

MK INDIE BOOK FAIR

MIDDLETON HALL • CENTRE:MK

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER 2025



EXHIBITOR
CATALOGUE

2 Lingual Stories

Children's fiction (bilingual)



I am French-British and a passionate advocate for bilingual education. When my children were little, I noticed a lack of bilingual books for young readers. This inspired me to create stories in French and English, which soon expanded into other languages. Today, I write, edit, and publish bilingual children's books in English with French, Somali, German, Arabic, Russian, and Spanish, focusing on language learning, cultural connection, and nurturing curiosity through engaging, meaningful stories.

AUTHOR'S PICK

“A Mother’s Tale: A Tree That Grew with Love” is a must-read for kids and parents alike, an invitation to discover the magic within the simplest of seeds and the love that nurtures it into something beautiful all whilst learning and enjoying the beauty of two languages. Test your understanding with comprehension questions and engage in fun games that will captivate young minds and hearts.

This book is available on English only and in English-French, Spanish, German, Russian, Arabic and Somali.





Joanna Adam

Contemporary fiction

Joanna Adam lives outside London. Her first book, *Kept*, was published in 2023. She has also had a short story included in the 2023 LISP Anthology and her second, *Trust*, is out in Autumn 2025. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from Manchester Metropolitan University.

Joanna's writing explores relationships and family dynamics, principally, the loving and the hating and how those two emotions can coexist. She is particularly interested in exploring life's small moments of joy and wondering at the miracle of self-control required to manage the inevitable disappointments.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Set in London, *Trust* is a journey into the heart of Margot and Patrick's marriage. It is a story of their love and the careless lies, where in the end it's not the truth that matters, but trust that counts.

What does family mean? Margot yearns for a baby to replace the one she has lost. But with two small boys, an ex-wife in the wings and his dashing cousin hovering, Patrick craves emotional and financial security. To what lengths will Margot and Patrick go to fulfil their desires? And when happiness is in reach, will the past stretch out and snatch it from their grasp? *Trust* explores the uncomfortable truths and the lies of omission that lurk beneath the surface of every human relationship.



Afritondo

Short stories



We are an indie press catering to emerging minority writers, especially Black writers, in the UK. We run a yearly short story prize, and publish anthologies from these prizes, as well as single-author books.

We are looking forward to connecting with writers at the MK Lit Fest and introducing some of our works to the amazing book lovers of MK.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Yellow Means Stay is a collection of enthralling, sad, humorous, and heart-touching love stories from across Africa and the black diaspora. It features new and award-winning writers from across the African continent and beyond.

The stories are a dynamic blend of the poetic and narrative, the spousal and familial, the suggestive and explicit, the dramatic and measured, the straight and queer, the sad and humorous, the past and future, life and afterlife. Through its pages, readers enter the world of African literature, love, and romance.





Kelly Armatage

Self-help / self-development / therapy

Kelly Armatage is a globally recognised therapist, speaker and creator of A Serenity Kit (A. S. K.), a revolutionary method for transforming unhelpful thoughts, emotions and habits.

With over 20 years of professional experience and more than 15,000 therapy sessions facilitated, Kelly is an expert in psychological trauma and behavioural transformation.

AUTHOR'S PICK

What if you could instantly shift your thoughts, calm your emotions, and break free from the habits holding you back?

A Serenity Kit (A.S.K.) is a life-changing method created by therapist Kelly Armatage that has already helped thousands of people find freedom from trauma, negative patterns, and self-limiting beliefs. Blending psychology, cognitive behavioural therapy, somatic healing, and spiritual wisdom, A.S.K. gives you a simple, step-by-step process to create lasting change—whenever you need it.





Joan K Asante

Children's storybook

Hi, my name is Joan Asante. I am the author of Guess What Books and the founder of Bright ideas! Thank you so much for taking an interest into Guess What? I hope you get to enjoy the story as well as the awesome science facts!

My dream for Guess What is to inspire and encourage diversity in STEM subjects and in the books we read to our children. Our global society is diverse in culture and people, and more and more books should reflect this.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Guess What?

Have you ever imagined flying to space in a rocket?

Jaz is a fun, smart, adventurous young boy who loves anything space! Join Jaz on an adventure to space with his baby sister, and learn some cool facts along the way.





Morgen Bailey

Crime fiction

Based in Aylesbury, Bucks, Morgen Bailey ("Morgen with an E") is a freelance editor, author of novels, short stories and non-fiction titles, tutor, mentor, podcaster, blogger, WI/U3A speaker, competition judge and former Writer's Forum magazine Competitive Edge columnist.

Like her, her blog, <http://morgenbailey.wordpress.com>, is consumed by all things literary. Her website is <http://morgenbailey.com>, and she is morgenwriteruk on social media.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Meet Jessica, an ordinary girl who comes across extraordinary circumstances and pays for them with her life.

As well as identifying her body, her brother Simon then has to wind up her affairs but gets more than he bargains for...

Who is Alexis, and why are Veronica and Daniel searching for her? Why is there a roll of cash in Jessica's house, and what's the connection between his sister and Alexis?



AFTER JESSICA HITMAN SAM



Morgen Bailey



Karen Banfield

Fiction: crime/thriller

Karen Banfield has been writing plays and short stories for many years. She's had 15 full length plays performed with more to come at the Limelight Theatre, Aylesbury on 31st October and 1st November 2025 and March 2026.

She's had stories included in the 2023 and 2025 MinK Anthologies. She's also published two collections of short stories on Kindle and in paperback; A Little Crime at Bedtime and A Touch of Drama at Bedtime.

AUTHOR'S PICK

20 Short stories about crime, for people with busy lives.

When Hugh suspects his wife is having an affair, he couldn't possibly predict the tragedy that would ensue.

Will tries to help his mum when she arrives home distraught, but doesn't realise what trouble he'll end up in.

And what is it that Brian can hear through Edith's walls that compels him to try and help?

Plus many more intriguing characters with interesting crimes.





Kate Bateman

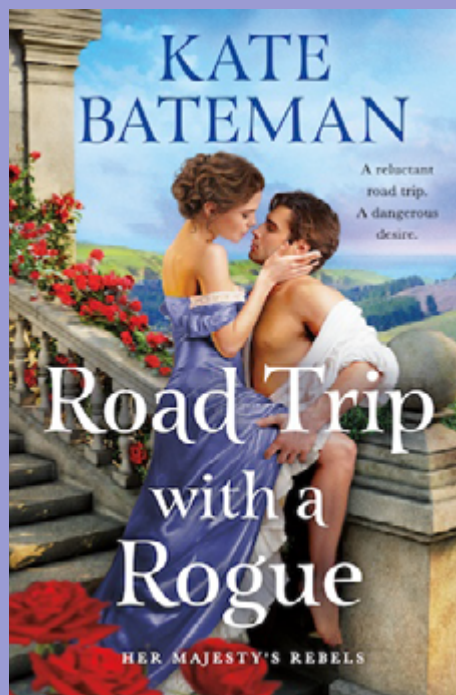
Historical romance

Kate Bateman is a bestselling author of historical romance. Her books have received multiple starred reviews from Publishers Weekly and Library Journal, and have been translated into multiple languages, including French, Italian, Brazilian, Japanese, German, Romanian, Czech, and Croatian.

Her Renaissance romp, *The Devil To Pay*, was a 2019 RITA® Finalist for Historical Romance. She's both indie published and traditionally-published by PRH and St Martin's Press.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Mistakenly holding up the coach of the man who broke her heart is bad enough, but having to endure his sinfully alluring company all the way to Scotland is Daisy Hamilton's worst nightmare... and her most secret desire.





At ByTheBook, we are dedicated to discovering new creative talent. We have many years experience working in the traditional publishing sector and understand how hard it is for writers to find their place in the market.

We combine our professional expertise with a writer's creative talent to make beautiful books that will find their ways into the hearts of readers worldwide.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Blue Eyes — Dave Hobart

A man is released from prison, where he has served time for a crime he did not commit. But freedom comes at a price. Now he is on the run, hiding from the police, the law and foreign agents, unable to see his wife and child, unable to resume anything approaching a normal life. Who committed the murder for which Jack Frost was framed, and why is he not safe yet?

This debut novel, from a writer who spent over forty years in the Metropolitan Police, is an edge-of-the-seat thriller, with a tender love story at its heart.





Michèle Callard

French historical fiction

Michèle Callard grew up in France. A country girl at heart, she swapped her Paris flat for a cottage in Bedfordshire where she lives with her Irish husband and one of her 3 sons. She has written 7 novels set in France, bursting with local colour, flavour and history.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Bordeaux 1870 - forbidden love in a country in turmoil. If Flore, a shepherd's daughter, is not married by autumn, she must go into service and lose everything she holds dear. Back from the French army, the dashing Ricar has set her heart and body on fire. Will he propose to her before it is too late? Martial, the viscount's son, adores Flore from afar, aware that she can never be his. When a betrayal and a fire put Flore's life in danger, Martial seizes his chance, grabs Flore's hand and takes her to safety, hoping they might start afresh. Will life bring them together or tear them apart?





Lizzie Cantopher

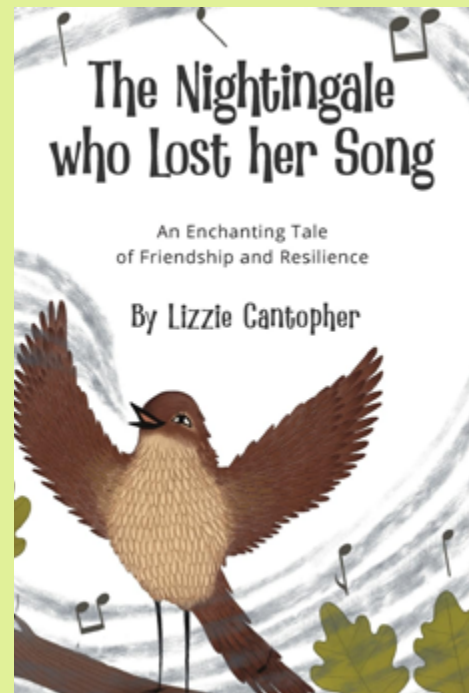
Adult/children fairytale and fable

Lizzie Cantopher decided at age 67 it was time to stand in her own truth. At school, she was told she was stupid and no good would come of her. For years, she hid her superpower now the secret is out.

Lizzie is telling people she is dyslexic and has written her first book, *The Nightingale who Lost her Song*, something that was quite clearly impossible. She has now turned the impossible into the possible. Join her as she helps you awaken your truth.

AUTHOR'S PICK

In a world where melodies swirl on the wind, a nightingale loses her enchanting song to a fierce gale. Heartbroken and afraid, she embarks on a courageous journey to reclaim her voice - not alone, but with the steadfast support of her loyal friends: a gentle bear, a brave snake, and an honest crow. As they confront their fears and the powerful storm that threatens their harmony, they learn the true strength of friendship and the importance of asking for help. Will the nightingale's determined spirit help them overcome the tempest, or will her song be lost forever?





Chalk Magazine

Indie magazine

Chalk is a new print magazine that brings research out of the academy. We combine intelligent writing and beautiful design to tell stories about history, culture, science, and nature.

Chalk was founded in 2024 by Will Garbett and Amy Louise Smith, two PhD students at Lancaster University who have since relocated to Hertfordshire. Our third issue, 'Monsters', will release in November 2025. In the future, we'd also like to publish pamphlets and non-fiction books.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Chalk Issue 01 reflects our broad interest in history, culture, science and nature. Alex Rome Griffin investigated reports of big cats in Scotland, and asked what sightings of exotic felines tells us about our relationship with the wilderness today.

Find out about the inestimable value of bird poo in the 19th century, the ghost towns of West Texas, and how emojis are changing the way we think. Revisit the hits of early 2025 in our offbeat reviews, enjoy a cryptic book recommendation, and learn how to make your own Pre-Indo-European cheesecake.





Tracey Chapman

Mystery fiction

Tracey Chapman is a British novelist who has loved to write since a young child.

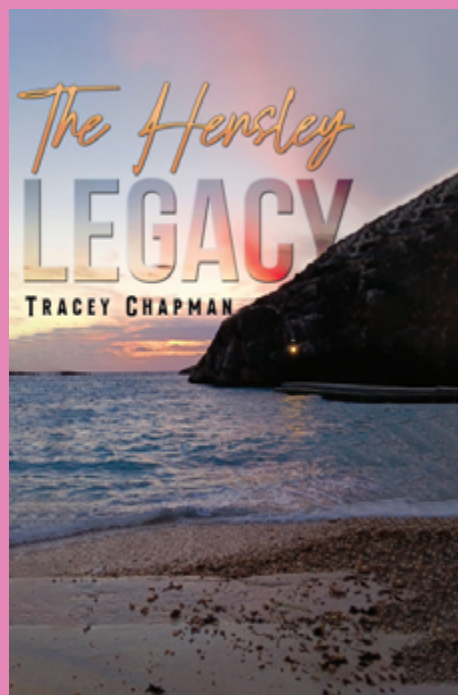
Her career began with obtaining an HND in business studies. She has worked as a forestry insurance claims coordinator, business administrator, a fancy dress shop sales assistant, and a childminder, among many other things.

She lives in Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire with her husband Steve and their dog Flossie.

AUTHOR'S PICK

This title is available to explore at the fair — come by and discover its pages firsthand.

A fresh offering from the indie shelves, waiting to be discovered by curious readers.





Constellations Press

Essays

Constellations Press was launched to discover and publish exceptional books: fiction, memoir and essays. Surely the reason we read is the same reason we fall in love: to move into something more expansive than life previously offered.

At Constellations Press we prize writing that takes risks, is fresh and exciting, and looks at the world differently. We are committed to bringing new/emerging authors to contemporary audiences with books that are beautifully imagined and elegantly produced.

AUTHOR'S PICK

What does it mean to be a man in today's society?

David Algar draws on psychological analysis, research studies and his own experiences as businessman, husband, son, father and friend to offer the reader different ways of mapping the contested and continually revised terrains of masculinity.

The collection examines how men conduct relationships with each other, with women and with their work. It shines a particular light on what happens to masculine identity when it is challenged by political or personal events, the zeitgeist, or the process of ageing. It ranges from serious issues such as loneliness and tribalism through to the impulsive madness that might result in the purchase of, say, a seventeenth-century windmill or a peacock.

Reading these essays – funny, thought-provoking, unexpectedly moving and ultimately bonding – is like eavesdropping on the kinds of conversations, both intimate and raucous, that men might have with each other in pubs.





Chris Crawley

Children's fiction: time-travel

As a child, Dr. Chris Crawley loved time travel and history, and she went on to complete a History degree as an adult. It is, therefore, no surprise that she has become the author of a middle grade time travel series.

With four books already published and the fifth on the way soon, Guy and Angel Travel in Time is Dr. Chris Crawley's first series, which will include six books when complete.

AUTHOR'S PICK

The Lakeview Housing Estate is about to be demolished and replaced with hotels and a casino. It seems all hope has faded until Guy Devereux stumbles across an old map that just might hold the key to finding long lost family treasure.

The map leads Guy to Angel and the Seventeenth Century, going to unexpected places, meeting some very interesting people and facing challenges he could not have imagined.

Will Guy find the Devereux Legacy and return in time? Will the Lakeview Housing Estate be saved from the bulldozers and slot machines?

Let the journey begin...





Paul Eccentric

Steampunk fiction

After over 40 years of writing and performing, and having several books published, Paul is now thoroughly enjoying writing in his favourite genre, that of Steampunk.

His first series, 'The Periwinkle Perspective' has had a modicum of success and his second series 'The Gin Wars' will be launched at Waterstones MK on 12th of November this year.

AUTHOR'S PICK

'The Periwinkle Perspective' A Steampunk Hexalogy that winds it's way through an alternative Victoriana. Reviews: 'I thoroughly enjoyed Captain Periwinkle and his Steampunky glee in the absurd, the arcane and the otherworldly' Paul Magrs -Doctor Who author and chronicler of the tales of Brenda and Effie.

'Both engaging and intriguing in equal measure. I found the book a positive hoot and total delight from start to end! The brilliantly realised narrative has an eccentrically measured pace that keeps one wanting to find out more!', I look forward to Vol 2! - Terry Molloy, Doctor Who's 'Davros', 1984 to present day.

'Jam-packed full of stylishly written japes and characters, occasionally breaks the 4th wall with a knowing wink and astounds you with the details of the perilous adventures of Gordon Periwinkle and Co. Is there a Steampunk trope that has been missed out? I would very much doubt it. I would very much love to read more of these. Please write a sequel!

Donna L. Scott- Editor of Best of British Science Fiction 2016 – 2023





Danielle Fear

Psychological thriller

I decided that I wanted to write a book, so I did.

I promised myself that if I want to do something then it's worth a try. Life is too short not to follow our dreams, especially if you end up getting murdered.

Psychiatric Nurse by Day, Psychological Thriller Author by Night.

AUTHOR'S PICK

I'm just another school mum, doing the school run, I'm certainly not a serial killer, well not in their eyes anyway.

Follow the first hand account of Chrissie, your average school mum, the person who you could be seeing in the school playground day to day as she becomes the local village serial killer. Will you be rooting for her?





Murray Fisher

Children's fiction

Murray is a writer and film producer living in the picturesque village of Finchingfield with his wife, daughter, and an unusually large cat.

Murray was shortlisted for Write Mentor's Flash Fiction competition and longlisted for their Children's Novel competition in 2021, longlisted for the Times/Chicken House Award in 2022, and longlisted for the Oxford Pushkin Fantasy Prize in 2023.

Underlings: The Spark Engine is his debut novel, published in September 2025 by Toller Press Ltd.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Barely surviving in the machine-powered subterranean city of Lode, lone underling Evin discovers a skeletal hand clutching a cryptic note:

'Find Karl. Stop the Engine. Unlock the truth. Nala Nermana.'

Driven to unlock Lode's secrets, Evin and her mech-dog Jet face danger at every turn: unscrupulous bullies, brutish guards and the deadly fumes of the dragonsbreath.

But to reveal the truth, Evin must trust new friendships, battle her way upwards and confront the city's deceptive leader, Cardinal Mavka, before the world she knows comes crashing down.





Gail Gammell

Historical romance

Gail Gammell is the author of several books. In addition to writing, she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren (12, 15 & 17), her friends and her beautiful cavapoo, Bailey. An Irish-Canadian expat, she moved to the UK over a decade ago, while her grandkids were wee. Now that they're older, she has more time to write.

Among her interests, besides writing, are reading, shopping, gardening, the royal family (especially when Elizabeth the Great was alive), watching tv and films on her iPad, going to the theatre, to the cinema, finding new afternoon tea venues and having coffee and a natter with friends & fellow authors at Cafe W or Starbucks!

AUTHOR'S PICK

This title is available to explore at the fair — come by and discover its pages firsthand.

A fresh offering from the indie shelves, waiting to be discovered by curious readers.

Elmcroft

Comstock Legacy 1

Gail Gammell





Stacey Gittens

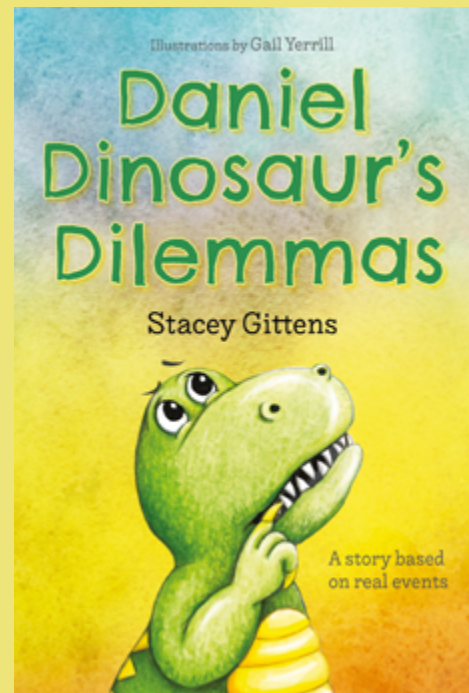
Children's fiction

Born in Australia, Stacey Gittens performed on screen and stage before becoming a schoolteacher, children's author, globetrotter, and mother. Her works help children to develop social-communication skills, have faith, be proud of themselves, and explore a range of topics, such as health care and disability representation.

Stacey's passion for editing and design shines in her collaborations with creatives across the globe. She commits herself to excellence, believing that small changes are significant.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Daniel Dinosaur, a kind and friendly Tyrannosaurus Rex, starts school during strange times. Daniel tries to hide his dinosaur traits to make friends, but his efforts to reassure others lead to a series of comical misunderstandings. Humorously, Daniel finds himself in never-ending self-isolation, and his online learning is sure to entertain readers. This keepsake edition is designed to communicate historic information to future generations in a fun and exciting way.





Alex Grant

Adult and YA fiction: sci-fi and dystopias

Alex grew up in the punk era and values writing that is sharp, direct, attention grabbing but interesting. However his stories are far from the literary equivalent of a three chord thrash. They are layered, thought provoking, and invite multiple readings. Each short story in his book ends with a reflective question.

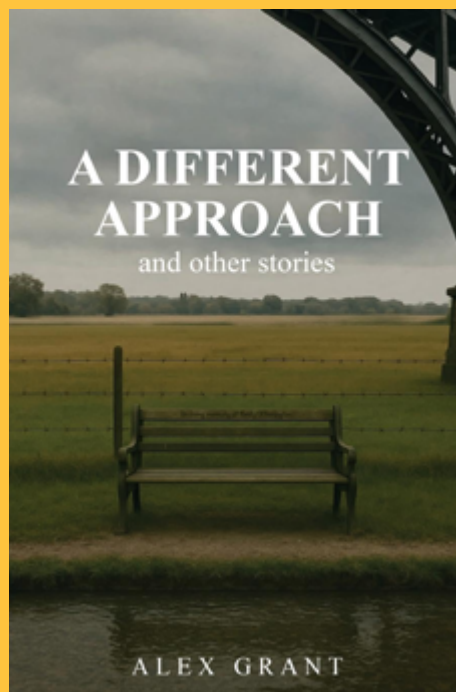
An economist by trade, he is interested in how changes in society's structures affect human behavior and vice versa (that's not as 'heavy' as it sounds), playing bass guitar, and also croquet - a game as quintessentially English as it is vicious.

AUTHOR'S PICK

When you work in a prison and parliament decrees that violent punishment should become part of your daily routine, when you know you are terrified of something but not why, when a minor change in your good intentions unleashes horrors you never imagined, what's your next move?

In *A Different Approach and Other Stories* you are invited into an eerily familiar yet nightmarish world where actions can have unimaginable consequences. From radical remedies to some of society's problems to the effects of being bullied, through to God wondering how to address what's gone wrong with creation, the stories blend unsettling drama with dark humour and moral complexity.

You'll find yourself thinking about the stories' twists long after you've turned the final page...





Alex Grehy

Poetry

Alex Grehy is inspired by a reflective life full of nature, rescue greyhounds and singing. Widely published, Alex hopes her vivid, thought-provoking words will engage the reader's emotions and help them to make sense of the world.

Her poetry collections, *Last Species Standing*, *A Listener Speaks*, and *At Peace with the Night Owls* (Alien Buddha Press) are available on Amazon. Her latest collection, *Landscapes - poems and images from the rich scenery of the British Isles*, will be released in October.

AUTHOR'S PICK

A captivating exploration of the intricate relationship between humanity, nature and the ever-evolving realm of technology. Through a collection of thought-provoking poems, Grehy takes readers on a poignant journey that delves deep into the complexities of our modern existence and the consequences of our actions on the world around us.

Features "Best of the Net 2025" finalist poem "The Crows Remember"

Reader Reviews:

Every piece is evocative and imagery rich, with the writing itself being precise and deftly woven.

Such complex concepts expressed in concise clever language.





Ina Harrington

YA fiction: fantasy, mystery, thriller, romance

Ina Harrington is a Bulgarian-born author of urban fantasy, blending real-world drama with magic and a touch of horror.

With a background in English Philology, she builds worlds where secrets fester and the truth is rarely kind. She writes across genres, but her work always carries mystery, magic, and a spark of light against the dark.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Rose Walker has always been able to see the dead.

Determined to leave that part of her life behind, she accepts a scholarship to Banecroft University in England, far from her small, judgmental Colorado town. No one there knows about her gift—or the past she's desperate to forget.

But when Rose's roommate, Eleanor, dies under mysterious circumstances, her new beginning shatters. Haunted by Eleanor's ghost and missing memories from the night of her death, Rose doesn't know if her friend's spirit seeks answers—or revenge.

Desperate for the truth, Rose teams up with Dawn, a fellow outcast with a knack for solving mysteries, and Val, a dangerously charming Mage Seeker who forces her to question everything she thought she knew about her abilities, and herself. But when another student is attacked, it's clear that Eleanor's death is just the beginning, and time is short.





Jon Harvey

Children's fiction: magic realism and politics

When I was Mayor of Buckingham, I was asked to open a new school's library. After not finding a book about a Town Mayor that I liked (to read to them), I decided to write one.

Now, I visit primary schools and help the youngsters think about becoming the next generation of local councillors. We also talk lots about teddy bears, kindness and how to write their own stories.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Help!! What is Town Mayor Roxie to do when she loses something very precious to her and indeed, the whole town..? Just before she's ready to give up, along comes a small, magimistical bear called Strumbold...

This is the story of their adventure - about love, keeping promises and finding magic in everyday stuff.

It's a book to be read out loud to the special (big and small) people in your life.

Amongst the kerfuffle, confusion and difficulties of living in our world today... this story will help you remember that there are still simple, important things like friendship, kindness, cake and a Festival of Teddy Bears.

THE MAYOR'S BEAR



JON HARVEY
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELIZABETH GIBBS

Hannah Hitchcock

Paranormal fantasy



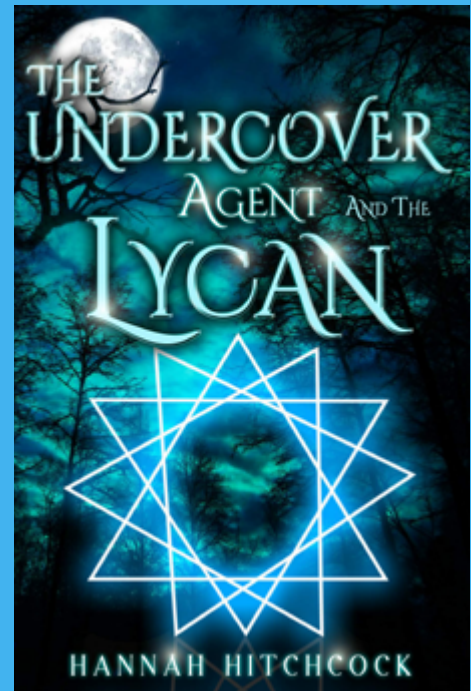
Hannah Hitchcock started writing as a form of escapism from the hectic schedule of work and family life. Her love of reading started as a teenager when she would escape her ordinary life into a world of magic through reading. As she got older, her love of fantasy grew.

A close friend in the same situation had the idea to start writing a novel , and together they embarked on very different journeys.

AUTHOR'S PICK

The Undercover Agent And The Lycan - Morgan Hudson is a formidable female agent. Childhood grief has given her purpose and drive. Her next undercover assignment will shake the very foundation of the world she thinks she lives in, when she's suddenly thrust into a world of Vampires, Witches and Lycans.

Does she allow her mark to get too close and risk derailing her investigation? Something about him awakens her sexual desires and her magical powers. Will she trust her heart or her training? When the world is depending on her, is she powerful enough to make a difference?





J. Johnson Smith

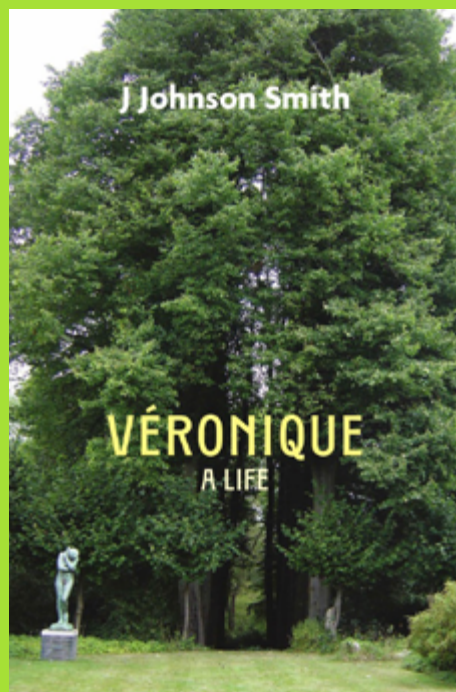
Autofiction, poetry

David Smith writes as J. Johnson Smith and has written two novels, a series of short stories and numerous poems, which have appeared in various online sites and anthologies. Born in Bucks, he now lives near Letchworth after retiring to reconnect with his writing.

Previously he had a career working for Longman and other publisher. Currently, he is an official of The John Clare Society, member of the Poetry Society and Poetry ID.

AUTHOR'S PICK

A mystery and a page-turner. Who is Véronique? Grounded in vivid details of theatre life in England from music hall days to wartime, the story is told in two parallel strands. Fast-moving action, love and loss, success and anxiety, alert the reader to secrets that Véronique is hiding. Born at the turn of the 20th century, rushed to London on the murder of her father, leading to a life of love and difficulty.





Martin Jones

Children's adventure

I have been writing since leaving Warwick University where I studied English. Successes include winning the Writers' Forum Magazine short story competition, and being long-listed at the Yeovil Literary Festival Short Story Prize.

I have self published four novels and have appeared with them at the Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, and Faversham Literary Festivals.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Secret Street. Rumours about Secret Street circulate the playground. For Paris, this place might as well be a wonderland down a rabbit hole. Her unsuccessful search does result, however, in an unexpected fascination with geology. This takes her on an adventure, where she hides her interest from friends, goes on a disastrous pony trek, apparently saves the Earth from meteorites, and faces a clifftop crisis, which puts her in great danger. Through all this, she begins to understand the epic stories to be found in the rocks beneath her feet, whilst also uncovering a few hidden secrets in her own life.





Della Judd

Memoir

Della Judd has written a Career Coaching book drawing on her experiences of burnout and trying to balance a family with work. Della is now the manager of the family publishing business Synjon Books which publishes history and genealogy titles.

She recently published her grandfather's Second World War diaries and is currently writing a World War I family story.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Air Raids and RAF Days, co-authored by historian Helen Allinson and executive coach Della Judd, brings to life the real wartime experiences of their father and grandfather, John Teague. At just 17 years old, John was walking the bombed-out streets of London during the Blitz, helping to re-home civilians left devastated by air raids. Later, he would join the RAF as a wireless operator mechanic, having been denied his dream of becoming a pilot due to poor eyesight.

Air Raids and RAF Days paints a vivid picture of wartime Britain—not from the front lines, but from the bombed-out boroughs of South London and the RAF training camps across Europe. It captures the heartbreak, the humour, and the incredible strength of a generation who faced down fear with dignity.





Rachel Keating

Children's adventure/magic realism

Growing up in the Midlands, Rachel began writing stories as soon as she could hold a pencil... Well, that is, when she wasn't holding a book or holding anything she could find to make a den out of.

In her adult life, Rachel has lived in Canterbury, Herne Bay, and Germany, and is now back in the Midlands. She's still writing stories, reading books and making dens, this time with her two children.

AUTHOR'S PICK

A caravan holiday in the Welsh countryside sounds like the perfect getaway, but for Erin and her family their daily struggles are not so easy to escape from.

After a mystical accident in the woods leaves Erin with the extraordinary gift of bird abilities, she is forced to face her own internal battles, as well as new threats like the mean and persistent intruder, Bess. Being able to fly, slow down time and communicate with her new feathered friend – a goldfinch called Fable – all prove vital when Erin comes across birds being deliberately trapped and killed.

Can her superpowers save her and everyone she loves when she finds herself fighting for her life in a forest fire? And what happens if her powers disappear?





M. A. Knights

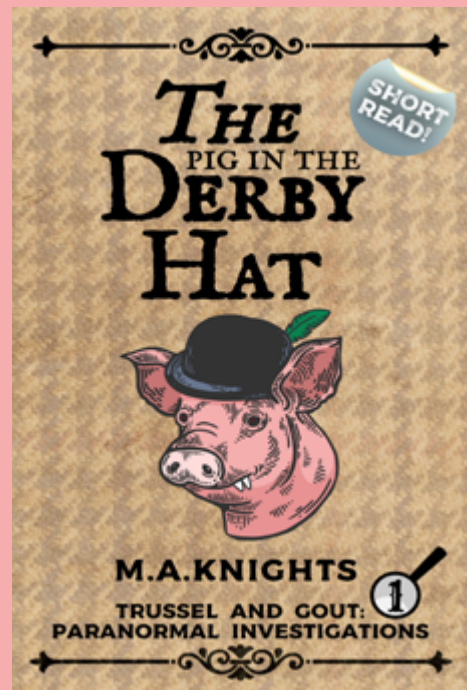
Adult/YA paranormal investigation

Hello. I'm M.A. Knights, an English writer and Booktoker. After achieving a BSc in Countryside Conservation and an MSc in Geographic Information and Climate Change, I realised I am, in fact, not a scientist at all. It's the what-do-you-call-it? ... memory! Not what it used to be, don't you know? So I've left the data crunching to those cleverer than I and instead have returned to the fantastical imaginings of my youth. I hope one day to lose myself in a world of my own creation.

AUTHOR'S PICK

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Colin Mardell

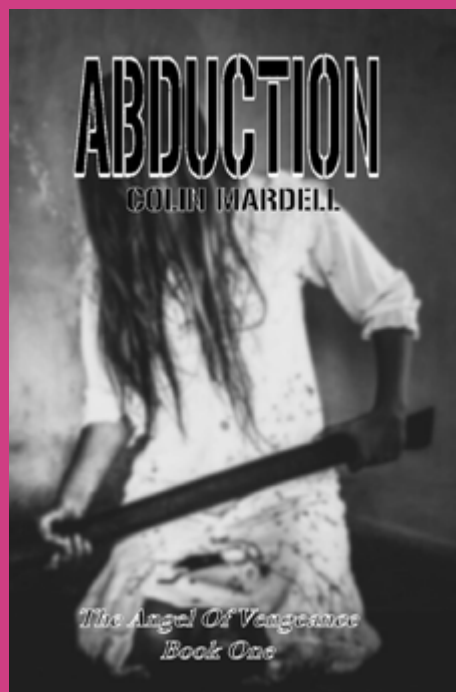
Crime fiction

Colin was born in Ruislip, Middlesex. At eighteen he joined the London Fire Brigade and served for thirty years, ending up as a Divisional Officer heading the Brigade's Fire Investigation Teams. He worked for a time as an information officer at Buckinghamshire County Council Social Services Department, before moving to Lincolnshire in 2001. A desire to be closer to children and grandchildren demanded a return to Buckinghamshire in 2024. Colin wrote fiction purely for pleasure until the long periods of inactivity created by Covid allowed him to consider publishing some of his work. His Novel 'Wolf in the Henhouse' was winner of the 2025 Noose Award for best crime thriller.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Emily Devonshire, and her seven-year-old daughter Robyn are kidnapped, separated and sold into the sex trafficking trade. After engineering a remarkable escape from captivity, Emily sets out on a five year pan-European odyssey to find her daughter whilst wreaking terrible vengeance upon all responsible for the vile trade that she discovers along the way.

Unbeknown to Emily, Robyn has already been plucked from danger and taken into care by an eccentric philanthropist and the trauma of her abduction, coupled with a head injury, have both induced amnesia, and released a previously dormant form of savant syndrome.





Ray Martin

Memoir

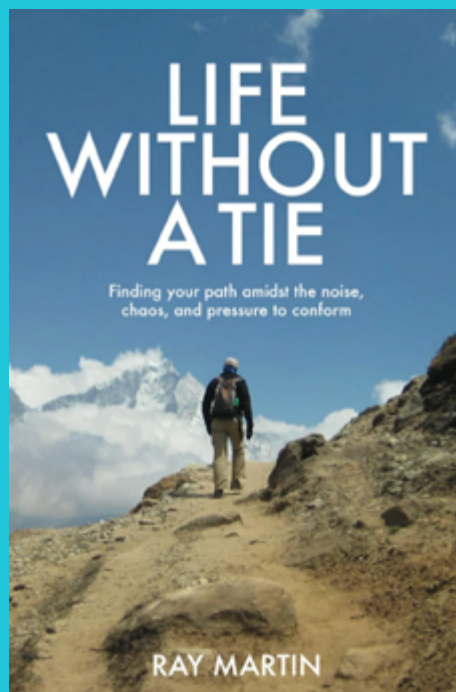
Ray Martin, aka The Daily Explorer, is an entrepreneur and award-winning business leader. As a coach, mentor, facilitator, speaker, writer, and mindfulness teacher, he is a torchbearer for greater human consciousness.

Ray is also a marathon runner and fundraiser. He's on a mission to empower people to live authentically and to bring more joy and happiness into the world.

AUTHOR'S PICK

This title is available to explore at the fair — come by and discover its pages firsthand.

A fresh offering from the indie shelves, waiting to be discovered by curious readers.





Samantha Mattocks

Children's fantasy

Samantha Mattocks is an award-winning author and journalist with a passion for the written word. Best known for her children's books, The Magical Mister Mishkins series, Samantha's words have transported readers across all her work to another place – one filled with magic, inspiration, dreams, and more.

The author of six books – one published under a pen name to protect the innocent – and the owner of two magazines, Samantha loves sharing her imagination with others.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Mister Mishkins is a magical cat who owns an Apothecary on Mosaic Street - a place that appears mysteriously in town overnight and is only visible to those in need. Whenever anyone enters the Apothecary, Mister Mishkins listens as they share their troubles and fears, before turning to the rows of wooden drawers where, hidden within, is an eclectic mix of cats. These cats take whoever needs them on a journey of transformation, replacing negative emotions with hope, optimism, and a small sprinkling of magic.

Author Samantha Mattocks has created a beautiful world filled with cats, rainbows and butterflies, that take away the worries and fears common to so many of us. This fully illustrated first book in the Magical Mister Mishkins series is sure to become a family favourite.





Ondia Morris

Contemporary romance

Ondia Morris is a passionate writer with a deep love for storytelling. With a background in education, Ondia understands the power of words and their ability to inspire, entertain, and empower.

When not immersed in her writing, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and seeking inspiration from the diverse cultures and traditions surrounding her. Ondia aims to write captivating narratives that aspire to uplift while celebrating the rich tapestry of love and life.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Waiting for your love: She's guarded. He's patient. Love is waiting.

Zara Thompson has given up on happily-ever-after—until her charming boss, Nathaniel Sinclair, starts stepping out of the friend zone and into her heart. A spontaneous trip to Jamaica. A confession she never saw coming. Now Zara must decide: keep her heart safe... Or finally let it fall?

A slow-burn interracial romance about healing, second chances, and finding love where you least expect it.





Rumbidzai Mutopo

Non-fiction: finance for children

Rumbidzai Sharleen Mutopo is an inspiring author, financial educator, and financial wellbeing advocate who champions financial education in early education. She has written children's financial literacy books including *Save It, Keep It, Give It Away*, *Needs and Wants*, and *Where Does Money Come From?*, as well as interactive activity books *Money Games* and *Children Finance Activity Book*. Her mission is to make money matters simple, fun, and empowering for the next generation.

AUTHOR'S PICK

How do children learn to make smart money choices? It starts with understanding the difference between what we need and what we simply want.

Needs and Wants is a fun, colourful, and practical guide that introduces children to one of the most important lessons in financial literacy—learning to spend wisely. Written in a simple and relatable way, this book helps young readers understand that while our needs keep us safe, healthy, and cared for, our wants are the extra things that bring joy but require thoughtful choices.





Linda Newbery

Contemporary fiction

I have published widely for adults and young readers, with titles including *The One True Thing*, *The Shell House* and *Set In Stone*, a Costa Prize category winner.

I am one of the hosts of *Writers Review*, a weekly blog featuring book recommendations by authors and booksellers. We have now launched *Writers Review Publishing*, an author collaborative.

AUTHOR'S PICK

When the ground shifts, where is one true thing to be found?

Jane, in her twenties, is left parentless when her father dies suddenly; a second shock follows when his Will reveals the existence of a son no-one knew of. Now Wildings, the family home, must be sold. Spanning two generations, the novel tells the story of Bridget, Jane's mother, trapped in an unhappy marriage on which her career depends, and of stone-carver Meg, who wants only independence but is enmeshed in conflicting loyalties and desires when Adam, a young artist, enters their lives, to devastating effect. Now far from Wildings, Meg is bound by a promise to support Jane in her loss. Having thought of herself as an observer who saw everything, she's forced to realise how much she failed to see – and the cost to those she loves.

'A beautifully complex tapestry of lives and relationships ... a novel to immerse yourself in.' Jane Rogers, author of *Mr Wroe's Virgins*

'Newbery writes wonderfully.' *Financial Times*





Kate Nicholas

Autobiography

Kate Nicholas is an award-winning author, TV presenter and speaker with 30 years' experience as a national current affairs journalist and editor. She wrote her best-selling memoir *Sea Changed* after being diagnosed with advanced cancer.

She has gone on to write a number of inspirational non-fiction books about her unconventional journey of faith and healing including her latest release, *To The Ocean Floor* (winner CRT Audiobook of the Year, 2024).

AUTHOR'S PICK

Sea Changed is the moving story of Kate Nicholas's unconventional journey of faith and healing. This vibrant autobiography takes the reader from the the temples of Asia to newsrooms in London, and from the deserts of Australia to some of the toughest place on the planet where Kate travelled as global communications chief of international humanitarian charity World Vision. Kate also shares how she wrestled with, and ultimately embraced, faith in the face of personal battles, including the loss of both her parents and a baby, as well as debilitating ME. And how when diagnosed with advanced breast cancer, she found herself growing closer to God as she faced her mortality. *Sea Changed* proves that the surest path to God isn't always a straight line, and that God can be found in the most unexpected of places - even a cancer diagnosis.

'A beautifully written, haunting memoir . . . so much more than an autobiography' Michele Guinness.

CRT Biography of the Year 2017 (shortlisted).





O.L. Obonna

Romance

Hi I'm Omo, an avid romance reader and a published romance author. I love writing romance stories. Even as a young child, I would conjure up stories with my imagination, sharing them with anyone who would listen. I've developed my storytelling and writing quite a bit since then, and the thrill of language and creation I first discovered as a child has never gone away. I am very passionate about my life as a writer and mother and when am not surrounding myself with words, writing or reading a romance novel, you can find me in the kitchen trying out new recipes, painting or dancing with my children.

AUTHOR'S PICK

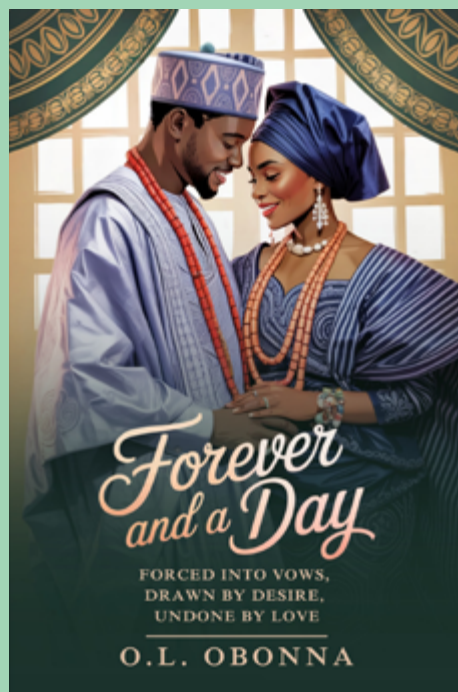
Mma Nwachukwu never imagined her first time would be with a stranger, let alone a man who would haunt her dreams long after. But when she starts a new job, she's stunned to discover her irresistible mystery lover is Fuad Danjuma, the younger brother of her boss.

As shocking as the revelation is, nothing compares to what comes next, Mma discovers her she is pregnant. Bound by a child neither expected, Fuad offers marriage out of duty, and while Mma is tempted by his touch and drawn to his strength, she refuses to be just a responsibility.

Fuad is determined to give her his name, his protection, even his passion but not his heart but Mma is determined to have his love, she demands nothing less.

Bound by obligation, can passion soften a hardened heart?

Can Mma's love be the key to unlocking Fuad's heart?





Shivon Oduro-Kwateng

Memoir

This author is proud to be part of the MK Indie Book Fair, sharing their work with readers and fellow creatives.

More details coming soon — or better yet, come chat with the author at their table!

AUTHOR'S PICK

Against All Odds tells the extraordinary true story of a young boy named Zechariah, who was diagnosed at birth with a severe congenital heart condition- Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. He was given just two weeks to live. Refusing to accept defeat, Shivon and Ebenezer (Zechariah's parents) fought tirelessly for their son's life, placing their faith in God over fear. They challenged medical professionals who were convinced that their son did not stand a chance. A turbulent 10-month stay in hospital became an everyday battle to save their son.

What followed was a miraculous journey of hope, resilience, and unwavering faith that defied all medical expectations.





Eniola Oyegunle

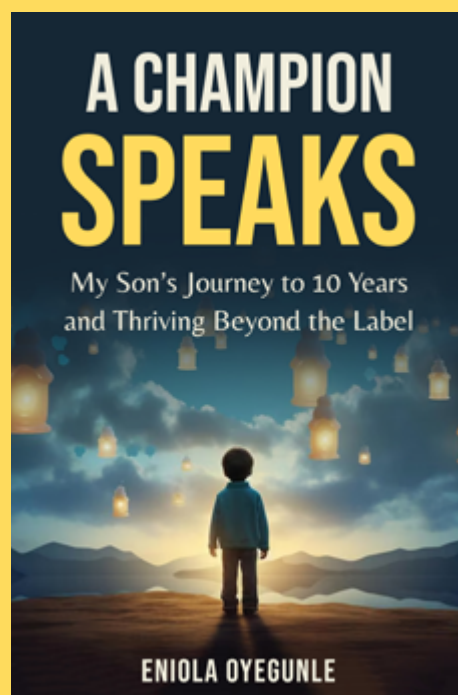
Memoir

Eniola Oyegunle is a mother to two neurodivergent sons. Inspired by her experiences raising her first son, she published *A Champion Speaks: My Son's Journey to 10 Years and Thriving Beyond the Label*. The book explores raising a child with speech and other developmental delays, concluding with practical guidance on supporting child development in a nurturing home environment.

She established the “Thriving Beyond the Label” community to support parents and carers of neurodivergent children.

AUTHOR'S PICK

My Son's Journey to 10 Years and Thriving Beyond the Label. This book presents an account of a mother who refers to her son as “A champion”. The book's first part details my son's journey of learning to speak and attaining key milestones until his tenth birthday. The book concludes with detailed accounts of my experiences with my son at home developing key skills. The skills covered in the book include reading, writing, potty training, riding a bicycle and self-care activities. Every child has the potential to thrive with the right support from their parents and carers. My motivation for sharing my experiences, which include our successes, mistakes, and lessons learnt, is to inspire others.





PageLeaf Publishing Ltd

Romance fiction; children's fiction

At PageLeaf, we believe literature is more than just a collection of words. It is a vessel for expressing the most profound elements of the human condition—empathy, passion, struggle, and triumph.

We exist to bridge cultural divides, to give voice to unheard stories, and to elevate authors from every corner of the world. Our mission is simple: to create a global dialogue through the written word, fostering connections that transcend borders.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Lola's Birthday by Daniella Obonna

Today is Lola's birthday, and she is very excited. It's her 10th birthday. She wakes up eager to see what her mom has planned for the day but is surprised that no one has remembered her birthday.

What is she going to do?





Bibi Paterson

Romance fiction

British author Bibi Paterson was born in South Africa and has always loved telling saucy stories with an unexpected twist. After over ten years away from publishing, she's back with even bolder romances that explore love, heartbreak, and second chances.

When she's not writing, Bibi is lost in books filled with heroes, passion, betrayal, and the occasional vampire for good measure. Get ready to fall in love all over again with her steamy, unputdownable stories.

AUTHOR'S PICK

What happens when you hit rock bottom and can't see a way out? Do you take the handsome stranger's indecent proposal that seems too good to be true?

In a word, yes.

Desperation will make you do crazy things, like giving up a year of your life and travelling halfway around the world to marry a gorgeous Aussie winemaker who seems to come with more baggage than he knows what to do with.

I know I should keep my distance but there is something about him that just draws me in. Maybe it is the way he always seems to be there for me when I need it most, or that he just seems to know the right thing to say.

All I know is that the moment he kisses me on our wedding day, I am in trouble.





H.F. Payne

Urban fantasy

H.F. Payne has been a devourer of books since she first learnt to read. Her passion has never wavered but has evolved over time.

Her first novel, *The Abraxas Prophecy*, and subsequent series was born from her fascination with the Greek myths and Urban Fantasy. She has two young boys and spends her time juggling their mischievous antics with her writing.

AUTHOR'S PICK

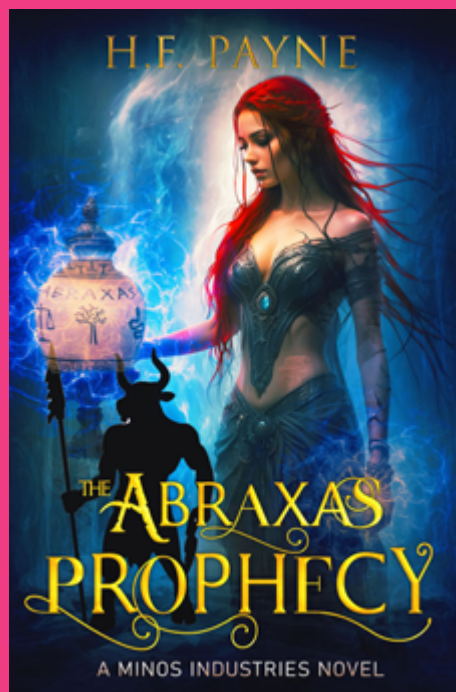
Greek myths are real and everything you thought you knew is a lie.

Parker is desperate to add some excitement into her mundane life. When she befriends a nymph, she is thrown into a world she never knew existed.

After Parker witnesses a domestic dispute between a nymph and a satyr, she falls down a supernatural rabbit hole and unwittingly accepts a job working for a minotaur. This sets in motion a prophecy that will change her life forever.

Parker must battle her own insecurities and embrace her newfound power in order to fulfil her destiny and to restore that which has been lost.

She will need to put her heart on the line for the man, the myth, the minotaur.





Anne-Marie Pellow

Romantic lesbian suspense; psychological thrillers

Anne-Marie Pellow writes contemporary women's fiction. She has always loved writing stories and, in August 2023, she finally self-published her debut novel, *The Dreamcatcher Tattoo*. She has since written four more books, with a fifth well underway.

Anne-Marie lives in Suffolk with her partner. She has a penchant for spiced rum and spends far too much time procrastinating with mint imperials.

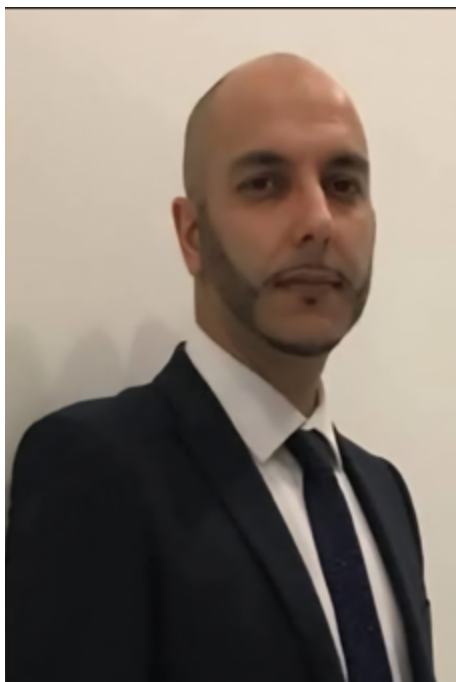
AUTHOR'S PICK

For Lisa Lewis, the days of waking up in the morning and looking forward to what the day may bring are long gone. The reason? Her relationship with Peter. Or more precisely, it's a manipulationship. Her motto nowadays is 'anything for a quiet life'. That is until a new neighbour moves into flat number three.

Kim Henshaw encounters her neighbour whilst moving into her new flat above a second-hand bookshop. And there's something tantalisingly familiar about Lisa.

Simmering tension begins from the moment their eyes meet. Kim tries her hardest to break the chains that bind Lisa, but in doing so, they realise they need to outwit a dangerous narcissist with a grudge.





Daniel Penn

YA fantasy and horror

Daniel Penn is a conjurer of twilight realms, breathing life into stories where sorrow and wonder entwine, and every word carries the weight of prophecy.

AUTHOR'S PICK

In Arkania, where the skies glow with a fiery crimson hue, witches and sorcerers thrive... yet magic has been outlawed. A forbidden power stirs deep within the heart of Eden Forest. Xoren's army of warlocks and demons has infiltrated the land through Celestial Black Mirrors, bringing shadows of war from the Obsidian Realm.

Amid this rising darkness, hope is kindled in the unlikeliest hands: Caleb, a young apprentice destined to uncover the arcane secrets that could unravel reality itself. But fate intertwines him with an unusual group of allies, and their journey together becomes a gripping tale of magic, betrayal, and redemption.





Carole L. Pollard

Contemporary women's fiction

Carole L Pollard was born in Carlisle but has lived for most of her life in Milton Keynes, with her husband and three children.

Carole gained a BA in English Literature and Creative Writing in 2017 and an MA in Creative Writing in 2019 with The Open University, returning to her first love, writing. She runs Freewriting Workshops in the local area and published her first novel, *Peggy*, in April 2024.

AUTHOR'S PICK

On an ordinary Saturday morning, Peggy hears her husband fall in the bathroom. A few hours later she finds herself widowed and free of his hateful ways. Now, in her late fifties, she must learn to navigate life as a single woman in a world she knows little about. Should she travel to make use of the languages she has secretly been learning? How can she begin to understand who to trust, who might be a friend and who might be more? Could she ever learn to love another person and more importantly, can she ever learn to love herself?

Peggy is a story about the journey of self-discovery and trust a woman in her late fifties can and must take, to reclaim her life.





Kit Power

Horror/apocalypse fiction

Kit Power has written a trilogy of novellas bringing the apocalypse to Milton Keynes. Two of them became British Fantasy Award Finalists: *A Song For The End* (2021) and *Millionaires Day* (2025).

He also writes non fiction (including *My Life In Horror Volume II*, a British Fantasy Award finalist in 2023) and has many podcasts, including *Writeopolis* and *The Ultimate Horror Anthology*.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Becoming an overnight sensation was supposed to be a good thing.

Not for Bill Cutter, supply teacher and weekend rock star. His band, The Fallen, have just released their latest tune on social media, and it's blowing up. So is the body count.

Now, Bill faces a frantic race against time to stop the spread of the song, before the horrific effects can no longer be contained.

Terrifying, bitterly funny, and tragic, *A Song For The End* is a breakneck, blood-soaked tale of truth, lies, consequences... and Rock N Roll.

British Fantasy Award Finalist 2021 (Best Novella)





Christine Rae-Jones

Fiction: police procedural

I moved to the south coast and started to write police procedural novels in 2018. I've worked in Forensic Science, and the magistracy, which has been helpful for writing.

The DI Nick Morgan Crime Thriller series currently comprises three novels – Make You Sorry, Make You Beg and Make You Choose. The fourth novel – Make You Mine should be published in summer 2026.

AUTHOR'S PICK

When DI Nick Morgan relocates his family to south England's idyllic Gullhaven Cove, he is ready for a quieter life and a fresh start. His plans unravel when he discovers the body of a teenage boy in the master bedroom of his new home.

The death toll rises, including the decomposing corpse of a solicitor, dressed for her wedding which she failed to attend, local villains, and a predatory town councillor. Morgan is under pressure to replicate the success he enjoyed at the Met, but is distracted by suspicion of his wife's infidelity and the meddling of his Machiavellian mother-in-law. He overlooks an important lead and is threatened with suspension. Closing in on the perpetrator, he uncovers a secret which threatens his future happiness. If he tells—he will lose his family; if he doesn't—he will lose his career.





Paul B. Rainey

Graphic novel

Graphic novel author of *Why Don't You Love Me?* and *There's No Time Like The Present* published by Drawn & Quarterly. Occasional contributor to VIZ Comic.

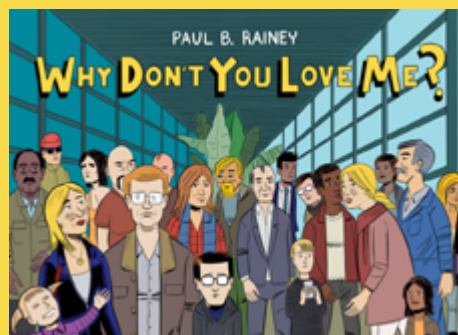
I won The Observer newspaper Graphic Short Story Prize in 2020 with the comic-strip *Similar To But Not*.

AUTHOR'S PICK

A couple struggles through their unhappy marriage in this dark science-fiction comedy

Claire and Mark are in the doldrums of an unhappy marriage. She doesn't get out of her bathrobe and chain-smokes while slumped on the couch. Mark has lost track of the days and can't get the kids to school on time. They've lost interest in family and have pizza and Chinese food delivered every night. Mark sleeps on the couch and has trouble remembering his son's name. He feels like a fraud at work but somehow succeeds. Claire stalks an ex-boyfriend. How could he have left her to this life?

Why Don't You Love Me? is a pitch-black comedy about marriage, alcoholism, depression, and mourning lost opportunities. Paul B. Rainey has created a hilariously terrifying alternate reality where confusion and pain might lead people to make bad choices but might also eventually led to freedom... maybe.





Philip Rennett

Satirical comedy

Phil Rennett's career has always involved writing. He was a police public relations officer in the Middle East, an agency copywriter, and eventually ran his own PR consultancy for 30 years, working for Hotpoint, Dunelm and Honeywell amongst others. He retired six years ago, stopped writing for clients, and now writes satirical comedy for everyone. It's not as lucrative. Hobbies include golf, laughing or raging at the world, and occasionally storm chasing in Tornado Alley.

AUTHOR'S PICK

In a Midlands warehouse, a political stunt goes spectacularly wrong when the Prime Minister walks away from his career and ends up trapped in the garage of Simon Pope - a man who detests him but is also hiding from his past as both an army padre and a failed church minister. Over one surreal weekend of dog walks, beers, and awkward confessions, the fugitive PM and the embittered Pope are forced to confront the events that broke them. Meanwhile, the Government, the police, and the security services circle ever closer, unaware their quarry is drinking and loafing about in suburbia. *Paths Not Yet Taken* blends razor-sharp political satire with heartfelt character drama in a high-concept comedy about chance encounters, redemption, and the absurdity of power.





Geoffrey Ring

Non-fiction: faith

Geoffrey was born in East London in 1948 and grew up with his parents and two brothers in Winchmore Hill. He attended St Pauls C of E Primary School and, having failed his 11+, moved on to Winchmore Secondary Modern School. Here he studied for his O and A Level GCEs before taking up a place at City University to read Civil Engineering.

A career with consulting engineers, contractors but primarily local government served him well and now retired he lives with his wife in Buckinghamshire.

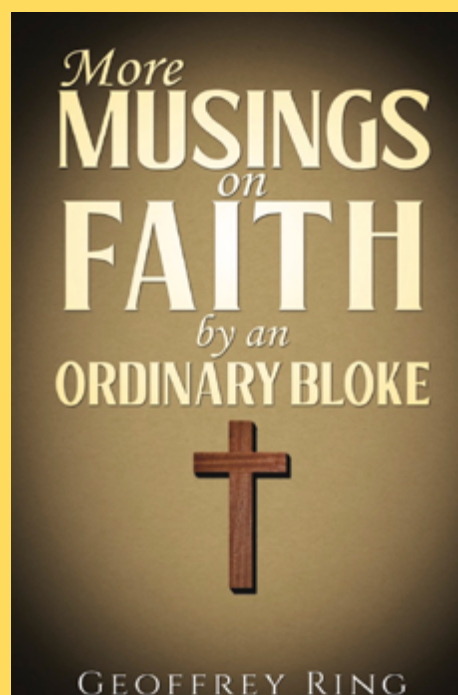
AUTHOR'S PICK

Geoffrey Ring's second book delves further into his personal journey of faith. He explores the relevance of the Church, religion and the existence of God. If you have ever wondered about these, or just don't believe, then this book is for you.

It is certainly a unique perspective from someone who isn't ordained, has had no formal theological training, does not profess to be an ecclesiastical expert but, as the title suggests, is just an ordinary bloke. A bloke who has found comfort and solace at some of the most trying times in his life by turning to his faith.

More Musings on Faith by an Ordinary Bloke is the story of a journey that he didn't always realise he was on but one that, in the end, showed him how he could survive difficult times. It's a book that is suitable for all ages, for those trying to make sense of that RI lesson, have found traditional help inadequate or are just trying to understand what folk see in all this faith stuff.

It is won't give you all the answers. It's all about an invitation to share the journey to try and find them.





Bridget Roe

Psychological thriller

Bridget grew up in the 1960s in suburban Middlesex. She went to Harrow Weald Grammar, where she met her future husband and developed her love of creative writing.

After attending the prestigious Watford Copywriting Course, she moved into branding and communications, where her main claim to fame was naming Wispa for Cadbury. Bridget now lives in Addington where she writes, gardens and hosts an Airbnb.

AUTHOR'S PICK

A hidden diary. A lost friend. A teenage suicide.
Sometimes the past is buried for a reason.

Seven Magpies tells the story of Alison, a disillusioned teacher who finds a childhood diary which records an obsessive friendship with a girl she can't remember, and ends abruptly on the 14th May 1971. Haunted by flashbacks, and on the verge of a breakdown, Alison visits Faith, a therapist who promises to unlock her past. As the therapy progresses, dark secrets and hidden trauma are revealed. But how true are Alison's recollections, and can Faith really be trusted?





Liisa Sabah

YA fantasy adventure

Liisa grew up reading books and she particularly loves adventure stories. Growing up she read every book in the Narnia series and *The Hobbit* was an all-time childhood favourite. Reading was a pastime she just could not do without; life without books is unimaginable to Liisa.

When Liisa was ten years old she emigrated to West Africa with her family and there she spent the next four years growing up. As she adapted to the change, she found that books were a real solace for her. She would escape into a world of fantasy, adventure, and intrigue. It was there that Liisa's love of reading gave birth to a dream to one day write and publish a book of her own.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Opening para of Author's Pick should read *The Cocoon Within* is book one of the five-fold chronicles series, and Liisa has just published book two in the series: *An Odyssey of Shields, Secrets Revealed*. She is currently writing book three in the series.

Many readers have likened the books to *The Hobbit*, *Harry Potter* and the *Chronicles of Narnia* with elements of *Alice in Wonderland*.





Slab Press

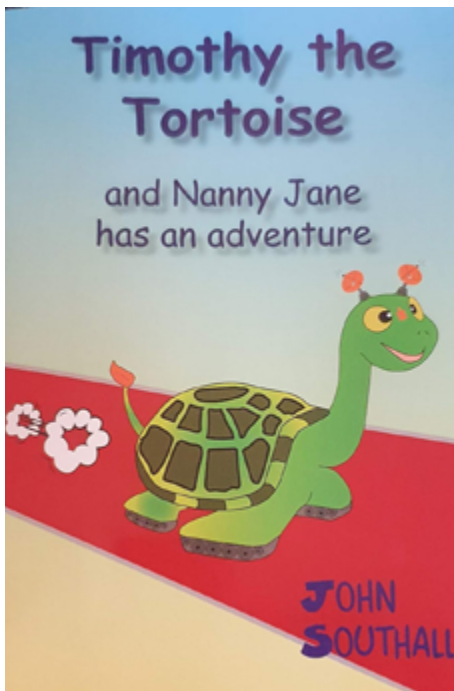
Sci-fi and horror anthologies

The Slab is brings you quirkier sorts of books. Established in 2023 by Donna Scott, we have produced science fiction, fantasy, and horror anthologies.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Hiding Under the Leaves is an anthology of original folk horror short fiction, seeking beyond the boundaries of this fascinating sub-genre. From lonesome moors to dark woods, and the mysterious ocean depths, these stories explore the ghostly and the savage; the monstrous faerie and the beast within; the ritual and the obsession. New stories of unsettlingly old things. Tales of the eerie and uncanny. Dare you discover what is hiding under the leaves...?





John Southall

Children's storybooks

This author is proud to be part of the MK Indie Book Fair, sharing their work with readers and fellow creatives.

More details coming soon — or better yet, come chat with the author at their table!

AUTHOR'S PICK

This title is available to explore at the fair — come by and discover its pages firsthand.

A fresh offering from the indie shelves, waiting to be discovered by curious readers.





Jonathan Stanyer

Crime fiction

I am an aspiring crime writer setting my stories in Abruzzo Italy where I once lived. I believe the beautiful locations are as much characters in a way as my lead detective Inspector Giordano Bruno. I also self published a collection of true ghost stories.

AUTHOR'S PICK

A mummified body is discovered in a basement of an apartment block in an old Italian hill town.

How will top Italian detective Inspector Jordi Bruno handle the case?

As he delves into the events leading up to the crime, he uncovers old secrets and present-day suspicions.





Eden Storm and Judy Goss

Non-fiction: community/history

Eden Storm and Judy Goss have co-created the MK Q:mmunity Tales project over the last 15 months. They have forensically researched the many iterations of LGBTQ+ community organising in Milton Keynes over the last 50 years.

They have a collective commitment to surfacing the heritage of all LGBTQ+ communities in Milton Keynes through grassroots collaboration and the sharing of lived experiences, especially those who are often marginalised or excluded.

AUTHOR'S PICK

From June 2024 to July 2025 Eden Storm and Judy Goss interviewed over 180 people whose lived experiences spanned 50 years of LGBTQ+ community life in Milton Keynes. As the Heritage Project workers for MK Q:mmunity Tales they collected together an archive of over 1000 documents: news cuttings, photographs, flyers, letters, posters, reports, and community newsletters.

'MK Q:mmunity Tales - Local LGBTQ+ History Since 1967' brings this all together in one place for the first time.





Nicki Thornton

Crime fiction

Nicki Thornton's debut crime fiction novel, the Little Bookshop of Murders, was inspired by nearly twenty years working with bookshops, which made Nicki think a bookshop would be the perfect place to set a murder mystery series.

She is also the bestselling and award-winning author of six crime-fiction fantasy novels for children, described by Waterstones as 'one of the most original children's writers around'.

AUTHOR'S PICK

One burnt-out lawyer. One shiny new bookshop. One dead customer.

Former lawyer Keera Munroe wants to put her past behind her with nothing more challenging than selling enough books to pay the bills. But when Keera opens a bookshop in idyllic Crossways, there's a lot she cannot leave behind, like the fact she's hard-wired to seek out truth and justice. Or her nose for trouble—which is telling her that village life is not quite as lovely as it appears. Right about the time the first body turns up.





E M Tilstone

Historical mystery

Sue is an author passionate about storytelling, history, and helping others find their writing voice. Her novels are deeply rooted in research, drawing on sources like the Imperial War Museum and Wrest Park.

A regular guest speaker, Sue has appeared at the Bucks Book Awards, judged school writing competitions, spoken at book clubs, and led talks for community groups. She chairs the Olney Writing Group, supporting nearly 25 local writers through workshops and mentoring.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Luc treasures her mother's pendant, an antique chess piece with a mysterious past. But why was it given to her—and what secrets does it hide?

In 1818, Florence Blanchard carves the chess set that will shape their fates. Living in constant fear of her abusive father, she fights for survival, never imagining her craft will bind strangers together—and tear them apart.

In 1917, Edmund Cruso leaves a white pawn with his mother and a red pawn with his sweetheart before heading to the trenches. Decades later, the pawns resurface, carrying whispers of tragedy and betrayal.

As Luc unravels these intertwined lives, she must confront the deadly truths buried in history. With Maurice Smith holding the final clues, can she piece together the puzzle before the past claims its next victim?





Juliet Timpson

Children's storybook

I grew up with a rich world of imaginary stories and my own children benefitted from our family tradition of storytelling. Working in Early Years settings for many years allowed my storytelling to continue and Grumpy Rosetta was brought to life.

I go to local primary schools on my day off, dressed as a witch, with my self-published books, a bag full of props and a fun filled interactive experience for all.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Introducing Grumpy Rosetta, a little witch who does not feel like she fits in - but luckily she stumbles into a world of new possibilities. Grumpy Rosetta and the Rainbow Castle is the first story of Rosetta's adventures - a captivating journey of self discovery, acceptance, family, love and friendship.





Timothy Unzola

Contemporary fiction

Timothy Unzola is a British-Congolese author, filmmaker, and life coach whose work resonates with audiences around the globe.

Celebrated for his uplifting personality and boundless creativity, Timothy weaves stories that leave a lasting impression on readers and viewers alike.

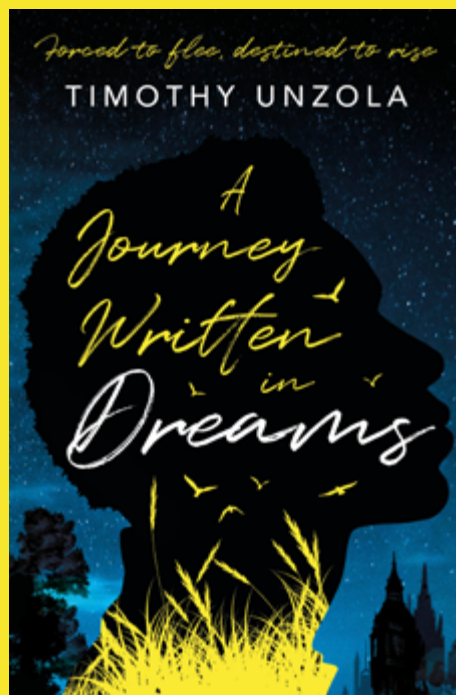
Through his coaching, he has transformed countless lives, empowering individuals to unlock their innate potential and embrace life with purpose and passion.

Guided by his belief in the greatness within everyone, Timothy continues to inspire others to awaken their fullest selves and pursue their dreams with confidence.

AUTHOR'S PICK

All his life, Madiba has only known the peaceful confines of his sheltered village, untouched by the world beyond. But when a violent resistance group rises, threatening everything he holds dear, his mother is forced to make an agonising choice: to send him to England to live with her estranged brother—a man Madiba has never met.

Inspiring and empowering, *A Journey Written in Dreams* celebrates self-belief and resilience. Through its heartfelt narrative, it explores the power of reframing your thoughts, emotions, and words to transform your life. This uplifting story invites you on a journey of self-discovery, offering renewed confidence and motivation to chase your dreams. Let it ignite your inner strength and inspire you to create the life you deserve.





Lou Usher

Contemporary (rockstar) romance

Lou Usher is a romance author with a passion for weaving music, travel, and heartfelt emotion into unforgettable love stories. Drawing inspiration from years of exploring the world and a lifelong fascination with lyrics and rhythm, Lou creates novels where passion and place collide.

When not writing, Lou can often be found discovering hidden corners of the globe, listening to live music, or daydreaming about the next story waiting to be told.

AUTHOR'S PICK

Liesa Ulman never expected her quiet life to collide with the chaotic world of a rising music band. As a successful writer living in Bali, a chance meeting with Simon, the frontman of Chasing Echoes, sees her travel the world. Amid the backstage drama, sold-out concerts, and breathtaking views, sparks fly with a man who challenges her at every turn. From subtle tension to undeniable attraction, their enemies-to-lovers connection threatens to derail everything she thought she knew about love.

A slow burn contemporary romance, *The Note I Wrote For You* blends steamy passion, emotional depth, and the thrill of life on tour. Fans of music band romance, passionate slow burn love stories, enemies-to-lovers tension, and globetrotting adventures will be swept off their feet.





Kirstie Watson

Children's picturebook

Kirstie is an award-winning children's author—publisher of the popular Witch's Cat series, loved by young readers worldwide and translated into multiple languages.

Her titles include The Witch's Cat and The Cooking Catastrophe, The Witch's Cat and The Broomstick Blunder (Purple Dragonfly Book Award, 1st Place, 2022), and The Witch's Cat and The Trouble With Tidying Up (The Selfies Book Awards 2024 – Highly Commended). Her funny, engaging stories promote resilience, perseverance, and self-belief.

AUTHOR'S PICK

The Witch's Cat wants to make a friend... using magic! There's just one problem. When he uses magic, things usually (always) go wrong, and that's why he really needs your HELP!

Join Cat in this funny, interactive adventure, where the reader is invited to help find ingredients, mix a magic potion and lend a paw when things inevitably go wrong. Perfect for ages 1-5.





Lewis Webb

Slam fiction

This author is proud to be part of the MK Indie Book Fair, sharing their work with readers and fellow creatives.

More details coming soon — or better yet, come chat with the author at their table!

AUTHOR'S PICK

NIGHT SHIFT pairs artists with writers to publish a series of short-form publications, where art—disconnected from the writing process—acts as a visual intervention among the prose.

Volume One ran from January to July 2025 at Arts Central MK and was first shown in full at MK Fringe 2025. The NIGHT SHIFT resumes soon, ready for 2026.

NIGHT SHIFT



ISSUE ONE
JANUARY 2025



Trudy West

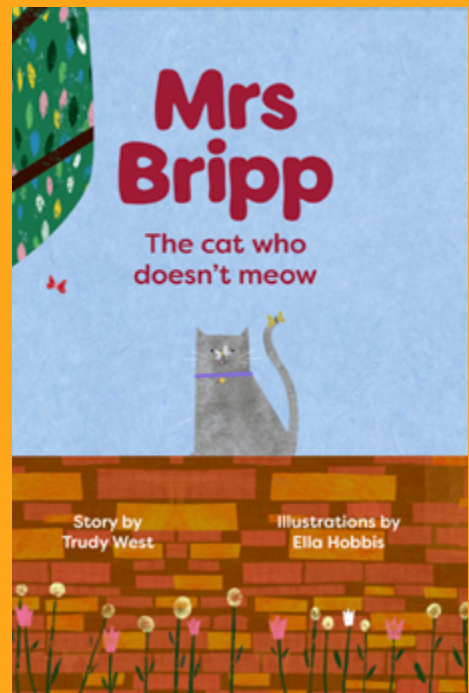
Children's fiction

Trudy is a self-published author and lives with her family in Milton Keynes. Her first children's picture book, Mrs Bripp: The Cat Who Doesn't Meow, was published in October 2023.

It was awarded the Golden Wizard Book Prize the same year and continues to receive five star reviews. Trudy is currently working on her second book, which will hopefully be ready for publication later this year.

AUTHOR'S PICK

When Nessa arrives, she isn't like other cats, or is she? As we follow her through this charming story, full of comical cat capers, we soon find out that being unique is just what the world needs.





Beneath The Dust Jacket

Crime fiction

Beneath the Dust Jacket is a monthly subscription box that delivers special edition thriller, mystery and crime books to avid readers

AUTHOR'S PICK

The Art of a Lie: London, 1749. Following the murder of her husband in a violent street robbery, Hannah Cole is struggling to keep her head above water. The Punchbowl and Pineapple, her confectionary shop on Piccadilly, is barely turning a profit, and her suppliers are conspiring to put her out of business. So when she learns that her husband had a large sum of money in his bank account that she knew nothing about, the surprise is extremely welcome. And when William Devereux, a friend of her late husband, tells her about a new Italian delicacy called “iced cream”, Hannah believes it might transform the fortunes of her shop.

But her husband’s unexpected windfall attracts the attention of author-turned-magistrate Henry Fielding, who suspects the money was illicitly acquired. Unless Hannah can prove otherwise, her inheritance will be confiscated. As she and Devereux work to uncover the secrets of her husband’s double life, their friendship opens Hannah to speculation and gossip, locking her into a battle of wits more devastating than anything, even her husband’s murder.





Andrea D. Woolhead

Non-fiction: history, politics and memoir

A regular blogger and article writer who became an accidental author. Having lived abroad for 30 years, I bring a wealth of experience and a unique focus to my writing.

AUTHOR'S PICK

After five decades of repression under Assad's rule, Syria finally turned a page. This powerful true story offers a rare glimpse into the inner workings of that regime, from a man who once stood near its centre.

Major General Naser Naser, a senior officer in the Political Security Department, dared to follow his conscience. What followed was a harrowing descent: solitary imprisonment, exile, and the slow rebuilding of a life in foreign lands. Yet through every loss, he held onto his dignity, his principles and his dream for a better Syria.

Told with unflinching honesty and humanity, this book is both a personal testimony and a sweeping reflection of the cycles of conflict in the Middle East, the legacies of colonial interference and the resilience of the human spirit. Naser's story is not just about survival. but about redemption, justice and hope for Syria's future - one shaped by its people, not its past oppressors.

