

Running Hot

A spicy rivals to lovers sports romance

Sophie Davies

A rivals to lovers sports, marathon romance for fans of Amy Lea and Chelsea Curto

THE PITCH

- **EXCITING LONDON X EDINBURGH SETTING:** There is a trend that's here to stay in romance novels with readers seeking out Scottish and London settings with this book combining the charm of both cities
- **HIGHLY MARKETABLE AUTHOR:** Sophie works for a major international publisher, overseeing their Waterstones account. Sophie ran a successful Tiktok giveaway and POS campaign for her first book HEAD OVER SKIS driving presales and arranged book signings across Europe and the UK
- **UNIQUE SPORT ROMANCE:** Marathon running is the featured sport which stands out among the ice-hockey romances but still features the tantalizing rivals to lovers trope that readers love in ice-hockey romances

THE BOOK

She's been training her whole life but he leaves her breathless...

Rosie is an altruistic fitness influencer, who raises money by 'running for those who can't, despite scepticism from internet trolls.

Luke is fresh out of a break-up and born cynical, so when Rosie appears like a burst of sunshine to save his grandmother's struggling animal sanctuary, he doesn't trust her motives. If anyone should be helping the woman who raised him – it should be Luke, not some stranger.

He decides to run the Edinburgh marathon to raise funds himself, aiming to beat Rosie's time after she doubts his abilities. Their competition goes viral, forcing them to collaborate. As they push each other to the limit, long hours training together reveal hidden depths and an unexpected connection.

Uncertain if it's more than mutual ire making their hearts race, one thing is for certain, when they reach the finish line, there will be fireworks.

THE AUTHOR

Sophie Davies works in UK Sales at one of the Big 5 publishing houses. She is based in London, and when she's not writing she's jumping between romance and fantasy books, with a cup of tea in hand, playing Stardew Valley with her cat covering most of the screen, or posting bookish content on her BookTok account.



Pub Date: **13 May 2027**

ISBN: **9781835986523 / 1835986528**

Price: **£9.99**

Format: **198mm x 129mm**

Binding: **Paperback**

Extent: **320 pages**

Territory: **World (English Language) (with restrictions)**

Publisher: **Kate Shepherd**

Bar Code: **9781835986523**

Thema: **Modern and Contemporary romance, Romantic comedies, Romance: cosy / cozy, Romance: love triangles, Seasonal interest: Winter, Christmas, Romance: unintentional or forced proximity**

Author Location: **London**

Book Locale: **London, Littlemore & Edinburgh, UK**

AI Last Updated: **26 August 2026**

Drinking America

A History of Post-Prohibition America in Twelve Strong Drinks

Steven Parissien

An engaging history of modern America through their most beloved alcoholic drinks

THE PITCH

- **ROLLICKING CULTURAL HISTORY:** A humorous and authoritative cultural history exploring America's relationship with alcohol since the Prohibition
- **GREAT GIFT FOR DADS:** Both in subject matter and in tone, this book is a great gift for dads on Father's Day and Christmas
- **EXPERT ACADEMIC AUTHOR:** Written by a Fellow of the Oxford University and absolute expert in cultural history
- **FOR READERS OF:** *A Short History of Drunkenness* by Mark Forsyth and *A History of the World in 6 Glasses* by Tom Standage

THE BOOK

The history of modern America... With a twist.

In December 1933, the "Noble Experiment" of Prohibition ended, having run America's alcohol industry into the ground. Nevertheless, the drinks were flowing on December 5th: "Repeal Day" celebrations took place and criminal bootleggers pivoted their profits into new, legitimate businesses. And the party was only just getting started...

The history of America over the past century is deeply intertwined with its alcoholic proclivities. From the beer-fueled euphoria that greeted the end of Prohibition, to the celebrity-endorsed spirits of the 2020s, Americans have moved through each decade with a drink in their hands.

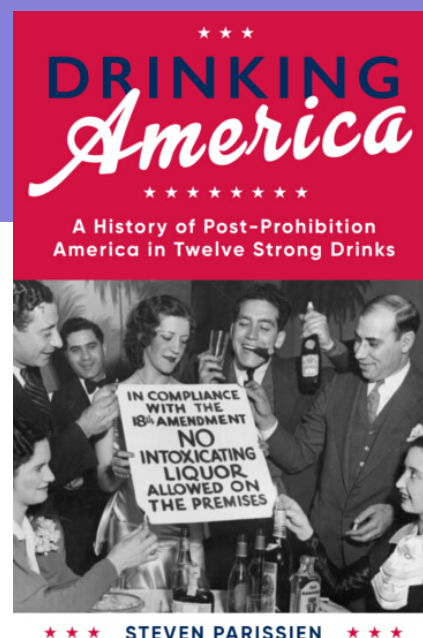
Steven Parissien's *Drinking America* examines how contemporary American spirit is defined and revealed by each of the most iconic beverages. Together, these twelve drinks tell a tale of the social aspiration, political upheaval and product innovation that characterized the 20th century. The story of the all-American beverage is the story of America itself—served straight up.

THE AUTHOR

Dr Steven Parissien is Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford and a lecturer in Architectural History at Oxford University. Steven worked in senior management in arts and education for over thirty years, including ten years as CEO of Compton Verney Art Gallery and Park in Warwickshire. He has written extensively on cultural history across fourteen titles, his most recent being *Another Round* (2025).

ALSO AVAILABLE

9781835981566 Another Round?
9781835981634 Another Round?



Pub Date: **06 May 2027**

ISBN: **9781835986547 / 1835986544**

Price: **£16.99**

Format: **234mm x 153mm**

Binding: **Hardback**

Extent: **256 pages**

Territory: **World (All Languages) (with restrictions)**

Publisher: **Kate Shepherd**

Bar Code: **9781835986547**

Thema: **Food and drink: alcoholic beverages, Cultural studies: food and society, Consumerism, Social and cultural history, Popular culture**

Author Location: **Oxfordshire**

Book Locale: **USA**

AI Last Updated: **24 August 2026**



20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London,
SW1V 2SA
Tel: 020 7139 2000



Beyond Fear

Finding the Way When There's No Way Back

Noraly Schoenmaker

An epic new adventure across the Americas, from the globally bestselling author of *Free Ride*

THE PITCH

- **HUGE GROWING PLATFORM:** Itchy Boots has 3.4 million subscribers on Youtube, and her fanbase has grown 30% this last year
- **BESTSELLING AUTHOR:** Her first book, *Free Ride*, was a *Sunday Times* Bestseller for five weeks in hardback. It was a bestseller in the US, Canada, The Netherlands and Australia
- **AMBITIOUS GLOBAL TOUR PLANNED:** She will be doing big events in the US, Canada and UK around publication plus a tour of Ireland
- **FOR READERS OF:** *Free Ride* by Noraly Schoenmaker, *The Long Way Around* by Ewan McGregor and *Jupiter's Travels* by Ted Simon

THE BOOK

A 2026 TIME100 creator

Join Noraly Schoenmaker on her ride across the Americas, as she learns to conquer the world on her own terms.

After returning from her adventures in *Free Ride*, YouTube sensation Noraly Schoenmaker faces a dilemma: should she go back to her old life, or should she follow her instincts and become a full-time adventurer instead? Opting for the latter, Noraly decides to embark on another expedition, this time to the Americas. A decade earlier, she had experienced the tourist highlights of Latin America by bus. But this time, things are different, with Noraly trading superficial sightseeing for the gritty reality of life on the road.

In *Beyond Fear*, we join Noraly on her ride from Patagonia to the Alaskan frontier, tackling the high mountains of Bolivia, wrestling her motorbike through Guatemalan jungles and coming face-to-face with armed Mexican drug cartels.

Yet, despite the real danger she faces, the most treacherous terrain is inside Noraly's own mind. After years of burnout and panic attacks, the anxiety that once paralysed her now becomes her lifeline, ultimately teaching her that true adventure is found by looking fear in the eye and embracing it.

Written with Noraly's characteristic warmth and courage, *Beyond Fear* is an unforgettable testament to human resilience, the thrill of the unknown, and the relentless power of moving forward.

THE AUTHOR

Noraly Schoenmaker is the creator of Itchy Boots, a YouTube channel with more than three million loyal subscribers. A motorcycling obsessive, her journeys have taken her the length of the American continent, from Argentina to Alaska, from the northernmost point of Europe to the southernmost point of Africa, and to some of the least travelled regions of the globe.



Pub Date: **06 May 2027**

ISBN: **9781835987018 / 183598701X**

Price: **£20.00**

Format: **234mm x 153mm**

Binding: **Hardback With Jacket**

Extent: **224 pages**

Territory: **World (English Language) (with restrictions)**

Publisher: **Kate Shepherd**

Bar Code: **9781835987018**

Thema: **Travel writing, Memoirs, Autobiography: adventurers and explorers, Motorcycles: general interest, Travel guides: road travel / road trips**

Author Location: **The Netherlands**

Book Locale: **South America, North America**

AI Last Updated: **28 August 2026**



20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London,
SW1V 2SA
Tel: 020 7139 2000



The Disappearance of Simon Parkes

Sailors, Scandal and a Secret Killer in the Royal Navy

Ros Astengo

An unsolved murder. A trail of missing sailors, each mysteriously disappeared. A brutal serial killer. And one woman's hunt for the truth

THE PITCH

- **SERIOUSLY STYLISTED TRUE CRIME:** Transports the reader into a different world - 1980s Gibraltar, one of Britain's most haunting unsolved disappearances, and the dogged determination of the author to personally uncover the truth
- **SCANDAL IN THE NAVY:** Exposes how institutional homophobia and a culture of silence shaped the response to Simon Parkes' disappearance, raising questions about justice, accountability and the Royal Navy
- **TIMELY PUBLICATION:** Published to coincide with the 40th anniversary of Parkes' disappearance, this landmark investigation brings fresh evidence and new scrutiny to a case that has haunted the Royal Navy for four decades
- **FOR READERS OF:** *Killing for Company* by Brian Masters, *The Stranger Beside Me* by Ann Rule and *I'll Be Gone in the Dark* by Michelle McNamara

THE BOOK

When 18-year-old British sailor Simon Parkes disappeared on a winter's night in 1986 Gibraltar, he was presumed AWOL. He has never been found.

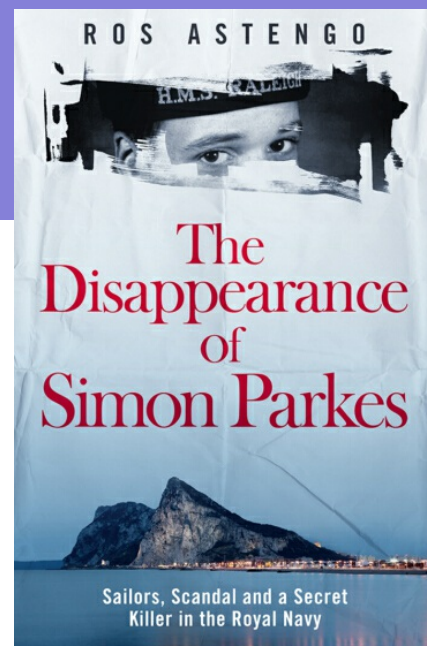
Almost forty years later, journalist Ros Astengo stumbles across the case while reporting on the daily news for the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation. As new evidence emerges linking Parkes' death with convicted serial killer Alan Grimson, who was on the Rock on the night of his disappearance, Astengo is quickly drawn further and further into the abandoned cold case, driven to keep his story alive and to find answers for his now-elderly parents.

The Disappearance of Simon Parkes is a twisting, heart-breaking and gripping narrative, following one woman's determination to find the truth, bring peace to a grieving family, and profile a brutal serial killer. Teetering on the edge of revelation, this story exposes the extent of Grimson's depravity ahead of his possible release from prison, lays bare the ineptitudes and indifferences of the Royal Navy Police, and ultimately seeks to answer the burning question:

What happened to Simon Parkes?

THE AUTHOR

Ros Astengo is a broadcast journalist at Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC), where she covers a wide spectrum of major news stories, including high-level UK and Gibraltar politics, current affairs and finance. She is a well-known figure on local television and radio, chairing a weekly TV program called *Viewpoint* which features in-depth interviews and debates on current topics.



Pub Date: **06 May 2027**

ISBN: **9781835985151 / 1835985157**

Price: **£20.00**

Format: **234mm x 153mm**

Binding: **Hardback**

Extent: **352 pages**

Territory: **World (All Languages)**

Bar Code: **9781835985151**

Thema: **True crime: serial killers and murderers**

AI Last Updated: **24 August 2026**



20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London,
SW1V 2SA
Tel: 020 7139 2000



Poverty, Prison, Premiership

A Story of Football, Scotland and Class Warfare

David Martindale

The inspirational, heart-warming story of one man's journey from the schemes of Glasgow to the top of the Scottish Premier League

THE PITCH

- **REDEMPTION STORY:** Going from imprisoned drug lord to manager in the Scottish Premiership, Davie Martindale's journey is a poignant testimony to the power of second chances
- **CLASS WARFARE:** Martindale's story exposes the harsh realities of poverty survival in Scotland, showing how class defined his battles long before football ever did
- **FOOTBALL FAIRYTALE:** From starting out as a volunteer groundskeeper to becoming the man who secured Livingston's Premiership status as manager, Martindale turned an unfashionable club into one of Scottish football's most remarkable stories
- **FOR READERS OF:** *Running With The Firm* by James Bannion, *My Father and Other Working-Class Football Heroes* by Gary Imlack and *The Boy on the Shed* by Paul Ferris

THE BOOK

Davie Martindale was never supposed to succeed.

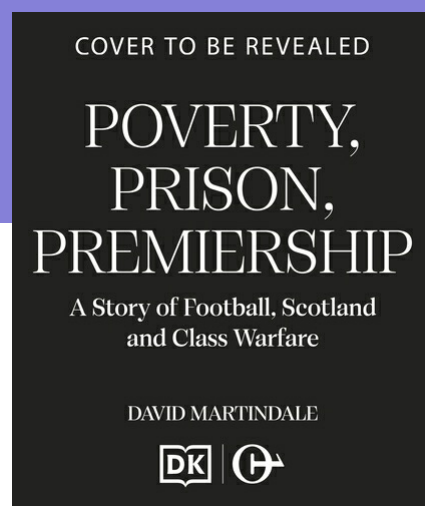
Born into poverty and raised in the schemes of West Lothian, Martindale went from a prison cell to managing Scottish Premiership side Livingston FC, along the way undertaking a journey that few could have imagined.

Raw, unflinching, and impossible to ignore, *Prison, Poverty, Premiership* is the remarkable story of Davie's life. It's the story of how a broken leg and bad choices derailed a promising youth career, how crime and addiction nearly ended everything, and how football became an undeniable route back. This is the story of his rise from cleaning the terraces as a volunteer, to leading Livingston's climb through the leagues, as both man and team defied every expectation to earn their place at Scottish football's top table.

More than a football memoir, this is a powerful account of Scotland's class divides, the realities of poverty, and the resilience needed to overcome the odds. Martindale's journey is Livingston's journey - and together, they show how believing in second chances can lead you to the truly extraordinary.

THE AUTHOR

Davie Martindale is the manager of Livingston FC. Born and raised in West Lothian, he overcame poverty, prison and addiction to rebuild his life through education and football. Starting as a volunteer janitor at Livingston in 2014, he worked his way up to become manager, leading the club to stability in the Scottish Premiership and earning plaudits for his remarkable journey.



Pub Date: **06 May 2027**

ISBN: **9781835985618 / 1835985610**

Price: **£22.00**

Format: **234mm x 153mm**

Binding: **Hardback**

Extent: **304 pages**

Territory: **Exclusive UK,IE,CW,EU; ROW open mkt excluding US,PH,CA (with restrictions)**

Bar Code: **9781835985618**

AI Last Updated: **24 August 2026**



20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London,
SW1V 2SA
Tel: 020 7139 2000



The Man Who Fell From The Sky

The CIA, Lockerbie and the Hunt for the Truth

Jan Stocklassa

A brazen, deadly terrorist attack. An international conspiracy to cover it up. One man (and his dog) determined to solve the case once and for all

THE PITCH

- **REVELATORY FINDINGS:** A journalist's journey to uncover a conspiracy to protect the perpetrators of the deadliest terrorist attack of the 20th century. Proves the CIA were aware of the attack in advance and that the real terrorist behind the bombing was never caught
- **CHARMING NARRATOR:** A 50 year-old man caught up in a story far bigger than himself, Stocklassa takes readers on an international adventure to the heart of politics and espionage - while accompanied by his faithful dog, Ruth
- **FOR READERS OF:** *The Ratline* by Phillippe Sands, *The Looming Tower* by Lawrence Wright and *The Jakarta Method* by Vincent Bevins

THE BOOK

It was the deadliest terrorist attack of the twentieth century, a bombing which shocked the world. But was the wrong person found guilty?

December 21, 1988. All flights between London and New York are full, except for Pan Am 103, where almost half the seats are empty. Thirty-eight minutes after take-off, as the plane flies over the tiny Scottish village of Lockerbie, a bomb explodes in the hull. All 259 people aboard perish.

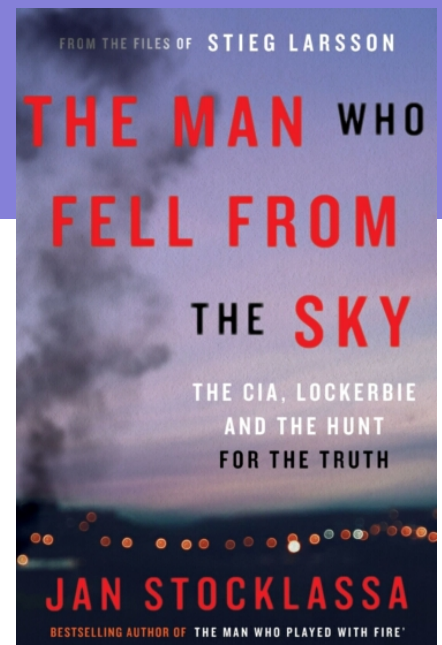
The attack is not a surprise - American diplomats had been warned not to fly with Pan Am - but the flight goes ahead. Eleven years later, a Libyan national is convicted of orchestrating the attack, a judgement which has been increasingly questioned and scrutinized due to its political implications and the fact that no physical evidence was found to tie the man to the crime.

In late 2022, journalist Jan Stocklassa is trawling through the late Stieg Larsson's archive of documents when he discovers that the world-famous crime author had been investigating the Lockerbie bombing prior to his death, and he picks up the trail. Who was really behind the terrorist attack? Was it just a coincidence that the flight was half-empty that day? And who stands to benefit the most from the truth being buried all these years?

Full of intrigue, scandal and drama, *The Man Who Fell From The Sky* is a breathless rollercoaster which lifts the lid on a real-life international conspiracy, a deadly plot, and one man's relentless fight for the truth.

THE AUTHOR

Jan Stocklassa is a Swedish investigative journalist who covers large-scale affairs in international politics. He is the author of the critically acclaimed best-seller *The Man Who Played With Fire*, which sold over half a million copies and was translated into 27 languages. Jan lives in Prague with his dog, Ruth.



Pub Date: **20 May 2027**

ISBN: **9781835985663 / 1835985661**

Price: **£22.00**

Format: **234mm x 153mm**

Binding: **Hardback With Jacket**

Extent: **304 pages**

Territory: **World (English Language) (with restrictions)**

Publisher: **Kate Shepherd**

Bar Code: **9781835985663**

Thema: **True crime**

AI Last Updated: **24 August 2026**

A Very Dangerous Woman

The many lives and loves of Baroness Moura Budberg, Russia's most seductive spy

Deborah McDonald and Jeremy Dronfield

A rollicking true story of sex and espionage that reads like romantic fiction.

THE PITCH

- **NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN STORY:** Using material not previously available, the authors have put together a thoroughly researched and exquisitely written account of one of the 20th century's most enigmatic figures
- **NON-FICTION THAT READS LIKE ROMANCE:** A story of love and loss, as richly told as any romance novel — so much so that the *Guardian* described it as a 'Mills & Boon-type'
- **PERFECT FOR READERS OF:** *The Last Secret Agent* by Pippa Latour and *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell

THE BOOK

Schemer, seductress, and sometime spy - this is a tale of espionage quite unlike any other.

Baroness Moura Budberg was notorious throughout 1950s London for her reputation as a gossip and a lover to several well-known writers and artists. She was deeply charismatic, commanding centre stage wherever she went, and beloved for the air of mystery and glamour that she cultivated around herself.

But despite her charms, even her closest friends knew very little of the truth. Prone to all sorts of tall-tales and decadent lies, Moura reinvented herself tirelessly, obfuscating her past and mythologising her present. But who was the real woman, behind all of her many faces?

Using material not previously available, Deborah McDonald and Jeremy Dronfield have managed to uncover the truth about the Baroness. At once a bohemian socialite, a courageous adventuress, a double agent for British and Soviet intelligence, and a woman that made great personal sacrifices in the name of love, Moura Budberg continues to seduce and compel all who know her today.

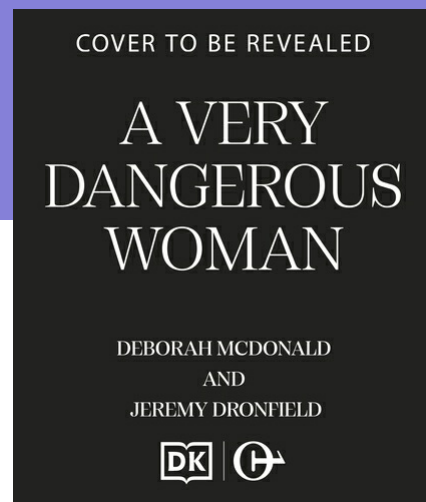
THE AUTHOR

Deborah McDonald is a non-fiction writer and the author of *Clara Collet: An Educated Working Woman* and *The Prince, His Tutor and the Ripper*. Jeremy Dronfield was archaeologist in rescue excavation for many years, and conducted his doctoral research at Cambridge University on the subject of art and religion in prehistoric Ireland. He has several fiction and non-fiction titles to his name.

QUOTES

"This book could read like a thriller, yet the thorough research here provides a weightier feast." *The Spectator*

"Enjoyably sensationalist" *The Guardian*



Pub Date: **20 May 2027**

ISBN: **9781835986622 / 1835986625**

Price: **£10.99**

Format: **198mm x 129mm**

Binding: **Paperback**

Extent: **416 pages**

Territory: **World (English Language) (with restrictions)**

Publisher: **Kate Shepherd**

Bar Code: **9781835986622**

Thema: **Espionage and secret services, Cold wars and proxy conflicts, Historical cross-cultural or intercultural interactions / encounters, Relates specifically to the life experience of women or girls, Early 20th century c 1900 to c 1950**

Book Locale: **United Kingdom, Russia**

AI Last Updated: **27 August 2026**



20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London,
SW1V 2SA
Tel: 020 7139 2000



The Redo

A laugh-out-loud, escapist read for women growing older but not growing up

Eleanor Tucker

Sliding Doors meets Bridget Jones in this relatable comedy that asks: if you could relive three key days of your life, what would you do differently?

THE PITCH

- **PERFECTLY POSITIONED FOR KEY DEMOGRAPHIC:** With a midlife Gen X heroine raising Gen Z teens, this novel will appeal to Gen X/older Millennials, amongst the heaviest book-buyers
- **A WELL-CONNECTED AUTHOR:** As a journalist writing for major nationals, including the *Guardian* and the *Observer*, Eleanor's debut has already garnered publicity in publications like *Marie Claire* and *Psychologies*, plus endorsements by Daisy Buchanan and Sarah Turner (The Unmumsy Mum)
- **HIGH-CONCEPT, RELATABLE BOOKCLUB READ:** Bridget Jones meets *Sliding Doors* in this comedy that sees a midlife mum revisit three pivotal moments in her life

THE BOOK

If you could change three days from your past, which would you choose?

Maud, a middle-aged mother of three teenage girls, is fed up with her job, her conspiracy theorist husband and her distinct lack of friends. She's also hung up on the idea that her life is the way it is because of bad choices she made in the past.

When she stumbles on an unconventional life coach who offers a pioneering form of therapy allowing her to relive three defining days from her past, she's sold. Isn't this the redo she's been waiting for?

But changing the past comes at a price, and Maud is about to find out how high...

The Redo is *Sliding Doors* for a generation of women who know their lives were never that simple – a darkly funny, emotional story about families, friendships and how much it costs to keep looking back.

A relatable, hilarious midlife comedy about coming to terms with your choices, that will appeal to fans of Monica Heisey and Daisy Buchanan.

Praise for Eleanor Tucker:

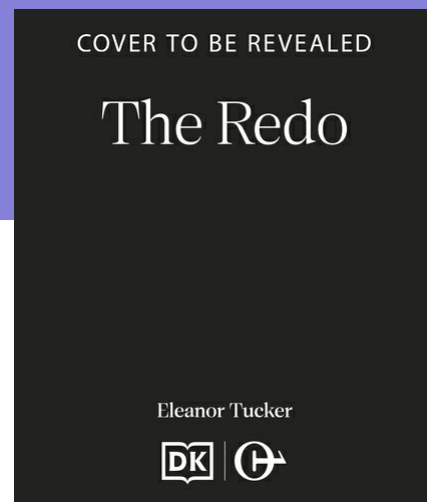
'Completely original, utterly addictive and outrageously funny.' Daisy Buchanan

'A totally refreshing, gorgeously funny ride from start to finish.' Julia Raeside

Desperately relatable and so funny... I laughed out loud too many times to count.' Sarah Turner

'This was delightful. Joyous, hilarious and thoughtful, it warmed my haggard old heart.' Lauren Bravo

'Loved, loved, loved this book!.. Riotously funny and life-affirming' Josie Ferguson



Pub Date: 06 May 2027

ISBN: 9781835984024 / 1835984029

Price: £9.99

Format: 198mm x 129mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 320 pages

Territory: World (English Language) (with restrictions)

Publisher: Kate Shepherd

Bar Code: 9781835984024

Thema: Contemporary lifestyle fiction, Family life fiction / Stories about family, Humorous fiction, Speculative fiction

Author Location: Edinburgh

Book Locale: Oxford

AI Last Updated: 24 August 2026

THE AUTHOR

Eleanor Tucker is a former advertising creative turned features writer who began her journalism career writing beauty, before expanding into parenting and lifestyle for publications such as *The Guardian*, *Grazia*, *Red* and *Psychologies*. Her humorous non-fiction debut *Thanks for Sharing* was published in 2023 and her first novel, *Turn Back Time* in April 2026. Originally from Oxford, she now lives in Edinburgh.

ALSO AVAILABLE

Turn Back Time (2026) 9781835983959



20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London,
SW1V 2SA
Tel: 020 7139 2000



All Yours

A spicy, fake-dating sapphic romance

Lou Morgan

A sizzling, unforgettable sapphic romance set in France and featuring the hugely popular fake relationship trope

THE PITCH

- **GROWING ROMANCE SUBGENRE:** A trope-filled, sex positive Sapphic romance for fans of Meryl Weisner and Clare Lydon
- **LGBTQIA REPRESENTATION:** Featuring much-needed representation of lesbians of colour in the LGBTQIA romance market
- **HERA INCLUSIVE MISSION:** Lou Morgan is the diversity and inclusion officer of the Romantic Novelist Association

THE BOOK

Bea is heartbroken.

Her husband has run off with a much younger woman and her friends seem to have abandoned her, leaving her a stranded British expat in France.

She meets Chloe by chance one night when she stumbles accidentally into a gay bar and although Bea is straight, she has the brilliant idea of faking a lesbian relationship, as a way of eclipsing her husband's midlife crisis and exciting attention back from her friendship group. She is even willing to pay Chloe.

The fake relationship goes well and soon starts to feel more real to Bea than her old life. She finds out her husband is having a baby with his new wife and realises how much she wants a family.

When a man comes on the scene, she is forced to examine her true feelings and make a choice: has she found real love with Chloe, and does this mean her dreams of having children are over?

A spicy sapphic fake-dating romance set in dreamy Paris, perfect for fans of Clayre Lydon, Alexandria Bellefleur and Meryl Wilsner.

THE AUTHOR

Lou Morgan writes smart, sexy stories about women finding love across difference. Lou is a Black biracial woman who believes all readers deserve to see themselves reflected on the page. Lesbian books are her passion. In her spare time Lou reads and reviews sapphic romance, pines after middle-aged actresses, and volunteers with the Romantic Novelists' Association. She lives near Glasgow.



Pub Date: 06 May 2027

ISBN: 9781835983331 / 1835983332

Price: £9.99

Format: 198mm x 129mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 352 pages

Territory: World (English Language)

Publisher: Kate Shepherd

Bar Code: 9781835983331

Thema: Modern and Contemporary romance, Family life fiction / Stories about family, Narrative theme: love / relationships, Narrative theme: interior life / psychological fiction, Narrative theme: identity / belonging, Narrative theme: sense of place, Narrative theme: diversity, equity, equality, inclusion

Author Location: Glasgow

Book Locale: France

AI Last Updated: 24 August 2026

Music for the Samosa Generation

An uplifting, relatable read to make your heart sing,
by the Comedy Women in Print winner

Natalie Rania Willbe

Winner of the Comedy Women in Print award 2025.
Young widow Yasmin is sandwiched between caring
for her elderly mother and her rebellious teenage
daughter. Can a community choir bring all their
voices together?

THE PITCH

- **PRIZE-WINNING CREDENTIALS:** *Music for the Samosa Generation* beat off hundreds of entries to win the Unpublished prize at the Comedy Women in Print awards 2025
- **SKEWERS ZEITGEIST WITH A FRESH NEW PERSPECTIVE:** Explores the Sandwich generation (women raising children while also looking after elderly parents) through the eyes of a first-generation immigrant in the UK
- **UPLIFTING AND OPTIMISTIC:** A novel much-needed in the current climate, illustrating positive assimilation and the bonds of community
- **COMMUNITY CHOIRS IN POPULAR MEDIA:** as well as the popularity of Gareth Malone, James Corden and Ruth Jones are planning a series set around a community choir, to be aired on Apple TV (air date TBC), which will bring a new media focus on the community choir.

THE BOOK

Desi women, we're not like sandwiches. We're samosas!

Full of the same problems as everyone else but we have to keep it all stuffed on the inside!

Yasmin is a fully paid-up member of the Samosa Generation. Caught between looking after her stubborn, elderly mother, a teenage daughter going through a rebellious phase, a career that's going nowhere, all while battling perimenopause, she faces the pressures of the Sandwich Generation, but with added Indian cultural expectation.

When her outspoken mum is banned from yet another seniors' group and the nosy auntyjis in her community gleefully begin gossiping about her daughter, Yasmin fears she's losing control of everything that matters.

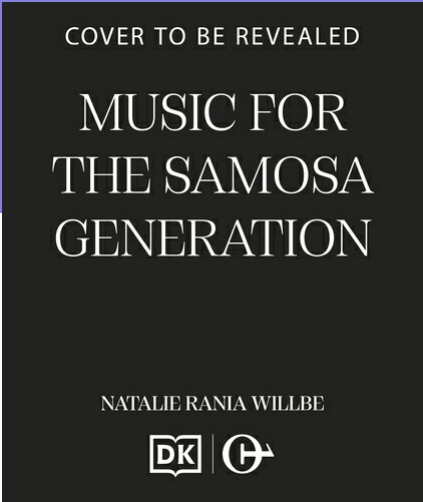
When Yasmin's boss tasks her with setting up a charity event, she launches a community choir, wrangling an unlikely group into belting out bhangra beats and pop songs, all while overcoming crippling stage fright and a devious rival choir.

Along the way, Yasmin learns to stop managing everyone else and start trusting them instead. But will she learn that harmony is not about perfection, and more about blending as one?

A beautifully uplifting read about family, friendship and reclaiming your voice that fans of Cathy Bramley and Jill Mansell will love.

THE AUTHOR

Natalie grew up in a British and Indian three-generation household. She read Law at Oxford before enjoying a career in Advertising. She now combines raising



Pub Date:	20 May 2027
ISBN:	9781835986301 / 1835986307
Price:	£9.99
Format:	198mm x 129mm
Binding:	Paperback
Extent:	304 pages
Territory:	World (English Language) (with restrictions)
Bar Code:	9781835986301
Thema:	Family life fiction / Stories about family, Narrative theme: love / relationships, Contemporary lifestyle fiction
Author Location:	Hertfordshire, UK
Book Locale:	Cambridgeshire, UK

AI Last Updated: 24 August 2026

her family alongside volunteering with older people, singing in a choir and spending time with her chickens, including Hennifer Lopez who only speaks Spanish. In 2025 she won the Comedy Women in Print Unpublished Prize.



20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London,
SW1V 2SA
Tel: 020 7139 2000



The Secretary's Secret

A dark, twisty psychological thriller about secrets, lies, and revenge

Lori James

The Housemaid meets *Big Little Lies* in this pulse-pounding thriller.

When school secretary Rachel finally reaches her limit with the ill treatment from the pupils' parents, she vows to get her own back. But things quickly spiral out of control...

THE PITCH

- **PERFECTLY PITCHED FOR THE CONTEMPORARY, MASS-MARKET SUSPENSE MARKET:** Hooky psychological thriller in an perennial setting
- **AN AUTHOR WITH A PROVEN TRACK RECORD, NOW MOVING INTO A NEW GENRE:** Lori James is an open pseudonym for Lorraine Brown, an established author with a strong readership and social media following
- **WELL-CONNECTED AUTHOR FROM A GLOBAL MAJORITY BACKGROUND:** Lorraine Brown is the ghostwriter for Oti Mabuse and is a rare diverse voice in the suspense market

THE BOOK

**It started with revenge.
It ended with murder.**

As a school secretary at an elite London prep school, Rachel spends her days at the beck and call of the privileged parents who send their children to get the best education money can buy. Reaching her breaking point, she decides to have a little fun. A leaked rumour here, a ruined schedule there... it's all just petty, anonymous revenge on the school's most obnoxious parents.

Just a harmless game. Until the murder happens – and every clue points to Rachel as the killer.
She knows she took her pranks too far, but she knows didn't do this.

Or did she? Because what the parents don't know is that Rachel is concealing her own dangerous secrets. And as she fights to clear her name and discover who is framing her, it seems her past might just destroy her.

Who is the real monster? And how far will they go to ruin her life?

An addictive, twisty mystery that fans of Liane Moriarty, Frieda McFadden and Lisa Jewell won't be able to put down.

THE AUTHOR

Lori James is the author of five romantic comedy novels writing as Lorraine Brown, and also writes screenplays. Lori previously trained as both an actress and a psychodynamic counsellor and currently works at a university delivering counselling sessions to medical students. She lives in London with her partner and their son.



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