrors that last one, Lyla worries it will end just as disastrously. And when she reconnects with Travis, Lyla becomes certain that unless she does what her younger self was unable to do, she'll suffer the same regrets. But if this time around she can gather her courage, maybe the life that was falling apart when she arrived will fall back together—even better than before.

Rains has been published in Germany

#### CHASING THE RING: Football and Feels (#1) by Lauren Rowe – February 2026

Kensington debut from self-published author Rowe, who is a *USA Today* and Amazon bestselling author with a highly engaged social media fanbase: hours before her wedding day, Iris finds out her fiancé has been cheating on her. A lot. She devises a plan for revenge with the help of her best friends by exposing and humiliating her husband-to-be at the altar. And while exposing his double life to the crowd of shocked friends and family felt great at the start, it doesn't feel so wonderful to become known as the crazy fiancé in a viral internet sensation. Deciding she needs some time away from everyone who recognizes her, Iris ventures alone on what would have been her honeymoon. When she arrives at the beautiful Hawaiian bungalow, she thinks it is merely a key card error that she can't get into the door. Finally managing to get inside with the help of a porter, the shocking discovery that her ex cancelled their booking is made obvious when she barges in on a hot stranger in what should have been her shower.

Little does Iris know that the beautiful man is an elite NFL player who is looking for a change in his life — and who also thoroughly enjoys the fact that Iris has absolutely no idea who he is. As their instant attraction extends beyond the confines of their island bubble, can their relationship withstand the intricacies of real life? Great for fans of Josie Silver's *One Night on the Island* and readers of Lucy Score and Tessa Bailey.

Rowe's romance Hero has a "Best of TikTok" badge on Amazon. Rowe's books have also been #1 in many
categories, including romantic suspense, young adult, contemporary romance, family saga, and humor

#### **RUSTLER MOUNTAIN by Maisey Yates – March 2025**

Small-town Western spice with a bad boy/good girl trope for fans of Elsie Silver and Lyla Sage: every year, thousands of people come through Rustler for the rodeo, historic home tours, old-fashioned candy making demonstrations —and to see the site of the 1800s shootout in which notorious outlaw Austin Wilder was killed by Sheriff Lee Talbot. Now Millie Talbot, the sheriff's descendant, wants to bring back the town's Gold Rush Days. But she needs the current Austin Wilder's support to make her dream a reality. The Wilders are rumored to be as true to their last name as their ancestors. Nonetheless, Austin is agreeable to helping Millie. But he wants something in return. Austin is working to clear his family name by writing the true history of his outlaw ancestors and Millie might just hold the key. When Millie wrangles Austin into helping plan Gold Rush Days, he figures it's a chance to get to the truth of the past. But when sparks start to fly between this bad boy and good girl, will either of them come out of it unscathed?

- Yates is a New York Times and USA Today-bestselling author whose novels have sold more than 10 million copies
- UK and Portuguese (BR) rights sold

#### **Historical Fiction:**

# THUS WITH A KISS I DIE: Daughter of Montague (#2) by Christina Dodd – July 2025

Continuation of *Romeo & Juliet* where the couple was able to live happily ever after and following their daughter as a clever and fiercely independent young woman in fair Verona: in book 2, fans of the bard will be happy to see some nods to *Macbeth* included. Once upon a time a young couple met and fell in love. You probably know that story, and how it ended. Only here's the thing: that's not how it ended at all. Romeo and Juliet are alive and well and the parents of seven children. At 20-years-old, Rosie is the eldest and a happy spinster – until she falls head over heels for Lysander. But their love is ill-fated as Escalus, the Prince of Verona, wishes to make Rosie *his* bride. When the ghost of Escalus's father, Prince Escalus the Elder, appears to Rosie and promises to help her if she reveals the shadows lurking beneath Verona's glittering surface, she decides to accept the risk.

• New genre from Dodd who is the author of romance, suspense, and thriller novels with more than 15 million copies in print. **Russian rights sold**. Spanish, Russian, and Polish rights sold to *A Daughter of Fair Verona* (2024)

#### **BEYOND THIS PLACE OF WRATH AND TEARS by Jack Ford – June 2025**

Dual timeline, fact-based historical fiction telling the story of the underrecognized life of Lee Carson, a heroic female journalist who defied convention to report from the front lines of WWII. A read for fans of Kate Quinn, Christine Mangan, and Erika Robuck.

Washington, DC, April 1954: Lee, former war correspondent, is frustrated that her journalism career has been relegated to society events. But when she receives a tip about a Russian spy in a high-ranking government position at the height of the Cold War, she feels the thrill of a story that she hasn't felt since she was on the front lines of the European theater.

London, December 1943: As war rages across Europe, 22-year-old Lee is waging a private battle of her own. An American-born correspondent for the International News Service, she is determined to cover the war from the field. But no woman will be allowed near the front lines. Assigned to cover the build-up to the invasion of Nazi-held Europe, she constantly wrangles with authorities to get to the heart of the action. From talking herself onto a bomber and flying over Normandy at the start of D-Day to other feats of daring, she witnesses and reports on the war's most pivotal moments.

 Ford has received three Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award, three American Radio and Television Awards, a National Headliner Award, and the March of Dimes FDR Award

#### SECRET IN TUSCANY by Alan Hlad – November 2025

Dual timeline novel set in World War II Tuscany and near-present day, drawing on real-life events and spanning two generations. Italy, 1943: with war blazing through Europe, nowhere is safe—not even the remote hills of the Tuscan countryside. It's here that Italian partisans risk their lives to provide Jewish refugees with an escape route to Switzerland. And it's here, too, that Gianna travels to join the Italian Resistance in the wake of her brother's death at the hands of German soldiers. Her father has been hiding Jewish refugees on their family's vineyard in Chianti, but now Gianni is bringing the fight directly to the enemy.

While delivering weapons and intelligence for partisans, Gianna meets Tazio, an American working undercover. Despite the growing odds of discovery, Gianna and Tazio conduct high-risk missions to sabotage German operations. But as the Allies steadily fight their way towards Florence, occupying German forces grow more desperate, leading to a shocking, unthinkable act of vengeance. And Gianna's fate will rest upon her cunning and her willingness to keep hope alive, even through the decades that follow.

Hlad has been published in Italian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese (PT), and Romanian

#### THE NIGHT WE BECAME STRANGERS by Lorena Hughes – October 2025

Historical fiction based on true events: in 1938, Orson Welles' radio dramatization of H.G. Wells' novel *The War of the Worlds* terrified Americans into believing martians were invading. 11 years later, an Ecuadorian radio station replicated the show. 20 years later two journalists try to uncover what happened to their families that night.

1957: Aspiring photojournalist Valeria returns to her hometown in the hopes of discovering how her parents really died. The disastrous 1949 *War of the Worlds* show caused a mob to torch her family's radio station and the newspaper run by their closest friends, the Monteros. The tragedy destroyed the families' relationship and left the station on shaky financial ground. Now, expected to save her family's legacy by accepting an arranged marriage, Valeria will risk everything to find out the truth.

For Matias Montero, the scars of that night run deep. He saved his mother but blames himself for not rescuing his father. As a journalist, he feels Valeria is a rival not to be trusted. Still, they're both on the same mission. Perhaps, together, they can unearth the past their families and friends would rather remain buried.

Hughes has previously been published in Arabic, Dutch, Lithuanian, Russian, and Spanish. The Spanish
 Daughter was an Amazon Editors' Pick, a Publishers Marketplace Buzz Books selection, and a Reading Group
 Choices Most Popular Books of the Year

#### COLONY OF LOST SOULS by Kelsey James – July 2025

Historical fiction with a Gothic edge following a woman in 1930s California who goes looking for her missing sister and is drawn into a chilling cult: born a year apart, May and June were once as close as twins. Time and a loveless marriage changed the once vibrant May into June's timid counterpart. Now, two years after June disappeared, May receives a letter from her sister inviting her to visit a mysterious colony.

The Colony lives in a magnificent Spanish Revival-style mansion perched on a bluff overlooking the Pacific and is presided over by the group's charismatic leader, Rex. Colony members believe in an afterlife where departed souls mingle, and that the truly enlightened can summon back the spirits of lost loved ones. May is told that June has recently left on a mission, and she's intrigued enough to accept Rex's invitation to stay until her sister's return. Drawn deeper into the group, and under Rex's seductive spell, May undergoes their initiation ceremony. Yet her questions grow more urgent with June's continued absence—and the warnings of a presumptuous but charming undercover investigator. May has longed for the daring, adventurous life her sister pursued, but her arrival has sparked a dangerous unraveling within the Colony, where nothing and no one is quite as it seems.

#### THE ENTIRELY TRUE STORY OF THE FANTASICAL MESMERIST NORA GREY by Kathleen Kaufman – August 2025

Atmospheric dual timeline historical fiction set in 1900 and 1866, from Scotland to Wales to Boston, this is a heartbreaking exploration of feminine rage and agency: Nairna traverses the Scottish countryside with her charlatan father, Tavish. The duo scrapes by on paltry coins as Tavish orchestrates 'encounters' with the departed, while Nairna interprets tarot cards. But beyond her father's trickery, Nairna possesses a genuine gift for communicating with the spirit world, one that could get an impoverished country girl branded a witch. A talent inherited from her grandmother, Lottie, whose story of imprisonment and exploitation in a notorious asylum is calling out to Nairna from four decades past—a warning to break free from the manipulations and betrayals of others.

Rescued from homelessness by a well-connected stranger, Nairna is whisked into a new life among Edinburgh's elite Spiritualist circle, including visiting American star Dorothy Kellings. Researchers, doctors, psychics, and thrill-seekers clamor for the rising young medium. But after a séance with blood-chilling results, a shocking scandal ensues, and Nairna flees to a secluded community near Boston, where she assumes a new identity: Nora Grey.

#### MURDER AT DONWELL ABBEY: Emma Knightly Mystery (#2) by Vanessa Kelly – December 2025

Second in a Regency mystery series featuring Jane Austen's Emma Knightly from a beloved historical romance author: Emma's spirits are elevated after she and husband George Knightley host a joyful holiday celebration at the Hartfield estate. But it's instantly a bitter January when her father makes an unexpected announcement—he and Miss Hetty Bates have decided to marry. Not only must Emma relinquish her role as mistress of the household, but also accept the reality that the excitable Miss Bates will become her stepmother.

More unwanted news arrives during an extravagant betrothal ball at Donwell Abbey, the grand Knightley estate. Nearly every villager in Highbury revels in the dazzling affair—except Emma's hardworking lady's maid, Prudence Parr. To Emma's horror, Prudence is found dead, sprawled across the stones of the library terrace and Emma's instincts tell her that something sinister is at play.

• Each book in the series will showcase well-known settings and beloved characters from *Emma*. Subsequent books will feature crossovers with characters and settings from other Austen novels. Kelly's historical romances have previously been published in Czech, German, Italian, Romanian, and Russian

#### A BEACON IN THE NIGHT: The Secret Churchill Files (#2) by David Lewis – July 2025

A British spy works alongside her aristocratic partner to root out Nazi collaborators in this WWII caper: Britain has endured the bombing campaign of the Blitz. Caitrin, too, strives to weather each challenge that comes her way, though her banter belies deep heartbreak. But now the war has entered another phase. Instead of indiscriminate bombing, the Luftwaffe is pinpointing historic targets, including cathedrals and ancestral homes. And soon it is not just historical targets under attack, but hospitals and medical facilities too. Tasked with rooting out the saboteurs placing the beacons, she finds that all roads lead to Teddy, a charismatic Whitechapel crook with high aspirations and zero scruples.

#### THE DETERMINED by Rachel Rueckert – March 2026

Set during the Golden Age of Pirates and based on the real experiences of the era's most fascinating pirates: Anne Bonny and Mary Read. Rueckert aims to upend stereotypes of female pirates and excavates these two figures in a story of passion, fierce female friendships, and women confronting the impossible.

For Anne and Mary, life at sea offers a freedom that few women ever know. Born to an Irish gentleman and his maid, Anne leaves her beloved County Cork behind when her family emigrates to escape prejudice. Cornered in a crisis, she flees, making a bitter bargain for safe passage to the Bahamas. Across the Atlantic in England, Mary confronts her own limitations as an illegitimate daughter. Sneaking into a merchant crew, she disguises herself as a cabin boy, working harder than the men to avoid scrutiny. But when war breaks out and sends Mary into the cavalry, she meets a challenge even she might not rival. When their paths collide in Nassau, a notorious pirate den, Anne and Mary find kinship and a new life aboard the infamous Revenge, the fastest ship in the Caribbean. And from the high seas to the depths of a Jamaican prison, Anne and Mary must navigate impossible choices, each determined to taste freedom again.

#### AN UNQUIET PEACE: Bishop & Gallagher (#2) by Shaina Steinberg – May 2025

"Mr. and Mrs. Smith" meets Elizabeth Wein's Code Name Verity in this mystery set in late-1940s Los Angeles, as former WWII spy Evelyn and detective Nick team up as an unconventional duo: as an undercover operative during World War II, Evelyn routinely embarked on deadly missions. By contrast, civilian life should be simple. Yet Evelyn struggles with the responsibility of being the new president of Bishop Aeronautics. With Nick, at least, Evelyn can be entirely herself. Once a fellow spy, now her fiancé, Nick works as a private investigator. But the mission that first brought them together is not entirely over. Evelyn receives a call from her former commanding officer, who is overseeing the Berlin Airlift. He is concerned that the Soviets are trying to recruit a scientist Evelyn and Nick smuggled out of Nazi Germany.

• Czech rights sold to the first book in the series

#### DEATH ON CORFU (#1) by Emily Sullivan - May 2025

Historical mystery series set in Greece at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: British widow Minnie isn't used to putting herself first after she moved away from England only to be left raising two children alone on a Greek Island following her husband's unexpected death. When famous mystery author Stephen Dorian settles into a neighboring villa to escape writer's block, she is intrigued by the handsome Londoner—until he proves to be nothing more than a boorish grump. Determined to avoid the man as much as possible, Minnie is shocked when he offers her a well-paid job as his typist. But before Minnie can fully regret her decision to take the job, she makes a horrifying discovery that changes everything. A young maid has been murdered, and local authorities aren't moving fast enough to bring justice to the terrible crime. Unwilling to allow the death to fade into obscurity like the stories of so many other women deemed unworthy by society, Minnie launches an investigation of her own—and reluctantly accepts Stephen's help.

Sullivan is an award-winning mystery and romance author. This is her Kensington debut

#### THE HEIR: A Young Queen Victoria Mystery (#1) by Darcie Wilde – September 2025

New historical mystery set in 1830s London starring young Queen Victoria as an amateur sleuth: Victoria remembers nothing but Kensington Palace. Arriving as a baby, she has been brought up inside its musty walls. Raised with an incredibly strict regimen to follow, always watched by her mother and her prized advisor, the power-hungry Sir John Conroy, the bright 15-year-old is allowed no freedom. But one fateful afternoon, Victoria slips away from her mother to ride out on her beloved horse. But what would normally be an uneventful trot around very familiar terrain presents the mutinous princess with a most bewildering sight—a dead man on the grounds of the palace. Determined to get to the bottom of the inscrutable puzzle, young Victoria is met with shocking disrespect and any number of obstacles. But Victoria will not be deterred from solving the crime.

#### THE LIES THEY TOLD by Ellen Marie Wiseman – September 2025

New York Times-bestselling author Wiseman returns with her latest historical fiction: told through the eyes of an unforgettable heroine, this powerful and detailed novel explores the shocking reality behind one of the darkest episodes of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Silas, a widowed family relative, reluctantly brings immigrant Lena and her daughter to his weathered cabin in the mountains to care for his home and children. Though the hills around Wolfe Hollow remind Lena of her German homeland, she struggles to adjust. Worse, she is stunned to learn the children in her care have been taught to hide when the sheriff comes around. As Lena meets their neighbors, she realizes the community is vibrant and tight knit, but also senses growing unease. The government is scheming to paint them as ignorant and immoral so they can evict them from their land, seize children from parents, and deal with those possessing "inferior genes."

After a social worker from the Eugenics Office accuses Lena of promiscuity and feeblemindedness, her own worst fears come true. Sent to the Colony for the Feebleminded and Epileptics, Lena face impossible choices in hopes of reuniting with her daughter—and protecting the people, and the land, she has grown to love. Wiseman's novels focus on women trying to find personal power and agency in situations where they have had that solidly taken away from them.

• Wiseman's novels have sold almost 2 million copies and have published in Albanian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Macedonian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese (PT), Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese. **Dutch & Turkish rights sold** 

# Suspense, Mystery, & Thrillers:

#### THE PSYCHIC by Nancy Bush – September 2025

Ronnie has always experienced psychic flashes that sometimes portend the future, sometimes make her look like a fool. At 30 years old, Ronnie is planning a post-divorce future when she "sees" the body of a woman in a clearing. The woman seems familiar and, going against her own advice, Ronnie leans into the psychic message and starts her own sleuthing. That investigation leads her to Detective Sloan who is searching for a missing woman himself: the pregnant surrogate for his and his wife's baby. As Ronnie learns more about the dead woman of her visions, she clashes with Sloan who doesn't believe in her psychic ability. However, Cooper is willing to use whatever it takes to find his missing surrogate.

• Bush is a New York Times and USA Today-bestselling author

#### **GUESS AGAIN by Charlie Donlea – August 2025**

Ten years ago, 17-year-old Callie vanished from her quiet lakeside community. Her body was never found, and the case went cold, but the echoes of Callie's disappearance still linger. On the 10th anniversary, one of the detectives makes a death-bed request to his former partner, Ethan, to re-examine the evidence. Ethan—a former renegade detective turned doctor—left law enforcement, but when his old partner asks, Ethan reluctantly agrees to look at the case with fresh eyes.

Word soon spreads and everyone in the town feels a rush of hope that answers will finally be found. No one is more invested than Lindsay, Callie's childhood best friend. Now a psychologist and the creator of a successful online counseling platform called The Anonymous Client, Lindsay has publicly and relentlessly pursued the truth about what happened to Callie. Amid a sweltering heatwave, and just as Ethan's investigation gains momentum, a new client signs in to Lindsay's online portal and makes an anonymous confession: "I killed Callie Jones, and I need your help to forgive myself."

Lindsay's business and reputation depend upon keeping her clients' privacy, so she funnels scant clues to Ethan hoping he'll pick up the trail. But when Ethan's investigation leads to another missing woman, he realizes there's more to Callie's disappearance than anyone imagined, including ties to his own dark past that some are willing to kill for.

- Donlea is a #1 international bestselling author who has been published in Australia, Arabic, Bulgarian, Czech,
   Danish, French, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese (BR & PT),
   Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, and UK. Portuguese (BR), Danish, and Swedish rights sold.
- Donlea has both standalone and series novels available. They have sold over 2.2 million copies combined in the U.S. alone. Donlea has been praised for his "soaring pace, teasing plot twists" (BookPage) and talent for writing an ending that "makes your jaw drop" (*The New York Times Book Review*).

#### SHADOW PLAY by Sara Driscoll – September 2025

Timely standalone thriller following a woman who offers relationship advice online as she learns just how dangerous online anonymity can be: Chicago physical therapist Krista finds that her clients rely on her personal advice just as much as on her hands-on work, so why not share it on the live-stream gaming platform Twitch? Her friend Holly, an professional gamer, is willing to help Krista build her presence and cohost a biweekly show, thus 'A Word from the Wise' is born. Taking real-time questions from chat participants proves more popular than Krista thought possible, and their follower count—and income—grow. But not all attention is wanted. An account with the username Chase547 becomes enraged when Krista and Holly suggest he stop pursuing a woman who constantly rebuffs him. Unnerved by Chase547's obsession, Krista turns to law enforcement, but the little information she's able to give isn't enough to start an investigation. Soon, Krista notices things missing at home and feels as if she's being watched. And when Chase547 begins to leave clues in real life proving what he's capable of, she begins to fear for her safety.

• "The protagonist is rife with trouble and misfortune, but, ultimately, she rises to the occasion. Sara Driscoll turns the ordinary into extraordinary in this top-notch thriller." —Steve Berry, New York Times-bestselling author on Echoes of Memory

#### BURNED BRIDGES (#1) by John Gilstrap - June 2025

New series featuring Irene Rivers, the FBI Director from *New York Times*-bestselling author Gilstrap's award-winning Jonathan Grave thrillers. For fans of Catherine Coulter, and Patricia Cornwell. She thought she and her loved ones would be safe here. The farm looks like the perfect refuge from the backstabbing maelstrom of DC politics. But this seemingly peaceful new home is anything but safe for former FBI director Rivers and her children. Troubles begin when Irene's 12-year-old nephew finds a dead body on the property. Evidence points to a long-ago murder and cover-up. Powerful forces will do anything—including kill again—to protect their interests. Packed with nail-biting suspense, gripping drama, and searing intrigue, this novel takes readers into a compelling world of unseen dangers and unexpected heroes.

#### IT HAPPENED ON THE LAKE by Lisa Jackson – July 2025

Standalone twisty thriller following a woman suspected of murder who returns to the town where a nightmare unfolded 20 years ago: the huge Victorian house on Lake Twilight belongs to Harper, as does the private island on which it sits. Harper wants little to do with either. 20 years ago, Harper's grandmother died suspiciously on the same night that Harper's boyfriend disappeared. His body was never found, and no charges were filed, but the rumors haven't faded.

Now Harper's marriage is over, her college-age daughter is estranged, and Harper just wants to sell the property and make a fresh start. Except returning to the lake has stirred everything up again. And the persistent feeling that, as she gazes out at the houses across the water, she's being watched.

• **UK rights sold.** Jackson is a #1 *New York Times*-bestseller with over 30 million copies of her books in print. Please inquire for specific rights availability and information

### COME THROUGH YOUR DOOR by Carlene O'Connor - November 2025

Suspense set against the stark beauty of southwest Ireland, where a woman must reckon with a stalker whose obsession has turned deadly: the roads around Dingle are whisper-quiet in the rainy night, empty of the tourists who throng the town by day. As Dimpna and her assistant, Patrick, drive home after a traumatic day, she isn't expecting to see anyone, let alone her employee, Niamh, standing in the road, dressed in a nightgown and soaked to the skin.

Dazed and distraught, Niamh passes out, and at her apartment, Dimpna and Patrick make a grisly discovery. There is a dead woman in Niamh's bed, shot in the head, a hunting rifle beside her. When Niamh comes to, she has no memory of the day's events, and no idea of the woman's identity. All she can tell Detective Inspector Cormac is that for weeks, she's felt like she was being watched. Suspicion falls on Niamh's new boyfriend, Mark, who her friends have not yet met. But as Dimpna and Cormac try to track him down, they realize there's no evidence Mark even exists. All of Niamh's texts and photos of him are missing or deleted, and he has no social media presence. What lingers is a nagging unease, especially when they learn of another, similar murder years ago—another woman found shot to death in her bed, a woman who had complained of being stalked, just like Niamh.

O'Connor is a USA Today and Barnes & Noble-bestselling author

#### SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS SAFE by Terri Parlato – March 2025

Standalone atmospheric suspense following a woman who reconnects with her famous father and is drawn into a terrifying mystery: after the double blow of divorce and her mother's death, Emma receives an invitation to meet her estranged father for the first time. Alex is a wealthy, renowned author who had a brief fling with Emma's mother and disappeared from their lives.

The Spencer house is a towering Victorian steeped in history and lore, from its ornate turret to the little cemetery nestled in the adjoining woods. It should be an inspiring place for Emma to finish working on her own novel, especially with Alex's guidance. But when a neighbor is found dead under strange circumstances, the surroundings begin to feel less idyllic and welcoming. Not everyone is happy about Emma's arrival, either—especially not Alex's legitimate daughter, Sunny. As Emma learns of other disappearances and mysterious deaths, what seemed like a fresh start begins to fill her with unease. Emma thought this community held the home and family she's long been looking for. Now she wonders if she'll ever be allowed to leave alive.

Parlato's previous suspense trilogy was published in Polish

#### WHISPERS OF THE LAKE by Shanora Williams – July 2025

A peaceful lakefront cottage sets the scene for this twisty thriller about the treacherous lies that small towns can hide. At the peak of her career, investigative reporter Rose is exhausted from trying to manage her seemingly perfect life. With her marriage collapsing, she desperately needs to rest, regroup, and decide which way to go next. The direction becomes clear when she discovers that her former best friend, Eve, isn't responding to attempts to contact her at the cottage where she's vacationing. Rose knows Eve can be flaky, still, Rose heads to the tranquil town to see what's happening and discovers that Eve has vanished without her purse and passport—even after booking a trip abroad. The cabin owners' accounts of Eve's stay just don't to add up and most of the town's initially hospitable inhabitants becoming increasingly less helpful. Rose's instincts tell her the solution lies somewhere in Eve's—and Sage Hill's—past. To get answers, she'll have to ask inconvenient questions, rattle long-buried skeletons and face vicious attempts on her life. Williams is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author.

 Williams has a Red Tower Romantasy series publishing in 2025 and her suspense titles have sold more than 250k copies domestically. Williams has been published in Polish and Greek

# **Speculative Fiction & Romantasy**

# MY FUNNY DEMON VALENTINE: Hell Bent (#1) by Aurora Ascher – February 2025 MY DEMON HUNTER (#2) – April 2025 DEMON WITH BENEFITS (#3) – August 2025

First in a wickedly funny and warm-hearted demon romance series with just the right amount of spice from the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Sanctuary of the Shadow* (Red Tower): Asmodeus, Prince of Hell, just wants to play jazz music. Unfortunately, he's a demon, and he's supposed to be evil. Ash and his brothers escape Hell in search of freedom on Earth, only to discover it's harder than they thought to keep their enemies off their tail. The four quickly become the Underworld's Most Wanted, and if they're caught the consequences will be dire. Everything changes for Ash when he meets a violinist who can see through his curse. Evangeline is your average human. She works at a jazz bar, plays shows on weekends, and apparently hallucinates demons. At least that's what she tells herself when, moments after she meets the man of her dreams, she sees him shift into a seven-foot-tall, red-skinned monster.

Each book can work as a standalone as they follow different characters within the same brotherhood. Each book includes sex scenes, profanity, and a happily ever after. Books 1-5 have previously been self-published and book 6 will be completely new. Books 1-5 will be rereleased from Kensington with new bonus scenes and possible additional materials such as playlist or author notes. *Hell Bent* is perfect for fans of Laura Thalassa, Scarlett St. Clair, and Katee Robert.

• Special edition with stenciled edges, interior art, and chapter headers. Instant New York Times and USA Today bestseller. Spanish and Turkish rights sold

#### THE NO-END HOUSE by Jeremy Bates – July 2025

*USA Today* and #1 Amazon bestselling horror author Bates joins the Kensington list with a standalone escape-room horror following a duo who unwittingly bargain for their lives in a house in Barcelona's Gothic Quarter. This is a great read for fans of Heather Gudenkauf's *Everyone is Watching* and Megan Goldin's *The Escape Room*.

Those foolish enough to enter the no-end house rarely leave alive. Racked with remorse after his wife died, American Joe is on a mission to walk around the world, literally. While staying at a hostel in Barcelona, he overhears a couple of backpackers discussing The No-End House—and a supposed cash prize for anyone who spends the night there. His interest is strong enough that he mentions it to his newfound friend Helen, who suggests they go.

Located in Barcelona's medieval Gothic Quarter, The No-End House turns out to be the home of an eccentric and mysterious woman who tells Joe and Helen that to win the prize they will need to progress through nine rooms in the mansion, each containing its own unique challenge. While the first two rooms are average haunted house fare, everything changes in the third room. In each room they are faced with increasingly terrifying supernatural horrors all culminating in Room 9 where Joe and Helen realize that only one of them will leave the room alive.

Russian rights sold

#### CHANGELING QUEEN by Kimberly Bea – November 2025

Feminist story inspired by the famous Scottish "Ballad of Tam Lin", weaving together mystical folklore and tragic romance. The struggle for true love prevails as young Janet rescues her captive lover Tam Lin from the Wild Hunt—but what of the callous Faery Queen who holds both their lives in her sway? Diving into the Queen's origins many generations ago, she was simply Bess, a changeling impersonating the daughter of a compassionate midwife.

Born with Fae and mortal blood, Bess fears there's no true place for her on any side of the veil. Disowned by her human family after the death of the woman who raised her, Bess builds herself a life with the help of her medical skills—and the handsome Thomas Shepherd. But the people of Selkirkshire see her as a scandal, and Thomas's noble father bends his power to drive them apart. As Bess uses her Fae gifts to fight for Thomas's love, she's drawn into a world of intrigue, sensuality, and the luxury of Faery magic — while also attracting the attention of the mysterious elf lord Adaman. Yet Bess's powers run deeper than she's ever dreamed, and she realizes even the crown of Faery might be hers.... if she pays the price in blood.

On Samhain, a festival marking the start of winter, in medieval Scotland, pregnant Janet rescues her lover Tam Lin from being sacrificed by the Wild Hunt—but the callous Faery Queen is not finished with them yet. Over the span of a single night, the Queen and Janet spar over Tam Lin's fate. The Queen aims to win, knowing how fickle mortals can be. Long before she was royalty, she was simply Bess.

• A special edition hardcover with stenciled edges, interior art, foil case stamping, and four-color endpapers

#### THE NANNY'S HANDBOOK FOR MAGIC AND MANAGING DIFFICULT DUKES by Amy Rose Bennett - October 2025

Mary Poppins meets Bridgerton in a new romantic fantasy series that mixes humor and Bridgerton-esque charm. As the keepers of an ancient magic, the Parasol Academy for Exceptional Nannies and Governesses expects its graduates to be professional and discreet and new alumna Emmaline may be more high-spirited than the Academy would like. Few graduates, however, could turn a mismanaged teleportation onto a duke's rooftop into an offer of employment. But Emmaline's circumstances have made her dauntlessness. Which seems the primary qualification to work for expert horologist Xavier, Duke of St. Lawrence.

Xavier's wards have sent two nannies packing in a month thanks to their mayhem, not to mention Xavier's odd personality. Emmaline seems intrigued with his quirks—but Xavier must have peace to design London's "King of Clocks" for Westminster Palace before the competition closes. Yet with a possible saboteur in their midst, and the attraction flaring between them threatening to become a deliciously disastrous distraction, a touch of magic may be required.

#### TALL IS HER BODY by Robert de la Chevotiere – November 2025

A magical realism and introspective portrait of one boy's journey to manhood amidst the collapse of the West Indies banana industry. For fans of immigrant family sagas and magical realism such as Ayanna Lloyd Banwo's *When We Were Birds* or Elizabeth Acevedo's *Family Lore:* before his mother's death, 6-year-old Fidel knew only the Guadeloupe around him. The lush greenery, the dusty roads, the sugar cane growing and the neighbors arguing—his world is small but full. Until a few moments of violence change his life forever.

Orphaned, Fidel returns to his mother's native Dominica and whirls from one relative and reality to another, learning pieces of his own story. His heritage is one of layered secrets and divisions—between the grandmothers who love him and the aunt who wants him dead, the Catholic orthodoxy of his school and the Obeah knowledge of his grandfather, and the indigenous and the colonial. The violence he's witnessed inhabits not only strangers but himself. The spirits of the dead visit him with advice, threats, and explanations. And when he sees a path toward happiness in Canada, he must reconcile his intense, bittersweet love of his home with the possibility of leaving it.

#### **REKT by Alex Gonzalez – April 2025**

Disturbing examination of the future of AI and the darkest pits of the internet, tracing a young man's algorithmic descent into toxic masculinity and depravity lead by "Squid Game"-esque puppet masters in a not-too-distant future: once, Sammy Dominguez thought he knew how the world worked. He could push away the ugly things in his head—his uncle's pathetic death, his parents' mistrust, the twisted horror stories he writes online— because he and his girlfriend, Ellery, were on track for the good life in this messed-up world. Then a car accident changed everything.

Spiraling with grief and guilt, Sammy scrambles for distraction. He finds it in shock-value videos of gore and violence. When someone messages him a dark web link to footage of Ellery dying, he watches—first the car crash that killed her, then hundreds of other deepfake deaths, even for people still alive. Accidents. Diseases. Suicides. Murders.

The host site is sadistic, vicious, impossible. It even seems to read his mind, manipulate his searches. And what in it is even real? And who is Haruspx, the web handle who led him into this virtual nightmare? As Sammy watches compulsively, the darkness in his mind blooms, driving him down a twisted path to find the origin of the site, even if he must become a nightmare himself.

• "A visionary book that is at once pensive, rollicking, and truly, bone-deep unsettling. Alex Gonzalez's rekt is an absolute stunner." —Paul Tremblay, New York Times-bestselling author of A Head Full of Ghosts

#### LIBRARY OF AMORLIN by Kalyn Josephson – March 2026

Coming-of-age fantasy that is the adult debut from *New York Times* bestselling-YA author Josephson with crossover appeal: former con artist Kasira expected to spend her life as a soldier, miserably working off her prison sentence by hunting down magical creatures for the fanatical kingdom of Kalthos. But when the Kalish ambassador arrives with an assignment, Kasira finds herself swept into the biggest con of her life: infiltrating the Library of Amorlin.

As the heart of all magic and the protector of magical creatures throughout the six kingdoms, the Library is politically neutral. Kasira is meant to pose as the new Library Assistant to spy for the ambassador and destabilize the Library from within, clearing the way to dethrone its Librarian. But when she arrives, Kasira learns that the Library is not all she was told it would be. Neither is the prickly, handsome Librarian, Allaster, whose own secrets are about to catch up with him. Swept into the enchanting world of the Library, Kasira's reluctant con is jeopardized by her growing affection for the wondrous life the Library promises and by her complicated, burgeoning attraction to Allaster. As the ambassador's game closes in, Kasira must decide where her loyalties lie.

• For fans of light fantasy, stories focusing on the power of books, and enemies to lovers romance. This is the first in a not spicy duology

#### WHEN THE TIDES HELD THE MOON by Venessa Vida Kelley – May 2025

Historical fantasy following a young man who captures a merman for a Brooklyn carnival exhibit: newly arrived in 1911 New York City from Puerto Rico, Benny has always felt out of place. He struggles with asthma, faces prejudice for being a brown immigrant, and hides his attraction to other men. Yet Benny has an aptitude for mechanical engineering and when a special commission from famous Coney Island theme park arrives to build an unusual water tank, it is Benny's design that impresses the park owner Morgan. Later that night, Benny is enlisted on a mysterious mission by the staff of Morgan's sideshow, but he can't believe what happens next: they entice two merpeople out of the harbor and capture them. The mermaid dies in the process, but the surviving merman is brought into Luna Park as its newest attraction.

Benny takes on a new job being the merman's keeper. As weeks pass, he also befriends the warm-hearted and diverse band of outcasts in the sideshow. As Benny communicates with the merman, Rio, he discovers a whole new realm: a world where Benny can find acceptance. Caught between worlds, Benny must make a life-changing decision that will transform Luna Park – and himself – forever.

- "Venessa gives life to the most unexpected things. I have a strong, strong feeling that this is the start of something special." —TJ Klune, New York Times-bestselling author of The House in the Cerulean Sea
- Includes two full-color endpapers for front and back, designed chapter headers, and 27 illustrations throughout, using beautiful two-color, aqua blue and black inks. All designed by the author with all rights included

#### **HOUSE OF RAYNE by Harley Laroux – October 2025**

Standalone spicy romance meets atmospheric supernatural horror as a one-night stand winds up opening a box of dangerous secrets and dark magic on a remote island from *New York Times*-bestseller Laroux.

On what would have been the start of her honeymoon, had her ex not revealed himself to be a cheater, Salem decides to escape the chatter of her friends and family and go on a mountain biking vacation on a remote pacific northwest island. On her last night on the mainland before taking a ferry to her destination, she meets an alluring stranger and after flirting with each other all night, the two have a passionate one-night-stand in the bar bathroom — all without Salem learning her name. Or at least Salem thought it was a one-night stand; until she realized the beautiful stranger was the owner of the small bed and breakfast she was staying at the next two weeks.

Rayne had resigned herself to a life of solitude, trapped on the island along with the rest of the inhabitants by a strange dark magic that punished anyone who left its shore for more than a few hours. Not wanting to relegate any partner of hers to the potentially fatal life at Blackridge, she promises never to fall for anyone. And she has managed to do that – until she meets Salem.

Over the course of their time together, Salem and Rayne's attraction and love for each other grows. But all is not what it seems to be on Blackridge's seemingly idyllic landscape. Something evil lurks beneath, and it will be up to the two women to stop it.

- Laroux is a New York Times, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly-bestselling author and TikTok sensation
- This will be first released a deluxe limited edition with stenciled edges, interior art, reversible dust jacket, foil stamping, and designed endpapers
- German, Hebrew, Portuguese (PT), and Spanish rights sold

#### THE VILLA, ONCE BELOVED by Victor Manibo – December 2025

Dark gothic novel set in the Philippines: Villa Sepulveda is a storied relic, its moldering stonework filled with centuriesold heirlooms, nestled in a remote coconut plantation. When their patriarch dies mysteriously, his far-flung family returns to their ancestral home. Filipino-American student Adrian invites his college girlfriend, Sophie, who knows little about her own Filipino heritage, to the funeral. Sophie soon learns that there is more to the Sepulvedas than a grand tradition of political and entrepreneurial success. Adrian's relatives clash viciously amid grief, confusion, and questions about the family curse that their matriarch refuses to answer. When a landslide traps them all in the villa, secrets begin to emerge, revealing sins both intimately personal and unthinkably public.

Sifting through fact, folklore, and fiction, Sophie finds herself at the center of a reckoning. Did a mythical demon really kill Adrian's grandfather? How complicit are the Sepulvedas in the country's oppressive history? As a series of ill omens befall the villa, Sophie must decide whom to trust before the family's true legacy comes to take its revenge.

Manibo is a Filipino speculative fiction writer and a 2022 Lambda Literary Emerging Voices Fellow

#### **HUMBOLDT CUT by Allison Mick – February 2026**

Darkly humorous eco-horror debut novel. Jasmine is a nurse in California, battling her own demons, and caught in a spiral of despair. Estranged from her brother James and his wife Tilly, who was once her best friend, Jas has chosen self-isolation to protect herself—even if it means denying herself a hopeful future. When her godmother dies, Jas returns home for the funeral, a logging town where her grandfather made a living deforesting the countryside, ripping apart nature's foundations for corporate profits. As trees died, so did dozens of lumberjacks, falling prey to the dangers of their job, including her grandfather. Buried in the haunted woods are dark secrets perpetrated by Jas's family. Unnatural acts resulting in entities made of human flesh and bark, seeking to avenge the devastation that ravaged their land. It is a secret that threatens to consume the remnants of Jas's family. Ideal for fans of the film "Candyman" by Jordan Peele.

#### **GRIMDARK by Shannon Morgan – August 2025**

Dual timeline novel that is an atmospheric modern gothic story set in a sinister English manor house: teetering on the edge of the North Sea in Norfolk, Grimdark Hall is both grim and dark in name and nature. When Cló and Jude arrive from Toronto to claim Jude's inheritance, Cló is unsettled by the foreboding ancient building and the hostility of Jude's sisters, who stalk her every move. But Cló is drawn to the strange energy and the haunting sadness of a drowned village in the bay where ghostly church bells toll, sweeping her back into another woman's memories.

In 1645 Euphemia was accused of witchcraft and burned at the stake, screaming a curse on the Honeybornes as the flames consumed her. Now, flashes of Effie's life torment Cló at every turn. And waiting in the shadows is a darker, vengeful incarnation who has hunted them through the centuries. As echoes of Cló's past lives converge in present threats, she must confront a final reckoning to end an eight-hundred-year-old quest for vengeance.

#### THE BOOK OF AUTUMN by Molly O'Sullivan - November 2025

Spellbinding debut set in a rural university for magic that is ideal for fans of dark academia, Leigh Bardugo, and Olivia Blake's *The Atlas Six*: try as she might, anthropologist Marcella can't escape the fact that she is one half of a magical duo, forever tied together to enable the other's powers. After a tumultuous final year at university in New Mexico, Cella felt more than a little prickly about returning to the sun-drenched desert campus ever again. She had cut ties both magically and romantically with her other half, the rugged rancher Max, and sworn off Magic, academia, and heartache for good.

That is until a disturbing occurrence at the college leaves a student dead, and Cella is drawn back into a world she's done everything to leave behind. She and Max alone possess the skills necessary to investigate the alleged murderess, also a student, who is only speaking in guttural tones and sending crucifixes flying off the wall. While rumors swirl around the school, Cella and Max do their best to focus on their task and not get pulled back into their history with each other.

In tune with her magic again, Cella makes a discovery: the answer to the murder lies beside another truth she's tried desperately to keep buried all this time. Though it's the last thing she wants to do, Cella must revisit the past to stop actions set in motion centuries ago, by a dark force she's not sure she can rival alone.

#### **BLOOD SLAVES by Markus Redmond – August 2025**

Alternate history that is part supernatural horror imagining that a mystifying revolt precluded the Civil War and changed history as we know it: the vampire origin story is reimagined in this terrifying novel of ancient lore, startling revenge, and immortal emancipation in set in the 18<sup>th</sup> century: in the Province of Carolina, 1710, freedom seems unattainable for Willie, Gertie, and their unborn child. They live, suffer, and toil under their brutal master, Big Jim, whose plantation was built by the blood, sweat, and tears of the enslaved. To flee this hell on earth is be hunted and killed. Until one strange night Willie is offered a dark hope by Rafazi, an enigmatic slave with a blood-chilling path to liberation.

Rafazi is the lone survivor of the Ramanga, an African vampire tribe. He has roamed the world for centuries with an undying desire to replenish the power that once defined his heritage. In Willie, Rafazi has found his first subject to be turned in a bid to start a revolt. And Willie desires nothing more than to free his people from malicious bondage - whatever it takes. As an army of blood slaves thirsting for revenge is gathered, the headstrong Gertie fears that no good can come from the vampiric legacy that courses through Rafazi's veins. On the other hand, Willie believes that only evil can fight evil. And when the woman he loves stands between the reemergence of the Ramanga and the justified slaughter of the oppressors, Willie must make an irreversible decision that changes history forever.

• "Redmond paints such a disturbingly real portrait of inhumanity in the early American South that you'll beg the vampires to rise and destroy every plantation and slave owner."—Nicholas Belardes, author of The Deading

#### THE MEMORY HUNTERS by Mia Tsai – August 2025

First in a duology set in a world where memories are treated as commodities, following a memory hunter and her bodyguard who unearth a terrible secret about the foundations of their society. For fans of Arkady Martine, Samantha Shannon, and Katy Hays: Key can dive deeper into blood memories than anyone, but instead of devoting her talents to the temple she's meant to lead, Key is determined to use her skill as a researcher for the Museum of Human Memory.

Valerian might look like a delicate country girl, but her lightning-fast swords protect Key from murderous rivals and her own enthusiasm alike. Vale cares about Key as a friend, but more than anything, she needs to keep her job so she can support her parents and siblings. But when Key collects a memory about the temple's founding that diverges from official history, only Vale sees the fallout. Key's mentor suspiciously dismisses the finding. Her powerful mother demands she stop research altogether. And Key, unusually affected by the memory, begins to lose moments, then minutes, then days. As Vale becomes increasingly entangled in Key's obsessive drive for answers, the two women uncover a shattering discovery. Key and Vale can remain complicit, or they can jeopardize everything to bring the truth to light; either way, Key is becoming consumed by the past in more ways than one, and time is running out.

 Tsai is a Taiwanese American author of speculative fiction and an associate editor at GigaNotoSaurus, a Hugo finalist for Best Semiprozine. THE MEMORY HUNTERS is a Publishers Marketplace BUZZ BOOKS Selection

#### THIS HOUSE WILL FEED by Maria Tureaud - February 2026

Amidst the devastation of Ireland's Great Famine, a young woman is saved from certain death when offered a mysterious position at a remote manor house that is haunted by a strange power. For fans of Isabel Cañas and Katherine Arden's *The Warm Hands of Ghosts*.

In the few years since the potato blight, Maggie has lost everything. Toiling in the workhouse for paltry rations, she can see no future until the mysterious landowner Lady Catherine arrives to whisk her away to an old mansion in the stark landscape of the Burren. Lady Catherine wants Maggie to impersonate her late daughter, Wilhelmina, and hoodwink solicitors into releasing Wilhelmina's widow pension so that Lady Catherine can continue to provide for the villagers in her care. In exchange, Maggie will receive freedom from the workhouse, land of her own, and the one thing she wants more than either: a chance to fulfill the promise she made to her brother on his deathbed—to live to spite them all.

Launching herself into the daunting task, Maggie plays the role of Wilhelmina as best she can while ignoring the villagers' tales of ghostly figures and curses. But more worrying are the whispers that come from within. Something in Lady Catherine's house is reawakening long-buried memories in Maggie—of a foe more terrifying than hunger or greed, of a power that calls for blood and vengeance, and of her own role in a nightmare that demands the darkest sacrifice.

#### PHILOSOPHY OF THIEVES by Fran Wilde – October 2025

Speculative fiction that is *Soylent Green* meets Leigh Bardugo's *Six of Crows* in an adventure story with crossover appeal: in a desperately unequal future where the wealthy live in exclusive, climate-controlled enclaves, the latest trend in entertainment is burglary — the more preposterous, the better. The most lavish parties feature entertainer-thieves, who are allowed to keep their winnings if they make it out of the house. If they don't, they risk imprisonment, or worse.

Roosa and Dax are part of the best and most sought-after troupes of performance thieves whose glittering success masks deep desperation. Called to work one of the most exclusive parties of the year, Roosa and her brother must give the performance of their lives, or their father will be shipped off to die. But as the heist begins, they don't know that their host, his girlfriend, his security chief and his business competitors are each playing a game of their own. And if Roosa wants to keep her family together, she and Dax must win the evening, the weeks ahead, and a game bigger than any heist they've ever done. This book is accessible to general readers while appealing to genre audiences with well-loved SFF tropes such as masquerades, high-tech gadgets, political marriages, and of course, heists.

• Wilde's YA novels and short stories have been finalists for six Nebula Awards, a World Fantasy Award, three Hugo Awards, three Locus Awards, and a Lodestar. This is her adult novel and Kensington debut

#### ONE DARK KISS: Grimm Bargains (#2) by Rebecca Zanetti – July 2025

Second in a spicy dark romance trilogy for fans of Katee Robert and Scarlett St. Clair from *New York Times*-bestselling Zanetti. Book 2 is a modern twist on Snow White set in a world where dueling media empire billionaires play deadly games and magic is the weapon of choice: Rosalie runs a boarding house for disenfranchised men, forgotten by society. Alexei is the heir to one of the world's largest social media companies and convicted murderer, even though he maintains his innocence. But even if that is true, he is dangerous, and Rosalie discovers she might kind of like danger. When he's released into Rosalie's care, she gets swept up in the chaos around him and discovers that what it means to be a good man might not be as black and white as she previously thought.

- **UK, Spanish, Portuguese (BR), and Russian rights sold.** Special edition hardcover planned with stenciled edges and exclusive art and foiling
- Zanetti is a *New York Times* bestselling author with nearly a dozen Amazon Best Romance Picks and an Amazon Best Book of the Year for her romantic suspense title *Broken* (2020)

# **Historical Romance:**

#### WHAT HAPPENS IN THE HIGHLANDS (#1) by Anna Bradley – September 2025

Sweeping, adventure-filled, new historical romance series set in medieval Scotland in which three unusually gifted sisters must protect their family fortress: in the months since their father, Rory, died, the MacLeod sisters have had to contend with bands of smugglers convinced he left a treasure buried within the walls of their home at Castle Cairncross. Only the most mystifying occurrences have foiled the thieves—stirring whispers that the sisters are sorceresses. Yet, they have no treasure, nor are they witches. However, each inexplicably possesses a unique ability. The eldest, Catriona, is a brilliant healer and alchemist—a skill she is about to put to unforeseen use.

• French rights sold. Bradley's previous historicals have published in French, German, Italian, and Slovenia

#### MANIC PIXIE DREAM EARL: Earls Trip (#2) by Jenny Holiday – June 2025

Ideal for readers of Evie Dunmore, *USA Today*-bestselling Holiday's Regency romcom features three Earls on their annual guys trip—ride-or-die buddies offering unconditional support. As heir to the earldom, Edward knows he must marry someday. Alas, he is already hopelessly in love with someone. Hopeless because not only is Miss Julianna Evans not a member of the aristocracy, she is employed. She is a magazine editor—the only one to publish his work. Also, in all their years of increasingly personal correspondence, they've never met. Also, she thinks he's a woman named Euphemia.

Julianna is baffled – how could Euphemia not want to meet? Having extracted the details of a trip Euphemia is planning, Julianna surprises her at the scene. He is very, very surprised. As is she. Now the two will have to decide what is true, what is not, and whether the truest thing of all—love—just might be worth an earldom.

• French rights sold. French and Hungarian rights sold to Earls Trip (2024)

#### HAZARDOUS TO A DUKE'S HEART: Lords of Hazard (#1) by Sabrina Jeffries - May 2025

New York Times-bestselling Jeffries debuts a new during the Napoleonic war: returning to a London he no longer recognizes, and facing astonishing changes in his own family, Lord Jonathan learns he has inherited a dukedom. But the new nobleman carries the guilt of having wronged his late mentor. Now, he vows to fulfill his promise to find a suitable match for the man's daughter, Victoria. Sharp-witted Victoria would just as soon sculpt the Greek god who has come to take charge of her future. In fact, she has her sights set on founding a school for women artists. As Jonathan matches wits with the talented beauty, revelations from his past—and their connection to her father's demise—threaten to unveil both of their closely held secrets and thrust them into a danger they can only escape together.

• French rights sold. Jeffries books have over 9 million copies sold

# BEAUTIFUL THINGS: Second Sons (#1) by Emily Rath – August 2025 HIS GRACE, THE DUKE (#2) – November 2025 ALCOTT HALL (#3) – February 2026

Steamy, why-choose, Regency romance series from *New York Times, USA Today*, Amazon, and international-bestselling author Rath starting with BEAUTIFUL THINGS: crashing a country house party in Regency England, an intrepid young woman is drawn into the orbit of three delicious gentlemen. At 22-years-old, Rosalie is unmarried and near destitute. She has two choices: snag a wealthy gentleman or take work as a governess. Neither option appeals to headstrong Rosalie, who sees both futures as a kind of cage. When she receives an invitation to Alcott Hall, she believes she is there to meet the Dowager Duchess of Norland, a childhood friend of her late mother. Instead, Rosalie is thrust in the middle of a house party to spy on the eligible high society ladies all desperate to win the hand of the new, single duke.

The more Rosalie tries to avoid the husband hunt, the more she finds herself charmed by three very different men. There's Lord James, the duke's younger brother. Lieutenant Renley, recently returned from the West Indies. And the tempestuous Mr. Burke, who irks Rosalie to no end. The clock ticks down the days to the ball, when the duke is set to announce his bride. Marriage is a trap, and Rosalie will not be easily snared...but that doesn't mean she can't enjoy the chase while it lasts. This slow burn romance will appeal to fans of Olivia Waite, Alexis Hall, and Kate Pearce.

- Will first be published as a deluxe special edition featuring stenciled edges, designed chapter headers, full color inside covers, and front cover soft touch with spot gloss
- Rath is the author of the why-choose TikTok sensation Jacksonville Rays hockey romance series which has published in more than 10 languages and sold over a million copies. No options are in place as this is the first time Kensington has rights to Rath's books

#### A WAGER AT MIDNIGHT: Betting Against the Duke (#2) by Vanessa Riley - April 2025

Diverse Regency romance in which a duke makes a wager with the now-widowed Viscountess who is the love of his life: to win a second chance with her, he will find husbands for her two sisters. Scarlett is willing to live as a spinster if it means being able to continue her medical research to help a friend in need. After all, few husbands would tolerate her dressing as a man to attend lectures at the Royal Academy of Science. When she's unmasked at a lecture on ophthalmology, Scarlett prepares to be disgraced, but she's saved by Trinidadian-born physician Stephen who claims her as a cousin. Dedicated to caring for his community, Stephen has no wish to marry a privileged lady. But Scarlett proves the opposite of any he's ever met before. Yet the pressure to marry blinds them both to the chemistry growing between them, pitting their brilliant minds against their reluctant hearts.

## **Nonfiction**

# LIGHT IN THE NORTHERN SEA: Denmark's Incredible Rescue of Their Jewish Citizens During WWII by Tim Brady – August 2025

True story of Denmark's resistance movement and the everyday heroes who banded together to help the nation's Jewish citizens escape Nazi persecution and sail to sanctuary in Sweden. In 1940, Germany coerced the Danish government into a "cooperative" agreement that lasted three long years until the increasing brazenness of the Resistance movement prompted a crackdown. Denmark's nearly 8000 Jews, who had so far been spared Hitler's wrath, now became the focus of his rage. A roundup was ordered to begin on October 1st, 1943, the first day of the Jewish New Year. The only passage to safety was across the Oresund to Sweden. But no group existed to organize an escape. Until the last moment, Sweden didn't agree to allow the refugees into the country; and the strait between the two nations was swarming with Gestapo. What happened next was a miracle. 95% of Denmark's Jews survived the Holocaust, the highest percentage in Europe. Here are the riveting true accounts of ordinary Danes who, using their modest resources, wiles, remarkable courage, and camaraderie, quietly orchestrated their escape. World War II history that reads like a thriller, this inspiring chronicle examines why, unlike the rest of Western Europe, these accomplishments were so uniquely managed by the Danish people.

• Three Ordinary Girls, Brady's first nonfiction on unsung WWII heroes, has sold over 100k copies

#### MATISSE AT WAR: Art and Resistance in Nazi Occupied France by Christopher Gorham – October 2025

First book to take a definitive look at the role of artist Henri Matisse's family during WWII, how they worked for the French resistance, and how Matisse used his art as a form of national and cultural expression: World War II and the Occupation of France coincided with a time of personal crisis for Henri Matisse. His marriage was at its end, he was haunted by doubts about his art, and he was beset by a near fatal illness. As scores of famous figures escaped France, Matisse defiantly remained.

Matisse's family was also doing their part during France's darkest hour. His estranged wife worked for the Communist underground. His daughter was active in the French Resistance. His son Pierre helped Jewish artists escape to New York, and his other son hid dynamite in his sculptures and British agents in his attic. Matisse's former students, friends—even his grandson—secretly defied the Germans and their Vichy collaborators. All risked their lives; some did not survive.

# RADICAL SENORA ERA: Ancestral Latin American Secrets for a Happier, Healthier Life by Christina Kelmon and Ann Murray Dunning—October 2025

Practical and accessible guide on how women everywhere can cultivate their own inner señora through the ways that resourceful Latina women for generations have found to refresh, renew, and take time out for themselves. Ancestral women lived the 'señora life' because they had to. They made their own honey and oatmeal mask, or bathed in milk and chamomile because they didn't have the modern tools and marketplaces that we do. And in our post-hustle world, women everywhere are seeking ways to put self-care first—and find relatable alternatives to some of the unattainable modern wellness practices. Now authors Kelmon and Dunning turn decades of ancestral knowledge, personal lore, and research into a book that can help you learn time-tested, simple habits and rituals based on natural living.

Dunning and Kemlon are the co-founders of the Latina wellness brand, Vamigas. Dunning is an Inc. Magazine Female Founders 200 winner and an angel investor for BIPOC-led startups focused on women's health and wellness. Kelmon is an Inc. Magazine's Female Founders 200 winner and a Forbes100 recipient.

#### ROBERT SHAW: An Actor's Life on the Set of JAWS and Beyond by Christopher Shaw Myers – June 2025

Just in time for the 50th anniversary of Steven Spielberg's "Jaws", an intimate portrait of the iconic actor and writer Robert Shaw. Capturing the many facets of the vibrant, generous, and sometimes polarizing man is his nephew, Christopher, who explores the forces that shaped a dynamic personality. Shaw has a storied career on the British and American stage—as both performer and playwright—and hit films including "From Russia with Love", "A Man for All Seasons", "The Sting", and of course "Jaws". Drawing on personal letters, recordings, extensive interviews, and a lifetime of his own memories, Christopher paints a unique, intimate, and honest portrait of a man he was proud to call his uncle.

TELL ME WHAT YOU LIKE: An Honest Discussion of Sex and Intimacy after Sexual Assault by Katie Simon – July 2025

Nonfiction helping survivors of sexual assault regain a positive relationship with sex through the lens of other survivors' healing journeys. So often, survivors of sexual trauma are treated as irreparably broken. Harmful self-help ideologies reinforce this perception or impose a single path towards healing. A guide to sexual pleasure and empowerment, this book takes a different approach by deconstructing oppressive societal narratives and providing readers with the understanding and tools to create healthy, joyous sex lives on their own terms.

Sharing true stories from survivors of diverse backgrounds, this book presents the obstacles and setbacks a survivor frequently encounters while pursuing a sex life after assault. It answers what readers most want to know about trauma triggers, self-pleasure, embodied consent, disclosing trauma history to partners, and handling dating, sexual regret, break-ups, and more—including issues that survivors are sometimes too afraid or ashamed to ask about.

Simon has written for *The New York Times, The Washington Post, BuzzFeed, Tin House, The Rumpus, Health, BUST, Lifehacker, The Independent, Women's Health, Hippocampus,* and the anthology Anatomy of Silence, among others.

# **Cozy Mystery:**

#### SOLID GOLD MURDER: A Golden Motel Mystery (#2) by Ellen Byron – August 2025

Former Hollywood sitcom writer Dee's Golden Motel-of-the-Mountains promises a tranquil getaway for outdoor lovers in a scenic Californian village. Dee is excited to introduce a family-friendly old-mining activity complete with fake gold just in time for the peak tourist months. Except neither could have anticipated the discovery of a real gold nugget or the ensuing social media frenzy. In a flash, the viral sensation draws grizzled prospectors, wide-eyed adventurers, and trend-chasing thrill seekers to the abandoned mines scattered around the woods.

#### AN AMATEUR SLEUTH'S GUIDE TO MURDER (#1) by Lynn Cahoon – July 2025

New series from *New York Times* and *USA Today*-bestselling Cahoon for fans of Elle Cosimano's *Finlay Donovan is Killing It* and Kristen Perrin's *How To Solve Your Own Murder* about an amateur sleuth who doesn't just solve crimes, she writes about how to do it: Meg could use a guidebook for life. After her fiancee takes her bridesmaid on what should have been their honeymoon, Meg is forced to take the ferry ride of shame back to Bainbridge Island to live with her family. At least she has her rescue cocker spaniel, Watson, by her side. But it's Meg who could use a rescue—and she's hoping it will come in the form of a part-time gig doing research for a bestselling mystery writer.

#### A CYCLIST'S GUIDE TO VILLAINS AND VINES: A Cyclist's Guide Mystery (#2) by Ann Claire – June 2025

Sadie and her Oui Cycle crew vow to wow her most discerning private group yet with a trip they will never forget. Sadie worries she'll fail to impress such worldly travelers, even with the backdrop of Alsace, France, a dreamy region of rolling vineyards, delicious cuisine, and fairytale architecture. Trouble starts when a guest crashes into a corpse on a solo midnight ride. Or so she says. But when the body isn't found, Sadie hopes it was all a bad dream. However, an impromptu detour ends in a crash, and a shattered wine barrel isn't the only victim. A dead man spills out.

• Claire also writes the USA Today-bestselling Christie Bookshop Mystery Series, not with Kensington

### PURRFECT DATE: A Cat Yoga Mystery (#2) by Alex Erickson – July 2025

Ashley is sure of one thing after experiencing a disastrous blind date—she would much rather enjoy the single life and hang out with playful felines at her studio, A Purrfect Pose, than ever compromise her inner peace like that again. When the mysterious guy makes a late arrival then has the nerve to dine and dash, it's embarrassing. But when he winds up dead in his apartment that same night? Ash suddenly finds herself thrust into a twisted murder investigation and questioning if she might be shaping up to be the suspect . . . or the next victim.

#### MURDER IN AN ITALIAN PIAZZA: A Bria Bartolucci Mystery (#3) by Michael Falco – October 2025

Set in beautiful Positano, Italy, the latest novel in a cozy mystery series featuring a widowed Bed & Breakfast owner. Though she still misses her late husband, Carlo, Bria couldn't be happier that their dream bed and breakfast, Bella Bella, is humming along nicely. Of course, even on the stunning Amalfi Coast, things seldom run smoothly. Bria's also juggling the demands of the famous Chef Lugo, his producer, Massimo, and Pippa, a member of the production crew who is staying at Bella Bella for a nice, long-term stay. Until Lugo mysteriously dies on-camera, a victim of apparent murder.

#### A LETHAL WALK IN LAKELAND: Walk Through England Mystery (#2) by Nicholas George - February 2025

For fans of M.C. Beaton and Alexander McCall Smith: a charming mystery series set in the English countryside, as a retired US police detective embarks upon group walking tours in England's most scenic counties. After a long career as a detective, Rick "Chase" Chasen has traded in his badge for a change of scenery in the coastal comforts of Devon, England, until a local murder takes him on a deadly detour.

THAT MISSING PIECE IS KILLING ME: Alice Pepper Lonely Hearts and Puzzle Club (#2) by Roz Noonan – August 2025 Librarian Alice had hoped to retire before turning 65, not struggle to keep her cozy home and dependable job. But even after divorce leaves her golden years a mess, the pieces always come together with a little help from her friends—a funloving crew who thrive on jigsaws over coffee, cocktails, and gossip. Empathetic to a fault, Alice has a natural talent for figuring out people and puzzles, but as a mystery permeates the quiet community, murder is a challenge she's not prepared to solve.

#### MURDER AT AN IRISH GARDEN: An Irish Village Mystery (#11) by Carlene O'Connor – March 2025

USA Today-bestselling author O'Connor's mystery series following Garda of County Cork, Ireland, Siobhán O'Sullivan: Siobhan finds herself investigating another case of murder in her Irish Village when a garden competition turns deadly!

- Estonian, German, and UK rights sold to this series
- Over 650K copies of this series sold domestically

#### **ONE SHARP STITCH by Allie Pleiter – April 2025**

When 30-year-old Shelby returns to her quiet hometown, she reluctantly takes over her mother's Nimble Needle needlepoint shop—and gets entangled in a murder investigation in this first of a new cozy mystery series, perfect for fans of Leslie Meier and Peggy Ehrhart.

#### BOOKED FOR REVENGE: Tomes & Tea Mystery (#2) by Karen Rose Smith – May 2025

New series following Jazzi Swanson who has opened her own book and tea shop, providing a variety of literature and flavored beverages for her small community. But Jazzi has not only inherited her mother's gift for brewing tasty drinks—she also has a nose for sniffing out murder.

#### Ask Us About Our Long Running Cozy & Historical Mystery Series:

TATTERED COVER: The Secret, Book, & Scone Society (#8) by Ellery Adams – November 2025

FIVE FURRY FAMILIARS: Kitchen Witch (#5) by Lynn Cahoon - March 2024

TWO TRUTHS AND A MURDER: Phyllida Bright (#5) by Colleen Cambridge – November 2025

FASHIONABLY FRENCH MURDER: An American in Paris (#3) by Colleen Cambridge - May 2025

TROUBLE IS BREWING: Tea by the Sea Mystery (#5) by Vicki Delany – August 2024

LIMITED EDITION MURDER: Beyond the Page Bookstore Mystery (#10) by Lauren Elliott – April 2024

A DAUGHTER'S GUIDE TO MOTHERS AND MURDER: Countess of Harleigh Myster (#8) by Dianne Freeman – July 2025

MURDER AT THE SCOTTISH GAMES: Scottish Shire (#7) by Traci Hall – November 2025

MISS MORTON AND THE MISSING HEIR: Miss Morton (#4) by Catherine Lloyd - October 2025

**HOMICIDE IN THE INDIAN HILLS: Jane Wunderly Mystery (#6) by Erica Ruth Neubauer – April 2025** 

MURDER AT SOMERSET HOUSE: Wrexford & Sloane Mystery (#9) by Andrea Penrose - October 2025

DEATH AND THE RUNAWAYS: A Mary Shelley Mystery (#3) by Heather Redmond – August 2025